

2024 Spring CPQM Appendices

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College Park Quarterly Meeting – 254th Session

Ben Lomond Quaker Center

Fifth Month 17 - 19, 2024

What Unites Us?

Welcome! Thank you for registering for Spring session of College Park Quarterly Meeting. **For those attending on Zoom; the link is at the bottom of this document.**

A year ago our focus was on the divisions among Friends and how to overcome them. Now we will explicitly examine what we have in common – across large and small Meetings, new and experienced Friends, old and young Friends. There are clues to our connectedness in our State-of-the-Meeting reports: We all value the experience of Quaker worship. We all want Quakerism in Northern California and Nevada to survive and thrive. Let us strive for unity in our plans for thriving into the future.

COVID precautions for in-person attenders

COVID transmission is still ongoing; at Quarterly and Yearly meetings in the last 2 years 5% to 10% of attenders caught COVID.

- Rapid Covid test before leaving home or on arrival
- Masks are **welcome but not obligatory**
- Attend remotely if you have cold or flu-like symptoms

WHAT TO BRING: Essentials: flashlight, towel, soap, and bedding (a pillow case with either sleeping bag or sheets and blankets), and if you're camping, a tent. Suggestions: A

sweater or jacket for chilly mornings and evenings. Your own cloth napkin and coffee mug to reduce use of paper products. Walking shoes for hiking. A small travel alarm or your smart phone to help you be on time for morning activities. Work gloves for service projects.

Fri 17	62°/51°		AM Clouds/PM Sun	11%	☁ S 7 mph
Sat 18	62°/49°		AM Clouds/PM Sun	10%	☁ S 8 mph
Sun 19	65°/48°		Partly Cloudy	7%	☁ WSW 8 mph

WHAT NOT TO BRING: Please do not use scented products of any kind, as we often have people in attendance who are sensitive to these. Do not bring or consume alcohol or other mind-altering substances. Please do not bring pets of any kind (service dogs registered in advance are permitted).

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ALL IN-PERSON ATTENDERS are expected to participate as they are able in meal preparation and clean-up, and final cleaning of their rooms and common spaces. Sign up at the registration desk. *Please read and abide by the "Community expectations."*

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM: Parents are expected to sign their children into the Children's Program or have them in their own care. Children in their parents' care need to be directly supervised by a parent, the child must stay within sight of the parent. Children cannot be left alone on the campus. The Children's Program is offered during worship, plenary sessions, worship-sharing, and interest groups. *The Children's Program is mainly in the Haven.*

TEEN PROGRAM (ages 13-18 years) includes fun activities, interest groups, community service, and worship-sharing, as well as a single sleeping area supervised by at least one FRAP (Friendly Responsible Adult Presence) at all times. During sleeping hours, all present will be allotted their own little "yard" (at least 3 feet) of personal space around each person in order to foster safety and comfort. Teens share meals and most activities with the whole Quarterly Meeting and have other meetings for business and activities on their own. Bring a camping pad, sleeping bag, pillow, clothes and walking shoes so you can get dirty or wet during the service project. Teens are expected to either participate in the teen program or be under supervision of a parent, guardian, or adult sponsor at all times. *The dedicated teen space is in the Casa de Luz.*

All minors must have Parental Consent and Medical History forms. These can be found at www.collegepark.quaker.org or can be filled out by the parent or guardian at registration.

GENERAL ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS

Whether you are using the Zoom app on your smart phone, desktop computer, laptop computer, tablet, OR are dialing in by phone, your experience will go much more smoothly if you know how to:

- Re-name yourself so that we can see who you are and who is with you if you are sharing a device
- Mute and unmute yourself
- Turn your video camera on and off
- Toggle between speaker view and gallery view

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It is also helpful to be able to:

- Use the chat feature, especially if you need help
- Address your chat message to an individual, not to "Everyone"
- Raise and lower your hand virtually
- Change your display to "Speaker view" from "Gallery"

If you are a presenter you may also want to be able to:

- Share screen
- Ask for or create breakout groups

If you are new to Zoom or will be using features that are new to you, we HIGHLY recommend that you check in with the registrars between 9:00 and 9:15 on Saturday so that our Zoom coordinator can whisk you into a breakout room for a quick session to help you out.

Since a Quaker gathering - even by Zoom - is a participatory event, you are asked to **LEAVE YOUR CAMERA ON**. Your name in white on a black window is no substitute for being able to see everyone's face.

- Of course, if you have to leave your computer for a few minutes, please do so with your camera off.
- Some may call in on a phone without a camera, which is also OK.
- If you have to skip part of the gathering, please log off and re-enter the Zoom link when you come back.
- If your internet connection is inadequate for video, consider this an incentive to visit a Friendly neighbor with better internet.

