

APPENDICES

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APPENDIX 1: Clerk's report to CPQM, Fall 2023

College Park Quarterly Meeting Friends seem to sense that the times we are living in afford us a window of opportunity - indeed, necessity - for change. Coming out of a pandemic, we find opportunity for transformation, not diminishment. We find opportunity for action, not passivity. We find opportunity for inclusion, not isolation. Coming out of our experience with climate change, we find opportunity for preparation, not reaction only when the crisis is upon us. Coming out of honest self-evaluation, we find new steps toward a revitalized future for Friends.

Our program for this session cannot encompass every opportunity. We will focus on three intertwined themes:

- The findings of our ad hoc Committee on the Future [of CPQM],
- An aspect of American Friends Service Committee's "Healing Justice" project involving action by individual Friends and Monthly Meetings, and
- Changes in the future of Woolman/Sierra Friends Center.
- A fourth theme – improving the potential for growth in the number of Friends taking an active role in Quaker life – will be running in the background

What do these themes have in common that makes them "intertwined"? They all bear on the reasons for this Quarterly Meeting's existence.

- The Futures Committee is self-evidently an examination of what we expect the Quarter to be and do going forward. It follows similar efforts to test our collective leading in 2005 and 2016. Its recommendations will guide us toward better strength and relevance to our constituent Monthly Meetings and to the world at large.
- We have invited AFSC to offer our Meetings and their members an opportunity to participate in monitoring and correcting local police force compliance with a state law intended to reduce violence in our communities. This function of a Quarterly Meeting is in accord with the Yearly Meeting's book of *Faith and Practice*: "to consider spiritual and worldly matters of local or broader concern."
- John Woolman School is one of three organizations created by CPQM during an

expansionist phase in the 1960s to 1980s. Two of these – Friends House retirement community and Woolman School – have distanced themselves from direct oversight by the Quarter; only Ben Lomond Quaker Center remains a “corporation under our care.” The School has had to re-invent itself several times in recent decades, and now is faced with yet another re-invention. As descendants of the founders, we want to learn how Woolman intends to change, and offer such aid and comfort as we can.

- The fourth theme comes from recognition that we are not living in times that are kind to Quakers, and we have begun to feel lonely in inverse proportion to the size of our Meetings. An example which we will acknowledge during this CPQM session is the reversion of Fresno Monthly Meeting to a Worship Group under Visalia Monthly Meeting – a rarely-exercised alternative to laying down a shrinking Meeting.

So, what should our Quarterly Meeting be and do on the far side of the Window of Opportunity? A simple statement of its purpose is that it should be of service to its member Friends and their Meetings. The service it should do is to midwife, nurture, teach, celebrate and grieve with and for each other, as life calls upon us to do.

-Eric E. Sabelman
CPQM Presiding Clerk

APPENDIX 2: CPFEA report

Sierra Friends Center/Woolman’s report to College Park Quarterly Meeting – October 2023

Dear Friends,

I stand before you knowing that most of you have heard the news that this land which we have loved and stewarded for the past 60 years is for sale. We are working toward an agreement with the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe, via its tribally-guided non-profit organization, CHIRP (California Heritage Indigenous Research Project). Our talks are productive and full of good will on both sides. To date we have signed a Letter of Intent. The next step is a Purchase Agreement, which will be negotiated.

You may wonder how we got to this point, I just looked at last year’s report. It was so hopeful –full of the energy of a new Executive Director. Programs were being launched and there was a sense of purpose and forward motion but if you look carefully at the financial information, you will see that we were spending more that we were bringing in. We thought that as we built up our programs we would attract new donors, inspire our faithful donors, and be successful in grant writing. We knew it was a challenge but we believed that we could do it.

