

**334th Annual Sessions
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
Held at Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA
Thursday, July 24, 2014 - Morning Session**

The 2014 Annual Sessions of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends convened Thursday Morning at 9:30 a.m. in the Seegers Union Building of Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA. The announced theme of our 2014 Sessions is “Worship is a Door to Love.”

1. At the appointed hour, we settled into worship. Then at about 10:00 a.m., Clerk, Jada S. Jackson (Trenton MM, Burlington Meeting House Worship Group) greeted us. Others at the table introduced themselves: Alternate Clerks, Steve Olshevski (Radnor MM) and Becca Bubb (Abington MM), General Secretary, Arthur Larrabee (Central Philadelphia MM), Recording Clerk, John Lavin (Birmingham MM), Assistant Recording Clerk, Jim Herr (Lancaster MM). David Rose (Lehigh Valley MM) acted as the Recording Clerk for Wednesday’s evening session.

Elders stood and were recognized: Dorothy Reichardt (Media MM), Dana Houghton (Woodstown MM), and Alison Anderson (Central Philadelphia MM).

Five Standing Committee clerks stood and were recognized.

Voice to Text captioning was provided by Becky Tallarico.

Friends from outside the Yearly Meeting introduced themselves. Jay Marshall of Newcastle MM is here representing Earlham School of Religion. A Minute of Travel was read for Marian Beane (Charlotte Friends Meeting/Piedmont Friends Fellowship). She is attending Annual Sessions as the Yearly Meeting Visitor from Friends General Conference (FGC). The letter described the deepness of service to her home meeting and to FGC. She is currently serving on their Executive Committee. **Friends approved endorsing the Minute of Travel.** The Minute is attached.

2. **Friends received the Faith and Practice Revision Group Report** from Martha B. Bryans (Uwchlan MM), Clerk of the group. She shared the group's gratitude for the helpful feedback received from 20 monthly meetings on the three sections distributed earlier this year. The revision group proposed adding a new section to Faith and Practice for Resources for Monthly Meetings and Tools for Discernment. Friends were asked to consider if this section would be appropriate, and if so, what their meetings might like to have available in this section. The body's responses were recorded and sent to the revision group for their future work. If Friends have additional questions, they may contact the Revision Group with their comments. The full report is attached below.

- 3. Friends received the report on PYM's work with the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)** from Howard Cell (Germantown MM), a PYM representative to AFSC. He noted a number of Friends within PYM who are deeply engaged with AFSC and the good work it provides. A capital campaign is being planned called: "Centennial Campaign." The full report is attached below.
- 4. Friends received the report on PYM's work with the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)** from Mary Lou Hatcher (Lehigh Valley MM), PYM representative to FCNL. The history of FCNL, including the issues of that time were given, many of which are still current issues. The Yearly Meeting has eight representatives who call themselves the "Network." They attend FCNL meetings and working sessions. Although the current news of the world is troubling, Mary Lou shared that she feels rejuvenated and energized from her work in a way very much like worship. It is an important part of the Network's job to keep the bridge between FCNL and PYM wide and in good repair. The full report is attached below.
- 5. Friends received the report on PYM's work with Friends General Conference (FGC)** from Zan Lombardo (Uwchlan MM), Co-Clerk of 2014 Gathering Committee. While she described the vibrant 2014 Gathering at California University in Pennsylvania, a photo slide show played behind her with pictures of those present at the gathering. "Let love be the first motion" was the theme this year and it was evident from her report how touched those present were with how the theme unfolded throughout the week. The next Gathering: "Seeking Wholeness" will be held at Western Carolina University from July 5 – 11, 2015. The full report is attached below.
- 6. Friends received the report of PYM's work with Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)** from Robin Mohr (Green Street MM), Executive Secretary of FWCC for the Americas. FWCC is an association of Quaker yearly meetings and organizations of all branches across the world. She reported on the connections built since the 6th World Conference of Friends in Nakuru, Kenya and invited Friends to discern what Philadelphia Yearly Meeting needs from FWCC and what Philadelphia Yearly Meeting can offer to the wider family of Friends. The full report is attached below.
- 7. Friends received the Peace and Concerns Standing Committee Report** from its Clerk, Steve Gulick (Central Philadelphia MM). The Peace and Concerns and Support and Outreach Standing Committees regularly meet together and found it a deep source of strength and power. Steve presented a slide report on the multitude of efforts occurring under their care. In particular, their charge for granting groups includes the Fund for Sufferings. This fund is available but underutilized. He encouraged Friends to take advantage of this fund. Corrections to the report were made on the floor. The corrected report is attached below.

8. **Friends received the Support and Outreach Standing Committee Report** from its Clerk, Carter Nash (Harrisburg MM). Although the committee is under the weight of having more things to do than Friends able to do them, the committee has also been blessed with Friends standing up and reaching out to the committee to perform works as they are led. He invited anyone interested in the work Support and Outreach undertakes to join them at their meetings. The full report is attached below.

9. The Clerk announced the assembly of the Epistle Committee will be facilitated by Alternate Clerk, Becca Bubb, and we need two or three additional Friends to serve. Friends interested should contact Becca Bubb.

Minutes from the Gathering Celebration on Wednesday evening were read by Recording Clerk, David Rose (Lehigh Valley MM). **With corrections and suggestions noted, Minutes were approved.**

The meeting settled into worship to welcome the youth. The youth rejoined the body and reported on their work and play of the morning.

