

Albuquerque Monthly Meeting | Meeting for Worship for Business | 7 May 2017 | Agenda

Please note: We will do a trial run with another sound system today.

11:00 am Call to Meeting for Worship for Business & Reading of Last MFB Minutes –Clerk & Recording Clerk
Review of Practices in MfB & brief overview of agenda –Clerk

- Personal Reflections on the Period of Rejuvenation : *monthly opportunity to share*
- Exploring Whiteness: Question for Discussion:
How does the definition of racism below, and the reading this month about White Racial Comfort, impact your understanding of race, whiteness, and white supremacy ? (please see p.2)

BREAK for lunch: 15 minutes

- Report from the Sanctuary Task Force (*including request: “13 Colors of Resistance” Tour sponsorship?*)
- Reports & other business
Treasurer’s Report: *year end 2016 and 1st quarter 2017*
Nominating Committee : *approval Judy Hayes for O&C*
Help needed to arrange rides from Airport to IMYM: *Sara K*
- FGC Institutional Assessment on Racism: discussion ONLY of proposed dates for Called Meeting (*see p.2*)
Options: May 21, 9 am; OR May 15 or 22 evening (see attachments: not for discussion today)
- Further reflection & discernment on Period of Rejuvenation: *where are we now? Are we still rejuvenating?*
If necessary for time, this question can be referred or postponed to a later date.

(for information only)

Announcements pertinent to MfB & Scheduling

Compassionate Listening: *practice meetings monthly*
Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship book group starting April 9, rise of meeting
 Family Camping trip coming up: contact Jen Plaut ASAP if you want to attend!
 TENTATIVE: 13 Colors of the Honduran Resistance : book tour and concert: tentative date May 21
 Emma’s birthday and volunteer appreciation: May 27, 5-7pm (more info to come)
 TENTATIVE: Melina Juarez presentation on immigration policy: May 31 (to be confirmed)

Ongoing Concerns

Mary Darling’s son Deavon will be returning to Abq at the end of the month; please continue to hold him in the Light.
 Watch our website for news and updates! <http://abq.imym.org/cms/>

Final close with silence

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Please see next page for information about two agenda items

• **Notes for Whiteness Discussion:**

In Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression work, Racism is defined as **Racism = Privilege + Institutional Power** (as opposed to individual bias or prejudice).

I invite you to read and consider the article, “**The Subtle Linguistics of Polite White Supremacy**,” published online soon after the Charleston murder of nine Black Parishioners during Bible Study. The author addresses the above working definition of racism and structural oppression and challenges us to deepen our understanding of the ways white supremacy expresses itself:

<https://medium.com/@YawoBrown/the-subtle-linguistics-of-polite-white-supremacy-3f83c907ffff>

(It is hard to excerpt from this, but here's one important point):

“Racism and prejudice are NOT interchangeable. Racism is the systemic oppression of one group of people who can be categorized within certain phenotypical traits over multiple generations that has been, at one point, sanctioned by a country, the majority and/or ruling class. Racism is committed only by the ruling class and agents of the ruling class because they have the power that comes with racism. Racism, in America, is absolutely the attack dog of the white ruling class. However, sometimes it’s also a slow poison in that it causes its victims to die of exhaustion or grief. Again, racism is a kind of prejudice that comes with power. Racism is the systematic and intentional oppression of group of people from the ruling class and its agents. In America, the ruling class is white people...of all classes.”

To access the other resources we have shared thus far, please visit our website:

<http://abq.imym.org/cms/examining-whiteness/>

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• **FGC Institutional Assessment** : background information (for **discussion later in May**)

Monthly Meetings and worship groups within Intermountain Yearly Meeting have been asked in a Minute from Mountain View Friends Meeting (Denver) to consider supporting several actions brought before Friends General Conference by People of Color.

In the Fall of 2016 FGC Central Committee decided to move forward with an institutional assessment on Institutional Racism. FGC has gathered some of the funds needed to bring in outside resources to help them learn to do the assessment themselves.

