

## **Willamette Quarterly Meeting 2014 Winter, 1 February 2014**

Clerk Betsey Kenworthy opened the meeting by reading an excerpt from the 1966 Willamette Quarterly Meeting State of the Society Report, concerning the young friends' work project, and commentary on the small number of Friends who participate in quarterly meeting, and from the 1981 report, on how Friends were working on the critical social justice issues of the time. This was followed by a prayer that our deliberations be infused with Divine Love, and with consciousness on achieving balance between inward and outward work.

Next were introductions of: the clerk's table, Ministry and Oversight Committee members, and guests Dorsey Green and Ann Stever, who will be presenting a workshop on clerking following our Meeting for Worship for Business. The agenda was then approved.

The clerk then read correspondence from Friends Peace Team and Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon.

**2014-W-01 Ministry and Oversight Committee** clerk Janet Jump announced the upcoming clerking workshop.

**2014-W-02 Treasurer** Lyn Gordon presented the **Treasurer's Report** (attached), pointing out that we followed our charge in spending more money than we took in, thereby using up some of our surplus from previous years, and encouraging Friends to continue this trend, in moderation. There were comments on the challenges of holding Fall Quarter at Multnomah Meeting house and a question on how the Spiritual Life Fund is used.

**2014-W-03 Registrar Report:** Registrar Kerhnan Shaw would like to be sure he always has a current list of each Monthly meeting's clerk, with contact information, so that he can get information about Quarterly Meeting gatherings to each meeting and thereby encourage the widest attendance possible. He also announced that our next registrar will be current Assistant Registrar Priscilla Jones-Marvos, and encouraged Friends to volunteer for this very rewarding and not difficult job.

**2014-W-04 Nominating Committee** Clerk Joyce Zerwekh presented the names of Nancy Irving for Clerk and Dave Fabik for both Recording Clerk and Webkeeper, Priscilla Jones-Marvos for Registrar, along with new members for Ministry and Oversight—Barbara Janoe and Gail Sanford, and Nominating—Joyce Zerwekh and John Etter. An additional member is needed for Nominating committee, and someone is needed for Assistant Registrar. The names presented were approved.

**2014-W-05 Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon** Representative Joe Snyder reported on their recent and upcoming activities. His report is attached. He announced the upcoming Collins Lecture, "The Transformative Power of Compassion" by Karin Armstrong, 6-8 Third Month (March) 2014, in northwest Portland. EMO has a public policy division, which functions similar to Friends Committee for National Legislation, but at the state level. Joe also mentioned that

EMO has been receiving less income these past several years and had to let go of a valued employee; he encouraged Friends to donate directly to EMO.

One Friend questioned whether EMO should be expanded beyond Christian congregations. Joe responded that the Jewish, Muslim and Native American spiritual communities have demurred at such an expansion; that they feel there is value in having EMO speak for the Christian community only.

Another Friend raised the question of EMO's encouraging member congregations to divest from "Big Oil;" there was clear support for this concern.

**2014-W-06 Quarterly Meeting format:** Clerk Betsey Kenworthy read from recommendations made by the 2009 Quarterly Meeting Committee to Survey Friends Needs and Interests. It was suggested that for about two years we experiment with some very different patterns for gatherings sponsored by Willamette Quarterly Meeting in order to make them more relevant to a more diverse group of Friends, particularly diversity of age. Major changes have included new locations and focus for both the spring and fall meetings, with business being tended to mainly at the winter meeting. It is now time to re-evaluate these changes and revisit the other ideas suggested such as smaller gatherings as well: how has this worked? Do we want more changes? The planning committee members shared some feedback from surveys.

Discussion followed. The planning committee has started looking at how they have been connecting to individual meetings; and found that some meetings were not aware of Quarterly Meeting. We need ongoing communication, both ways. There are very few Friends at this winter meeting under age 50. Attendance in general varies from 50 to 100. Fall gathering attendance seems to vary more than winter or spring. There seems to be a real desire for more connection; Friday evening gatherings in homes were vibrant and well received, better than having a Friday evening gathering at the meeting place. However, those who attended the event at the meeting house felt that they got a lot out of it. Reaching out to young people was very effective. We need more hope and joy, to survive, to grow stronger as a community. We should strive for a less crowded agenda. Fellowship is more important than program. The Quarterly Meeting Planning Committee job is limited to planning the gatherings, not the extra activities. There are some inter-meeting gatherings outside of WQM. One Friend spoke to the value of less formal gatherings, in nurturing connections among Friends and encouraging them to attend more quarterly gatherings. We need more people to help before and after the gatherings, not just AT the gatherings. Some monthly meetings are growing, but we need a way to bring new people to quarterly. Do we need another planning committee, to plan more gatherings other than fall and spring meetings? Hospitality is one way of making connections, whether for QM or anything else, including personal travel. Refer to FGC Directory for Traveling Friends. Further feedback can be brought to the Clerk or to Quarterly Meeting Planning Committee.

**2014-W-07 NPYM Ad Hoc Committee to Facilitate Communication:** Jane Ewert reported. They would like further feedback.

**2014-W-08 State of the Society Reports:** Clerk encourages Friends to continue with the new format; these changes will be evaluated next year.

Announcements:

Men's Retreat. 7-9 March,

Women's Theological Conference, 11-15 June

FCNL

Well Springs School

NPYM: 23-27 July 2014, Pacific University, Forest Grove, Oregon.

Legislative concerns: Senate Bill 1551 on expanding background checks for gun ownership.

Lost and found. articles from previous quarterlies

Meeting for Worship for Business adjourned at 12:09 p.m.