The Fishers Group, after introductions and play, created a paper chain about love. Each link in the chain has a note of love written on it. They asked all Friends join in, adding their own pieces of what love is for them. They also learned the chorus of a new song which they led everyone in singing. Each day, a new part will be learned and shared.

The Fells Group worked on a labyrinth of intent. They also chose people that they look up to and Friends are welcome to ask what those people means to them.

Middle School Friends reported that after games and introductions, they planned Vespers for each evening and encouraged all to attend.

Young Friends had their business meeting on their committee structure and made plans for the remainder of their time at Sessions.

We adjourned, intending to meet at 2:30 p.m. this afternoon.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Lavin (Birmingham MM), Recording Clerk

Jim Herr (Lancaster MM), Assistant Recording Clerk

Jada S. Jackson, Presiding Clerk



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04/05/2014

Loving greetings to Friends at Philadelphia Yearly Meeting from Friends General Conference! We commend to your loving care Friend Marian Beane, who is attending your annual sessions as the Yearly Meeting Visitor for FGC.

Marian is a member of Charlotte Friends Meeting, Piedmont Friends Fellowship (PFF). She has served many years as clerk of several FGC committees including Ministry & Nurture, Long Range Conference Planning and the Discernment in Long Term Planning. Marian has previously served as the clerk of FGC's Central Committee, and is currently serving as a member of FGC's Executive Committee and the FGC Committee for Discernment, Planning and Priorities (CDPP).

Marian serves as member-at-large on PFF's representative body and as clerk of the Yearly Meeting Formation Committee. Marian is very committed to her home meeting and values the opportunity to nurture and support Friends on their spiritual journeys.

As a visitor to your annual sessions, Marian will be attending your business meetings and other yearly meeting community events and will be looking for opportunities to worship, listen and share with you. She will share her experiences at yearly meeting with FGC in the form of a written report. Reports from all yearly meeting visitors will be reviewed and summarized by the YMVP Committee and distributed at Central Committee at its fall annual meeting.

We hold you and Marian Beane in the Light of God's love and trust that your time together will be richly blessed.

On behalf of the Yearly Meeting Visitors Program Committee of FGC,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Evans", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Eric Evans, FGC Committee for Nurturing Ministries Associate

Yearly Meeting Visitors Program Committee:
Janice Domanik, ILYM (Clerk); John Meyer, BYM
Eric Evans, Committee for Nurturing Ministries Associate

Faith and Practice Revision Group Report to Annual Sessions 2014

The Faith and Practice Revision Group, appointed by the Yearly Meeting in 2009, has been meeting regularly. We record with sadness the death on June 11, 2014, of our member, Ann Yasuhara, Princeton Monthly Meeting, who was an integral part of the working group since its formation. We minute our deep appreciation for her insightful suggestions, deep understanding of and commitment to the Religious Society of Friends, and her abundant gifts of friendship, humility, intellect, appreciation of beauty, and joy.

We wish to express our gratitude to the many Friends and monthly meetings who have provided incredibly, helpful feedback as we focus our attention on three main sections of the revised book of *Faith and Practice*. These three sections, I. Experience and Faith, II. Faith Reflected in Our Practice and Daily Lives, and III. Faith Reflected in Our Organization, and the organization of the book, have been revised and posted on the PYM website on the Faith and Practice Working Group page:

www.pym.org/faith-and-practice-revision-group

Limited numbers of reading copies of this material are available during Annual Sessions at the *Faith and Practice* table in the hallway and in the Library. We are not asking for time this morning to review those sections.

We would like to update you on our progress and outline future steps:

July 2014	Post the three main sections of the revised text online.	✓
March 2015	Post the remaining sections of the book online (Foreword, Preface, Historical Background, Wider Religious Fellowship, Advices and Quotations, Resources for Monthly Meetings and Tools for Discernment). Solicit feedback and suggestions for remaining sections.	
Spring 2015	Called session of PYM to review remaining sections of the book.	
Annual Sessions 2015	Preliminary reading of entire book.	
Annual Sessions 2016	Second reading of entire book for acceptance. If accepted, lay down the <i>Faith and Practice</i> Working Group. Assign Publications Committee (or other group) the task of preparing and publishing the approved manuscript.	

To accomplish this timetable, we have asked PYM Nominating Committee to augment our group which now consists of four Friends:

Annette Benert (Lehigh Valley MM, Bucks QM)
Joan Broadfield (Chester MM, Chester QM)
Martha Bryans (Uwchlan MM, Caln QM), Clerk
Howard Cell (Germantown MM, Philadelphia QM)

Thomas Swain, Clerk of PYM Nominating Committee, welcomes the suggestion of individuals to be considered for appointment. We anticipate that the next six months will involve focused work on the quotations section, the resources for monthly meetings and tools for discernment section, and general assistance in reviewing and editing drafts. The task ahead is focused, of definite duration, and of real importance to the Yearly Meeting.

We have prepared a handout for discussion today that describes the evolution of the Yearly Meeting's books of *Faith and Practice* and highlights the major changes in the draft under revision. We welcome your comments and questions. [Working Group members respond].

We propose including a new section in the revised edition that we are tentatively naming "Procedures, Resources, and Tools for Discernment." We think there is merit in putting in one place the General Queries, the Meeting Checklist, marriage and membership procedures, and various guidelines. The handout, Organization of Faith and Practice – July 2014, includes some of the potential components of this section. We welcome your suggestions of other things that would be useful to your meeting. [Working Group members record suggestions].