Mountain View Meeting states that this is not a “they” issue. It is an “us” issue. They are requesting that Meetings and worship groups consider three actions:

1. MINUTE support of and gratitude for FGC’s Institutional Assessment process.
2. CONTRIBUTE financial support to the cost of the assessment.
3. Begin or refresh our own MEETING EXAMINATION OF INSTITUTIONAL RACISM.

For more information and background about this Minute from Mountain View Meeting please find materials on the Albuquerque Monthly Meeting web site. The Mountain View Minute is attached. You may also visit the FGC website: <http://www.fgcquaker.org/deepen/help-your-meeting-challenge-racism/fgcs-institutional-assessment>

Our response to this call to action will be communicated to the business meetings of IMYM at the June Yearly Meeting.

Minute to IMYM Monthly Meetings re FGC Institutional Assessment

April 9, 2017

To Intermountain Yearly Meeting and the Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups of Intermountain Yearly Meeting:

As Quakers, we have a long and well-documented history of social justice and peace witness. Our daily lives are full of tiny moments in which we check our actions against our testimonies, seeking to act with courage and love rooted in our relationship to God and to humanity. We open our hearts to witness the pain and difficulty experienced by others around us, so that they are not alone, so that we have done our best to accompany them on their journey.

Self-examination is often more difficult than seeing the world outside. It often brings forth things we wish we hadn't known about ourselves. It requires honesty, it requires willingness to change, and it requires compassion. And very often, it requires someone else with a different perspective showing us things about ourselves.

Over recent years of the Friends General Conference (FGC) Annual Gathering, People of Color have repeatedly been the target of racism, both from people living or working around the sites chosen for the gathering, and from the people, the Quakers, attending the gathering. Their children at play have been watched by police, racist local residents have targeted the attendees of the pre-Gathering for People of Color, and white gathering attenders have invaded the safe space and time set aside for People of Color.

In loving challenge, the People of Color and their allies involved in FGC asked to be represented on the site selection committee for future gatherings, and for FGC to undergo an institutional audit for racism.

In the Fall of 2016, Friends General Conference Central Committee decided to move forward with an institutional assessment, and over half the site selection committee now are People of Color. FGC has gathered some of the funds needed to bring in outside resources to help them learn to do the assessment themselves.

Friends, we are challenged to recognize ourselves in this story. We are Quakers. We are part of Friends General Conference. This is not "they," this is "us." If we are not challenging white supremacy, examining it to break it apart, then we are participating in it. If we are not deliberately examining our own Meetings to be certain that we wrap love and recognition and curiosity around every single person who might enter our lives, then we are unquestioningly participating in being part of the dominant culture that does not embrace and lift up every single one.

Can we honestly say that we are constantly holding ourselves accountable to each other in this way? That we have the language to discuss racism and white supremacy, we have the stories of everyone in our Meetings, that we have the depth of loving relationship that allows us to have the difficult conversations we need so that we can hold each other accountable in seeing our own privilege?

Mountain View Friends Meeting encourages Intermountain Yearly Meeting and every Monthly Meeting and Worship Group of IMYM to consider these actions:

1. Minute support of and gratitude for FGC's Institutional Assessment process.

Knowing that this is deep and tender and difficult work, minute our gratitude that Friends General Conference is opening themselves to an institutional assessment focused on racism.

Minutes written so far in support of the assessment can be found at

<https://www.fgcquaker.org/sites/default/files/attachments/2016%20Minutes%20Supporting%20FGC%20Assessment.pdf>

2. Contribute financial support to the cost of the assessment.

The institutional assessment will cost \$60,000. So far, about a third of that has been raised.

3. Begin or refresh our own Meeting or Worship Group examination of institutional racism.

Recognizing that our own meetings very likely reflect the culture and systems in place at Friends General Conference, we can commit to beginning, renewing, or expanding our own exploration of institutional racism.

More information about FGC's institutional assessment can be found here:

<http://www.fgcquaker.org/deepen/help-your-meeting-challenge-racism/fgcs-institutional-assessment>