

College Park Quarterly Meeting – 258th Session
Tenth Month 17 - 19, 2025

Presiding Clerk's expansion of theme

What are Friends led to do in these times?

We don't know what is coming, so Friends and others who share their feelings must be prepared to live in an increasingly repressive country, or equally prepared to aid the nation in recovery from its time of repression. In this session, we will examine how to prepare for either kind of world by contemplation of keywords recalling our testimonies.

The above brief statement went into the invitation to come to our Fall Quarterly session. It was meant to convey the sense that we live in uncertain times, and we should look into both our past and our future to determine a way (or ways) forward. In the worst case, Friends may find themselves in the same place as in the 1600s: outlawed because we will not conform to the creed of "Christian Nationalism", nor will we abandon the causes of "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion". Or we may live in a country that has reverted to the racial biases and militarism of mid-Twentieth Century. What are Friends led to do in these times?

At the other extreme, the troubles our country has brought upon itself may be short in duration, and opportunities will open for Friends to contribute toward abolition of America's extreme polarization and restoration of a government embodying fairness, honesty and commitment to the common welfare. The invitation to include "others who share [Friends'] feelings" was meant to say that Friends will not be alone in striving for restoration - our burden of promoting Friends' testimonies will be lessened if we share it. What do Friends bring that the whole of humanity will need? What are Friends led to do in these times?

I hope you believe, as I do, that the primary purpose of a Quarterly Meeting is to enable scattered Monthly Meetings to feel that they are one community, and to join in solving problems faced by us all – individuals as well as Meetings. In the 1960s and 1970s, when the Quarterly recognized common needs for Quaker education, care for older Friends and retreats to examine issues in depth, CPQM founded John Woolman School and Friends House and assumed responsibility for Quaker Center. We do not know how we will be led, but we have taken on hard tasks before, and we can do it again.

-Eric Sabelman, CPQM Presiding Clerk (sharing the role with Assistant Clerk, Stephen Myers)

College Park Quarterly Meeting Nominating Committee Report October 2025

Mary Miche, clerk, Ann Baier, Dorothy Henderson, Tinamarie Jackson, Lisa Hubbel, Catherine Curtis

Presiding Clerk (one year term with a 3-year hope)
2026 Eric Sableman, Palo Alto (2023)

Assistant Clerk (one year term with a 3-year hope)
2026 Stephen Myers, Sacramento (2022)

Acting Assistant Clerk (due to Presiding Clerk's illness)
2026 Theresa Cox, Berkeley (2025)

Recording Clerk (one year term)
2026 Tinamarie Jackson (2023)
2026 Tom Yamaguchi (2023)

Finance (3 members, 3-year terms)
2028 Bob Runyan, Chico (2025)
2025 Peter Trueblood, Strawberry Creek (2023)
2026 Robert Levering, Santa Cruz (2024)
2028 Owain Elliott Sowaal San Francisco (2025)
2028 Martha Hunkins, Humboldt (2022) Treasurer, ex officio

Archivist Committee (one year term with a 3-year hope)
2023 Kathy Richman (2020) clerk
2025 Joe Magruder (2023)
2025 Bruce Fulsom (2023)

Ministry & Spiritual Care (6 members, 3-year term),
2027 Thom McCue, Live Oak, (2024) clerk
2024 Nancy Nanna, Redwood Forest (2023)
2025 Jessie Mitchell, Berkeley, (2022)
2027 Margaret Willits, Sonora Worship (2024)
2028 Klara East, Sacramento (2025)
2028 Daniel O'Connell, Visalia (2025)

Registrars (one year term with a 3-year hope)
2026 Sarah Tyrell, Berkeley (2023) clerk
2028 Theresa Cox, Berkeley (2025)

Website Coordinator (one year term)
2026 Bob Runyan, Chico (2011) willing to serve as long as needed

Arrangements (one year term with a 3-year hope)

Fall 2025 Owain Elliott Sowaal, San Francisco (2012)

Fall 2025 Bob Runyan, Chico, (2023)

Children's Program (3 members, 3-year term)

