

# Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends

## Quarterly Gathering

October 20, 2018

Eugene Friends Church, Eugene, Oregon

Sarah Katreen Hoggatt, Co-Presiding *Clerk*

Gil George, *Assistant Clerk*

Matt Staples, *Recording Clerk*

## Minutes

### Key:

Plain text: clerk, committee clerk or representative

*Italics: Friend in the body asking a question or stating their leading*

## Clerks

### Gil George

- Gil George opened the meeting at 2:15 p.m. by asking for a few minutes of silence “to calm our hearts and open our ears to the voice of the Spirit as it leads us.”
- We held the Muhr family in the Light as they mourn the passing of LaVern.
- At annual sessions, we approved the Nominating Committee finding someone to serve in the position of Co-Presiding Clerk. Can we approve Sarah Katreen Hoggatt? **Approved**

### Sarah Katreen Hoggatt

- As we gather together in community today, we are continuing the creative work of building our yearly meeting’s foundation. Today, with our 501c3 status now firmly in place, we enter a new stage of finding out who we are called to be as a people. We each have a dream of what this yearly meeting can be, and each is a vital piece. This is my dream: that a couple of years down the road when we are out and about doing our work, people will be looking at our community and say with joy, “See how they love each other!” While we do the work today and in times to come, I hope you will each keep the following words in the front of your minds. Think of what our yearly meeting looks like when we all weave them into our practice.

**13** If we speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don’t love, we’re nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate. <sup>2</sup> If we speak God’s Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if we have faith that says to a mountain, “Jump,” and it jumps, but we don’t love, we’re nothing.

<sup>3-7</sup> If we give everything we own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but we don’t love, we’ve gotten nowhere. So, no matter what we say, what we believe, and what we do, we’re bankrupt without love.

Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn’t want what it doesn’t have. Love doesn’t strut, Doesn’t have a swelled head, Doesn’t force itself on

others, Isn't always "me first," Doesn't fly off the handle, Doesn't keep score of the sins of others, Doesn't revel when others grovel, Love takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, Puts up with anything, Trusts God always, Always looks for the best, Never looks back, But keeps going to the end.

What would our work together look like if we each cared more for the concerns of others than our own, if we approached each other with kindness and compassion before frustration, if we listened to the person's soul in addition to their words? At past gatherings, I have been overwhelmed with joy to see how we have all loved each other and put each other first. So today as we do this work and ask ourselves who we are called to be, let's remember that it starts with love.

- **Timeliness for Query:** Before we talk about our query of who we are called to be, we have business to attend to first. As that conversation *is* directly after this gathering, we don't want to take any more than the hour and a half allotted for this time together and if we finish early, we'll have more time to explore those questions together. While we want to make sure we take time to listen and move as the Spirit directs, you should know that I have already asked God to move in a timely manner.
- **Raising Hands:** A reminder to all of us that if you have something to say or a question to ask, please raise your hand and I will call on you. We also ask that we each leave some space between us as we speak.
- **Agenda Layout:** The agenda you have in your hands has space to write notes for yourself if you hear about something you want to be involved with or want to find out more about later.
- **Respond to Emails:** As we enter this new phase of our community, many of our committees have new goals and projects in addition to ones they are already working on. Thus, I want to remind each of us to be responsive to emails so the work can be completed. I know all too well how easy it is to forget to reply or put it off indefinitely but because of that, there is vital work not able to be done. To help our committees do their work, we now have a Zoom account for video and audio conferencing calls so it's easier to communicate between gatherings.
- **Visitors:** We have a visitor from West Virginia Friends Meeting: Margaret Frasier. Thank you for coming, we appreciate your presence. And thank you all for being here, this is an amazing group to get together. We will have a report from people visiting other YMs and organizations at annual sessions, we will not do that today. If that sounds good to you, you will have your opportunity to go on your own adventure to Friends.
- **New members:** Do we approve the following new members: Karen Oberst, Leann Williams, and Lish Manner? **APPROVED**

## Finance – Roger Watson

- **501c3 Status:** Our 501c3 application has been accepted by the IRS. That means you can write checks even today to SCYMF, and they will be eligible for tax-deductible contributions on your personal income tax return at the end of the year.

