

College Park Quarterly Meeting – 259th

1/17/26

Session - by Zoom

9:30 AM	Opening Worship
10:00 AM	INTERNAL BUSINESS PLENARY Roll call, Introductions News of Friends Clerks and Committee Reports State-of-the-Quarter draft <i>Minute laying down Implementation Committee</i> <i>Q&A on Role of MM representatives</i>
11:00 AM	OUTWARD-FACING PLENARY * "First hand" reports from Meetings <i>Exchange of MM newsletters - Is this a current practice?</i> <i>New committee to revive "Well Meeting Clinic"</i> Friends House residents report Quaker organizations announcement(s)
11:45 AM	Regional gathering announcements <i>Date of online "regional gathering"</i> Children and teens programs Reports/requests from regional convenors
12:00 PM	Reading of minutes
12:10 PM	Closing worship
12:30 - 2:00	Fellowship zoom rooms open

Although we have held on-line business meetings before, this Winter session will be a "dry run" for similar zoom meetings in advance of Spring and Fall in-person sessions. This change is an experiment approved at the Fall CPQM session, to be evaluated for 2 years. It assumes an enlarged job description for representatives from Meetings, and several Friends have been examining past and proposed job descriptions to come up with uniform recommendations for Meetings and other groups to adopt. If you would like to participate, please request documents from CPQMclerk@gmail.com.

2026 CPQM State-of-the-Quarter

In the times we are living through, belonging to a Quaker Meeting can feel like sailing in a small boat through a stormy sea. We have too few experienced sailors to set the sails, too few with the strength to haul the sheets, too few navigators to find our way past waves so high they hide familiar landmarks. We are afraid we will turn the rudder the wrong way, afraid we will fail to bail the boat when water comes over the side, ... perhaps even afraid to call out “Land!” when we see it rise between the waves, for fear of starting arguments about whether it is real.

To extend the nautical metaphor, we in our Meeting-boats often seem unaware of other boats nearby, feeling more isolated than we need to be. We are sailing in a flotilla, from which we can ask and offer aid (by signal flags, if nothing more 21st Century is at hand). The flotilla has a name: College Park Quarterly Meeting.

Communication of each Meeting’s status and jointly taking on work too hard for a single Meeting are likely the fundamental tasks for which a Quarterly Meeting exists. How to accomplish these and other goals has become harder as the feeling of being at sea has grown.

Communication among Meetings and between Meetings and the Quarter has declined for some time. The evidence is in the absence of State-of-the-Meeting reports due annually.¹ The attached table (while possibly incomplete, lacking reports sent directly to Pacific YM) shows: (1) which Meetings are too small or inactive to write a report in a given year, (2) which larger Meetings did not generate a report for multiple years, and (3) decline in percentage of Meetings submitting reports since the start of the pandemic. Also included in the table are Meetings that had trouble in the past but recovered enough to resume reporting.²

Although the State-of-the-Meeting report is the most thorough and widely disseminated document, other information transfer has also declined. The Quarterly Directory contained contacts and Meeting for Worship times for each Meeting and Worship Group, but it is not being published, and the Yearly Meeting’s directory has information only for self-selected individuals. Websites have Meeting information, but many are not being updated. At no time has the Quarterly been told how many people on average (Friends, visitors, children) actually are attending Meetings for Worship. Exchange of newsletters between Meetings by postal mail used to be common; some Meetings are continuing to pass these along to their email lists. These newsletters usually tell about marriages, births, deaths, new members and transfers – all helping us to feel a closer sense of community.

Communication is also involved in asking and obtaining help from the Quarter. For a year or more, we have circulated to Meeting clerks and representatives a request for advice on needs that once were (or potentially could be) addressed at the Quarterly level, rather than each Monthly Meeting facing them alone.³ We are presently taking up two of these questions: (1) reviving the “Well Meeting Clinic” and (2) addressing needs and leadings of Young Adult Friends.

¹ Pacific Yearly Meeting *Faith and Practice*, (2001) Appendix 1B, page 218.

