

Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends
Seventh Annual Sessions | June 2023

Meeting for Worship for Business

Saturday, June 24, 2023, 10:30 a.m.

Clerk's Welcome and Overview

Norma Silliman, co-clerk, opened our annual gathering's meeting for worship for business with prayer and with these observations:

We meet in Monmouth, Oregon, on the campus of Oregon Western University. Monmouth and the Willamette Valley area are the ancestral homelands of the Kalapuya Indian Tribe. Native peoples inhabited western Oregon for thousands of years before European settlers arrived. Today the Kalapuya are part of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and are reclaiming their language and lifeways.

We were reminded that Quaker business is done in worship, walking through the process together as a spiritual community, listening for God's will for us to be clear.

The clerks gave guidance for Friends, both present at the gathering location and online via Zoom, who wish to speak.

We appreciate the work of the volunteers providing tech support, helping give Zoom participants the fullest possible participation in our meeting for worship for business.

Previous Minutes

Mike Huber, co-clerk, assumed the clerking role.

The minutes of our previous quarterly and annual gatherings are available on our Yearly Meeting's Web site.

The clerks have removed from the February 2023 minutes a comment that was harmful to Eric Muhr and Barclay Press. Mike Huber apologized to Eric for the harm, on behalf of our Yearly Meeting. The February 2023 quarterly gathering minutes as now posted are **approved**.

Welcoming Visitors

We extended a warm welcome to the following visitors who were present (either at our meeting place or online):

Visitors from Alaska Friends Conference stood and were recognized. The following minute from Alaska Friends Conference was **received**:

Alaska Friends Conference

Traveling Minute in Support of Alaska Quakers Seeking Right Relationships with Indigenous People

21 June 2023

Dear Friends, Alaska Friends Conference (AFC) sends our love and greetings with Janis Bronson, Cathy Walling, Carrie Farr, Maia Genaux, Charley Basham and Scott Bell. All are members of the AFC committee Alaska Quakers Seeking Right Relationships with Indigenous People (AQSRR) and active attenders in our yearly meeting, who were invited to attend the Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends Annual Session (June 23-25, 2023) at Western Oregon University in Monmouth, Oregon. To center Alaska Native voices, AQSRR members requested the plenary be led by Alaska Natives, and SCYMF fully supported this decision. At the plenary, several Alaska Natives will share the impacts of Quaker-run day schools, boarding schools, and missions on their ancestors and on present-day Alaska Natives and Alaska Native communities. It is not the responsibility of Alaska Native people to help transform colonizer behavior. At the same time, we see that our acting without first listening has contributed to great harm. The invited Alaska Natives are Jim Labelle, Susan Labelle, Jamiann S'eiltin-Hasselquist and Jennifer Quinto. This trip is another way AFC is working with Alaska Natives as we all work to counter the impacts of colonization. We are very thankful for SCYMF's support of the Alaska Natives and AQSRR members attending SCYMF's Annual Session.

The Alaska Native and AQSRR contingents will visit George Fox University to view the archives of Quaker missionaries to Alaska and Alaska Native objects in the archives. GFU staff have been very welcoming of our visit to the archives. We will also visit The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Morningside burial grounds, and Chemawa Indian School.

As AQSRR members strive to be faithful in this work, they will also be attending the Friends General Conference Gathering (July 2-8) and North Pacific Yearly Meeting Annual Session (July 8-11) seeking opportunities to describe how AFC developed an apology to Alaska Native people, and other ways in which AFC members are building relationships in support of truth-providing, healing and transformation with Alaska Native and Native American individuals and organizations.

We commend them to your care, and trust that they will be faithful in service to your community.

In the Light,

Laura Herman Co-Clerk and Treasurer
Alaska Friends Conference
PO Box 241732
Anchorage, AK, 99524

Minute approved by AFC Representative Committee on June 21, 2023.

Earl Smith, Stillwater Monthly Meeting, Ohio Yearly Meeting, co-editor of Quaker journal *What Canst Thou Say*. The following minute from Stillwater Monthly Meeting was **received**:

Stillwater Monthly Meeting of Friends
Barnesville, Ohio
6/22/2023

To Sierra Cascades Yearly Meeting

Dear Friends, Greetings. In Fourth Month our Friend Earl Smith shared with us that he felt called to religious service at your Yearly Meeting Sessions in Sixth Month and requested a traveling minute to that purpose.

Earl is a valued Elder in our Meeting and we will miss his service and ministry while he is away.

However, we are thankful for his willingness to follow God' leading in this. He is also planning on attending other Meetings while he is in the area as well as Friends General Conference in Seventh Month. We are glad that he feels called to further our connections with Western Friends as these can be of benefit to Friends there as well as our own Meeting as we seek to follow what we are called to do.

We pray the Lord's Blessing on your sessions and commend Earl to your care.

In The Lord's Love and Service,

Stillwater Monthly Meeting of Friends (OYM)
Thomas F. Rockwell, clerk

The clerk welcomed these visiting Friends:

Lisa Smith, Olympia Monthly Meeting, North Pacific Yearly Meeting

Braden Miller, Eugene Friends Meeting, North Pacific Yearly Meeting; serving with our teens this weekend

Alicia McBride, Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting, Baltimore YM, representing Friends Committee on National Legislation

Margaret Coahran, Pullman-Moscow Monthly Meeting, North Pacific Yearly Meeting

Lois Kieffaber, Spokane Friends Meeting

Ken Stockbridge, Patapsco Friends Meeting, Baltimore Yearly Meeting, and representing Friends General Conference

Stasya Sergunin, Moscow Monthly Meeting, Russia. Stasya greeted us on behalf of Moscow Friends.

