

**College Park Quarterly Meeting
260th Session - Fourth Month 24th - 26th, 2026
Notes and Minutes of Plenaries**

Friday Evening Plenary

Clerk's Welcome

The Friday evening plenary started at 7:41 pm. Presiding Clerk Eric Sabelman (Palo Alto) welcomed us to the 260th session of College Park Quarterly Meeting, both in person and on Zoom. He asked for our feedback on the hybrid experience. He introduced the members of the clerk's table, Stephen Myers (Sacramento), Assistant Clerk, and Tom Yamaguchi (Berkeley), Recording Clerk. He invited Friends with questions and concerns to speak to members of Ministry and Spiritual Care.

The theme is Root and Branch, Leaf and Fruit. There will be more about the theme tomorrow.

Newcomer recognition/matching with resource "buddy"

The Clerk invited newcomers to introduce themselves.

Group activity

The Clerk introduced and led the group activity, Ask Me About Quakers.

Announcements

The Clerk invited Friends to sign up for worship sharing and reviewed the weekend schedule.

Closing

The Assistant Clerk led the group in singing.

The plenary closed with silent worship at 8:29 pm.

Saturday Morning Plenary

The Saturday morning plenary started at 9:50 am.

Roll call

Assistant Clerk Stephen Myers (Sacramento) called the roll. The following monthly meetings and worship groups were in attendance:

Berkeley, Central Coast, Chico, Davis, Friends House Worship Group, Grass Valley, Humboldt, Lake County Worship Group, Live Oak, Mendocino, Palo Alto, Redwood Forest, Reno, Sacramento, San Francisco, San Jose, San Mateo Worship Group, Santa Cruz, Central Sierra Worship Group, Soledad Prison Worship Group, Strawberry Creek, Visalia, and one Friend unaffiliated with a meeting or worship group.

Representatives of Quaker organizations: Ben Lomond Quaker Center.

There were no visitors from other meetings or organizations.

Introductions of clerk's table

The Clerk reintroduced the clerk's table, Stephen Myers (Sacramento) is Assistant Clerk and Tom Yamaguchi (Berkeley) is Recording Clerk.

Newcomer recognition/matching with resource "buddy"

The Clerk invited newcomers to introduce themselves and be matched with a buddy.

Agenda review

The Clerk reviewed the plenary agenda.

Quaker Center Welcome

Nico Wright of Ben Lomond Quaker Center welcomed us to Quaker Center. He is happy to see the 10 to 12 Friends who are here for the first time. Nico outlined the history of Quaker Center. Attending members of the Board identified themselves. Nico introduced the staff. Friends can speak to them if they have questions.

Children and Teens Program

Thistle Hofvendahl (Santa Cruz) introduced the Children's Program. Bitsy Carr (Sacramento) and Kai Vasquez (Reno) introduced the teen program. The teens will be hosting Family Night. There are 12 teens in attendance.

Clerk's introduction to theme

Clerk Eric Sabelman (Palo Alto) read his message on the theme for the session, Root and Branch, Leaf and Fruit. His statement is attached to these minutes.

Review of online business meeting

The Assistant Clerk reported on the online business meeting on April 11. His report is attached to these minutes. The report is also on the quarterly meeting web site. Updated job descriptions are also attached to these minutes.

Communications

The clerk announced the return of the box where information can be distributed in paper form to monthly meetings.

Nominating Committee

Mary Miche (Redwood Forest) read the slate of new nominees. Paper copies will be available later. Mary reported that the committee has adopted updated job descriptions to guide their work.

- Alma Moon (Strawberry Creek) is being nominated as CPQM Clerk.
- Theresa Cox (Berkeley) is being nominated to serve on Ministry and Spiritual Care Committee. Nominating is looking for a possible second nominee for that committee.
- Lisa Hubbell (unaffiliated) is being nominated for Recording Clerk. A second recording clerk will be announced later after approval by Nominating Committee.
- Stephen Myers (Sacramento) is continuing as Assistant Clerk
- Eric Sabelman (Palo Alto) will be a support person for the new clerk.

Concerns can be brought to members of Nominating Committee.

The Clerk reported that Alma Moon has submitted a resume, which is available in the registration packet. One Friend expressed concern that a resume would be required for an incoming clerk. The Clerk replied that the resume was submitted only for our information and was not a requirement; historically, resumes were circulated for non-Quaker members of boards under Quarterly care.

Naming Committee

Stephen Myers (Sacramento) is convenor of the Naming Committee. Sarah Johnson (San Jose) and Doug Hamm (Grass Valley) are the other members of Naming Committee. All of the members are willing to serve for another year. The meeting approved these Friends to continue on Naming Committee.