Unfortunately, that isn't what happened. I can summarize it for this report and give more details during the interest group. As you know, due to the fire and the pandemic we were closed for two years. When we reopened, we were in start-up mode. Our campers had either aged out or had found new ways to spend their summers, schools were reeling from the effects of the pandemic and couldn't or didn't commit to sending students. Costs sky-rocketed, one example is that our fire insurance rates tripled. The rules for safety changed, meaning that we had to be able to evacuate every person from the campus in the case of an emergency all at the same time, forcing us to rent vans during camp and when school groups were on campus for Outdoor School. And our cabins and bath house had burned so we raised the money to build the tent cabins.

Then there was the financial crisis that gripped the nation with banks failing, the stock market crashing, and inflation. Donors weren't feeling able to be as generous. Both our fall and winter appeals failed to bring in the expected donations. We were successful in acquiring some grants but not nearly enough to cover the reduction in donations and the rising costs.

By June we realized that the pace that we were using our savings was not sustainable. We wrote an appeal to help us make it through the summer. We didn't want to leave our campers and their families as well as our newly hired camp staff in the lurch. Fortunately, while the response was limited, 7 donors, some were very generous and we were able to offer the full 5 weeks of camp. From all accounts, it was yet again a wonderful Woolman experience and campers left happy and wanting to come back.

I hope that you realize whether you are a donor, a former student, an emotional supporter, or even a witness that Woolman has profoundly impacted peoples' lives. We had the 60th anniversary party here the last weekend of September. It was beautiful to hear the stories shared by those who were part of this adventure from the beginning through the semester program, and camp. Memories flowed from alumni, staff, faculty and administrators as well as former board members. Woolman mattered!

The evening event included a book talk with Lisa Frankel and Catherine Lenox regarding their new book, *The Woolman Way: A History of John Woolman School*. Among many things we learned that Woolman always had an Achilles heel. It never had the financial resources to create stability. Many people gave of their considerable talents and time but that foundational reality never changed. In some ways it magnified as the current board dealt with aging infrastructure and jerry-rigged fixes.

Some people are asking why we didn't offer the land to a Quaker group. You may remember that there were a number of people from this Quarter and beyond who were convinced that we should re-matriate the land after the fire. Those of us on the Board did not agree. The campus was a mess, with toxic burn piles scattered in various locations. Mel's Pond was damaged and empty, houses that had survived, including the Arbor House were red tagged. It was not a gift it was a burden. Plus, the insurance money would not have followed the sale.

But the idea didn't die. We heard the desire and we began working to cultivate a relationship with the tribe. (I know that Grass Valley Friends Meeting has been very deliberate in their efforts to learn and understand the history and story of the Nisenan people.). We started exploring ways to grant a cultural easement so that important artifacts found after the fire were accessible to the tribe. We explored ways we could work together.

As we began to come to terms with our financial reality, we did some deep soul searching. We came to consensus that the one thing we could still do was to use this resource for righting the injustices done to the local indigenous tribe on the land now called Sierra Friends Center beginning about 180 years ago with the local gold rush.

For us, this decision honors John Woolman; the founders, students and staff of John Woolman School; Friends; and Quakerism. We also honor our educational mission toward peace, justice, and environmental sustainability. The significant loss of Woolman at Sierra Friends Center is balanced by the benefit of passing a small piece of Nevada County land illegally taken in the past to the descendants of those people. The Woolman Board sees this path as fulfilling the higher purpose that is being called for and may be within our power to make happen.

I want you to know that we did not rush into this willy-nilly. Our committees studied many options and consulted with various experts: non-profit, real estate, and insurance lawyers, and financial advisers, most of whom were willing to share their expertise pro bono.

We did hire a real estate agent because this is a complex sale. He is taking a very reduced commission. But before hiring him, we considered three additional agents, asking them for their experience, their recommendations, how they would approach marketing the property, and what they thought it would bring. All of them told us that this could be a long process, some thought 2 or more years. They reminded us that this isn't a typical property and that the market for this kind of property is weak.

We hired Terry Hundemer who has a great deal of experience in the county and in selling large properties throughout the west. He shares similar values in that he is the former President of the Bear Yuba Land Trust Board.

