

# Portland Area Gathering

at Reedwood Friends Church

on Saturday, March 18, 2017

from 1 to 6 pm

17-1 Forrest Cammack (Tigard), presiding clerk, and Lawson (Hillsboro), assistant presiding clerk, opened the meeting and asked that we introduce ourselves. Eric Muhr (Newberg) agreed to serve as recording clerk for the meeting. There were just over 40 people present representing the following monthly meetings:

## Portland Area Monthly Meetings

Clackamas Park  
Hillsboro  
Lynwood  
Reedwood  
Sherwood  
Tigard  
West Hills

## Other Monthly Meetings

Camas  
Eugene  
Newberg  
North Valley

17-2 Lawson introduced a room supplied with safe yet cathartic ways of working through frustration/anger in case anyone wanted to use it during our time together. The room was equipped with play dough “for pounding,” paper “for scribbling on” or “ripping up,” bubble wrap “for stomping on,” soft balls “for throwing” (there were targets), and pillows for “pounding, throwing, or screaming into.”

17-3 Forrest led us in singing two worship choruses together after a spoken prayer. We were silent for a few moments and then Forrest gave an overview of the schedule for our time together. He cautioned us, “Please be sensitive to one another in the things that we say.”

17-4 Forrest announced an agenda item that would be saved for the end of the meeting: “Do we as Portland Area Gathering have anything to say to the broader yearly meeting?” Discernship on the question was scheduled for 4:30 pm, after the workshops and before a shared potluck meal.

17-5 Forrest announced his decision to step down from his position as clerk. Lawson said she will also be stepping down as assistant clerk. Lawson said that Krissi Carson (Hillsboro) will be stepping down as recording clerk. Lawson gave an overview of what a leadership commitment might include as far as planning quarterly gatherings. Forrest asked the floor for nominations.

Ken Comfort (Clackamas Park) suggested that it might be good to wait, as we don't know which Portland area meetings will end up where. Lawson clarified that nominations would be for those monthly meetings that plan to stay with Northwest Yearly Meeting.

Keri Kimberly (West Hills) clarified that the Portland area gathering could continue to meet no matter what individual meetings decide. They could continue to be affiliated as part of a quarterly gathering even if various monthly meetings end up in different places.

Dee Cox (Reedwood) asked Forrest if he might reconsider stepping down. "There's value in continuing with the present leadership."

Bernie Bosnjak (Hillsboro) has been a member of the planning committee for the Portland area gathering. "Many years our planning just got together and came up with someone who was willing to serve as a clerk (at that particular gathering). Maybe some would be led to be on a planning committee rather than to take on that responsibility of being a clerk."

Ron Myers (Camas) "I'm a visitor, but I do have a concern that we have a way to gather, especially at this time."

Brian Morse (Clackamas Park) – asked how many people are on the planning committee that might be willing to continue as just a planning committee.

Committee members have included Rachel Hampton (West Hills), Bernie, Krissi, Julie Peyton (West Hills), Lawson, and Forrest

Julie Peyton (West Hills) – "I'm glad to hear there's energy about meeting together, and it doesn't have to be a business meeting."

Tonya Comfort (Clackamas Park) – "Portland area is one of the areas that's most affected by this. It would be important that there be a time together where we maintain those contacts. I don't want to lose contact with those people I love and care about. I'm willing to be on the planning committee, even though I don't need something else to do."

Bernie Bosnjak said she would be helpful to walk alongside. "As much as I can do, I'll do."

Brian Morse – "We could establish the location and time at this meeting. I also would be willing to serve on that planning committee."

Forrest – "I'm hearing that people want to continue meeting even if it's not for business, being that we might not be part of the same yearly meeting anymore, but people want to maintain relationships. Portland area gathering might morph into something different."

Ken Comfort – "This does speak to my condition."

Forrest – "If it does merge into something, I would feel comfortable being involved. I can put my name on the list, too."

17-6 **Approved** the following members of the planning committee: Bernie Bosnjak, Forrest Cammack, Tonya Comfort, Brian Morse

17-7 **Approved** for the committee to decide on a place and time for Portland area folks to gather at yearly meeting in Newberg, time, format, location TBA

17-8 **Approved** for fall meeting to be hosted by Clackamas Park, on Saturday, October 14, in the afternoon, tentatively from 1 to 6 pm.

17-9 Julie Peyton offered a brief report on the importance of visitation. "It would be fun to suggest to the Faith and Practice revision committee that they include a section, explaining traveling ministry." Shared a reading from *On Living with a Concern for Gospel Ministry*. "I've been feeling a real call on me to visit ... revitalizing this traveling idea is important."

Ron Myers spoke of a couple at Camas that plans to do visitation – "a very heavy concern on their hearts"

Bernie Bosnjak asked if anyone could give us a quick overview of what a traveling minute might say

Tom Stave (Eugene) – “the tone is mutual love and fellowship.... Dear friends of (ym name here), we recommend our friend (name of traveling Friend here) who will be traveling among you.... It expresses the hope for a continuing future relationship and recommends from our hearts this Friend who will be traveling.”

Lloyd Pruitt (Reedwood) – “It should also invite their response to this visit.”