2027 Shanna Mae Slight, Reno (2024) clerk

2028 Thistle Hofvendahl, Santa Cruz (2025)

2028 Nora Lissette, Grass Valley (2025)

2028 Elizabeth Edwards, San Jose (2025)

Teen Committee (1- to 3-year term)

2023 Keenan Lorenzato, ex officio

2025 Teen Co-Clerk Bitsy Carr 2025

2025 Teen Co-Clerk Iris Moon 2025

2028 Jennifer Carr, Sacramento, 2025 clerk

2028 Elizabeth Edwards, San Jose 2025

2028 Kelly Bodke, Reno 2025

2028 Ari Standish, Berkeley 2025

2028 Elinor Steffi, Sacramento 2025

2025 Evaluation of Regional Gatherings

Summary of Reports

- ❖ On January 18th, the Valley Foothills Regional Gathering hosted by Chico Friends Meeting welcomed 34 people from 5 meetings [Chico, Reno, Grass Valley, Sacramento and Davis] as well as the Sierra Foothills worship group. On average, attenders said they wanted to meet annually. About half said they came to get to know and worship with Quakers in nearby meetings and the other half came for that reason and also because of the shorter travel time in one day. Some expressed a desire to share common concerns and resources to address them and also to establish worship sharing groups or book groups throughout the region. One person wrote that he will start encouraging his meeting to engage in a few of the activities presented at the quarterly regional meeting.
- ❖ In a very fun collaboration with Inspiring connections outdoors, Reno meeting and our Youth Programs included 12 Quaker teens and 6 children over the weekend of January 18-19th. They bravely treaded over light snow at Donner Memorial State Park, before learning about environmental activism at Reno meeting. On Sunday our cohort helped pack the Reno Meetinghouse to the brim before wrapping up with lunch at the local farmers market. The Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend is the preferred date for the teens due the school holiday on Monday.
- ❖ On January 25th, the North Coast Regional Gathering hosted by Redwood Forest Friends Meeting in Santa Rosa welcomed 37 people in all, including 8 people from Mendocino, 2 from Humboldt, one from Grass Valley, 2 from Lake County Worship Group, 9 from Friends House Worship Group, and 16 from Redwood Forest Friends Meeting. There were 33 full-day participants, including 1 child, and 4 adults who attended only in the afternoon who participated in activities and interest groups related to the theme, “Do what the Spirit say do”. Three-quarters of evaluation respondents said they wanted to meet annually and over half said they came to worship with Friends outside their own meeting. Overall, it went well with a lot of positive feedback.
- ❖ 40 people attended the Bay Area Regional Gathering on March 8th at Berkeley Friends Church.
- ❖ On April 12, 2025, 52 members of Palo Alto, San Jose, Santa Cruz, Live Oak, Monterey Peninsula Meetings met at Hidden Villa in Los Altos. (Central Coast Meeting was invited but no one was able to attend.) Attenders included a few children and Friends of all ages. The program included a morning of community building and worship sharing on the theme, “Where is spirit leading us at this moment in history?” After lunch, meetings shared some of their peace and social justice efforts. We also had an opportunity to have a farm tour of Hidden Villa and heard about its history, originally home of the Duveneck Family, and the site of many groups coming together for peace and social justice efforts. Attenders felt the theme was timely and thought-provoking, and we enjoyed getting out into the lovely, green hills.
- ❖ In all, over 180 people participated in Regional Gatherings, many of whom don’t normally attend a single winter quarterly meeting due to travel challenges and group size.

Options to consider going forward:

1. Should the quarter follow the pattern of Regional Gatherings in lieu of a single quarterly meeting as we did last year including an online meeting for those who cannot travel?
2. Should we go back to having a single winter quarterly meeting hosted by rotating meetings in the Bay Area, as was done prior to the pandemic?

Possible Minutes of Action:

- ❖ *During winter 2026, College Park Quarterly Meeting agrees to...*

...return to our normal pattern of rotating locations in the Bay Area.

...follow the pattern of winter 2025 with Regional Gatherings meeting at dates and times to be determined by the host meeting in each region. The ad hoc Implementation Committee agrees to organize host meetings and serve as a resource.

