

College Park Quarterly Meeting Minutes for Spring 2025 - Fourth Month, 25-27

Friday evening

Clerk's welcome

The plenary started at 8:00 pm after a half hour of silent worship. Stephen Myers (Sacramento) welcomed us to the 257th gathering of CPQM. Stephen is the assistant to the clerk and the acting presiding clerk. Clerk Eric Sabelman (Palo Alto) is participating via Zoom as he recovers from cancer. Stephen thanked Eric and the community for their support as he took on this increased role. He reviewed the weekend's activities, including exploring new ways of doing business. He extended a special welcome to newcomers. Newcomers can be matched with a buddy. Margaret Willits (Palo Alto) can assist with matching newcomers with buddies.

The Acting Clerk led the group in two activities. He asked representatives of monthly meetings to check the clipboard in the plenary room to verify the names of their current representatives and meeting clerks.

The Acting Clerk gave the announcements, including in person and online Bible study. He read an announcement from Quaker Voluntary Service of various open positions with QVS.

Saturday morning

The Acting Clerk welcomed us to the Saturday morning plenary at 9:30 am. He asked that we announce our names and meetings whenever we speak. He outlined the morning plenary agenda, including introducing the theme.

Roll call and introductions

The acting assistant to the clerk Theresa Cox (Berkeley) read the roll. The following monthly meetings and worship groups were present.

Appleseed

Berkeley

Central Coast

Chico

Davis

Friends House Worship Group

Grass Valley

Humboldt

Lake County Worship Group

Live Oak

Palo Alto

Redwood Forest

Reno

Sacramento

San Francisco

San Jose
San Mateo Worship Group
Santa Cruz
Sierra Foothills Worship Group (Central Sierra)
Strawberry Creek
Visalia
1 unaffiliated

Visitors from outside the quarter were Inger Pencoast of Fredonia (NY) Friends Meeting, currently attending Walnut Creek Friends Church, and Carl Sigmond of Germantown (PA) Meeting, formerly of Grass Valley.

A Friend asked for Southern Marin Worship Group to be added to list of meetings, though there was no one attending from that worship group at the plenary.

The Acting Clerk again welcomed newcomers and invited them to have a buddy for the weekend.

Ministry & Spiritual Care

Thom McCue (Live Oak), Clerk of Ministry and Spiritual Care gave the committee's report. He introduced the members of the committee and noted the committee is short on members. He outlined the committee's activities for the last year. He asked the monthly meetings who are experiencing difficulties to contact the committee.

Thom announced an online workshop to be held May 6 at 5 pm on Zoom to help members of Ministry and Care Committees of monthly meetings in the quarter understand the function of the Ministry and Spiritual Care Committee. Topics will include: What is the distinction between ministry and care? What is discernment? The workshop will be led by Diego Navarro (Santa Cruz). Friends interested in attending may email the committee at cpqmmsc@gmail.com.

The committee is looking at the status of worship groups. New ones are forming, while others are inactive. They are also looking at the status of monthly meetings. Some meetings may need to be laid down.

Friends expressed satisfaction with the regional gatherings this past winter. Others had trouble attending. He asked that if Friends are interested, a Zoom gathering could be scheduled for those unable to attend a regional gathering in person. Friends may contact Marcy Downing (Live Oak) or Nancy Nanna (Redwood Forest) or send a message to the committee's email address.

Quaker Center Welcome

Nico Wright gave the welcome and orientation to Ben Lomond Quaker Center. BLQC has been hosting a full schedule of weekend programs. He introduced the BLQC staff. He announced, after two years, Cindy Banks is leaving her position as the office and hospitality manager. Kristen Watson (Sacramento) is finishing her service as Communications and Outreach Coordinator, and Mark Runyan (Santa Cruz) will step into that role. The incoming office and hospitality manager is Elena Rosales-Anderson. Quaker Center is in a very good place following

an amazing 75th anniversary year, with a full calendar of Quaker programs. Staff is looking forward to an all-ages in-person program next month, and registration is open for Quaker Center summer camp and Family Work Camp.

