

Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business
Sept 10, 2023, minutes
Approved at the October 2023, Meeting for Business

Meeting for Business opened at 12:30 p.m. by settling into worship on Zoom. Beth Wrightson clerked the meeting. 23 Friends were present.

James Hosley of Communications Committee shared the Advices and Queries on Meeting for Worship for Business. We returned to worship to consider the responses further.

The Clerk reviewed the agenda, which was first posted by the Recording Clerk to groups.io on September 9, 2023.

The Recording Clerk then read the August 2023 minutes. These were approved with the following corrections:

- a Friend suggested a change emphasizing that the Tiny House Village in Richmond and the LGBTQ Alliance in Oakland have strong Black leadership.
- under the Peace, Earthcare and Social Witness report, a friend asked for more detail on the work underlying the series on the Doctrine of Discovery. After discussion, Friends were content with adding a sentence to the August minutes referencing the more thorough report cited in the minutes from the April Meeting for Business.
- at the end of old business, we need to correct the order of Worship and Ministry committee.
- under the Care of Meeting report, include last names for Friends mentioned; and note that Alma Moon is clerk of PacYM Young Adult Friends.

Prompt

The Clerk read the minute on Engagement to Uproot and Dismantle Racism.

Correspondence and Clerk's Business

- We have received the 2022 impact report from Friends General Conference. FGC has a variety of initiatives around anti-racism, and spiritual deepening. The whole report is available at FGCquaker.org
- We received a letter from Friends Committee on National Legislation, thanking us for our donation.
- Beth has recommended for the committee to name the nominating committee: Elizabeth Moses Strain (convenor), Kat Stenstedt and Laura Boles. The Naming Committee was approved.

Old Business

- a. Care of Meeting (Kathy Barnhart)

- Kathy offered further information on her discussion with Dan Naseemullah regarding his request for transfer of membership. Dann attended SCMM from 2004-2010. He remembers SCMM fondly and feels this is where he learned about Quakers. He currently is co-clerk of the Hampstead Eldership committee (equivalent to Worship and Ministry). The transfer was approved. We held him in the Light with fondness and good wishes.

- The recommendation to lay down the membership of Lee Andresen has been seasoning. We acknowledge the awkwardness of the situation, but still feel it is in good order. We approved laying down her membership with sorrow, and gratitude for her work in the world.

- b. Care of Meeting (Kathy Barnhart) The archivist position was presented at last month's meeting for business. No concerns have been expressed during the month of seasoning. The job description was approved.
- c. Community Sharing Fund (Larry Strain) . This job description was presented last month. No concerns were expressed during the month of seasoning. The revised job description was approved.

The current committee members, Larry Strain, Beth Wrightson, and Susan Black, will be stepping down. If you would like to help distribute CSF funds in the future, please contact Peace, Earthcare and Social Witness committee.

New Business

- a. Finance Committee (Lee Douglas). In 2020, SCMM had a significant covid-related surplus. In 2021, we established the Community Sharing Fund, which distributed \$12,500 of that surplus (including earmarked donations). We have not allocated or distributed funds since.

In 2021 and 2022, SCMM had a combined surplus of \$23,740. Finance Committee is in unity in recommending that we allocate \$13,742 currently in the General Fund (line #3010) to the Community Sharing Fund (line #3307). Combined with earmarked donations of \$1258 already allocated to the CSF, this will make \$15,000 available in 2023 for distribution by the Community Sharing Fund committee. This recommendation will be seasoned for a month.

Reports

- a. Pacific Yearly Meeting (Ragni Larsen-Orta): As SCMM representative to PacYM, Ragni provided a report. She described the gathering, and directed Friends to check the Epistle on the PacYM website for a flavor of the spirit of gathering. In particular, we were reminded that change is inevitable; we need to embrace the change we want. Practical details of note include: the development of a PacYM membership database is still in process. Site

continues to be a challenge. An ad hoc committee has been set up to consider options. The approved budget included a suggested assessment of \$120 per member, returning to pre-Covid levels. A recommendation for membership status to be available through Yearly Meeting as an alternative to in a monthly meeting was discussed. This issue is under care of Ministry Committee.

- b. Care of Meeting (Kathy Barnhart): the Clerks' meeting will be Nov. 4, 10:00-12:00, on Zoom. If you have topics for the meeting, please let COM know. COM anticipates having a report from the Revisioning Committee by the end of October. SCMM will have a potluck after meeting on October 15.

Sally Hindman presented about her calling to facilitate outreach at colleges in the area. She had an initial meeting with young Friends to explore the possibility. This generated a vibrant list of materials and ideas that would be available, with the young Friends manning the tables. One suggestion to be considered would be to pay those volunteering at the table. COM has been considering outreach for 2-3 years - this may now be possible.

Query

The Clerk shared the query "How did our work and our decisions today support us in becoming an actively anti-racist faith community?"

Announcements

- a. The next Meeting for Business will be October 8th at 12:30 p.m. on the Meeting's Zoom site.
- b. Sarah Hawthorne announced a series of 4 sessions sponsored by Worship and Ministry on "Quakers today: what do we have in common?". Sept 17, with Andrea English and Paul Jolly will consider "the heart of Quakerism"; October 1 with Barbara Birch Experiments in Light, Nov 5 "answering that of God in everyone" with Rachel Findley and Shelley Tannenbaum; and December 3.
- c. Elizabeth Moses Strain announced there will be potlucks on October 15, Nov 19, and Dec. 17. Third Sundays will still be available for Adult Spiritual Education, with a suggestion to coordinate start time with the Events Committee.

Meeting closed with worship at 2:30 p.m.

Beth Wrightson, Clerk

Elaine Emily, Alternate Clerk

Nancy Wilkinson, Acting Recording Clerk