**College Park Quarterly Meeting**

Fifth Month 17, 2014, Ben Lomond Quaker Center

Theme: Letting the Spirit in, Opening our hearts, Renewing our spirits

Inspiration: “Create in me a clean heart, oh God and renew a steadfast spirit with me.” Psalm 51:10

**Opening Plenary**

**Welcome**

Opening Plenary started at 9:15 am. Presiding Clerk Eric Moon (Berkeley) welcomed us to this 224th session of College Park Quarterly Meeting. He introduced Lisa Hubbell (Strawberry Creek) as Assistant Clerk and Tom Yamaguchi (Strawberry Creek) as Recording Clerk.

**Roll Call**

The assistant clerk called the roll. The following meetings and worship groups were in attendance:

Apple Seed

Berkeley

Central Coast

Chico

Davis

Delta

Friends House Worship Group

Grass Valley

Humboldt

Lake County Worship Group

Live Oak

Marin

Palo Alto

Redwood Forest

Reno

Sacramento

San Francisco

San Jose

Santa Cruz

Soledad

Strawberry Creek

Visalia

Two new worship groups have formed. Western Shore Worship Group is under the care of San Francisco Meeting. Carson City Worship Group is under the care of Reno Meeting.

The clerk asked visitors present to introduce themselves.

Julian Garrett (San Jose) announced that his parents, who live in Maine, will be visiting later today.

Janet Leslie (Chico) brings greetings from Porthmadog Friends Meeting, Wales, UK.

Kitty Mizuno (Haddonfield Monthly Meeting, Philadelphia YM), is attending Live Oak Meeting.

**Children’s Program**

Delcy Steffy (Sacramento) introduced the children’s program. She welcomed new children, as well those who have previously attended. The program will be held in the Haven. They plan to take a walk in the afternoon and can use volunteers.

**Teen Program**

Kathy Runyan (Santa Cruz) introduced teen co-clerks: Hannah Mackinney (Strawberry Creek), Shannon Fagen (Reno), Anna Lichterman (Strawberry Creek), and Rachel Arnold (Palo Alto). The FAPs for the weekend are Kylin Navarro (Santa Cruz), Julian Garrett (San Jose), and Flossie Cox.

Teens will discuss nominations and making final corrections for revising the teen handbook.

The clerk noted that the teen schedule is on the right hand side of the printed session schedule. Adults are invited to visit the teen program, specially teen business meetings.

**Arrangements**

Arrangements coordinators are Owain Elliott-Sowaal (San Francisco) and Gordon Starr (Grass Valley).

They reviewed kitchen process, including dish washing and composting.

Worship sharing group locations are shown on the map on the back of the schedule.

Kathy Runyan (Santa Cruz) gave a brief orientation for Quaker Center.

Opening plenary ended at 9:50, followed by a five minute break.

**Plenary I**

Plenary started at 9:55 am.

Interest groups were introduced.

Eric Sabelman (Palo Alto) introduced the group on “Opposing Gun Violence” in the Orchard Lodge. “Are any meetings taking on this concern?” he asked. He will show a video of a survivor of the Virginia Tech shooting.

Kathy Runyan (Santa Cruz) introduced the “Roots of Quakerism”, which will be held in the Casa de Luz.

Laura Magnani (Strawberry Creek) introduced the group “Cracking the Codes”. It is based on a film of the same name and segments of it will be shown. It is be held in the Redwood Lodge.

The assistant clerk directed assignments for worship sharing groups.

The worship sharing queries are:

Do I live in thankful awareness of God’s presence?

Am I sensitive to the leadings of the Holy Spirit?

When do I take time for contemplation and spiritual refreshment?

After the worship sharing groups were assigned, the teens left at 10:05 am.

**State of Meeting Reports**

The clerk announced that, through the weekend, Ministry and Oversight will be bringing short entries from state of meeting reports that have been received by monthly meetings.

