

New Thing Interim Committee
Minutes for Wednesday, June 7, 2017

Attendees:

Helen May - Camas

Marie Matsen - Eugene

Carol Whorton - Klamath Falls

Chris Durost - West Hills

Elijah Walker - West Hills

Jan Wood - N. Seattle

Not present: Cecile Hudson, Joann Boswell, Faith Marsalli, Ron Myers, Joanne Halgren

Opening:

We gathered at 1 PM at South Salem Friends and opened with a time of introductions and worship.

We opened business by reading a communication from Retha. (see Appendix A)

We perused the compiled list of thoughts "New Thing Interim Committee Agenda" document for guidance to determine which items required the most immediate attention. (see attached)

Officers, Committees, and Work Groups:

We nominated Jan Wood to bring forward on the first day of NWYM as Presiding Clerk for the duration of the YM sessions.

We will each go back to our meetings and ask for one person to come to serve on a nominating committee with a term beginning at the start of YM sessions and continue until the closing of our next "New Thing" yearly meeting session. We ask that each meeting approve someone by July 16. Please send these appointments to Helen at helen.morasch.may@gmail.com. Helen will compile names of people who will self-nominate to the various positions and give them to the nominating committee to discern which ones to bring forward.

We are asking that anybody who is feeling a calling toward serving in any of the following immediate needs please self-nominate by sending an indication of interest to Helen.

Officers:

Recording Clerk (1 volunteer)

Assistant Clerk (1 volunteer)

Committees:

Financial Committee (3-5 members)

Spiritual Care Committee (no set limit)

Interim Committee (5 at-large members, up to 5 members nominated by local churches)

Work Groups:

Bylaws, Faith & Practice

People Work

Quarterly Gatherings (responsible for worship, fellowship, and educational content)

A new “interim” committee needs to be approved to go forward after YM sessions. They will be asked to decide on a more descriptive name for themselves. There will be a total of 10 spaces on this committee. Five spaces will be reserved for members of the five meetings currently committed to exploring the New Thing (Eugene Klamath Falls, West Hills, Camas, and North Seattle). These five churches may choose to fill that position reserved for them but are not obligated to do so. The other five spaces will be filled by the Nominating Committee from among self-nominated volunteers, and these at-large committee members may be from any NWYM meeting. This group will need to immediately name someone to be the point person to NWYM transition team.

The Financial Committee’s first task will be to get the 501(c)3 off the ground. Consult with NWYM’s lawyer first to see whether he can assist us with this. Request funding for this immediate need from NWYM. Communicate the requirements for bylaws to the Bylaws, Faith & Practice Work Group.

The Spiritual Care Committee will be tasked with spiritual/crisis care including for LGBTQ community, pastors, and others wounded among us.

The Bylaws, Faith & Practice Work Group will be tasked with putting our basic required structure on paper. They will need to consult with the Finance Committee to ensure the bylaws meet the minimum standards to support the 501(c)3.

We did not discuss the details of what the “People Work” Work Group will be tasked with.

The Quarterly Gatherings Work Group will be tasked with arranging periodic (roughly quarterly) “Y’all Come” gatherings primarily for the purpose of worship, fellowship, and educational content to teach members about Quaker process, heritage, roots, discernment, etc.. It is our goal that we can gain a deeper understanding together of not only of how we do things but why we do them.

Tasks:

Carol has agreed to gather a prayer team to undergird our community and sessions.

Elizabeth will request a room from NWYM Monday Afternoon to hold a brief business session to approve clerks and a Nominating Committee, and a meeting space for our Nominating Committee to meet directly after this business meeting.

Elizabeth will ask for a room set aside for us to gather for discussions and other business as it arises, to be available each afternoon between the lunch and dinner hours. If this request is denied, she will contact North Valley to ask whether we could use their facility during these times for this purpose.

Elijah is going to try to negotiate with the YYM coordinator to release youth to attend any of the New Thing sessions and workshops without repercussions for "missing" YYM programming time. It is our goal to offer full inclusion of the youth. Elijah will also be communicating with youth and inviting them to self-nominate for working groups / committees.

