

INDEX TO IMYM SUBSTANTIVE MINUTES 2017-2019

A.

Affiliations

MINUTE 20180615(a): Friends recommend a 3-year exploration of affiliation with Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW), providing financial support for two observers to help answer our questions and concerns. We charge these observers (Dick Grossman and John Gallagher were mentioned) to report back annually to the yearly meeting on their experiences. Some have expressed particular concern over QEW's insistence on non-nuclear solutions to climate and energy problems, and the alignment of their decision-making process with Quaker process.

Archives

MINUTE 20170616(1): We agree to Representatives Committee's recommendation to store our archives as PDF-A files on the cloud and on DVD (as backup) and to write a deed of gift for the material currently stored at Haverford College. We recommend leaving the exact storage plans for the cloud up to the discretion of the archivist.

B.

Border Convergence

MINUTE 06172017(4): IMYM endorses the 2017 Border Convergence sponsored by the School of the Americas Watch as a nonviolent means of opposing the militarization of the border and the mistreatment of those who cross it. (This event will be Nov. 10-12, 2017 in Nogales, Mexico.)

Border Issues

MINUTE 20190614(a): Equality, community and integrity are foundations of Quaker belief. We also recognize that these testimonies are rooted in the Spirit of God. We affirm that there is that of God in every one and that the Holy Spirit calls us to treat the stranger, the foreigner, the immigrant with particular care and concern..."for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me..." Matt 25:35 (NRSV)

Therefore, as immigrants and refugees in our community encounter trials such as family separation, incarceration, internment and deportation, Intermountain Yearly Meeting is called to put these beliefs into action. We will support these neighbors in their daily lives, providing aid, companionship, friendship and safety in whatever ways we are able.

We affirm the right of refugees from all types of violence to apply for asylum in this country, including those whose lives were threatened by rape, domestic violence and abuse. We affirm the right of those seeking asylum to be treated with respect, dignity, and due process in a timely fashion during the application procedures. We each take the responsibility to educate ourselves to rely on standard documented information by respected reliable sources. We call upon the government of the United States to honor its legal obligations under the Refugee Act of 1980 and the 1967 United Nations Protocol on Refugees to provide protection to those who qualify as refugees.

We recognize that our national immigration system is in dire need of attention, funding and fixing, which includes an increase in the number of people allowed in legally. We ask that the Customs and Border Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement be held responsible and accountable through congressional action and oversight to follow International and U.S. Law(s). We call for a process that is humane and respects the dignity of all persons applying for legal entry or asylum, including women, LGBTQ people and people of color, and those fleeing places that don't honor the standards of life, liberty and the security of person as stated in the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights" (1948).

MINUTE 20180616(b): IMYM of Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) declares to our country, our government, and the world that we, as a Yearly Meeting and as Friends, stand on the side of equality, community, humanity and peace through justice. We condemn our government's abuse of human rights on the border and in our communities. We call for an end to the policy of zero tolerance which denies migrants the right to apply for asylum at the border, as is required by U.S. and international law, which forcibly separates children and infants from their parents, which detains immigrants and asylum seekers in prisons or internment camps, and which forces more and more migrants to choose dangerous routes into our country, causing many deaths and much suffering.

C.

Children's Yearly Meeting

MINUTE 06172017(1): CYM will be staffed by a rotation of monthly meetings. Each meeting or group of meetings would have a 2-year responsibility to run the CYM program. One person from each group would have a 3-year responsibility. That person apprentices or shadows with the outgoing meeting in preparation for working with their own meeting for the following 2 years.

The rotation would be:

- Boulder and Ft. Collins: Shadow 2017. To serve 2018 and 2019.
- Mountain View (Denver) and Colorado Springs: Shadow 2019. To serve 2020 and 2021.
- New Mexico Region (including Durango and volunteers from Utah): Shadow 2021. To serve 2022 and 2023.
- Pima and nearby worship groups: Shadow 2023. To serve 2024 and 2025.
- Tempe, Phoenix, and Flagstaff: Shadow 2025. To serve 2026 and 2027.

Climate Change

MINUTE 20190614(d):

"In our every deliberation, we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations."

Ancient Haudenosaunee Philosophy

From the Great Law of the Haudenosaunee, founding document of the Iroquois Confederacy

“It would go a long way to caution and direct people in their use of the world, that they were better studied and knowing the Creation of it. For how could [they] find the confidence to abuse it, while they should see the Great Creator stare them in the face, in all and every part of it?”

William Penn, 1693

“The produce of the Earth is a gift from our gracious creator to the inhabitants, and to impoverish the earth now to support outward greatness appears to be an injury to the succeeding age.”

John Woolman, 1772

“The environmental crisis is at root a spiritual and religious crisis; we are called to look again at the real purpose of being on this earth.”

