

College Park Quarterly Meeting
256th Session - 1/11/2025
APPENDICES TO MINUTES

Clerk's Report:
WHAT SHOULD FRIENDS BE DOING NOW?

As I write this, Friends connected to Santa Monica Meeting are being threatened by the Palisades Fire, and those who are part of Orange Grove Meeting by the Eaton Fire. Though belonging to a different Quarter, do we consider these Friends to be part of our larger community? We have a testimony on Community; what does it mean in this time of crisis? *What should Friends be doing now?*

Within our Quarter, Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups face problems affecting their health and even existence. Some of these Meetings have found creative solutions; others struggle to solve large problems with only small resources. We are inviting Meetings to give first-hand reports at Quarterly gatherings and not wait for annual state-of-the-Meeting reports. No doubt there are Meetings that have not made their troubles known to the Quarter, so we remain unaware of their needs. There is no doubt, too, that they are part of our Community, deserving of whatever aid we can give. *What should Friends be doing now?*

At the time of our Fall session, the national election was still in the future. Many of us were optimistic that a progressive President would be elected and divisiveness would fade away. Now we face an even more polarized near-term future, hostile to causes that Friends support, like care for immigrants and refugees, women's and LGBTQ+ rights, international peace and the environment. This future has not happened quite yet. *What should Friends be doing now?*

The theme of our Fall session was "What do Friends have to offer?" There are many answers; three that might be most sought-after are:

- Our form of listening worship, done collectively in silence.
- A set of tools for making decisions, useful for individuals (e.g.: clearness committees) as well as groups, which do not rely on exercise of authority or power.
- A network of communities at different scales, attentive to individuals and households at the Monthly Meeting level, through the regional Quarterlies and Yearlies, up to international organizations, able to take on larger works than the Monthly Meeting.

If we know what would-be Friends are seeking, *What should Friends be doing now?*

-Eric Sabelman CPQM Presiding Clerk

College Park Quarterly Meeting Treasurer's Report

Winter Quarter 2025

On Zoom 01/11/2025

Fall Session 2024 Summary

At Quaker Center 10/18-10/20/24

Income:

Registration Fees	\$9,956.00
<u>Total income</u>	<u>\$9,956.00</u>

Expenses:

Pay Pal fees	\$238.97
QC facilities	\$5,768.00
Food and Cooking	\$3,955.57
Childcare, teens	\$299.51
Misc. Admin	22.27
Reimbursements	\$577.00
<u>Total expenses</u>	<u>\$10,861.32</u>

Net: -\$905.32

Checkbook Balance

General Fund Balance on 12/31/25	\$19,710.74
K-12 Scholarship Fund	\$4,213.00
<u>Total balance on 12/31/25</u>	<u>\$23,923.74</u>

	2024 Sessions Income & Expenses	Net	
Winter	1676 income – 58.60 expenses =	\$1,617.40	
Family Day	(2/24/24) 400.00 expenses	-\$400.00	
Spring	9136 income – 11,852 expenses =	-\$2,716.00	BLQC
Fall	9956 income – 10,861 expenses =	-\$905.00	BLQC
	2023 Sessions Income & Expenses	Net	
Winter	\$1682 income - \$408 expenses =	\$1,274.00	
Spring	\$8515 income - \$9488 expenses =	-\$973.00	BLQC
Fall	\$12,292 income - \$10,797 expenses =	\$1,495.00	Woolman
	2022 Sessions Income & Expenses	Net	
Winter	\$1395 income - \$671 expenses =	\$724.00	
Spring	\$4345 income - \$7003 expenses =	-\$2,658.00	BLQC
Fall	\$4800 income - \$8101 expenses =	-\$3,301.00	Woolman

MINISTRY

OVERSIGHT

CARE

In the spring, the College Park Ministry and Spiritual Care Committee will host Zoom gatherings for the Clerks of Monthly Meeting Ministry, Oversight, and Care Committees.