Rachel Findley (Strawberry Creek) read from the Humboldt Meeting report. For Humboldt Friends, the meeting for worship is at the heart of their spiritual enterprise. They find that retreats can nurture the spirit. The women of the meeting participated in a retreat with the women of Humboldt Unitarian Universalists. They also held a retreat at Blue Slide Campground at Maple Creek. Their meeting has a core of committed members and attenders, and they look forward to increasing their numbers. They miss having young families with children attending Meeting and have discussed methods of outreach to young people, as well as the students and faculty of Humboldt State University.

**BLQCA report**

Ray Rischpater (Palo Alto) made report which is attached.

The clerk thanked Ray and those who have served on board.

**Nominating Committee Report**

Sarah Tyrrell (Berkeley) read report, which is attached. New nominations are in bold.

While there is a name being brought forth for Treasurer, Nominating Committee is open to bringing the name of another person who feels called to fill the position. Paul Harris, who is retiring after 10 years, spoke on the duties of Treasurer, which he described as very easy and requires only simple math.

Sarah has brief biographies for the two non Quakers on the FASE board, Pamela Campbell and Eric Moessing. Both have experience as administers of nursing care facilities.

Concerns and interest in positions can be brought to Nominating Committee.

The clerk noted that the nomination of Nora Cooke (Grass Valley) will be considered for approval when she has returned from her travels.

Margaret Sorrel (Strawberry Creek) clarified the number of positions on FASE board positions mandated by the current bylaws is 12 to 18, instead of 15 to 21, as indicated on the Nominating Committee report. They are not currently short of board members.

She is encouraging more Quaker members on the board. Speak to her if you are interested in joining the board in the future.

The clerk noted that corporation boards nominate their own members. This is to ensure that boards have independence as non profit corporations. This will be discussed at the afternoon plenary when we consider the ad hoc committee report on the relationship between College Park Quarterly Meeting and the corporations that are under its care.

**Announcements**

The assistant clerk read announcements. Palo Alto is hosting the Harvest Festival on September 27 and invites other monthly meetings to participate.

Plenary ended after worship at 10:55 am.

**Plenary II**

Plenary II started at 4:00 pm.

The assistant clerk read selections of the state of the meeting report from Redwood Forest Meeting.

“On a practical, material level, ours is an aging community, and we have as yet unexplored fears and anxieties about what the future may hold for us individually or as a Society. On a very small scale, we feel like we have begun to design a spirit led, enthusiastic approach to this essential need that will involve all of us as we learn the arts of giving and receiving. Ideally, the new concept of what we are calling the care umbrella will stabilize some of these practical concerns with a tender touch.

“In keeping with the theme of self-care, the completion of our beautiful courtyard welcomes us. The pathway which brings us all to the threshold of Meeting, is intentionally designed in a nonlinear way, reminding us that straight lines are very rare in the world of faith. We each are tasked to find what is most deeply true for ourselves. The warm and steady presence of our Resident Friend completes our Quaker tradition of hospitality.”

**New introductions**

Stanley Ngesa Chagala, a fourth generation Quaker from Western Kenya, is a student in the Masters of Divinity program at the San Francisco Theological Seminary. He attends Marin Meeting.

Nathanial Thurston and Deborah Marks attend Strawberry Creek Meeting.

The clerk reviewed the agenda for the afternoon plenary.

**Nominating Committee**

Sarah Tyrrell (Berkeley) brought the name of Owain Elliott-Sowaal (San Francisco) as Arrangements Clerk. His name, along with those read this morning, will season until the morning plenary.

**Sierra Friends Center**

Sarah Tyrrell (Berkeley), as a member of CPFEA Development Com, gave an update on Sierra Friends Center. Marjorie Fox has resigned. Dorothy Henderson has returned as Head of School for one year. Sierra Friends Center regrets the scheduling conflict of the Woolman semester graduation and board meeting with with Spring 2014 season of CPQM.

She announced two upcoming events. There will be an information session on the Woolman Semester on June 1, from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm, at the home of Cindy and Peter Trueblood (Strawberry Creek). August 9 will be the 50th anniversary of Woolman School and the 10th anniversary of Sierra Friends Center.

Her report is attached to the minutes.

