

Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends
Quarterly Gathering
Virtual Gathering via Zoom
Saturday, October 24, 2020

Sixty plus people gathered virtually over Zoom to attend the SCYMF Quarterly Gathering on October 24, 2020 at 1:30 pm. Gil George gathered people with centering worship.

Introduction: Sarah Katreen Hoggatt welcomed people to the Quarterly Gathering. She acknowledged that we are gathering on traditional land lived on and cared for by indigenous peoples from whom the land was stolen: Klamath, Kalapuya, Molalla, Multnomah, Chinook, Paiute, Cowlitz, Yakama, Snohomish, Nisqually, Snoqualmie, Duwamish, Suquamish, Siletz, Coos, Tillamook, Umatilla, Tulalip, Lummi, Makah, Kathlamet, Quileute, Quinalt, Wahkiakum, Clackamas, Willapa, Umpqua and many, many others. She called us to remember the Light of the Divine that shines through those that were harmed.

Clerks were introduced as: Co-Clerks, Sarah Katreen Hoggatt and Mike Huber; Assistant Clerk, Gil George; Recording Clerk Pro Tem, Lorraine Watson.

Welcoming Visitors: Earl Smith, visitor from Stillwater Friends Meeting and Ohio Yearly Meeting.

Equity & Inclusion Announcement: Promise Partner introduced a workshop, ***Aligning Our Giving with Our Values: An Anti-Racist Giving Workshop for SCYMF*** on Thursday, November 19th, 6-8 pm via Zoom, open and at no cost for all members/attenders of SCYMF local churches and meetings and individual Yearly Meeting members.

Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends approved the [Minute for Black Lives](#) at our Annual Session in June. Part of our Minute states, *"We recognize the unequal burden Black, Indigenous, and people of color have suffered historically and presently in this racist society. We commit to providing reparative funds to begin to compensate for this inequity."* To move into action on this commitment as a Yearly Meeting, local meetings, and individuals, the Equity and Inclusion Committee invites you to this workshop with [Social Justice Fund NW](#) and the [Coalition of Anti-Racist Whites](#).

COVID-19 and the Black Lives Matter uprising have swept the country, revealing with increased clarity all of the ways in which our government and society are failing Black, Indigenous, and people of color. Momentum to defund and abolish the police and build a better and more just world is mounting in our region, led by powerful collectives of Black and brown leaders. It's time to step up our solidarity by giving with generosity now.

How do our identities shape our relationships with money, philanthropy, and giving?
What does it look like to center giving as part of an anti-racist practice?
How do we decide when, to who, and how much to give?
How do we give money without reinforcing oppressive dynamics?

This interactive, cross-class workshop will help us begin to think through these questions and get us on the path to a giving plan that challenges us while aligning with our values and our commitments. We'll have time for discussion, and we'll get resources to move toward action.

The workshop will support SCYMF to develop shared language and principles around giving. Learning and feedback from this workshop will inform Equity & Inclusion's Subcommittee on Anti-Racist Giving as we develop a recommendation for the Yearly Meeting's donations.

Treasurer Report: Robert Wade shared a brief treasurer's report, thanking donors to SCYMF. He noted that the finances of SCYMF are stable. While the 3rd quarter donations were low, the 3rd quarter expenses were even lower, with a positive net cash flow for the fiscal year-to-date of about \$4,600. Total assets as of October 18, 2020 are \$107,000 in mutual funds and \$58,000 in cash accounts.

Ongoing projects the treasurer are working on internet donations through the website and to implement an audit plan, which will review all financial records and ensure that our finances are appropriately managed and the records accurate.

Finance Committee Report: Dave Cundiff, Clerk of the Finance Committee reported on recent activities.

The finance committee provided oversight to Hillsboro Friends Church in their application for a county grant, which required 501(c)(3) status. Since Hillsboro Friends does not have their own 501(c)(3) status, SCYMF agreed to assist them with the grant by providing minimal oversight to allow for the application, but not control the working of the church. This is within SCYMF guidelines to serve and support local churches, but not control the local church. Bernie Bosnjak, pastor at Hillsboro Friends expressed gratitude.

Lorraine Watson has convened a working group to explore what we can do together to provide employee benefits for those who are pastors within SCYMF. Lorraine brings experience as a long-time pastor and her role on the Committee for Nurture of Ministry to this working group. The finance committee wants to continue with Lorraine as a leader of this working group unless there are concerns. Several affirmed Lorraine's continued participation.

The finance committee continues to invite additional participation in the work of their committee. This is spirit work and not simply about numbers, although that is an important part of the work. They want to ensure that we can serve the ministries of SCYMF.

Both Robert Wade and Dave Cundiff suggest a fiscal year that aligns with annual sessions and not the calendar year as this would be more useful for planning and reporting finances as it works best for the creation and approval of a spending plan, which authorizes spending for the year between annual sessions. This will require a change to the SCYMF bylaws, which the finance committee will propose at a later date.

Nominating Committee: Matt Boswell introduced the work of the Nominating Committee. They are hesitant to focus on committee needs as they would rather focus on the people, their gifts, talents, and interests. However, the biggest committee needs are for the Coordinating Committee and the Nominating Committee, both of which only have 4 members and ideally

would have one member from each Meeting plus someone from the unaffiliated Newberg area. They also need a Recording Clerk. Nominations can be made on the [website nomination form](#). Self-nominations are accepted.

The following nominations to committees were presented as follows:

Communications:

Philip Cosand (North Seattle)
Janet Grove (Camas)

Approved.

Equity and Inclusion:

Jen Seamans (West Hills)

Approved.

Prayer:

Mica Coffin (West Hills)
Doreen Crail (West Hills)

Approved.

