

**Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting
for Worship on the Occasion of Business
March 10, 2024
Draft minutes**

The meeting opened at 12:30 p.m. online. Beth Wrightson clerked. Thirty-three Friends were present via Zoom.

Lee Douglas read the Advices and Queries on Spiritual Life on behalf of the Finance Committee. Several Friends spoke during the silent worship that followed.

The Clerk reviewed the agenda, which had been posted on groups.io on March 8, 2024.

The minutes of the February Meeting for Business were approved with the following corrections:

1. Spelling of the names of two Friends
2. Correcting the date from 2023 to 2024

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:

The clerk read a letter from the Oakland LGBTQ Community Center thanking Meeting for a \$5000 donation from the Community Sharing Fund.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Kat Stenstedt read the first draft of the State of the Meeting Report. The draft will be posted on groups.io (posted March 10). The report will be seasoned for a month. One Friend expressed appreciation for the report. Another asked that the report include reference to difficulties finding volunteers for Zoom hosting and facilities setup.

Susan Burr read a report from the Power, Privilege, and Race Subcommittee with recommendations on the anti-racism prompt and query (posted on groups.io March 11). One Friend expressed appreciation for the report. Another Friend noted that the anti-racism prompt and query hadn't been described in the State of Meeting report. They were therefore pondering questions about how Meeting views the prompt and query. Another Friend resonated with the report's phrase "be authentic with each other without fear" because they had previously avoided expressing discomfort with the secular rather than religious language of the prompt and query. The recommendations in the report will be seasoned until next month.

Reports

Lari Keeler shared a report on their chaplaincy work over the past year and answered several questions from Friends. Lari noted that gardening is a good metaphor for their chaplaincy and thanked Meeting for supporting their studies and work.

Nancy Wilkinson presented the Treasurer's report on 2023 finances (posted on groups.io March 9). Nancy noted that the actual income was very close to expected. Surpluses from 2021 and 2022 were used to support a \$15,000 transfer to the Community Sharing Fund as recommended by the Finance Committee. Finance Committee is also in unity to allocate an additional \$15,000 transfer to the Community Sharing Fund this year (see next paragraph).

David Rutschman presented a report from Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness (PESW) Committee on the Community Sharing Fund (posted on groups.io March 8). PESW has named the following Friends to the sub-committee for administering the fund: Ragni Larsen-Orta, Yonny Levy, Tom Rothschild, and Shelley Tanenbaum. PESW recommends donating to CHIRP (California Heritage: Indigenous Research Project) and donating \$1000 to a local organization, Healthy Black Families, to support their capital campaign. The subcommittee will consider these and other recommendations. Friends noted that the 2024 budget is not expected to have a \$15,000 surplus of income over expenditures (as in recent prior years), so the new proposed transfer draws on reserves. Donations directed to the Community Sharing Fund are encouraged.

Kathy Barnhart presented a report from Care of the Meeting Committee. Meeting used to have a Welcoming Committee; now it is up to everyone to welcome newcomers. Care of Meeting reminds people to apply for scholarships to attend Pacific Yearly Meeting Annual Session and other events by the end of April. Sally Hindman has been working with young Friends to expand their numbers; a representative from Strawberry Creek is needed to serve on a multi-Meeting committee that will support this effort.

Julia Bazar presented a report about the Pacific Yearly Meeting Representative Committee meeting February 24 and March 2 (posted on groups.io March 10). Yearly Meeting Annual Session will be July 19 – 24 at Whittier College. The past pay-as-led policy was not sustainable and will be discontinued for this year. Other options, including reduced rates and financial assistance, will be made available to make attendance affordable. There will be future discussion of making pay-as-led workable.

Query: *"How did our work and our decisions today support us in becoming an actively anti-racist faith community?"* Several Friends replied.

Announcements

1. Next Meeting for Business: April 14, 2024, at 12:30 p.m.
2. Events Committee (Laura Miller): Spring retreat will be in person at Ben Lomond Quaker Center May 3 – 5.

3. Sarah Hawthorne announced that Worship and Ministry Committee is sponsoring an education session with Elaine Emily on March 31 at 12:30 p.m. on the Meeting Zoom link.
4. James Hosley announced that a new Meeting photo will be taken at rise of Meeting on March 24 displaying people who attend that day in person or on Zoom.

Meeting closed with worship at 2:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Wrightson, Clerk
Elaine Emily, Alternate Clerk
Charlie Blanchard, Acting Recording Clerk.