

Pacific Yearly Meeting Racial Justice Subcommittee Report to Friends General Committee Ministry on Racism

December 4, 2014

Pacific Yearly Meeting had the pleasure of having Vanessa Julye minister to us on the issue of racism during the Annual Sessions of 2010, 2011, and 2012. Based on her visits our Racial Justice Subcommittee under Ministry and Oversight was created and continues to work to sustain the important conversation on awareness of racism within the Religious Society of Friends in PacYM.

PacYM Racial Justice Subcommittee has developed programmatic approaches to racial justice education within our yearly meeting. We have focused on the annual sessions and other gatherings during the rest of the year. This summary report describes both of these foci.

2011 Annual Session

- Opening Plenary “Diversity Welcome” by Carl Magruder
- Queries on diversity and racial justice were addressed during sessions of PacYM Worship-Sharing
- Junior Yearly Meeting led an intergenerational power walk exercise “Step Forward, Step Back: Class-Race Exercise with 60 participants
- Steve Smith led an interest group on White Privilege
- The lives of Ham Sok Han and Bayard Rustin were presented in two well attended session of Transformative Quakers
- Alvaro Alvarado and Patricia Portillo led a moving interest group with undocumented students
- A multiracial family dinner took place – a ‘deep and wide sense of tribe’ was reported
- Two Affinity groups: Friends of Color and Friends of European Descent met daily

Spring 2012

- “Partners in Healing: Racial Dynamics among Friends” weekend workshop sponsored by RJ subcommittee at Quaker Center
- A number of YM members attended the White Privilege Conference

2012 Annual Session

- Led Interest Group on Micro-aggressions was very interactive
- Two Affinity groups occurred each night until the last night a joint session was held

Spring / Summer 2013

- Spring Youth Service Learning Camp at Quaker Oaks Farm with white and Wukchumni elders and youth
- A Peace Action Camp with Quaker youth from around the state focused on US and Mexico border issues
- A number of YM members attended the White Privilege Conference

2013 Annual Session

- Interest Group “When we work together” - worship-sharing around shared stories of when we were successful as allies and other time when we felt the need for allies as we embarked on difficult work

Spring 2014

- 3 persons of European descent attended the White Privilege Conference and found it enormously helpful
- At College Park Quarterly Meeting members facilitated an interest group viewing Shakti Butler’s Cracking the Codes film followed by worship-sharing guided by queries, more than 40 attended

2014 Annual Session

- Interest Group on White Privilege- clips from film White Privilege 101 shown followed by query guided worship-sharing
- Affinity groups Friends of Color and Friends of European Descent were held each day
- The Subcommittee met and had a lively meeting with deep sharing

Future Plans: For our Quarterly Meetings we are working to put together a list of queries and buying two copies of Cracking the Codes film for each of the two and then publicizing this package for Meetings to use for worship-sharing or discussion.

For Annual Session 2015: We are working with M&O and the Latin American Concerns subcommittee to bring to the Annual Sessions the “Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relationship with America's Native Peoples”. Several members participated in this session at FGC 2013 found it very helpful.

We greatly appreciate the generosity of FGC in sponsoring Vanessa Julye’s attendance at PacYM over the years, for providing the racism workshop in Minnesota, and sponsoring tuition reductions for the White Privilege Conference attendance of several members of PacYM throughout the last 3 years. We have benefitted from these resources and continue to utilize our growing awareness to continue this conversation and exploration within PacYM.

In friendship,
Sandy Kewman
Diego Navarro
Co-clerks of PacYM Racial Justice Subcommittee of Ministry and Oversight

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