Gil George of West Hills Friends Church, SCYMF, brought greetings from the staff of Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas, for whom he serves as operations manager. Gil announced the soft opening, next month, of FWCC's interactive world map of Friends

Ruthie Tippin of Camas Friends, SCYMF, greeted us on behalf of Right Sharing of World Resources. Ruthie is a member of RSWR's board.

Nominating Committee Report

The report was presented by Londa Rochholz of Eugene Friends Church.

The Yearly Meeting thanks the following Friends whose service on various committees is ending at the close of these sessions:

Coordinating Committee:

Dorothy Day, West Hills Friends Church
Jon Tippin, Camas Friends Church
Erin Wilson, Direct Member of SCYMF

Safeguarding Committee:

Erin Wilson, Direct Member

Epistle Committee:

James Hibbs, North Seattle Friends Church

Equity and Inclusion Committee:

Dove John, North Seattle Friends Church
Cecile Hudson, North Seattle Friends Church
Jen Seamans, West Hills Friends Church

Nurture of Ministry Committee:

Ruthie Tippin, Camas Friends Church

People Care Committee

(this committee has been laid down)

Megan Hamilton, West Hills Friends Church
Bethany Lee, West Hills Friends Church
Jazmin Miller-Price, Camas Friends Church
Jim Teeters, Direct Member (Olympic View Friends Church)
Becky Wood, North Seattle Friends Church

Prayer Committee:

Doreen Crail, West Hills Friends Church
Patti Federighi, North Seattle Friends Church

Youth Committee:

Wendy Davenport, North Seattle Friends Church

Clerks:

Mike Huber, West Hills Friends Church

Representatives to other Friends bodies:

Western Yearly Meeting: Cherice Bock, Direct Member (North Valley Friends Church)

Western Yearly Meeting: Dove John, North Seattle Friends Church

Friends Committee on National Legislation: Tom Stave, Eugene Friends Church

The Nominating Committee's report was part of our Advanced Documents, listing the Friends who have been recommended to our Yearly Meeting for service through the annual sessions of the year indicated, as follows:

Communications Committee:

Judy Maurer, Camas Friends Church—2026

Nikai Sherlock, Camas Friends Church—2026

Val Stoehr, Camas Friends Church—2026

Coordinating Committee:

Bethany Lee, West Hills Friends Church—2026

Epistle Committee:

Janet Grove, Camas Friends Church—2026

Equity & Inclusion Committee:

Jo Boswell, Camas Friends Church—2026

Andrew Franklin, Camas Friends Church—2026

Anna Knierim, West Hills Friends Church—2024 (renewal, one year)

Faith & Practice Committee:

Amy George, West Hills Friends Church—2026 (renewal)

Derek Lamson, Eugene Friends Church—2026 (renewal)

Jade Rockwell, Camas Friends Church—2024 (renewal, one year)

Finance Committee:

Dave Cundiff, Direct Member (Olympia Monthly Meeting, North Pacific Yearly Meeting)—2026 (renewal)

David Peyton, West Hills Friends Church—2026 (renewal)

Gathering Committee:

Mike Meskel, Camas Friends Church—2026

Nurture of Ministry Committee:

Faith Marsalli, Klamath Falls Friends Church—2026 (renewal)

Mark Pratt-Russum, West Hills Friends Church—2026

Co-Clerk:

Erin Wilson, Direct Member—2026

Representatives to other Friends associations and organizations:

FGC: Cherice Bock, Direct Member (North Valley Friends Church)—2024

Friends **approved** the report of the Nominating Committee.

Reports from representatives to other Friends bodies

Friends World Committee for Consultation: Londa Rochholz (Eugene Friends) and Anna Baker (Direct Member) attended the annual meeting of FWCC Section of the Americas, held in Greensboro, North Carolina. The theme: “Becoming the Quakers the World Needs.” They highlighted:

- the keynote address, “As Oil from Gethsemane,” by Noah Merrill;
- the soon-to-be-unveiled interactive online world map of Friends;
- the upcoming FWCC world plenary to be hosted by Southern Africa Yearly Meeting, August 5-12, 2024, to which SCYMF is asked to appoint one participant to be on site and one online participant;
- FWCC is in the midst of a global fundraising campaign with a \$1,250,000 goal of which 65% has been raised.

Britain Yearly Meeting: Johan and Judy Maurer, Camas Friends Church and Moscow (Russia) Friends Meeting, were our representatives at the yearly meeting sessions this spring. Judy reported that, despite dramatic differences in clerking styles and other business practices, some of the dilemmas faced by Britain YM are remarkably similar to ours—for example, ambiguities in relationships between different parts of the governing structures, sometimes resulting in confusion and “friction.”

Western Yearly Meeting: Cherice Bock (Direct Member) attended Western Yearly Meeting’s 2022 sessions online and gave the keynote address. She spoke on

climate change and the biblical basis for creation care. Dove John (North Seattle Friends Church) served as elder to Cherice for this ministry.

