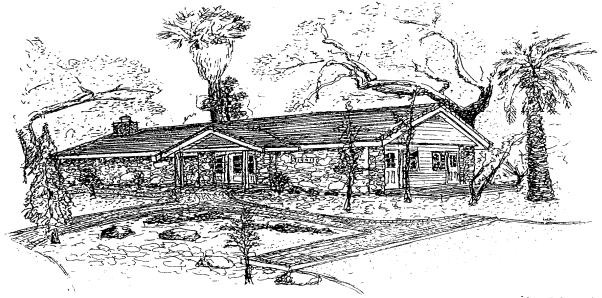


Visalia Friends Meeting
17208 Ave 296 Visalia, CA 93292

Newsletter

March, 2008



Visalia Friends Meetinghouse

stewardship and vocation

John Woolman said, “*As Christians all we possess are the gifts of God... To turn all the treasures we possess into the channel of Universal Love becomes the business of our lives.*” The principle of stewardship applies to all we have and are. As individuals, we are called to use our time, our various abilities, our strength, our money, and our material possessions with care, managing them wisely and sharing them generously.

From the indwelling Seed of God, we discover our particular gifts and discern the service to which we are called. In making choices about occupation or education, consider the way that offers the fullest opportunity to develop your individual abilities and contribute to the world community while providing for yourself and your family. In daily work, manifest a spirit of justice and understanding, and thus give a living witness to the truth.

Be ready to limit engagements, to withdraw for a time, or even to retire from an activity that inhibits your ability to follow a higher call. Try to discern the right moment to accept new responsibilities as well as to relinquish responsibility that can pass to others. Be open to your calling in different stages of life. Meetings need the strength and vigor of young people as well as the experience and wisdom of elders. Although they may not be able to contribute great financial support, their energy and insight invigorate the community. As people begin careers and families, they may need the spiritual and experienced help of the Meeting. Later, when families are growing up and careers are established, greater participation in the Meeting and greater financial support may become possible. Welcome the approach of old age, your own and others’, as an opportunity for wisdom and greater attachment to the Light. Meetings should be ready with material and spiritual support for those suffering from unemployment or facing difficult vocational decisions.

- How have I been faithful to the leadings of the Spirit in choosing work or vocation?
- What am I doing with my talents, time, money, and possessions? Am I sharing them according to the Light I am given?
- Is my conduct at the workplace consistent with my life as a Friend?
- How does my daily work enhance my spiritual life?
- *How does the Meeting help and support members who are in job transitions?*

Visalia Friends Meeting

Meeting for Business

March 16, 2008

Members and Attenders Present: Bill Lovett, Beth Lovett, Greg Seastrom, Graciela Martinez, Joanne Dudley, David Dudley, Joy Marshall, Bob Marshall, John Dackawich, Shirley Dackawich, Angela Reyna, Patti Howard, Dick Hannigan, Darren and John Davis, David and Klara East

The Meeting began with Clerk Greg Seastrom reading Daily Reading for Quaker Spirituality. Also read, Faith and Practice Advice and Queries on Stewardship and Vocation.

Greg Seastrom - Clerk, began the Meeting in silence. Greg reviewed the agenda and asked for any additions to the agenda.

Agenda Items:

Announcements

- Materials from FGC – On counter
- 5th Sunday – Fresno Meeting will visit
- Folders on Shelf – Mailings are on the counter in colored folders according to topic.
- Crop Walk – May && is Crop Walk. Joy and Olga will coordinate our participation
- Quaker Heritage Day – April 26, Eric Moon will speak. More information will follow.
- Quakerism 1 – Greg is convening a introductory meeting after Meeting for Worship on the 3rd Sunday of April for all those interested in taking the course.

Decision: There is a request to use the Meeting House from 8am-9am Sunday mornings for prayer sessions by a group coming from the recent split of the Episcopal Church. John Davis made the request on the group's behalf. Bob had also received a similar request. Bob noted that the charge would be \$15 for each week. There may be times when the Meeting house is in use. **There was agreement that we offer the group use of the Meeting House at the agreed upon charge.**

Reports:

Repcom – A brief report was presented. Mentioned was the proposed joining of PYM and Friends General Conference. There was controversy over the issue discussed and unity was not reached.

Clerking Workshop – Jeannie and Klara attended a workshop on Clerking at Quaker Center. Klara read her report. Jeannie added her thoughts as well. The emphasis is on spirit led Meetings for Business. Please see attached reports.

Updates:

- Child care search is still under way. Heather Howard would do this at the hourly rate offered. The decision should be referred to the Children's committee.

Working Discussion:

- **Names of Committee Clerks**
 - **M&O, Unity with Nature - Klara East**
 - **Building and Grounds - Bob Marshall**
 - **Library - Joy Marshall**
 - **Budget - David Dudley**
 - **Outreach - Graciela Martinez**
 - **Children's Committee - Joy, Bill Warner (consultant), Joanne Dudley (Convener) , Dan O'Connell, John Davis (This committee was formed at today's Meeting for Business with much discussion)**

State of the Meeting – Committee formed today is Greg Seastrom, David East, Olga McCallister, Dick Hannigan, Graciela Martinez (Convener) Questions for consideration: Our ability to sustain procedures and committee efforts, internal communications.

Unity with Nature Minute – Klara presented her edited minute. She noted the requested edit, adding the reduction of material consumption and recycling. **There was agreement to accept the minute as written and submit this minute to Pacific Yearly Minute.** Friends encourage each other to live by the tenets of the minute. The Unity with Nature will continue to work and communicate effective practices to reduce our impact on global warming.

Other

Reminder to Friends to arrive for worship on time and that the conversations in the lobby cease. This will facilitate our worship.

Meeting ended in silence.

Respectfully Submitted,

David East – Recording Clerk