One individual who was indispensable in providing help for preparing that application is Dave Green from Tigard Friends. He is an attorney who has provided this service to us free of charge, and a number of services on numerous occasions. I have been very grateful for his help. But I received word last night that he has been hospitalized with some sort of cardiac issues. Please keep him in your prayers.

- **Zoom Communication Software:** We now have access to Zoom communication software. Eric Muhr is the person to contact if you have need to schedule a meeting.
- **Our budget:** We're a really young group, if you haven't figured that out. We've been thinking in terms of 'how to we plan for expenditures.' We've sent out requests asking what each committee needs to spend, but no one knows how to guess that because we haven't done much yet. So we're taking things in a more flexible, less onerous direction. We'll now run all expenditure requests through the coordinating committee, because they have liaisons to each committee, which gives them a higher level view of the whole organization which is helpful in determining priorities and enhancing ministry. So all expenditure requests should now go through the Coordinating Committee.

You have in front of you our budget. We're fairly simple at this point in our life. Annual sessions registration: that's the money you paid to register for annual sessions. Those were \$17,163, which includes some scholarships that were provided to several individuals. This year we were self-supporting for our annual sessions.

We've also been supporting in a communication sense Barclay Press, and have been sending them \$150 per month. We've just agreed as the finance committee to increase that to \$200 per month, and we'll be continuing with that beginning with the next payment.

We have office expense for printing, deposit slips, things like that, of \$76, and the payment to the IRS for 501c3 was \$600.

We have some extraordinary income. You may have read on Facebook or other sources that NWYM has provided to us \$114,358.

There have been a number of things talked about in terms of dividing financial assets and how that should be shared in terms of what NWYM held as well as a way of honoring the historical commitments that the churches that are part of SCYMF have made to those places. That fund was received in August. I was involved in the designing of how to get to a number. In this matter, NWYM has acted with integrity with how it has treated SCYMF. They essentially followed my recommendations for how things should be tallied almost to the letter. They wanted, with some discussion, to honor the fact that the people who made up the churches that have joined SCYMF had a material presence in NWYM. They've made this initial payment. There will be additional payments to come which could be influenced by other churches that have left NWYM if they become part of SCYMF. I want to give them their due, that they did act with integrity in this matter. I appreciate the voices on the administrative council that spoke about the importance of integrity with this.

We've deposited around \$15,000 to OnPoint community credit union, we've gained a little interest from that, we're considering investing opportunities. I don't want to say that this is a lot of money, but it's a lot more money than we had before. That's actually income, but I put it in a section "extraordinary income" because it's not something that we're going to get every month. We'll treat that with the respect it's due and use the resources God has given us.

I went to a conference in California a few years ago with members of other Friends meetings. Someone said, 'we're really proud that we've whittled our restricted funds down to 9.' I smiled, because NWYM had something like 85 or 90.

We have two here. If you care for your volunteer treasurer, you'll keep it at a low number.

The total balance listed here reconciles to the amount in our bank account. Those of you that are accountants will appreciate that.

We don't have a very long time, but if there's a question or two, I'd be glad to take that.

- *My understanding is that the money from NWYM included \$800 that had been given from travel stuff. I was wondering if we could start a traveling fund. Yes, \$851 to be exact. This is on the agenda already under the Coordinating Committee's business.*
- *Where do we send our checks?*

attn Roger Watson,  
Sierra Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends  
P.O. Box 508  
Newberg, OR  
97132

That's my wife's business PO box. We get mail addressed to other businesses there, and to people we don't know, but until now they wouldn't accept things for SCYMF. Send whatever you want to send, make checks out to Sierra Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends (SCYMF works for the bank).

- *I hope that we would ask our clerks to minute our appreciation for David Green's attorney work. This has high value in the market, we have gotten high value from his work. I would ask to minute our appreciation for his work, and our wish for his health in his recovery.*

Do we approve the minute of appreciation for the generous time David Green has given to this work? **APPROVED**

Anything that you contributed to NWYM before we were 501c3 incorporated needs to be listed separately on your tax information from anything that you'll contribute now.