Children's Program

Shanna Mae Slight (Reno) reported this quarter session has more children than usual. She appreciates the adult volunteers. A Maypole has been set up by Orchard Lodge where children will learn the Maypole dance. Adults will be able to dance the Maypole during lunch.

Bitsy Carr from Sacramento is a teen co-clerk of the teen committee with Iris Moon and Vivian. They plan on activities that include community building, hiking, and meditating in the meditation cottage.

Elinor Steffy (Sacramento) and Sofia Warren (non affiliated) are the Friendly Adult Presences (FAPs).

Introduction to the Theme

The Acting Clerk read his introduction to the theme: What does it mean to be a Friend of the Truth? He spoke of his personal story that led him to the development of the theme. Important events in his development as a Quaker include participating in Quaker Camp, Service Camp, and Peace Action Camp. The introduction is attached to these minutes as appendix 5.

Nominating Committee - First Reading of Names

Mary Miche (Redwood Forest), Clerk of the committee, gave the nominating report. Two people who had been nominated for Ministry and Spiritual Care decided to withdraw their nominations. The committee has no names to bring to this session for Ministry & Spiritual Care.

She distributed paper copies for representatives to bring back to their monthly meetings.

- Bob Runyan (Chico) and Owain Elliot Sowaal (San Francisco) are being nominated to Finance Committee.
- Eric Sabelman (Redwood Forest) is still listed as Presiding Clerk, although his ability to attend the fall quarter is unknown.
- Abby Ingraham (Redwood Forest) and Theresa Cox (Berkeley) are nominated for Registration Committee
- The quarter needs Zoom hosts. Owain Elliott Sowaal was able to fill in for this session.
- Jennifer Carr (Sacramento) and Alan Levien (Berkeley) are nominated for the Teen Committee.
- Thistle Hofvendahl (Santa Cruz) and Nora Lisette (Grass Valley) are nominated for the Children's Committee.

Nominating is working on job descriptions for the quarter. They will send out the revised job descriptions by email for review and possible adoption at the fall quarterly session.

Naming Committee

Shanna Mae Slight (Reno) gave the Naming Committee report. Dan Beck (Redwood Forest) stepped down for health reasons.

Lisa Hubbell (unaffiliated) was nominated for Nominating Committee.

The Acting Clerk asked Friends to bring names for Naming Committee. The following names will be seasoned until tomorrow's plenary: Stephen Myers (Sacramento), Doug Hamm (Grass Valley), and Sarah Johnson (San Jose).

Ben Lomond Quaker Center Report

Bob Runyan (Chico) and Ann Marie Snell (San Francisco) are co clerks of the Ben Lomond Quaker Center (BLQC) Association Directors. BLQC is In good financial condition with no debt and is running in the black. They asked for continued donations and for Friends to name BLQC in their wills so that BLQC can make capital improvements. They need more active members on the board. The board has six subcommittees: Buildings and Grounds, Finance, Governance, Outreach and Development for fundraising, Program Committee for finding program presenters and building out the calendar, and Personnel to support the Director in his supervision of staff. People who are interested in serving on the board can contact Bob or Ann Marie. They meet once per year in person, and bi-monthly by Zoom. The board needs 9 to 15 board members and currently has nine.

San Jose Meeting Anniversary & Fundraiser

Alan and Mimi Edgar (Santa Cruz) announced the 140th anniversary of the San Jose Meeting, which is having events on the fourth Sunday of every month this year. San Jose is the oldest meetinghouse west of Iowa. They are raising money for accessibility upgrades.

The Acting Clerk called for a 15 minute break at 10:45 am.

At 11:00 am, the plenary returned to remember Friends who have recently died. The following Friends were memorialized out of silent worship:

Sally Davis (Sacramento)
Jorge Morales (San Jose)
Eric Moon (Berkeley)
David Hartsough (San Francisco)
Elena Margolis (Santa Cruz)
Leonard Joy (Strawberry Creek)
Stratton Jaquette (Palo Alto)

Kathy Runyan (Chico) and Jim Anderson (Chico) gave the report for the ad-hoc Implementation Committee, which is attached to these minutes as Appendix 7. Keenan Lorenzato (Davis) is also on the committee, but was unable to be present for the plenary.

