

## Report from NVFC Transition Taskforce and Elders (May, 2017)

As a result of the Northwest Yearly Meeting (NWYM) transition and reorganization, each congregation is faced with choosing whether or not to continue to affiliate with NWYM. North Valley elders commissioned a transition taskforce to gather information for the congregation in order to inform our decision-making. One aspect of the information gathering was to determine what the NWYM transition team is working on as well as any information related to a new YM. Another aspect of the information gathering was a review of existing North Valley documentation and a survey of congregants, to determine historic positions of our congregation and to get a sense of where congregants' views are on transitions at the time of the survey.

What our transition team has determined from reviewing NWYM and other external groups:

- Based on inquiries made about Evangelical Friends International (EFI, an umbrella group for NWYM), churches may not be jointly affiliated with an EFI YM and other YM, such as a Friends United Meeting (FUM) YM.
- Churches may not independently affiliate with FUM.
- Based on statements from the YM superintendent and presiding clerk, no appeals of the January YM administrative committee decision will be heard.
- Information regarding the work of the YM transition team is not very conclusive at this point. There is general agreement from this group to seek fair and impartial means of apportioning physical assets, but as of yet, no clear guidelines or decisions have been published. NV Elder, Silas Olson, serves on this group.
- Information regarding a possible new YM that may emerge in the region is also inconclusive. There have been several listening meetings in this regard, but as of yet, no clear direction is apparent.

What our transition team has determined to date from reviewing NV documents:

The team developed a document, entitled "Background information" that was shared with the congregation. Key documents that were referenced: NV minute to YM in 2014, NV appeal to NWYM regarding the West Hills situation in 2015.

What our transition found as a result of surveying the congregation

The survey of the congregation was intended to give a picture of what individual congregants' opinion was on what options would be preferable to them for North Valley. The survey was not a vote and does not take the place of congregational discernment. One hundred thirty (130) congregants participated in the survey. Key questions and answers are highlighted below.

Q3. Based on the information you currently have, which option would you prefer North Valley Take (please select only one choice from this list). See Table 1 for responses to this question.

Table 1. Preferable Option (130 responses)

Option	Number	Percentage
Joint Affiliation	51	39.2
Join New YM	47	36.2
Remain in NWYM	12	9.2
Go Independent	7	5.4
Other	13	10.0