Ben Lomond Quaker Center Report

Nico Wright gave a short summary of the Ben Lomond Quaker Center report, which is attached to these minutes.

Afternoon schedule

The Clerk reviewed the afternoon schedule, including interest groups. Owain Elliot-Sowaal (San Francisco) introduced worship sharing groups.

Closing

Worship Sharing started at 11:00 am.

Sunday Closing Plenary

Plenary began at 10:18 am. The Clerk reviewed the agenda. He returned us to the theme of Root and Branch, Leaf and Fruit and reminded us of the soil that holds the roots. He directed our attention to the Box that Friends can use to send messages to all the monthly meetings in the quarter; the Box will be kept at Quaker Center between sessions..

Registrar's Report

Sarah Tyrrell (Berkeley) gave the Registrar's report. The numbers are not completely final. She is counting 119 total with 8 teenagers, 14 children, and 18 registered on Zoom. There were a number of issues with accommodations as Friends attending Quarterly age and become less mobile; for example, there are fewer campers.

State of the Meeting Reports

Thom McCue (Live Oak), Clerk of Ministry and Spiritual Care Committee, gave a summary of the State of the Meeting reports. 17 monthly meetings submitted reports. While the aging of our members is a continuing condition, a large number of meetings reported new attenders. Meetings are generally small, making quarterly meeting gatherings crucial for our community. He urged Friends to read the full reports, to be posted on the website.

Children's Committee Report

Arden Abrose-Winters (Davis) reported for the Children's Program, sharing art created by the children. The children read their epistle.

Teen Committee Report

Bitsy Carr (Sacramento) and Kai Vasquez (Reno) gave the Teen program report.

Nominating Committee

Mary Miche (Redwood Forest), Clerk of Nominating Committee read the names of nominations. Theresa Cox (Berkeley) for Ministry and Spiritual Care Committee and Lisa Hubble (Strawberry Creek) for Recording Clerk. **Both names were approved.**

Barbara Babin (Redwood Forest) is being nominated as Co Recording Clerk. Her name will be seasoned until the online meeting in the fall.

The Clerk read the name of Alma Moon (Strawberry Creek) for Clerk. Alma is an attender of Strawberry Creek, but not a member of a monthly meeting, which is a requirement for the position according to the CPQM job descriptions. Nominating Committee was not aware of this issue until the last few days. Alma replied that she has been attending Quaker meetings longer than some Friends have been members. A number of Friends expressed what they called a "stop" on the nomination. One Friend suggested giving Alma another role at the Clerk's table.

The following people have expressed either a stop or a concern:

- Jim Anderson
- Claire Leonard
- Jan Turner
- Kathy Runyan
- Bob Runyan
- Tom Yamaguchi
- Jesse Burson
- Janet Leslie

The Clerk asked for a called meeting between now and the regularly scheduled business meeting in the fall for the purpose of nominating a clerk and reviewing the job description. It could be on Zoom, possibly with an in-person hub at Friends House.

A Friend asked that the schedule be adjusted to finish our business without the called meeting.

A Friend spoke about Alma's connection to the quarterly meeting with the suggestion that a called meeting could address the issue of membership for those not connected with a monthly meeting.

One Friend suggested holding off the nomination until the fall session. In the meantime, Pacific Yearly Meeting may create a process for Friends to become members of the Society of Friends through the yearly meeting.

The Clerk reminded us that the monthly meetings are at the base of the pyramid, and we don't want to give authority to the top of the pyramid.

Alma asked if we might be stuck in the past, rooted in a history that may not be serving us.

The Clerk discerned a lack of unity for the nomination. He asked Friends who previously expressed a stop or concern if they still want to be recorded as such. A number of Friends reaffirmed their positions.

The Clerk again asked for a called meeting for carrying over the nomination, as well as to consider the issue of membership.

A Friend asked the Clerk to test unity for a called meeting in the summer to provide an adequate amount of time on this issue.. The Clerk asked if there is unity on a called meeting.

One Friend asked that the Transformation Committee of Pacific Yearly Meeting be allowed to provide input on the issue.

The Clerk announced that we will have a called meeting on the subject of this nomination and the issue of membership.

The meeting approved Eric Sabelman continuing as Clerk until the completion of the called meeting.

Reading and approval of minutes

Recording Clerk Tom Yamaguchi read the minutes of the three plenary sessions. The minutes were approved.

Closing

The plenary ended at 12:49 pm with silent worship.