**Quaker Oaks Farm**

Melissa Lovett-Adair (Central Coast) reported on developments at Quaker Oaks Farm. The Quaker Oaks Farm Board is pursuing a business plan that includes a farmer’s cooperative. Some coop members are here for the weekend. There will be a youth summer camp in cooperation with the local Wukchumni Tribe. Brochures are available in the back of the room.

**Guidelines on relationship with corporations under our care**

The clerk asked that we accept the guidelines on relationship between College Park Quarterly Meeting and the three corporations that are under its care. The ad hoc committee that developed the guidelines presented their report at the Fall 2013 session. Since then, the boards of all three corporations have reviewed the guidelines and made minor changes.

Margaret Sorrel (Strawberry Creek), FASE board member, presented the revised report. A few changes have been made since the guidelines were presented at Fall 2013. Some items are added to list of Friends business practices, beliefs, and values. It advises publicizing job openings to increase the hiring of more Quakers. It provides a schedule of when each corporation reports to the quarterly meeting, e.g. The FASE report is given during winter quarter. It no longer requires that each corporation hold an interest group every year, but encourages such interest groups whenever appropriate. It asks each corporation to have a representative at each quarterly session.

The ad hoc is not seeking approval of the guidelines. They only ask that we accept their report. With their work mostly completed, and only very minor changes are expected in the near future, the ad hoc committee would like to be laid down. A friend asked that we do accept this request to be laid down with the expression appreciation for the work of the ad hoc committee.

Margaret said the main purpose of bringing the final report to this quarterly session is so it be included in the minutes in addition to being posted on the CPQM website. We don’t want this document to be forgotten, as it is intended to strengthen these relationships. It can also help other Quaker meetings who have corporations under their care.

Concerns were discussed over the role of the quarterly meeting in nominating members to the corporation boards. In fact, the corporations have always nominated their members, and CPQM only accepts these nominations in an advisory role. To do otherwise, may be a violation of California law.

After this discussion, we agreed to accept the guidelines as amended. We approved that the ad hoc committee be laid down with appreciation and thanks for their work.

Margaret recommended staying up-to-date with the news from Friends House by signing up to receive their quarterly newsletter and weekly email.

**Minute from Delta Meeting on dividing Pacific Yearly Meeting**

The clerk requested a threshing-style session on the consideration of the Delta Friends minute on the possible division of PYM. He asked several Friends to speak on the background of the minute at the start of the session, the first being Walt Jones of Delta meeting. Walt has served as that meeting’s PYM representative. He expressed his frustration regarding ongoing complaints about the annual session. Through the years, there has been decreased attendance and increased cost. He is concerned about the impact of the travel to the annual session, both economic and environmental. As a response, he suggested dividing the current yearly meeting into two smaller meetings. He recognizes that such a division may take years to gain approval, if it is ever approved at all. The minute was passed with the intent of getting a discussion started. He expressed disappointment that Friends have been ignoring the problem or have minimized its importance.

He addressed concerns he has heard so far. One is that a yearly meeting needs to be larger to be effective. He noted that Denmark Yearly Meeting with 60 members functions quite well. He remembered East German Yearly Meeting, which was even smaller than Denmark, functioned well, even under the restrictive atmosphere of the cold war.

Friends have expressed concern about the loss of contacts and relationships they now have with Friends in PYM. Walt said the same concerns were expressed during past divisions of PYM. In those cases, Friends who wished to maintain relationships have been able to do so.

He did agree that the division might have a negative impact on JYM.

Friends have suggested alternate proposals, including meeting every other year or every third year.

Finally, Walt suggested the minute probably would be moot if it did not have acceptance by every monthly meeting in PYM. Already, one monthly meeting has formally expressed opposition.

A member of the subcommittee of Ministry and Oversight that looked at the structure and purpose of PYM provided more background on how M&O has addressed structural issues of the yearly meeting. The subcommittee raised the question of why we gather in larger communities than the monthly meetings. We have developed conventional expectations of what yearly meeting is supposed to be. The measure of vitality of the yearly meeting is in the vitality of its monthly meetings. Does the yearly meeting nurture us in our daily lives and monthly meetings?

