

NORTHWEST YEARLY MEETING
Council of Representatives
January 22,23, 2016

Representatives were welcomed with a greeting from Superintendent Becky Ankeny. She introduced those who are attending Representatives for the first time. Becky prayed for the meetings and read Scripture from Romans 12. After a time of silence, Roger Watson led a time of worship through music.

Clerk, Mark Kelley, greeted representatives and asked them to sign in at the back table. He then introduced Ellen Morse, interim clerk of the nominating committee. Ellen introduced herself with a brief story of her birth into a Friends family in California.

Ellen outlined the process the Nominating Committee entered into to selecting a Presiding Clerk for NWYM. They began with study – the role of the Nominating Committee and the role of the Presiding Clerk. They also reviewed the responsibilities of the Administrative Committee. They performed telephone interviews, with prearranged questions. She then introduced Brad Holton, the nomination before the meeting.

Brad introduced himself with a brief testimony, his vocation in electronics and being involved in small town politics as mayor of Greenleaf, ID for 19 years and clerk of Quaker Hill board for 25 years. There was a time of questions from the floor addressed to Brad.

Mark Kelley dismissed the group after a lengthy question and answer time, challenging us to pray about the decision to be made on Saturday.

Saturday, January 23, 2016
8:30 a.m.

Roger Watson opened the meeting with a time of worship through music, followed by a time of silence. Mark Kelley then released board members to their meetings. He reminded Representatives to sign in on the sign in sheet in the back.

Roger Watson presented the financial report for Northwest Yearly Meeting. The 2015 year end financials are not yet finished. He described local church support, coming from the individual churches. The local church support payments budget is \$500,000 which underwrites about half of the total yearly meeting budget. Actual local church support in 2015 was \$463,000. Sixteen churches increased their payments. South Salem, Olympic View, McKinley Hill and West Hills significantly increased the local church report payments. Roger stated there is a wide range of local church support ranging from \$25 per month to churches who give tens and thousands of dollars. The medium local church support in 2015 was \$3395 compared o \$6000 in 2012. He projects a 2016 medium payment of \$3000.

In looking at the approved 2016 budget, in view of the above information and analyzing available information, Roger predicts local church support in 2016 of \$404,000. This represents a \$63000 reduction from the currently approved budget. Roger and the Administrative Committee make the following spending cuts: He worked with copier vendor to save \$2000; some saving is seen in the employee benefit package that won't affect benefits. The most difficult was reducing the YM staff by one full time employee. Other staff are absorbing the responsibilities. He will visit other boards today

to discuss specific changes for them. There is \$94,000 of total reductions from our 2015 budget. He stated that NWYM is not alone with this situation. Churches in EFI/NA are experiencing the same loss of income, as well as other denominations around the country.

Roger sees a correlation between Sunday morning attendance and contributions to Local Church Support. He encouraged us to support programs to strengthen the local church and to reach out to the communities where we serve. Roger was asked to send a summary of what he said by email. He stated that the differences being discussed, when decided, will also likely affect finances of local church and therefore the Yearly Meeting.

He was asked if there might be an impact from the lawsuit. He does not know at this time. He was asked if we are maintaining our per capita giving in comparison with the past. He had not done this research, and will work on this.

Bill Rourke reported for Volunteers on Wheels (VOW). VOW members are retired Friends who wander around NWYM doing projects for churches and camps. Today not everyone in VOW has an RV. They gather annually. In May they will in Terrebonne, OR to plan for the coming year. They wash windows, build decks, make curtains, pour sidewalks, paint, siding, prepare mailings, build fences, teach Bible School, assist churches in financial planning. S Salem, Kotzebue, AK, W Chehalem, Quaker Cove, Quaker Hill, Twin Rocks, NFC, YM and George Fox received assistance this year. Please communicate to your local churches to ask for projects for VOW. They want more local church applications. They would also like to broaden the membership base. He left applications and also reminded Friends that applications are available on the NWYM website.

Mark then asked for follow up questions and answers from Brad Holton. Alan Weinacht, pastor of Greenleaf, ID addressed how the process of discernment of Brad for this position was handled. As pastor, Alan spent time with Brad in a discernment process. They talked about what would be a motivation for saying 'yes.' It is not about getting ones way but because of the Lord's calling. Alan then gathered a clearness group, representative of gender, ages, etc. from the Greenleaf congregation. They met, discussed questions and took days to pray before reconvening. The conclusion was that Brad should continue in this process. They are continuing to submit this decision to the Lord for God's leading in the outcome. He commended Brad to us from Greenleaf Friends Church.

Questions and answers continued.

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Mark welcomed people back into the room. He expressed appreciation for the hospitality of Newberg Friends. They have welcomed groups since 1893. A Friend recommended we might leave an extra donation at lunch to cover snacks.

Ellen Morse, nominating committee, presented two nominations. Melynda Lujan is nominated to the Christian Ed Board. She is from Caldwell Friends. Kathy Watson, Newberg, has been nominated to the Leadership and Development Board. These are 2.5 year terms.

The above nominations were approved.

The Clerk opened the floor to discussion regarding the nomination of Brad Holton. He reminded people to state their names. There was a lengthy discussion.

Mark asked for approval of Brad Holton's appointment. There was a strong approval. Several spoke disapproval. Mark asked each person to express their concern.

After discussion, Mark asked for reps only to speak to approval. He asked for approval. There was strong approval. He asked about disapproval. Those Reps who spoke to disapproval, stood aside.