

# CPQM Spring minutes

**Friday, 5/17/24** [see Appendix 1]

The Friday evening plenary started at 7:15 pm. Clerk Eric Sabelman (Palo Alto) welcomed us to the 254th session of CPQM. He thanked Krista Barnard (San Francisco) for being Zoom host. She will be the host all day tomorrow, too.

We settled into 5 minutes of silence.

The Clerk welcomed Friends attending for the first time and offered the opportunity to match them with a resource person who can provide assistance. Six Friends registered or announced themselves as first time attenders.

The Clerk introduced the theme of “What Unites Us.” He introduced John Lindsey Poland who presented for the American Friends Service Committee. John co-directs the California Healing Justice Program. The program is focused on freedom for those who are incarcerated and on finding alternatives to policing. We need to work for both what we are against and what we are for, he said. He invited Friends to talk to him until he leaves at lunch tomorrow.

The Clerk introduced the clerk’s table, Stephen Myers (Sacramento) is the Assistant Clerk and Tom Yamaguchi (Berkeley) is one of the recording clerks. Tinamarie Jackson (Apple Seed) is the other recording clerk on Zoom. He also welcomed the children’s program.

The clerk introduced the concentric circle activity. There were two groups, one in the room and one on Zoom. Friends spoke to each other about their volunteer work.

Keith Runyan via Zoom gave an update on Quaker Earthcare Witness. He and Nora Cooke will be traveling across the country to talk about Earthcare. Keith gave a brief history of QEW. They work with the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) on the Conference of the Parties (COP) and climate issues. In June, he will be speaking at the Friends World Committee for Consultation conference on Earthcare. *BeFriending Creation* is their regular newsletter.

The Assistant Clerk made the announcements, including tomorrow’s worship sharing formats. The plenary ended at 8:00 pm, and the evening concluded with singing.

## **Saturday, 5/18/24 morning plenary**

The Clerk welcomed us to the Saturday morning plenary at 9:30 am after a half hour of worship. He reviewed the morning agenda [Appendix 2], including the revival of the custom of welcoming newcomers. The Assistant Clerk conducted the roll call.

Other Friends introduced themselves:

- Haley Castle-Miller introduced herself as a member of Doylestown Meeting and a resident of Portland, Maine. She will lead an interest group on Quaker Voluntary Service.

The following Friends on Zoom introduced themselves:

- Robin Durant is a member of Orange Grove Meeting.
- Lisa Hubbell attends First Mennonite Church in San Francisco.
- Thistle West introduced baby Robin Hofvendahl.

The clerk again invited first time attenders to introduce themselves. The process to match first time comers with a buddy is still being worked out.

Nico Wright welcomed us to Ben Lomond Quaker Center. He introduced the staff, board members, and residents. Christian Watson is the new Communications Director. The Center will be making a report later in the session and will be having a topical table during lunch. This is BLQC's 75th year. Monthly meetings are returning to annual retreats after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Barbara Christwitz introduced the Childrens' Program. Bitsy and Iris of the Teen Committee introduced the teen program. The teens will be hosting family night. They are making cookies, which will be available at lunch.

The Clerk described the session's theme of "What Unites Us." His report is attached to these minutes. [Appendix 3]

After the announcements, we took a break and reconvened at 10:50 am. Out of worship, we shared the names of Friends who have died in recent months.

Ann Marie Snell (San Francisco) gave the Ministry and Spiritual Care report as the committee clerk. She described the afternoon worship sharing session [Appendix 4]. Later this afternoon, she will be making a presentation on the State of the Meeting reports. The reports are available in binders at the center. The committee is developing a process for reporting sexual misconduct. The committee is available to speak to anyone with concerns. The Clerk said that until the new guidelines are accepted, we will continue to use the current "respectful relations" guidelines [Appendix 5].

Jim Anderson (Chico) reported for the Implementation Committee. The committee is tasked with implementing the recommendations of the Futures Committee. The report is attached to these minutes [Appendix 6]. There will be time both today and tomorrow for further discussion, including in an interest group later today. The committee is making five recommendations. It has already implemented the first, creating a buddy system for first time attenders. The teens will be making a video presentation of what happens at a quarterly meeting that can be shared with Friends who have not attended a quarterly session.

The Implementation Committee proposes changing the dates of the spring quarter to the last weekend of April, since many school calendars conflict with the current May dates. The change will be for the next two years as an experiment. If successful, that change can be made permanent. The creation of regional gatherings can replace the winter quarter session. It is a challenge for some Friends to travel a great distance to attend a one-day meeting. A detailed

proposal for regional meetings will be brought to the fall session. The final recommendation is to shift the business plenaries to Zoom. This will open the in person sessions to spiritual and community building activities. The focus of the plenaries would be on substantive Quaker discernment.

Kathy Runyan (Chico) on Zoom asked Friends to find if their monthly meetings would be able to host a regional meeting and report back to the committee after their June business meetings. The Clerk said we may need to call a Zoom session of a Representative Committee to change the dates for the next Spring session.

Mary Miche (Redwood Forest) on Zoom gave the Nominating Committee report [Appendix 7]. They continue to update job descriptions. Mary read the Nominations slate, which is attached to these minutes. They need more people for the Children's Committee. Tom Yamaguchi (Berkeley) has agreed to clerk the Finance Committee.

