

Plenary 1 Fall 2024 (See Appendix 1)

Plenary 1 on 10/19/2024 started at 9:00 am with a short period of silence. Clerk Eric Sabelman (Palo Alto) welcomed us to the 255th session of College Park Quarterly Meeting. The Clerk reviewed the agenda. Assistant to the Clerk Stephen Myers (Sacramento) is in route, and may join by phone. TinaMarie Jackson (Appleseed) and Tom Yamaguchi (Berkeley) are the co-recording clerks. Tom Yamaguchi called the roll.

Roll call

The following meetings were present in person and on Zoom:

Appleseed
Berkeley
Chico
Davis
Friends House
Grass Valley
Humboldt
Lake County
Live Oak
Oakland Worship Group
Palo Alto
Redwood Forest
Reno
Sacramento
San Francisco
San Jose
San Mateo
Santa Cruz
Strawberry Creek
Visalia

Introduction of BLQC host, guests, children's and teen leaders

The Clerk invited visitors from outside of the quarterly meeting to introduce themselves. There were no visitors.

Nico Wright introduced us to Ben Lomond Quaker Center. He introduced the staff and residents. Quaker Center is celebrating its 75th anniversary. He welcomed us to view a display in the dining hall and to attend the afternoon interest group.

Sarah Tyrrell (Berkeley) reminded us that many monthly meetings have annual passes for their members and attenders to attend Quaker Center programs..

Jeff and Kathy Richman (Live Oak) introduced the Children's program. The children introduced themselves then left to begin the children's program at the Haven.

The teens and FRAPs introduced themselves, then left to begin the teen program.

Clerk's report

The Clerk read his message, which is attached [Appendix 2] He explained the theme for the session, "What do Friends have to offer?", including the history and practice of witnessing.

CPFEA report

Sandra Schwartz (San Francisco), clerk of College Park Friends Educational Association, gave the CPFEA report. She thanked the quarter for all of our gifts and support. She reported on the transfer of Sierra Friends Center property to CHIRP. Escrow closed on September 27, one year after the announcement of the original intent to transfer. Her report is attached to these minutes [Appendix 3]. The Clerk announced that Sandra is available for questions at lunch time.

"First Hand" reports

Three monthly meetings were scheduled to give "first hand" reports: San José, Grass Valley, and Redwood Forest.

- Mimi Edgar (Santa Cruz) and Sarah Johnson (San José) reported on San José Meeting, which still occupies its meetinghouse built in 1885. The meeting has been working for 10 years to make the meetinghouse accessible to people with disabilities. This summer the meeting held a celebration of their 163rd anniversary. They were founded in 1861. They are raising funds for the renovation and are \$66,000 short of their goal. This is the oldest meetinghouse in the quarter. They will be available to answer questions during lunch.
- Unfortunately, Dorothy Henderson (Grass Valley) needed to leave the session in order to be with her sister Sue Torrey and was unable to report for Grass Valley Meeting. If she is able to return, she will report later.
- Keith Bridges (Redwood Forest) reported via Zoom on Redwood Forest Meeting. Keith spoke about the safe parking program for unsheltered individuals. They had 6-10 vehicles that stayed there each night in the meetinghouse parking lot. The meeting provided a portable toilet and hand washing facilities. They were reimbursed by the City of Santa Rosa for their expenses, but the city would not underwrite the insurance

for the program. There were no losses during the time the program operated, and the meeting actually experienced a decrease in crime. However, their insurance company threatened not to renew their policy, so the meeting had to end the program. The meeting tried to find other options, but they were unsuccessful. The local newspaper, the *Press Democrat*, reported on the issue in a [front page story](#). Some of the participants were able to find housing as a [result of that story](#). They also received a cash donation that was distributed to the remaining participants, many of whom are employed but unable to afford housing in the area. In addition, They are looking at collaborating with other congregations that are self insured. Friends with questions can give them to the Clerk to pass on to Keith.

