

**College Park Quarterly Meeting  
Notes and Minutes of Plenaries  
October 17-19, 2025**

**Saturday Morning**

The morning plenary started at 8:51 am. Acting Clerk Stephen Myers (Sacramento) welcomed us to the 258th session of College Park Quarterly Meeting.

Roll call

Acting Assistant Clerk Theresa Cox (Berkeley) conducted the roll call. The following monthly meetings and worship groups were present both in person and on Zoom:

Apple Seed

Berkeley

Chico

Davis

Friends House Worship Group

Humboldt

Lake County Worship Group

Live Oak

Palo Alto

Redwood Forest

Reno

Sacramento

San Francisco

San Jose

San Mateo Worship Group

Santa Cruz

Central Sierra Worship Group

Strawberry Creek

Visalia

One person unaffiliated with either a monthly meeting or worship group

The following Friends organizations were represented:

Friends Committee on Legislation of California (FCL CA)

Friends House

Ben Lomond Quaker Center

Earthlight Book Store

There was one visitor from outside of the quarter:

Nina Wright of Bridge City Monthly Meeting in Portland, OR, currently visiting Ben Lomond Quaker Center.

The Children's Program started.

### Clothing Exchange

Ari Standish (Berkeley) announced the clothing exchange on a table outside the Orchard Lodge.

### Teen Program

Clerk of teen's group, Bitsy Carr (Sacramento) announced the teen program. The teens left for their program.

### Clerk's report

Acting clerk Stephen Myers (Sacramento) gave his report on the session theme: What are Friends led to do in these times.

I can't tell you what Friends are led to do - that's the blessing and the curse of our peculiar religious society. Even I, as your "supreme leader" (aka acting presiding clerk), have no authority there - in our peculiarly non-authoritarian society, there is no higher authority than the individual, divinely led to a particular set of beliefs and actions.

But I can tell you what I've been led to do in these times, which is largely guided by what my monthly meeting is being led to do in these times. I'm led to work on my personal relationships, seeking to acknowledge the capacity for violence in my own heart and asking for forgiveness and grace as I grow into peace; I'm led to spend more time and be more involved with my spiritual communities, both my monthly meeting and the quarter, with renewed dedication to building our beloved community. And I'm led to work with those communities to resist the policies of greed and hate that is so prevalent in our nation with actions of love. The work I have been led to do includes supporting indigent prisoners with care packages during the holiday season and serving on the steering committee of my local meeting to sponsor a refugee family in their flight from Afghanistan to Sacramento.

I am so grateful to be with you all this weekend to experience opportunities to speak out against the darkness and to build love with one another, and am excited for the opportunity for us all to continue discernment on what you, and your communities of Friends, are led to do in these times.

The acting clerk reviewed the options for today's schedule. Some Friends may join a local "No Kings" protest. Those leaving to attend a protest need to be back by 12:30 pm for lunch. The teens will have two service projects. One is a homeless garden project and the other is attending the No Kings protest in Santa Cruz. For those staying at Quaker Center, there are opportunities to participate in topical tables on various issues. Tables will be open from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Eric Sableman (Palo Alto) also prepared a report on the theme, attached to these minutes.

The morning plenary ended at 9:22 am with a period of silent worship.

### **Saturday Afternoon**

Afternoon plenary began at 2:51 pm with a short period of worship.

## Naming Committee

Stephen Myers (Sacramento) and Sarah Johnson (San Jose) currently serve on Naming Committee, They have been informed that Dorothy Henderson (Grass Valley) needs to step down from Nominating Committee. Stephen asked for names to be spoken out of the silence to find a replacement for Dorothy. We were reminded that this is different from our normal procedure. The Acting Clerk replied that we are acting out of urgency to fill the vacancy before the winter quarter. A friend suggested that we hold over the nomination until tomorrow's plenary. Friends may speak to the current Naming Committee if they are interested in serving on Nominating Committee.

## Nominating Committee approvals from Spring 1st readings

TinaMarie Jackson (Apple Seed) read the nominations slate.

According the spring minutes, a number of these names on this slate were already approved. The Clerk asked that we approve the following names: Elizabeth Edwards (San Jose), Kelly Bodtke (Reno), Ari Standish (Berkeley), and Elinor Steffy (Sacramento) to the teen committee. The names were approved.

We also made a first reading of the names Klara East (Sacramento) and Daniel O'Connell (Visalia) to the Ministry and Spiritual Care Committee. Those names will season until tomorrow.

## Ministry & Spiritual Care Committee

Margaret Willits (Delta) gave the report for Clerk Thom McCue (Live Oak). They hosted a Zoom workshop in May and plan for future meetings, including a Quakerism 101 course. They are working to help our worship groups thrive.

## Ad-hoc Implementation Committee

### *Representative business meeting proposal*

Kathy Runyan (Chico) and Jim Anderson (Chico) reported for the Implementation Committee. Their report is attached to these minutes. Kathy gave a review of the presentation at Spring Quarter. Jim read the minute approved in the spring. The committee solicited responses from the monthly and yearly meetings. 17 of the 22 monthly meetings responded with support for the proposal. One meeting, Humboldt, does not support the proposal. The remaining meetings gave no response.

The committee responded to questions.

A Friend suggested we be clear on how to name the proposed Representative Committee to avoid confusion with the yearly meeting's Rep Com. Jim responded that with the representative committee model more voices may be included. Those attending quarterly meeting sessions are only a fraction of the members of the quarter. Kathy added that Friends have expressed a lack

of interest in attending quarterly sessions. Some come because their children want to find other young Friends. The new structure would give Friends reasons to attend by being more interactive and engaging.