² A more complete table (including Worship Groups) back to 2010 is available on request.

³ Appended, including explanation of CPQM efforts to discover true needs and paths to change.

We can clearly do better at teaching and including the Young Friends who visit our Meetings, but then often move away before they feel a sense of belonging (according to the nautical metaphor, they jump off one boat, hopefully to swim to another). This is not to say that we do not value the remaining Young Friends who were once children and teens together at Quarterly and Yearly gatherings, but it may not be easy for someone new to the region or to the whole concept of Quakerism to join this group as an equal.

One of our collective fears seems to be whether our boats are sturdy enough to survive the storm. Applied to the Quarter, this question has inspired proposed changes³; we have agreed to test one of those changes: moving most reports to an online business meeting held a few weeks before an in-person gathering. Besides totally online “gatherings” during the COVID shutdown, we have done this in Winter, 2025, and again in Winter, 2026; rather than one in-person gathering, there are several regional get-togethers at which no business is done. The Spring and Fall in-person sessions will be at a single site (Ben Lomond Quaker Center – a safe harbor?) and include minimal business forwarded from the on-line meeting.

Our Meeting-boats carry not only justifiable fear, but also hope and progress. Recent regional gatherings have led to an increase in friendly interaction across Meeting boundaries, starting with planning the gatherings themselves. To the extent that we are seen as safe and seaworthy, we have gained new younger visitors and regular attenders. We have functional committees like Ministry & Spiritual Care, which created a workshop on ministry/oversight/care attended by around 60 Friends; more workshops are in planning stages. New committee members and clerks have capably assumed leadership roles. Support for Quaker organizations within the CPQM region is recovering from the doldrums of pandemic -- Ben Lomond Quaker Center, Friends Committee on Legislation of California and AFSC, among others.

A cautionary word on making changes in Quarterly gatherings: We risk spending so much business-meeting time working out the details that we lose the value gained and needlessly spend energy better applied to the role of Friends Meetings in a troubled world. While we are tossing in the storm is not the time to change our boat’s sails from a sloop to a ketch rig.

- Eric Sabelman, CPQM Presiding Clerk (on partial sick leave)



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⁴ By Ekaterina Lanbina, <https://www.vecteezy.com/vector-art/23367520>

CPQM State-of-the-Meeting statistics

Monthly Meeting	25Spr SoM	24Spr SoM	23Spr SoM	22Spr SoM	21Spr SoM	19Spr SoM	18Spr SoM	17Spr SoM	no SoM report
21	10	12	17	10	15	18	12	21	
% not found =	52%	43%	26%	57%	35%	22%	48%	9%	
Apple Seed		X	X		X	X	X	X	2
Berkeley	X	X	X		X		X	X	2
Central Coast			X				X	X	5
Chico	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	1
Davis	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0
Delta	inactive		X		X	X	X	X	3
Fresno	now WG					X			6
Grass Valley		X			X	X	X	X	3
Humboldt		X	X		X	X	X	X	2
Live Oak	X		X	X				X	4
Mendocino	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		1
Monterey Peninsula			X			X		X	5
Napa	X	X	X	X	X			X	2
Palo Alto	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	1
Redding						X		X	6
Redwood Forest		X	X	X	X	X		X	2
Reno			X		X	X	X	X	3
Sacramento	X	X		X	X	X		X	2
San Francisco		X	X	X				X	4
San Jose	X			X	X	X		X	3
Santa Cruz	X		X		X	X		X	3
Strawberry Creek			X	X		X	X	X	3
Visalia			X			X		X	5

On the Purpose of College Park Quarterly Meeting:

What are the Quarter's Needs?

Based on the premise that a Quarterly Meeting exists for more than producing three gatherings per year, what else should it be doing? CPQM has repeatedly engaged in self-examination since the 1990s, but without directly asking this question.

Pacific Yearly Meeting's *Faith and Practice* assigns certain responsibilities to Quarterly Meetings. Some of these duties historically are called upon regularly in every year and some occur very infrequently. In CPQM's case, some have been discontinued, resulting in more of the Quarter's attention being focused on the three gatherings it holds. We should not assume that these needs have gone away just because we are not paying attention.

