

Mid Year Board Notes

Friday January 27, 2017

Ron Myers, Camas - Referring to bullet point #6, are we sure we have come to this? ("not able to function w/the current degree of division?")

Mareesa Fawver, Newberg - What are we discerning about right now?
- Brad explained that this was a report from the AC. If this meeting reaches consensus to overturn it, the reps can do so. God can present another way.

Carol Whorton, Klamath Falls, how many churches? Brad responded that 4-5 who have minuted, though the new YM may not be limited to those 4-5.

Julie Peyton, West Hills, Admonished Elders and AC. Apologized for the difficult feelings West Hills has brought to many in the YM. Sees this decision as a failure of our Quaker faith - if we wait long enough, we will eventually hear the same thing. Failure of our Christian faith. She bears some responsibility for these failures.
-Brad accepted Julie's apology and apologized for any failures on his part.

Amber Joplin, Spokane, impressed with the wisdom, insight, kindness, and careful wording of the leadership of the YM. This seems like a business decision, not a spiritual one.

Vick Peterson, River of Life - This breaks his heart. We're all losers in this process. He sees this as a chance to move on from this issue and focus on ministry.

Penny Krueger, Lynnwood - Thanked AC. This is not necessarily a failure.

Phil Smith, Newberg - He would prefer that we stick together and love each other, even though we think the other is wrong. He also recognizes there is a limit to human patience, and sometimes we just get worn out. It's crucial to do what we can to maintain strong communication between these two yearly meetings. We will need each other. He is committed to being a part of that, if possible.

Sharon Todd, Clackamas Park - This is a release so those who do not abide w/F&P can follow Christ's leading for them.

Barbara Dalziel, South Salem - God has told us to wait. Divided church. The way to unity is not to push people out the door until only like minded people are left. Would like for us to give full consideration to the idea of waiting.

Anna Baker, North Valley - Appreciates the spirit with which this was done. Hopes we can find a lot of ways to work together.

Retha McCutchen, superintendent, stood to emphasize that churches who are divided and have not already made a minute, do not have to make an immediate decision.

Myrna Tuning, Homedale - We need to pray without an agenda.

Bernie Bosnjak, Hillsboro - Resonated with Ron's question about whether we're sure the YM can't function. In her eyes, the YM does function with this discussion. Hopes we will hold this decision for discernment.

Mareesa Fawver, Newberg - Would urge us to remember that when we talk about human sexuality, we are talking about people, not issues. Mareesa said we were pretending LGBTQ people were not in this room. She apologized to them for that.

Jim Hawthorne, Olympic View - Feels that we are called to sit with this for as long as God wants. Thinks this is saying, "This is hard. We don't like it. Let's kill ourselves."

Howard Macy, Newberg - This is not the first time we have disagreed. Doubtful that any local meeting is hindered in following its call to service because of this disagreement. Used the example of the early church. Not faithful.

Alan Weinacht, Greenleaf - We're rehashing what the AC has already spent a great amount of time on. Greenleaf would support the work the AC has already done.

Brad Holton, clerk, clarified that it this is a report from the AC. It would require consensus from the Reps to go in a different.

Mareesa Fawver, Newberg - asked whether it was necessary for reps to overturn this with a "no," or if a complete, fleshed out plan would have to be created and approved be necessary.

- Brad spoke at length about how hard this decision was.

Mike Slothower, River of Life - River of Life has come to the same conclusion.

Tiz Walker, Hillsboro - Can we have dual citizenship?

- Brad: I was not prepared to answer that question.

Anya Lawrence, Spokane - Could we have a F&P that reflected our different beliefs?

Dan Reimer, Rosedale - Rosedale thanks the AC for their work. Trusts that everyone is seeking Christ, even those with whom he doesn't agree.

Paul Anderson, North Valley - Appreciate the sensitivity of the AC, believes this represents where we are. How do we live with what is?

