

Friday Focus

for the Newberg Friends Church community



from ... Dick Sartwell, NFC Yearly Meeting Representative

The 126th annual sessions of Northwest Yearly Meeting of Friends (NWYM) were the same as usual - *and wonderfully different*. By tradition, our Willamette Valley treated Friends gathered from throughout the state and from Washington and Idaho to some of the hottest days of summer. The fellowship was warm as well. And there were the typical opportunities for worship through beautiful music and inspiring speakers. As normal, yearly meeting boards presented helpful workshops to equip attenders with information and practical suggestions to take back to their local congregations. The schedule included the typical four-hour morning sessions for worship in the context of business. But that is where significant change from recent years occurred. The strong contention of recent years was gone.

With strong and clear unity Friends reached consensus on the following matters of business:

- [James Le Shana](#) was named the new general superintendent of NWYM. Jim grew up in Newberg and pastored for several years in California. In recent years he has served as a vice president at Barclay College in Kansas and will conclude his work there this fall. He will be in place in the headquarters by mid-October, and in the meantime Retha McCutchen will supervise the office staff.
- A major change recommended by the Board of Global Outreach was approved. NWYM and Evangelical Friends Mission (EFM), a cooperative organization of several evangelical yearly meetings, have worked together for many years. With approval of the recommendation, governance and policy matters will be handled by EFM. Our yearly meeting board will focus on missionary recruitment and ongoing support of those missionaries, developing specific support teams for each field. A chief benefit of this change is to reduce administrative cost.
- A proposal from the George Fox Board of Trustees to change nine items in their bylaws received immediate approval for seven of the items. The remaining two items had to do with numerical representation of Friends on the board, effectively reducing the required percentage of Friends, but maintaining the right of NWYM to approve or disapprove all trustees. Those two items, because of their significance to the governance of the institution will receive further discussion at the mid-year board meetings of NWYM.
- Joy Brown Lujan was recorded as a minister. She currently serves as pastor at Whitney Friends in Boise, Idaho.
- Phil Smith was approved as NWYM recording clerk (and therefore will step down as one of NFC's YM representatives).
- The Administrative Council (AC) reported on the status of congregations leaving NWYM. Ten congregations have made a decision to leave. One of those congregations has gone independent for reasons unrelated to recent controversy over matters related to human sexuality. Four congregations are leaving to join the new Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends (SCYM). The remaining congregations have assumed the status of independent churches. Additionally the AC reported on their decision to provide for sharing invested funds from the Ministry Fund and the appraised value of the headquarters building. The amount to be

shared is based on a complex formula built on a ten-year record of attendance and contributions to NWYM from each congregation. The only congregations leaving NWYM who will share in funds are those who actually join the new yearly meeting. Independent congregations are not eligible for participation in the distribution. Based on the formula used, SCYM will receive approximately a 9 percent distribution. No operating funds have been or will be included in the distribution.

- The loss of ten congregations (out of 51) predictably requires a smaller budget for NWYM. The proposed budget of \$617, 283 was approved. The corollary of a reduced budget is that the number of permanent office staff in the headquarters has been reduced. Interim superintendent Retha McCutchen announced that a volunteer has indicated willingness to challenge 100 persons from across the yearly meeting to make \$1,000 pledges to supplement the budget. In a spontaneous act, one person pledged \$1,000 on the spot; several others immediately responded with similar pledges. It seemed like tangible evidence of a new and positive direction for NWYM.

In summary, the contention of recent years and the loss of congregations has been a sad time in NWYM for all involved, producing much grief. But the reorganization announced in January 2017 seems to have clarified and resolved much that separated us. The result for NWYM is new unity around renewed vision to share the good news of Jesus in our communities. Friends left these 126th sessions with great optimism and looking forward to the future.

For a PDF copy of this report, [CLICK HERE](#).



Happening at NFC...

THIS WEEKEND

Saturday, July 28

Read ahead for Sunday: Colossians 2:6-12

Sunday, July 29

Gathered Prayer • 8am • Room 236

Sunday School • 9am • for classroom locations, click [HERE](#)

Coffee and Conversation in the Library • 10am

Gathered Worship • 10:30am

Young families picnic gathering at Memorial Park following worship

NEXT WEEK

Monday, July 30

Intercessory prayer • 9am • Barclay C

Strong for Life • 10:30am • Barclay B

Wednesday, August 1

Strong for Life • 10:30am • Barclay B

Friday, August 3

Strong for Life • 10:30am • Barclay B

AFTER THAT

Twin Rocks Family Camp • Labor Day weekend

Click [HERE](#) to see the calendar online.

July is "NAME TAG MONTH" at NFC!

Thank you for remembering to wear your name tag on Sunday mornings—or making one as you come in to worship. (supplies in the library and at the parking-lot entrance)





Committee Clerk Updates

elders • presiding • stewards • trustees/cemetery • YM reps • treasurer
Christian education • recording • global outreach • nominating

from ... Judy Woolsey, nominating clerk

This past year I've really enjoyed working with Jo Helsabeck, Cheri Hampton, Susan Hampton, and Dick Sartwell as we have worked to fill many committee roles. I hope you have been able to take in some of the Northwest Yearly Meeting sessions this week. We appreciate our representatives who have been attending all the business sessions, including the ones who stepped in with very short notice! We love to see people give a positive response when asked to serve in a particular role and to see many using their gifts to bless us all. Each of our committees has a good core group, but some are asking for more members, so we would like to hear from you if you are interested in working with stewards, trustees, Christian education, or global outreach. As we see in 1 Corinthians 12:5, "There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served...it is the same God who achieves his purposes through them all" (Phillips). What joy we share as we serve God together at NFC!

from ... Emily Wynsma

Alodah kids attend Camp Tilikum!

Hello, Newberg Friends! Many of you may remember that our church helped a Syrian refugee family adjust upon their arrival in America two summers ago. Many of you may have met them during the two weeks they stayed with my husband, Ben, and me or have visited with them in Salem since then.

We are so excited to have these dear friends' three youngest kids, Yasmine (11), Mohammad (10), and Hala (7) stay with our family for a week in order to attend Camp Tilikum July 30 to August 3! Rumor has it they wake every morning asking how many days until it's time to come.

Please pray it is a wonderful time for them! Ben and I can use help with meals while they are here. If you would like to provide a brown bag lunch for them to take to camp one day or a dinner for one of the evenings, [please email me](#). We appreciate all offers of help!

We also appreciate those very special friends in the NFC congregation whose generosity has helped to provide their camp tuition!

P.S.

>> Pick up your one-page directory supplement at the welcome center on Sunday. As with the directory, these are not made available any other way.



REFERENCE INFORMATION:

Newberg Friends Church

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503-538-8381 (office) • 503-538-0637 (fax)

office hours: 9a to 1p Monday-Friday • 2 to 5pm by appointment

website: <http://newbergfriends.org>

Keith Reeser, pastor

Sunday Schedule:

Gathered Prayer – 8am

Sunday School – 9am

Coffee and Conversation in the Library – 10am

Gathered Worship 10:30am

Friday Focus editor: Sherry Macy • [Send submissions to her](#) by Wednesday for Friday publication.

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