CPQM's most recent self-examination was by the Futures Subcommittee, which in 2023 generated nine recommendations; these were reviewed by an ad hoc Implementation Committee (see documents posted on CPQM website). Here, it is proposed to create ad hoc Working Groups charged with assessing specific needs of the Quarter's Meetings. Each Working Group would review past instances of needs in its focal area, pose questions about the current needs of Meetings in this area and the capacity of the Quarter to respond to the needs, and project into the future the demands placed on Quaker abilities to survive and grow, even in futures that seem very dark. From this focused study of our practices and institutions, we may discern which are adequate or excess and which must be strengthened to enable Quakerism to survive through the 21st century. We hope that Friends will volunteer to serve on Working Groups studying topics in which they have interest and experience, and then continue with implementing their findings after approval at a Quarterly session.

Following are some of the need-finding Working Groups we might establish, and examples of the questions they could ask of our Meetings. Rest assured that we do not need to have all these committees running at once.

Educational Needs -- Do we need a replacement for John Woolman School? What and how are teens and newcomers taught about Quakerism? Does your Meeting practice mentoring, especially for new officers and clerks? What use is made of online teaching resources from FGC, Friends Journal, etc.? Would a joint project of CPQM and Quaker Center to provide educational resources to Meetings be helpful?

Needs of Older Friends -- Friends House is a successful continuing care retirement community, though no longer operated by a non-profit corporation with ties to CPQM. Do we need more such communities? What do older Friends want -- the Friends House model or something else?

Disaster Response Needs -- Do we need to plan ahead for providing aid to Meetings damaged by wildfire, earthquake, etc.? What help do Meetings and their members need most -- immediately and in the long term? Should less-traumatic effects of climate change (drought, heat-waves, etc.) be anticipated? What about political disasters?

Mental Health Needs = CPQM once had a project for informing Meetings of county-by-county mental health services and offered advice to Meetings with members undergoing mental crises (a leading of Pat Williams of Davis Meeting). Should CPQM revive this project? What do Meetings currently do for members undergoing health crises (not just mental health)?

Support of Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups -- CPQM once had a project called “The Well Meeting Clinic” where a team of experienced Friends would be invited by a Meeting to hold listening sessions and teach conflict resolution (Marie Schutz was a principal member of the team). Do we need to revive The Well Meeting Clinic? The Ministry and Spiritual Care Committee may be called upon to help Meetings solve problems. Do Meetings know this? Is M&SC prepared to do it? Do Meetings need support for public stands against injustice? What support do Worship Groups need, especially if not strongly connected to a Monthly Meeting?

Support of Young Adult Friends -- There is a tendency for YAFs to be connected to a Monthly Meeting or Worship Group only loosely, if at all. There are more difficulties today in attracting college students to nearby Meetings. Do these and other age-related issues rise to the level of needs for the Quarter to address?

Support of Friends with Leadings -- Quarterly gatherings have historically been available for Friends to enlist others to support their leadings. Should this be made an explicit purpose of our gatherings? We have not recently supported Friends traveling under a concern; should we encourage this practice? CPQM no longer has a coordinator or committee for Peace and Social Concerns; should we revive it?

Community and Interfaith Relations -- CPQM once appointed representatives to Northern California ecumenical organizations. When these organizations dissolved, we did not seek for similar groups performing the same cross-religion communications. Do we need to be represented in the new organizations that replaced them? How do Meetings communicate their existence and their actions to the communities around them? Is this effective, or is more needed?

Communication Needs and Technology -- We are now in a post-COVID time when we have acquiesced to remote (Zoom) attendance at Quaker meetings. Do we need to keep using Zoom? Do Meetings have the hardware and connectivity for Zoom to work smoothly, without interrupting the meeting? Are enough Friends competent at using the technology? If not, how can we help them? What will Zoom evolve into or be replaced by in the future? Will it better suit Friends’ purposes? What are the future roles of face-to-face conversation, writing-on-paper, email, telephones and satellites in communication between Friends?