People are asking why we are not doing a true land back, just give it back. Others are critical that we are not asking full market price. We made the decision based on the fact that while we did pay back almost all of our debts after the fire, there was one loan that the lender didn't mind waiting to be paid back. There is a second loan that we took out after COVID started before the fire, when we were still hoping that COVID might be short-lived. The Small Business Administration made loans available to small businesses, non-profits, etc. as part of the COVID relief effort. We took a loan at a very low interest rate that would be amortized over 30 years. We still owe that money plus we are now existing on a friendly loan that we had to take out in August. We hope that the sale will finalize before we have to try and find another loan. We will repay the loans from the sale of the land. Please remember that until the sale is finalized, we

have to continue to pay our bills; our one remaining staff person, who hires contractors to do fire abatement, mowing, maintenance, fire insurance, and utilities. This is not an inexpensive property to maintain.

Decisions about any remaining funds following a sale and the fulfillment of our liabilities are still to be determined.

What's next? We are expecting a final Purchase Agreement to be signed on or before November 1, 2023. We hope to finalize the sale by March 2024.

I hope that this report covers the most important issues regarding our decision to sell the land. Our decision to let go of the property was not an easy one or one that was taken lightly. We regret that others view our decisions as cold-hearted, since we have made them with clear thinking and hearts full of love.

There is a FAQ sheet and a financial statement [available on request to info@CPFEA.org]

APPENDIX 3: Futures Committee report

PRESENTATION OF THE CPQM FUTURES COMMITTEE TO THE COLLEGE PARK QUARTERLY MEETING OCTOBER 2023

Our ad-hoc committee was formed after Fall Quarter 2022 to examine how the College Park Quarterly Meeting is doing and to make recommendations on structural changes that could better meet the needs of Friends. We want to report on some of our findings to date and outline our plans for the next couple of months, with the goal of bringing recommendations for discernment at the Winter Quarter.

As you know, we have spent the past ten or so months conducting a survey, meeting with monthly meetings, meeting with CPQM committees and corporations, and interviewing representatives of other Quarterly or regional gatherings.

As we reviewed our interview notes and survey results, one of the things that popped up for us is that many Friends are not clear about the purpose of Quarterly Meetings, why they might want to attend gatherings, and what is the Quarter's work outside of the gatherings. Our committee felt the need for a "mission statement" and found a good one in PacYM's Faith and Practice (2011).

The main purposes of College Park Quarterly Meeting are to strengthen the life and fellowship of Monthly Meetings and other Friends groups

in the northern portions of California and Nevada, to offer increased opportunities for worshiping together, and to consider spiritual and worldly matters of local or broader concern.

Faith and Practice goes on to outline several things that Quarterly Meetings could do and should do. When we talked with Robin Mohr, Executive Secretary of FWCC Section of the Americas and a longtime participant in CPQM, she pointed out that there would always be more things that we could do and things that we felt we should do, but that we need to focus on what is absolutely necessary, what we find joy doing, what we have the capacity for, and where Spirit is leading us. There are three essential things: a clerk, a bank account, and the use of Quaker process for decision-making. We have all of those. As far as all our other structures and practices go, if we are having trouble fulfilling them, we might want to find just two areas to change for a period of time and then move on to other areas of focus. Our practices are always evolving.

One idea to remember when we look at the Quarterly Meeting is that we are looking at two distinctive things: an organization and a gathering. The definition listed in Faith & Practice relates to the organization. The gatherings we have three times a year are where we traditionally have gathered together for business and to be together.

Overall, some of the strongest and most consistent messages we received were that Friends felt we should simplify, that we needed to prioritize young friends and children, and ensure that gatherings are accessible.

Simplicity is needed because Friends struggle to meet the many commitments to their Monthly Meetings, Quarterly Meeting, Yearly Meeting, and various Quaker organizations, including Quaker Center, John Woolman, FGC, FWCC, et al. These Quaker commitments then need to be balanced with family, community, and work ties. |

Young Friends and children need to be prioritized because they are literally the Society's future. Many of us remember our younger ages when older Friends supported and encouraged us. Many of us expressed great joy seeing the current involvement of Junior Yearly Meeting and Young Adult Friends.

