

August 12, 2014

*Welcome to all Rocky Mountain Yearly Meeting Representatives! I look forward to working and worshipping together with you and all other attendees at the 2014 YM sessions at Quaker Ridge camp this Thursday through Sunday morning, Aug 14-17th.*

*I had hoped to have the agenda and reports in your hands before now, but we just didn't get that done. We will have packets ready for you when you arrive at the registration table and I hope you arrive in time to read the agenda and reports before general session begins. I will make some time during session for questions before calling for approval, of course.*

*As a refresher, here is an excerpt from my letter of Aug, 2012 outlining the role and responsibilities of Yearly Meeting Representatives.*

A Yearly Meeting Representative is a vital part—one of the most important parts—of Rocky Mountain Yearly Meeting. You are the key to “building a strong connectedness among our churches, and in helping develop and sustain our shared vision of God’s calling. Representatives “are chosen to capably represent your local meeting, but dedicated to joining a single yearly meeting body seeking the Holy Spirit’s guidance as to God’s ministry for that total body.” (A.J. Ellis).<sup>1</sup>

A few years ago NWYM Representatives wrote a job description for themselves that I believe states the main responsibilities well::

- Promote effective two-way communication between the local church and the Yearly Meeting
- Participate in discerning God’s voice in our Yearly Meeting
- Assist actively in the Yearly Meeting nominating process
- Support the cohesiveness and vitality of [RMYM local churches]
- Support the spiritual robustness of Friends in [RMYM]

I am praying that your role as a RMYM Representative will be personally rewarding to you as well as accomplish the tasks before us this year. We (Exec Board and other leaders) are all committed to pray for our churches, individually, and as connected together in RMYM.

The boards will be meeting for business and we will have time to worship and pray together. We have important budget items to discuss and a report from the Marriage and Religious Freedom task force (which has renamed the project; we now refer to it as the Being Jesus Project.) There will be a recording during the Friday evening service. And there is ample time planned to relax and enjoy our beautiful camp. All this in just over three days—a lot to cover. So I am praying very specifically for you and for all of our meetings. I am confident if we all do this, then we will come together and find ourselves in a gathered meeting for worship for business—the Quaker way of decision-making and doing business—a blessing to be sure.

My prayer is that you will find joy and satisfaction in your service as a RMYM Representative.

Mary Heathman, RMYM Clerk

A few background notes:

The Council of Representatives is composed of members of local faith communities who have been chosen, prayerfully, on the basis of spiritual maturity, respected judgment, and acceptance of Friends beliefs and procedures as set forth in RMYM book of Faith and Practice. At their first meeting, roll call is taken and representatives are seated. Those approved and seated are the official Representatives. The Presiding Clerk and Recording Clerk of the Yearly Meeting also serve as Presiding Clerk and Recording Clerk of the Council of Representatives. The RMYM Leadership Facilitator will serve as an ex officio member. The Representatives meet in open sessions to encourage wider understanding of church business. If a matter of seriously sensitive nature should arise, however, the Presiding Clerk with the concurrence of the Representatives may request other members and visitors to absent themselves.

## ***2. Duties of the Representative Body<sup>ii</sup>***

This Body is the Yearly Meeting in session. Representatives are seated . . . at the opening session of the Yearly Meeting. Alternates are seated only in the event the named representative is absent. Those representatives seated at this meeting shall serve throughout the current year. Representatives are responsible to report on and assist in the implementation of all action taken at Yearly Meeting to their local meetings.

Matters of business and concern will be brought before the Representative Body. These matters may be initiated by Yearly Meeting Boards or local meetings, but must be channeled to Representatives through the Executive Board. The Clerk may, according to his or her discernment, limit discussion of business matters to the Representative Body.

Exec Council members or a member of the Representative Body through the Assistant Presiding Clerk, may request an item be called for discussion. The Presiding Clerk shall announce that the business meeting is in Executive Session, at which time only members of the Representative Body and members of the Executive Board shall be present. No minutes are recorded during the Executive Session. The purpose of the Executive Session is free discussion regarding issues that are delicate in nature. At the close of the Executive Session, business will resume as before.

Normally, the Clerk shall determine the disposition of business as he or she shall sense the will of the meeting; but the Clerk may, at his or her discretion, ask the Representative Body for a vote. A two-thirds majority of those seated will be considered necessary as a standard rule for approval of business if a vote is required. [clerks note; Although our Faith and Practice does allow for the taking of a vote, common practice among RMYM is to rely on corporate discernment in decision-making.]

The Representative Body, upon recommendation of the Executive Board, shall appoint persons to serve in the following capacities (all terms of service begin following the Yearly Meeting sessions):

- a. Yearly Meeting Clerk is named for a term of three years.
- b. Chairperson of Hosts, Registrar, Statistician, and any special committee or officer as directed by the Yearly Meeting are appointed annually.

- c. All Yearly Meeting Board members are appointed for three-year terms, with approximately one-third of the terms expiring each year. Members should serve a maximum of three 3-year terms and enjoy a 1-year break before returning to the Board.
- d. A Ministries Coordinator is appointed for a three-year term. [clerk's note: this position is currently not being filled.]
- e. Custodian of Records is appointed for a three-year term.

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<sup>i</sup> An article by our own AJ Ellis is included in this set of documents for you. He was apparently the inspiration for NWYM in the development of their policies for representatives.

<sup>ii</sup> F&P, Part2, c2, s3 C