

**College Park Quarterly Meeting [CPQM] 252<sup>nd</sup> session**  
**October 13-15, 2023**  
**Sierra Friends Center and via ZOOM**

**Plenary Session I**

Eric Sabelman (Palo Alto Meeting), Presiding Clerk of the Quarterly Meeting, invited us to begin our session.

**Roll Call of Meetings**

Stephen Myers (Davis), Assistant Clerk, read the list of meetings and Worship Groups. Friends in the room and on ZOOM responded audibly and with waves. 19 people on zoom, [at one count] and 43 in the Meeting House.

**Nominating Committee**

The plenary approved of interim Recording Clerk TinaMarie Jackson (Appleseed), filling in for Carl Magruder while he is recovering from his accident. She is attending the session remotely.

**Welcome and Introduction of the Theme**

Eric Sabelman read the following:

Greetings to all attenders of CPQM's Fall gathering, whether in-person or remote, however far you have traveled. We will explore "Windows of Opportunity" through 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 requiring 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. (complete Clerk's report: Appendix 1)

Teens from the Teen Program introduced themselves prior to leaving for their own activities.

We took a brief break to view the partial solar eclipse through special glasses provided by Eric.

**College Park Friends Education Association Report – Sandra Schwartz, Board co-Clerk**

Sandra (San Francisco Meeting) gave the report about Woolman at Sierra Friends Center and shared with the plenary the board's decision to sell the property. She noted that while the process is in its early stages, the board has signed a letter of intent to sell the land to the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe through their nonprofit organization, the California Heritage: Indigenous Research Project (CHIRP). If all goes according to plan, the two parties will be entering into a purchase agreement in the coming months, with an expected sale in 2024. Sandra described how recovery from the fire and recent economic downturn brought on the need to sell the property. Sandra noted that all financial obligations will continue to be met until the land is sold.

The organization was able to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Woolman School with past staff and alumni earlier in October. The book *the Woolman Way: A History of the Woolman School* was available for sale at quarterly meeting, with proceeds to benefit the work of making needed changes to the property. (complete CPFEA report: Appendix 2)

Because of the gravity of this news, the clerk called for a few minutes for the plenary to sit in worship.

**A Few Words about CHIRP**

Barbara Babin (Redwood Forest) and Sophie Wood Brinker (West Marin Worship Group) spoke about CHIRP and what it could mean to sell the Woolman property to the tribe.

Barbara thanked the CPFEA board for its work in coming to the difficult decision to sell the property. Sophie gave some background information about CHIRP, including that the land upon which Woolman sits was at one time the tribe's homeland and was stolen by the US government. Sophie read a brief description of the planned uses by the tribe of the land. They noted that CHIRP is looking for donations to be able to purchase the land.

In a later related interest group, Alyssa Nelson (Davis) spoke via Zoom to clarify that discussions between the CPFEA board and the tribe began before the 2020 fire that damaged the property, and were renewed recently.

### **Future of CPQM subcommittee Report**

Thom McCue (Live Oak) introduced Keith Runyan (Santa Cruz), Julia Bazar (Strawberry Creek), Sandy Kewman (Sacramento), and Barbara Babin (Redwood Forest) as fellow members of the subcommittee. Keenan Lorenzato (Davis) is also on the committee but was engaged with the teen group during the plenary. The committee read from their report (see Appendix 3). The committee invited Friends to attend the interest group later that day. An online group will be held on Oct 26, 2023 for Friends via Zoom. Both interest groups will be interactive. The subcommittee noted the following recurring themes from feedback they have received from the quarter:

1. Simplify
2. Emphasis on children and young Friends
3. Making our meeting and organization accessible to all Friends

Thom also noted that the answers to “what could Quarterly do better?” were widely varied and at times contradictory.

### **Naming Committee Report – Kathy Runyan (Chico)**

Kathy noted that terms on the Nominating Committee are intended to ensure that two of the six members' terms begin at a given time, because three vacancies were scheduled to expire, the committee remedied this by filling a one-year vacancy and two three-year vacancies. The members who are in the middle of their term include:

- Ted Selker (Palo Alto) – term ends 2025
- Dorothy Henderson (Grass Valley) – term ends 2026
- TinaMarie Jackson (Appleseed) – term ends 2026

The committee brought the names of Owain Elliot Sowaal (San Francisco) to serve a one-year term, ending in 2025, and Mary Miche (Redwood Forest and Lake County Worship Group) and Ann Baier (Live Oak) to serve three-year terms, ending in 2027. (complete report: Appendix 4)

### **Thoughts on Alternative Ways to Gather for Quarterly Meeting**

The clerk said the format for the winter session will be the first item of business Sunday 10-15-2023, noting that winter meetings have been a burden on the host meeting. A hybrid structure could include small regional gatherings. A site will not be announced until a format has been approved.