He reviewed the history of this examination process, starting with convening of right holding committees. PYM reviewed our structure and purpose and asked if we should we hire paid staff. 2006-2007 was PYM’s discernment year or sabbath year. He wondered if we may not have embraced discernment process as well as we could have.

An effort was made to shift more business to Representative Committee and strengthen role of monthly meeting representatives. He has found difficult for long term attenders, himself included, to let go of long held expectations for the annual session. He agreed that changes are still needed and more changes are in the works.

A Friend spoke of her involvement in the Experimentation and Implementation subcommittee, one of the two subcommittees tasked with the work that previously addressed. The other is the Representative Support Subcommittee clerked by Sandy Kewman (Grass Valley). She spoke of ideas to make the annual session more family friendly, bring more work to Representative Committee, and distribute tasks throughout the calendar year. For more many attenders, the session is only affordable through the use of scholarships. The subcommittee is considering ways to make the session more affordable, including finding outside donations, reducing the number of days in the session, and finding lower cost locations. Attendance is down, but membership is down, as well.

Is the annual gathering offering the spiritual enrichment Friends want to have? The subcommittee is in the process of sending letters to the monthly meeting clerks, with a set of queries for response as monthly meetings. What would bring people to the annual sessions? Responses can be returned to Barbara Babin (Redwood Forest), Paul Harris (Redwood), and Valerie Nuttman (Santa Cruz) by September. There will be an interest group at annual session.

A young Friend expressed concern that many young Friends only attend yearly meeting. Interaction among young Friends is an issue. More can be happening at the annual session.

Environmental concerns are especially important to the Friend who asked how the rising cost of gasoline would affect our ability to attend the annual session. We could consider finding a location for holding sessions that is close to the center of our population. She suggested a permanent location that is environmentally sustainable. She noted that some of our past locations have not been in line with our values, including food choices and accommodations.

This year, a van will be coming to Walker Creek from Southern California. She would like to see more vans coming from various locations to the yearly meeting gathering. She suggested using technology to give more people access to yearly meeting, such as Skype.

She reminded us that costs are not going up. Walker Creek is less expensive than Mount Madonna. There is a $40 discount for first time attenders. “Sometimes we let our Quaker value of cheap,” she said, “get in our way.”

A concern was expressed another for what would happen to Youth Coordinator position and the work being done to bring young Friends together.

A Friend expressed support for continuing as a large yearly meeting. Doing business in the monthly meetings is easier than in the yearly meeting. He argued for the spiritual value doing business in as a larger group. The challenge of discussing difficult issues in a large, diverse gathering can help us use our Quaker process better. It puts us into a position of helping non-Quakers with their decision making processes, such as Congress or the United Nations. We could help such organizations function better.

A Friend identified himself as the author of the proposal of meeting alternate years. He believes that the quarterly meetings are not prepared to take on work of the yearly meeting, but they can be strengthened to take on that work. One problem is there is no Peace and Social Action Committee in this quarterly meeting, having been laid down years ago.

**Announcements**

The assistant clerk made announcements.

Marin Meeting is looking for Friends willing to correspond with a San Quentin inmate looking to spiritual support.

Julian Garrett (San Jose) will host Family Night.

The evaluation meeting will be held after lunch tomorrow. Check with the assistant clerk if you are required to attend the evaluation meeting. Those attending are excused from final clean up duties.

The recording clerk read the minutes from Opening Plenary and Plenary I. The minutes were approved with several changes.

Plenary II ended with a period of silent worship at 5:45 pm.

**Plenary III**

Plenary started at 8:30 am.

Rachel Findley (Strawberry Creek) read sections of the state of the meeting report from Reno Meeting.

“We are able to look outside of Meeting to support good works. One of our strongest financial commitments continues to be to the Alternatives to Violence Project in Nevada’s prisons.”

“We are blessed to have amongst our number a couple devoted to Gandhian Integral Nonviolence who run an urban homesteading project called “Be the Change”.

