

Yearly Meeting Update 2014

Hope & A Future

For I know that plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

—Jeremiah 29:11

- Board Ministry Reports & Plans
 - ***Christian Education & Discipleship:***
 - Michelle Akins (Newberg Friend's children & married couple's pastor) has provided visitation to local meetings to talk about Sunday school and children's ministry. If interested: michelle@newbergfriends.org.
 - Board of CE presents Conversations in Discipleship to local meetings. Board of CE is available to come to local meetings to present this program.
 - 2nd annual writing contest: Sharing Your Story. Published booklets available through the YM.
 - Small group study: "Live it, Tell It" has been available to churches as an "effective tool to disciple others in answering the call of God in their lives".
 - Youth and Young Adult Peace Promotion Grant. One went to a youth at Reedwood who developed a board game to promote peace. Each area was provided one game.
 - ***Communications:***
 - Currently in transition due to changes within the YM staff.
 - Improving electronic methods of communication.
 - ***Congregational Care:***
 - Continual availability of training using "Love and Logic".
 - Fine Arts emphasis at YM sessions: Drum circle, Art Fair.
 - Nate Macy, travelling minister of the Arts in Worship Ministry continues to be available to lead worship and seminars in the area of training for worship using discernment and the arts.
 - Marriage celebration expanded to honor marriages at 50, 60, 65, 70, and 75 years.
 - Natural Church Development continues to be available to use in helping discern where God is leading congregations.
 - Scholarship assistance is available for those wishing to attend the annual discernment training at GF Evangelical Seminary.
 - ***Global Outreach:***
 - Strengthen NWYM global outreach focus& develop NWYM fields.
 - Partner with YM churches in global outreach.

Yearly Meeting Update 2014

- Develop tools/resources for short-term service.
- Deepen involvement in peace, compassion & justice.
- Increase number of people engaging in ministry, including peacemaking, beyond the NW.
- **Youth and Young Adult Ministry:**
 - Support and encourage participation in NWYM camps, Samuel School Bible Quizzing, Volleyball Tournament, Midwinter and other programs.
 - Friends Summit 2014 in San Diego, December 28 – January 1: bringing youth and young adults together from around the nation. Registration opens September 1st at friendssummit.com.
 - No Mid-Winter camp this year to focus on the Friends Summit.
- **Local Outreach:**
 - Aim to live into I Peter 3:15 “But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect”.
 - Encourage knowledge of the depth and breadth of YM outreach to promote creativity, discernment and advancement of the Kingdom of God, carried on through the work of the Latino Ministries and Church Planting subcommittees.
- **Elders:**
 - Emphasize prayer as a central theme throughout YM churches.
 - Elders will take time for intentional prayer.
 - Help local elders to feel encouraged, supported, resourced.
 - Elders will stay informed about the needs/issues of local pastors.
- **Treasurer’s Report**
 - 2013 Income below budget at \$1,223,708, lower than total actual expenses of \$1,270,580 for a \$46,872 deficit.
 - Local Church Support fell \$46,073 (about 8.5%) from 2012.
 - 2015 Approved budget with \$1,204,605 in planned expenditures (1% lower than 2014 and 4% less than 2013 actual expenditures).
 - Attendance in NWYM churches has dropped by 7% since 2007 (though has risen since 2011). The number of churches >100 in attendance is decreased which results in the inability to pay pastors full-time. During that same time, the support local churches send to the YM has dropped by 23 – 25%.

Yearly Meeting Update 2014

- Query Discussion

- Query #16 regarding addictive substances: Approved with minor adjustments to proposed revision:

How am I attending to the Spirit of Christ in order to live a life so dependent on Him that I avoid any substances, practice or activity that claims time or attention that is His or has the potential to harm myself or others? How do I avoid enabling others to pursue interest, activities, or substances that could ensnare them? How do I educate myself and others about the destructive potential of alcohol and other drugs? How do I discipline my mind and body to serve as an instrument of the Lord?

- Faith and Practice Statement on Human Sexuality

- Discussion and discernment occurred, could not come to consensus. This will then return to the archives and does not come back.
- Reflections on Transformation from Tom Stave, NYWM Clerk – see attached.
- Response from Becky Ankeny, NWYM Superintendent – see attached.

- GFU Update

- Transgender student and housing:
 - Transgender student requested to move from female-only housing in April to male-only housing in September.
 - Multiple other housing options offered.
 - GFU sought Title IX exemption, granted in May.
 - Complaint was closed.
 - Student is remaining at GFU.
- See Shelley for complete GFU handout.

- Evening Worship

- Becky Ankeny (Sunday).
- Noah Baker Merrill (Monday – Wednesday).
- Watch the services on-line through the NWYM website (**HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!**).

Interested in participating in one of the boards or committees?

YM Questions?

Contact Shelley