Friends Committee on National Legislation. Alicia McBride, representing FCNL at our sessions, spoke about FCNL as “a persistent Quaker voice in Washington, DC,” now celebrating 80 years since its founding. Among her highlights:

- FCNL’s work on behalf of a Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School legislation in the United States;
- Increased funding for conflict and violence interruption programs
- The repeal of the Authorization for the Use of Military Force in Iraq (AUMF);
- Support for Friends discernment on reproductive health;
- In general: “How do we become the Quakers our democracy needs?”

Johan Maurer reported that he serves on Friends Peace Teams as a member of the European and Middle East team, but as of yet has not sought to serve as a representative from our Yearly Meeting. One Friend commented that, in general, she is not comfortable with our use of the word “representative” to describe our role as Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting appointees and visitors to other groups.

Norma Silliman began clerking with this statement:

In 2017, at SCYMF’s formative meeting for worship for business, our first Approved Minute, documented in the Epistle, read: “We are led by the Spirit to commit ourselves to recognizing the full participation of LGBTQ+ people in all aspects of the life of the new yearly meeting.

<https://www.scymfriends.org/epistles/epistle-19-june-2022-canby-or-saz67-ambcf-dph8j>

We have had three co-clerks from the LGBTQ+ community—Eric Muhr, Sarah Katreen Hoggatt, and now Erin Wilson. As we gather at our sixth annual session, Pride month is being celebrated. This year, as we gather, we have had to assess the safety of LGBTQIA+ friends among us, due to the hateful rhetoric growing across our nation. In Idaho, we already face restrictions on LGBTQIA+ self-expression and identity. Let’s take a moment to reassert our Yearly Meeting’s support and appreciation for the LGBTQIA+ members and friends among us.

Nurture of Ministry Committee—proposal for a structure/process/roles study group

Faith Marsalli presented the following proposal for discussion and possible decision on Sunday.

The Nurture of Ministry Committee was asked by the Coordinating Committee to review the wording of information related to our committee on the SCYMF website in March of this year. In that process the bylaws were consulted to confirm our responsibilities. It has come to our attention during the review process that much of the structure of our yearly meeting is not functioning as described. Our committee is responsible for overseeing the recording of ministers among us. In the past two years our collective vision has grown beyond this narrow focus. We believe we have meaningful work to do among our monthly meetings and with pastors and other recorded ministers to support and nurture ministry at many levels. We also see the need for nurturing the yearly meeting as a whole in the absence of named elders, a ministry and counsel committee, or a staff person that supports our meetings, members, and cohesiveness as a yearly meeting.

There are several committees in our bylaws that no longer function as described in the document. In addition, there seems to be more work assigned to the Coordinating Committee than is reasonable for one group.

During a joint meeting with the Gathering Committee and the Coordinating Committee as we were considering our part in the coming annual sessions, it became clear that our bylaws do not specify who is responsible for the programming elements of the major annual event of our community. The evidence suggests that some of our structures are no longer serving the life of the meeting. Therefore, the Nurture of Ministry Committee respectfully requests the appointment of a working group or subcommittee to address the review and reconsideration of our bylaws and structures and possible need for staff to help nurture our life together (as requested in 2022). We are aware that some work reviewing our bylaws has already been done by the Faith and Practice Committee.

One conceivable way forward would be to recruit four to six individuals with representatives from the functioning committees of SCYMF and other concerned members outside of our committees. That group could complete a review of the bylaws by the next quarterly session. A report on what is working and what the group discerns as needed structural changes (new committees, a revision of responsibilities, staff?) could be presented to the yearly meeting in written form to

be distributed to local meetings and on our website for consideration prior to the quarterly meeting if possible.

Thank you for your consideration of our proposal.

Norma Silliman said that, in view of the press of business, and to allow Friends time to consider this important recommendation further, discussion would resume on Sunday.

At the end of Saturday's first session, Norma directed our attention to the Barclay Press exhibit.

Saturday, 1:00 p.m.

Mike Huber resumed the clerkship.

Memorial presentation

Meg Rice (West Hills Friends Church), clerk of the Gathering Committee, presented a slide show she had prepared, in memory of these Friends who died since our last annual sessions. (A link to the slide show is in the link list at the end of these minutes.)

Eldon Johnson, Silverton Friends Church, June 14, 1944, to August 4, 2022

Loreta (Lorie) Graves Wood, West Hills Friends Church, March 20, 1932, to November 26, 2022

Wilbur Wood, West Hills Friends Church, May 3, 1929, to April 15, 2023

William Tamplen, Klamath Falls Friends Church, November 10, 1946, to December 27, 2022

Douglas Daily, North Seattle Friends Church, May 31, 1947, to May 28, 2023

Dorothy Parker, Eugene Friends Church, December 9, 1928, to April 13, 2023

During the recognition of long-serving retired pastoral ministers (see below), we also remembered the passing of Bernice (Bernie) Bosnjak, Hillsboro Friends Church, March 15, 1945, to November 28, 2021.

Norma Silliman resumed the clerkship.