### **Topical Lunch Tables**

The clerk announced topics and convenors for lunch tables held during Saturday's lunch. Convenors of 2 topics are attending remotely.. The lunch period was extended to two hours to allow Friends to spend enough time as they wish at each table or tables.

Topics included:

- San Francisco minute on nuclear war [David Hartsough]
- How to invite the public to monthly meeting activities (Eric Sabelman)
- Improving CPQM Children's program/merging with PacYM? [Barbara Christwitz]
- Thematic reading of 2023 State of the Meeting reports [M&O Committee]
- Finance Committee & Treasurer Reports [Don Kewman & Martha Hunkins]
- Post-secondary scholarship fund proposal [Carolyn Levering]
- Quaker response to wars in Ukraine & Israel/Palestine [no convener]

Plenary closed with a meeting for worship for Friends in distress. Friends were invited to speak the name of those Friends in distress and that name will be recorded for follow up action.

## **PLENARY SESSION II**

Clerk Eric Sabelman invited us to center in worship to begin our session.

### **Ministry & Oversight Committee – Ann Marie Snell (San Francisco)**

Ann Marie welcomed all and acknowledged the work of many in preparation for this meeting, including the Future of CPQM subcommittee.

Ann Marie brought a minute approved by the M&O committee to change the name of the committee to Ministry and Spiritual Care.

One Friend stated they are uneasy with the process, despite supporting the name change, and would prefer name changes go through Nominating. Ann Marie responded that the committee desperately wants to change its name. A Friend spoke in favor of keeping "oversight" in its name because the committee is making sure that the committees are functioning and doing their work. The use of the word "Care" seems too limiting. The Clerk suggested the group refer the minute to Nominating Committee. He asked if the committee be allowed to use the proposed name until a permanent name is approved. After discussion in the plenary, the group was not ready to come to unity to approve the minute. Quarterly will revisit the idea at the winter gathering after Nominating Committee discusses the proposal and provides its recommendation.

Ann Marie announced that the M&O committee is planning on organizing visitations from the committee to monthly meetings. They have begun researching an education program for Quarterly. They are looking at an AFSC program called Emerging Leaders in Liberation for working with youth. A written report is attached to these minutes (Appendix 5).

### **Proposal to Expand the Use of Scholarship Funds**

The Clerk said he has received a proposal from a group in Pacific Yearly Meeting to establish a scholarship for post-secondary students. The proposal has been sent to Finance Committee, which has not yet met to consider the proposal. The scholarship fund would repurpose funds that were given to support young Friends to attend K-12 Friends schools. Southern California Quarterly Meeting is also considering this proposal, and there will be a lunchtime discussion on the proposal. The treasurer reported that the scholarship fund currently has \$3800 and has not been used recently. The proposal will be taken up at winter quarter.

### **Fresno Meeting Change**

The Clerk announced that Fresno Meeting has decided to revert to a worship group, and Visalia Meeting is taking Fresno under its care. Letters from both Meetings were received approving the new relationship; they will be deposited in the Quarterly archives. The Meeting **approved** of the change.

### **Naming Committee Second Reading**

After reading the names nominated to Nominating Committee, the names were **approved**.

### **Nominating Committee**

Committee clerk Mary Miche (Lake County WG) said she has printed a list of the current committee roster. The roster will be uploaded to the quarterly web site.

### **Finance Committee Report – Don Kewman (Sacramento)**

Don announced the ability of Friends to now pay online (that was well used for this session!) to register for quarterly sessions. The committee is considering increasing the monthly meeting contributions from the current \$2 per member.

### **Treasurer's Report – Martha Hunkins (Humboldt)**

Martha gave an overview of the treasurer's report (Appendix 6). The addition of PayPal as a payment option is very successful. We are reminded there is a 3% charge for use of PayPal. Bob Runyan, who is web coordinator, expressed concern that he is the only one who can work with PayPal. We need a way of training people to do highly technical work. The issue is being referred to Nominating Committee.

### **Registrar Report – Sarah Tyrrell (Berkeley)**

Sarah reported on registration for the session. The report is attached to these minutes (Appendix 7)

### **Children's Report**

The Clerk read the report for the children's group, which is attached to these minutes (Appendix 8)

### **Teen's Report**

The teens read their epistle (Appendix 9).

### **Approval of Minutes**

TinaMarie Jackson, interim recording clerk, read the minutes for Plenary I. The minutes for Plenary II will be read at the winter session. Final approval of minutes for Plenary I and Plenary II will be at the winter quarter. Any corrections to the draft minutes may be sent to the clerk.

### **Closure**

The Quarterly session closed with a brief silence, in time to attend worship with Grass Valley Meeting in the same location.