

## **College Park Quarterly Meeting – 256th Session**

### **1/11/2025**

The 256<sup>th</sup> session of College Park Quarterly Meeting started at 10:00 am after a half hour of silent worship. The session was held on Zoom. Eric Sabelman clerked the plenary. He welcomed feedback on how well the session worked on Zoom. He introduced co-recording clerks TinaMarie Jackson (Appleseed) and Tom Yamaguchi (Berkeley).

Assistant Clerk Stephen Myers called the roll. The following monthly meetings and worship groups were present:

Appleseed	Redwood Forest
Berkeley	Sacramento
Chico	San Francisco
Davis	San Jose
Friends House Worship Group	Santa Cruz
Grass Valley	Soledad Worship Group
Humboldt	Southern Humboldt
Lake County	Strawberry Creek
Live Oak	
Napa	

Visitors from outside the quarter:

Stephen Donahoe from Friends Committee on National Legislation  
Robin DuRant (Orange Grove), Pacific Yearly Meeting Clerk

### **News of Friends affected by Los Angeles area fires**

Robin Durant provided news of Friends affected by wildfires in Los Angeles City and County. "Our meeting has tried to reach out to evacuated members to ensure they're safe. Our pastoral care committee took on the job of contacting people in the burn/evacuation zones. We've heard from most of them now. Tomorrow, we're meeting to attend to the debris at the Meetinghouse and to brainstorm. Even something as simple as a phone tree might be helpful to have in place in the case of unthinkable circumstances. We also have a sharing fund, which we might choose to supplement. We used to have a hospitality list of people who had rooms to offer traveling friends. In the era of instant communication, we've let some of the old analog ways slide."

### **Clerk's report**

The Clerk reported on the session's theme, What Should Friends Be Doing Now? His report is attached to these minutes.

The clerks of both quarters have been asked to provide State of the Quarter reports to the Representative Committee. He expects to be working on that in the next four weeks.

### **Nominating report**

Nominating Committee clerk Mary Miche reported that there are no new nominations being brought to this session. Ministry & Spiritual Care and the Children's Committee need more members. The committee is currently Working on job descriptions.

### **Naming Committee report**

Shana Mae Slight (Nevada) gave the Naming Committee report. They do not have any names to bring to the session. The other Naming Committee member Dan Beck is currently in the hospital and is unable to work.

Sarah Tyrrell volunteered to help Shana Mae with the Naming Committee.

### **Treasurer's report**

Martha Hunkins (Humboldt) gave the Treasurer's Report, which is attached to these minutes. The fall quarter lost \$905. Losses continue, though not as much as during the pandemic. Our weekend sessions are more costly with lower attendance.

The Clerk reported that the Finance Committee plans to meet to address how future quarterly sessions are financed. *Friends accepted the Treasurer's Report*

### **Ministry and Spiritual Care Committee report**

Thom McCue (Live Oak) gave the M&SC report. The committee is organizing Zoom meetings in the spring with monthly meeting committee clerks. The committee is looking for advice on what Friends would like to be addressed in these sessions. They are looking for meetings that are seeking care and help with issues in their meetings.

### **Registrar's report**

Sarah Tyrrell (Berkeley) gave the registrar's report. 56 people registered for the session. Her report is attached to these minutes. The Clerk reported that the teens are having their own event in the Sierras next weekend.

### **Clerk's proposal for need-finding committees**

The Clerk shared an outline of quarterly meeting needs. That outline is attached to these minutes. He noted that the CPQM took on more work in the past than it does now. He invited Friends to join the Need Finding Working Groups.

After a short period of worship, the plenary took a break from 10:49 am to 11:02 am.

### **First Hand reports from meetings and worship groups**

#### **Live Oak Meeting/Soledad Worship Group**

Jeff Richman, Amos Johnson, Emelyn Buskirk gave the report for Live Oak Meeting and Soledad Worship Group

Amos Johnson reported for the Soledad Worship Group. Amos has served as clerk of the worship group. He appreciates that the group is not judgemental of people in prison. The Meeting cares for people for who they are and not what they did in the past. No one asks why they are in prison. He invited Friends to join worship groups and workshops in prisons.

Emelyn Buskirk has also attended the worship group and believes that those in prison minister to her as much as she ministers to them. She believes that the reason why Live Oak is such a vibrant meeting is because of their work in the worship group. The Clerk invited the group to send a written report.