Finance Committee report and spending plan

Dave Cundiff (Direct Member), clerk of the Finance Committee, presented and summarized the SCYMF balance sheet as provided in the advance documents. He directed Friends' attention to the increase in the Northwest Yearly Meeting settlement fund, representing SCYMF's share of Northwest Yearly Meeting's endowment. This SCYMF fund has reached over \$400,000. The Finance Committee's approach is to keep this fund intact unless our Yearly Meeting makes other decisions for using those funds. One possible consideration: some of our inherited funds are linked with stolen land and stolen labor. The Yearly Meeting may at some point choose an amount and method of reparation from those funds.

The balance sheet is available from the SCYMF clerks or the Finance Committee.

Dave then presented the 2023-24 Spending Plan. He explained that the first three lines of the plan involve commitments the Yearly Meeting has already made: to Barclay Press, to Friends World Committee for Consultation, and to Friends Committee on National Legislation. The last lines ("Spending for general support") are fixed costs imposed by vendors. In between are the lines listing the spending plans of committees and clerks, and for the most part reflect input from the individual committees.

Dave also asked us to anticipate expenses in next year's spending plan to cover participation in the Friends World Committee for Consultation's global plenary sessions in South Africa.

The spending plan as presented in this session projects a deficit for 2023-24. The Finance Committee is not particularly worried because past experience shows that our committees and clerks tend to underspend. What will make this spending plan work is a combination of courageous spending as needed, and prudence.

SCYMF treasurer Diane Beebe (Direct Member) commended the work of Finance Committee member Tim Rochholz in contacting our committees to find out their projected spending plans for the upcoming fiscal year.

Dave Cundiff added that at some point we need to figure out a plan for doing the right thing with the funds we inherited. Otherwise we may come to the place where deficit spending may begin to chip away at those funds. Instead of being an organization that says "No" to good ideas that will cost money, we prefer to say "Yes, if ..."

Question: A Friend appreciated the Finance Committee's intention of not spending this final settlement from Northwest Yearly Meeting. However, would the interest generated

by that find offset deficits until we make those inheritance decisions? Response: The interest income is shown as a separate line in the income section of the Spending Plan.

Question: Could we use some of the NWYM settlement to cover the expenses of hosting our Alaska Native guests at this annual gathering? Response: this would be complicated because some churches and donors have made specific contributions for those expenses.

Comment: I love how we are a “yes” organization. My concern: negative spending could become a habit. My request: we find a way to make our finances sustainable, so we don't end up in a situation where we have to say “no.” Also: who defines the “if” in “yes, if...” and who decides when we must say “no”?

Dave: We have the power in this room to zero out the ordinary income deficit in this year's results (the deficit as of 18 days ago) by giving adequately in our offering later today.

Question: Do our committees feel “we can't really spend this amount because it comes from a deficit assumption”? Some of us have the perspective that “we trust it's going to work out,” but others may feel the scarcity implied by a deficit budget and say to themselves, “I don't really know how much my committee can actually spend for the Yearly Meeting to stay within the spending plan.”

Dave: Decisions should be made based on Spirit leadings, not on financial totals. I don't know what happens in the mind of a clerk who may be aware of the deficit.... We want clerks to know that if they have an opening to do the work, the resources are there. Money that ends up not being spent, is usually not unspent out of worries about the deficit, but because the circumstances are not rightly timed for making the expenditure.

Diane: It is possible for us to modify expenses in the spending plan during these sessions.

The clerk suggested pausing the discussion at this point, and return tomorrow to consider approving the spending plan as presented, or making changes.

At this point, a hat was passed to collect an offering, and instructions were given for making contributions online or by check.

Erin Wilson clerked this next session.

Coordinating Committee

It is the responsibility of the Coordinating Committee to nominate members of the Nominating Committee. The Coordinating Committee's nomination of Eli Craig to serve on the Nominating Committee was **approved**.

Communications Committee

Judy Maurer reported that the "opening rate" of the SCYMF Bulletin (that is, the percentage of emails carrying the Bulletin that are actually opened rather than ignored or deleted) has risen from 48% to 62%. Some new subscriptions for the Bulletin are coming from other yearly meetings. Friends and churches are reminded to send news items for the Bulletin.

The new Web site for SCYMF seems to be receiving widespread approval. The Communications Committee would like to receive corrections and suggestions for improvement.

Equity and Inclusion Committee

Anna Scott-Hinkle (Eugene Friends Church) reported for the committee, expressing gratitude for new members so that the committee can now become more active.

Norma Silliman resumed the clerkship.

Safeguarding Committee

Mark Pratt-Russum (West Hills Friends Church) and Juulie Downs (Camas Friends Church) gave the report. The committee has met frequently and continues to review the policy SCYMF has adopted to protect children and other vulnerable people. The committee wants to hear about the experience of all churches as they implement the policy.

The advance document of the Safeguarding Committee's report [attach or link] describes the committee's proposal for staffing to help with carrying out the many tasks required by the policy. Each church, and the Yearly Meeting as a whole, need

consistent attention to all the forms and verifications required by our policy. This request is now before the Yearly Meeting.

Comment: this staff function could be considered as part of the mandate of the study group proposed by the Nurture of Ministry Committee.

The advance report also summarizes two policy changes that the Safeguarding Committee would like the Yearly Meeting to approve.