Friends struggle finding the time to travel to our quarterly gatherings, which can be hundreds of miles from their homes. Concerns include needing to take time away from family and work responsibilities, the cost involved, the physical limitations of an aging membership, and environmental impacts. There is also a strongly held view that there is a need for better communications from the Quarter to Friends between the gatherings.

Beyond these overarching thoughts, we looked at common threads in the responses that we have received and came up with a summary list, which we were then encouraged to review through the lens of what aspects of Quarterly Meeting benefit the person who attends the

gathering and what organizational factors benefit the Monthly Meetings. This is another way of looking at the functions of Quarterly Meeting as a gathering and as an institution that operates throughout the year.

Here is our analysis of interview and survey responses. What do you think? Which activities and functions benefit the individuals attending? Which help the monthly meetings? Which benefits both? Which are necessary? Which may not be necessary but are highly desirable?

ANALYSIS OF INTERVIEW AND SURVEY RESPONSES

Why People Come to Quarterly Meeting

- Beautiful meeting spaces
- Fellowship with Friends
- Unstructured fellowship time
- Meeting Friends from other Meetings
- Worship and worship-sharing
- Interest Groups
- Guest speakers and panels
- Quaker decision-making
- Themed gatherings that help Friends see their own bias; racism, homophobia

Obstacles to Attending

- Time, money, **distance**
- Too much effort for a weekend
- Not feeling welcomed
- Lack of clarity around purpose
- Health risks
- Zoom, even at its best, is not working for everyone

Outreach and Communication

- There is confusion about the purpose of Quarterly, there needs to be some kind of mission statement or explanation for newcomers. Lack of clarity can sap energy in the MM.
- Focus on outreach to families, teens, children, and a more diverse group of participants
- Do NOT ask people to serve on committees right away when they show up
- Better and more frequent communication is needed about what Quarterly Meeting is doing
- Finding reps to both Quarter and YM can drain the resources of the MM

Youth

- Kids to teens to YAFS need strong programs and build friendships that last into adulthood.

- We need more opportunities for youth to gather. Possibly at monthly meetings with different meetings taking turns.
- Find ways to recognize youth moving through important stages, rites of passage, such as graduating from teen program

Plenary

- The balance between time spent in business, in education, and in other pursuits is out of whack
- Plenary needs to be meaningful and have effective clerking...less business but not no business
- Don't try to make plenary fun
- Make decisions about important things
- Delegate other work to other settings
- Provide written reports ahead of time with clear descriptions of items that need approval

Gatherings and Zoom

- Get a handle on what can be done in person and what can be done on Zoom.
 - In-person challenges are: distance, transportation, time, not being able to sleep well, disability or immunocompromised
 - Zoom challenges are: lack of interpersonal interaction, zoom burnout, lack of intergenerational participation. Focused topic sessions might help with adults but youth will not likely attend.
 - Practice sessions for hybrid meetings can be helpful.
- Which gatherings need to be completely in-person, completely on Zoom, hybrid?
- Gatherings are not currently making ends meet financially. Pay-as-led is not working to bring in enough income. Current trends would exhaust reserves in 2 years. Meals and facility rentals are the most expensive items.
- Zoom participants on hybrid feel like observers rather than active participants, often ignored or second-class
- Some in-person participants feel left out and that there is an in-group, we need more focus on community building activities
- The Quarter is geographically huge. Break into smaller regions? Encourage regional gatherings and campouts?
- There should be opportunities for fun as well as worship. Ice-breakers, games, singing. Nature walks, exploring the land. Intergenerational and AVP activities.
- There should be opportunities to learn about Quaker work in the world from Meetings in our Quarter or YM
- Small group activities, sharing of life stories
- There should be opportunities to share joys and struggles between Meetings.
- Most people focused on the traditional gathering spaces, but should more "creative" spaces be explored?

