

CPQM Minutes, Winter 2024

Morning plenary

Roll call, Introductions

Clerk Eric Sabelman (Palo Alto) introduced the 253rd session of College Park Quarterly Meeting.

- Stephen Myers (Sacramento) is the Assistant to the Clerk.
- The recording co clerks are Tom Yamaguchi (Berkeley) at the clerk's table and TinaMarie Jackson (Apple Seed) on Zoom.
- Krista Barnard San Francisco) is the Zoom host.
- Sarah Tyrrell (Berkeley) and Sandy Kewman (Sacramento) are the registrars.
- Keenan Lorenzato (Davis) is providing technical support and is working with the teens.

The Clerk reviewed the agenda with one change [Appendices 1, 2]. One new worship group report will be in the afternoon with Don McCormick's (Grass Valley) report on how you can make your meeting known to the community in this morning session.

The Assistant Clerk called the roll. The following meetings and worship groups were present: Apple Seed Meeting, Berkeley Meeting, Chico Meeting, Davis Meeting, Delta Meeting, Fresno Worship Group, Friends House Worship Group, Humboldt Meeting, Live Oak Meeting, Lake County Worship Group, Monterey Peninsula Meeting, Palo Alto Meeting, Redding Meeting, Redwood Forest Meeting, Sacramento Meeting, San Francisco Meeting, San Jose Meeting, San Mateo Worship Group, Santa Cruz Meeting, Sierra Foothills Worship Group, Southern Humboldt Worship Group, Strawberry Creek Meeting, Visalia Meeting.

Robin Durant of Orange Grove Meeting introduced herself as an attender from outside the quarter.

Approval of interim recording clerks

The clerk asked for the approval of TinaMarie Jackson (Apple Seed) and Tom Yamaguchi (Berkeley) as co recording clerks. The names were approved.

Approval of Fall 2023 minutes

The following corrections were made to the fall minutes:

- Stephen Myers is a member of Sacramento Meeting, not Davis.
- In the Naming Committee report, the recommendations for co clerks of Nominating Committee were approved, but were not included in the minutes. The co clerks are Mary Miche (Redwood Forest) and Owain Elliott-Sowaal (San Francisco).
- It was suggested to delete a comment by Alyssa Nelson (Davis) on CHIRP since it was made at an interest group and not at the plenary. After discussion, it was decided to include the comment in the minutes as an addendum, since Alyssa had intended to make the statement at the plenary, but couldn't for lack of time.

The minutes were approved as corrected and will be posted on the CPQM website.

Nominating report-approval of Ministry and Spiritual Care name

Mary Miche (Redwood Forest), Nominating co clerk, reported that Nominating Committee approves of the name change from “Ministry and Oversight.” The new name of Ministry and Spiritual Care Committee was approved.

Clerk's statement on theme and Zoom procedures

The Clerk read his letter on the theme of the meeting, “Hard and Soft Truths; Great and Small Hopes.” The clerk’s letter is attached [Appendix 3].

Worship-Sharing arrangements and Queries [Appendix 4]

Those wishing to attend worship sharing were assigned to Zoom rooms for worship sharing randomly.

Futures Committee final report [Appendix 5]

The recommendations from the Futures Committee were read by Thom McCue (Live Oak) (clerk), Barbara Babin (Redwood Forest), Sandy Kewman (Sacramento), Julia Bazar (Strawberry Creek), Keith Runyan (Santa Cruz), and Keenan Lorenzato (Davis). The report is attached to these minutes. Those recommendations are:

- Publicize the mission and structure of the Quarterly
- Shift the business of the Quarterly Meeting to zoom
- Have a variety of in-person activities
- Encourage regional meeting of Friends
- Review the responsibilities and capabilities of standing CPQM committees
- Partner with Pacific Yearly Meeting to provide a critical mass of children, teenagers and young Friends
- Provide more education on Quaker Spirituality beliefs and practices both in-person and via zoom
- Provide information on what Friends do at Quarterly Gatherings and start a buddy system to welcome newcomers
- Reevaluate the calendar and locations of Quarterly gatherings in light of the other changes the Quarter decides to implement.

The committee offered the following Queries :

1. How could these recommendations increase the Light in our community?
2. How could implementing these recommendations give you personal joy?
3. If we follow these recommendations, where will CPQM be in 5 years? Is that where we want to be?

The ad hoc Futures Committee is asking the quarterly meeting to accept its recommendations for consideration and create a new ad hoc committee to consider and possibly implement those recommendations. With the creation of the new committee, the ad hoc Futures Committee would be laid down.

It was agreed that the Futures Committee be laid down. The committee was thanked for their work. An ad hoc Implementation Committee will be formed before Spring session.

Struggling meetings

Vinetta Suzettis (Visalia) reported on the decision to change Fresno Meeting into a worship group under the care of Visalia Meeting. Vinetta gave the background for the decision including a loss of members and income, so that they could no longer afford rent.

Jessi Snyder (Visalia) read the text of the minutes that were approved to lay down Fresno Meeting and create a worship group under the care of Visalia Meeting. The process was completed in March of 2023. She reported that Visalia consulted and received helpful guidance from Pacific Yearly Meeting and CPQM, but found parts of the process unclear. Visalia is also facing struggles, including its land, buildings, and loss of its elders.