One of the recommended modifications concerns the procedure for reporting abuses by the pastor or by the “person in charge”—in other words, by people who would otherwise be in the chain of reporting and would, in such incidents, have a conflict of interest. Friends were uncomfortable with the instruction that seemed to indicate that nobody beyond the Safeguarding Committee should be notified immediately in such cases, and the Committee agreed to provide a clarification on Sunday.

The other policy change involves outside groups who use our facilities. Review and approval of this change will also be on Sunday’s agenda.

Erin Wilson resumed clerkship.

Faith and Practice Committee

Jade Rockwell (Camas Friends Church) presented the committee’s report, which was in the advance documents. (See link list at end of these minutes.)

Jade referred back to earlier comments made during representatives’ reports, when it was pointed out that in 2017 we as a Yearly Meeting decided not to use the term “representative.” We seem to have slipped back into using that term, and Jade suggested that this may be a sign of healing. “Representative” at one time was associated with a more repressive yearly meeting structure. Perhaps that association has faded with time, and we may want to revisit that decision, or else stick to it.

Derek Lamson (Eugene Friends Church) described the seven posters on display in the hall outside our meeting room. The posters and the markers provided on each easel represent an invitation to Friends to indicate their preferences and priorities in composing our Yearly Meeting’s first Faith and Practice. Each poster indicates choices made by various yearly meetings in prioritizing aspects of doctrine, practice, historic

expressions of faith, queries, and personal testimonies. Where do we feel power and life, where do we feel cautions?

Those posters will remain in place until our sessions end; Friends are invited to continue to respond.

Mike Huber resumed clerkship.

Nurture of Ministry: recording of new ministers

Co-clerk Mike Huber asked the members of the Nurture Of Ministry Committee to come alongside the clerks' table, along with the candidates for recording as ministers, Jade Rockwell and Mark Pratt-Russum.

Committee clerk Ruthie Tippin began by addressing a question some have asked the Nurture of Ministry Committee: why don't we record more pastors? She went on to say that the truth is—God already has. God has chosen those to minister for God's people and then waits for us to recognize that calling. When we do, Friends make that calling known to one another, to our meetings, and to our Yearly Meeting. If those Friends accept that calling, our Meetings or our Yearly Meeting write down—that is, *record*—what God has already done, in our Minutes.

Jade Amanna Rockwell (Camas Friends Church) and Mark Pratt-Russum (West Hills Friends Church) each discovered their call to recorded ministry in their own time, circumstance, and meetings. They were brought to our Yearly Meeting Nurture of Ministry Committee, where the committee spent time in prayerful consideration. Jade's and Mark's history, their training, their heart and mind for God and for ministry among Friends, their experience, their way of being with others, and the deep conversations we shared with each one of them assured us of the same things that prompted them to be recommended to us.

Then we asked the Yearly Meeting as a whole, through thirty days of open feedback time. In this feedback process, we found no impediments to either one of them moving forward as recorded ministers of the Gospel under Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends. And so, the committee brings Mark Pratt-Russum and Jade Amanna Rockwell to the assembled Yearly meeting for their recording, with clearness and joy.

The clerks introduced recording candidate Jade Rockwell and her accompanier in the recording process, Judy Kaye (Camas Friends Church). Kendra Purcell (Hillsboro Friends Church) substituted for Judy in reading the affirmation that Judy had prepared, testifying to Jade's gifts of public ministry.

The clerks asked the Yearly Meeting for approval to record Jade Rockwell as a minister of the gospel. Jade Rockwell's recording was **approved**.

The clerks introduced recording candidate Mark Pratt-Russum and his accompanier, Bethany Lee (West Hills Friends Church). Bethany gave an affirmation of Mark's gifts of public ministry.

The clerks asked the Yearly Meeting for approval to record Mark Pratt-Russum as a minister of the gospel. Mark Pratt-Russum's recording was **approved**.

The clerks congratulated Jade and Mark, and presented Certificates of Recording to each of them.

Norma Silliman resumed clerking.

Nurture of Ministry: recognition of new and retired pastors

Ruthie Tippin asked the following Friends to come forward: Leigh Tolton (Klamath Falls Friends Church), Clyde Parker (Eugene Friends Church), Lorraine Watson (North Seattle Friends Church), Mike Huber (West Hills Friends Church), Faith Marsalli (Klamath Falls Friends Church).

Ruthie introduced Leigh Tolton, who is three months into her service as Klamath Falls Friends Church's new pastor. She comes to us from West Elkton Friends Meeting, Ohio, a member meeting of the New Association of Friends. Ruthie read an affirmation of Leigh written by Klamath Falls Friends' clerk Jeanette Rutherford.

The Nurture of Ministry Committee then presented, in this order, the following retired Friends ministers in recognition of their long service among us.

Clyde Parker was introduced by Johan Maurer. Loretta Downs (Eugene Friends Church) read an affirmation of Clyde's ministry.

Mike Huber was introduced by Faith Marsalli. David Peyton (West Hills Friends Church) read an affirmation of Mike's ministry composed of testimonies of Friends at West Hills.

Lorraine Watson was introduced by Anna Baker. Becky Wood (North Seattle Friends Church) read an affirmation of Lorraine's ministry written by Jan and Becky Wood.