London Yearly Meeting, 1988

We have gathered for a week to consider “Faith, Fear, and Our Future,” acknowledging that we are now living during a time of climate crisis. We come to this moment grounded in the testimonies of the Religious Society of Friends. The testimonies of community, equality, stewardship, and integrity call us forward in our work. We recognize that peace is increasingly linked to climate justice, both globally and locally.

Care for Earth, for all of creation, is a core spiritual value and a practical necessity. Until we make peace with Earth, we cannot make peace with each other.

We unite with those who are already experiencing the stresses of this crisis, displaced by: rising seas, hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, drought, fires, lower agricultural production, famine, and the threats to human health posed by increasingly warm temperatures and variable weather patterns. These changes can lead to adverse health consequences, scarcity, and conflict, as well as mass migration. Migration pressures, in particular, link emerging climate refugees to a web of increasingly strained and stressful social and governmental structures that exacerbate economic inequality and undermine racial and environmental justice.

We know that there is much about these times that can cause us to feel fearful, angry, and helpless. We seek to be gentle with ourselves and one another, to take time for our feelings, seek ways to release our own stress, as we continue the work. At the same time, our integrity insists that we acknowledge our part in causing the current crisis, and accept our responsibility to act.

From a global perspective, Americans have used, and continue to use, a disproportionately large share of fossil fuel resources, while those who are most vulnerable to climate disruptions overwhelmingly bear the negative impacts. Although we are clear that speed is not our only priority, we need to face the reality that there are real tipping points, and

our national failures to act are decisions with as much impact as other action choices we can make.

With this awareness, we ask ourselves what more we could do, and together we have settled on the following:

- We continue to seek the Light through worship and prayerful consideration. We shall be led by the Spirit as we confront the realities of climate change.
- We seek to understand our role as humans, and the dangers unfolding through climate change. We continue to educate ourselves rigorously on these matters.
- We commit to learning about and engaging in collective action and advocacy at the local, state, national, and global levels.
- Compelled by deep concern for the care of our life-giving planet and the irreversible effects of current climate disruption for generations, we support with our voices and our witness legislation such as H.R. 763, the bipartisan Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019, looking to Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) and other organizations for guidance.
- We support legislative initiatives designed to lead to equitable and effective carbon emission reductions and/or safe carbon sequestration.
- We commit to act on our responsibility, both in our personal use of resources and in the management of our meetinghouse resources. We ask: How can we have greater integrity in these matters?
 - Perhaps by tracking or reducing first our personal, and then our communal carbon emissions through conservation, load-shifting, recycling, composting, considering the carbon impact of what we eat and without food waste, and use of low-carbon methods of personal transportation.
 - Perhaps by divestment from fossil fuels as individuals or communities.
- We commit to support and practice regenerative agriculture to safely sequester carbon.
- We support policies and practices intended to preserve as much biodiversity as possible to reduce species extinction.
- We understand that global support for the education of women (which in turn is strongly correlated to lower birth rates) and support for reproductive health are among the top five individual climate action tools identified by [Project Drawdown](#), since having one fewer child (anywhere in the world) decreases a life-time of carbon emissions.
- Friends might consider a population-focused carbon-offset approach, like that of “Quaker Popoffsets,” as described by Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) at <https://www.quakerearthcare.org/article/quaker-popoffsets>: “Quaker PopOffsets is a program that gives people a means of offsetting their carbon emissions by helping them fund voluntary family planning for people who might otherwise not be able to access it.”
- We seek to create examples and patterns, carrying this message forward to other Friends’ communities and to others who carry concern and love for the earth.

D.

Diplomacy

MINUTE 20180615(d): War with North Korea would impose disastrous costs in lives and treasure on the people of the Korean Peninsula, the United States and the world. We urge the Trump administration and our members of Congress to fully support a path of diplomacy

with North Korea based on negotiation and dialogue. This process will require patience, give and take, and a commitment to preventing war.

E.

Environment

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F.

Financial Matters

MINUTE 20190613(b): IMYM will create a new line item, the purpose of which is to encourage intra-visitation among Meetings and worship groups within IMYM. The presiding clerk will approve proposals from monthly meetings and Friends, which should have mutual support from Meetings and visitors. In two years, this mechanism shall be revisited for any revisions and direction. [Note: \$3,000 was put in the budget for this activity in 2019.]

Friends General Conference

MINUTE 06172017(3): IMYM supports a FGC institutional assessment of systemic racism in FGC and its constituent meetings. We will consider participating in any self-examination exercises that may be part of this assessment.

G.

Gun Violence

MINUTE 20180616(a) - As Quakers, we believe that every person has worth and dignity. It is essential to respond to the results of gun violence in our society with voices and action.

We call on our legislators to stand with the Florida teens and youth throughout the country who are speaking out against certain policies of the National Rifle Association, specifically the NRA's refusal to support a ban on the purchase and ownership by civilians of assault rifles.

Begin by reinstating the ban on assault-style weapons. Continue with thorough background checks and close the gun-sales loopholes. Promote conversations, forums and discussions to bring about change in every community to combat the sources of violence we see today.