Once we've brought our offering to the front, I would like to take a moment to ask God's blessing on this.

### **Nominating Committee - Rachel Hampton**

- **New Committee Members**
  - The first thing we have is a new member of the Quarterly Gathering Committee: Marilyn Miller. She's from Camas Friends. **APPROVED**
  - The next person is finance committee: Dave Cundiff has been an ad hoc member. We are changing him to a regular member because he is now a member of this yearly meeting. **APPROVED**
  - We also need one or two members of the finance committee, if you are interested, let me know.
  - **Abuse Prevention Task Force:** Do we approve the following three members: Mark Pratt-Russum, West Hills; Vicki Stave, Eugene; Jade Souza, unaffiliated? **APPROVED**

### **Coordinating Committee - Joann Boswell**

- **Affiliations:** a lot of us are interested and excited about this. Where are we going to affiliate? This is something we are actively talking about and we're going to discuss it at annual sessions. After business, we're going to discuss our being, in February we'll talk about our doing, and in May we'll talk about our joining. So we *are* in discussion about this.

Last May, we approved sending people to FCNL. Tom Stave is going to represent this Fall. If anyone else is interested, let the clerks know. There is financial assistance available for that.

FWCC (Friends World Committee for Consultation) are wanting to come to us and discuss what affiliation with them would mean. Do we approve their coming? **APPROVED**

They are meeting on March 21st in Kansas City, MO. If you want to serve as a representative to that, let the clerks know.

- **Liability Insurance and Record Keeping:** We are, with the finance committee, working on purchasing liability insurance, and on record keeping. We're purchasing Servant-Keeper to help keep organized.
- **Budget Needs:** The CC has been working with the finance committee on how to form our budgets for committees. As you heard, if you have funds that your committee needs, contact your liaison on the CC, and we will discuss and most likely approve it (unless you want a purple people eater).
- **Threshing Task Force:** We had a task force put together queries and lead discussion today. We want to put together another task force that will help form our discussion next

meeting on the question: what are we called to do. We want them to help meetings organize threshing sessions around this and to help bring our discussion together in February. If you want to volunteer for that, please let Rachel know.

- **Membership Requests:** I'm going to talk about some questions to sit with. We won't discuss them today. We've talked about them a bit before. We've received several membership requests from people outside our geographical region, such as Montana, Boston, and Kenya.
  - Do we have a calling to be a spiritual home to Friends from other regions who find themselves in need of a faith home that is LGBTQ+ friendly, Quaker, and Christ-centered?
  - Do we have Friends who are willing and able to have a traveling ministry to these Friends and explore the possibility of, and help set up, a local meeting?
  - What do we do with Friends desiring dual affiliation with other Friends groups?

Please be holding these queries in your minds. This discussion will come up for us in the future. Questions?

- *Is there anything right now that forbids those folks from coming and joining us even though they're in those far off places? Do we have a rule that says they can't?*

Not that I'm aware of, but it hasn't been fully explored, no conclusions have been reached from any discussions. One thing I've communicated to people who apply is that we are still in the discernment process of whether we are able to serve Friends from other geographical regions. I said I'd let them know how our discussions have continued.

- *Friends here might be interested to know that I've been asked to give the opening message at the FCNL gathering in DC. I would appreciate your prayers as I prepare it. I am discerning about our possibility of aligning with FCNL. FCNL has offered us six slots (and Tom is taking one, so there are five available). Have we thought about the long term preservation of SCYMF records?*

We will work with the recording clerks on this. That is very important, keeping all the files.

If and when you go to represent us, we are looking for information on what the organization does, how we can be a part, if there is a financial cost, and I would ask you to bring that information to annual sessions this coming May.

## **Faith & Practice - Julie Peyton**

In most YMs this committee is called a revision committee because they already have a F&P. We're starting from scratch.