Saturday, January 28, 2017, 9:00 am

Ron Myers, Camas - Discussed the history of the F&P addition that gave the AC the power to make decisions on behalf of NWYM when the YM was not in session. Is the task of this meeting to provide another way, or is this meeting to give advice as to how the AC has ---?

Tiz Walker, Hillsboro - Asking for clarification: if consensus is not reached today, this AC decision stands?

- Brad: Correct.

Mareesa Fawver, Newberg - 5.05.09

In F&P 5.05.09 (When the Yearly Meeting is not in session, and the matter under consideration is time sensitive, the Administrative Council is authorized to take action on behalf of the entire Yearly Meeting, reporting such action to the Yearly Meeting in a timely manner. The Administrative Council is always authorized to take action on matters within its designated areas of responsibility.)

(a) How is this time sensitive?

-Debbie: There was going to be fracturing (churches who have submitted affirming minutes), and the AC prayerfully discerned this was the most structurally sound way forward.

(b) How do reps make a decision today on the report they were given yesterday, without time to confer with their church?

- Brad

(c) Is this a decision by the AC that churches will be able to appeal?

- Debbie: No.

Jim Hawthorne, Olympic View - Haven't we already reached consensus on this?

There is a whole section in the F&P on the creation of a new yearly meeting.

- Brad: We've considered that. No areas are in consensus enough to form a new YM on their own.

Philip Fendall, West Chehalem - Read a statement communicating that his church approves the AC's decision and will be praying for them as they move forward.

Penny Krueger, Lynwood - Reps are known and trusted by their faith communities. Reps don't come with instructions from their church, but are trusted with the role of discerning when they are here.

Forrest Cammack, Tigard - Thanked the AC & Elders for their time and effort. Knows they are heartbroken, and so is he. As much as he hates this decision, he thinks its right, and that this is the only way forward.

Edith White, Meridian - We have been given an opportunity to come up with a plan other than dividing the yearly meeting. Everyone is guilty of not following part of the F&P. Let's hit reset and all gather together and follow the entire Faith & Practice, and wait upon the Lord together, instead of waiting in our own corners.

Jeanne Magee Hazel, Scotts Mills - Read a statement that began with, "Who is God?"

Bernie Bosnjak, Hillsboro - Do churches who submitted appeals to the Elders' report automatically get added to the YM?

-Brad: No.

Elizabeth Price, Eugene - In the YM, we have churches who are:

(1) Affirming and have said they want to stay in the YM.

(2) Affirming of the F&P and cannot be in fellowship with those who do not comply with the F&P.

(3) Those in the middle, who will be ripped apart by this decision.

Unless churches come to consensus to stay in NWYM, the default should be that they automatically become part of the new YM. Elizabeth thinks that would result in less of a loss in community for these split churches.

-Retha: Regarding properties, the transition committee will determine how

-Brad: It would be illogical for churches to default to a new, undefined YM.

Julie Peyton, West Hills - can new YM churches meet together to discuss this before lunch, then can we come back together after lunch?

Howard Macy, Newberg - If churches don't leave the YM by June 30, 2018, do they forfeit their property if they then decide to leave NWYM?

-Brad: No.

Howard: Strikes him as odd that churches would have to sign on and agree to a F&P stance we have already said as a YM needs to change.

Howard: Is the urgency of this issue based on churches threatening to leave unless other churches are kicked out?

-Brad: No.

Howard: This is the wrong decision.

Anna Baker, North Valley - This is a big decision based on a statement that we do not agree on. Recommends we take the time to redo our F&P statement on human sexuality. It would take at least two years. Have people who sit on either side of this issue spent time with churches/individuals on the other side? Thinks we need to find a way to stay together.

Shawn Leonard, Crossroads - Referred to the bullet points. Even after much discernment and faithfully following Christ, division remains. The YM is not able to

function at the current degree of division. It's causing us to slowly die. The call to wait is a path to further destruction.

Jon Fodge, Peninsula - Many do agree with the current section of F&P and feel that we've spent more than enough time considering this issue. We should allow those who embrace the current F&P to stay together. The YM is dying because we can't agree what sin is.

