College Park Quarterly Meeting

Minutes for winter 2015 session

January 17, 2015

Santa Rosa, California

Plenary session 1

Clerk, Mary Miché, welcomed Friends to the 226th session of College Park Quarterly Meeting.

Substitute Assistant Clerk, Bob Runyan, read the names of our meetings and worship groups. The following meetings had members in attendance.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Meeting or Worship Group | Oct. 2014 | Jan.2015 | May 2015 |  |
| Appleseed | x | x |  |  |
| Berkeley | x | x |  |  |
| Central Coast | x | - |  |  |
| Chico | x | x |  |  |
| Davis | x | x |  |  |
| Delta | x | x |  |  |
| Fresno |  | - |  |  |
| Friends House wg | x | x |  |  |
| Grass Valley | x | x |  |  |
| Humboldt |  | x |  |  |
| Lake County wg | x | x |  |  |
| Live Oak | x | - |  |  |
| Marin | x | x |  |  |
| Mendocino |  | - |  |  |
| Monterey Peninsula | x | - |  |  |
| Napa Sonoma |  | x |  |  |
| Oakland wg | x | - |  |  |
| Palo Alto | x | x |  |  |
| Redding | x | - |  |  |
| Redwood Forest | x | x |  |  |
| Reno | x | x |  |  |
| Sacramento | x | x |  |  |
| San Francisco | x | x |  |  |
| San Jose | x | x |  |  |
| Santa Cruz | x | x |  |  |
| Southern Humboldt wg | x | - |  |  |
| Strawberry Creek | x | x |  |  |
| Ukiah | ? | - |  |  |
| Visalia | ? | x |  |  |
| Carson City wg |  | x |  |  |
| Soledad wg |  | x |  |  |
| Western Shore SF wg |  | x |  |  |

Susan Wolf from Ithaca New York introduced herself as a visitor. A Friend brought greetings from Brooklyn, New York, monthly meeting.

Delsy Steffi of Sacramento Meeting welcomed children to their day-long program including a walk to a park after lunch. The children and their leaders left.

Arden Ambrose-Winters of Davis Meeting invited teens to adjourn to their own business meeting with plans to rejoin us after the break.

Jim Avera of Redwood Forest Meeting, our arrangements clerk, made some “housekeeping” announcements.

Sylvia Walker, Clerk of FASE [Friends Association for Services to the Elderly] board, gave a detailed report of several management decisions at Friends House, Santa Rosa, including prudent financial reasons for their planned expansion after 30 years of operations. The full FASE report is attached to these minutes.

Recording Clerk, Sandy Farley, read the epistle from the 40th annual Young Friends New Year’s Gathering at Camp Myrtlewood, earlier this month. The epistle is attached.

Sarah Tyrrell of Berkeley Meeting gave the Nominating committee report. They are bringing forward the name of Owen Elliot of San Francisco Meeting to serve as Arrangements Clerk for our spring session at Ben Lomond Quaker Center. This nomination will be considered at our afternoon plenary.

She informed us of three additions to the Ben Lomond Quaker Center Board: Thom McCue of Live Oak Meeting, Lynn Mitchell of Palo Alto Meeting, and Frank Satterwhite of Strawberry Creek Meeting. She mentioned that Sandy Kewman has finished her term as registrar and that a new registrar or assistant registrar will be needed this May.

Bob Runyan reported that Ministry and Oversight Committee has met successfully on line. They report that in May, while Mary Miché will be attending Nate Secrest’s graduation from Guilford College, Assistant Clerk, Lisa Hubbell will clerk our sessions.

Ministry and Oversight is hoping to visit several meetings in the quarter and would like to be invited.

The three interest groups for this afternoon were announced: Waging Peace with David Hartsough, Friends House Tour, and Connecting to Inner Peace through Nature.

Mary Miché made a few brief announcements. We closed this session in worship.

Plenary Session #2

Clerk, Mary Miché called our attention to today’s theme: Peacemaking: an Inside and an Outside Job.

David Hartsough who has recently published a memoir of his life in peace activism, addressed the theme. In his life he counts many mentors and examples of lives who have gone before. He experienced three major leadings. One to go to Howard University, an historically black college, where his education brought him fully into the civil rights struggle and the lunch counter sit-ins. The second, in the 90’s, was to form the Non-Violent Peace Force, or peace teams. The third and current leading is to foment a global movement to end war.

He asked us to consider the fact that our lives as American citizens are not worth more than the lives of any other country’s citizens.

He experienced as part of his leadings a vision of Martin Luther King Jr.’s hand on his shoulder saying “Working for Peace and Justice can be lonely.” We face the triple evils of poverty, racism, and militarism. He challenged us to continue the work of building the beloved community, and invited Friends to the up-coming weekend at Ben Lomond Quaker Center on this topic.

Bob Runyan quickly divided us up and sent us off to worship sharing groups to reflect on the theme of Peacemaking: an Inside and an Outside Job. The Queries:

1. How has your witness in the outward world changed your spiritual depths, your prayer life, your experience of Quaker worship?
2. In what ways does your spiritual practice give you a heart for outward activity for justice and peace, in family, community, workplace, or larger world?
3. What power can give you the courage and acceptance to love what you fear, to do good to those who hate you?

Plenary Session #3

We began our third session with a brief period of worship.

Sarah Tyrrell read for a second time the nomination of Owen Elliot-Sowaal of San Francisco Meeting [correcting his name for the minutes] to serve as arrangements clerk for our May sessions at Ben Lomond Quaker Center. Owen Elliot-Sowaal’s service as Arrangements Clerk was approved. [Minute #1-2015]

Sarah Asch reported that Marin Meeting has laid itself down as of December 21, 2014 [Minute is attached] Individual members have been released from membership. Concerns were raised regarding the transfers of membership. There will be an occasional worship group continuing in homes. They are creating a trust for a future meeting in Marin. We suggested that the discipline committee of PYM undertake to clarify the procedures for laying down a meeting. A member of that committee agreed to forward our concern.

Sierra Friends Center Sandra Swartz gave us a quick up-date. They have successfully raised $25,000 in a matching grant campaign, Thank you! 15 to 17 students will be starting classes at the end of the month. Gray Horwitz has been hired as the new Head of School [He will assume the role in June of this year.], has been a teacher and camp director at Woolman. Gray introduced the plans for the teen leadership camps this summer, hiking, food, and biking are the themes.

Walt Jones spoke about the re-establishment of the visiting Friend program. PYM M&O will choose and the visitor will be announced at yearly Meeting. Leslie Zondervan-Droz of Humboldt meeting is the person to contact if you want to serve as an official visitor among Friends. Contribution were solicited for this revitalized program. Sally Davis previous clerk of the Brinton Visitor Committee offered some clarification as to the goals and procedures for such visitations.

Steven Matchett spoke of the anniversary of Alternatives to Violence Project California’s invitation into the prisons of the state. AVP is now in 16 prisons as well as several jails. He thanked the many donors and participants in the room. They will be hiring a community organizer in the San Joaquin Valley to generate volunteers living in that area to go into more prisons.

Registrar’s report: Sandy Kewman of Grass Valley. 113 adults in attendance 10 children and 6 teens. Total 129 people. She reminded people that we need to pay rent, so make your contribution.

The minutes of all three sessions were approved. [#2 minute 2015]