If you're paying attention, nothing this committee ever reports to you should be a surprise. We're all throwing around ideas and spreading them far and wide for feedback. Eventually, bits

and pieces will be brought to some meeting for a first reading. We will never give you pages and pages for a first reading, just a few paragraphs at a time. For this first reading, we will give them to your local meetings, and you will have *months* for you to chew on it. No one is trying to sneak anything by you, no one is trying to force you to believe anything. We will be *descriptive*, not *prescriptive*. This is aspirational: it is what we want to be.

At annual sessions, we approved for first readings the *What this book is* and *what this book is not* sections. Those are ready to take to your local meetings.

We are in no rush. We are doing this out of love and faith and trust. If I had a front page, I would be torn between “Don’t Panic” and “Love is the first motion.”

## **Communications - Eric Muhr**

- **Working with other publications:** Lorraine Watson and I took time to consider some questions about other Quaker groups we might support or be part of. Lorraine isn’t here so we worked on the wording of a minute that we would like to bring for approval. We were specifically looking at other publishers that are not at all in competition with Barclay Press and do a good job of serving Friends in this area as well as others. Many of you already subscribe to the two in question.

The Communications Committee recommends that alongside Barclay Press, we, the members of Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends, also find ways to engage in the larger Quaker world by participation with and support of *Western Friend* and *Friends Journal*. *Western Friend* - [westernfriend.org](http://westernfriend.org) - is the official publication of Quakers in Pacific, North Pacific, and Intermountain Yearly Meetings. *Friends Journal* - [www.friendsjournal.org](http://www.friendsjournal.org) - is published by Friends Publishing Corporation, and its mission is to communicate Quaker experience in order to connect and deepen spiritual lives.

Do we approve working with and helping support *Friends Journal* and *Western Friend*?

**APPROVED**

*As we talk about communications, I'm interested in how specifically that happens. I'm particularly interested in how these things are reaching young adults and youth. I value hearing all Quaker voices, but those are the voices are the ones I wish most urgently to hear.*

I don't know. That's a good question to work on. But we've established our newsletter and other forms of communication so now a good next step is figuring out how well these established forms are reaching different groups.

## **Equity and Inclusion - Anna Knierim**

- **Workshops:** This morning we had an amazing opportunity to listen to a hard history. There were many people with a lot of thoughts and feelings. Based on our discussion in

the Equity committee and our discussion this morning, there was a desire for something to happen. Both action and apology were discussed. Thank you for all sharing your hearts this morning. We want to continue this discussion in a very clear way. We propose that in February, we have a session when we meet and listen together about what an apology would look like, then bring it to annual session, then do something. We start by apologizing, then of course, do way more than that. That's what we heard this morning. In addition to the apology, the Equity committee is going to come up with a list of resources that we can all dive into, including places to go, books to read, websites to visit, so that we can educate ourselves in the history and context we need to know to apologize accurately and with integrity.

## **Nurture of Ministry - Jan Wood**

- **Recording Transfers:** The procedure for receiving the recordings from NWYM was that they were automatic before June 30th. We got a transfer during that time of Becky Ankeny's recording, which we receive with joy.

Clyde Parker previously had a sense of conscience that he should not transfer his recording, but should wait to be released (or ejected) from NWYM and he would now like to transfer his recording to SCYMF. Since the request from Eugene for Clyde Parker's recording to SCYMF came after June 30<sup>th</sup> and is not automatic, we have to approve the transfer. Do we approve Clyde Parker's recording transfer to SCYMF? **APPROVED**

- **New Recording Process:** As the committee for nurture of ministry has been talking about what a profound paradigm shift we are doing around recording, we have moved from 'recording is just something for pastors, it's rare and you need to weed people out' to 'recording is for everyone who is called and is in public ministry.' That means musicians, artists, sculptors, chaplains, and international quilting teachers. It's for people who are raised up in a variety of ways to do ministry in public settings, and we as a meeting can recognize that this person carries our heart and represents our spirit.
- **Workshops:** The other shift is the recording in local or yearly meeting level. A minister may have a ministry that happens at the local level, or at a larger scale. That decision is discerned by the local committee—which level is appropriate—but it's a new skill, this discernment of where a minister's recording belongs, and we want to have workshops to better learn what this process should look like. We will send out two people from this committee to the meetings of SCYMF. I need to know from you when to schedule you so we can come. Practically speaking, we need to until the end of the year to get our materials ready. We want a brochure, some handouts, things that are helpful to you. So if we could start scheduling for January, it would be lovely to get this done between January and May.
  - *If a meeting were to discern that it would be better for the recording to happen at the YM, it might be good to meet with the local meeting a month before so that there's time to process this.*



