

SCYMF Coordinating Committee Minutes – August 3, 2023

Present: Norma Silliman, Bethany Lee, Ruba Byrd, Judy Maurer, Dave Cundiff

Norma opened us with silence and prayer.

1. Starting a New Year

We welcomed our newest member, Bethany Lee, and then each person present shared what drew them to be on the Coordinating Committee.

Reasons shared included these:

- An interest in what makes a healthy organization and wanting to help SCYMF be healthy;
- Wanting to foster communication within the YM, because good communication is key to an organization's health;
- Commitment to nurturing the spiritual health of our YM, as well as our growth towards diversity and inclusion;
- Desire to know what's really going on with our YM and to help us continue to clarify our purpose and calling;
- Desire to help SCYMF navigate transition and uncertainty;
- Wanting to help SCYMF discern our role in supporting member meetings and individuals in their callings.

2. What is Our Committee Tasked to Do?

We looked briefly at the responsibilities of the Coordinating Committee as put forth in the Bylaws. How can we as a committee fulfill what we are currently charged to do (without taking on too much outside of those charges) and also discern whether changes should be made? We will continue to visit this issue.

3. Focus for Our Meetings

What intentions do we want to set for our meetings this year? We are a small committee, and relationships matter. Let's commit to a tone of service, support, honest communication (seasoned by grace!), and paying attention to one another and the work we do.

We also, for the benefit of our new member, described the usual flow of our meetings: The clerk sends out an agenda ahead of time, then within the meeting we discern which items we need to spend more time (or less time) on, and which to include in the next meeting's agenda.

We don't currently have a clerk, so we might decide to adjust how we structure our meetings as we go along.

4. Committee Membership

We addressed the need for more members and how to find them. We encouraged one another to think about the kinds of strengths and abilities that we would welcome and to offer ideas to the Nominating Committee. We want to continue to address areas in which our committee and our YM are not diverse, and how to make room in our structures and practices to make them accessible to the diverse range of people who are part of our YM, people who can contribute in ways that might not currently fit into our structures.

In looking at our need for more members, should we consider inviting the clerks of other committees to meet with us a few times a year, to keep communication current?

5. Logistics of Meetings

We will meet at 7:00 pm on the 4th Thursday of each month.

Preparing and distributing minutes of meetings in a timely fashion is important, so those who miss a meeting can catch up and contribute to any online discussion.

It might help to create an ongoing document for minutes and have it available in a clerk's folder. Norma will consult with Erin about how to format and save minutes in the most helpful way.

For now (with no clerk), we will try rotating the clerk's role for a while. Ruba is willing to facilitate our August meeting, on the 24th.

Action item: Ruba will prepare the minutes and clerk the next meeting.

6. Debrief of Annual Sessions

Comments:

"It was great!" "It was emotionally intense (the topic of trauma and stories from the Alaskan Native visitors), but appropriate and important work." "We didn't have the chance to provide feedback at the end of the sessions, but a survey about the accommodations at Western Oregon University would be helpful." "If we want a survey, it's probably up to us (Coordinating Committee)!"

Judy offered to prepare a survey, and Norma will let the Gathering Committee know about that.

We feel it's important to follow up on the suggestions for things we can do to support the work of the indigenous Alaskans who presented at Annual Sessions. Communications is publishing the links they provided in our SCYMF newsletter.

Action items: Judy will prepare a survey, and Norma will inform the Gathering Committee of this.

7. Follow-up with the Working Group and Other Committees

We want to hear from our committees and meetings, even individuals, about ideas and feedback generated by Annual Sessions. We talked about how to format our request for feedback—perhaps in the survey for meetings and individuals, but also an email specifically to committees might elicit different information.

Action Item: Bethany will send an email to the committees.

Communications Committee report (Judy Maurer): In the last two weeks, we got 9 new subscribers to the newsletter, and only 2 were from SCYMF! She will put a reminder in the survey for how folks can subscribe to the newsletter.

Finance Committee report (Dave Cundiff): Have been working on a tracking system for contributions from member meetings and how to word the communications about that. They also are looking at the role of employee benefit liaisons for our meetings.

Working Group report (Norma Silliman): Met last week, discussed first steps. The place to start is hearing from people. The group will send a survey to people who have been part of our committees in the past, to ask for feedback about our current structures. The goal is to have an initial report out by the end of September, to be reviewed before the Quarterly Meeting in October.