

**Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting**  
**Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business**  
**April 9, 2023, minutes**  
*Approved at the May 14, 2023, Meeting for Business*

Meeting for Business opened at 12:30 p.m. by settling into worship on Zoom. Elizabeth Strain clerked the meeting. Twenty-eight Friends were present.

Rachel Findley shared the reflections of the Worship and Ministry Committee on the Advices and Queries on Personal Relationships.

The Clerk reviewed the agenda, which was first posted by the acting Recording Clerk, Charlie Blanchard, to groups.io on April 8, 2023.

The acting Recording Clerk then read the March 2023 minutes. The minutes were approved with a correction in the report by Worship and Ministry Committee and after changing “silent worship” to “worship.”

**Prompt**

The Clerk read the prompt: “We are reminded to consider how our work and decisions today support SCMM in becoming an actively anti-racist faith community.”

**Correspondence and Clerk’s Business**

Care of Meeting Committee administers the Quaker Events scholarship fund, which has not been used during the pandemic. Guidelines for the use of the fund are posted on the Meeting web page under “Our Values.” Care of Meeting Committee is reviewing the guidelines. Requests should be submitted to the committee with sufficient lead time for the committee to meet.

Laura Boles has requested membership. Her request will be forwarded to Care of Meeting Committee. Eighteen years ago, Laura was the first person to request an endorsement from Strawberry Creek Meeting for her chaplaincy. She is again requesting an endorsement as she returns to chaplaincy work. This request will be forwarded to Worship and Ministry Committee.

**Old Business**

The State of the Meeting report writing group, Cindy Trueblood, Jeanne Diller, and Andrea English, reported that several additions were made in response to suggestions provided by Friends after the first draft was read at the March Meeting for Business. Some editing was done to keep the report within two pages. The revised report was read and approved. Friends expressed considerable appreciation for the report.

**New Business**

Susan Black presented a slate of nominations for Nominating Committee, which will be seasoned for one month. The committee worked well together and nearly all positions have been filled. One more member is needed for the Events Committee. Nominating

Committee is also seeking to fill two positions on Communications Committee, librarian and newsletter editor. Please contact Sarah Hawthorne for further information about those positions. Facilities Committee has been restructured to include working groups with coordinators, who will schedule volunteers; Ragni Larsen-Orta will help coordinate volunteers. Loaves and Fishes Committee has been put on hiatus. Please contact Susan Black for more information or to volunteer for a position.

## **Reports**

Michelle Bellows reported on her ministry work with Friends General Conference (FGC) Annual Gathering. Michelle is currently clerking the FGC long-range conference planning (LRCP) committee. She was called to LRCP by her life-changing experiences at Gatherings beginning with attending her first Gathering in 2002, including the couple's enrichment workshop. Other rich workshops have included "Forgiveness as a Spiritual Practice." Dealing with conflicts has been the most challenging aspect of her work with the Gathering. Her SCMM anchoring committee helps keep Michelle grounded. The 2023 Gathering is in Monmouth, Oregon, clerked by two former Strawberries. In the future, in-person Gatherings will be held in even-numbered years, virtual Gatherings in odd-numbered years. One Friend requested that the written report be printed in the newsletter, which will be done.

The treasurer, Nancy Wilkinson, presented a written report for first quarter, 2023. Meeting has benefited from some large contributions but also had several early-year expenses to cover. Although expenses have exceeded donations to date, Meeting's financial position is normal for this time of year.

The Pacific Yearly Meeting Representative (PacYM), Ragni Larsen-Orta, presented a report. PacYM now has two paid staff positions. The administrative position is on a trial basis; it has provided valuable support to PacYM. Representative Committee meetings were held February 25 and March 4. Teens met March 10 to 12 to plan Junior Yearly Meeting. The Yearly Meeting will be July 22 to 27 on "Beloved Community: Part II, Centering the Voices of the Next Generation" at Mt. Madonna Center and online. PacYM will be looking for another site in the future that functions better for families, camping, and hybrid meetings. Friends appreciated the depth of the report.

The clerk of PacYM, Laura Magnani, noted that there was a need for a team of registrars. PacYM will provide compensation to young adult Friends to handle registration and other needs, which will provide new energy for PacYM logistics and also help young adults cover income not earned when they take time away from work.

Worship and Ministry Committee (Judith Schumacher-Jennings) reported that, as suggested at the January listening meeting, greeters will not be checking vaccination cards beginning in May. Resulting from the listening meeting, spiritual life sharing groups and/or Friendly Sevens will be renewed.

To create a more congenial atmosphere in the Meeting room, Worship and Ministry has asked Facilities Committee to begin placing chairs closer together; to help welcome newcomers, the Meeting closer is experimenting with a return to our past practice of asking people in the Meeting room to say their names before moving into announcements. SCMM has attempted to address the needs of the most vulnerable, sometimes appearing to new visitors to be slow to recover from the pandemic. Meeting continues to run the fans because as of February 28, 2023 Alameda County recommends air filtration systems (provided by our HEPA filter) if the doors and windows are not open. Blended meetings will be second and fourth instead of first and third First Days, beginning in May.

Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness (Larry Strain) reported that two films were shown on the Doctrine of Discovery, in cooperation with Power, Privilege, and Race Subcommittee. A third movie will be shown in June and there will also be Quaker videos.

### **Query**

The Clerk invited us to contemplate the query: “How did our work and our decisions today support us in becoming an actively anti-racist faith community?” A period of worship followed.

### **Announcements**

Elizabeth Strain, acting Clerk, thanked the acting Alternate Clerk, Ralph Murphy, and acting Recording Clerk, Charlie Blanchard.

The next Meeting for Business is May 14 at 12:30 p.m. on the Meeting’s Zoom.

The Strawberry Creek Corporation Board Meeting is May 14 following Meeting for Business.

Kris Muller’s Memorial Meeting will be April 16 at 12:30 p.m. at Berkeley Technology Academy and on SCMM Zoom. For those who usually attend Meeting for Worship on Zoom, please let Jeanne Diller or Elizabeth Strain know if you plan to attend in person.

Robin Standish’s Memorial Meeting will be April 29 at 2 p.m. at Berkeley Friends Meeting and on SCMM Zoom.

The next in-person First Day Children’s Program will be April 16 beginning at 9:45 a.m.

Information on the Quaker Events Scholarship funds can be found on the Meeting web site under “Our Values.”

Meeting settled into worship and closed at 2:19 p.m.

Elizabeth Strain, acting Clerk  
Ralph Murphy, acting Alternate Clerk  
Charlie Blanchard, acting Recording Clerk