Janene Selix Ford, City's Edge - It is dishonest to allow churches with internal differences to stay in NWYM. Revelations 3:15-16.

David Brown, Newberg - What happens at Newberg Friends in the next 1.5 yrs? Are we gutting the center? Newberg Friends is facing this and has chosen to stay together even though they don't agree. The AC is asking them to find out how to not stay together because they don't agree.

Saturday, January 28, 2017, 1:00 pm

- Debbie responded to Davida.

Barbara Dalziel, South Salem - Has the F&P become an idol? NWYM can function together. Barb read a statement that she proposes be added to Faith & Practice, taken from a statement from NWYM Elders: "we don't all agree on everything in our F&P, but we choose to love each other...we are determined to build bridges, not fortresses."

Shawn Leonard, Crossroads - Can't serve at the YM level if you are not in compliance with the F&P.

Tim Wenzig, Rosedale - Not at December meeting. AC should require leaders of local churches to be in alignment with the F&P.

Mareesa Fawver, Newberg - Does the section about "churches who are out of alignment w/F&P..." refer to only the human sexuality statement, or other topics as well, such as women in leadership and the abuse prevention policy?

- Debbie: Just the human sexuality statement. That's what has brought us here today.

Paul Anderson, North Valley - There are ways of living into our current F&P. ...

Phil Smith, Newberg - Thinks we can do this work while staying together, but doesn't speak from the perspective of someone who feels led to act outside of the F&P.

Edith White, Meridian - Thinks we need to reconsider the decision-making practices of our local churches. Robert's Rules of Order and a secret ballots can be helpful tools.

Gabe Fawver, Newberg - If we split, what happens to all of the youth events that used to be yearly meeting wide.

Jim Hawthorne, Olympic View - Paul Anderson's words resonated with him. Jim thinks there is an integrity to the F&P. It says what it says right now and we should honor that.

Beth Banham, City's Edge - Return to Elizabeth Price's idea - default (for divided churches) to be to the new YM, instead of to remaining with NWYM.

Ken Beebe, Netarts - The time we've spent on this discussion has been good. This is a good decision

Jon Fodge, Peninsula - This gives each sides a place to start afresh. It makes more sense and shows more integrity for divided churches to default to the new YM. We should get back to spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ. This option would allow that to happen.

We took a break for the clerks to confer.

It's been proposed that any church that is divided on the current F&P human sexuality statement would default to the new YM, instead of remaining in NWYM. How does this strike you?

Forrest Cammack, Tigard - The concept of making sure all leaders align with the F&P sounds too creedal. How do we keep everyone safe on both sides? We need some guarantee as a church that our autonomy will not be messed with if we stay in NWYM. If members of our churches are going to be singled out if they don't align, they want to know. Needs either a guarantee that there will not be a witch hunt, or we need to default to the other side.

Paul Anderson, North Valley - This approach leaves it up to the churches to do this discernment about individuals and their own leadership. Default should not be to leave the YM for those who have not fully decided to leave.

Elizabeth Price, Eugene - formal proposal (see minutes)

Paul Anderson, ... I did not catch what he said! I was editing the proposal.

Amber Joplin, Spokane - Proposes three columns. The middle column would be for the majority of our churches, who are divided, and would remain in NWYM. The right column would be for churches who cannot agree to stay in a yearly meeting

with affirming churches. The left column would be for churches who have minuted an affirming stance. She encouraged us to extend grace to both new yearly meetings.

Susan Hampton, Newberg - There has to be a starting point for churches while they're making their decisions. Until a church decides that they don't want to follow the current faith and practice, they should stay in NWYM. Don't change the default.

Wanda Jenkins, Scotts Mills - Lengthy metaphor about orchestra/conductor us/God.

David Thomas, Newberg - Looking at this through missionary eyes. 1 Corinthians 13...we see through a glass, dimly...love always trusts...love never fails. We have the opportunity to restore relationships...wants to stay in dialogue.