The committee presented a proposal for changing the way the quarter conducts business. They reviewed the proposal, as well as our current practice. The main elements of the proposal are to

have Zoom sessions for certain items of business to free up time for more weighty matters and to hopefully strengthen the connection between the monthly meetings and the quarter.

This proposal will be brought back to the afternoon plenary. If implemented, the first representative meeting would be in September, before the fall quarterly meeting. There would be a two year trial period.

The following meetings have sent support via email: Central Coast, Chico, Davis, ...(need complete list) Some meetings have minuted support, though that was not requested by Implementation Committee.

San Francisco Meeting supports the proposal but has not been able to find a quarterly representative.

There was a concern there would not be enough time before the proposed representative meeting for meetings to update their job descriptions and find a representative.

Friends were invited to ask clarifying questions. Answers to some of those questions include:

- Worship Groups, teens, and Young Adult Friends would have representatives in addition to the monthly meetings.
- Concerns brought to the representative meeting from monthly meetings would be considered for possible addition to the quarterly meeting agenda.
- Quarterly meeting is an opportunity for children to meet and interact with other Quaker children.
- What about meetings who can't find a representative? They would send all communications to the clerk in hope that someone will attend at least one session.

The presenters asked the plenary to consider three questions:

- Do we want to adopt the proposal as-is?
- Are we ready to implement it in the fall?
- What do the monthly meetings and worship groups need to do to be prepared for the next representative committee meeting?

Additional ministry that was shared:

- If we were to plan a program that considers the needs of the children, what would that look like? We probably would not be sitting in these chairs all day.
- Friends find that monthly meeting work takes up much of their time, so they decide not to attend quarterly and yearly meetings.
- Some people may love the process more than outcomes.

The Acting Clerk said we will be able to comment more on the proposal in the afternoon session.

The plenary ended with a few announcements at 12:52 pm.

Saturday afternoon

The Acting Clerk welcomed us back to the Saturday afternoon plenary at 4:35 pm.

State of the Meeting reports

Margaret Willits (Palo Alto) gave the report on the State of Meeting reports, which is attached to these minutes as Appendix 10. Reports are still coming in. Two reports, Humboldt and Grass Valley, came in after the committee had prepared the document. The reason for the lateness is probably due to the early scheduling of the spring quarter.

Some insights from the summary of reports:

- Mendocino Meeting is happy with their decision to split up clerk duties.
- Monthly Meetings are still working on finding balance in holding their hybrid meetings.
- Some worship groups have accepted the invitation to write their own reports on the state of their worship groups.
- Meetings are still experimenting with the pairing of newcomers with experienced attenders.

Discernment on the Proposal of the Implementation Committee

The Acting Clerk invited Friends to speak on the proposal of the Implementation Committee. The Clerk said his sense is that there are Friends who are in opposition, while other Friends are enthusiastic. He reviewed the objections he heard, He does not sense unity, but has experienced productive conversations.

A number of Friends spoke their concerns. Among them:

- This would create more work for the quarterly meeting and for the representatives. Meetings would have more difficulty finding representatives.
- Others agreed that this would mean more work for the quarter, but this would be a good thing. The quarter would have more time to devote to big projects and important work that needs to be done.
- Some Friends spoke of the fear of change. They acknowledged that quarter has changed as a result of COVID. Change means giving up control.
- Meetings on zoom are more accessible for people who live far away or can't afford the cost of a weekend meeting.
- It is an opportunity to better engage monthly meetings and worship groups with more active representatives.
- Less time spent in plenaries is more time spent community building, especially with intergenerational activities.
- If we say we can't have a representative meeting until all meetings and worship groups are able to send representatives, then we shouldn't be meeting this weekend because not all meetings have representatives this quarterly.

The Acting Clerk was asked to test unity on the proposal. The Acting Clerk formulated a possible minute for the proposal. Friends were unable to find unity on the proposed minute.

A member of the committee offered an alternative minute. The following minute was approved.

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 plenary ended at 6:10 pm.

Sunday morning

Plenary started at 10:30 am.