Implementation Committee

Kathy Runyan (Chico) and Jim Anderson (Chico) gave the report of the Implementation Committee, which is attached [Appendix 4]. They gave an update on recommendations of the committee. Keenan Lorenzato is also on the committee. The posting of information on the CPQM website has been completed, rescheduling spring quarter, and starting the welcoming program. We are encouraged to read and share the Quaker NOATs available on the [PacYM web site](#).

The committee proposes an experiment to replace the winter quarterly session with regional gatherings. They also propose a Zoom representative committee meeting to reduce the amount of business needed for the regular quarterly sessions. Discussion and possible approval of these proposals are on the agenda for tomorrow's agenda.

Kathy read a proposed minute that they will bring back at tomorrow's plenary:

College Park Friends will form a Program Committee of 2-3 Friends for the term of 1 year to develop activities at quarterly sessions that provide more experience of Quaker faith and practices in collaboration with the presiding clerk.

Nominating Committee

Mary Miche (Redwood Forest) gave the Nominating Committee Report. She distributed paper copies of the slate. [see appendices to 2024 Spring CPQM session]

Nominating is bringing the names of three to serve on committees:

- Thom McCue (Live Oak) for clerk of Ministry and Spiritual Care - second reading
- Jane Yett (Santa Cruz) for Registration Committee
- Shanna Mae Slight (Reno) for children's program.

Nominating is looking for more Friends for Ministry and Spiritual Care, Registration, and Children's committees.

Nominating Committee is discussing how we will be doing Zoom hosting.

The Clerk said that Thom McCue has been serving as an interim clerk of Ministry and Spiritual Care. He asked that we approve the nomination of Thom McCue for the full term. That nomination was **approved**.

Naming Committee

The Clerk asked Friends to volunteer for the Naming Committee. Interested Friends may contact the Clerk. These will be approved during tomorrow's plenary or at the winter session.

Introduction to worship sharing, lunch and IG topics and conveners

The worship sharing queries have been sent to those who have volunteered to convene worship sharing groups. The Clerk described the different ways that Friends may participate in worship sharing. There are two worship sharing sessions. The queries for the first session are:

What originally drew me to Friends?

What has nourished my spiritual journey with Friends?

The queries for the second session are:

How have I carried my Quaker practice and witness into the world?

What can I do or offer newcomers?

The Clerk announced the topical tables during lunch.

The Clerk introduced the interest groups that include outdoor worship at Redwood Circle, journaling, and pressing of apple juice on the stage below Orchard Lodge.

Sandy Farley (Palo Alto) announced the bookstore is open.

announcements, introduce family night leader

Tom Yamaguchi read the announcements. The Clerk asked for a volunteer to lead the Family Night program.

After a closing worship with a concern for Friends in distress, the plenary ended at 11:10 am.

Plenary 2 Fall 2024

Plenary 2 started at 9:10 am after a period of silent worship. Clerk Eric Sabelman introduced Tom Yamaguchi (Berkeley) at the table as one of the recording clerks. Stephen Myers (Sacramento) is still in route.

The Clerk asked for any visitors to introduce themselves. There were none.

Plans for Winter session 2025 and regional gatherings

The Clerk reintroduced the proposal from the Implementation Committee to replace the one day Winter Quarterly session with a number of regional gatherings within the quarter.

Kathy Runyan (Chico) said the Implementation Committee proposed to a number of meetings to have their regional gatherings on the same day. Unfortunately, not all of the meetings are able to host them on the same day. The only Friends able to meet that day are the Valley-Foothills Region and the Teen Gathering at Berkeley.

The Clerk said that he would like to send a possible agenda to the regional gatherings that they may use regardless of the actual day they meet. He asked that the committee charged with organizing the regional gatherings create an agenda for the use of those gatherings.

Friends spoke of their concerns regarding the proposed change.

Jim Anderson (Chico) of the Implementation Committee clarified that there will still be a Winter Quarter. It will be in the form of regional gatherings. How do we experience the unity of a quarterly meeting while being held in different locations? There are tradeoffs. We can't have everything. We have to decide what we want to have.

One Friend asked if the representative committee is the actual replacement of the Winter Quarter. There should be time made in advance for monthly meetings to give input into the business of the representative committee.