### **Grass Valley Meeting**

Dorothy Henderson gave the report that was postponed from the fall session. She reported on the land transition. The pandemic and Jones Fire resulted in the closure of Sierra Friends Center. Friends have died. Others have been forced to move after losing their houses in the fire. Grass Valley Meeting is now conducting its worship on Zoom. They have been reading the anti-racism books recommended by the yearly meeting. The last book they have been studying is authored by a former chair of the Nisenan people who have now regained title to the land. Their organization, CHIRP, has invited Grass Valley Friends to continue worshipping in the meetinghouse.

The meeting's Witness Committee was created by joining their Ministry and Social Justice committees. They are drafting a letter, reaching out to other meetings for support.

They will be available in the lunch time break out groups for questions.

### **San Francisco Meeting**

Diane Bunch, clerk of the San Francisco Meeting, gave the report. They have been assisting the homeless people who are sleeping in front of the meetinghouse.

They are renting out some of the space to groups providing health services to the homeless. The upstairs was being rented to a group providing job services to the homeless, but that group lost its funding, so that space is vacant. Since commercial space is not in much demand now, the meeting is having financial troubles. Unfortunately, people are being deterred from coming because they are fearful of those living on the streets. If they stay in the meetinghouse, they will need to raise money needed to make major repairs. An alternative would be to sell the property and move to a different neighborhood. Another would be to develop the property for housing that would include space for San Francisco Meeting. They are looking for feedback from CPQM Friends on these decisions. The Clerk noted that the quarterly meeting archives are housed in the San Francisco Meetinghouse basement. Diane said that the housing alternative would have space for the archives.

### **Friends House residents' report**

Elizabeth Boardman gave the Friends House report, which is attached to these minutes. She provided a brief history of Friends House and FASE. Friends House is now a part of Front Porch, which has been able to stabilize their financial situation and make needed repairs. They have added solar panels and electric vehicle charging stations. She will be available at a lunch time session for questions.

### **Quaker organizations announcement(s)**

#### **FCNL**

Stephen Donahoe reported for the Friends Committee on National Legislation. FCNL is also focused on the question of what Friends should be doing now. He thanked the quarter for their active and financial support of FCNL.

- 1) Bridget Moix's piece from December - <https://religionnews.com/2024/12/04/the-election-is-over-our-work-is-not/>
- 2) Priorities for the new Congress are here: <https://www.fcni.org/about/world-we-see/legislative-priorities>
- 3) MEETING CONTACTS: We'd love for every meeting to Contact identified - if you aren't sure if you have one, email [quakers@fcni.org](mailto:quakers@fcni.org).
- 4) FCNL's giving a workshop at FGC online gathering - it's on Feb 8 1-5pm ET, focused on art and advocacy <https://www.fgcquaker.org/fgcworkshops/art-advocacy-and-action-with-fcni/>
- 5) CA is one of our focus outreach states for our Feb Friends Place Fly-In on climate (Feb 22-24). <https://act.fcni.org/survey/friends-place-fly-in-feb-2025/>

**BLQC** provided a written report, which is attached to these minutes.

### **Implementation Committee report**

Kathy Runyan and Jim Anderson gave the report on the implementation committee. The committee has been working on organizing regional gatherings. What are the levels of organization we need to respond to the world as it is now? We will be discussing these more at the spring quarter. There are 4 or 5 regional groups organizing gatherings in the next few months. Those groups will report back at the spring quarter. The committee will be sending out information to the monthly meetings on a possible representative committee meeting for the quarter. Friends can send questions to Jim and Kathy.

### **Regional gathering announcements**

#### **Bay Area Regional Gathering**

A tentative date for this event at Berkeley Friends Church is March 8.

### **Children's program**

Barbara Christwitz and Shana Mae Slight are available to help regional meetings with resources.

### **Teen program**

Shana Mae Slight announced the teens meeting next weekend in Reno.

### **Reading of minutes**

Co-Recording Clerk Tom Yamaguchi read the minutes, which were approved with some corrections.

### **Announcements**

The Zoom link will remain open for fellowship during lunch, followed by online Worship-Sharing for those unable to travel to a regional gathering. There are two fellowship rooms set aside for follow-up questions about the Grass Valley and Friends House reports.

The plenary ended with a period of silent worship at 12:30 pm.