

**Willamette Quarterly Meeting
Meeting for Business Minutes
Camp Lutherwood, Cheshire, Oregon
May 3 & 4, 2025**

Presiding Clerk: Robert Burton, Corvallis Monthly Meeting. Recording Clerk: Susan Easton, Corvallis Monthly Meeting.

Meetings in Attendance: South Mountain Friends Meeting, Eugene Friends Meeting, Bridge City Friends Meeting, Corvallis Friends Meeting, Multnomah Friends Meeting, Salem Friends Meeting, Florence Worship Group, Mountain View Worship Group. Paul Christiansen, Clerk of North Pacific Yearly Meeting, and Claire Hannapel, AFSC, were also in attendance.

Our Meeting began with silent worship.

Treasurer's Report submitted by Lyn Gordon Treasurer, Willamette Quarterly Meeting, presented by Nora Barker, Eugene Friends Meeting. **Report accepted.**

Ministry and Counsel Committee Report: The purpose is to be available for questions that come up at Quarterly Meeting. No other report was given.

Report of Representative to Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. Natalie Ramsland, Multnomah Friends Meeting, was nominated to replace Jane Snyder, Multnomah and Bridge City Friends Meetings, as representative. **Nomination approved.**

Proposals for the 2026 WQM: (from preparatory ad hoc groups meeting in the hour before MFB)

Organization, Needs, Structure for growth, and Communication: Report given by Valeria Breiten, South Mountain Friends Meeting

A proposal was raised to consider returning to holding two or three Quarterly Meetings rather than one (in May). Willamette Quarterly Meeting approved.

A February WQM would focus on Meeting for Business (corporation meeting, budget committee) and an educational session. Willamette Quarterly Meeting approved.

The May spring retreat would focus on State of Society Reports, and spiritual sessions. It could be ongoing at Lutherwood or another central location. **The proposal was approved.**

In past years, the February WQM was hosted by Corvallis. Another, central, location could be considered. A fall QM could also be held as zoom only. It would include an educational session.

Beloved Community: Report given by Joe Snyder, Multnomah Friends Meeting
BC emphasizes the importance of QM to large and small monthly meetings, and for all ages. They see a need for more publicity to build excitement for the QM. They highlight the need for more time for social activities, education, and spiritual sharing, and the group strongly supports reinstating a February meeting.

BC would like to have representatives from each monthly meeting and suggest longer terms for the Clerk and Recording Clerk. **This report will be forwarded to the Clerk of the February 2026 WQM Meeting for Business.**

Report and Proposals from Children's Program Ad Hoc Committee: Report given by Susanna Hebner, Multnomah Friends Meeting.

School and sports activities interfere with QM. Also, WQM is being held one week after PNQM. Some children go to PNQM where they know other kids and it is hard for families to go to both, especially a week apart.

- To encourage families to come to QM we need to let them know financial aid is available from WQM, as well as from several MMs.
- We need to involve kids in choosing activities they would look forward to. This can include both service projects and fun activities.
- We should involve older kids in working with younger kids. Pay older youth to help staff the children's program.
- We should create inter-meeting opportunities for kids to get together in between quarterly and annual sessions.
- We need more volunteers to work with the P kids.

This report will be forwarded to the Planning Committee for the May 2026 WQM retreat.

Junior Friends (ages 14-18): Report given by Ron Braithwaite, Multnomah Friends Meeting

Issues regarding Junior Friends program:

- PNQM had the most Junior Friends (8) in the past 3 years. Five were new and 3 couldn't attend. WQM has one attending.
- Who are the junior Friends in WQM?
- PNQM and WQM are one week apart.

- Transportation to QMs.
- Sleeping quarters for teens.
- There is a group chat available for teens from both QMs.

Recommendations for the Jr Friends program

- Identify all 14-18 year old teens in WQM, regardless of whether they regularly go to Meeting.
- Delegate time on WQM schedule for JFs (evening/afternoon events) run by JFs.
- Hold WQM JF events separate from QM gathering.
- Work on logistics to make it easier for JFs to get to JF events.
- Get JFs (regardless of attendance at MM) on the chat group so they meet other JFs. Send contact information to Ron Braithwaite to apply to be on the chat.
- WQM shouldn't move around on the calendar.

This report will be forwarded to the Clerk of the February 2026 WQM Meeting for Business for consultation and preparation in advance.

NPYM (North Pacific Yearly Meeting) **Clerk's Report:** given by Paul Christiansen, Eastside (Seattle) Friends Meeting

NPYM is scheduled to be held at the University of Montana in Missoula, MT, July 9-13. The Montana legislature passed legislation: a transphobic bathroom law which has been stayed by court action until, at least, May 16. The University of MT has created a policy to comply with the law, but is not enforcing it while the law is stayed. The situation is altering rapidly.

There are alternative locations possible, but Montana has been passed over repeatedly. A called meeting will be held May 10, 9:30 PDT, on zoom. There will be worship sharing followed by discernment.

The Clerk encourages Friends to consider accompanying trans folk for support. What ways might each of us resist? He also encourages youth and young adults to come to NPYM.

Comments about the report: There is no other place to hold NPYM in Montana. Keep in mind the same danger applies in every state. We should be clear to Montana and to trans Friends, where we stand. What would you do if UM was considering racial segregation? As a matter of safety, a trans Friend would like to see us work especially with women. One Friend has a concern for [cis] women in shower rooms, etc. and asks not to throw other Friends under the bus.

Willamette Quarterly Meeting was not asked to reach unity on the main question of whether NPYM Annual Session should be relocated, whether WQM should participate in the Annual Session in Missoula, or the special arrangements that would be needful if so. The NPYM Clerk thanked Meeting for its reflections and comments, urging each and all to take part in the Called Meeting on May 10th.

NPYM Announcement by John Selker, Corvallis Friends Meeting

NPYM is considering whether to join Friends General Conference (FGC). Information will be sent out before the annual meeting. Three NPYM Meetings already belong (Olympia FM, Lopez Island FM, Multnomah FM) to FGC. NPYM is soliciting comments from Friends regarding advantages/disadvantages of joining with FGC. **Report accepted.**

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) : Report given by Paul Barker, Eugene Friends Meeting.

FCNL is now established in all 50 states. There are five Advocacy Teams (AT) in Oregon.

Each AT lobbies primarily on one priority topic each year. This year the focus is **Aid/Not Arms: Opening the way to peace in the Middle East**. There is a particular focus on restoring funding for UNRWA.

The working group focuses on developing non-threatening relationships with Congressmen, Senators, and their staffs.

The groups have zoom connections with representatives, meet in person, and write letters. They welcome people interested in joining this work. **Report accepted.**

Announcements:

State of Society Reports are posted on the bulletin board to be read aloud at some point during the weekend.

Claire Hannapel, Donor Liaison for AFSC's West region, will speak Saturday evening after dinner.

Sunday morning, Friends will rework one of three parables about *how we might be in the world*.

Meeting for Business was adjourned and will reconvene on Sunday morning.

Continuation of Meeting for Business on Sunday May 4, 2025.

Nominating Committee Report. Presented by Bob Burton, Corvallis Friends Meeting

Report was held over to a special Sunday morning Meeting for Business. Clerk requested the Meeting to approve the slate of nominees. A concern was raised regarding a nominee who was on the Nominating Committee. This was resolved by Meeting nominating the Friend from the floor, who was then reinserted into the list of Nominations.

Nominations were approved with exception of Junior Friends Advisors. (That nomination will be labored over and a report will be ready for the expected February WQM business meeting.)