Faith Marsalli was introduced by Leann Williams (Friends in Common). Mike Huber read an affirmation of Faith's ministry prepared by Jeanette Rutherford.

These expressions of appreciation will be linked to the minutes. (See links at end of minutes.)

Minute of Appreciation:

The Nurture of Ministry Committee has a vision of a Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting in which, together, we all nurture ministry. Dedicated pastoral ministers have an important role to play in forming such a community. In honoring these long-serving pastors, along with our late Friend Bernie Bosnjak (1945-2021) of Hillsboro Friends Church, our Yearly Meeting commends their example of lives dedicated to the formation of trustworthy communities that empower the gifts of all of us. We say "thank you" to these Friends, and we hope that all of us who are present today are inspired to consider what gifts we might bring to the building of such communities.

This minute was **approved**.

Friends were invited to a reception, at the rise of this session, for the newly-recorded ministers, the retired ministers, and our newest pastor.

Sunday, June 1:00pm

Erin Wilson, co-clerk, opened this session with open worship time.

Youth Epistle

Espen Bock read the Youth epistle that had been approved at the youth gatherings during our Yearly Meeting.

To all friends everywhere, from the Youth YM of Sierra-Cascades,

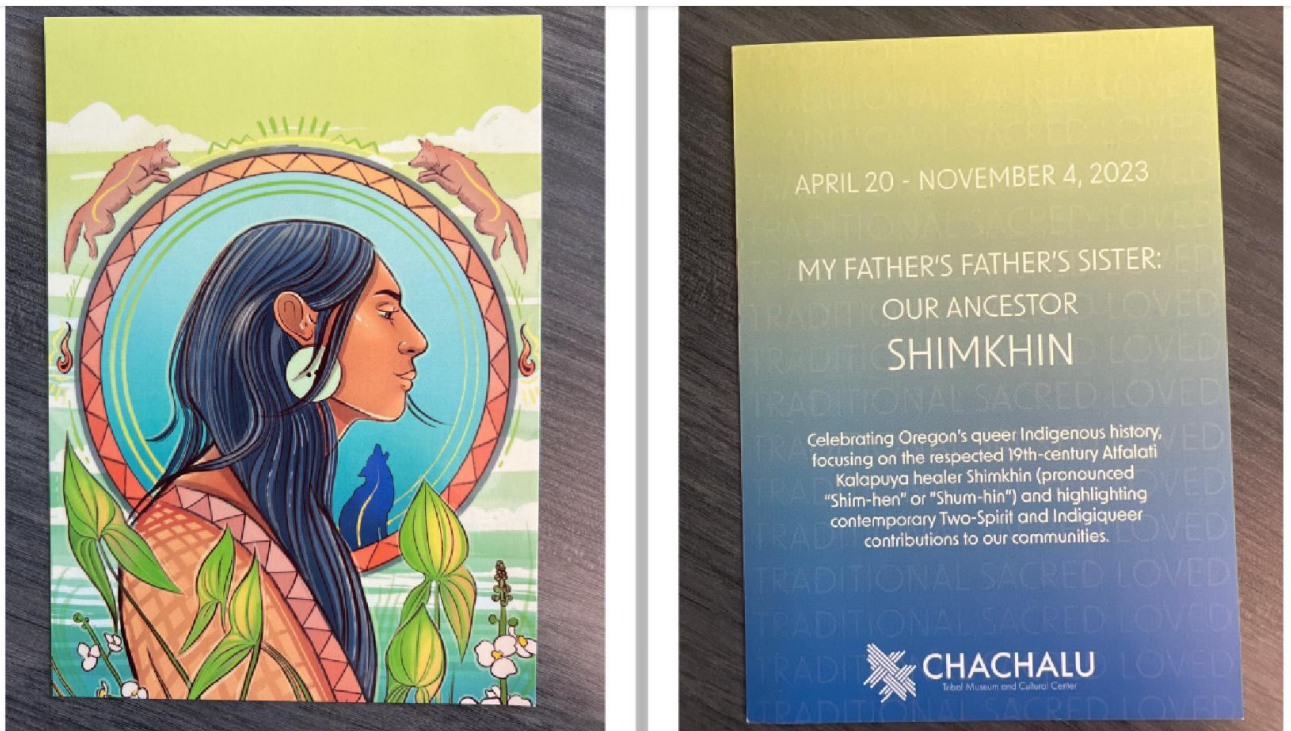
Three adult leaders, and 4-6 youth (depending on their availability) met during Sierra-Cascades YM sessions. It was the leaders' hope that this collection of children will grow into a community, even be the start of a Youth Yearly Meeting.

The icebreaker ended up being tossing around a pink flamingo plush toy, which became a metaphor and common practice. Then we played more organized games, including our favorite called "Fortunately/Unfortunately."

We compared the story of Elijah & the prophets of Baal to Dungeons & Dragons. We read the story of Elijah and the earthquake, wind, fire, and finally the still,

small voice. When we are faced with a situation of uncertainty (when the pink flamingo flies at us out of nowhere and knocks us sideways) we fill in the gaps of our knowledge with a story— so what stories do we draw on to fill those gaps? The Bible is filled with stories from our ancestors, and our Quaker ancestors left us stories; what stories do we tell from our experience?