The Clerk played an audio recording from Judy Bunting regarding Delta Meeting. A transcript will be attached to these minutes [Appendix 8]. Margaret Willits (Delta) reported in person on the current situation with Delta Meeting. She had been attending for 25 years and saw declining attendance. For a number of years, they have met two times a year at Livermore Labs, but had to end those meetings, as well. Margaret is transferring her membership to Palo Alto, but has been having difficulties getting the forms correctly transmitted from Delta to Palo Alto. Kristin Barnard noted that San Francisco had the same problem with transferring membership from a non-functioning meeting. San Francisco has decided to record them as new members. The Clerk noted that *Faith and Practice* is not clear about such transfers.

Shanna Mae Slight (Reno) reported on the revival of the Children's Program at Reno Meeting. Since the two families with children live far from Reno Meeting, they agreed to attend on the Sundays that Reno hosts a potluck. They have been struggling with maintaining a regular teacher for the program. They decided to hire a teacher and purchase a curriculum. A previous teacher has agreed to stay to train the hired teacher, who lacked teaching experience.

Jay Cash (Strawberry Creek), Bob Runyan (Chico) and Nico Wright gave the BLQC report. Their written report is attached to these minutes [Appendix 9]. They will host a topical table during lunch for further discussion.

The Clerk read announcements, including the topical tables for lunch and the afternoon interest groups [Appendices 10, 11, 12]. The plenary ended at 12:40 pm after a few minutes of silent worship.

### **Saturday, 5/18/24 afternoon plenary**

Saturday afternoon plenary started at 4:40 pm.

Ann Marie Snell (San Francisco) presented a slideshow on the State of the Meeting reports. A word cloud shows the words that most appear in the reports that show what unites us: meeting,

worship, people, members, etc. 15 reports were submitted. She quoted from the various reports. The slide show and reports will be available on the quarterly meeting web site. She welcomed Friends in the meeting room to share other observations on the state of their meetings.

Unfortunately, our Zoom connection was lost when our Internet service went down. We were able to reconnect to Zoom by cell phone.

On Zoom, Sandra Schwartz, co-clerk of College Park Friends Educational Association (CPFEA) reported on the status of the land transfer of the Sierra Friends Center property to California Heritage: Indigenous Research Project (CHIRP). Last month, they received approval from the Attorney General's office to transfer the assets. They are trying to complete a deal in 9 months that usually takes 5 years.

Hulda Muaka (Palo Alto) announced the Friends World Committee on Consultation world gathering in South Africa from August 5-12. A delegation from Pacific Yearly Meeting is raising funds to attend. Friends can contact Hulda if they would like to donate or offer any other form of support. Her email is [huldamuaka@hotmail.com](mailto:huldamuaka@hotmail.com).

The plenary ended at 5:20 pm.

### **Sunday, 5/19/24 morning plenary**

Sunday morning plenary began at 10:45 am.

Don Kewman, Finance Committee clerk, gave the Finance Committee report [Appendix 13]. The members are Tom Yamaguchi, Peter Trueblood, 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 the future in order to offer advice re financial implications of these changes.

Treasurer Martha Hunkins presented the Treasurer's report which is attached to these minutes [Appendix 14]. Our sessions are costing more, and she expects to have a loss for this session due to low attendance. The implementation of PayPal has improved our ability to collect registration money.

The Finance Clerk was asked if there is a plan to increase the assessment, currently at \$2 per member. A decision has not been made yet on how much to increase the assessment. The Clerk suggested that our insurance costs may increase this year. We have not received a bill for this year's insurance policy.

Implementation Committee - Jim Anderson (Chico) provided a follow-up on the committee's proposals. He reminded us that the decisions we make here affect all Friends in the quarterly meeting. The committee hopes that the meeting would encourage the committee to continue in its work and to implement the proposals on an experimental basis. This would include scheduling the next spring session during the last weekend of April. A representative committee would meet

in advance of the fall session. Monthly meetings may have time to update the job descriptions of the meeting representatives. We accepted the report with gratitude and asked the committee to continue with its work. *We agreed to schedule the 2025 Spring Session for the last weekend of April (April 25 to April 27).*

The Clerk asked that we have a called session on Zoom to consider the format of the Winter 2025 session. Representatives are being asked to return to their monthly meetings to find if their meetings would be able to host a weekend or one-day regional gathering. A follow up email will be sent with this request.

Nominating - Mary Miche presented the second reading of the nominating slate. We approved the slate of nominations. Barbara Babin (Redwood Forest) asked for more Friends to join the Ministry Committee, which is short one member.

Sandy Kewman (Sacramento) gave the Registrar's report [Appendix 15]. The two other registrars are Krista Barnard (San Francisco) and Sarah Tyrrell (Berkeley).

- We had 9 children, 7 teens, and 6 FRAPS
- 2 Children's program young adult helpers paid hourly
- 54 adults in person and 20 on zoom
- 26 Adults in rooms
- 4 children in rooms
- 13 adults camping
- 3 children camping
- 7 adults day attenders
- 1 child day attender
- 4 cancellations, 3 of which came after meal counts were done, meaning we paid for those meals.

Those who 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

Reading & approval of minutes - The minutes were approved with minor corrections. The Clerk said we will try to do better at sending documents from the session, including the "Quick Notes" [Appendix 16].

The plenary ended at 11:50 am with silent worship.