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Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83206888709?pwd=MnpSYzUvbklTYzAwTjU0WnBFcDZRdz09>

Meeting ID: 832 0688 8709

Passcode: 398163

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,83206888709# US (San Jose)

+16892781000,,83206888709# US

Dial by your location

• +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

• +1 689 278 1000 US

• +1 719 359 4580 US

• +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

• +1 253 205 0468 US

• +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

• +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

• +1 305 224 1968 US

• +1 309 205 3325 US

• +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

• +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

• +1 360 209 5623 US

• +1 386 347 5053 US

• +1 507 473 4847 US

• +1 564 217 2000 US

• +1 646 931 3860 US

• +1 669 444 9171 US

Meeting ID: 832 0688 8709

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kdRqe1uHde>

Friday 5/17/2024

- 4:00 Registration opens
6:00 Dinner
7:00 Introduction [hybrid zoom]
 Newcomer recognition - matching with resource "buddy"
 Causes that unite us - Quaker organizations and working side-by-side
 AFSC, QEW, etc.
 Children's Quaker education
 Concentric circles - I volunteer for _____ because _____
 Singing **

Saturday 5/18/2024

- 7:00 Bible study [separate zoom]
7:30 * prayer circle for Carl Magruder
8:00 Breakfast
9:00 Worship [hybrid zoom]
9:30 Opening plenary [hybrid zoom]
 Roll call & non-CPQM introductions
 Newcomer recognition - matching with resource "buddy"
 Welcome to Quaker Center
 Children & Teen programs
 Introduction to theme "What unites us?"

10:45 Break
11:00 Morning business plenary [hybrid zoom]
 Opening worship - Remembering the names of lost Friends
 Ministry and Spiritual Care Report
 Implementation Committee initial report
 Nominating Committee
 First-hand reports
 Delta Meeting
 Children's program (Reno)
 BLQC Report

12:30 Lunch
 Topical tables
 War and Peace in Gaza
 Climate crisis - What are we doing?
 CPQM Finances - per-member "assessment" changes

1:30 Worship-sharing [separate zoom]

3:00 Break
3:15 Interest groups
 ▪ Priorities for the Future. The ad hoc Implementation Committee will offer the opportunity to reflect together on the proposed implementation plans based on the Futures Committee's recommendations. Please join us as we look to the future of College Park Quarterly Meeting.

 ▪ "Friends Meetings and Indigenous Peoples". Attenders of this interest group are invited to share how their Meetings are pursuing relationships with Indigenous People in their local areas and to share ideas on how to initiate or expand those relationships. What actions are our Meetings taking to be supportive allies?

 ▪ Exchanging personal stories of spiritual experiences [Zoom only] Have you experienced something beyond our ordinary state, something indescribable, ecstatic, at one with the universe, at one with God? Maybe you have felt reluctant to talk about such an unusual experience. Here is your chance.

- An introduction to Quaker Voluntary Service, an experiment at the intersection of transformational spirituality and activism, a year-long Fellowship program for young adults. <<https://quakervoluntaryservice.org/>>

4:30 Afternoon plenary
 State-of-the-Meeting exercise [separate zoom]
 Worship-sharing on State-of-the-Quarter & Future of CPQM [hybrid zoom]
 Reading of minutes [hybrid zoom]
 Worship & singing **

5:30 Free time

6:00 Dinner

7:30 Family night - singing [hybrid zoom]

Sunday 5/19/2024

7:00 Bible study [separate zoom]
 7:30 * prayer circle for Carl Magruder
 8:00 Breakfast
 9:30 Worship [hybrid zoom]
 10:15 Break

10:30 Closing plenary [hybrid zoom]
 Finance & Treasurer summary report
 Implementation Committee - action if needed
 Registrar's report
 Children's Program
 Teen Program
 Nominating
 Reading & approval of minutes
 Closing worship

11:30 Break

12:00 Lunch - close with singing **

1:00 Clean-up

2:00 Departure
 Evaluation Meeting

* prayer circle for Carl Magruder [not a CPQM activity]

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83659681385?pwd=T01RT0t5RjBzOXVnc3NlelJDTHR3UT09>
 Meeting ID: 836 5968 1385
 Passcode: 688758

** group singing led by Melanie Cantu

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What Unites Us?

Shifting focus from “What divides us?” to “What unites us?” turns out to be hard work. Like the world-wide struggles for peace, sustainability and justice, lists of intractable difficulties facing Friends keep popping up. Let us - for now - set aside our worries that divisive forces and simple entropy - the advantage that disorder has over order - will overcome us. So, what unifying principles exist among us in College Park Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends?

I have been told by many Friends that the fundamental unifying force is our form of silent worship. In collective stillness, we can escape our worldly differences by immersion in a single loving Spirit. No argument there.

Many Friends also value the Quaker traditions that have grown around that form of worship: chief among them distributed leadership and authority of individual experience over uniformity enforced by creeds, But others say that we must change to meet the demands of changing times. Perhaps the unifying factor is a sense of Quaker history as the influence of a few stubborn people of great conviction turning much greater powers away from paths of destruction and injustice. But do we teach this history, and do we expect it to continue into the future? Maybe we should study Quaker history more before we declare it to be a major unifying factor?

If Quakerism is to exist in the future, there must be future generations of Friends - on this we all agree. Care and education of the children growing up in our Meetings - and those who join us of their own accord - is therefore important to do well. This task takes a good share of the time, energy and financial resources of our Monthly and Yearly Meetings. It is also a goal of the Quarter, leading to the founding of John Woodman School and the adoption of Ben Lomond Quaker Center by the Quarter in the past. How will we continue to serve this goal in the years to come?