We feel the flow of moving, living water within our faith community. This rush of fresh, living water is stirring up the silt at the bottom, taking apart log jams, and moving us toward our destination. We hope that our work reflects this energy and that the revision of *Faith and Practice* expresses that renewal and reinvigoration of our beloved Yearly Meeting.

In gratitude and looking forward,

Martha B. Bryans, Clerk
Email Contact: mbryans26@verizon.net

Attachments:

- A Brief History of the Editions of *Faith and Practice* Since 1955
- Organization of Faith and Practice – July 2014

A Brief History of the Editions of *Faith and Practice* Since 1955

The edition of *Faith and Practice* (PYM) which appeared in 1955 was prepared by a committee made up of representatives from the Hicksite and Orthodox branches of the Religious Society of Friends. As such, it was a reasonable and effective compromise that was approved by both Yearly Meetings and by the General Meeting (initiated in 1946 as an opportunity for members of both branches to meet for worship, fellowship and business) as one aspect of the reunification process.

Since 1955 there have been two major revisions, plus two minor adjustments.

- 1963 – This edition made two changes to the Supplementary Queries included in the 1955 edition: namely, to delete the questions regarding the identification of members as elders or ministers respectively.
- 1972 – This edition was a major reworking of many of the sections of *Faith and Practice*, though perhaps surprisingly the ‘historical introduction’ concluded with the reunification of 1955.
- 1997 – Again, this was a major reworking of the text, including a shift to neutral language in the section on the marriage procedure (though the traditional language was used for the sample marriage certificate), and the addition of quotations from more contemporary Friends.
- 2002 – This edition made two changes to the section on the Yearly Meeting involving its structure and a shift from the quota to the covenant system for financing the activities and services of our Yearly Meeting.

A small group of Friends has been working for the past several years on a proposed new edition of our *Faith and Practice* that again involves major changes to previous editions. Not least, we have made a concerted effort to be faithful to the Minutes adopted by Yearly Meeting regarding our concern for the integrity of the earth; we have paid particular attention to the ways in which our experience of Spirit and the expression of this experience in our witness to the world are articulated; and we have undertaken a fundamental reorganization of the text in order, we hope, to make it more accessible and useful to members and attenders of our meetings.

We have brought drafts of different sections to the past two Annual Sessions for consideration: “The Light Within” and the “Monthly Meeting Checklist.” The former seeks to articulate what is most fundamental in our religious experience, while the latter provides monthly meetings with an opportunity to engage in a self-assessment of a range of practical matters – the functioning of meeting committees, management of meeting finances, record keeping, property and the like.

Copies of editions of our *Faith and Practice* both before and since 1955 are available during Annual Sessions on our display table.

Organization of *Faith and Practice* – July 2014

Foreword

Preface

I. Experience and Faith

- A. The Light Within
- B. Worship and the Meeting for Worship
 - 1. Preparing for Worship
 - 2. Vocal Ministry
- C. Prayer
- D. Friends and Scripture
- E. Friends and Sacraments

II. Faith Reflected in Practice and Daily Life

- A. Community Life
 - 1. Concerns, Leadings, and Testimonies
 - 2. Discernment, Clearness, and Decision Making
 - a. When Friends Participate
 - b. When Friends Disagree
 - 3. Friends and Education
 - a. Friends and Public Education
 - b. Friends Schools and Colleges
 - 4. Friends Witness in the World
 - a. Friends and Peace
 - b. Responsibilities of Citizenship
 - c. Stewardship of the Earth and Resources
 - d. Friends and Equality
 - e. Friends and Criminal Justice
- B. Personal Life
 - 1. Life Passages
 - a. Marriage
 - b. Family Formation
 - c. Death and Bereavement
 - 1) Responsibilities of the Meeting
 - 2) Memorial Meetings for Worship
 - 2. Personal Relationships

- a. Family Life and the Home
- b. Sexuality
- c. Addictive Behaviors

III. Faith Reflected in Our Organization

A. Monthly Meetings

- 1. The Individual and the Meeting
- 2. Nurture of the Meeting Community
- 3. Committees of the Monthly Meeting
 - a. Care for the Quality of Worship and Ministry
 - b. Care of the Meeting Community and its Members
 - c. Religious Education
 - d. Outreach
 - e. Witness in the World
 - f. Care of Real Property
 - g. Care of Burial Grounds
 - h. Stewardship of Financial Resources
 - 1) Meetings and Economic Resources
 - 2) Financing Monthly Meeting Activities
 - i. Care of Records
 - j. Nominations to Service as a Meeting Officer or Committee Member
- 4. Guidance of Meeting Affairs
- 5. Membership
 - a. The Meaning of Membership
 - b. Attenders
 - c. Children
 - d. Sojourning Members
 - e. Joining other Religious Bodies

B. Quarterly (Regional) Meetings

- 1. Function and Organization
- 2. Guidance and Assistance

C. Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

[To be completed after Annual Sessions 2014]

D. Communication, Intervisitation, and Changes in Formal Relationships

- 1. Communication
- 2. Intervisitation
- 3. Changes in Formal Relationships

IV. Historical Background

- A. Beginnings: 1625 – 1689
- B. Consolidation and Withdrawal: 1689 – Circa 1800
- C. Schism and Reform: Circa 1800 – 1900
- D. Reconciliation: Circa 1900 – 1955
- E. Unity with Diversity: 1955 – 1995
- F. The Present

V. Wider Religious Fellowship and Action

- A. Friends and Related Groups
- B. Interfaith Groups

VI. Extracts: Quotations, Advices

VII. Resources for Monthly Meetings and Tools for Discernment

- A. General Queries
- B. Monthly Meeting Checklist
- C. Membership Process
- D. Marriage Procedure
- E. Record Keeping
- F. Guidelines for Clearness Committees
- G. [Other resources as suggested by Friends]

Glossary

Sources of Extracts from the Writings of Friends

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Websites: Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Quarterly and Monthly Meetings

American Friends Service Committee Report to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting at Annual Sessions 2014

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) engages in program work throughout the United States and across the world. As its mission statement indicates: “AFSC is a Quaker organization that promotes lasting peace with justice as a practical expression of faith in action.”