It actually takes longer than that. If you have someone ready to go into our recording process, I'm the person to contact as the clerk of the committee. Because of our process of meeting the 60 day comment period, if you're going to be recorded, it needs to be sooner than a month. I think there will be lots of questions, which is why we want to come and have these conversations with you.

- **Change in Wording:** The fourth thing is a minor change, but you really need to know about it. In that 60 day comment period, a unique thing we're instituting is that after there is clearness with this committee, there's a 60 day comment period. The way this worked in our previous history is that it was a secret who was in the recording process, not publicly known, and you didn't have the chance to say anything until it came to the floor of the yearly meeting for approval.

What we thought would be wise if that after the committee is clear, there would be 60 days for folks to comment. This could be commendations, stories of how the person has touched my life, or it could be serious, it could be red flags of abuse. The place where abuse is caught is where people step up and say something and we want to have a structure and process to do that. This gives us another layer to take care of abuse situations. But this is not just for reporting wrong things, we would love to see floods of stories of how this person has shown the Light.

In the feedback time, the person who gives feedback must identify themselves and give contact information. However the content of these messages are written that they will be held in confidentiality and shared only with the candidate and the candidate's accompanying elder. However, we changed the language to "these messages will be held in care," since there are times in which things must be reported. This is not an approval thing, but I would like it to rest well.

- *To clarify: the candidate will find out who made the comments?*

I think the language suggests that that's a discernment decision based on care of the process, the person, and the concern.

- *It's the content not the names, right?*

That depends on the situation because you can't have comments that are seriously damaging without follow up.

- *But since we're talking about abuse, because that's under addressed right now. If (hypothetically, not saying this has happened in our body) a person who has experienced abuse, if you truly want to hear them, their identity—not their comments, just their identity—will **need** to be held in confidence.*

I promise that I will hold that in care. That is one of the things you hold in care, and you do not re-abuse the person who has been abused. I promise that these are the things we're thinking about.

- *I think it would be right for the Nurture of Ministry committee to make a commitment that those names will be held in confidence, because that is the absolute necessity.*

We promise not to re-abuse those who have been abused. On behalf of the committee, we hear and understand this concern.

- *Is this the meaning that will hold for the next generation of the committee?*

That's one facet of it. We're a new organization. Let's sit with this and see if it serves us. If not we'll craft better language. Each committee is a work in process. This generation of the committee understands our intent with this language, and if later that doesn't work, we will address it.

- *Could we hear again the language the included the words "in care"? I understand how to operationalize this, but not from the language itself.*

The content of these messages, sent online to the committee about the person in the 60 day period, will be held in care by the committee and shared with the candidate and the candidate's accompanying elder (the messages, not the identity).

- *I understand that to mandate sharing of the content. I think I've heard that too specific sharing of content could be a problem. Can the language be held over for consideration, because of the possibilities we've raised? This is incredibly difficult to get right, and the fact that specific concerns have been expressed about the general language).*

I think that's a great idea.

Do we approve the committee to add language to protect victims and their stories? **APPROVED**

### **People Care - Norma Silliman**

- **Travel Fund:** The People Care Committee talked a lot about, as a young yearly meeting, the importance of face to face time, of being with each other. That's why it's so cool to see so many of you here today. We also want to be able to facilitate gathering to travel with each other. This is why we want to establish the travel fund.

There are three parts to this document: first introducing the fund and the questions we grappled with and the third part is a link in the application where you can read things that NPYM have said about what they've learned about traveling with a companion or elder.

One thing that our committee has recognized is that, just like we're changing the way we're looking at recording, we're changing the way we're looking at traveling and ministry. Our next goal will be to set up educational things.

The application will be online. We've talked with Communications, and Eric has assured me it will be a simple thing. It will be submitted automatically, and there will be a review group.