-Eric Sabelman, CPQM Presiding Clerk, 12/13/2024; revised 1/10/2025

College Park Quarterly Meeting Treasurer's Report

Winter Quarter 2026 On Zoom 1/17/26

Fall Session 2025 Summary

At Quaker Center 10/17-19/25

Income:

Registration Fees	\$12,293.00
Total income	\$12,293.00

Expenses:

Pay Pal fees	\$333.17
QC facilities	\$7,262.50
Food and Cooking	\$5,553.50
Childcare, teens	
Reimbursements	\$503.47
Total expenses	\$13,652.64

Net: -\$1,359.64

Checkbook Balance

General Fund Balance on 12/31/25	\$18,105.74
K-12 Scholarship Fund	\$4,413.00
Total balance on 12/31/25	\$22,518.74

	2025 Sessions Income & Expenses	Net	
Winter	\$481 income – \$16 expenses =	\$465.00	
Spring	\$8525 income – \$12,231 expenses =	-\$3,706.00	
Fall	\$12,293 income - \$13,653 expenses =	-\$1,360.00	
	2024 Sessions Income & Expenses	Net	
Winter	1676 income – 58.60 expenses =	\$1,617.40	
Family Day	(2/24/24) 400.00 expenses	-\$400.00	
Spring	9136 income – 11,852 expenses =	-\$2,716.00	BLQC
Fall	9956 income – 10,861 expenses =	-\$905.00	BLQC
	2023 Sessions Income & Expenses	Net	
Winter	\$1682 income - \$408 expenses =	\$1,274.00	
Spring	\$8515 income - \$9488 expenses =	-\$973.00	BLQC
Fall	\$12,292 income - \$10,797 expenses =	\$1,495.00	Woolman
	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

Report as of 12/31/25, presented 01/17/26 – Martha Hunkins, CPQM Treasurer

CPQM Quotas (Voluntary Contributions)	CPQM fiscal year			2025-26			2024-25		
	# members per PYM 5/31/25	CPQMFY25-26 quota	amount paid	22 meetings date paid	# members per PYM 5/31/24	CPQMFY24-25 quota	amount paid	22 meetings date paid	
Apple Seed	8	\$40.00			11	\$22.00			
Berkeley	72	\$360.00			73	\$146.00			
Central Coast	16	\$80.00			16	\$32.00	\$32.00	11/15/24	
Chico	20	\$100.00			19	\$38.00	\$38.00	11/12/25	
Davis	26	\$130.00			25	\$50.00	\$50.00	03/10/25	
Delta	5	\$25.00			6	\$12.00			
Grass Valley	26	\$130.00			29	\$58.00	\$58.00	02/27/25	
Humboldt	19	\$95.00			19	\$38.00	\$38.00	03/25/25	
Live Oak	17	\$85.00			17	\$34.00	\$34.00	11/15/24	
Mendocino	3	\$15.00			5	\$10.00	\$10.00	11/13/24	
Monterey Peninsula	15	\$75.00			15	\$30.00	\$45.00	01/07/25	
Napa	2	\$10.00			2	\$4.00	\$4.00	03/22/25	
Palo Alto	76	\$380.00			77	\$154.00	\$154.00	01/07/25	
Redding	5	\$25.00			6	\$12.00	\$12.00	11/14/24	
Redwood Forest	59	\$295.00			60	\$120.00	\$150.00	04/22/25	
Reno	11	\$55.00			7	\$14.00	\$14.00	03/24/25	
Sacramento	48	\$240.00			48	\$96.00	\$96.00	01/25/25	
San Francisco	79	\$395.00			77	\$154.00	\$156.00	09/16/25	
San Jose	18	\$90.00			18	\$36.00	\$36.00	12/23/24	
Santa Cruz	46	\$230.00			47	\$94.00	\$98.00	05/06/25	
StrawberryCreek	96	\$480.00			96	\$192.00	\$192.00	05/01/25	
Visalia	30	\$150.00			30	\$60.00			
Totals	697	\$3,485	\$0.00		703	\$1,406	\$1,217.00		