Other programs and activities

- Quaker Center and SFC are our only West Coast Quaker institutions...they are both struggling to recover from fires and pandemic...how can we support them? How do they support the spiritual life among Friends and also spread Friends' values?
- Can either Quaker Center or CPQM offer an "on the road" consultation program?
- There are fond memories of the wellness clinics offered by M&O years ago
- Half-day programs involving less travel and expense might be welcomed
- Develop a speakers bureau and/or support Friends who can travel in ministry
- Invite Meetings with active Zoom programs to share information with other Meetings: ex: Appleseed's racial justice evenings; Honolulu's Quakerism 101; Clerking Workshops
- Encourage engagement with one another throughout the year, not just quarterly
- Meetings that are located near one another could share in-person programs.
- Ongoing on-line Worship-Sharing groups
- How about a weekend with a program designed by Young Adult Friends or Teens (with help from older Friends, as needed)?
- Other suggestions include:
 - Nonviolent communication workshops
 - Dances of universal peace
 - FGC's (2020) faithfulness embodied spirituality
 - Singing and playing music together
 - Doing art together
 - Liberation theology
 - Biases and Dominance: learning to recognize within ourselves in order make our gatherings truly inclusive
 - Meeting for Challenge - Keenan had an idea based of Keiths messages

Committees and Structure

- Make planning committee separate from M&O
- Release M&O to focus on providing spiritual support to Meetings and the gatherings
- Naming committee procedure needs rethinking
- Some committees could be combined, others might be impromptu/as needed, rather than standing committees
- Committees could be just two people
- Explore coordination with PacYM and SCQM

Some of the Tensions Observed

- Zoom is too impersonal; in-person excludes people not able to travel; hybrid is uncomfortable
- More time for personal sharing, too much emphasis on personal sharing
- More time together, not able to stay overnight
- Meet less frequently, but youth need more frequent in-person interaction

We'd like to draw your attention to some of the tensions observed...these are areas where people expressed needs or opinions which were in opposition to the needs or opinions of others. In our interest group this afternoon and our online interest group (7:00 pm, 10/26/23) we will use interactive activities to explore some of these tensions as well as the question: *What makes us less tired and drained, what makes us happy & brings us joy?* We invite you to join us either for our interest group today or our online interest group on....

Timeline of Next Steps:

- Prepare a report with recommendations that can be circulated to Monthly Meetings, early December 2023
- Host an online discussion session, early January 2024
- Bring proposal for discernment to Winter Quarter, January 2024

APPENDIX 4: Naming Committee report

The Naming Committee was made aware of three pending vacancies of the Nominating Committee when the first terms of Mary Miche, Owain Elliott Sowaal and Jay Owen-Smith are scheduled to expire. With three vacancies this year, it became apparent that the rotation schedule of having two terms expire in any given year had been disrupted, so we set out to remedy that by filling a one-year vacancy and two 3-year vacancies. The remaining members of the Nominating Committee are Ted Selker [Palo Alto Meeting], whose first term expires on February 1, 2025, as well as Dorothy Henderson [Grass Valley Meeting] and Tina Marie Jackson [Applesseed Meeting], whose first terms expire on February 1, 2026. We propose the nomination of Owain Elliott Sowaal [San Francisco Meeting] for a one-year term, which would begin at the close of this fall quarterly session through February 1, 2025. We propose the nomination of Mary Miche [Redwood Forest Meeting and Lake County Worship Group] for another 3-year term, which would begin at the close of this fall quarterly session through February 1, 2027. We propose the nomination of Ann Baier [Live Oak Meeting] for a 3-year term, which would begin at the close of this fall quarterly session through February 1, 2027.

Kathy Runyan, convener
Anna Lichterman
Jan Turner

APPENDIX 5: Ministry & Oversight Committee

The Committee desires a name to reflect what we are called to do as a committee and has minuted this concern that we bring to the body:

The Ministry and Oversight committee is in unity on the importance of changing our name. We recommend changing it to Ministry and Spiritual Care to reflect how we are

attentive to the collective body as well as individuals, tending to their spiritual needs with active care.

