

Representatives Committee Report to Intermountain Yearly Meeting Annual Session 2021

The Representatives Committee of IMYM is entrusted with the general care of the business of the yearly meeting between the annual sessions. The committee is also a vehicle for two-way communication between the monthly meetings and the Yearly Meeting. Representatives Committee consists of the Clerk Lisa Motz-Storey, Recording Clerk Sara Keeney, one Representative from each local monthly meeting or worship group, the clerks of IMYM committees and others including: Yearly Meeting Presiding co-Clerks Gale Toko-Ross and Valerie Ireland, Arrangements Committee Clerk Laura Peterson, Nominating Committee Clerk Nancy Rice, Ministry and Counsel Committee Clerk Ted Bordwell, Procedures Committee Clerk Cynthia Smith, Finance Committee Clerk Vance Marshall, Treasurer Jerry Peterson, Web Clerk Polly Washburn, Delegates Committee Clerk Sara Keeney and the Peace and Service Committee Clerk (currently unfilled). Also invited are the Friendly Adult Presences from Senior Young Friends, leadership of Senior Young Friends, and representatives of the four regional meetings.

We met virtually four times in the past year as we strove to be nimble to meet the challenges of the pandemic. In years past, Representatives Committee generally met by phone in October, in person for a weekend in February, and again in person on the first afternoon of Gathering. But in the year since the 2020 IMYM virtual Gathering, Representatives Committee met by videoconference on four occasions.

I believe that the shift to virtual meetings had the effect of increasing participation. We had high attendance at all of our meetings, and Friends were respectful and engaged as we strove to conduct essential business during the pandemic. However, the toll of the past year and individual challenges faced by many members meant that some committees were not able to conduct their work effectively or even to meet. Perhaps this past year should be considered a fallow year for some parts of IMYM, with grace and understanding for all that we have faced.

Much of the business that we conducted had to do with Nominating Committee and the challenge of filling positions, especially with the added complication of the pandemic and whether Gathering, committee meetings, etc. would be in-person or entirely virtual. We needed flexible descriptions of positions to be filled to encompass this uncertainty. In September, the Nominating Committee called us to reconsider emphasis on volunteers and to think about payment for various positions. The committee has encountered again and again the inability of able people to serve as volunteers, as in the past. After productive discussion, the Representatives Committee approved the following minute:

2020.9-19.4 The Representatives Committee of Intermountain Yearly Meeting acknowledges the challenge of thinking in more flexible terms as we find our way forward as a faith organization. We seek to respond to the current challenges in our society and in our world and to find new ways of honoring our Quaker practice, our fellowship and our guidance by Spirit. In that Light, we accept the Nominating Committee proposal of offering to pay for some positions in IMYM that have traditionally been filled by volunteers.

Examples might include: Web Clerk, Directory Assistant, Historian/Archivist, Clerk of Children's Yearly Meeting. We acknowledge that not all people who are willing to do this work have the privilege of being able to volunteer a significant amount of their time.

Representatives Committee, in coordination with Finance Committee, will be developing a proposal for one or more paid positions beginning in 2021.

In December, we approved a minute to create two paid positions, a *Gathering Technical Lead* and a position within the Youth Working Group. In the spring, Tom Vosburg was contracted to serve as the Gathering Technical Lead. We determined that the Youth Coordinator position was not needed. In April, we approved the creation of a paid position to carry out the duties of Recording Clerk for Intermountain Yearly Meeting, Recording Clerk for Representatives Committee, and Historian/Archivist. This position has not yet been filled.

The Faith and Practice Committee proposed a robust structure and process for undertaking a major revision of our *IMYM Faith and Practice*. Their minute was approved.

We noted that some Friends would like to have more input on the Land Acknowledgement. A working group was formed to work on this complicated and important issue. The working group was subsequently named the Land Acknowledgement Working Group (LAWG).

As clerk, I will continue to remind the members of Representatives Committee to keep the channels of communication open and active as we facilitate a two-way dialogue between monthly meetings and the Yearly Meeting.

Lisa Motz-Storey, Representatives Committee Clerk