A potential unifying factor is the sense of belonging to a community - even a family - felt by long-term Friends - and by some people new to Friends as soon as they walk through the Meetinghouse door. It is interesting to observe how often that sense stops outside the Meetinghouse door. For many dedicated Friends, their sense of belonging is

entirely to their own Meeting, leaving little for the wider fellowship of Quarterly and Yearly Meetings and national/international service organizations. So, belonging is another aspect of life as a Friend that we should understand better, before proclaiming it to be a unifier.

What is it that connects the distant Monthly Meetings that make up a Quarterly or Yearly Meeting? One generally neglected tie-that-binds is the network of representatives from Meetings to the larger bodies. Both Quarterly and Yearly organizational structures require each Meeting to provide a representative, whose task is commonly thought to be carrying reports back to the Monthly Meeting. Their work is really much more vital: should a representative not be a Friend who is recognized as caring intensely about the health and survival of the larger body? Should representatives not be a pool of Friends to be called upon when either the Monthly Meeting or the larger body is in need of their skills and experience? Being a representative is a more important job than just carrying messages, though their highest calling is needed only in times of crisis.

Returning to the “fundamental unifying force”, can we rely on it as the only such force? Experience teaches us that prayer alone will not suffice. We who make up College Park Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends must add our own strength and labor, or the leadings we are given by the Spirit will come to naught.

-Eric E. Sabelman
16 May, 2024

2024 Spring Quarter
Worship Sharing Queries

One of the queries in continuous use since 1682 asks, “Are love and unity maintained among you?” Early Friends considered themselves part of a great movement that would soon sweep the world.... Working together to discern and serve God’s will both nourishes and benefits from unity. This unity grows from trust in one another and readiness to speak out, confident that together, Friends will find the truth.

—Pacific Yearly Meeting, *Faith and Practice*

“Therefore,” wrote George Fox, “in the Light wait, where unity is.”

Finding out what connects us, reveling in our differences; this is the process that brings us closer, that gives us a world of shared values, of meaningful community. —bell hooks

- 1) How are love and unity maintained among us?
- 2) How do I give and receive spiritual nourishment in my life, in my Meeting, in the Quarter and the Yearly Meeting?
- 3) When do I practice the art of listening beyond words? How do I cultivate deep listening?

revised for CPQM from Pacific Yearly Meeting respectful Relationships Subcommittee

Community expectations

Our Quarterly Session is a gathering of the Beloved Community where Friends labor and rejoice together in discerning the will of Spirit. For us to go deep into worship and community, we must create a safe and healthy container. Please use these reminders to make this Session a joyful occasion for all.

- *We come to Quarterly Session with a loving attitude ready to be with one another in compassion, even when we are in disagreement.*
- *When there is conflict, we practice entering worship to seek God's will. We listen deeply to others and speak our truth as plainly as we are able.*
- *We remember basic courtesy, and we speak with love. Peace is the way!*
- *We communicate our own personal boundaries and respect those of others.*
- *We ensure that children and parents are supported so that young people are safe, supervised and appropriately engaged as an integral part of our community.*
- *We remember that Quarterly Session is a Do-It-Yourself event and run by volunteers – members of our very own community. We seek the appropriate person to talk to and we are prepared to help with the solution to issues we bring forward for resolution.*
- *We are aware of our own and others' needs and are willing to ask for and/or give help to others while also respecting everyone's desire for independence.*
- *Consenting adults keep any sexual intimacy only within pre-existing committed relationships in order to focus on being in community for our time together at Quarterly Session. We expect that minors will not engage in sexual relations during Quarterly Session.*
- *We abstain from using alcohol and recreational or illegal drugs during Quarterly Session.*
- *We respect our host site and abide by their guest policies.*

Thank you for helping make Quarterly Session a safe, healthy and fun occasion for the whole community!

If you would like to discuss any of these expectations please see a member of the Ministry and Spiritual Care Committee. M&SC members are also available to support anyone at Quarterly Session through mediation, worship and/or deep listening.

Ad hoc Implementation Committee

Report to Spring Quarter

May 18, 2024

Introduction

At Winter Quarterly, the ad hoc Futures Committee, which was appointed by the CPQM M&O committee in 2022, made nine recommendations after over a year of information gathering and a request for an ad hoc committee to implement them. Our Presiding Clerk, Eric Sabelman, asked a number of Friends to serve on the new ad hoc Implementation Committee and the three of us before you agreed to serve. We have sorted the Futures Committee recommendations into those that could be implemented quickly and relatively simply and those that were more complex and require discernment through experimentation. As you hear these recommendations and our proposals for implementing them, we ask that you open your hearts and minds. We'll start with one that we chose to implement immediately and move toward the more complex.

Welcoming Friends

- ❖ **Recommendation:** *"Provide information on what Friends do at Quarterly Gatherings and start a buddy system to help newcomers at gatherings: This information would enable Friends to fully participate at gatherings, and buddies would support newcomers and others in feeling welcome."*
- ❖ **Rationale:** The term "Welcoming Friend" rose to us as the role we hope to empower friends to take on in our quarterly community. We hope this will help newcomers to find a communal and spiritual home in the Quarter.
- ❖ **Implementation:** The YPC will pair up and share guidance on the role of Welcoming Friends to those partaking. This will happen at every quarter until another arm of the Quarter feels compelled to take on this task.

