

Friday January 25

1. Northwest Yearly Meeting met in mid-year representative session, concurrently with YM Board and Commission meetings, at Sherwood Friends Church, January 25-26, 2019. Prior to business sessions, Rich Miller, pastor, welcomed representatives and Friends serving on boards and commissions to Sherwood Friends. We began our meeting for worship with songs led by Rob Whitaker. YM General Superintendent Jim Le Shana addressed Friends present. Jim reminded us of the YM visioning process a year ago and the vision statement we reached. Jim challenged us: "The sign of a great family of churches is that its vision is greater than its memories." We need to see our neighbors through Jesus' eyes. Jim urged us to consider two questions: What is your vision for your church? What is your vision for NWYM? Jim Le Shana concluded our initial meeting with prayer.
2. Brad Holton, YM Clerk, convened the representatives' meeting for business after board and commission members moved to other meeting rooms. Debbie Harrison, Assistant Clerk, led us in prayer.
3. Brad Holton welcomed new representatives. There will be a training session for representatives at YM in summer 2019. In the interim, Brad read from *Faith and Practice* describing the Council of Representatives and our work. Brad also read advice for representatives written by Jack Willcuts, one of our past General Superintendents. Friends asked that the advice by Jack Willcuts and the relevant section of F&P be distributed to representatives. These documents will be emailed to representatives.
4. Brad Holton reviewed the published agenda. The nominating report will be delayed until Saturday, at the request of the nominating committee. With this change, the agenda was **approved**.
5. Shawn Leonard reported for the Board of Christian Education and Discipleship. Shawn will step down as board clerk at YM in 2019. Shawn introduced us to a series of handbooks for basic Christian discipleship by Kenson Kuba. We have permission to use these materials freely. Shawn recommended the materials for use in our churches and our individual lives. The Board intends to send a printed copy to every church and make it available electronically. Shawn also recommended *The Purple Book*, a discipleship guide.
6. General Superintendent Jim Le Shana reported on his work since October, when he started his work with us. His transition from Barclay College to NWYM has been complicated, because of his son's serious cancer. Since October, for Jim it has been a season of listening. Jim described two events since last YM: a) National Friends Multiplication Conference, and b) Friends Summit Conference (both well attended by Friends from NWYM). Jim strongly urged all churches of the YM to send their pastors to pastors' conference in April. Near the time of pastors conference, some Northwest Friends will be visiting the 100th anniversary celebration of our mission work in Bolivia. Midyear boards/Representatives. Our mission work has been transitioning to its new status as a part of EFM, a united Friends mission organization. Jim announced upcoming area meetings, at which he and the YM clerks will meet with Friends to listen to their concerns. Jim reminded us that at YM 2018 several Friends pledged to give \$1000 each to help the YM budget, the

“challenge goal.” So far, \$36,000 has already been given, a great start. Jim reported a sense of hopefulness for the YM—our best days are still ahead of us.

7. Janelle Nordyke reported on the YM financial situation. She thanked Friends who gave to the YM. Our deficit is much less than been projected. Local church support has been declining since 2013. Janelle urged representatives to promote greater local church support. She briefly reviewed the budget approved at YM 2019 (income and expenditures).
8. Brad Holton reported for the Administrative Council. The AC held their retreat in December. Much of their work is still “in process.” The AC supervised the transition from Retha McCutchen to Jim Le Shana. AC is working to reorder *Faith and Practice*, making no changes to the actual language. AC has continued to work on listening to the churches. AC has been considering Barclay Press. AC appointed new members to the Tilikum board. AC has been considering changes to YM schedule; perhaps moving YM to a three day weekend rather than a week long schedule.
9. Debbie Harrison reported for the Visioning Task Force. The Task Force met in January 2019 for the first time since YM 2018. The Task Force is focusing on training for teachers, about spiritual giftedness, and other topics. The TF has made recommendations for changes to *NWYM Connection*, our electronic communication tool. The Task Force is also working on possible changes to area meetings; the Task Force will report to the Administrative Council, which will forward proposals regarding the area meeting structure to the churches for their consideration. The Task Force has met with several of the YM boards.
10. At 8:45 pm, Brad Holton led in prayer to adjourn the meeting, to meet again Saturday morning.

Saturday, January 26

11. Our mid-year sessions resumed Saturday morning, January 26, with a period of worship in song, led by Rob Whitaker. Jim Le Shana directed our attention to the words of a hymn we sang: “I was blind but now I see.” He encouraged us to keep our vision on God’s will for NWYM. Ken Beebe, administrator of Twin Rocks, announced that he will be drawing together Friends for an emphasis on prayer for NWYM; he invited Friends to contact him if they are interested in joining this work. Jim Le Shana led in prayer, and Friends dispersed to board and commission meetings.
12. Representatives meeting resumed at 9:00. Clerk Brad Holton gave several reminders to aid in business meeting process. Brad reported to the Representatives that the Administrative Council approved a new procedure for nominations on the floor of yearly meeting sessions. During the nomination approval process in business sessions, all nominees are asked to not be present. The nominees will be notified by the nominating committee after the approval process has been completed.
13. Debbie Harrison, assistant clerk, described a potential workshop (to be offered at YM in 2019) to be led by Jim Leonard, on “temperament training”—designed to help create understanding difference in each other as we work together on boards, commissions, and committees and some good basic training on getting along with others.
14. Lana Thurston reported for the nominating committee. The finance committee has asked that Carl Anderson be allowed to serve on both Friends Church Extension Fund and xxxx on an interim basis (not making a permanent change for these boards). This request was **approved**. The nominating committee proposed the following names:
Robert Hays, Rose Valley – Local Outreach