Meeting visitations: M&SC will be visiting (both in-person and virtually) all meetings in the Quarter. This will start simply to build relationships and vital connections with and among Monthly Meetings.

We are also interested in growing a vital continuing education program as a resource for the Quarter and will be exploring what this will look like as we progress.

We are looking into the AFSC has a program called “ Emerging Leaders for Liberation .” where they young(er) Friends can be mentored by AFSC staff in the development of their own Social Action project. We are hoping to have the director of the program speak with young adults via zoom at the Spring gathering of College Park Quarter if that is of interest.

Respectfully,

Ann Marie Snell,

Clerk, Ministry and Oversight

APPENDIX 6 Finance/Treasurer's report

College Park Quarterly Meeting Treasurer's Report for Fall Quarter 2023

Woolman @ Sierra Friends Center and hybrid 10/13 – 10/15/23

Spring Session 2022 (for comparison)

@ Ben Lomond Quaker Center

Income:

Registration Fees (Pay as led)	\$4,345.00
Total income	\$4,345.00

Expenses:

Rent to Quaker Center	\$4,270.00
Cook & food	\$2,230.80
Zoom coordinator, PPE	\$502.12
Total expenses	\$7,002.92

Net: **-\$2,657.92****Spring Session 2023**

@ Ben Lomond Quaker Center

Income:

Registration Fees (Pay as led)	\$8,515.50
Total income	\$8,515.50

Expenses:

Rent to Quaker Center	\$4,746.00
Cook & food	\$4,698.00
Teen program for food	\$44.10
Total expenses	\$9,488.10

Net: **-\$972.60****Cash Flow 1/1/23 to 10/12/23**

General Fund Beginning Balance on 1/1/23	\$19,718.76	K-12 Scholarship beginning balance	\$3,813.00
Winter Quarter 2023 income	\$1,681.24	Donations 2023 to date	
Spring Quarter 2023 income	\$8,515.50	Disbursements	
Fall Quarter 2023 income, to 10/12/23	\$9,707.00		
Meeting quotas rec'd in 2023, to 9/30/23	\$1,538.00		
Student Scholarship Fund donations			
Income subtotal	\$21,441.74	K-12 Scholarship ending balance	\$3,813.00
Winter 2023 session expenses	\$407.60	Bank Balance	
Spring 2023 session expenses	\$9,488.10	General Fund on 10/12/23	\$25,653.95
Other misc exp (insurance, Zoom, PayPal fees)	\$688.85	K-12 Scholarship Fund to 10/12/23	\$3,813.00
Deposit to Woolman for facilities Fall '23	\$4,922.00	Less funds held by Pay Pal, thru 10/12/23	-\$6,755.08
Expenses subtotal	\$15,506.55	Total Balance 10/12/23	\$22,711.87
General Fund Ending Balance	\$25,653.95		

	2022 Sessions Income & Expenses	Net	2023 Sessions Income & Expenses	Net
Winter	\$1395 income -\$671 expenses =	\$724.00	\$1681 income -\$408 expenses =	\$1,273.00
Spring	\$4345 income - \$7003 expenses =	-\$2,658.00	\$8515 income -\$9488 expenses =	-\$973.00
Fall	\$4800 income - \$8101 expenses =	-\$3,301.00		

Report as of 10/12/23, presented 10/14/23 – Martha Hunkins, CPQM Treasurer

APPENDIX 7: Registrars' Report

APPENDIX 8: Children's Program report

The children's program went exceptionally well with much thanks to both Elinor Steffy and Sophia. Although I had planned a guided program, mostly the children wanted to play. Mel's pond and the swing were hot ticket items for the children.

-Barbara Christwitz

APPENDIX 9: Teen reports/epistle

Redwood House was too small for the number of teens, requiring sleeping on the floor. Yuba River trip was successful and returned on time. More program content on Quakerism is requested; e.g.: personal stories on participation in MLK march, etc. Most teens went to the AFSC interest group; 2 went to the Futures group.

-Keenan Lorenzato