Interview Friends about why they come to Quarter

- ❖ **Recommendation:** *"Publicize the mission and structure of Quarterly: Many Friends are unaware of the Quarterly Meeting and its role in fostering Spiritual fellowship and lack a connection to Friends in communities other than their own. A relationship with the Quarterly Meeting and friends outside their monthly meeting may enrich the experience of all. From PYM Faith & Practice: 'The main purposes of the 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 worshipping together, and to consider spiritual and worldly matters of local or broader concern'."*
- ❖ **Rationale:** Engaging the whole Quarter community seemed like a no brainer here as so much of the Futures Committee feedback was how crucial the Quarterly gatherings are for our teens.
- ❖ **Implementation:** We spoke with the Teen committee and their clerks expressed enthusiasm in interviewing Friends and stitching together a short video about why we come to Quarter. We'll share a link to this on the website and in the Quaker NOATS newsletter.

Changing the date of Spring Quarter

- ❖ **Recommendation:** *“Reevaluate the calendar and locations of Quarterly gatherings in light of the other changes the Quarter decides to implement. Take into account youth and school calendars.”*
- ❖ **Rationale:** Spring quarter falls around the time of final exams for many teens, making it a great challenge for our teens to be present. We expect moving the date to April will push it far enough out from finals that more youth will be able to attend and still give us plenty of time between Quarters. The Quaker Center calendar gets booked out well in advance, to honor that we'll need a two year experiment with the date change.
- ❖ **Implementation:** Change Spring Quarterly to the last weekend in April as an experiment for 2025 and 2026. We recommend doing this for a minimum of 2 years and collecting feedback for the CPQM Planning Committee to discern if the change should become permanent.

Regional Meetings of Friends

- ❖ **Recommendation:** *“Encourage regional meetings of Friends: This can happen formally or informally. CPQM could replace one of our three annual Quarterly gatherings to a series of regional gatherings. Nearby Meetings could design joint retreats. Individuals from one Meeting could travel to worship with another Meeting to have a different experience.”*
- ❖ **Rationale:** The regional groups idea has been with us at least for two decades, coming before the quarter in 1996, 2003, 2011, and in 2018 leading to three well attended and appreciated gatherings in the spring of 2019. Three main strengths of such smaller gatherings are:
 - low cost and potentially more inclusive than larger gatherings,
 - more opportunity for discussion of local issues in the region,
 - less environmental impact while retaining the in-person experience.

The implementation committee's reflections on this recommendation led us to consider these benefits and the history of our experiments with this model so far. It has been typical of our discussions in past years that some Friends would propose using the winter quarter weekend for a series of regional group gatherings. While others felt reluctant at this option because that quarter is well attended, it struck us that this high attendance results in part from its character as a Bay Area “regional gathering.” Many Friends at a distance do not attend Winter Quarter because expense and travel time for a one day event seems too great. Bay Area Friends can commute fairly easily and many do so. We came to believe that experimenting with using the Winter Quarterly weekend for three or four regional groups around the quarter would be worth trying. The ad hoc Implementation Committee is willing to do the initial coordinating in order to come to fall quarter with a plan. There is a good amount of useful material, much of it on the CPQM website under “documents.” Our more flexible approach to business meetings would allow us, if this were needed, to hold an online winter business meeting as well.

Implementation: We recommend holding three or four regional gatherings in January 2025 as an experiment, in the place of our traditional winter quarter. Using the work done in 2018-2019 as a starting point, the ad hoc Implementation Committee will begin work on this plan and bring a detailed proposal to the Fall Quarterly sessions. We also propose an evaluation session of this experiment at Spring Quarter 2025 to consider whether to continue this pattern.

Restructuring CPQM Business Procedures

- ❖ **Recommendation:** *“Shift the business of the Quarterly Meeting to Zoom: While this virtual meeting would be open to all Friends in the Quarter, Monthly Meetings would be asked to send representatives, as would ‘Young Adult Friends’ and ‘Junior Yearly Meeting’.” This shift would free the in person gatherings to emphasize spiritual and community-building activities.”*
- ❖ **Rationale:** Shifting the business of normal reporting and approvals [e.g. finance reports, committee reports, nominations, etc.] to a Representative Committee meeting composed of Representatives from Monthly Meetings, Worship Groups, Young Adult Friends, and the Teen Program would allow more time in plenary sessions for substantive Quaker discernment. Topics might include concerns or struggles arising in monthly meetings or the CPQM community. Such a Quaker business session could serve as an example of substantive Quaker process for testimony and action. The Quarter could send a minute of process or of action to monthly meetings for consideration. CPQM Clerk would send a report/summary to accompany such a minute.
- ❖ **Implementation:** We recommend that CPQM experiment with bringing any business items to a Representative Committee via Zoom about one month in advance of the quarterly gathering next year. Reps would take the information to their next business meeting for discussion and discernment. The Reps would then bring their community’s views back to the next CPQM in-person gathering.
 - Reports would be sent electronically and posted on the CPQM website for all.
 - Minutes from Rep committee meetings would be shared on CPQM website and sent to all Monthly Meetings, Worship Groups, and the Teen Program clerks.