- ❖ Request for the Implementation Committee to be laid down after this session or at the end of 2025 if the quarter decides to follow the pattern of Regional Gatherings in lieu of a single winter quarterly meeting.

Implementation Committee Report to CPQM

10/17/2025

Proposal for CPQM Business Procedure/Representative Committee Follow-up

During our spring quarterly meeting, a proposal was brought to have CPQM experiment with holding an online meeting of Representatives who would be invited to share concerns from their Quaker communities, consider Treasurer, Finance, Ministry & Spiritual Care reports; first readings of Naming and Nominating reports, as well as hearing reports from the Ben Lomond Quaker Center Association and the Residents Association of Friends House. Representative meetings would be held during the month prior to each quarterly meeting session over the course of the coming year. After distribution of Naming and Nominating reports and seasoning through the quarterly meeting weekend, updated reports would be presented during the final plenary session.

The quarterly meeting approved the following minute, "CPQM asks monthly meetings, worship groups, teen and YAF groups to prepare tentative charge descriptions and to recruit representatives willing to undertake the expanded role set out in the *Proposal to Restructure CPQM Business Procedures*. The results of this work shall be presented at the fall 2025 quarterly meeting when we will consider whether and when we are ready to begin an experiment with the Representative Committee structure as outlined in the proposal described."

The Implementation Committee sent emails offering resources and information to the clerks of our quarter's monthly meetings, worship groups and Teen Group as well as to the clerk of the PYM YAF group in June, July, August and September. We also requested responses with the contact information for those willing to serve as CPQM Representative with the expanded responsibilities, or if no one was willing to serve and any relevant background information. The minute asked meetings and worship groups to appoint a representative and at this point 16 people have agreed to serve as CPQM Representatives. Also before us is whether monthly meetings want to go forward with this proposal. **At this point, we know that 17 meetings of the 22 in our quarter have expressed their support for this proposal, one meeting expressed a lack of support, 2 have not yet responded, and 2 are inactive meetings.** [see table below]

As delineated in the proposal, the following steps would facilitate the process:

1. Committee clerks would need to have their reports ready to be presented to the Representative Committee a few weeks prior to the upcoming spring and fall quarterly meetings.
2. The Presiding Clerk will need to set a date for an online 2-hour Representative Committee meeting during the month prior to the upcoming spring and fall quarterly meeting.
3. CPQM Representatives would consult with their meetings and bring any concerns to the Representative Committee meeting and then report back to their meetings after the quarterly sessions.

The Presiding Clerk will need to consider whether any concerns that arise from the Representatives might carry enough weight or commonality among Friends to be offered for consideration during an upcoming quarterly meeting plenary session. For example, concerns might be shared about:

- a. How meetings are managing their responsibilities with a decline in membership or capacity to serve the meeting?
- b. How meetings support membership, the transfer of membership, and the laying down of membership?
- c. How meetings are putting Quaker faith into action and staying spiritually grounded amidst the impacts of the state of our world.

If concerns carry enough weight, the Clerk would offer time on a plenary agenda for Friends to share their concerns as well as ways in which meetings are addressing these issues, which would foster communication, understanding, and support for finding ways forward.

For discernment:

Are we ready to begin a two-year experiment of having CPQM Representatives meet during the month prior to spring 2026 quarterly meeting sessions to consider the regular business of the Quarter?

Possible Minute of Action:

CPQM agrees to experiment with using a Representative Committee model held online for considering standard business during the month prior to each spring and fall quarterly meeting as delineated in the [Proposal to Restructure CPQM Business Procedures](#). We ask each monthly meeting, worship, teen and young adult friends groups to amend their job description to meet the expectations as stated in the proposal and to appoint CPQM Representatives. These Representatives will be expected to begin their service in spring 2026. The Representative Committee structure and procedures will be evaluated during the spring 2028 quarterly meeting to discern whether or not to continue this practice.

