

Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business
August 13, 2023, minutes
Approved at the September 2023, Meeting for Business

Meeting for Business opened at 12:30 p.m. by settling into worship on Zoom. Ralph Murphy clerked the meeting in Beth Wrightson's absence. 22 Friends were present.

Since no committee is responsible for preparing a response to the Advices and Queries in August, Ralph shared a quote from George Gorman about discovering "the amazing fact of Quaker worship."

The Clerk reviewed the agenda, which was first posted by the Recording Clerk to groups.io on August 12, 2023.

The Recording Clerk then read the June 2023 minutes, which were approved with these corrections:

- One Friend noted that the Letter of Introduction that Paul traveled with, and the responses from Friends in his travels, should be appended to the minutes, and that change was made.
- It was noted that there are many kinds of chaplains, and, when mentioning a chaplaincy, we should identify it.
- During the review of the reflections on the query on uprooting and dismantling racism, one friend noted that we sometimes say education when we mean college or formal education. The minutes were changed to reflect more fully the discussion that followed.

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

Beth has recommended for the committee to name the nominating committee: Elizabeth Moses Strain (convenor), Kat Stenstedt and Laura Boles. The names will be brought to the September business meeting for a decision.

Old Business

Laura Boles' membership into Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting was approved. Ragni Larson-Orta, Andrea English, Laura Magnani, and Larry Strain volunteered to serve as a welcoming committee, with Ragni convening.

We approved Worship and Ministry's recommendation that Strawberry Creek endorse Kat Stenstedt's hospital chaplaincy. The clerk will write a letter of endorsement to the appropriate agencies.

We approved Barbara Birch as Ben Lomond Quaker Center representative.

New Business

After extensive effort, Care of Meeting has been unable to contact Lee Andresen. When we were last in contact, a number of years ago, Lee was in poor health. We regretfully assume that she has died and recommend laying down her membership. Sherrin Lloyd shared that she and Lee joined the Hayward worship group at the same time, and that Lee devoted a great deal of time to helping a family in that meeting. The matter will season.

Dann Naseemullah, who now lives in North London, requested a transfer of membership to Hampstead Friends Meeting. The matter will season.

Chris Hogness (Care of the Meeting Committee) shared a draft job description for an archivist. A friend suggested that the archivist may field questions from researchers from outside the meeting. Such questions would be addressed as an archivist assumes the role. It was confirmed that individual matters, such as wills, will be maintained separately from the archives of our communal life. The matter will season.

Larry Strain (Community Sharing Fund committee) shared notes from the listening session in May, and a proposed revision to the committee's job description. The committee has decided to fund , Intertribal Friendship House in Oakland, the Tiny Home Spirit in Richmond and Oakland LGBTQ Center. Both the Tiny Home Spirit and Oakland LGBTQ center have strong Black leadership. The revision of the job description will be seasoned for a month. Checks will be sent after the Meeting authorizes the release of the funds. One friend requested information about those organizations, which the committee will circulate. Another friend questioned the role of African American leaders in the organizations we will be supporting. That information will be included in the information from the committee. The job description will season.

Reports

Pacific Yearly Meeting (Ragni Larson-Orta) has 9 copies of *Fe y Practica* to share and distribute. A formal report on Pacific Yearly Meeting will come later. Other Friends who attended are invited to share their thoughts with Ragni for inclusion in that report.

Care of the Meeting (Chris Hogness). Reviewed the Quaker events fund and decided not to change it. Chris encouraged Friends to take advantage of the Quaker Center Ben Lomond annual pass. The Clerks' retreat will be in November. The committee eagerly awaits the Revisioning Committee's report. Sally Hawthorne has had a leading to spread the word about Quakerism in the proximity of the UC Berkeley. This may involve harnessing the enthusiasm of Young Friends associated with the Berkeley Friends Meeting. One Friend mentioned that Alma Moon of Strawberry Creek is the Clerk of Pacific Yearly Meeting Young Friends. Care of the Meeting will report to the Meeting.

Worship and Ministry Committee (Larry Strain) is assessing what changes would be suitable given our smaller numbers. The clerks (Larry and Ralph) are serving as

gatekeepers on technical matters. There will be a session on Quakers Today on Sept 17th, with subsequent sessions on the first Sunday of each month. The latecomer policy will be suspended experimentally. Friends who are habitually late are asked to contemplate how to be punctual. Friends who are distracted by late arrivals are asked to consider whether they can look on each arrival as an opportunity to practice hospitality.

Treasurer (Nancy Wilkinson) shared an update on our finances, which indicate that we are in good shape. She said that next month the Finance committee will recommend a distribution of \$15,000, to the Community Sharing Fund, to be distributed at their direction.

Peace, Earthcare and Social Witness (David Rutschman) a series of films cosponsored with Power, Privilege, and Race) on the Doctrine of Discovery, Quaker Oaks Farm, and a city in Colorado that has a sister-city relationship with a Native tribe. These films are all available from YouTube, and are more fully described in Strawberry Creek Meeting's April, 2023 minutes.

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 observed that our agenda today had an abundance of items related to this query.

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 a second discussion sessions August 20 starting at 1:00 focused on the last 10 pages of the Pendle Hill pamphlet "Race, Systemic Violence, and Retrospective Justice: An African American Quaker Scholar-Activist Challenges Conventional Narratives".

The next Meeting for Business will be September 10th at 12:30 p.m. on the Meeting's Zoom site.

Meeting closed with worship at 2:00 p.m.

Ralph Murphy, Acting Clerk
Nancy Wilkinson, Acting Alternate Clerk
Paul Jolly, Recording Clerk