Two years ago, AFSC changed its organizational structure so that there are now four US regions and four International regions. Most of the PYM territory is part of the Northeast Region; Keith Harvey is the regional director, based in Cambridge, MA. (Delaware and Maryland are in the South Region.) There are seven offices scattered across the Northeast Region, with two in Massachusetts and one each in Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey (Newark) and Pennsylvania (Pittsburgh). A couple of the offices have quite a few staff, specializing in particular areas of program work – for instance, the Newark, NJ office has some 10 staff assigned to a major Immigrant Rights program. Other offices have just one or two ‘generalist’ staff: in New Hampshire there are two staff who network with grassroots organizations, do advocacy work at the state legislature on economic justice and other issues, and provide youth leadership training.

The Pennsylvania Program, based in Pittsburgh, has been ably directed by Scilla Wahrhaftig for over a decade. She has been a frequent workshop leader at previous PYM Annual Sessions, and has made occasional presentations to monthly meetings and other groups within the PYM area, especially in conjunction with the Eyes Wide Open exhibit. Scilla will be retiring at the end of September and the new director for the Pennsylvania Program is Amanda Gross, who has a strong background in the intersection of the arts and peacebuilding, including a degree in Conflict Transformation from Eastern Mennonite University.

A little over a year ago, the Northeast Region began exploring the possibility of establishing program work in the Philadelphia area. The first step in this process was to engage in listening sessions with Quaker activists, representatives from local social justice organizations, PYM Friends at last summer’s Annual Sessions, and present and former AFSC staff in the area. Some of these sessions were held with the support of Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting. The next step is to form a local program committee, which – among other things – will assist in identifying the focus for program work in the Philadelphia area. But the listening

sessions indicate strong interest in programs relating to youth leadership development and healing justice work.

Submitted by PYM representatives to the AFSC Corporation.

Howard Cell – Germantown Monthly Meeting hpcell@verizon.net

Peter Lane – Westtown Monthly Meeting

Sharon Mullally – Green Street Monthly Meeting

Margery Rubin – Medford Monthly Meeting

Richard Morse – Harrisburg Monthly Meeting

Friends Committee on National Legislation Report to Peace and Concerns Standing Committee

The Philadelphia Yearly Meeting- Friends Committee on National Legislation (PYM-FCNL) Network consists of those Friends named by PYM to be their representatives on FCNL's General Committee and other Friends led to nurture FCNL's witness on the hill. We meet by conference call on a regular basis and in one "in face" meeting at FCNL's annual meeting in November. Our main function is to facilitate PYM witness on national legislation directly related to FCNL's Legislative Priorities and to communicate with FCNL staff about the concerns, leadings and witness of PYM Friends. We are grateful for the many PYM Friends who participate in FCNL witness without our knowledge and invite them to join us.

Our witness also seeks to educate members of PYM about the fundamental unity of all of our Testimonies, seeing each as an integral part of the other. In offering FCNL as a model for public action grounded in the Spirit, we hope to heal divisions between contemplative Friends who find public witness uncomfortable or too political and those who see public witness as an essential part of their spiritual life.

OBSERVATIONS AND CHALLENGES

As a group, we are renewed and inspired by the work of FCNL and devote significant time to it. This work brings us joy and gives us the strength to persevere in the face of an increasingly polarized Congress. We value FCNL's commitment to be non-partisan, its grounding in Friends Testimonies and its practice of Quaker governance. We find that the experience of the small group worship sharing sessions at FCNL's Annual Meeting guides the Spirit moving among us in plenary sessions and in informal gatherings. The final meeting for worship, led in the manner of pastoral Friends United Meeting (FUM) Friends, is especially powerful.

Our actions in the past two years reflect a growing sense that we are called to work within a more limited area than throughout the four states which comprise PYM. Although grateful for invitations to visit distant meetings, we find that our time and energy are best spent on local and state levels. That strategy also fits well with FCNL's lobbying efforts.

We continue to seek ways to be more present to PYM at Annual Sessions and help meetings participate more actively in FCNL witness. We also work with PYM's Nominating Committee to seek candidates who are called to active service on our Network and with FCNL. We currently have a brief "job description" of the role and work with PYM's Nominating Committee to identify Friends called to this service.

It remains a constant challenge to engage Young Adult Friends (YAFs) in our work and we are grateful for those who have participated in Spring Lobby Day or attended FCNL's annual meeting in November. We are delighted that three recent FCNL program assistants are or have been members of PYM.

Although it is difficult to find time for conference calls where all can attend, we find that these calls are fruitful and keep us informed. It is our goal to hold five conference calls throughout the year, although we have not met that goal this year.

We are grateful to the Peace and Concerns Standing Committee for its generous support of our witness and for the work of your liaison, Anne Creter, who has joined us recently and has already been of great help and support.

