

**Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting**  
**Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business**  
**October 14, 2018 Minutes**

The meeting opened at noon with silent worship. Ralph Murphy clerked the meeting. 28 Friends were present. Tansy Moon gave the response of First Day Children's Program Committee to the Advices and Queries on Reaching Out, which are attached. Alma Moon read the committee's suggested revision of the Reaching Out Advices and Queries. Friends gave more reflections out of the silence.

The Recording Clerk read the minutes for the September 9, 2018 Meeting for Business. The minutes were approved with two corrections. Nancy Wilkinson is the PYM Observer and has not yet been approved as next year's yearly meeting representative. The sender of the letter from a California state prison should be referred to as a person in prison and not called an inmate.

**Correspondence and Clerk's Business**

The Clerk has received no correspondence.

**Old Business**

**Proposed Revisions to Faith and Practice** (Care of the Meeting, First Day Children's Program, and Worship and Ministry committees)

The Clerk referred the proposed revisions proposed by the Faith and Practice Revision Committee to three committees. The suggested revision for the Reaching Out advices and queries was considered by Care of the Meeting Committee. The job description for the Youth Programs Coordinator was considered by First Day Children's Program Committee. The Section on leadings was referred to Worship and Ministry Committee. The Clerk asked that Friends listen to the reports of the three committees and speak to any concerns they may have to the offered responses and suggestions. If Friends are in unity at this business meeting, the reports will be sent to the Faith and Practice Revision Committee. If Friends are not in unity, further work will be needed at the next business meeting. The deadline for feedback on these sections is December 1.

Leonard Joy expressed concern over the small attendance at today's business meeting and suggested having a Called Meeting for Business, as was done during the last revision of Faith and Practice. The Clerk stressed again the time limitation to submit our feedback and that a Called Meeting could not be scheduled within that time limit. Laura Magnani, who is a co-clerk on the Revision Committee, said the committee is not looking for individual responses, but would rather have the discerned responses from groups of Friends. We are only being asked to respond to three small pieces of these sections, she said. Tom Rothschild asked that we look into improving the process for future revisions, given that we are expected to do this three or four times a year.

Given the limitations, the meeting decided to continue the process set by the Clerk.

*First Day Children's Program Committee on the Youth Programs Coordinator Position*

First Day Children's Program Committee submitted a written report stating it was in unity with the text as written. This is a new section, not a revision. The position was created after the last revision of Faith and Practice. The Alternate Clerk read the proposed text since there was no member of the committee in attendance during this part of the meeting. The report is attached to these minutes.

The meeting found unity on First Day Children's recommendation, and the Clerk will forward that recommendation to the Faith and Practice Revision Committee.

#### *Care of the Meeting Committee on Reaching Out*

Stephen McNeil read the report on the two proposed changes to the advices and queries on Reaching Out. The report is attached to these minutes. The first is the addition of a quote from Lloyd Lee Wilson: "We must learn to listen in tongues." The section is a rewording of the query "What are we doing to help people of various races, cultures, and backgrounds feel at home among us and we among them."

Care of the Meeting questions the relevance of the Wilson quote and found it too obscure. On the suggested change to the query, the committee the new wording an improvement. "Can it be worded without the assumption that 'we' are primarily white?" The committee suggested the wording, "Do all people feel welcome when they come to our meeting? What changes might be required of our community?" Stephen said that Betsy Morris wrote a more detailed response on the "whiteness" of the current language, and her response will be added to the committee's report.

A number of Friends expressed the concern that the response does not address the issue of race strongly enough. The meeting was unable to find unity on the Care of the meeting's response. The Clerk asked if any Friends in attendance would like to work further on a response to the query, and a number of Friends offered their names. The four selected were Rachel Findley (convener), Asa Brown, Leonard Joy, and Ragni Larsen-Orta. These Friends will report back at the next business meeting.

#### *Worship and Ministry on Leadings*

The Revision Committee offered three queries as guide to respond to the section on leadings.

Beth Wrightson read Worship and Ministry's written responses to the queries:

How does your Meeting support leadings that come to its attention?

Do you have experiences with clearness committees to discern leadings? If so, does this draft help clarify what that process can look like? If not please tell us what more you need, or what you do not find helpful?

What ways has your Meeting found to stay in relationship to members experiencing leadings and to provide accountability?

Their responses are attached to these minutes.

The full text on leading is on the PYM website and was posted to the meeting's Yahoo Group. Some Friends expressed the need for clear definitions for elder and eldering. The Clerk asked Worship and Ministry to further reevaluate the eldering section and bring a revised report back to the next business meeting. He asked all Friends to read the relevant sections online in order to provide comments.

(At one point, the discussion on the revisions had to be set aside in order to address the needs of a Friend who had fallen ill during the meeting for worship and was taken to the hospital. Friends volunteered to assist the Friend, pending his release from the emergency room.)

### **New Business**

There was no new business.

### **Reports**

Due to time restraints, reports from the following committees were rescheduled for the next meeting for business: Worship and Ministry, Care of the Meeting, and Communications.

### **Announcements**

Next Meeting for Business – November 11, 2018 at 11:50 a.m. at Berkeley Technology Academy College Park Quarterly Meeting Fall Session- October 19-21, Sierra Friends Center

Lee Douglas announced that Welcoming and Inclusion Working Group, is considering replacing the “Seeds of Peace” banner that is currently displayed at the meeting’s entrance on First Days. Friends with thoughts and comments may speak to Beth Rodman.

Susan Burr announced the Care of the Meeting Committee is sponsoring an adult education session on Clerking and Self Clerking next Sunday.

Betsy Morris announced the appearance of Richard Rothstein, discussing his book, The Color of Law on Wednesday, October 24, 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm, at the Tara Hall Pittman South Branch Library.

Beth Wrightson announced for Worship and Ministry Committee the laying down of the Thursday night meeting at the Berkeley Meetinghouse due to lack of attendance.

The meeting closed with silent worship at 2:00 pm.

Submitted by: Ralph Murphy, Clerk, Rachel Findley, Alternate Clerk, and Tom Yamaguchi, Recording Clerk.