

Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends

Quarterly Gathering Business Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2019

West Hills Friends Church, Portland, Oregon

Cherice Bock, Co-Clerk

Sarah Katreen-Hoggatt, Co-Clerk

Gil George, Assistant Clerk

Matt Staples, Recording Clerk

Actions--we APPROVED:

-The membership of Victor Hoffer, Bob Rader, and Joe Lynne Rader, all of Silverton Friends Church

-New committee members:

- Equity & Inclusion: Promise Welkin Partner - North Seattle
- Faith & Practice: Leslie Logan - West Hills
- Faith & Practice: Bob Rader - Silverton
- Youth: Griffin Toffler - Klamath Falls
- Finance: Diane Beebe - West Hills

-The establishment of a standing task force to oversee the drafting and review of abuse prevention policies and provide assistance in investigating potential violations

- A draft abuse prevention policy was approved until the end of our annual gathering.

-The reception of the recording of Darla Samuelson

- A revision to the recording process in response to concerns around confidentiality brought forward at our October gathering

-A minute of exercise was shared and approved, reflecting on our discernment this morning over the query provided by the discernment task force.

Today we have met to ask ourselves, and the Holy Spirit, "What does God want us to do?" What we heard in our time of Conversation Café was that we care a lot about how we do what we do, about being lovingly genuine and transparent even as we lovingly listen to those who differ or who don't know us yet. We do not want to repeat or create structures that will inhibit Friends' callings or dreams, instead using a metaphor from Jesus, we have some new wine that requires new wine skins. Some tenderly expressed their continued hurt and bitterness from the split from Northwest Yearly Meeting, and so we will do more healing work. We recognize the gift in this, because we see the trauma in the world and want to develop the skills to bring healing and health, be it traumas wrought by privilege, trauma resulting from forced migration, trauma from the changing climate, and so many more. None of us is perfect, and so we will have many opportunities to practice love, mercy, forgiveness. As was stated in English and in Latin at one of the tables, "Let Love have the victory." Part of our hope for the future is the lessons we have learned from past traumas.

God thank you for bringing us here together, for the work you've laid before us. Guide our focus, our intentions, and our words. Fill us with energy and joy for our tasks here, and for the tasks with which we go from this place. Amen.

Eli Craig, Equity and Inclusion Committee:

-The E&I Committee is working to aid our conversations around Native American reparations, and they are preparing a list of resources, which they will share by annual sessions.

-They are also working on a draft of a letter from SCYMF to the Snohomish tribes

-We are gathered today on the occupied territory of the Chinook, Atfalati, and Kalapuya people, who stewarded this land for generations.

Clerk: We want to recognize that that's part of the story of this place, and thus part of our story. Remembering these parts of our story may be an important part of moving forward. Let's think about that, and commit to learning more at our local meetings about who lived on the land before we did. Think about recognizing that at various events of your congregations. We need to do more work around this, and this committee will help us with that. Recognizing the names of these people groups is one small step we can take toward that today.

The group recognized a visiting Friend: Susan Cousins, representing AFSC, of Eastside Friends, Seattle Area.

The Clerk thanked all "non-visiting Friends" for being here as well.

The Clerk invited the group to thank the Quarterly Gathering Committee, and everyone who prepared the space, meals, childcare, registration, and did all the behind-the-scenes work.

Announcements/Reminders:

-SCYMF is subscribed to the communications app, Zoom, and committees or groups wanting to use that should get login information from Eric Muhr or connect with Gil George about how to use this tool.

-We are looking for someone to go as a representative to AFSC (American Friends Service Committee) to their Quarterly Gathering, to see if it is a group with which we feel called to affiliate.

The group considered the approval of three new members.

Gil, who spoke with each individual in their application for membership, was invited to say something about each of them:

-Victor Hoffer, Silverton Friends: *He is a very hospitable person. Just in talking with him, I felt listened to and welcomed.*

-Bob Rader, Silverton Friends: *Bob is a character. He has the spiritual gift of sarcasm, but has a huge amount of love and compassion.*

-Joe Lynne Rader, Silverton Friends: *She is one of the more compassionate people I've ever run into, and has a deep sense of love.*

The membership of each of the three was **APPROVED**.

The clerk invited any non-members present to apply for membership, and reiterated what that process looks like.

Joann Boswell, Coordinating Committee:

-We need more members, especially at annual sessions, when many of our terms will be up.

-Our vision: if the organization of our yearly meeting is like a spoked wheel, we want this committee to be at the center, with all the other committees and groups coming out of the center, while we focus on keeping the wheel turning.