With gratitude, the named members of the PYM-FCNL Network:

Joan Broadfield – Chester Monthly Meeting
Lance Billingsley – Camden Monthly Meeting
Burt Dallas – Radnor Monthly Meeting
Deb Faulkner – Gwynned Monthly Meeting
Mary Lou Hatcher – Lehigh Valley Monthly Meeting
Margaret Mansfield – Mt. Holly Monthly Meeting
Lee Reinert – Downingtown Monthly Meeting

At the time of this report, we have requested that Nominating Committee consider appointment of the following members, to begin service as PYM representatives to FCNL in August, 2014:

Paul Indorf – Swarthmore Monthly Meeting
Joey Hartmann-Dow – YAF and member of Lehigh Valley Monthly Meeting
Margaret Mansfield – Mt. Holly Monthly Meeting

(Note: One more position remains to be filled to have our full representation on FCNL's General Committee.)

Summary of our work during the 2013 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013)
Total estimated volunteer hours: 1232

Presence at Annual Sessions (Held in Philadelphia)

- Workshop entitled "There is a Spirit... FCNL's Call for Constructive Dialogue
- Exhibit space with FCNL materials at Friends Center

Full Attendance at FCNL's Annual Meeting November 16-18, 2012 by PYM's representatives. In addition, nine other members of PYM attended. Twelve participants in the Quaker Public Policy Institute (lobby training) held November 15 and ten lobby visits to Congressional staff in DC.

Seven in-district, interfaith, lobby visits regarding FCNL's call to conscience campaign to address climate disruption.

- preparation of two handouts for PA and NJ; (see attached)
- participation in monthly FCNL conference calls
- coordination of interfaith delegations and logistics where Friends from nine monthly meetings participated in meetings, letters to Congress and letters to the editor

Five in-district, interfaith, lobby visits regarding the need to reduce the military budget.

- handouts prepared by FCNL staff. The nation's checkbook campaign
- coordination of interfaith delegations and logistics where Friends from five monthly meetings participated in meetings, letters to Congress and letters to the editor.

Formation of a Friends Committee for Delaware Legislation to coordinate FCNL's witness and begin efforts to create a state level lobbying group modeled on FCNL's principles. The Committee first undertook a state-wide discernment of the FCNL legislative priority process, which resulted in a unanimous discernment of four priorities.

Four Network members participated in FCNL's Spring Lobby Weekend, March 17-18, 2013, relating to climate disruption joined by four other PYM Friends. They made seven lobby visits with congressional staff in Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania with the message that addressing climate disruption is an urgent religious and moral imperative. The Network sponsored two YAFs to attend, one from Central Philadelphia and one from Lehigh Valley.

Members visited four monthly meetings to listen to Friends' concerns and describe FCNL's current work.

Summary of our work during the 2014 Fiscal Year

Total estimated volunteer hours: 1062

Presence at Annual Sessions (Muhlenberg College) July 24-28, 2013.

- Workshop on spiritual tools for public witness facilitated by Mary Lou Hatcher
- Joint workshop facilitated by AFSC and FCNL staff (Lucy Duncan and Michael Shank)
- exhibit space with FCNL materials with a special exhibit devoted to climate disruption
- conversation tent to hear from FCNL monthly meeting contacts
- luncheon gatherings to meet FCNL staff member, Michael Shank, and to discuss Quaker issues presently before Congress.

Eight PYM representatives attended FCNL's Annual Meeting, held November 15-17, 2013, joined by eight other PYM Friends. Five participants in Lobby training day, held November 14, with ten lobby visits to Congressional staff.

Network members took part in four in district interfaith lobby visits to follow up on FCNL's call to conscience campaign to address climate disruption.

- coordination of interfaith delegations and logistics where Friends from six monthly meetings participated

- three letters to the editor submitted with one published in the Courier Post.

Network members planned two interfaith in-district lobby visits to seek repeal of the Authorization of the Use of Military Force with the message that federal spending that meets human needs creates more jobs and more effective security than military spending.

Friends in New Jersey's District Four participated in a two week letter writing campaign to Congressman Smith regarding the potential for violence in the Central African Republic. One letter to the editor was published in the Trenton Times.

The Network sponsored one YAF to attend FCNL's Spring Lobby Weekend who made three lobby visits to her Pennsylvania Senators and Representative. Three other PYM Friends also participated in lobby training and meetings with congressional staff. The visits focused on ending the Authorization to Use Military Force, the law which has provided authority for the president to act without congressional approval.

Visits were made to each of the monthly meetings and to the worship group in Delaware to promote a bill which would abolish the death penalty in the State. Friends Committee for Delaware Legislation became part of a coalition of thirty organizations which lobbied for passage of the legislation, and participated in a Lobby Day at the House of Representatives.

To our knowledge, fifteen PYM meetings participated in FCNL's Priorities Process. This year, the PYM FCNL network did not provide support to monthly meetings for this opportunity to guide FCNL's work in a new Congress. Meetings that have participated have said that the process both inspires them and helps ground them in Friends Testimonies.

In addition to our work within PYM, two members are currently serving on FCNL committees.

Margaret Mansfield
mmansfield14@gmail.com

Friends General Conference Report to 2014 Annual Sessions of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

Friends General Conference (FGC) is an association of regional Quaker communities in the U.S. and Canada which, with Divine guidance, nurtures the spiritual vitality of the Religious Society of Friends by providing programs and services for Friends, meetings, and seekers. It was founded in 1900 and currently has about 35,000 members in 641 congregations located throughout the United States and Canada. Its programs include a traveling ministries, religious outreach, interfaith relations, book publishing and sales, and an annual conference.

