

Willamette Quarterly Meeting Minutes
May 2013

Morning Meeting for Worship for the conduct of Business.

1. WORSHIP. The meeting opened with a period of worship ending with a heartfelt prayer by the Clerk.

2. STATE OF SOCIETY REPORTS. The Clerk reminded us of the purpose of our State of the Society reports, as described in our Faith and Practice.

"...The State of Society Report should be a self-examination by the Meeting and its members of their spiritual strengths and weaknesses and of efforts to foster growth in the spiritual life. Reports may cover the full range of interest and concerns but should emphasize those indicative of the spiritual health of the Meeting." Meetings were reminded to keep that in mind as they prepared their reports.

We were asked to keep these things in mind as we listened to the reports.

- * Are there common themes in the reports?
- * Are there major differences?
- * How can we support our worshipping communities?
- * Is there something you would like to hear more about?

We then heard reports from Eugene, Boise, Corvallis, and Multnomah, which included the Worship Groups under their care, Lower Columbia, Mountain View, and Fanno Creek.

3, ANNOUNCEMENTS. The meeting closed with introductions and announcements by the planning committee.

AFTERNOON MEETING FOR BUSINESS.

1. The meeting opened with a period of expectant worship.

2. The registrar reported that 66 people were present at this meeting. That number includes 52 adults and 14 children/ youth.

3. STATE OF SOCIETY REPORTS. Before hearing the remaining State of Society reports, we were reminded of the points to listen for as we heard the reports. (See Minute 2 of the morning session.) We then heard State of Society Reports from Bridge City, Salem, South Mountain, Florence, and Umpqua Valley.

Themes that emerged from our State of Society Reports included:

- * Issues around vocal ministry.

* Our aging congregations and diminishing size of meetings. How can we attract young people and families?

* One member questioned the amount of time and effort that goes into the writing and hearing of State of Society reports.

* Another commented that the queries sent out beforehand were helpful to their meeting as they prepared their State of Society report.

* One member introduced the concept of "positive deviance". Can we look at the deviations that are positive and see what those meetings are doing that the others are not. What can we learn from them?

The Clerk concluded the discussion by asking us to search for where the life is in the Quarterly Meeting meetings and to take that light back to our own meetings.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS.

1. Annual Session will be July 17 to 21 at Pacific University in Forest Grove. Yearly Meeting Clerk, John Alcott, explained how the Yearly Meeting is working toward making Annual Session attendance free for all children. This year there is no program fee for children. Everyone is urged to encourage families in their meetings to attend Yearly Meeting.

2. The Fall Quarterly Meeting will take place on October 4 and 5 in Portland.

3. We were asked to support the "Plowshares Peace Activists" whose trial begins this week by writing our congressmen to bring an end to nuclear weapons.

4. The film "Unfair Game: the Politics of Poaching" will be shown later today, introduced and discussed by Thuli Makama of Swaziland, who appears in the film. It can also be viewed on Vimeo on the internet.

5. Joe Snyder, our Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon representative, would like a person from each meeting with whom he can communicate about EMO activities and issues.

The meeting closed in worshipful silence.

Betsey Kenworthy, Clerk
Barbara Janoe, acting Recording Clerk