That will be made up of one of the co-clerks, a finance committee member, a prayer committee member, and if they meet the criteria, it will go onto the larger committee. We don't want to be cumbersome, but we want to be able to provide support.

We talked about dispersal of funds and how that will happen. For now, we'll require receipts. We don't have a mechanism for if people need money up front. The finance committee recommends we reimburse for gas, food, lodging if required, and transportation fees for airplane or train, as well as any costs presented to the committee, because traveling can incur unexpected costs. We want people who feel a clear call to be able to go, and we want to help that happen.

You can use an app or take pictures or whatever it takes with your receipts.

- **Funding sources:** that still has to be worked out. I don't know that we're clear enough to act on it today, but it would be wonderful to start making this process available as soon as possible. There is such a need to be traveling among one another, and there are certainly people out there who have at least the beginning sense of a call to travel. So we don't have a proposal, but we want to get started.

We hope to receive designated funds for this traveling funds. We'll look later about whether we want to create a line item in the budget.

- **Questions We Still Have:** Do we fund travel by invitation only? (I doubt it). Will we fund visits to meetings only, or to isolated Friends as well? Lodging: we want to minimize that cost, and those of us who have done some traveling recognize the value of staying among those you are visiting. So we encourage people to ask for accommodations where possible and practical, and give the people at your destination enough time to organize that.
- **Accountability:** We require receipts for all expenses. We don't want to make it hard on people, but we can only reimburse after the fact. The other piece of accountability is a traveling minute. You will want to have a meeting for clearness before you travel among Friends, and we want you to take a traveling minute, because this is about connecting meetings, not just individuals, so we want the meeting to endorse the traveling minute, and it can come back and be part of our records and culture.
  - **Clerks insertion:** For those that don't know what a traveling minute is: it's a letter that the clerks will write as a letter of introduction for you.

On the application there is a link to example traveling minutes so you can see how this usually works. We might need to develop some kind of training around writing these.

- **The Application:** We tried to make it so that the application helps the person gain more clarity about their plans and also about letting us know they're thinking through costs and logistics. So we ask you about your discernment: we want to make sure you've really done your homework. Have you already started some communication? How far down the road are you? Who will give your traveling minute? Do you have a clearness

committee if you are not part of a meeting that can give you a traveling minute? Will you travel with an elder (you'll need to click on that link that describes what that means)? It really is a lovely experience to travel with someone who's there as your support person to hear your thoughts and concerns.

- *This was specifically about setting up the process. Would people care also connect with people who aren't requesting funds but are doing traveling ministry?*

Good question, we haven't thought of that yet. Yes, we will definitely work with those people.

- *I had the exact same idea. There are lots of people that are traveling. Being able to share these things is so important whether or not funds are being requested.*
- *It might be that those who can't fund their travel up front might be encouraged to go to their meetings to see, given that there will be reimbursement if all goes well, that churches could provide that to those that can't do it themselves.*
- *Two quick thoughts: the possibility of an elder already there so we don't have to pay for two tickets? And you said 'encouraged' to take a traveling minute—maybe not a requirement, but something a little stronger than encouragement.*
- *Considering that traveling ministry is what Quakers have done since the beginning, it's important to also consider the fact that you can be supported in traveling with this yearly meeting, but can request funds from others.*
- *You implied that we weren't ready to begin taking applications. My understanding is that the Coordinating Committee has discussed how to handle these things on an interim basis, so I would hope that they wouldn't delay in following their leadings.*

**Clerks:** We have a program that is not 100% fleshed out, but we have people traveling this winter to give us much needed information for annual sessions. Can we approve this committee to run this program as we have it now, but to bring this full idea to us at annual sessions? Meanwhile, we do have the funds, so could we approve them to give those funds on approval of the coordinating committee? **APPROVED**

## **Closing – Sarah Katreen Hoggatt and Gil George**

Our next Quarterly Gathering is February 16, 2019 at West Hill Friends in Portland, Oregon.

Annual Sessions are May 24-26, 2019 in Canby, Oregon.

The clerks closed the meeting with a few minutes of silence at 4:15 p.m.