

Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business
June 11, 2023, minutes

Approved at the August 2023, Meeting for Business

Meeting for Business opened at 12:30 p.m. by settling into worship on Zoom. Beth Wrightson Clerked the meeting. Twenty-six Friends were present.

Lee Douglas shared the Finance Committee's responses to Advices and Queries on Reaching Out, including this nugget: "No matter how you present, you are loved."

The Clerk reviewed the agenda, which was first posted by the Recording Clerk to groups.io on June 10, 2023.

The Recording Clerk then read the April 2023 minutes. The minutes were approved with one correction. The Nominating Committee's item under old business was changed to:

Nominating Committee (Susan Black) 2023-24 nominations are nearly complete. Ragni Larson-Orta withdrew her name from the Facilities Committee slate for spiritual reasons yet will continue to coordinate set-up volunteers as asked and agreed. The Nominating Committee slate was approved with this change.

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

- The Revisioning Committee (Charlie Blanchard, Beth Wrightson, Elizabeth Moses Strain, and Paul Jolly) will come to the Business Meeting with recommendations in summer or fall.
- Thanks to the Events Committee for providing an opportunity to get together at the May Retreat.
- Laura Boles has requested a letter endorsing her hospital chaplaincy. This is a renewal of a request, originally presented and approved in 2004. The Clerk will write a letter in fulfillment of this request.
- Before Paul Jolly's travels in Turkey and England, he requested a letter of introduction, which the Clerk provided. The Clerk read that letter and the endorsements from Friends he encountered on his trip; they are attached to these minutes.

Old Business

Nominating Committee (Barbara Birch) shared the name of Elizabeth Moses Strain for the Events Committee. The nomination was approved.

Care of the Meeting (Kathy Barnhart) reported on a request for membership from Laura Boles, and a letter she wrote describing her spiritual journey. The Clearness

Committee, and the Care of the Meeting Committee, heartily recommend affirmation of Laura's request. The request will season until August. Any Friends who wish to discuss this may speak to members of the Care of the Meeting Committee.

New Business

Worship and Ministry (Ralph Murphy) shared the request from Kat Stenstedt for endorsement of her chaplaincy. Her anchoring committee and the Worship and Ministry committee recommend that the Meeting send an endorsement. This recommendation will season until September.

Barbara Birch (Nominating Committee) Nominating committee recommends Barbara Birch for Ben Lomond Quaker Center representative. Friends are invited to speak to Susan Black of the Nominating Committee if they wish to discuss this nomination.

Kathy Barnhart of Care of the Meeting Committee mentioned that Strawberry Creek has a pass, good for one attendance at every Ben Lomond program. Ordinarily the Ben Lomond representative handles the pass. While we are between representatives, Friends who wish to use the pass are invited to speak to the Care of the Meeting Committee.

Reports

Care of the Meeting Committee (Kathy Barnhart) The Clerks of Worship and Ministry, Facilities, and Care of the Meeting Committees will meet to discuss where questions about pandemic response should be handled. The retreat was a success, and the Committee is exploring whether it can be replicated monthly, in conjunction with the Events Committee. Care of the Meeting is also entertaining a request for financial support for Friends General Conference.

Barbara Birch (Nominating Committee) shared a report including what they learned in their process this year. That report will be posted later today via groups.io. Appreciation was expressed, once again, to the Nominating Committee for their work. Please give feedback on the report to Nominating Committee Clerks and the Revisioning Committee.

Rick Herbert (Friends Committee on Legislation of California (FCLCA) representative) shared his sense that FCLCA's diminishment to one lobbyist weakens our witness in the state legislature. Rick also described FCLCA's collaboration with like-minded groups. We joined in silence at the Clerk's request to hold FCLCA in the Light.

Query

The Clerk shared the query "How did our work and our decisions today support us in becoming an actively anti-racist faith community?" One Friend cautioned us about othering through the use of the term "educated" to only mean formal or college education. Another Friend encouraged all of us to attend next week's Adult Religious Education session on Power, which will be a discussion of various factors of our identities.

Announcements

Power, Privilege, and Race subcommittee (Susan Burr) The last of three Adult Education sessions on Power on June 18th at 1:00 pm via the meeting's Zoom account.

Power, Privilege and Race will host two discussion sessions (July 16 and August 20) focused on the Pendle Hill pamphlet "Race, Systemic Violence, and Retrospective Justice: An African American Quaker Scholar-Activist Challenges Conventional Narratives". Details on group ordering of the pamphlet will be announced.

David Rutschman shared that on June 10th he shared via groups.io a report from the Accompaniment Committee which supports recent immigrant families hosted by Berkeley Friends Meeting. There is room on the committee for more Friends.

The third session on Doctrine of Discovery will be at 1:30 p.m. on July 30th. David Rutschman will circulate a zoom link.

Ragni Larsen-Orta (Pacific Yearly Meeting representative) The deadline for registering for Pacific Yearly Meeting, whether in person or on Zoom, is the end of June.

The next Meeting for Business will be August 13th at 12:30 p.m. on the Meeting's Zoom site.

Meeting closed with worship at 2:05 p.m.

Beth Wrightson, Clerk
Elizabeth Moses Strain, Acting Alternate Clerk
Paul Jolly, Recording Clerk



Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends

PO Box 5065, Berkeley, CA 94705

January 6, 2023

To Whom it May Concern:

We send you warm greetings with our Member Paul Jolly.

Paul is a Member of the Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (“Quakers”) in Berkeley California. He is a long-time Quaker, having attended Quaker Schools and Meetings throughout his life. He is a published poet and brings to our Meeting a sense of joy and a true interest in other people and ideas. We are sure you will find a good friend in Paul.

We look forward to hearing back from Paul about his sojourn in Turkey and England.

In Peace,

Beth Wrightson
Clerk, Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting

We have been pleased to welcome our Friend Paul Jolly who worshipped with us today and wish him well for his continuing travel in the Ministry. Loving greetings from Oxford Friends Meeting, London Yearly Meeting

Signed, Yvonne Dixon

And with our prayers and greetings from St Albans, Holborn, where Paul as joined us for Mass at Easter.

Father Christopher Smith, Vicar.

Wonderful to have you with us, Paul.

Alan Arvy, Friends House Meeting, London Yearly Meeting