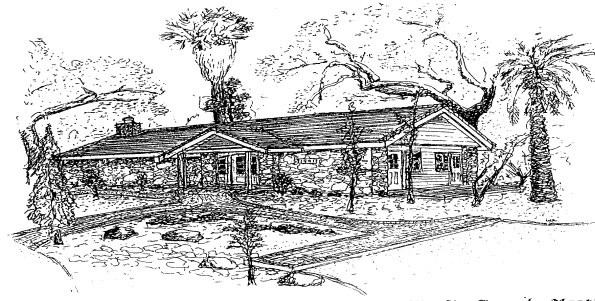


Visalia Friends Meeting
17208 Ave 296 Visalia, CA 93291
Newsletter
November, 2008



Visalia Friends Meetinghouse

Advice and Queries

meeting for worship for business

Come to Meeting with hearts and minds prepared to be open and faithful to the leadings of the Spirit. Then the conduct of business will lead to truth, unity, and love.

When a matter is before the Meeting for Business, each person present contributes to the corporate search for a decision that accords with the will of God. Inaction is a form of action. Silent worship in the Meeting for Business contributes to the process of achieving unity.

Listen attentively to others' words and use the silence between messages to reflect carefully on what you might contribute. When you are clear, speak simply what is in your heart, without repeating what has already been offered. While making your insights clear, lay aside personal opinions and attend to what God requires.

- Do I attend Meeting for Business regularly?
- Do I speak in Meeting for Business only when I am led to speak?
- *Is the Meeting for Business held as a Meeting for Worship in which we seek divine guidance for our actions?*
- *Are we tender and considerate of different views, coming to a decision only when we have found unity?*
- *Do we give prayerful support for our clerks that they may be sensitive to the movement of the Spirit among us?*

Meeting for Business 11-16-08

Present: Greg Seastrom (Clerk), Daniel O'Connell, John & Shirley Dackawich, Joanne and David Dudley, Joy and Bob Marshall, Dina Restivo and Jessi Snyder, Graciela Martinez, Bill and Beth Lovett, Patti Howard, Cayman Howard, Heather Howard, David Roberts, Olga McCallister, Ginger Curtis-Ruehling, Kelsey Ruehling

From the Clerk:

Greg began with readings from the Daily Readings on Love, Law and Organization and from Faith and Practice on Meetings for Business.

Meeting began in silence.

Greg began meeting with review of the agenda as follows:

Nominating Report – Joanne Dudley brought the nominations with one change. Ginger Curtis was removed from Ministry and Oversight nomination. Heather Howard would like to be added to the Junior Friends Meeting. **There was approval of the nominations as stated.**

Budget – David Dudley, Meeting Treasurer, distributed the 2009 proposed budget for review. There were a few questions regarding and comments regarding donations and facility use payments. These questions were for clarification. Friends wanting donations to organizations or projects from the Meeting should make their requests known to the budget committee. It was suggested that Junior Friends and Children's Committees share the budget line for Children's Program. Greg mentioned that we should rely on sharing needs with the budget committee for changes. **There was approval of the Budget as presented.**

Quarterly Meeting Report - No report was available.

Annual Meeting of Corporation – Two trustees are recorded that there was an official meeting of our trustees are Bob Marshall and Beth Lovett. They met on this date and accepted the new officers.

Visit by Krishna – We received a letter of visitation from Krishna Sasant of Palo Alto Meeting. Greg discussed the historical process of visitation among Friends. Krishna presented queries for the Meeting that he hopes the Meeting will discuss. He hopes to do this in January. The Meeting is open to the event and Greg will arrange specific dates.

PYM Staff Position for Young Friends – There was a proposal from the Representative Committee that PYM would like to hire a full time youth coordinator staff person for Young Friends. Our Meeting supported the proposal of visiting Friends that will present the proposal sometime in January. More information will follow.

Center for Small Farm Viability – There was an inquiry from a member of the Meeting that would like to have the Meeting assist her in establishing a center for local area farmers. More information on this topic will follow as information becomes available.

Quakerism1 – Decision Making – Next Sunday 11-23 after Meeting for Worship

Meeting History-Oral and Written – Greg discussed prior recordings of the Visalia Friend's Meeting history. Greg also requested that we begin gathering artifacts for collection and that we use all our means and talents to pull together archives and reports for documentation. There was a suggestion that people that have an interest in the topic that they meet after the holidays and diligently work to preserve our history from founding families.

Music before worship – Greg brought up discussion that Meeting begin with singing to begin our Meeting for worship. There was a suggestion that this could be done when children are here. There was also some concerns that Friends would not be here in a timely fashion. There was a suggestion that Friends sing after the Meeting for worship. There was a sense that we would like to give this a try. Bob Marshall was volunteered to lead music. This will happen on the fifth Sunday.

Non-Theism - There was some minor discussion on the issue of non theism as a Quaker interest group. Greg suggested that prior talk on this topic at PYM was a perhaps a concern for the Meeting. It was agreed that all points of view would be warmly accepted.

Christmas Stockings – Joy announce that we would be giving Christmas Stockings to Visalia Emergency Aid. We would like to fill stockings to be delivered by Dec. 14th. Please give unwrapped toys.

Friends in Need – Please be mindful of all those who may be in need: including our members and attenders. Please bring any concerns to members of Ministry and Oversight.