Chris and Elijah will work on our agenda and schedule, using our tentative schedule (see attached) as a guide and adapting it once the NWYM's schedule is released.

Jan will facilitate a discussion about what it means to be Quaker, what it means to be an Evangelical, and how those two things are similar or different.

Other Considerations:

Elijah read an email from A.J.. (see Appendix B)
A.J.'s email brings up some good things to consider, however we cannot begin this work right now. We have reservations about an oversight committee and will need further discernment time about that question. We agreed that a crisis care and emotional support structure will be necessary. We currently have zero budget but we agree that allocating resources when they are available would be important.

We are being allotted a total of 6 hours for business sessions together as a New Thing. This gives us very little time and we will need to plan carefully.

Monday AM - Combined business and worship sessions with NWYM.

Tuesday AM 8:30-10:00 and 10:30-12:00

Wednesday AM 8:30-10:00 and 10:30-12:00

We wrote out a tentative schedule on the whiteboard and entrusted that schedule's care to Chris and Elijah.

Attachments and Appendices:

Appendix A: Communication from Retha:

From: Retha McCutchen

Date: June 5, 2017 at 3:50:43 PM PDT

Subject: Re: Transition Team

Jan... I was only thinking TT when I wrote. The clerks have talked about agenda, and plan for Monday to be a combined business meeting covering things of interest to both groups - visitor intros, Supt Report,

AC Report, GFU and Friendsview reports. Could be more.

Tuesday and Wednesday sessions would be split. I believe Angela has the new group meeting in Hoover 105.

Worship in the evening is combined and being planned by representatives of both groups. Actually, Lynn Holt is clerking the worship planning committee and Nate Macy doing music. There is no speaker. It will be guided prayer and worship. Yes, it will acknowledge the anger, grief and some joy over this restructure but encourage each person to see Christ in the center of the room and respond accordingly. Recognizing this will be the last YM sessions of NWYM as we've known it, we pray we can leave celebrating the good that has been done, mourning the loss and blessing each other to follow Christ's leading into a new future.

Yearly Meeting has been shortened one day, ending with Wednesday evening worship.

Retha

On Mon, Jun 5, 2017 at 2:55 PM, Retha McCutchen wrote:

Jan... Lorraine forwarded to me your note as the Team agreed there would be only one spokesperson for the group. We hope that keeps the message from sounding contradictory. Of course, this spokesperson doesn't speak much without approval from the group.

Our report to the YM should be posted later today. That covers everything we feel we can report. We had numerous other discussions, without conclusion.

I'm copying Lorraine to make sure she agrees with my assessment.

God bless you for leading this group. My prayers are with you.

Retha

Appendix B: Communication from A.J.

From: "A.J. Mendoza"

Date: June 7, 2017 at 10:39:30 AM PDT

Subject: Discussion for Annual Sessions

1. Creation of an Equity and Inclusion Committee, or to say it plainly, the anti-thesis of what the Committee of Elders of NWYM became. Such a committee would have broad oversight of the new YM communications and documents, be charged with seeking out and undermining systems of oppression as they appear (which they assuredly will) within the new yearly meeting, elevating the voices of and centering the leadership of traditionally marginalized identities within the new yearly meeting, and deliver annual reports and recommendations to the gathered Business Meeting at every annual session of the new yearly meeting beginning in 2018 into perpetuity.

2. Crisis care and emotional support for LGBTQ members. This is more-or-less self explanatory. NWYM expended exactly zero dollars and zero cents into the welfare and care of its LGBTQ members, all the while inflicting horrific wounds that will require resources to heal. The effects of these wounds will be felt in acute ways (aka, crisis) and in the long term (post-traumatic). Should there be a plan in place for both of this

inevitably? Does the first minute adopted by this new body inform how we should immediately be prepared to commit time, treasure, and talent to address this? I leave those questions to the discernment of the Interim Committee.

God's blessing be upon you all today, and may your discussion be illuminated by the Light.

A.J. Mendoza

Attachment 1: "New Thing Interim Committee Agenda"

Attachment 2: Tentative YM Sessions Schedule