The Clerk noted the lack of guidance in the 1985 version of *Faith and Practice* on the laying down of monthly meetings. Newer versions of *Faith and Practice* address this issue, but omit strategies such as reverting to a worship group.

Redding Meeting

Sue Morehouse (Redding) reported on history of Redding Meeting, which originally consisted of mostly young families. They originally met in a preschool, then at other facilities. The size has been generally 10 members. The meeting has been active in community, but was affected by COVID. 4 members have died, and one is in memory care. They meet once per month. Shasta County politics has consumed much of their time. There have been no business meetings. They have less energy for outreach. They have attracted a few new attenders. The Clerk invited Friends at Redding Meeting to follow up with a meeting to discuss their future. Vinetta Suzettis (Visalia) volunteered to join the discussion.

New worship groups

Pamela Mery (San Mateo Worship Group) gave the history of the worship group, established in 2018 under care of Palo Alto Friends Meeting [Appendix 6]. It averages 8 to 12 attenders. They make sure to welcome new attenders, make the meeting space inviting, and provide pamphlets on Quaker worship. They previously met twice a month until the shift to Zoom at the start of the COVID pandemic and began meeting weekly. They are considering shifting to alternating weeks of in person and Zoom. Their old meeting space is being demolished. They are now meeting at Friends' homes. Worship in a Friend's home is more welcoming, but makes it more difficult to attract newcomers. "They can't find you when they don't know where you are."

How you make your meeting known to the community.

Don McCormick (Grass Valley) shared a Powerpoint presentation. For a copy, Friends can send an email to Don; Donmccormick2@gmail.com.

The Powerpoint lists the following suggestions:

- Don't let be afraid to let people know you are a Quaker
- Ask other people about their spirituality
- Be prepared to briefly explain Quakerism, possibly a 30 second talk
- Wear a shirt of button to community events that identify you as a Quaker
- Host an information table at local events
- Create a community event, such as showing a film
- Have forums, seminars, or rummage sales.

- Have a Quaker Quest event
- Host presentations and adult education sessions that would attract the public and be sure to publicize them to the community
- Get interviewed by local media and write for your local newspapers
- Invite community group to use your meeting house
- Make sure your meeting web site is correct and up to date, include photos of the meeting community, a map of your location, and public transit information
- Use social media, including Facebook ads
- Post links to Quaker organizations, such as AFSC.

Don credited Friends General Conference as a resource for his Powerpoint.

State of the Meeting reports from Spring 2023

Ann-Marie Snell (San Francisco), Ministry and Spiritual Care clerk, and Jesse Mitchell (Berkeley) reviewed and quoted from the state of meeting reports [Appendix 7].

18 meetings submitted reports, while 10 did not report on the state of their meetings.

Ministry and Spiritual Care Committee will offer workshops on how to write State of the Meeting reports. The committee will return to the practice of reviewing the reports from monthly meetings in the spring session.

Worship-sharing and a session of 8 short reports on events affecting the Quarter [Appendices 8, 9] took place after the close of the morning plenary.

Final business plenary

Treasurer's Report

Martha Hunkins (Humboldt) gave the treasurer's report. The fall session provided a nearly \$1500 surplus. Previous fall sessions ran deficits. Use of Paypal is very successful, as well as the "Pay What You Can Afford" registration process. Friends are encouraged to attend regardless of their ability to pay.

Finance report

Don Kewman (Sacramento) (Clerk) gave the report [Appendix 10]. He introduced the other members of the committee: Linda Rowell (Chico), Peter Trueblood (Strawberry Creek), Tom Yamaguchi (Berkeley), and ex-officio member Martha Hunkins (Humboldt) (Treasurer). The Finance Committee reported that general fund balance has stabilized since initiating the approach of letting Friends know the estimated per person cost to CPQM of the Fall and Spring meeting and asking attendees to pay as much of that amount as they can afford. The committee considered the increase of the monthly meeting's voluntary assessment, currently at \$2 per member. The committee decided to leave the assessment unchanged, as well as the scholarship fund, at this time and will wait until changes in the quarterly meeting structure as recommended by the Futures Committee are implemented that may impact quarterly meeting finances. The report is attached to these minutes.

Registrars' report

Krista Barnard (San Francisco) reported that 84 Friends registered for the session. The report is attached to these minutes. The Clerk noted a number of fake registrations that were received in the registration process. Krista welcomes more technical help to improve the process.

Nominating Committee

Mary Miche (Redwood Forest) asked friends to send email to the co clerks of Nominating Committee if they are no longer willing to serve on a committee and not just to the clerk of the committee they are leaving. There are some vacancies, including a clerk for Finance Committee.

Children and teen announcements

Keenan Lorenzato (Davis) and Barbara Christwitz (Redwood Forest) reported on the children and teen programs. There will be a teen overnight in Santa Rosa on February 10 and 11, a young adult climate grief and empowerment retreat at Ben Lomond Quaker Center on February 16 to 19, and a family gathering in Sacramento on February 24.

Reading of Winter minutes

Recording co clerk Tom Yamaguchi (Berkeley) read the minutes of the morning and afternoon sessions. Minor corrections were made. The minutes of both sessions were approved.