Moving Forward

- ❖ We ask Monthly Meetings to
 - Consider hosting a Regional Gathering on Saturday, January 18, 2025 at the June Meeting for Business
 - Consider our proposal for a new CPQM Representative Committee business structure
- ❖ We ask that Monthly Meetings, Worship Groups, Young Adult Friends and the Teen Program to:
 - choose Reps between now and October 2024 so that they can start to get to know one another at the fall quarterly gathering.
 - choose Friends experienced with CPQM and Quaker process to mitigate the challenges of doing business in good order online.
- ❖ The ad hoc Implementation Committee will continue to consider how to implement the remaining recommendations from the ad hoc Futures Committee, which include:
 - Partnering with PYM to create community for young people
 - Reviewing responsibilities and capabilities of standing committees
 - Planning activities at quarterly sessions
 - Providing more education offered in Quaker faith and practices

Jim Anderson, Keenan Lorenzato and Kathy Runyan
ad hoc Implementation Committee

College Park Quarterly Meeting
Nominating Committee report, Spring, 2024 (updated to 6/25/24)

Presiding Clerk (one year term with a 3-year hope)
2025 Eric Sabelman, Palo Alto (2023)

Assistant Clerk (one year term with a 3-year hope)
2025 Stephen Myers, Sacramento (2022)

Recording Clerks (one year term)
2025 Tinamarie Jackson, Appleseed, May 2024
2025 Tom Yamacuchi , Strawberry Creek, May 2024

Finance (3 members, 3-year terms),
2026 Tom Yamaguchi, Strawberry Creek (2021)
2027 Robert Levering, Santa Cruz (2024)
2025 Peter Trueblood, Strawberry Creek (2023)
2025 Martha Hunkins, Humboldt (2022) Treasurer, ex officio

Archivist Committee (one year term with a 3-year hope)
2025 Kathy Richman (2020)
2025 Joe Magruder (2023)
2025 Bruce Folsom (2023)

Ministry & Spiritual Care (6 members, 3-year term),
2024 Tom Farley, Palo Alto (2022) continue until November 2024
2025 Nancy Nanna, Redwood Forest (2023)
2025 Jessie Mitchell, Berkeley, (2022)
2027 Margaret Willits, Sonora Worship Group (2024)
2027 Marci Downing, Appleseed, (2024)
2027 Thom McCue, clerk

Current Registrars (one year term with a 3-year hope)
We are requesting that the zoom host helps with registration,
2024 online zoom host, vacant
2025 Sarah Tyrell, Berkeley (2023) onsite registrar
2024 vacant
2024 Stephen Myers, assistant clerk, Zoom monitor in the room to alert the clerk's table
Website Coordinator (one year term)
2025 Bob Runyan, Chico (2011) willing to serve as long as needed

Current Arrangements (one year term with a 3-year hope)
Spring 2024 Owain Elliott Sowaal, San Francisco (2012)
Spring 2024 Bob Runyan, Chico, (2023)
Spring 2024 Ben Hofvendahl, Redwood Forest (2024)

Children's Program (3 members, 3-year term)

2025 Barbara Christwitz, Redwood Forest (2019) clerk

2024 Delcy Steffy, Sacramento (2022)

2027 Looking for one more member

Teen Program (6 members, 3-year term)

2025 Keenan Lorenzato, ex officio,

2025 Teen Co-Clerk (2022)

2025 Teen Co-Clerk (2022)

2025 Melanie Cantu, Santa Cruz (2022) clerk

2026 Nate Secrest Redwood Forest (2018) away until Fall Quarter 2024

2026 John Cantu, Santa Cruz (2020)

2027 Looking for one more member

Nominating Committee

Mary Miche, co-clerk, Owain Elliott-Sowall, co-clerk, Tinamarie Jackson, Ted Selker, Ann Beier, Dorothy Henderson

TELEPHONE INTERVIEW WITH JUDY BUNTING

Recorded 5/14/2024 10:11 am

This is Eric Sabelman, the Clerk of College Park Quarterly Meeting, and I'm recording Judy Bunting on her experience with Delta Meeting and it's being recorded with her permission. So go ahead, Judy.

[Judy] Okay, thank you, Eric. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to Friends within the Quarter.

Delta Monthly Meeting is one of the very oldest meetings within the Quarter - active from worship groups during World War II, conscientious objectors clear through today.

We're very diverse meeting and geographically all over the place from the southern San Joaquin Valley to the mountains here in the foothills of Amador, Calaveras, and Tuolumne counties. The worship groups [were] in the Modesto area to Stockton and then eventually [the] worship groups and the monthly meeting [were] housed in Stockton.

Our current status is very small. Our meeting, which in the past was very large. Currently we have only five members left in the meeting. We've just simply aged out. I don't know any other way to put it. Many of our members are now deceased. Wonderful memories and wonderful traditions from them. Take a moment to pause and just think about the wonderful friends that we've lost in our meeting over the years.

Currently we're not holding monthly meeting.

Most people are unable to travel. ... One of the members lives in New Mexico. Another down on the Watsonville area. We have people who are farmers, people who are retired.

We do have two worship sites which we've had for some time. The one in Sonora occasionally meets with two families.

Two of our past members, very active dear members of the meeting, have transferred out. One to Berkeley Friends Church and the other to Palo Alto monthly meeting. They're sorely missed and we feel they're lost as well.

Over the years it's interesting to think about the many ways that Delta meeting has been able to serve the quarter and relish in it.

