

Report to Meetings and Worship Groups from the NPYM Coordinating Committee Meeting during Annual Session 2019

The NPYM Coordinating Committee met during Annual Session at Linfield College in McMinnville, Oregon. The incoming Presiding Clerk, David Zeiss of Eugene, asked us to introduce ourselves and summarize our experience in Quaker clerking and other leadership roles. The breadth of experience around the room was remarkable!

Coordinating Committee concentrated on the interrelated issues of nominations (a challenge for the yearly meeting as well as for many local groups), creating two new paid positions for Annual Session, and considering a long-term site for Annual Session.

We decided to create paid positions for Annual Session Registrar and for General Arrangements / Physical Arrangements Clerk. The latter will combine two volunteer positions which have become increasingly difficult to fill in recent years. Each of the new jobs will be on a consultant or contractor basis; the stipend will be \$5,000 plus mileage. We will recruit for these paid positions among NPYM Friends first. If anyone in your local group might be interested in serving the larger group in one of these jobs, please contact Ted Etter of the Nominating Committee for details.

Coordinating Committee is considering a change to our six-year, three-region cycle for Annual Sessions (two years somewhere in western Washington, two years somewhere in Oregon, two years somewhere east of the Cascades). NPYM chose this pattern to try to accommodate Friends across our large region. Moving every two years (sometimes more often) creates difficulties, however: those who plan our Annual Sessions need to re-invent a lot of wheels as they learn the strengths and challenges of each college campus we use. It is also becoming harder to find sites that can serve all our needs about size, configuration, accessibility, food, arrangements for children, costs, and the other criteria we look for. The NPYM Site Committee is therefore looking at the possibility of picking one site for Annual Sessions to return to every year, on a five-year trial basis.

If your meeting or worship group has not yet discussed the pros and cons of picking one long-term site for NPYM Annual Session, please have that conversation soon and send comments back to the Site Committee or Coordinating Committee. The decision isn't definitive yet by any means, and there are other ideas we could consider—such as picking two sites (one west of the Cascades, one east) and alternating between them. And of course, if you know of a college campus or large retreat center that might be suitable for NPYM, please share that information!

Coordinating Committee meets again in October. Many meetings and worship groups set aside time in or after worship for individual Friends to share their joys and concerns; the Coordinating Committee is the place for this kind of sharing at another level, among meetings themselves. What brings your group joy and delight? What challenges do you face? How does the Spirit move among you?

Ways to Connect with NPYM and the Wider World of Quakers:

- Ask members of your meeting or worship group who attended Annual Session to share their experiences there.
- Take a look at the positions in current “NPYM grid” under “who we are” on the yearly meeting website, npym.org. It takes a *lot* of people to keep an organization like ours working effectively. If you are wondering how *you* can help out, feel free to contact the committee—there's a message link right on that web page.
- Share your group's thinking on the question of holding Annual Session at the same place every year.