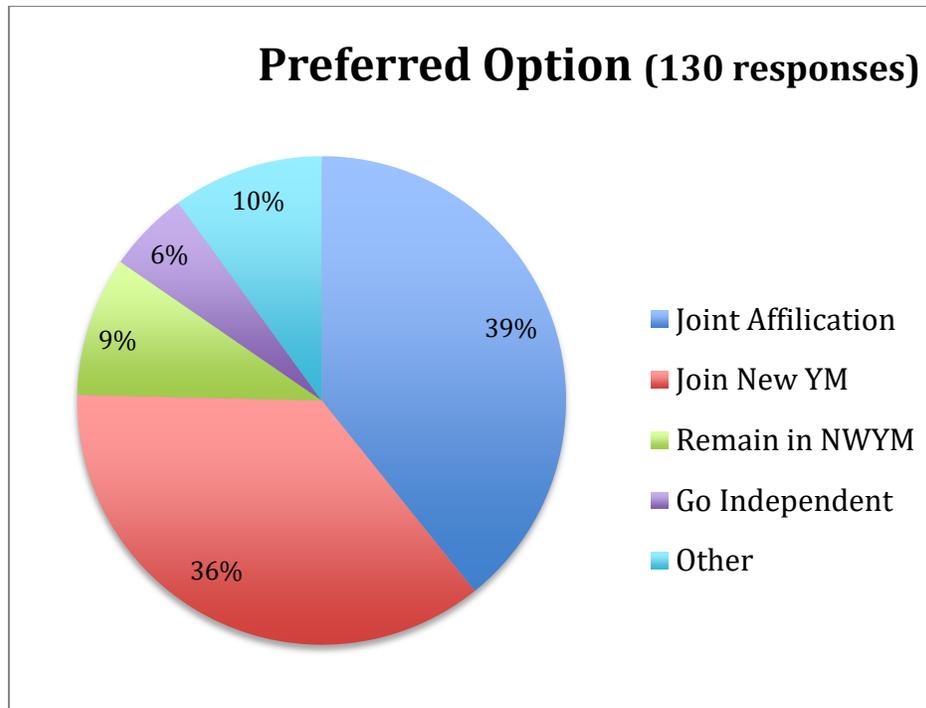


Figure 1: Provides a chart view of the information contained in Table 1.

Q4. Please indicate your level of support/agreement for each of the options listed below (130 responses). See Table 2 for responses to this question.

Table 2. Level of Support for Each of Four Options

Options	Strong Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strong Disagree
<b>Go Independent</b>	6	21	33	28	38
<b>Remain NWYM</b>	14	12	20	39	43
<b>Joint Affiliation</b>	24	35	27	27	17
<b>Join New YM</b>	25	60	21	9	13

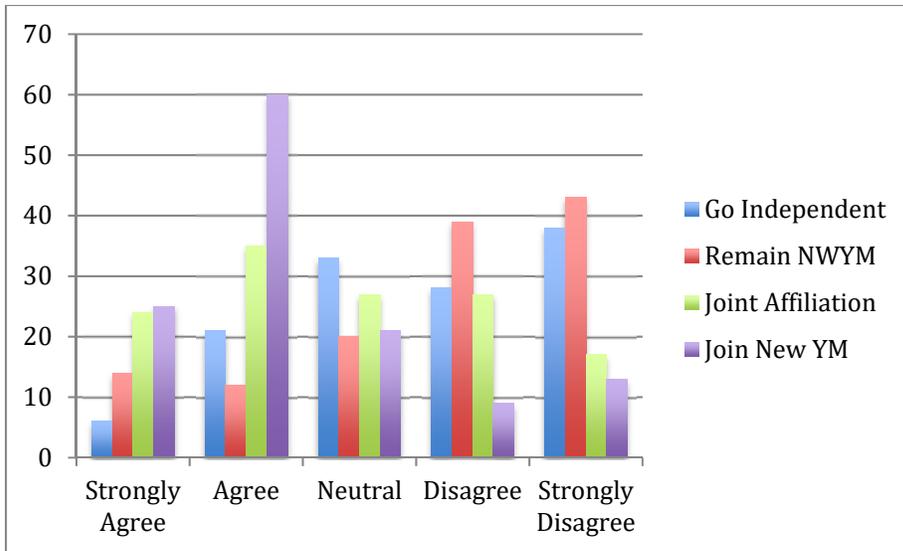


Figure 2: Chart view of information found in Table 2.

Survey participants were given the opportunity to respond to several open-ended questions about what additional information was needed, and hoped for next steps. All responses that were stated at least four times are listed below. The more complete list of responses is available upon request.

#### Themes from open-ended responses

1. Schedule corporate discernment that incorporates meetings for worship, focused on healthy vulnerability, listening, and Quaker process
2. Focus on welcoming, loving, and including our LGBTQ members and attenders
3. Affirm unity in diversity as NVFC previously discerned
4. Expressions of frustration and desire to appeal/reverse the YM decision to split
5. Become independent now and acquire 501c3 status
6. Hold fast to Quaker distinctions, history, process
7. Desire that NVFC to be an example of love and trust to others
8. Hope for trust/reconciliation with NWYM in the future
9. Continue NVFC process/discernment/conversations around human sexuality
10. Be transparent and informative during this process

The NV Transition Task Force has gathered information for our use. Next step is for the congregation to enter into a process of listening, sharing, and discernment. Elders and Pastors are calling a congregational meeting for the purpose of sharing and listening for Sunday evening, May 21 from 7-8:30 pm, with childcare provided. This meeting is **not** a business meeting, but a time to speak and listen to one another.