We've always been a sojourning meeting. When I say that, I mean that we have somehow - none of us really know how - provided a home for those who are on their spiritual path. They find us for a while, stay, and then often move on with their lives and their path. We always feel that lack of their presence went when that happens, but somehow feeling that we're glad that we exist.

Over the years it was very hard to find physical space for the meeting - not unlike other monthly meetings - but always managed to come together.

And I believe that most friends within the meeting would say that our very strongest asset has always been our love for each other and the community that we formed together.

One of our most dear outings was our yearly day retreat at Calaveras Big Trees, which we relished in the natural beauty as well as our togetherness.

Over the years we also, after this host to two or three regional meetings with other monthly meetings, which seemed to be very, very enriching for us and others as well.

Now we just are there. Most of us have a way of daily meditation or centering without the joy of being together in the group.

Is there anything else that I should say?

[Eric] *Well, what do you think is likely to happen? You've given us an excellent history and we appreciate the accomplishments that people in Delta meeting have had. But the future is going to be different. What do you think it's going to be?*

[Judy] Well, I appreciate the question, Eric, and I don't know the answer to that. The last few years that we met together regularly on monthly meeting, we did struggle with that issue. We were never able to find any unity to lay the meeting down, even though logically it seemed like the thing to do.

We actually had a visitor, Joe Magruder, and another friend from the quarter to meet with us, and we just deeply appreciate it. Their insight and loving patience with us.

So, even though we knew we should probably lay it down, nobody has had the art to do that. And so, we just became inactive, I guess you might say, sort of a meeting with no real resolution.

It was suggested to us that we might want to become a worship group for another monthly meeting in our area. That did not come to fruition, but certainly was something that we did hold in the back of our minds and think seriously about.

And I'm going to know yet, perhaps other minds and hearts can fill that in for us.

[Eric] *Well, thank you for that, and you know that the quarter and the yearly meeting are both considering other forms of organized worship and the community that you build when you're doing that. So, I hope we can continue this conversation. If you have more to say, please do so, otherwise I'll stop the recording.*

[Judy] Well, probably that's enough to say for now, but we'll say that we're open to input from others within the quarter. And we certainly do bring greetings to the quarter.

I hope you have a wonderful weekend, and know that our hearts are there even though physically we're unable to be there.

[Eric] *Okay. Thank you.*

Quaker Center 2024 Report to College Park Quarterly Meeting

Ben Lomond Quaker Center Association Board of Trustees

Bob Runyan (Co-Clerk), Jay Cash (Co-Clerk), Ann Marie Snell (Recording Clerk), Cedar Green John Erickson, Heather Levien, Sue Torrey, Nico Wright, Brian Hutchins Knowles, Barbara Birch, Joe Magruder (Treasurer)

The year at Quaker Center since the last Spring Quarterly Meeting has been a time of gathered programs, bustling activity, and celebration. Quaker Center has maintained a full schedule of programs and visiting groups, while continuing to reconsolidate and adapt to the post-pandemic era. Traditions such as Family Work Camp, the Music and Dance weekend, the Year-End Retreat, several Meeting retreats and Quarterly Meeting have been revived with gusto. Quaker Center Camp - now a collaboration with Pacific Yearly Meeting's Youth Programs - was wonderful last year, and has now been expanded to include two week-long sessions next month. This year, we're excited to replace the heaters in the Orchard Lodge, and take additional steps to improve accessibility at Quaker Center. We're also looking forward to digging a new 350-foot well this summer. This project is expensive but an urgent necessity that will provide water to Quaker Center today and tomorrow.

Many challenges are still with us, both perennial and new. These include rising prices, reduced attendance for our programs and for visiting groups, water system difficulties and the threat of extreme weather. We have recently hired a part-time remote employee that we hope will increase our capacity to address some of these issues in creative ways.

The Quaker Center board and staff continue to steward this institution through its vibrant day-to-day, while this year especially we have all turned our eyes towards the future. We want to secure Quaker Center's ability to provide programming to nurture the faithfulness of Friends, Meetings and all visitors, and offer a gathering space for generations to come.

Financial Position

Economically, Quaker Center is on the firmest footing thus far since the pandemic. Income from groups and programs, while still lower than before the pandemic, has increased slightly, both from increased use and from a needed rate increase. We continue to keep costs low, and to fundraise for our annual budget and for additional projects like our new well. We are more grateful than we can say for your ongoing support, and we do need your help still!

The Quaker Center board and staff is also thrilled to ask Friends to mark their calendar for a Labor Day weekend anniversary party - 75 years of Quaker Center. We plan on

marking this milestone with a worthy celebration - remembering the Center's rich history, marking the diamond date, and looking ahead to the next 75 years.

	2023 totals	2022 totals	difference
revenue			
Contributions	155,093	130,702	+24,391
Program income	63,132	63,406	-274
Use income	204,364	157,153	+47,211
Other income	3,696	1,449	+2,247
Total	426,287	352,711	+73,576
expenses			
Wages	116,636	145,007	-28,371
Other	254,672	259,047	-4,375
Total	371,308	404,054	-32,746
Net revenue	81,389	-59,792	

SPIRITUAL SHARING GROUP

Dear Friends,

Have you experienced something beyond our ordinary state, something indescribable, ecstatic, at one with the universe, at one with God? Maybe you have felt reluctant to talk about such an unusual experience.

