

PYM Young Friends Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

28 July 2018

The Clerk began Business Meeting with a moment of silence. The Meeting opened with a reading over of the Agenda, which Friends then approved.

Intro to Business Meeting

The Clerk asked for approval of Julia Carrigan as Clerk and Jacob Hoopes as Recording Clerk. The Clerk guided creation of a list of “Business Meeting Important Things” for future reference.

Epistle Decision

The Clerk outlined the specifics of the discussion surrounding whether to do the Epistle, including the possibility that it would be shared with the Britain Young Friends.

Friends noted that the Epistle does an important function, although if it were to become overwhelming workload-wise, Friends agreed that it would be inadvisable.

The group expressed that they would like to write an Epistle. The Clerk asked for names for a committee for the creation of the Epistle. The following people volunteered:

Kirsten, James, Joe, and Kaise.

FAP discussion

The Clerk pointed out that “FAP” is a slang term.

A Friend noted that although he had been a part of the community for several years, he still had to do a double take when seeing the term. He suggested changing it to FP or preferably AP.

Another Friend suggested adding acronyms for clarity.

A Friend noted that she did not know that the term was slang, even though she has been part of this community for several years.

A Friend suggested asking the FAPs themselves.

One of the FAPs supported a potential change to AP while others suggested other letter alterations. Another noted that it would be valuable to keep the “Friendly” or something along those lines

It was suggested that a committee could be made for further discussion of the changing of this term.

Kirsten, Abigail, Simon, Kaise, and Rachel.

Nurture Committee Report

A representative of Nurture Committee announced that they would be happy

Discernment Committee Report

A representative of Discernment Committee announced that they had decided to nominate Abigail Tobin and Jacob Hoopes to be PermaNurts for the upcoming year.

Abigail and Jacob left the room and the group discussed. The group approved them, and they returned.

Friends gave varying opinions on whether to set terms for PermaNurts, as opposed to the current method of no limit.

The Clerk asked for voices not in favor of the new single year term policy.

The Clerk asked for approval of the one term policy. Friends approved.

Undoing Racism

Noah White, a representative of the Undoing Racism Group (URG), came in and talked to the community about the role of that group. He outlined how URG formed in 2014 in response to a change in structure in the wider yearly meeting that would allow for racial bias to permeate the Yearly Meeting.

In 2015, PYM had a called session. The minute that came from that prompted the creation of several subgroups within Undoing Racism: Learning Communities, for outreach, Support of Friends of Color, to aid those whose voices are being ignored within PYM, and Communication, to develop more robust networks for the organization of Quakers against Racism.

The 2016 PYM Annual Sessions marked the beginning of struggles between members of URG and the wider body of PYM. Noah said that a main point of this group is to highlight that there are individuals within PYM at present whose light is being drowned, and whom other members of PYM make the scapegoat for their discomfort.

He handed out papers with information about Undoing Racism Group's work and continuing commitments.

The Clerk shared with the group that there was to be a report from the clerk of the multicultural audit steering committee that condemned political groups that used judgmental wording to criticize organizations within the Yearly Meeting that are working to undo racism.

The meeting was quickly adjourned for those who were led to attend the report from the clerk of the multicultural audit steering committee. The meeting resumed later in the day.

Native Justice Committee

A Friend gave some words on the origin of the Native Justice Committee, explaining how it came about: with the intent to discuss whether to have a sweat lodge at the Camp Onas gathering with the new concern that it might be cultural appropriation. The Friend recommended that the group ask questions about the sweat lodge in preparation for a decision at Onas.

A Friend supposed that the sweat lodge was not a priority at Onas, another Friend did not know what to ask, and a third trusted the Committee to make a choice for the whole community.

Discussion continued, and the Clerk asked the group to confer with members of that committee after the gathering if they had any questions remaining.

The Clerk asked the body to discuss what would be done during the worship sharing period at the end of the day in response to the conflict evident to the morning portion of Annual Sessions attended by many Young Friends.

Several Friends expressed positivity towards a small group discussion. Others suggested that several queries be read for variety and ease of response. Another liked the possibility of discussion-based small groups but also thought to have the groups be selected by some shared experience.

The Clerk closed the discussion with a moment of silence.