“We find that attendance at the First Day School has dropped off. This may be due to the natural fluctuations in a small meeting.”

“Another highlight of our year was going into 2014 with a nominating slate that included a Clerk of the Meeting for the first time in two years.”

The clerk reviewed the morning schedule. He discovered that we have not found members for a naming committee. That would have occurred during a period of silent worship at the previous day’s plenary. The clerk decided to ask some friends if they would be willing to serve on Naming. Those responding affirmatively are Sue Torrey (Central Coast), Paul Harris (Redwood Forest), and Hannah Mackinney (Strawberry Creek). The meeting agreed to have the three Friends serve on the Naming Committee. This Naming Committee will find members for Nominating Committee to serve from Fall 2014 to Winter 2016, as well as a committee clerk.

A Friend asked if Eric Moon (Berkeley, our outgoing presiding clerk, would be willing to serve as an alternate to the Naming Committee. Eric agreed to serve, and the meeting approved that addition.

**Nominating Committee**

Sarah Tyrrell (Berkeley) noted some changes since yesterday.

As Owain Elliot-Sowaal (San Francisco) has agreed to be the arrangements clerk, we will need another arrangements coordinator.

Mary Miche (Lake County Worship Group) has been removed from consideration for Finance Committee, recognizing that she will have plenty of work as the next presiding clerk. Carl Anderson (Strawberry Creek) expressed belief that Finance Committee can function well with its current size.

Carl asked about the bank signatures. The Clerk said that will be taken care of after we have approved the current nominations.

The meeting approved the nominations, as amended.

With the new treasurer, we will need new signers for the checks. Finance Committee Clerk Carl Anderson (Strawberry Creek) and Assistant Clerk Lisa Hubbell (Strawberry Creek) will be able to sign, along with Treasurer miriam berg (Berkeley). Carl has a draft letter to take to the bank and to be added to the minutes. The meeting approved the names of individuals who are authorized to sign checks..

**Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer Paul Harris distributed copies of the report. There are still some meetings that have not sent in their quotas, but they have until September to do so. The reports are attached. The clerk expressed appreciation for our retiring treasurer.

**Registrar’s Report**

Sandy Kewman reported that 106 people attended as of yesterday. There were 3 FAPs, 11 children, and 4 teens. 4 scholarships were funded by donations. Sandy thanks Friends for their donations, and she will send thank you letters.

**Ministry and Oversight Committee**

Bob Runyan delivered the report, which is attached. He noted the struggles and lack of communication due to the lack of a regular clerk. M&O has received State of the Meeting reports from half of meetings, some close to the session. The committee has developed a new protocol for submitting reports, which can be found on the website. There is also a new protocol for providing scholarships. Bob read from Hannah Mackinney’s scholarship request to attend Woolman Semester.

**Continued Sharing on Delta Meeting Minute**

The clerk allow more time to speak to Delta Meeting minute. He invited Friends to come to microphone to speak.

A Friend offered that it boils down to the difficultly created by reduced attendance. He offered solutions: that we be okay with the current structure, we can change the structure, or we can increase the number of people to attend.

Another said he wants division based on growth, not decline. He did not sense the same situation as with division of North Pacific and Intermountain yearly meetings. We need to consider how College Park’s separation from PYM affects the Southern California Quarter.

A member of PYM’s M&O wanted to assure us that no one on that committee is satisfied with the current state of the yearly meeting. He hopes we attend the interest group that is being scheduled at PYM to discuss this topic. He asked that we bring all of our suggestions there.

One expressed appreciation that we are considering this minute in our monthly meetings.

A Friend found conflicts with being able to attend both quarterly meeting and yearly meeting or FGC. She don’t want to spend her whole life in Quakerdom,

We are a very diverse yearly meeting, another observed, and we need to celebrate that. We need to do more work at the monthly meeting level. PYM is currently too bloated and bureaucratic. Do we need a Peace and Social Order Committee for the yearly meeting?

A Friend reflected on her experiences with Canadian Yearly Meeting, which is geographically large, yet small in population. The meeting effectively uses resources with no paid staff. We could contact Canadian Yearly Meeting for ideas.