Meetings	CPQM Representative	Rep Cmte Proposal	Worship Groups
Apple Seed	Irene Martin?	No response	
Berkeley	Sarah Tyrrell	Supports	Livermore Worship Group
Central Coast	Nom Com not yet active	Supports	
Chico	Jim Anderson	Supports	
Davis	Julie Harlow	Supports	
Delta	(Inactive meeting)	No response	Sierra Foothills Worship Group
Grass Valley	Doug Hamm	Supports	
Humboldt	Not yet able to find a Rep	Not in favor	So. Humboldt Worship Group
Live Oak	Ann Baier	Supports	Soledad Worship Group
Mendocino	Cathie Mellon	Supports	
Monterey Peninsula	Emily Leo	Supports	
Napa	Katherine Mawer	Supports	
Palo Alto	Margaret Willits	Supports	San Mateo Worship Group
Redding	(Inactive meeting)	No response	
Redwood Forest	Marcia Anderson	Supports	Friends House Worship Group
			Lake County Worship Group
			Ukiah Worship Group
Reno	Steve Wolgast	Supports	Carson City Worship Group
Sacramento	Klara East	Supports	Placer County Worship Group
San Francisco	Not yet able to find a Rep	Supports	
San Jose	Catherine Curtis	Supports	
Santa Cruz	Deborah Burton	Supports	
Strawberry Creek	Carl Anderson	Supports	Oakland Worship Group
Visalia	Daniel O'Connell	Supports	Fresno
			CPQM Teen Group
			PYM YAF Group

Friends Committee on Legislation of California Report to College Park Quarterly Meeting

As a new member of the FCLCA board, I met with Kevan Insko, the director of the Friends Committee on Legislation of California (FCLCA) a few weeks ago. I have been a member of the Religious Society of Friends for close to 30 years, I have relied on FCLCA to help me discern my vote on the various propositions that have appeared on the election ballots in California. I thought that was all they did. What an eye opener to find that the scope and impact of their work is so much broader!

In addition to giving reasons to support or oppose the various propositions, FCLCA has a powerful voice at the capitol. FCLCA carries our Quaker values directly to state legislators and the governor, not only on bills working their way through the legislature, but on the state budget as well.

Kevan provided a few highlights from FCLCA's advocacy this year, which included bills on economic justice, immigrant rights, criminal justice reform and environmental issues.

FCLCA supported and the governor signed several important protections for immigrants, including SB 627, which prevents law enforcement officers from wearing masks in the normal course of their duties, ab 1261, to provide legal counsel to minors facing deportation proceedings, and SB 98, AB 49 and SB 81, to protect immigrants in schools and hospitals from federal deportation efforts. FCLCA lobbied to strengthen the Racial Justice Act with AB 1071 signed by the governor. Two important climate change bills are now two-year bills - AB 1243, the Climate Superfund bill, to require fossil fuel polluters to pay their fair share of the damage caused by fossil fuel burning and SB 222, the Affordable Insurance and Climate Recovery Act which would allow parties injured by climate disasters and extreme weather events to recover their losses from oil and gas companies. These two bills will come back when the session reconvenes in January.

FCLCA will be asking for your contributions later this year to make sure that we can start strong in January on both the bills that carry over from this year, the state budget, which is a statement of our values as Californians, and new bills to ensure a more compassionate and just place to live for all of us. Your donations make this work happen. Thank you for your support!

Klara East
Sacramento Friends Meeting

Greetings to the current Clerk of Meeting -

I'm writing to you in my role as a board member of the small non-profit for which Barbara Flynn, a member of Redwood Forest Friends Meeting, is the director. It's called WALJOK, and we support Magaly Quispe's work in Bolivia. She is an indigenous Quaker woman who runs a student residence for high school students using Alternatives to Violence (AVP) principles and has introduced AVP into the country's prisons and into high schools.

We on the board are building our email list with names/emails of those who would like to be kept informed about the roll-out of the video series, Seeds of Hope. This project was born when Michael Candelori, the cinematographer, and Ben Brazil, an Earlham School of Religion professor, visited Bolivia in June of this year and learned of all the work there built on AVP principles. Opportunities for zoom time with some of the key players - Magaly, the cinematographer, the Quaker professor, and some Bolivians featured in the filming - will also be available. I've included a video trailer <https://youtu.be/tQatpzw8bVg> to give you an idea of the scope and quality of the production. We anticipate the first episode coming in mid-November.