Major Goals

- Nurture meetings and worship groups.
- Provide resources and opportunities for meetings, Friends, and seekers to experience the Light, the living presence of God.
- Help meetings guide Friends to discern the leadings of the Inward Teacher and to grow into ministry.
- Transform our awareness so that our corporate and individual attitudes and actions fully value and encompass the blessed diversity of our human family.
- Work to grow and sustain a vital, diverse, and loving community of Friends based on a shared search for unity in the Spirit.
- Articulate, communicate, and exemplify Friends' practices, core experiences, and the call to live and witness to our faith.
- Promote dialogue with others, sharing with them our corporate experience of Divine Truth and listening to and learning from their experience of the same.

The FGC is overseen by a committee of 149 Friends, 81 of whom are appointed by affiliated yearly and monthly meetings. The work of the FGC is carried out by the staff and volunteer members of its program committees. [All above text taken from the FGC website.]

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, as an affiliated yearly meeting, appoints up to 24 representatives to serve on the Central Committee which governs FGC. These representatives and their committee assignments are listed below:

Esther Gilbert, Evergreen Worship Group/ Chestnut Hill MM – Christian and Interfaith Relations

Victoria Greene, Green Street MM – undecided

Julian Dockhorn, Green Street MM – Friends Meetinghouse Fund

Lola George (1), Media MM – Finance

Gabbreell James, Green Street MM – Growing Committee for Nurturing Ministries

Paula Cell, Germantown MM – Long Range Conference Planning and Personnel
Howard Cell, Germantown MM – Publications
Miyo Moriuchi, Chestnut Hill MM – Long Range Conference Planning
Sallie Jones, Birmingham MM – Growing Committee for Nurturing Ministries
Robert Dockhorn, Green Street MM – Nominating Committee
Joe Rogers, Chester River MM – Finance
Craig San Pietro, Abington MM – Advisory and Finance
Jada Jackson, Trenton MM – Ex-Officio and serving on Personnel

Respectfully submitted by Paula Cell for the representatives currently serving on FGC
Central Committee.

hpcell2@gmail.com

Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas Report to Annual Sessions 2014

Let the Living Water Flow!

The Friends World Committee is the association of Quaker yearly meetings across all the branches of Friends, around the world. Philadelphia Yearly Meeting is affiliated through the Section of the Americas, which stretches from Alaska to Bolivia. PYM names Representatives to the Section, and the Section offices are located at Friends Center in Philadelphia.

Living Water Consultations

“Let the Living Water Flow!” was the theme for our recent series of regional conferences offering training for Representatives and other interested Friends in skills needed for thriving Quaker meetings in the 21st century. Philadelphia YM Friends attended three out of the four conferences, in California, Bolivia, North Carolina, and El Salvador. Over 400 Friends from over 40 yearly meetings participated. One participant commented on the “unanticipated ways people can find their way to unity with each other across seemingly irreconcilable differences in theology and 'conviction'". In some ways we accomplished this in spite of ourselves. This is wonderfully encouraging." The new Living Water Study Book in English and Spanish is available online as a free download. More details are at fwccamericas.org/events/2014-Consultations.shtml.

All four conferences offered workshops for Friends to develop our intercultural communication skills for intra-Quaker dialogue and our everyday lives, and for supporting Quaker leadership in the 21st century. The two North American workshops on *Quaker Leadership for the 21st Century* were led by students in the Quaker leadership programs at Guilford College and George Fox University.

The workshops on *Conflict Transformation* were led by members of the New York Yearly Meeting Committee on Conflict Transformation. Given that many monthly meetings are troubled by tensions among members, these workshops explored commonly-arising incidents and shared insights into how they can be acknowledged, how they can be addressed, and how the Meeting can use conflict as an opportunity for advancement and transformation.

The workshops on *Intercultural Communications* explored the challenge of communicating when each party brings a different background to the conversation. They considered the significance of the Incarnation, conflict mediation tools, and the art of listening across social, ethnic or linguistic boundaries. They built practical skills for communication grounded in self-awareness – a manner of listening and speaking that nourishes that of God in all of us.

Service, locally and globally, was another workshop topic. The 2012 Kabarak Call for Peace and Eco-Justice from the 6th World Conference of Friends reminds us that "we must become careful stewards of all life...a light in the darkness of greed and destruction...we are called to see what Love can do – for the earth and all peoples." In North Carolina, Friends reviewed the Kabarak Call and then learned about the efforts of the Friends Emergency Material Assistance Program (FEMAP) and how it helps in emergencies and issues relating to long term deprivation. They assembled hygiene, infant care and school supply kits while exploring how to join with North Carolina Friends Disaster Service or how to replicate FEMAP at home. In California, participants learned about Sacramento Friends Church's ministry of foot washing with the homeless – why and how it is done, and how it is received – and practiced foot washing with one another. They reflected on attitudes about giving and receiving such a personal service, a reminder of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples. Tyla Healton (Co-pastor, Sacramento Friends Community Church) and Kylin Navarro (Co-clerk, Pacific YM Young Adult Friends and former FWCC Quaker Youth Pilgrim), with support from Alyssa Nelson (Pacific YM Youth Program Coordinator), led this exploration of the do's and don'ts of service, the servant-leadership approach, and local-global connections through the Kabarak Call.