Sessions will explore the roles committees play in the life of a meeting and ways to support Spirit in meeting. They will also provide a space for Friends to learn from the experiences of others.

Diego Navarro will be our facilitator. Diego is a member of the Pacific Yearly Meeting Faith & Practice Revision Committee and a former PacYM Presiding Clerk.

We hope all Monthly Meetings committee clerks participate, or send a committee representative to bring the good news home. We will send information and gathering dates once these are available.

Please send us your ideas. Also, please help us update our list of Ministry, Oversight, and Care Committee Clerks

and their email addresses. You can send these to:

Thom McCue (tamccue@aol.com), CPQM M&SC Committee Clerk

On the Purpose of College Park Quarterly Meeting:

What are the Quarter's Needs?

Based on the premise that a Quarterly Meeting exists for more than producing three gatherings per year, what else should it be doing? CPQM has repeatedly engaged in self-examination since the 1990s, but without directly asking this question.

Pacific Yearly Meeting's *Faith and Practice* assigns certain responsibilities to Quarterly Meetings. Some of these duties historically are called upon regularly in every year and some occur very infrequently. In CPQM's case, some have been discontinued, resulting in more of the Quarter's attention being focused on the three gatherings it holds. We should not assume that these needs have gone away just because we are not paying attention.

CPQM's most recent self-examination was by the Futures Subcommittee, which in 2023 generated nine recommendations; these were reviewed by an ad hoc Implementation Committee (see documents posted on CPQM website). Here, it is proposed to create ad hoc Working Groups charged with assessing specific needs of the Quarter's Meetings. Each Working Group would review past instances of needs in its focal area, pose questions about the current needs of Meetings in this area and the capacity of the Quarter to respond to the needs, and project into the future the demands placed on Quaker abilities to survive and grow, even in futures that seem very dark. From this focused study of our practices and institutions, we may discern which are adequate or excess and which must be strengthened to enable Quakerism to survive through the 21st century. We hope that Friends will volunteer to serve on Working Groups studying topics in which they have interest and experience, and then continue with implementing their findings after approval at a Quarterly session.

Following are some of the need-finding Working Groups we might establish, and examples of the questions they could ask of our Meetings. Rest assured that we do not need to have all these committees running at once.

Ad hoc Working Group on Educational Needs

Do we need a replacement for John Woolman School? What and how are teens and newcomers taught about Quakerism? Does your Meeting practice mentoring, especially for new officers and clerks? What use is made of online teaching resources from FGC, Friends Journal, etc.? Would a joint project of CPQM and Quaker Center to provide educational resources to Meetings be helpful?

Ad hoc Working Group on Needs of Older Friends

Friends House is a successful continuing care retirement community, though no longer operated by a non-profit corporation with ties to CPQM. Do we need more such communities? What do older Friends want -- the Friends House model or something else?

Ad hoc Working Group on Disaster Response Needs

Do we need to plan ahead for providing aid to Meetings damaged by wildfire, earthquake, etc.? What help do Meetings and their members need most -- immediately and in the long term? Should less-traumatic effects of climate change (drought, heat-waves, etc.) be anticipated? What about political disasters?

Ad hoc Working Group on Mental Health Needs

CPQM once had a project for informing Meetings of county-by-county mental health services and offered advice to Meetings with members undergoing mental crises (a leading of Pat Williams of Davis Meeting). Should CPQM revive this project? What do Meetings currently do for members undergoing health crises (not just mental health)?

Ad hoc Working Group on Support of Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups

CPQM once had a project called "The Well Meeting Clinic" where a team of experienced Friends would be invited by a Meeting to hold listening sessions and teach conflict resolution (Marie Schutz was a principal member of the team). Do we need to revive The Well Meeting Clinic? The Ministry and Spiritual Care Committee may be called upon to help Meetings solve problems. Do Meetings know this? Is M&SC prepared to do it? Do Meetings need support for public stands against injustice? What support do Worship Groups need, especially if not strongly connected to a Monthly Meeting?

