

CALL TO ANNUAL SESSION OF NORTH PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING
Wednesday, July 26 – Sunday July 30, 2017
University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, Washington

Everything Is Connected

We come together this year during a time of changing political realities, broadening understanding of gender identities, growing awareness of racial injustices, and concern for changing climates. We yearn for ways to turn our lives into instruments of the Spirit. We seek refuge, mutual support, and inspiration. We seek wholeness.

Our Friend-in-Residence this year is Peterson Toscano, a Pennsylvania Friend, Bible scholar, and performance artist who is a passionate advocate for gay, lesbian and transgender rights and inclusion; climate change education and activism; gender and racial justice; and the exploration of power and privilege. He will join us in considering our roles on a new planet in need of addressing long-standing, unresolved troubles. Peterson will draw on storytelling and even comedy to help us better understand how these weighty issues are interconnected.

Our annual session is especially loved by our children and Junior Friends, who have full programs of their own. We celebrate having all ages together for many of the activities. Adult Friends often cherish the time they volunteer with younger people, even while the parents of young children can choose to have time apart.

After long years of preparation and seasoning, we will receive our new book of *Faith and Practice*. And our local meetings have been seasoning statements around gender identity; we may find ourselves united in a minute of where we stand.

As part of our shared life, we will approve a budget and appointments of Friends to carry on our work. Several years ago we decided to do this as a whole community, grounded in our time together. We will send out materials ahead of the gathering, so that we will arrive well prepared to act. No one has to attend business sessions; but some Friends find this the thrilling heart of their annual session experience.

Our singing, our small worship and interest groups, our conversations over meals, our welcoming of diversity, and our Community Night, also bring us into community and joy. We call you to all of this at Annual Session of North Pacific Yearly Meeting, July 26-30 at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington.

Registration information can be found at www.npym.org beginning in April.

Warren Ostrom, Presiding Clerk presiding_clerk@npym.org