-We would especially like to have someone from Klamath Falls Friends, which is not currently represented on this committee

The clerk invited Julie Peyton to share a draft of a minute of exercise that would reflect on our discussions this morning around the question, "*What are we called to do?*"

Julie: this will be a minute of exercise:

*Today we have met to ask ourselves, and the Holy Spirit, "What does God want us to do?" What we heard in our time of Conversation Café was that we care a lot about how we do what we do, about being lovingly genuine and transparent even as we lovingly listen to those who differ or who don't know us yet. We do not want to repeat or create structures that will inhibit Friends' callings or dreams, instead using a metaphor from Jesus, we have some new wine that requires new wine skins. Some tenderly expressed their continued hurt and bitterness from the split from Northwest Yearly Meeting, and so we will do more healing work. We recognize the gift in this, because we see the trauma in the world and want to develop the skills to bring healing and health, be it traumas wrought by privilege, trauma resulting from forced migration, trauma from the changing climate, and so many more. None of us is perfect, and so we will have many opportunities to practice love, mercy, forgiveness. As was stated in English and in Latin at one of the tables, "Let Love have the victory." Part of our hope for the future is the lessons we have learned from past traumas. **APPROVED***

Rachel Hampton, Quarterly Gathering Committee:

-The QG Committee badly needs a children's coordinator for annual sessions. None of us feel called to that. We have possible staff, but we need a coordinator. This needs to be arranged well in advance so that background checks can be performed.

Rachel Hampton, Nominating Committee:

Each nominee was invited to share about a passion or leading that was drawing them to the committee, and the clerk called for the approval for each after they had shared. All were **APPROVED**.

-Equity and Inclusion Committee: Promise Welkin Partner, North Seattle. "I think this is central to following Christ. I came to this Yearly Meeting out of this concern. I do work in organizing and have done research that overlaps with these subjects. It's exciting to share that work in new ways that are based in my faith.

-Faith and Practice Committee: Leslie Logan, West Hills. "Faith and Practice is central to who I am and who we are as Quakers. I sat in on the F&P Committee meeting last Quarterly Gathering and loved the things brought and shared by all kinds of different voices. I would love to join in that again and be a part of this incredibly beautiful and challenging work.

- Faith and Practice Committee: Bob Rader, Silverton (not present).

-Youth Committee: Griffin Toffler, Klamath Falls (not present)

-Finance Committee: Diane Beebe, West Hills: "I have work experience in this area, and my draw is working with people. I want to support SCYMF, and this goes well with my skills."

Roger Watson is stepping down after annual sessions, so we need a new treasurer. We have one person interested, but if you are interested, let us know. It would be great to have an assistant treasurer to share that burden.

All nominees have been approved for three-year terms.

Mark Pratt-Russum, Youth Committee:

Abuse Prevention Policy Draft:

-A policy on a website won't protect people. A culture will. If we can create a culture in which abuse is taken very seriously, we will create an environment in which it is less likely to happen. We need to keep this at the forefront of our gathered times and remember how important this work is, especially when we feel inconvenienced by it.

-Many of the things in our policy were adapted from North Seattle Friends. We are grateful for this, since the legal vetting of these policies can be a long and arduous process. North Seattle Friends is grateful to see their work spread.

-We need an abuse prevention policy in place by this meeting for insurance purposes, so approving nothing is not an option. But we can consider this a live document, revisiting it and making adjustments whenever needed.

Discussion was held around specific concerns in the document, and around other concerns pertaining to abuse prevention. We asked the task force to work closely with one individual who brought forward a list of specific concerns related to prioritizing the safety of children with the expectation that the task force would bring forward a revised policy at annual sessions.

The document was **APPROVED** through the upcoming annual sessions.

The creation of a standing Abuse Prevention Task Force, as "permanent until we decide otherwise" was **APPROVED**.

Nurture of Ministry Committee:

-Brought forward the recommendation to receive the recording of Darla Samuelson. This was **APPROVED**.

-There are also five or six other individuals somewhere in the process of recording.

-Last Quarterly Gathering, a document outlining the recording process was sent back for revision regarding the confidentiality in which sensitive issues will be held. (Changes in bold.)

The committee then initiates a 60-day period in which folks can give feedback to the committee. These may include positive affirmations and testimonials, cautions and concerns, or reports of problematic behavior.

*The author of the feedback must identify themselves and give contact information **to the committee** in case further conversation were needed. **However, upon request, any identifying details in the content of the messages and the identity of the reporter will be held in strict confidentiality by the committee to be shared with none other than with emergency response professionals in the case of imminent danger or a reportable offense.***

This revision was **APPROVED**.

Quaker Quips:

I guess our only agenda item is to be welcomed!

[Sarah, when the slide took a moment go from the Welcome slide to the Agenda slide]

But did he ever have green hair?

[Someone in the group, when Gil spoke of how he and Bob Rader were kindred spirits]

When I took the Meyers-Briggs, I got zero introverted answers

[Gil, when the clerk invited any non-members to apply for membership, and added they would get to talk to Gil as part of that]

Diane Beebe: "Let's see...why *do* I want to be on the Finance Committee?"

David Peyton (without hesitation): "APPROVED!!!!!"

Gil can run. See Gil run. Run, Gil, run!