Jon Fodge, Peninsula – Global Outreach

Jim Leonard, South Salem – Local Outreach

These nominations were **approved**. Lana reminded us that some boards still need more members and she urged Friends to consider these needs.

15. Richard Sartwell reported for the Faith & Practice Revision Committee. The committee has only two members at this time. Richard underscored the request of the nominating committee for Friends to volunteer for boards.

*Acting on a recommendation of the Administrative Council, the F&P Committee proposes changes to remove reference to Barclay Press from *Faith and Practice*. The committee proposed specific language to implement this change. [See *Faith and Practice* addendum.] These changes were **approved as a first reading**.

*The foregoing decision led several Friends to raise questions about NWYM's future relationship with Barclay Press. For example, will BP have a book table at Yearly Meeting? What about certain printed materials BP owns, such as material concerning Friends in South America? The AC will continue to discuss these matters going forward. Jim Le Shana likened Barclay Press to other publishing houses over which NWYM has no authority; there are many possibilities before us.

*Clerk Brad Holton used the foregoing deliberation as an example of our need to follow the Spirit's leading, putting aside our own preferences.

16. Brad Holton turned our attention to a concern from George Fox University about rules for membership on the GFU Board of Trustees. The university has not provided us with a definitive proposal. Today we are considering the underlying issues, not trying to reach a decision about specific board membership rules. Brad rehearsed the history of the request from the university, the heart of which is to reduce the percentage of Friends on the GFU Board. We discussed the issues at some length.

17. We took a break at 10:14.

18. The representatives meeting resumed at 10:53.

19. Lana Thurston, for the nominating committee, presented another nomination:

Dan Burns, Destiny Friends – Leadership Development

This nomination was **approved**.

20. Mintha Muhr spoke for Board of Christian Education, to promote Kaleo Academy, a Quaker Leadership training program, aimed at students in grades 9-11. She urged Friends to encourage young people to learn about and attend Kaleo.

21. We returned to our discussion of the GFU Board membership issue. One Friend urged representatives to do a more thorough job of "vetting" GFU Board nominations. We discussed this and related matters. In general: how can we improve the relationship between the YM and GFU?

*The clerks will send a statement of the GFU Board proposal about Board membership to representatives before Yearly Meeting 2019 in order to facilitate our decision at that time.

22. We adjourned for lunch at 12:05. Brad Holton asked God's blessing on our meal together.

23. The representatives resumed meeting for business at 12:55.

24. In regard to the proposal concerning the GFU board: the clerks will continue dialogue with GFU leaders and ask about including Friends from other yearly meetings (and which yearly meetings) among those members of the Board counted as Friends. The clerks will report to representatives via email by April 1.

25. Clerk Brad Holton reminded Friends of Ken Beebe's task of organizing a prayer team for NWYM. He asked Friends to volunteer and/or recommend others to join this effort.

26. Northwest Yearly Meeting, meeting as representatives, adjourned to meet at annual sessions, July 21-24, 2019 at George Fox University, or at the call of the clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

Philip Smith, Recording Clerk

[*Faith and Practice addendum*]

Proposed Changes to the NWYM *Faith and Practice*
January 26, 2018

NWYM Administrative Council Minute 18-114 recommends to the Faith and Practice Committee “that references to Barclay Press be removed from F & P.” In response to that recommendation the Faith and Promise Committee presents the following changes for the action of the Representatives:

- Paragraph 7.08.13 under the responsibilities of the Board of Communications currently reads: “Promote Friends publications, books, and Barclay Press resources.”
 - **We propose this paragraph be changed to read: “*Promote publications, books, and other resources compatible with the mission of Northwest Yearly Meeting of Friends and the statements comprising ‘WHAT FRIENDS BELIEVE’.*”**
- Paragraph 7.08.14 under the responsibilities of the Board of Communications currently reads: “Identify ways to further support the ministry of Barclay Press.”
 - **We propose this paragraph be omitted.**
- On page 91 of the printed version of *Faith and Practice*, under the Section entitled “Organizations Serving Northwest Yearly Meeting”, Barclay Press is included with this language: “Originally founded by Northwest Yearly Meeting, Barclay Press is a not-for-profit publishing house serving evangelical Friends through online and print communication. It is governed by a self-perpetuating board of directors.”
 - **We propose the listing of Barclay Press and this description be omitted.**

Submitted by the Faith and Practice Committee
Jim Fields and Richard Sartwell