Prepared by Martha Hunkins, CPQM Treasurer, for Winter Session 01/17/2026

Checks should be made payable to College Park Quarterly Meeting (spelled out) and mailed to 4251 Percheron Ln, Arcata, CA 95521

UPDATED: 01/13/26

Ministry and Spiritual Care Committee

Report to the 2026 Winter Quarterly Meeting

The Quarterly Ministry & Spiritual Care Committee will start the new year with full membership, having added Klara East and Daniel O'Connell. We are continuing to discuss starting a "Quakerism 101" Zoom class and are now looking to being involved in the restart of a program from decades ago called the "well meeting clinic." This clinic would allow trained Friends to help monthly meetings interested in enriching their meeting life. If you are interested in volunteering to help facilitate Quakerism 101 or the well meeting clinics, please let me or another member of Ministry & Spiritual Care know.

We are refocusing on the need to provide guidance to individual Friends who may struggle during our in-person Quarterly gatherings and to monthly meetings which may need help maneuvering through rough patches. Please let us know if you are aware of areas we can help. You are our eyes and ears.

Well Meeting Clinic

Introduction to State of the Meeting Clinic
July 1996 (for presentation to PYM-August 1996)

The College Park Quarterly Meeting (Pacific YM) Ministry and Oversight Committee is sponsoring an experimental project to help monthly meetings stay healthy. The experiment arose from a recognition that the Ministry and Oversight Committee needed to go beyond passively waiting for monthly meetings in crisis to ask for help. We are a three-member team who have been working on the project for several years. We have held three State of the Meeting workshops, for one small worship group and two good-sized meetings. Originally called "Well-Meeting Clinics," the workshops focus on helping meetings to "take their own temperatures", to assess their own strengths and possible areas of concern, and to take conscious action to stay healthy and become healthier. The workshops are not intended, nor are they appropriate, for seriously troubled meetings.

The State of the Meeting workshop format has evolved during the experimental period. Two of us conduct each workshop. The process begins with a questionnaire, which is distributed to a sampling of meeting members, including clerks and key committees, and some new members and attenders. The 23 questions are grouped into three subject areas: the meeting business, spiritual life and growth, and the meeting community. From our experiences so far, we believe the time for returning the questionnaires should be short (on the order of two to three weeks) and that the Saturday workshop should take place about a month after the questionnaires are returned to us. This gives us, the facilitators, time to read and summarize the responses, while providing assurance that the responses are still reflective of the current state of the meeting and at the same time retaining a certain level of energy in the process.

The workshop itself begins at 9 a.m. with worship, followed by a brief explanation of our objectives and of the workshop format. We then invite the meeting participants to share with us and with one another their own expectations of, and their fears about, the process. We may, at that time, offer further clarification of what we expect to happen. We then present to the meeting workshop participants our summaries of their responses to the questionnaires. We present these as what we think we have heard them say about their meeting, and invite the meeting to do a reality check on our summaries. This process takes up the entire morning.

The afternoon session begins with worship sharing. We invite the participants to envision the meeting they wish to be, and to share that vision out of the silence. This is obviously not going to produce a "vision statement" for the meeting with which all are in unity, but can result in a sort of composite vision. We follow up this vision with a period of looking at the meeting's resources for achieving various elements of the

composite vision. From this process there may appear one or more particular strengths the participants wish to build on and one or more particular areas they wish the meeting to grow in. We emphasize that this process is not a Quaker business meeting and that no decisions are being taken on behalf of the meeting. We end with a brief evaluation period, asking the participants to share their feelings about the process and its usefulness for their meeting and to suggest how we might improve it. We close with a period of worship together, ending around 4 p.m.

One of our presentations began on Friday evening, included showing of the video "Who Are Quakers" and also included presentation of a small display of currently-available books and pamphlets as well as a copy of the FGC catalog from which these and other materials might be ordered. That seemed not to be appropriate for meetings with well-established libraries.