With these questions in mind, I have decided to offer an opportunity for Friends to share their spiritual experiences with one another. We can meet in groups of 10-12 people, with each of us initially presenting one of our experiences uninterrupted. After all presentations, we can reflect on our experiences in group. The identity of the participants will be kept in confidence in regard to any content, and no names will be used in future publications.

Recently, I conducted a survey of several dozen Friends, asking them to share with me their concepts of God. I published the results of that survey in the Jan/Feb 2023 issue of *Western Friend*, "God (Or Not) among Quakers." Click here to read the article. <https://westernfriend.org/magazine/on-conflict/god-or-not-among-quakers/>

After I published this article, a weighty Friend pointed out to me that "Friends don't define God. They experience God." That observation led me to consider hosting a discussion group about "experiences" of God, rather than "concepts" of God. Clearly this had been missing from my study. Interestingly, some of the most poignant of the spiritual comments, though not particularly religious, came from non-theistic Friends.

These groups, to be initially at the Spring Meeting of the College Park Quarterly, will be offered to all unprogrammed Friends, will be about 90 minutes each, and be held on Zoom.

If you are unable to attend our session but are interested, please email me --wbdpad@sbcglobal.net with the words "spirituality group" in the subject line.

Bill Donovan, Monterey Peninsula Friends Meeting

CPQM May 18, 2024 Lunch table topic discussion on financial questions

Martha Hunkins, Tom Yamaguchi, and Don Kewman were joined by Keenan Lorenzato
And Delsey Steffy

1. Should the \$2 member annual monthly mtg donation to CPQM be increased?
Felt to be a small amount and could be doubled if needed without much strain on monthly meetings
2. Combining quarterly amount with that due to yearly meeting?
This was felt to be a procedural matter that is up to the treasurers of CPQM and PacYM
3. Youth Scholarship fund?
Make people more aware of fund as a possible place for their directed personal donations. Maybe fold the fund into the PacYM youth endowment fund or (better yet) the LIR Quaker Center endowment fund which more likely relates to quarter youth activities.
4. Establish other funds?
Possibly a ministry projects fund involving projectes involving earthcare, climate change, social justice or funds for regional gatherings
5. Special fund administration
Didn't get to this question

Respectfully submitted,
Don Kewman (former Clerk)
Finance Committee

**Friends Meetings and Indigenous Peoples
Interest Group at College Park Quarterly Meeting
May 19, 2024**

Meeting	Land Acknowledgment	Shepherding Group	Groundwork: Book group, documentary film, etc	Actions	Land Tax	Donation to CHIRP	Other ways to meet Indigenous People
Berkeley	Yes	Social/Environmental Action Group		Engaged with shellmound return	Yes	Yes	
BLQC		? Committee	Earthcare Witness: Book Group				
Grass Valley	Yes	Ecospirit Group	Book Group			Yes	
Redwood Forest and Lake County	Draft, hoping committees will test it	Land Stewardship Interest Group	Book Group Cultural Speaker Cultural consultation	Some attended MMIW march		Yes	Indigenous Peoples Day celebrations Pow Wows Art Events
Sacramento		Peace and Social Action	PacYM's documentary			In discernment	
Santa Cruz		Friends in Unity With Nature (Hans and Nancy Brinker)		Supporting native language and culture		Yes	
Sierra Foothills		Worship Group		Orange Shirt Day march			Native plant events; Farmers market

Some Recommended Books:

We Are The Land: A History of Native California, DB Akins and WJ Bauer, Jr.

History of Us: Nisenan Tribe of the Nevada City Rancheria, Richard B Johnson

Nothing Lowly in the Universe: An Integral Approach to the Ecological Crisis, Jennie M Ratcliffe

Braiding Sweetgrass, Robin Wall Kimmerer
Bad Indians, Deborah A Miranda

Some Recommended Documentaries

[Watch Online](#) | [The Doctrine of Discovery: Unmasking the Domination Code](#) (\$4.99 one-time rental fee, or download for \$14.91).

For the Next 7 Generations, available for purchase on Amazon

13 Grandmothers...there appear to be several available on youtube, but I haven't had the chance to look into them

Some Recommended Websites

Sogorea Te' Land Trust and Shumi Land Tax <https://sogoreate-landtrust.org/>

Redbud Resource Group: Native Advocacy <https://www.redbudresourcegroup.org/>

Decolonizing Quakers <https://www.decolonizingquakers.org/>

Friends Peace Teams, Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples <https://friendspeaceteams.org/trr/>

California Heritage: Indigenous Research Project (CHIRP) <https://chirpca.org/>

College Park Quarterly Meeting Treasurer's Report

Spring Quarter 2024

Ben Lomond Quaker Center and hybrid 5/17 – 5/19/24

Winter Session 2024

(On Zoom, 1/20/24)

Income:

Registration Fees	\$1,676.00
Total income	\$1,676.00

Expenses:

Pay Pal fees	\$58.60
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Total expenses	\$58.60
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Net: \$1,617.40

Checkbook Balance

General Fund Balance on 4/30/24	\$20,788.41
K-12 Scholarship Fund	\$3,813.00
Total balance on 4/30/24	\$24,601.41