Stand with our courageous high-school students who are urgently leading the way toward a safer more peaceful society. Congress must act immediately to protect each sacred life. We will support lawmakers who will make the changes to the laws that we need. Too many lives have been destroyed by these terrible mass shootings.

Join the many voices speaking out. The tide is turning. It's time to come together and support life-giving change in our communities.

I.

Immigration

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Incorporation

MINUTE 20170616(1): We agree to pursue incorporation in the state of Colorado. An ad-hoc group will work on bylaws that fit with our beliefs. The group will report to Representatives Committee at its winter 2018 meeting.

MINUTE 06172017(2): IMYM approved pursuing incorporation, pending the redrafting of articles of incorporation and bylaws. IMYM appoints an ad hoc working group to redraft bylaws and articles of incorporation for a Colorado nonprofit corporation. The clerk is Nick Mocerri of the Flagstaff Meeting. These documents will reflect our Quaker values and processes. This group will have the assistance of other Quaker organizations.

Articles and bylaws will be reviewed by a licensed Colorado attorney with appropriate expertise. The new articles and bylaws will be shared with each meeting well in advance of Representatives Committee winter 2018 meeting. If in their discernment the new articles and bylaws meet the concerns raised here at the annual sessions, Representatives Committee has the authority to approve them.

Intra-visitation

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J.

Junior Young Friends

MINUTE 20190614(c): The JYFs would like to ask for the Escalante Lounge for our hangout space and Centennial for the cantina. We would like to ask for Centennial specifically for the cantina since the cantina has always been part of the JYF experience, and we would like to continue that.

M.

Meeting Location

MINUTE 20180615(b): Representatives Committee recommends to IMYM that we move our site from Ghost Ranch to Fort Lewis College with combined care and enthusiasm. We further recommend the creation and funding of a transition working group to facilitate the move.

MINUTE 20170616(3): IMYM will stay at Ghost Ranch through the 2018 annual gathering. We will stay open to the possibility of moving our location, readying ourselves for a move, when and if it becomes clear that we are ready. We will revisit this issue in a year.

MINUTE 20170616(4): In the event that Yearly Meeting decides to move from Ghost Ranch, Ft. Lewis College would be our recommended first choice, based on current information.

Meeting Location Logistics

MINUTE 20180615(c): Representatives Committee recommends the formation of a transition working group consisting of a clerk (Charlene Weir), facilities liaison (Janie Cravens), operations person (Leslie Stephens), youth working group clerks (Eric Swanson and Cindy Yurth), and Arrangements Clerk (Laura Peterson) in order to begin the process of researching,

planning, and organizing a move to Fort Lewis College, including making a decision about when to make the move. This committee will report back to representatives committee at their telephone meeting on August 29th. This work will lead to the formation of a clear plan of next steps for moving, to be presented in October.

N.

New Meetings

MINUTE 20190613(a): We approved with joy requests from Quaker House Santa Fe and Montrose (Colorado) Meeting requesting affiliation in IMYM.

North Korea

MINUTE 20180615(d): War with North Korea would impose disastrous costs in lives and treasure on the people of the Korean Peninsula, the United States and the world. We urge the Trump administration and our members of Congress to fully support a path of diplomacy with North Korea based on negotiation and dialogue. This process will require patience, give and take, and a commitment to preventing war.

P.

Pay as Led

MINUTE 20180614(a): Representatives Committee recommends continuing our pay as led experiment through 2019.

MINUTE 20170616(2): IMYM will experiment with pay as led in 2018 because we want to change our relationship to money, we want to challenge our status quo, we want to be led by the Spirit, and we want to invite diversity and inclusiveness. We want to ensure that money is not a barrier to attending yearly meeting. We would like to spend 2017 preparing with education, seeking, seasoning, and planning.

Peace and Social Concerns

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Quaker Earthcare Witness

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U.

Universal Design

MINUTE 20190614(b): Friends seek to guide their activities and their organizations by principles that respect equality of every person and foster community for all through broad participation in the life of our Meetings. In the 2019 and future gatherings of Intermountain Yearly Meeting of Friends, we will seek to create an inclusive environment that encourages full participation of all in the life of our Yearly Meeting. We seek guidance and recommendations from those who have experience with various accessibility needs and experience with creating universally accessible built environments and programs. *[Note: Universal design is described as "the process of creating products and built environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation. Universal design benefits everyone and promotes a more inclusive environment for individuals with disabilities. Unfortunately, physical and attitudinal barriers limit the full involvement of people with disabilities in their communities. Promoting a more inclusive environment helps to challenge an "ableist" world view by increasing recognition of*

disability as a diversity factor...Designing for universal access from the start prevents the need for more costly and often less pleasing adjustments."
[\[https://www.apa.org/pi/disability/resources/publications/newsletter/2013/11/inclusiveenvironment.aspx\]](https://www.apa.org/pi/disability/resources/publications/newsletter/2013/11/inclusiveenvironment.aspx)