Ad hoc Working Group on Support of Young Adult Friends

There is a tendency for YAFs to be connected to a Monthly Meeting or Worship Group only loosely, if at all. There are more difficulties today in attracting college students to nearby Meetings. Do these and other age-related issues rise to the level of needs for the Quarter to address?

Ad hoc Working Group on Support of Friends with Leadings

Quarterly gatherings have historically been available for Friends to enlist others to support their leadings. Should this be made an explicit purpose of our gatherings? We have not recently supported Friends traveling under a concern; should we encourage this practice? CPQM no longer has a coordinator or committee for Peace and Social Concerns; should we revive it?

Ad hoc Working Group on Community and Interfaith Relations

CPQM once appointed representatives to Northern California ecumenical organizations. When these organizations dissolved, we did not seek for similar groups performing the

same cross-religion communications. Do we need to be represented in the new organizations that replaced them? How do Meetings communicate their existence and their actions to the communities around them? Is this effective, or is more needed?

Ad hoc Working Group on Communication Needs and Technology

We are now in a post-COVID time when we have acquiesced to remote (Zoom) attendance at Quaker meetings. Do we need to keep using Zoom? Do Meetings have the hardware and connectivity for Zoom to work smoothly, without interrupting the meeting? Are enough Friends competent at using the technology? What will Zoom evolve into or be replaced by in the future? Will it better suit Friends' purposes? What are the future roles of writing-on-paper, email, telephones and satellites in communication between Friends?

-Eric Sabelman, CPQM Presiding Clerk

12/13/2024; revised 1/10/2025

CPQM Report on Friends House

January 2025

Hey, hi, Eric and I are sitting in the library at Friends House, the heart of the community, really. There are some five thousand books in here, a striking grand piano, a very large retractable movie screen and space for all our full-community gatherings. In this room, the Quaker worship group is convened, as well as peace and social order gatherings, Saturday night movies, Tuesday night educational or entertainment programs, resident association meetings and many other vibrant gatherings. Poetry. Music. Exercise. Zumba.

We are in Santa Rosa. Most of you know that Friends House is a senior community that was established here some forty years ago under the care of this Quarterly Meeting. For many years, it was owned and governed by a small non-profit board made up mostly of Quakers, called the Friends Association of Services for the Elderly, or FASE. In the early days, Friends House included fifty apartments, a small skilled nursing facility and an adult day health care program. Over the years, FASE bought several houses on the margin of our land, divided some of them, and built some additional units. They gave up the day health program and turned the skilled nursing facility into an assisted living unit with hospice adjuncts. Now we have about 82 individuals living here, 18 of them men, 12 of them in the assisted living unit. This is very small as CCRCs go and it is part of the genius of Friends House. We can all know everyone.

As Friends House grew and changed over the years, the regulatory and financial world of housing and health care for elders got more and more complex. The faithful FASE board endured some hard struggles and some difficult years. Eventually, however, Friends House was recognized as an unusual and attractive mid-scale community by a large non-profit organization called Front Porch, which took us under its wing in 2021. Friends House is now one of 19 CCRC's, continuing care retirement communities, that are owned and operated by Front Porch, most of them in California. Front Porch has been able to stabilize the financial condition of Friends House and to catch up on some of the deferred maintenance of earlier years. We are doing well!

The executive director, Sean Kelly, came to Front Porch three years ago from "the Kendals," the big, up-scale Quaker-owned retirement communities on the east coast. He was their CEO (Corporate Executive Officer) for seven years. He and the management team he leads here now tend to think of Friends House as the little gem of their organization. Really.

*They like it that we fit into a mid-market slot, whereas most of the Front Porch CCRCs are pretty up-scale, charging almost twice as much for entry and monthly fees as ours. On the other hand, the thirty-three Front Porch affordable housing communities are serving low-income families and elders, including many people of color, in a way the FASE was never able to afford to do.