Sandy Farley (Palo Alto) of the Earthlight Bookstore suggested that having different days for each gathering would allow the bookstore to be available at those gatherings and may be able to tailor the offerings as each gathering may wish.

The Clerk said the next step is taking the proposal to the monthly meetings and reminded us that this is just an experiment.

Approval of Naming Committee

The Clerk said that Dan Beck (Redwood Forest) had asked to join the Naming Committee. The Clerk asked if other Friends would be able to join. Shanna Mae Slight (Reno) said she would be willing to serve.

Approval of nominations

The names of Jane Yett (Santa Cruz) for Registration Committee and Shanna Mae Slight (Reno) for children's program were brought to Plenary 1. The Clerk asked if we were ready to approve those nominations. The nominations were **approved**.

Treasurer's report

Treasurer Martha Hunkins (Humboldt) gave the treasurer's report, which is attached to these minutes [Appendix 5]. The spring quarter lost about \$2,700.

We still need to receive payment from Friends attending this session. We are currently \$1,500 in the red, but payments are still to come in. Friends can ask their monthly meetings for support. Please send checks to Martha's address: 4251 Percheron Lane, Arcata, CA 95521.

Our checkbook balance continues to be healthy.

We do not have a system to pursue Friends who fail to pay their registration fees. We could use such a system. We are doing a better job this session than we have in the past. It was suggested that Friends receive a reminder email that their payment was not received.

We **accepted** the treasurer's report.

"First hand" report: San Francisco Teen Leadership project

Carol Cruickshank (San Francisco) and Nate Secret (Redwood Forest) gave the report on the San Francisco Teen Leadership Project of San Francisco Monthly Meeting

Carol said as we came out of the pandemic, the Meeting recommitted to the children's and teens program.

Nate said he was inspired by Servas, which is a hosting program. The project will schedule the program and find hosts and speakers. The program is for young people who are eager to learn about Quakerism and is inspired by the Guilford College Leader Scholarship program.

A possible format is 10 weeks of hour-long sessions. Carol's report is attached to these minutes [Appendix 6].

The Clerk announced the following Friends comprise the Archives Committee: Bruce Folsom (San Francisco), Kathy Richman (Live Oak), and Joe Magruder (Berkeley). They will meet at San Francisco Meeting where the archives are located. Volunteers are welcome.

Teen Program report

The teens described their weekend activities that included cider making and journaling. The teens had their business meeting last night and found new co-clerks. They are Bitsy Carr, Iris Moon, and Vivian Cornwall.

Ministry and Spiritual Care

Margaret Willits (Sierra Foothills Worship Group) gave the report. The committee is considering having a Zoom meeting of clerks of the Ministry committees of the monthly meetings, as well as meeting with worship groups to find out what is working with their groups and where they need help. She, Thom McCue (Live Oak), Marcy Downing (Appleseed), Nancy Nanna (Redwood Forest), and Jessica Mitchell (Berkeley) are available for questions.

Registrar's report

Sarah Tyrrell (Berkeley) gave the registrar's report, which is attached to these minutes [Appendix 7]. There are minor problems with the registration process which can be worked out.

Mary Miche (Redwood Forest) reminded us that we need to find someone to take Krista Barnard's (San Francisco) place. She invited Friends to take a copy of the nominating list to take back to our monthly meetings and see if there are any jobs we are able to do.

The Clerk asked if there is any reason to make a decision now whether to have regional gatherings. The Implementation Committee proposed the following minute.

CPQM agrees to experiment with replacing the single winter quarterly gathering with regional gatherings of the Valley-Foothills Region, the North Coast Region, the Bay Area Region, and the South Coast Region, during the winter of 2025. MS&C will provide common worship sharing queries to all coordinators. If there are business matters to consider, the presiding clerk may choose to hold a business meeting via Zoom as well. We will evaluate this experiment in spring 2025.

The minute was **approved**.

Children's Program

Barbara Christwitz (Redwood Forest) reported for the children's program. The children reported their favorite things they did this weekend.

Reading of minutes

Minutes for Plenary 1 and 2 were approved with a few corrections.

Announcements

The plenary ended at 10:47 am with a closing worship with a mindfulness of Friends in distress.