People Care:

Megan Hamilton (West Hills)
Bethany Lee (West Hills)
Jazmin Miller (Camas)

Approved.

It was clarified that the clerk of the Nominating Committee will inform the clerk of each committee that new members have been approved and the committee clerks will inform the new members.

Clerks have consulted with Coordinating Committee and want to reiterate the expectation that to the extent possible all items up for decision at each business meeting will be prepared a month prior and may be distributed by email to members for comment. Clerks prepare the agenda for each business meeting with input from committees. Business items may also be raised by members, and will generally be added to the end of the agenda if the meeting has not discerned to address it more immediately.

New Pastors in SCYMF: Ruba Byrd (pastor at Eugene Friends) introduced the new pastors at SCYMF Churches.

Anthony Kirk began as full-time pastor of **Klamath Falls Friends** on August 1st of this year. He received his M.Div. in May from Earlham School of Religion and moved to Oregon in July. Anthony grew up in a rural farming village in Michigan and is a committed Christ-centered Friend. Being transgender has been an important calling and blessing in Anthony's life and ministry. He is a self-described "extreme extrovert" who loves connecting with people and brings gifts of hospitality, spiritual writing, and pastoral care to his ministry, as well as a passion for

creating safe places for people to know their feelings, be vulnerable, and be who they are. Anthony's faculty advisor at Earlham said, "Anthony is conscientious, thorough, creative, and witty, and he has a great pastor's heart." We welcome you with joy, Anthony! Ruthie Tippin from the Committee for Nurture of Ministry prayed a prayer of blessing over Anthony.

In September **Klarissa Oh** joined Mark Pratt-Russum on staff at **West Hills Friends** as a Released Minister. Klarissa has been at West Hills Friends for many years, and deeply loves that community. She was theologically trained at Vanderbilt Divinity School, and for the past decade has been working with trauma survivors, especially survivors of childhood sexual abuse, as a founding member and Executive Director at OAASIS. Klarissa is passionate about advocacy and activism, especially where they intersect with issues of race, gender, class, and ability. She is a woman of color and daughter of an immigrant. Her partner, Graham, is a Professor of Ethics and Religion at Vanderbilt, and Klarissa is "mom" to their blended family of 2 vibrant boys and 2 adventurous older girls! Quakers are Klarissa's "own people" – the place where she is at home. We welcome you with joy, Klarissa! Lorraine Watson from the Committee for Nurture of Ministry prayed a prayer of blessing over Klarissa.

Church Reports: Each church was invited to give a report about what is happening in the local church.

North Seattle Friends: Lorraine Watson, pastor, reported that the church sold their current property to a neighboring private school that wants to expand. After working on this for 8+ years, the sale was final in June 2020 and construction has started on a new church building. This process has been a God story as the church didn't seek relocation. After significant conversation with a win-win goal, the school agreed to "make us whole" in a new location. Several times it felt like it was not going to come together, but every time, the answer came back that yes, we are to proceed. Photos of the construction and a drawing of the new church were shared. The church is grateful for this unfolding miracle!

Camas Friends: Matt Boswell, pastor, and others shared that the COVID-19 closures have been hard, but that worship over Zoom has been good. They are still growing and reaching out to others. Ministry is expanding. There is mutual trust, vulnerability, and care among the congregation.

Hillsboro Friends: No one from Hillsboro was present, but Kendra Purcell shared on their behalf as she has participated in their "service of service" which provides ministry to homeless people on Sunday mornings. They serve breakfast and lunch to 20-25 people who are allowed to be in the building for about 3 hours so they can charge their phones and access resources.

West Hills Friends: Several shared that the church has spent most of their time and energy finding their new minister. A joy filled ministry was a drive by parade for Mark Pratt-Russum who has completed 10 years as a released minister at West Hills. They did a similar farewell to Lori and Wilbur Wood who moved to Florence, OR after many years at West Hills. The racial injustice committee has been working hard. The church has done good work around being community over Zoom and asking how they can meet the needs of people well. They are looking at accessibility and asking what it means as they reopen after the COVID-19 closures.

They are grateful that those who couldn't attend due to health or distance, can join them over Zoom. How do we hold on to that welcome as we reopen the building?

Silverton Friends: No one was present from Silverton Friends, but Lorraine Watson shared that they recently lost a member when Virgil Voth died and now Greg Enns has started on hospice. Lorraine prayed over Silverton Friends and the Voth-Enns family.

Friends in Common (North Idaho): Leann Williams, pastor, shared that their COVID-19 numbers in Idaho were low, but now they are high. Last summer they met outside and did well, but it was difficult when they moved indoors. Several have contracted COVID-19 and some family members have died, in addition to other difficulties such as a miscarriage. While it has been hard, they have done good work at holding each other together. Leann is ok so far, but her husband, Bruce has COVID-19. Gil George prayed for Leann, her family, and Friends in Common.

Eugene Friends: Ruba Byrd, pastor, shared that the next day would be their 33rd worship service over Zoom. This shift to Zoom has really emphasized the truth that church is the people, rather than church being the building. The community has really accepted life on Zoom and continues with small groups and a new justice group. They are planning to do their annual nativity play as a drive by event.

Klamath Falls Friends: Much of the effort at Klamath Falls has been in the hiring and establishment of Anthony Kirk as pastor. He is settled there and enjoying his ministry.

Upcoming Events: The clerks announced upcoming SCYMF gathering dates. The next Quarterly Gathering will be a virtual gathering via Zoom on Saturday, February 20, 2021. It is hoped that Annual Sessions will be in person at Canby Grove, Friday to Sunday, June 18-21, 2021.

The Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business closed with silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,
Lorraine Watson, Recording Clerk Pro Tem