

**Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting**  
**Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business**  
**November 10, 2019 Minutes**

The meeting opened at noon with silent worship. Elizabeth Strain clerked the meeting. 34 Friends were present. Phyllis Malandra read the responses of Loaves and Fishes Committee to the advices and queries on Simplicity. Friends provided more responses out of the silence. The Clerk reviewed the agenda with the addition of the introduction of the 2020 budget by Treasurer Richard Leath under new business and a report on the November 2nd Clerks and Representatives Meeting by Stephen McNeil for Care of the Meeting Committee.

The Recording Clerk read the minutes for the October 13, 2019 meeting for business. The minutes were approved with two changes. The term janitor is changed to “facilities and maintenance person.” The Worship and Ministry Committee report adds a sentence, “If there are no additional chairs, Friends are welcome to use the children’s seats until the children arrive.”

**Correspondence and Clerk’s Business**

The Clerk received a thank you letter from Friends House Moscow for the meeting’s \$150 donation.

The Clerk received a thank you card from a previous attender Wilma J. Tichy. While she valued her time worshipping at Strawberry Creek, Wilma has decided to stay with her Buddhist meditation group.

**Old Business**

**Ariane Michas Membership**, Care of the Meeting (Sarah Hawthorne)

Sarah reported no concerns have been raised on Ariane Michas’ request for membership. The meeting approved the membership request. The following Friends agreed to serve on Ariane’s welcoming committee: Lydia Bryans (convener), Janet Piggins, and Nancy Wilkinson.

**Draft - Minute on Racism**, Power, Privilege, and Race Subcommittee (Susan Burr)

The Clerk of the Meeting expressed her feelings of urgency to bring this minute on racism to the business meeting, adding that if we are able to, it will take love and patience to find unity. Susan Burr reviewed the history of the minute which was co-drafted by the Quaker Action Worship Group and PPR and was introduced at the April business meeting. The Power, Privilege, and Race Subcommittee has redrafted the minute based on feedback from individual Friends and a listening session last spring.

Susan invited Friends to attend the Quaker Action Worship Group meeting on December 1 at 11:50 am. That meeting will consider queries related to the topic of the minute and be an opportunity to provide further seasoning of the minute.

Susan suggested “Unity with Humanity” as a meta title for the minute and then read the draft. The draft minute is attached to these minutes.

Friends responded to the draft, making observations and suggestions. Notes of these responses will be forwarded to Susan Burr.

The Clerk asked that Friends with further concerns and suggestions on the minute bring them to the Power, Privilege, and Race Subcommittee.

## **New Business**

### **Membership Transfer Request for Michelle Bellows, Care of the Meeting (Susan Burr)**

Susan Burr read the report on the membership request by Michelle Bellows. Michelle requests her membership be transferred from Richmond (VA) Meeting. She had been previously a member of Fort Collins (CO) Meeting and has been active in committees for Friends General Conference. The request will season for one month. Friends with concerns or questions may contact Care of the Meeting Committee.

### **Nominating Committee Slate, Naming Committee (Peter Lin)**

Peter Lin gave the report for Naming Committee, which members include Philippa Barron and Margaret Schneider. They are bringing the names of five Friends to serve on Nominating Committee and are seeking one to two more people to join the committee. Those names are Lydia Bryans, James Hosley, Ralph Murphy, and continuing from last year Tom Rothschild, and Dusty Sykes. These names will season for one month.

### **2020 Budget (Richard Leath)**

Treasurer Richard Leath distributed copies of the proposed 2020 budget, which is attached to these minutes. Changes are highlighted in yellow. Richard noted the increased interest earned on CDs that have been transferred from Mechanics Bank to Self-Help Credit Union.

Richard expects a future decrease in the Communications Committee budget. The meeting newsletter is now being printed on Peter Lin's printer at lower cost, instead of being sent out to a retail copy shop. Peter will determine the final cost of printing the newsletter.