We are now (Summer 1996) evaluating the experiment and exploring how to go forward. Some revisions are clearly in order. The questionnaire is quite long and some of the questions need rewriting. The workshop is a day of fairly cerebral activity, and even though there are breaks, we are pondering how we might incorporate more movement or activity into the process. We had some difficulty communicating with the meetings about the forthcoming workshop through meeting representatives. As a result we have decided that one of us will actually visit the meeting prior to distributing questionnaires, although this could involve an additional trip of several hundred miles.

The three workshops we have held were all different to some degree, as the State of the Meeting clinic concept evolved and as each meeting brought its own dynamic to the process. All were judged by the participants to be a positive, valuable experience for the individual meeting and each meeting has followed up actively. We are also now receiving requests from other meetings - even outside the country. An added benefit, which occurred to us early in the experiment, is that we may be able to some degree to facilitate the sharing of strengths and resources among monthly meetings.

We are very clear about one key ingredient in the success of these workshops. That is the fact that it is Friends from outside the Meeting who come to facilitate the workshop and witness to the participants' exploring together as a meeting community. For those of us on the visiting team, this is a Leading and a new form of Traveling Ministry.

This is a work in process. For further information, please contact Marie Schutz, 684 Benicia Dr., #70 Santa Rosa, CA 95409

CPQM Report from Friends House

January 2026

Greetings, Friends, I am reporting from Friends House, the Quaker-originated retirement community in Santa Rosa. This winter gathering of College Park Quarterly Meeting has been held here at Friends House in person many, many times over the decades.

About fifty years ago, College Park created its third, separate non-profit organization which would pursue land, buildings and staff to meet some of the needs of our Northern California faith community. (The others were Ben Lomond Quaker Center and John Woolman Schol, later operated as Sierra Friends Center.) Friends House is the home of a small, attractive community of elders living a cooperative life together which has responded well, through good times and bad, to the challenges of advancing age.

About a hundred elders live at Friends House just now. Some forty percent of them are members of a Friends Meeting or closely familiar with Quaker ways. The Friends House worship group operates "under the care of" Redwood Forest Friends Meeting and is about the same size as its parent group: some thirty attenders every Sunday.

Friends House is a CCRC, meaning a "community care retirement community" which includes long term health care services on the same campus. Front Porch, the big non-profit organization which now owns Friends House, has numerous other CCRCs and many low-income senior housing projects. Front Porch values Friends House as serving the middle market; the entry and monthly fees here are far less than at most CRCCs.

One way to keep costs down is to have residents run all the optional activities. We have more than twenty committees and interest groups. This year we are putting special emphasis on music, political action in response to the national news, processing the harvest from our many fruit trees, and visiting local sites of interest. We are proud of our recycling programs and our staff scholarship fund.

The health care unit here is licensed for assisted living. Residents have self-decorated, homey, private rooms and full access to all the activities on campus.

If you have never been here, you should come and see, no matter how young you still are. When we plan ahead, we can provide good hospitality in terms of overnight accommodation, low-cost meals, lovely walks along the creek, evening entertainment, and interesting people to talk with. As the assigned Friends House liaison to Quarterly Meeting, I would be glad to hear from you.

Elizabeth Boardman 707-576-6673

College Park Quarterly Meeting – Upcoming Events

Teen Snowquarter meets at Reno Friends Meeting

Sat Jan 17 2026 - Sun Jan 18 2026

Parents & YAFs Service Tiny House Village, Richmond, CA

Strawberry Creek and bay area Quakers

Sat Jan 17 2026, 10:00am - 1:00pm

Winter regional gatherings:

February 7	Zoom only
March 14	Berkeley
March 14	Davis
March 28	Redwood Forest
April 4	Palo Alto/Central Coast

CPQM Spring business meeting – zoom only

Saturday April 11 (time TBD)

CPQM Spring in-person gathering

April 24-26, 2026

Ben Lomond Quaker Center