A field trip to the Chachalu Museum was “fun,” “really cool and informative,” and “overall an emotional experience.” We include here the flyer for their special exhibit on Oregon’s queer Indigenous history:



We learned about the devastating consequences of Quaker Boarding schools here in our state and region, and we are not turning away but instead asking God, “What is our responsibility as we work towards a right and righteous relationship with our Native American neighbors?”

We agreed to meet again for fall quarterly gathering in Eugene next October, hoping to get permission to come on Friday night beforehand for “meeting for worship with attention to Dungeon & Dragons,” and several of us will be the dungeon masters for a game of pacifist characters.

We welcome a response from other Youth Yearly Meetings, since we are just beginning,

Amy, Espen, Isaac, Jotham, Kylan, Zack Brayden, Joe, Julie

As noted in the epistle, adults are welcome to the meeting for worship with attention to Dungeons and Dragons. Contact Amy George or Espen Bock, plus Julie Peyton, in advance. We **received** this epistle with great appreciation.

This session was clerked by Norma Silliman.

Finance Committee (continued discussion on spending plan)

David Cundiff, clerk, said that there is no one right or wrong way to put together a spending plan. In discussing a plan, he recommended that we be ready to say what our reasons are for the approach we choose, and to pick the approach that helps our congregations and committees best understand the decisions before them.

Comment: One approach: to assume or hope that if we say yes to everything, abundance will occur. It might not be that simple. Our predictions are about equally likely to go high as to go low, and are probably going to be roughly on target. A related approach: asking clerks and committees what they think they will need to do their committees' job. (This is the information Tim Rochholz worked to obtain.) This approach gives us high numbers, more than we're likely to spend. But if Friends see the need and value, that's enthusiasm ... and the money will likely come in. However we choose to set our spending plan, we have to watch carefully what is actually going on during the year.

Comment: No individual committee clerk can be responsible for balancing the overall spending plan. There is no such thing as a perfect balance. The feedback received by the Finance Committee since Saturday's session, summed up: the optimistic assumptions of the draft spending plan led to uncertainty that there will be enough money. When the word "prudent" is used too many times, we may get the wrong message.

A modified spending plan was then presented.

Again, the first three lines remain fixed. The Barclay Press allocation has already been approved, and the Friends Committee on National Legislation and Friends World Committee for Consultation are based on previous decisions. The Finance Committee is not comfortable reducing these amounts.

And again, the expenses for general support are based on actual costs, and have not been changed.

The lines in between those two categories represent clerks' and committees' plans for expenditures. These have been reduced by 20%. If a committee really needs more, it can explain its situation to the Coordinating Committee.

The new expense total is \$58,450.

To match that 58,450 the Finance Committee projects \$55,450 in income from contributions from churches and individuals, plus \$3,000 net other income.

Diane Beebe, treasurer: yesterday's offering came to \$3,637, well over the amount needed to cover this year's deficit to date.

In terms of expenses related to our Alaskan guests: The \$1,246 in designated contributions for these expenses, plus yesterday's offering, would come close to the approximately \$5,000 needed for Alaska-related costs. We cannot yet be sure whether it might be necessary to tap the Northwest Yearly Meeting settlement fund to cover the remaining costs; the final figures are not yet in.

We will use contributions received by SCYMF that are designated for the Alaskan visitors' costs exactly as directed. We will then take the remaining needed funds to cover the Alaskan guests' costs from the NWYM settlement fund. **This was approved.**

Additional comments about general principles for revising our spending plans, and who makes yes/no decisions on revisions during the year:

Where we spend our money indicates who we are and where we are going. If we approve the Nurture of Ministry proposal for examining our structures, roles, and processes, we could include the spending-plan-building process, and the process for handling modifications during the year, along with the other issues identified by Nurture of Ministry.

Comment: I am reminded of our past trauma around the word "representatives": We need to decide how to have a gracious process for making decisions about our resources rather than dancing around our hesitancy.

Comment: The current Finance Committee does not want to say “no” to committee requests, but would rather say “Yes, ... IF.” The committee is not in the business of squelching the Spirit. Spiritual discernment is the work of the Yearly Meeting. The Coordinating Committee is in the best position to consider unanticipated expenses.

Question: Should we really cut 20% across the board? Shouldn't we base our decisions on actual committee behavior? Answer: the Finance Committee got detailed responses from most committees, and rechecked those responses overnight.

For one example: The Safeguarding Committee's proposal includes paying for all background checks needed by the Yearly Meeting and its constituent churches. The Finance Committee also reviewed clerks' costs. Committees don't spend when they don't see value; when value is seen and the opportunity opens, the money is spent.

Example: When travel money was needed to work with North Seattle Friends Church, it was available. Courage to spend the money that is needed is an asset to our Yearly Meeting. Another case study: the decision to cover honoraria and expenses for the invited Alaskan visitors was made after consultation with both the Finance Committee and the Coordinating Committee. Let's write up our unwritten guidelines.

With the 20% reduction to applicable clerks' and committees' lines, and increases in projected income, we **approve** the spending plan presented by the Finance Committee. The revision will be made available online. [Add link.]

Committees that require additional funds, beyond what is anticipated in the spending plan, would make these requests to the Coordinating Committee. Friends also **approved** this provision.