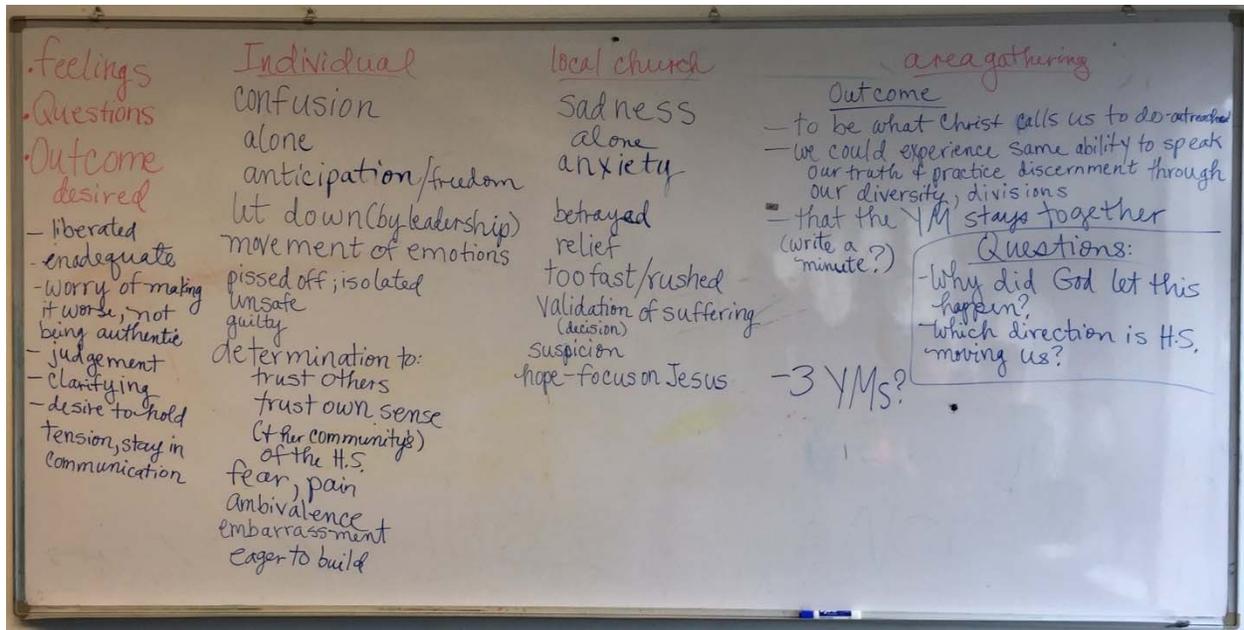
Norma Silliman (Camas) – “There’s also the possibility of a care committee or an anchor committee.... It provides support to the traveling minister, and it also provides some accountability that goes both ways, for the meeting supporting the ministry and also for the minister to heed the Light within.”

Tom reminded us that Eugene Friends has a potluck on the first Sunday of each month, “so that would be a great time to visit!”

17-10 Forrest gave us 5 minutes to sit in silence with this question: “Is there anything that Portland quarterly meeting wants to say to Northwest Yearly Meeting at this time?”

17-11 Eric Muhr spoke on reconciliation, using the first two chapters of Philippians as his text

17-12 Bernie Bosnjak talked about yearly meeting structure in her workshop at 3. She led participants through an exercise of identifying individual feelings, local church concerns, questions, and hopes that might need to be shared with the larger yearly meeting. “Some people say, ‘I have feelings and I want to tell somebody and I’m not sure who to tell.’ Other people might say, ‘I have feelings and I want to tell somebody and I’m not sure who will listen.’ Do you have something to say to Northwest Yearly Meeting? If we don’t feel heard, then it’s almost impossible to move.... We’re not trapped here, friends.”



17-13 Elijah Walker hosted an open worship experience in which participants prayerfully produced pieces of art.

17-14 We regathered for worship through business at 4:45 pm and **Approved** the following minute:  
We are sensitive to the pain many have experienced as a result of the announced restructure of our yearly meeting. We note, from our conversations, a desire to be mutually vulnerable in our work toward reconciliation. We are more together than we are apart, and many stated their desire that we find a way to nourish relationships and stay together. We intend to continue meeting in fellowship together as a Portland area gathering regardless of formal affiliation.

17-15 Discussion followed about unity of the yearly meeting. Bill Moorman asked permission to stand aside because of his position on the yearly meeting Administrative Council.  
Tonya Comort reminded us that we all need to commit to pray. “This afternoon, the transition team met for the first time. They’re going to have a lot to do. Some of the things they’ll need to think about are things that we can do together.”

17-16 There will be a transition meeting open to interested Friends and affected monthly meetings at Eugene Friends Church, from 2 to 6 pm, on Saturday, April 22.

17-17 Caroline Morse (Clackamas Park) offered a closing word: “There’s a verse I go to – we are not to speak badly about each other as brothers and sisters in the Lord.... We are commanded to pray for each other, and we are commanded to pray for our leaders, and if that’s hard, God will be with you. Pray anyway. I want to encourage each of us here.... We need to speak well of each other no matter what our perspective is.”

17-18 Forrest offered prayer before we joined one another in a shared potluck meal.