A former clerk for North Pacific Yearly Meeting spoke of her efforts to increase the involvement of Montana and Idaho in that yearly meeting. It included shifting meeting locations to better accommodate members who are farther away than the 80% who live along I-5 corridor. British Columbia decided to join Canadian Yearly Meeting, even though it is closer to NPYM. She agrees that we can encourage better use of technology, in addition to physically gathering together.

A young Friend believes that a Friday to Monday schedule would make it easier for families with other obligations during the summer.

Another said she is aware of the need to have large clusters of like ages to attend annual session, especially for young Friends who do not have others of the same age in their monthly meetings.

A Friend said it means a lot to Mexico City to have support of the wider community of Friends.

The clerk acknowledged what he called the great gift from Delta Meeting and hopes we bring these ideas back to our monthly meetings. He asked us to remember that PYM includes four meetings that are not included in a quarterly meeting. We need to consider those Friends, as well. While we have separated before as the result of growth, the growth that has occurred after that separation has been due to hard work.

A request was made that the CPQM clerk send a letter to the PYM clerk with some of content of this discussion so that it can be added to the discussion at the yearly meeting level. The clerk agreed to write a letter. He has previously spoken to PYM Clerk Steve Smith and promised to follow up with a phone call. A Friend asked that the letter be clear that CPQM is not in unity on any recommendation. Another Friend suggested that copies be sent to SCQM and the meetings in PYM that are not a part of either quarter. We agreed to have the clerk write the letter to the clerk of PYM.

Plenary ended at 9:50 am with a short break.

**Final Plenary**

Plenary started at 10:00 am. Rachel Findley read sections of the state of the meeting report from San Francisco Meeting.

“We strive to be welcoming to all. The meetinghouse is accessible and convenient to public transit.”

“There is a considerable diversity of beliefs, backgrounds and life experiences within our faith community. Because or in spite of this, we find we are often drawn together in our worship by the living presence of God in our midst, and nourished and strengthened in a deeply spiritual manner.”

“Our First Day School has drawn a number of new attenders. Each time they meet the children introduce themselves and welcome any newcomers.”

“Concern among Friends for peace, social justice and environmental issues is high, and many are involved in one or another activity addressing them. To the frustration of some, it can be difficult to get everyone in the Meeting to support one effort, unless it is fairly discrete and short-term.”

Recording Clerk read minutes for Plenary II. Friends asked that those who spoke in the threshing-style session not be identified by name. The recording clerk agreed to remove the names from that section of Plenary II, as well as any names recorded in the Plenary III threshing session.

Arrangements Coordinator Owain Elliott-Sowaal made announcements on final cleanup.

The Assistant Clerk read announcements. Friends with bills for reimbursement need to give their bills to the Treasurer by the end of the session. The evaluation meeting will be held after lunch. The bookstore closes at 1 pm.

The teens read their epistle.

“Over the past year we have been considering how to make our program more welcoming to trans\*and gender nonconforming Friends, and this concern has made us reconsider our current system of gender segregated sleeping spaces.”

“We have come to unity that starting at our Fall 2014 session we will no longer segregate our sleeping spaces by gender or sex. We will implement this in a way that maintains safety, trust and open communication for everyone involved.”

The children’s program read its epistle. Mosquito bites were a problem during the weekend. The children made hats inspired by Dr. Seuss story “500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins.” They heard the story of Moses and played a game called “Let My People Go.” They took a hike to the waterfall and later talked about summer camp.

Minutes for both the final plenary and Plenary III, that were read earlier, were approved, as amended.

Respectfully submitted, Signed,

Tom Yamaguchi, Recording Clerk Eric Moon, Presiding Clerk

Attachments:

BLQCA Annual Report

Checking account signatures letter for bank

CPFEA Update

Ministry and Oversight Report

Nominating Committee Report

Teen Spring Epistle

Treasurer’s Spring 2014 Report

Treasurer’s Spring 2014 Quota List

2013 Year End Financial Review