This spending plan represents an increase of approximately \$10,000 revenue beyond our original spending plan proposal, so we encourage Friends to listen to the Spirit about how they can help make possible the dreams we have together for our collective ministry. This minute was also **approved**.

The revised spending plan is among the links at the end of these minutes.

The next session was clerked by Erin Wilson:

Safeguarding Committee

Juulie Downs of the Safeguarding Committee reminded us of the proposed procedure discussed on Saturday, concerning how reports of Suspected Child Abuse Incidents should be made. On Saturday, we began a discussion of a proposed revision to this process. A new version was displayed to the session and made available to online participants, with changes shown in red.

Friends **approved** the change in the Safeguarding Policy reporting steps presented today. The revised process, covering situations where a pastor or “person in charge” is suspected of committing the abuse, is available online as part of the Yearly Meeting’s Safeguarding Policy.

The Safeguarding Committee also asked for approval to remove the page of our Policy that relates to rental groups that use Friends property on a recurring or extended basis, and insert the text provided to Friends by the Safeguarding Committee. This revision is **approved**. Both of these revisions are included in the Safeguarding Policy document available through the Yearly Meeting website. (See link list at end of these minutes.)

Question: Our church has a substantial number of recovery groups and 12-Step Groups. Do we have a policy for such groups? Answer: These types of groups are among those that are “not subject to licensing or certification laws.” A provision for such groups is not yet part of our policy at present; this gap is an issue which is on the agenda of Safeguarding.

Comment: When an organization DOES have insurance, the landlord (that is, the church) should be specified as “additional named insured.”

Prayer for newly recorded ministers

The clerks asked for our newly-recorded ministers Jade Rockwell and Mark Pratt-Russum to come forward for prayer. Friends gathered around Jade and Mark. Anna Baker led us in prayer for them.

Norma Silliman clerked the final session.

Nurture of Ministry Committee proposal, continued.

The proposal: SCYMF will name a working group to consider possible changes to our structures, processes, roles, programs, and decision-making authority, to better meet

the needs of our yearly meeting for the present time. This working group would make recommendations to our next SCYMF gathering (or ask for additional time).

Comment: We need to review our organization and processes regularly (for example every 5 years) and make that kind of evaluation mechanism part of our Yearly Meeting's ethos.

Comment: Many of us who transitioned from Northwest Yearly Meeting have experienced a huge change: from 67 churches and eight yearly meeting staff members to 7 churches and zero SCYMF staff and variable volunteer levels. Annual sessions have gone from five days to two days, all while still trying to track the big picture. Given all these changes, it is not surprising that things fall through the cracks. Another change: a more fearful attitude to authority. We have no elders, no ministry and counsel committee, who might be offering servant leadership to respond to the Spirit's movement, and who might track what falls through the cracks. The Faith and Practice Committee is not comfortable determining the practices that might fill these gaps, but wants to capture those practices in language.

Comment: A broader review of Friends yearly meetings beyond our own reveals lots of dysfunction we are experiencing in common. In general, younger people are not excited about joining committees that are nebulous in purpose and do not have clear boundaries to their activities. Lesson: we need to be bold enough to see where there is enthusiasm. For example: Friends responded well to the proposal to invite the Alaskan native guests and listen to their experiences. What we are called to do in this world reflects who we are. Our structures and guidelines need to support the foundational work of listening to each other. It may be that we should prioritize short-term and very specific structures that are able to excite and engage.

Comment: We have bylaws, we have Jesus and faith, and we need to describe the practical bread and butter of our Yearly Meeting.

Working group to review structures, roles, and processes: To begin this work, Leann Williams (Nurture of Ministry), Derek Lamson (Faith and Practice), Tracy Wilson (at large), Erin Wilson (liaison to clerks), Rachel Hampton (Nominating), and Meg Rice (Gathering) will begin the work in consultation with committees, and report to the next quarterly gathering. Leann and Derek are the co-clerks.

The formation of this working group is **approved**.

Closing Minute

Our Yearly Meeting expresses its gratitude to the staff of Western Oregon University and to the Quarterly Gathering Committee for their attention to the practical details, anticipated and unanticipated, of our annual sessions. We also thank Gil George for facilitating online participation by fifty or more Friends near and far.

With the end of these sessions, Mike Huber completes his service as one of our presiding clerks. His quiet discernment and thoughtful guidance has helped move our process forward on many occasions, for which our Yearly Meeting expresses warm thanks.

We **approved** these minutes of thanks.

We heard a draft Epistle, read by Janet Grove. The draft was approved, subject to revision by Janet and clerks. (See link to final version at the end of these minutes.)

Affirmation from a visitor: This is an epistle that Friends everywhere need to hear.

Erin Wilson expressed gratitude for the chance to serve with this team of clerks, and added, “let’s go home!” We look forward to seeing each other again at our quarterly gathering in October 2023.

Attachments and links

[Memorial Slide Show](#) [needs to be placed on, or linked to, SCYMF’s public Web site]

[Advance Report of Safeguarding Committee](#)

[Safeguarding Policy as revised](#)

[Spending Plan as revised](#)

[2023 Epistle](#)

Appreciations of retired ministers: [all need to be placed on, or linked to, SCYMF’s public Web site]

[For Clyde Parker](#)

[For Mike Huber](#)

[For Lorraine Watson](#)

[For Faith Marsalli](#)