Clerk Eric Sabelman (Palo Alto) added that a number of meetings have been left out by not sending representatives to the quarterly sessions. The exclusion of any Friends is distressing to him.

Is this the best way to engage the monthly meetings? Should we ask the monthly meetings what they want quarterly meeting sessions to be?

The minute will be brought back tomorrow for approval. Friends are invited to attend the interest group after this plenary to bring their questions and concerns.

#### *Winter regional gatherings 2025 report*

Jim Anderson (Chico) and Kathy Runyan (Chico) reported on the regional gatherings from last winter. Their report is attached to these minutes.

Clerk Eric Sabelman (Palo Alto) invited Friends to read the documents on the quarterly web site on how to hold regional gatherings.

#### Introduction of interest group topics & convenors

The Acting Clerk introduced the interest groups and their convenors. An interest group on Proposition 50 was added during our free time this afternoon in the library.

#### Announcements

Klara East (Sacramento) reported on FCLCA, which needs our financial support. She announced the legislation that passed this past session with the support of FCL CA. On Proposition 50, FCL CA has taken a neutral position, though some Friends felt strongly in support. Her report is attached to these minutes.

Acting Assistant Clerk Theresa Cox (Berkeley) reported on behalf of Patti Callahan (Redwood Forest) about the release of the film series **Seeds of Hope** about work to bring AVP principles to youth in Bolivia. The announcement is attached to these minutes. She read an announcement on behalf of Western Friend, which is attached to these minutes. She also announced a Preston Partners Fellowship at Berkeley Meeting, attached to these minutes.

The Acting Clerk announced the Family Night being hosted by the Teens. If a hybrid family night is not possible due to technical problems, Eric Sableman (Palo Alto) will host an alternative program on Zoom.

The plenary ended at 4:41 pm with a period of closing worship.

## **Sunday morning**

Sunday morning plenary began at 10:35 am with a period of silent worship.

### Ben Lomond Quaker Center report

Nico Wright (BLQC) said thank you from Quaker Center. He is happy to see people here for the first time, as well as people working together. He introduced the Quaker Center team members with appreciation. QC is busy and full every weekend. They are working to upgrade their water system and drilling of a new well. Friends are welcome to return for Quaker Center programs and sign up for the 2026 calendar. Spring quarter returns to Quaker Center at the end of April. They are using social media to promote their programs. Friends are invited to take the fall schedule back to their meetings. In addition, they are looking for more board members.

### Teen Report

Bitsy Carr (Sacramento) gave the teen report. Their report is attached to these minutes.

### Implementation Committee

#### *Representative business meeting proposal, continued*

Acting Clerk Stephen Myers (Sacramento) provided the background on the discernment process that led to this proposal. Jim Anderson (Chico) read the proposed minute.

One Friend expressed concern for the naming of Representative Committee to avoid confusion with Pacific Yearly Meeting's Representative Committee. She suggested calling it Liaison Committee or Delegates Committee.

A Friend reminded us that Faith and Practice gives guidance on how to name the committee.

The Acting Clerk asked if Friends are in unity on the minute. Two Friends said they were standing aside. Another Friend who is unaffiliated said she is not sensing unity in the room.

The clerk acknowledged that there are unknowns that have to be worked out. He senses that we do have unity.

The Clerk of Nominating Committee expressed concern that the proposal puts an additional layer of work on the quarter. Friends who would otherwise be available for other jobs would be committed to the work of monthly meeting representatives. She expressed the hope that we reevaluate the proposal at the end of the two year experiment and not just default to making it permanent. We need to be clear what business to bring to the representative meeting and what to bring to the quarterly plenaries.

One Friend expressed concern that smaller meetings who have difficulties finding representatives will be excluded.

The clerk again asked if we have unity. The minute was approved with the understanding that the experiment can be reevaluated as early as the Spring 2026 quarter.

#### Children's Program report

The children reported on their weekend activities, including a hike to the waterfall. Their report is attached to these minutes.

#### Implementation Committee

##### *Winter regional gatherings 2026 proposal*

Kathy Runyan (Chico) asked if we want to have a winter quarter meeting as in the past or have regional gatherings with a Zoom being for business.

Because we were behind schedule, one Friend suggested delegating the decision on how to hold the winter quarter session to the Ministry and Spiritual Care Committee. The proposal was approved.

#### Nominating Committee

The Acting Clerk read the names of Daniel O'Connell (Visalia) and Klara East (Sacramento) to the Ministry and Spiritual Care Committee. The nominations were approved.

#### Naming Committee

Naming Committee convener Stephen Myers (Sacramento) read the name of Catie Polley (Reno) to serve on the Nominating Committee. The name will season until the Winter Quarter.

#### Treasurer

Treasurer Martha Hunkins (Humboldt) gave the Treasurer's Report, which is attached to these minutes. The spring quarter session ran a significant deficit and Friends are encouraged to pay their registration fees if they have not done so.

#### Finance Committee

Bob Runyan (Chico) gave the Financial Committee Report. The Finance Committee has been viewing our growing deficits which threatens to deplete our resources in four or five years. The Finance Committee proposed the annual contribution per member be increased from \$2 to \$5 with the beginning of this fiscal year. The minute was approved..

#### Registrar

Sarah Tyrrell (Berkeley) gave the registrar's report. 111 people registered and 80 attended in person. 31 registered to attend by Zoom.

As reported by Eric Sableman: 5 people attended via zoom on Friday, 16 on Saturday, and 13 on Sunday.

### Reading of minutes

Recording Clerk Tom Yamaguchi (Berkeley) read the minutes for the quarterly sessions. The minutes were approved with corrections.

The plenary ended at 1:02 pm with a period of silent worship.