I'd like to know if any in your meeting are interested in being kept informed and if you are able to spread the word via your meeting email list. Those who would like to know about the video series roll-out can send name/email contact to me at pattidavis89@hotmail.com.

Thank you for your help! Patti

<https://youtu.be/tQatpzw8bVg>

Patti Callahan, WALJOK Board Member
707-322-4325

Western Friends announcement

<https://www.westernfriend.org/events/among-western-friends-what-a-new-attender-needs-to-know/>

Sponsor(s): Western Friend Board

Announcing an online conversation:

Among Western Friends - What a new attender needs to know.

October 26, 2025 at 3 pm Pacific/4 pm Mountain Daylight Time.

If you're new to a Quaker meeting, have you puzzled over Friends subculture, with questions such as:

- What else does a meeting do besides sit in silence?
- How is this different from the church where I grew up?
- If I have an idea or a need, whom should I ask?
- When do I speak up in worship or a conversation?
- What is the Quaker language: Clearness, Unity, Threshing?
- Is there some core belief or practice that's essential?
- If you want to involve new attenders with your local meeting, what do they want and need to know? When should you invite them to lunch, or to meeting for business?
- What's a good book or pamphlet to offer? If a Friend has experience in some other region, what are the differences for these versions of Quakerism?
- Quakers will gather from across the West to hear reflections from a panel of new comers, including Lou Glowacki, Mary Ward, David Westmoreland and Jerilyn Winstead. Lively interchange will continue in small groups and with the larger body.

Register via the link below or by contacting:

- Jay Thatcher <jthatch@peak.org>, or
- Cheryl Speir-Phillips <cspapl@gmail.com>

This is an outreach program sponsored by *Western Friend*.

Teen Report

The teen program had business meeting and poster making on Friday. Saturday we went to the No Kings protest, played community building games, had another business meeting, had worship sharing, decided on new clerks, prepared for family night, and hosted family night. Sunday we cleaned the casa and reflected on the weekend.

Bitsy Carr
Teen co-clerk

well we hiked to the water
fall ~~and~~ the creek trail where we
decorated ~~my~~ Leda's cat's Grav. And,
we played the Peano and we
regaled ~~and~~, we fed over the
food. ~~and~~, we panted nail's
we've hearsed, for not he. we ate
all... best play at

College Park Quarterly Meeting Treasurer's Report

Fall Quarterly Meeting 2025

Ben Lomond Quaker Center 10/17- 10/19/25

2025 SUMMARY:

Winter Session 2025 (on Zoom 1/11/25)

Registration Fees & Donations	\$481.00
Less PayPal fees	-\$16.28
Net:	\$464.72

Spring Session 2025

At Quaker Center 4/25 – 4/27/2025

Income:

Registration Fees	\$8,524.75
Total income	\$8,524.75

Expenses:

Pay Pal fees	\$190.98
QC facilities	\$5,985.00
Food and Cooking	\$5,782.50
Childcare, teens	\$272.09
Misc. Admin	
Reimbursements	
Total expenses	\$12,230.57
Net:	-\$3,705.82

Bank Balance

General Fund Balance on 9/30/25	\$16,421.38
K-12 Scholarship Fund	\$4,213.00
Total bank balance on 09/30/25	\$20,634.38

	2024 Sessions Income & Expenses	Net	
Winter	1676 income – 59.00 expenses =	\$1,617.00	
Family Day	(2/24/24) 400.00 expenses	-\$400.00	
Spring	9136 income – 11,852 expenses =	-\$2,716.00	BLQC
Fall	10,736 income – 10,866 expenses =	-\$753.00	BLQC (corrected)
	2023 Sessions Income & Expenses	Net	
Winter	\$1682 income - \$408 expenses =	\$1,274.00	
Spring	\$8515 income - \$9488 expenses =	-\$973.00	BLQC
Fall	\$12,915 income - \$10,797 expenses =	\$2,118.00	Woolman (corrected)
	2022 Sessions Income & Expenses	Net	
Winter	\$1395 income - \$671 expenses =	\$724.00	
Spring	\$4345 income - \$7003 expenses =	-\$2,658.00	BLQC
Fall	\$4800 income - \$8101 expenses =	-\$3,301.00	Woolman