*At headquarters, they like it that Friends House residents on the whole are so active and engaged in community life here, running most programs and activities without staff help.

*They even claim to especially like the practice of starting and ending each business gathering with a moment of centering silence. Paid staff, all non-Quakers, ask for that almost more often than residents do.

At this time, about 40% of residents here are well-versed in Quaker practices or are actually long-time members of a monthly meeting, a higher proportion than in many previous years. Fairly recent arrivals include the Clerk of Quarterly Meeting, Eric Sabelman of Palo Alto Meeting; Jim Avera and his wife, Barbara Babin, co-clerk of Redwood Forest Meeting; Roberta Schutz of Strawberry Creek, daughter of Friends House founders, Bob and Marie Schutz; and, this week, David and Jan Hartsough of San Francisco Meeting. David's parents lived here for many years back in the day.

The Friends House Worship Group, operating under the care of Redwood Forest Meeting, is practically as large as its parent, perhaps one of the largest worship groups in the nation, with some 22-25 participants every Sunday. This includes 6-8 regular attenders who do not live on campus. When Covid is around, rare nowadays, some of us sit outside on the wind-protected patio and others join a Zoom worship.

You may know that Friends House has been threatened by wildfire and evacuated twice in the last eight years. But local PGE leaders claim that the risk has been reduced by 90% since 2017. Our own campus has been "hardened" and we have well-rehearsed plans for dealing with any emergency.

Residents and staff alike are devoted to ecologically correct, "green" protocols for handling water, electricity and trash. This past year, the bulk of our south and west-facing roofs have been layered with solar panels that are expected to save 85% of the campus electricity bill and to feed excess into the grid. The bulk of residents drive hybrid or electric cars, and of course we have an ever-growing number of charging stations.

Our average age here at Friends House is about 85 years. No question that we are old. No question that we are mortal. Also clear is that we are well situated to support one another in this stage of life. The close-knit community includes mutual support at all stages of aging. The well-staffed Assisted Living wing, in cooperation with hospice services from outside, carries us gracefully to the end of the road. Our after-death "sing away" is one of the most appreciated features of our community life.

Front Porch and our own Executive Director, Robert Rubio, exhibit a very solid respect for resident expertise and opinion. There are lots of ways we are able to express our concerns, especially when they are based on experience and knowledge. There is an active Residents' Association which governs our life as an intentional community. Most of the time, we are in easy sympathy with one another. When conflict emerges, everyone pretty much understands that the most important goal is to prevent any hard rift from developing within this small and committed community. We use the Quaker consensus process then, laboring as long as it takes to find solutions that work for everyone.

I have kept this little speech pretty short because I am not sure what specifically you might want to know. Ask me now!

Of course we have a web site: FriendsHouse.org. Have a look or call for more information.

QUAKER CENTER

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January 2, 2025

BLQC Report to 2025 Winter Session of College Park Quarterly Meeting

To Friends at College Park Quarterly Meetings: warm greetings from Quaker Center, with wishes for a good winter session. We are wrapping up a special year-end retreat and spending this day doing some costly but much needed tree work (removing a 130-foot Douglas fir leaning over the Orchard Lodge).

We hope that CPQM Meetings have gotten their hands on a copy of the [2025 Quaker Center Program Calendar](#) and have been able to share it with their communities. We're looking forward to another year of Quaker programming and Meeting retreats, just as we are to hosting the Spring and Fall sessions of Quarterly Meeting this year.

We'd like to remind Meetings that Quaker Center is grateful to be able to lift up voices and currents within College Park Quarterly Meeting. Members of CPQM Meeting communities are encouraged to submit program proposals and ideas, and we appreciate your help in steering potential program facilitators towards Quaker Center. You can submit a program idea at any time using a [simple form](#) on our website.

If your Meeting has a Meeting newsletter and you would like to receive a monthly email about Quaker Center events and activities, please send an email to nico@quakercenter.org.

In the Light,

Nico Wright

Director