Quaker Youth Pilgrimage

As PYM meets for Annual Sessions, a Young Friend from Philadelphia is one of the 26 teens from the US, Mexico, Guatemala, Peru, Bolivia, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Germany, and Hungary, who are traveling through Peru and Bolivia in the traditional month-long spiritual and historical exploration. Five years ago, Young Adult Friends in Bolivia and Peru took the initiative and invited the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage (QYP) to come to South America for the first time. More than ever before, the QYP planning committee includes older and younger Friends, Friends United Meeting, Friends General Conference, and Evangelical Friends from North and South America. At the same time, this has required an enormous investment of time and money. The committee has been meeting by Skype almost every other week for the last year, working bilingually in Spanish and English. Taking such a diverse group of Pilgrims and Leaders to the Andes, well beyond the traditional boundaries of the Pilgrimage, is a vivid example of how the Friends World Committee brings together the whole world of Friends, especially young people.

Wider Quaker Fellowship/Voices of Friends

The website and pamphlet series are both a service to seekers and a resource for individual reading and group discussions for Friends meetings. www.voicesoffriends.org also offers a comprehensive directory of Quaker meetings and churches in North America for seekers and traveling Friends.

Staff Changes

Perhaps the most visible change in the Section of the Americas was the resignation of Louise Salinas, Associate Secretary, after 12 years of dedicated service. We miss her and wish her well in her new job and her continued service to Fallsington Meeting and Philadelphia YM. As a volunteer, she is still Assistant Clerk of the International Planning Committee for the 2016 FWCC International Representatives Meeting in Arequipa, Peru.

Future Planning

As part of a strategic planning process, the Section of the Americas staff and volunteers are asking, "What does the Religious Society of Friends need from a world committee?" The PYM committee has begun asking themselves this important question and more input is welcome. New program directions will be presented this fall for approval by the Section-wide meeting of Representatives in March 2015 near Mexico City. All Friends are welcome to attend.

More information on all these programs is available at www.fwccamericas.org.

Questions about this report should be directed to:

Robin Mohr

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Peace and Concerns Standing Committee Report to Annual Sessions 2014 (Corrected July 24, 2014)

Peace and Concerns Standing Committee (PCSC) has continued meeting jointly with Support and Outreach Standing Committee (SOSC). This allows us to have more Friends in attendance, thus having more Friends to consider concerns, to hear reports from the working groups and granting groups under our respective care, to hear reports from representatives to other organizations, to thresh issues as they arise and prepare minutes as appropriate, and to consider requests for funding or endorsements.

Our meetings have often been attended by 7 to 9 members of the two standing committees, plus members of working and granting groups – so when we close with a holding of hands around the table in Room 4 at Arch Street, we can complete the circle. This may seem trivial, but it is a morale booster to be able to literally feel the circle of love.

The standing committees appointed Anne Creter as liaison to the PYM Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) Network under PCSC care. She participated in the FCNL Annual Meeting and Lobby Day in Washington, DC, and is involved with the working group's on-going activities.

In the fall, at the request of Interim Meeting, the standing committees drafted a Minute based on various Minutes from monthly and quarterly meetings, mostly related to the Newtown, CT, mass shooting. Worship and Care Standing Committee intended to participate in the process but were easy with the draft we prepared, which we then forwarded to Interim Meeting, which was not prepared to receive it as written.

We worked hard to re-establish PYM's Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) representation with the United Nations Department of Public Information after a hiatus of about three years. An annual review was submitted to re-activate PYM's official status and interested committee representatives were selected: Loretta Maldonado, Yolanda Covarrubias, and Walton Burwell. Formal acceptance from the United Nations- Department of Information (UN-DPI) is still pending. The standing committees determined this was an important peacebuilding association for PYM to maintain. We also have a liaison with "Peace Day Philly" (UN-designated International Day of Peace) and encourage Friends' involvement on the 21st of September each year.

Efforts concerning climate change and global warming continue apace under the able leadership of the Eco-Justice Working Group. We continue to support the campaign to end PNC Bank's investment in companies involved in mountain-top removal mining in West Virginia; this endeavor is being led by Earth Quaker Action Team. This spring we approved a

"line of credit" of up to \$1,500 to enable the working group to hire interns for the summer. We also approved the use of money from the Fund for Sufferings – and sent our approval to Interim Meeting – not only for members of PYM but also for non-Friends involved in nonviolent direct action at the Federal Building in Philadelphia (in response to the Keystone XL pipeline), which resulted in thirty arrests. Also there are plans forming – encouraged by Friends from Bucks Quarter – to participate in a march to the UN on September 20, 2014, at the time of the UN gathering on climate change as part of preparation for a major summit in 2015.

The International Outreach Granting Group (IOGG) provides small grants to assist American Friends and other individuals who travel abroad as well as international visitors who come to the United States on Friends concerns. Their visits and projects seek to further international understanding, peace and other Friends' concerns. Grants are generally \$300-500. During the 2012-13 Program/Fiscal Year, the IOGG approved grants totaling \$8,830 to assist 19 individuals to travel internationally. This included 11 females and 7 males; one additional person was unable to make the trip as planned. Most recipients were over 18 years of age.

The Indian Committee reported that they supported just one project of eight at the amount requested (roughly \$33,000 requested and only \$8,600 donated), and had to tell another four worthy requesters that they could not support them at all. Among those to whom they had to deny funding: the Winnemem Wintu Tribe of California for their Mt. Shasta women's coming-of-age ceremony, so necessary for a sound sense of identity to a Native woman; the White Earth Land Recovery Project for a children's garden encouraging the cultivation of native plants and food sustainability for Ojibwe families in Minnesota; and Someday Productions of Philadelphia for an art camp to introduce urban Philadelphia youth and Navaho in Thoreau, NM, youth to each other's cultures. They hope that in future years they will have the funding to be somewhat more generous.

