

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

The meeting opened at 11:55 am with silent worship. Ralph Murphy clerked the meeting. 33 Friends were present. Susan Black gave the response of Peace, Earthcare and Social Witness Committee to the Advices and Queries on Personal Relationships. The committee found difficulty with the wording of the advices, especially the section on human sexuality. Friends gave further responses out of worship.

The Recording Clerk read the minutes for the February 10, 2019 Meeting for Business. The minutes were approved with no changes.

Correspondence and Clerk's Business

The Clerk received a thank you letter from Friends Journal for our meeting's \$150 donation.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

State of the Meeting Report (State of the Meeting Report Writing Committee, Raven Moon)

Raven read the draft State of the Meeting report. The Clerk advised Friends to help the writing committee keep the report as concise as possible and to avoid wordsmithing during this business meeting. The Clerk asked that such corrections should be directed to the writing committee during the seasoning period.

Friends expressed approval of the general tone and quality of the report. One suggestion was to move the sentence on support for LGBTQ members and attenders to a different paragraph. Another section on discussing the meeting's size might include how racial issues come to play in addressing the needs of individuals. In the paragraph on leadings, it could be noted that, in addition to a lack of sufficient resources, there is a lack of sufficient training. Two Friends spoke of how small spiritual sharing groups have helped them connect more closely with the larger meeting community.

The report will season for one month. Friends with suggestions for the Report are urged to contact the Writing Committee: Rachel Findley, Beth Rodman, and Raven Moon.

Julie Russell Transfer of Membership (Care of the Meeting Committee, Shelley Tanenbaum)

Shelley gave the report from Care of the Meeting Committee on Julie's request to transfer her membership to Hartford Meeting. The committee is in unity to accept Julie's request, happy to know she has found a new spirit home, but sad to see her leave our community.

Julie's transfer request was approved.

Several Friends spoke of Julie's contributions to the meeting over the years.

Request to authorize a \$600 budget line for a banner (Finance Committee, Larry Strain)

Larry reported that the Finance Committee is requesting \$600 for the purchase of a new meeting banner. The committee is requesting a separate line item in the budget for the purchase so that the Care of the Meeting Committee, which oversees the Welcome and Inclusion Working Group, won't deplete its annual budget.

Barbara Birch did the research on the estimated cost of the banner. However, she would like someone else to take on further work on the banner. Interested Friends may contact Barbara Birch.

The budget request will season for one month.

Reports

Finance Committee (Larry Strain)

Larry reported that Finance Committee has begun the discernment process for selecting organizations to receive our meeting's annual donations. The committee, concerned about the lack of local organizations on the donation list, has decided to add two new organizations, Dorothy Day House and Youth Spirit Artworks.

Larry gave a brief overview on YSA, including its Tiny House Project. Susan Black described the work of Dorothy Day House that includes emergency shelters and breakfast programs. These additions to the donation list will season for one month.

Larry reported that early this summer Finance Committee will be conducting a Friendly Financial Review (FFR) review so that the new treasurer and incoming Finance Committee members can be trained in the process.

Nominating Committee (Charlie Blanchard)

Charlie reported that Nominating Committee will be bringing its slate of new nominations to next month's business meeting. The committee is still in the process of contacting Friends regarding committee service.

The committee is looking for a Friend to serve as Pacific Yearly Meeting Observer. The committee is looking for members for the new events committee that would be starting in June. Interested Friends may contact Charlie Blanchard.

PYM Representative (Nancy Wilkinson)

Nancy reported on the Representative Committee meeting that was held during the first weekend of March at La Jolla Meeting.

The Youth Programs Coordinator position is still open. Information is available on the PYM website.

The yearly meeting's finances have improved, with last year's annual session bringing in more income than expected. As a result, there will be an 8% reduction in registration fees for this year's session, which will be held July 12 to July 17 at Walker Creek Ranch. David Johnson from Australia is the keynote speaker at this summer's annual session.

Nancy reported that discernment continues around the Unity with Nature Committee. There is no plan to lay down the committee; however, it is currently not functioning well. Several recommendations were suggested.

Discussions continue regarding affiliation with Friends General Conference. It was announced that fees are being waived for young people who wish to attend this year's FGC gathering, June 30 to July 6, at Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa.

Monthly meetings are being reminded of the continuing Student Conscience Fund, which provides scholarship funding for youth who refuse to register for the draft. Young men who do not register with Selective Service are ineligible for Pell grants.

Power, Privilege and Race Subcommittee (Susan Burr)

Susan reported for the subcommittee, originally under the care of the Care of the Meeting Committee and now a subcommittee of Worship and Ministry. The group has developed its own job description. New members are named thorough Worship and Ministry.

Ragni Larsen-Orta is joining the subcommittee.

The subcommittee is developing a minute to bring to the April business meeting.

Power, Privilege and Race will be presenting a program on Building White Racial Stamina on March 31 at 11:50 am. The program will be using articles printed in the January 2019 Friends Journal. Links to two of those articles will be posted to the meeting's Yahoo Group.

Worship and Ministry Committee (Elizabeth Strain)

Elizabeth reported on the experiment of closing the door at 10:45 a.m. during February. The committee did not reach unity to continue the experiment. Friends with questions may contact Elizabeth Strain.

Announcements

The next Meeting for Business will be held April 14, 2019 at 11:50 a.m. at Berkeley Technology Academy.

A listening session on the Dime-A-Gallon fund will be held by Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness Committee on March 17 at 11:50 a.m. at Berkeley Technology Academy.

College Park Quarterly Meeting's spring session will be held during the weekend of May 17 to May 19 at Ben Lomond Quaker Center.

Tom Yamaguchi announced the next CROP Hunger Walk will be held during the afternoon of Sunday, May 19. Friends interested in participating in the Walk may contact Tom Yamaguchi. Shelley Tanenbaum invited Friends to register for the meeting's spring retreat, May 3 to May 5, at Ben Lomond Quaker Center. Friends may pay as led. Lack of funds should not be a barrier to attending the retreat.

Shelley Tanenbaum and Sara Wolcott will be leading a workshop during the last weekend of May at Ben Lomond Quaker Center called Abundance and Justice in our Common Home.

The meeting closed with silent worship at 1:25 pm.

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