Co-Recording Clerk Tom Yamaguchi (Berkeley) read the minutes for the Friday and Saturday plenaries. Those minutes were approved.

Children's Committee Report

Barbara Christwitz (Redwood Forest) gave the children's program report. She thanked the adult volunteers. She noted that we need at least two adults to be with the children at all times. She thanked the Friends who created the Maypole.

Letter of Introduction to NYPM for traveling Friends from the quarter

The acting clerk read a letter of introduction to North Pacific Yearly Meeting for Nora Lisette and Keith Runyan. We approved the letter of introduction. The letter is attached to these minutes as Appendix 11.

Finance Committee and Treasurer's Report

Martha Hunkins (Humboldt), CPQM Treasurer, delivered the treasurer's report, which is attached to these minutes as Appendix 12.

Our last session in winter had a net gain of \$464.72. The previous fall quarter lost \$753.49. We need to find how to meet our expenses as our costs continue to rise. Previous sessions have lost more money because attendance was down in the post-COVID era. More in person attendance adds to our revenue. Cooking costs have increased since the previous fall cook charged less than the cook we hired in the spring.

A Friend shared that we need to consider the expense of the children's program as an investment.

Another Friend noted that the cost of the regional gatherings was not presented in the report. The treasurer said each regional gathering was financially independent. She received no requests for reimbursement or financial support. Going forward that may change.

We accepted the treasurer's report.

There was a request for paper copies of the reports to be made available in the plenary room.

A Friend asked if we will have reports from the regional gatherings. The acting clerk said that we will be reviewing those gatherings at the fall gathering.

Registrar's report

Sarah Tyrrell (Berkeley) delivered the registrar's report, which is attached to these minutes as Appendix 13.

In addition, to those reported, there were 16 commuters. She will update the report.

We accepted the registrar's report.

Teen program report

Bitsy and Iris gave the report. Worship sharing queries were based on the quarterly theme.

Naming Committee

Katherine Curtis (San Jose) has accepted a position on Nominating Committee. She will be able to serve on the committee while her name is being seasoned.

The acting clerk reread the names nominated to the Naming Committee. Those names were approved. The acting clerk will confirm with Sarah Johnson that she is willing to serve. Stephen Myers (Sacramento) will convene the Naming Committee.

Nominating Committee - Approval of slate

Mary Miche (Redwood Forest) reread the names to be approved. Bob Runyan (Chico) is being nominated as clerk of Finance. Mary discovered that the expiration dates are wrong, and she will correct that. That corrected report is attached to these minutes as Appendix 6.

The acting clerk read the names of the committee clerks who are serving one year terms.

The Zoom host is not a nominated position and is selected by the arrangements committee.

New names to be seasoned for our next gathering:

- Elizabeth Edwards (San Jose) is being nominated for Children's Committee.
- Kelly Bodke (Reno), Ari Standish (Berkeley), and Einor Stefy (Sacramento) are being nominated for Teen Committee.

Naming Committee

We approved Lisa Hubbell for Nominating Committee.

Other issues

Eric Sabelman (Palo Alto) said we need to have an evaluation of the regional gatherings in the fall if we are to move forward with those gatherings in the future. He asked the Implementation Committee to meet before the fall quarter and create a report.

Eric noted that our Insurance coverage is for our three regular sessions and does not include regional gatherings. If we decide to include them, the gatherings would need to be added as riders. If the quarter decides to sponsor the regional gatherings, it would be in good order for the Implementation Committee to attach their evaluation report to these minutes.

The acting assistant to the clerk read announcements.

- The new Youth Program Coordinator for North Pacific Yearly Meeting is Sue Bear Hebner.

The acting clerk announced the following:

- He requested that we gather for a group photo at the start of lunch. A Friend asked to include a screenshot of the Zoom attendees. That photo is attached to these minutes as Appendix 14.
- The fall quarter will be held at Ben Lomond Quaker Center from Friday, October 17 to Sunday, October 19.

Co-Recording Clerk Tom Yamaguchi (Berkeley) read the minutes for today's plenary, which was approved with some corrections.

We concluded with worship at 12:10 pm.