End Modern Slavery Working Group reports that the current efforts grew out of local concerns about forced labor and have grown to have worldwide visibility relating to products made by adults and children and to human trafficking especially in relation to the sex trade and domestic servitude. Friends have made significant contributions to the movement to address modern slavery. There is a National Human Trafficking Posting Hotline and significant efforts to publicize it, but laws are on a state-by-state level. Pennsylvania, for example, has no legal definition of modern slavery. Therefore, SB 75 has been introduced in the Pennsylvania Legislature to begin to address this. We are encouraged to push for its passage. Many products we may buy are "slave products": sugar, coffee, chocolate, oriental rugs. In southeastern PA, a shelter called Dawn's Place assists those rescued from slavery – with a year-long program to help young women move from abuse and captivity into a much healthier life. We are encouraged to explore the website slaveryfootprint.org to see how slavery

impinges on our daily lives.

We co-sponsored the Christmas Peace Pilgrimage 2013, with active support from Friends at Newtown Meeting. Facilitated by a member of the standing committee, we agreed to cosponsor a Peace Conference at Pennswood Village in Newtown, Bucks County, on Friday, September 19, 2014, entitled "Older People Promoting Peace." The purpose is to inspire and catalyze efforts by older adults to initiate and lead peace initiatives. It is being held essentially on the International Day of Peace.

We welcome other Friends to join with us on the Standing Committees and on any of the various working and granting groups under our care. We can also involve Friends in short-term projects.

Steve Gulick
Clerk
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Support and Outreach Standing Committee Report to Annual Sessions 2014

Those currently serving Philadelphia Yearly Meeting on its Support and Outreach Standing Committee are:

James Collins	Fallsington Monthly Meeting
Walton Burwell	Germantown Monthly Meeting
Carter Nash	Harrisburg Monthly Meeting
Boris Simkovich	Makefield Monthly Meeting
Andrew Anderson	Monthly Meeting of Friends of Philadelphia
Amanda Ivory	Monthly Meeting of Friends of Philadelphia
Robin Meaker	Quakertown Monthly Meeting

For the last year and a half, the Support and Outreach Standing Committee (SOSC) has been meeting jointly with Peace and Concerns Standing Committee (PCSC).

While representatives to the New Jersey and Pennsylvania Councils of Churches are made by Yearly Meeting, they are under the care of SOSC. We currently need someone to serve PYM as our representative to the NJ Council of Churches.

PYM is actively engaged with Pennsylvania Council of Churches (PCC) with representation on both the Public Advocacy and Common Ministry Commissions. The Public Advocacy Commission is the face of PCC that is most often seen in the press and by members of the state legislature. The Common Ministries Commission is the get-their-hands-dirty part of PCC, working with, but limited to farm workers, visitors to state parks, and truckers. PCC is facing some of the same problems that PYM recently dealt with: spending in excess of income. PCC has hired a consultant to review the current conditions and develop recommendations for the future. The PYM representative is closely involved in this process.

The SOSC has under its care and oversight these working and granting groups:

1. PYM Library Services Working Group (Tim Siftar, Clerk)

The PYM Library is staffed completely by volunteers. The working group guides the work of those who volunteer at the PYM Library by providing training, tasks and technical leadership on library operations. This group includes both hands-on super-users and visionaries to keep the PYM Library on track with supporting the various needs Friends have for books and related information.

The PYM Library is open:

Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm

1st Sundays 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

3rd Thursdays 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

2. Friends World Committee for Consultation Working Group (George Rubin, Clerk)

The FWCC Working Group members travel to various FWCC gatherings not only nationally but internationally.

3. Outreach Working Group

4. Membership Development Fund Granting Group (Tom Peterson, Clerk)

The Membership Development Fund doesn't simply approve or deny grant requests; they try to help meetings find creative and innovative ways to grow their memberships at times without any expenditure.

5. Willits Granting Group (Charles Woodson III, Clerk)

The members of the Willits Granting Group faithfully adhere to the charge entrusted to them, to the point of traveling to both Liberia and the southern states of the US to ensure that which should be happening, is happening.

ESTABLISHED: By will of Charles L. Willits in 1885 “for the distribution of religious tracts and writings of Friends... one half of which shall be distributed among the colored people of the Southern States of the United States, and the remainder in the colony of Liberia; so that religion and morality may be promoted.”

MISSION: Today, the Willits Book Trust presents books and media that embody Quaker values and core beliefs to emerging and established libraries and organizations that serve African American communities in the American South or people in Liberia.

6. Publication Services Working/Granting Group (Mark Parker Miller, Clerk)

Oversees publishing by PYM.

Upcoming projects include:

- Revise and publish “Quakerism: A Religion Meaningful in Today’s World”
- Reprint “Companions Along the Way”
- Publish the “Faith and Practice” revision
- Create a pamphlet which describes the work of Publications Services Group

7. Friends Institute Granting Group

The Friends Institute Granting Group offers grants to individual PYM young adult Friends to encourage and support them in ministry, service, witness, and Quaker study. It also provides assistance to programs, events or activities of organizations which support and build the community of PYM young adult Friends.

Over the past few years some working groups have laid themselves down due to, what appears to be on the surface, a lack of interest. Some of their work has been picked up by staff (the web working group). A lack of time and availability has caused many not to be able to engage with PYM on the level they would like. At times people would be more apt to be involved if they were able attend by phone or electronically, or if meetings/events were held more regularly in their area.

Carter Nash
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