

Young Friends Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, 8th month 18th day, 2014

Minute 1: Meeting for worship with attention to business began with a period of open worship, with Young Friends clerks Hannah Blossom and Emi Inskeep presiding, and Kody Hersh, Young Friends Program assistant, serving as acting recording clerk. Clerk Emi Inskeep welcomed Friends and gave a short description of meeting for worship with attention to business.

Minute 2: Friendly Adult Presences were welcomed as guests, holding Young Friends in prayer and offering facts and clarification as needed. Friends approved.

Minute 3: Clerk Emi Inskeep reviewed the agenda, and requested that Friends wait to be recognized by the clerks before speaking on the floor. Friends approved the agenda.

Minute 4: Young Friends Coordinator Hannah Mayer described “late nights” in the Young Friends community—an optional extended bedtime until 1am. At Christmas Gathering, Young Friends approved the possibility of having multiple late nights at longer-than-weekend gatherings. Do we want to have multiple late nights at Onas this week?

Several clarifying questions were raised, as well as a concern about the sweatlodge and need for sleep afterward. It’s too late to request a late night for tonight, and tomorrow is the sweatlodge, so possible late nights for this gathering are Wed, Thurs, and Fri. Friends approved moving forward with the expectation that late nights will be requested for any given night by noon that day.

Minute 5: The Young Friends Assistant, Kody Hersh talked about how Young Friends wish to have more control over the decisions made relating to YF, such as guidelines, increased freedom, etc. Currently, more decisions occur in committees on the Yearly Meeting level. At the moment the yearly meeting is going through a big restructuring, giving us an opportunity to step in and assert the importance of our affirmation in the decisions made about YF. A working group was proposed to look at questions. YF liaisons were invited to join, as well as any other volunteers.

Questions were raised about the liaisons and whether they were required to join (they are not). Graduated seniors were interested in also participating in this process, and it was determined that they could go to the working group if they were interested. People were curious about examples of decisions made in the yearly meeting without us, and past clerk Emma Leibman spoke to the group about some examples (coordinators and budget cuts, etc.) Friends approved the working group and asked for volunteers. Tenaja, Hannah, Ali, Robert, Emma, Emi, and Liana volunteered.

Minute 6: As the first part of the long-term process of reviewing Young Friends, clerk Emi Inskeep introduced the idea of a threshing session, in which Friends reflect on a topic without trying to reach a decision. After threshing, volunteers will be invited to take the ideas expressed and write a proposed revision to the guidelines. Friends were invited to consider the “sports bra” or “no nipple” rule, one to a bed, Pizza rule, enthusiastic consent, and Bow Chika Wow Wow as guidelines related to sexuality. Notes were taken and will be made available to the committee working on guideline revisions.

Minute 7: Because of unity that emerged during threshing of the “one to a bed” rule, Young Friends approved, with input and approval from the Young Friends coordinator, suspending the rule during non-sleeping hours for the rest of the week of Onas.

Minute 8: Kat, Lili, Nathan, Tenaja, Robert, Liana, and Ali volunteered to serve on a committee to review the sexuality guidelines and bring revisions or other recommendations back to the community.

Minute 9: Clerks asked for approval for Robert Neff-Taylor to act as recording clerk. Friends approved.

Minute 10: Emi Inskeep introduced the question of PYM YF Clerk, giving background to the position, and asking for feedback on current adult clerk, Robert Rosenthal. Asked for approval as to having Robert as a more permanent part of the YF community. Friends Approved.

Minute 11: Asked for friends to consider a three year term for the adult clerk for PYM YF, with a re-evaluation after that time. Robert would serve for three years from this date. Friends approved.

Minute 12: Emma Liebman, speaking for Nurture Committee, explained the structure of the committee, asking PermaNurts and Nurture clerk to identify themselves. Asked the community to nominate friends for discernment to become PermaNurts. Displayed nomination box, asking for anonymous nominations. Box will be put in the dining hall along with a list of qualities looked for in a PermaNurt, and will be kept out throughout the week. On Friday Nurture Committee will come to the community with the list of new PermaNurts discerned by Nurture Committee. Friend clarified that any Young Friend participant can be nominated. Clerk brought up the possibility of the re-evaluation of the Nurture clerks responsibilities.