	2023 Sessions Income & Expenses	Net
Winter	\$1682 income - \$408 expenses =	\$1,274.00
Spring	\$8515 income - \$9488 expenses =	-\$973.00
Fall	\$12,292 income - \$10,797 expenses =	\$1,495.00
	2022 Sessions Income & Expenses	Net
Winter	\$1395 income - \$671 expenses =	\$724.00
Spring	\$4345 income - \$7003 expenses =	-\$2,658.00
Fall	\$4800 income - \$8101 expenses =	-\$3,301.00

Report as of 04/30/24, presented 5/19/24 – Martha Hunkins, CPQM Treasurer

CPQM finance committee report May 2024

Members Tom Yamaguchi, Peter Trublood, Treasurer Martha hunkins and Clerk Don Kewman Linda Rowell recently needed to resign from the committee.

PayPal and information regarding actual estimated costs for attending meetings has helped stabilize finances.

Increasing costs of holding meetings present challenges for the future.

The Finance committee awaits plans for future in order to offer advice re financial implications of these changes.

2024 Spring Registrars' Report

We had 9 children

7 teens

6 FRAPS

2 Children's program young adult helpers paid hourly

54 adults in person

20 on zoom

26 Adults in rooms

4 children in rooms

13 adults camping

3 children camping

7 adults day attenders

1 child day attendee

4 cancelations, 3 of which came after meal counts were done, meaning we paid for those meals.

Those that checked in with the Registrars when you arrived and signed up for meal setup or cleanup, thank you. Those who did not, please do so in the future. We are a work together community to make this happen.

Thank you to all who tested for Covid to keep our community as healthy as possible

In friendship,

Sandy Kewman, for the registrars

Friends:

Here is a summary of our recent gathering in the form known as "Quick Notes," for reporting and discussion at your Meetings. Full minutes and documents will be posted on our website <collegeparkquarterlymeeting.org>.

-Eric Sabelman, CPQM Presiding Clerk

An introductory session Friday evening began by celebrating the two first-time attenders present. We had short updates from AFSC about their work on demilitarizing local police and from Quaker Earthcare Witness. An exercise in sharing the kinds of volunteer work we do — both in and outside the “Quakersphere” — led to one-on-one local conversations but not to sharing with the whole group due to a Zoom glitch. We closed the evening with singing a new song; singing continued for a couple hours, as is our custom.

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Saturday began on the cool side, with a pre-dawn sprinkle of rain; the sky cleared and the rest of the day was pleasant for the 54 adults who attended in person; 20 attended by zoom. After a period of silent worship, we began our plenary sessions with roll call, a welcome to Quaker Center, and introduction of the theme: “What Unites Us?” A couple insights from the clerk: we all value our form of silent worship and the prospect of future generations of Friends to carry it on. “We are a community working together to make this happen.”

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The 9 children in attendance included babies up through 12-year-olds; the latter opted to join the teen program. Those who were 4 to 10 years old spontaneously grouped themselves by age, playing with and getting to know their age-mates. There were 7 teen-aged participants, who began by welcoming those present for the first time or who have been long absent. Their Saturday activities included baking gluten-free cookies for the rest of us to enjoy, worship-sharing, cooperative board games, and time well spent relaxing on the lawn. In the evening they produced an impressive Family Night show beginning with a human pyramid. Group singing after Family Night was notable for a rousing rendition of Leonard Cohen’s “Hallelujah.” The program for young people concluded on Sunday with teens and children creating solar prints of plants.

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Saturday morning business plenary featured the work of the ad hoc Implementation Committee, charged with prioritizing the recommendations of the Futures Committee presented at the Winter session. After discussion in an interest group, in the Sunday plenary we approved changing the date of the next Spring Quarterly session to April, as well as continuing to explore regional gatherings in place of a single Winter session. Appreciation for the committees’ work and continued effort toward conducting business by representatives in advance of in-person gatherings to deepen the spiritual focus of in person Quarterly meeting were minuted.

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Ben Lomond Quaker Center reported that its economic picture has improved since the pandemic, and it plans a 75th anniversary celebration on the Labor Day weekend. We also heard first-hand reports on transitions and insurmountable difficulties of the spread-out Delta Meeting as its members are lost. We heard too of the successful revival of Reno meeting’s children’s program.

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Topics discussed over lunch were: war and peace in Gaza, what we are doing about the climate crisis, questions about CPQM finances, “clerking circles” as an alternative to a single presiding clerk, and the future of Quaker Center. After worship-sharing, we had a choice of interest groups: priorities for the future of CPQM (14 attended), relations between Friends Meetings and Indigenous people (10), the Quaker Voluntary Service residential program for Young Adult Friends performing service work (3), and (by zoom) sharing spiritual experiences (10).

An afternoon plenary session reviewed State-of-the-Meeting reports received by the Ministry and Spiritual Care committee. A similar review of the state of the Quarter was interrupted by a 20 minute widespread loss of internet service. Some of the sound problems reported by “hybrid” attenders have to do with our learning how to place audio sources where the “OWL” automatic camera will focus on a human and not on a noise;

| combining two different audio systems, room acoustics, and camera placement are also factors. We will work to improve the experience of Zoom participants as we go forward.

For more information on any of the above, contact CPQMclerk@gmail.com.