There are reductions in the First Day Children's Program budget and increases in the budgets for Loaves and Fishes and Worship and Ministry committees. Costs of the meeting's post office box and storage unit have increased.

The meeting banner is finished, and the line item is being removed from the budget.

Richard does not know how Pacific Yearly Meeting's affiliation with Friends General Conference will change the per member meeting assessment in the coming year. He expects an increase.

In response to a question on the decision to leave Mechanics Bank, it was noted that Mechanics was bought by a larger bank in Texas and, therefore, is no longer a local bank.

## **Reports**

### **Treasurer's Report (Richard Leath)**

The meeting is running a \$20,302.10 deficit, which Richard said is similar to past years. Friends received \$29,800 in reimbursements from the Site Fund. As a result, the meeting paid a \$500 penalty for early withdrawal of funds from its CD.

### **Finance Committee** (Larry Strain)

Four Friends have asked for reimbursements from the Site Fund. The committee is waiting to hear back from more contributors to the fund, which is being laid down.

In its search for a new treasurer, the committee has decided to arrange for the current treasurer Richard Leath to meet with people who may be interested in the details of the job. Those interested in this may contact Finance Committee. Meeting with Richard does not imply any commitment by Friends on taking the treasurer's job.

### **CPQM Fall 2019 Report** (Tom Yamaguchi)

Tom reported on the fall session of College Park Quarterly Meeting that was held at Sierra Friends Center during the weekend of October 18 to 20. The theme of the session was Living Together on This Earth and included a panel discussion on how Friends have been inspired by their Quaker faith to respond to the climate crisis. The report is attached to these minutes. Tom will also post his report online.

### **Events Committee** (Francie Nurkse)

As the only member and acting clerk of the newly created Events Committee, Francie asked for volunteers for the Spring retreat that will be held at Ben Lomond Quaker Center May 1-3, 2020 and the Twelfth Month Gathering on December 14 at the Albany Community Center. The Twelfth Month Gathering will start at 4:45 pm with singing, followed by a potluck at 5:30 pm. Francie created a volunteer sign-up sheet for the Twelfth Month Gathering. Volunteers are especially needed for clean-up.

### **Quaker Center Program by Michael Birkel** (Stephen McNeil)

Stephen used the meeting's annual pass to Quaker Center to attend the workshop with Michael Birkel during the weekend of October 25-27. Readings for the workshop titled "The Pursuit of Wisdom" included a letter by James in the Bible that Stephen said he used in explaining why he was returning his draft card. The group also read John Woolman's Plea for the Poor. Stephen encouraged Strawberry Creek Friends to use the annual pass. Friends who attend workshops on the pass are asked to report on their experience to the meeting for business.

### **Care of the Meeting Committee** (Stephen McNeil)

Care of the Meeting Committee held a meeting of clerks and representatives on Saturday, November 2nd. Seventeen Friends attended, which generated some ideas on how we can do better as a meeting. Tom Yamaguchi took notes on the meeting and will post those notes online.

### **Announcements**

The next Meeting for Business will be December 8, 2019 at 11:50 a.m. at Berkeley Technology Academy.

College Park Quarterly Meeting's winter session will be held on Saturday, January 18, 2020 at Palo Alto Meeting.

A talk and craft sale benefiting Friends House Moscow will be held on Sunday, November 24, 12:15-1:45 pm, at Berkeley Friends Church.

Upcoming events at Berkeley Monthly Meeting include:

- A book talk by Brent Bill on Monday, November 18, 7:00 pm, preceded by a potluck at 5:30 pm
- The showing of a film on the DACA program entitled Waking Dream and a slide show on the issue of immigration will be held on Friday, December 6 at 7:00 pm, preceded by a potluck at 6:00 pm
- A potluck with George Lakey will be held on Monday, February 3, 2020 at 5:00 pm.

The meeting closed with silent worship at 1:43 pm.

Submitted by: Elizabeth Moses Strain, Clerk, Charlie Blanchard, Alternate Clerk, and Tom Yamaguchi, Recording Clerk