

**Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting  
for Worship on the Occasion of Business  
November 12, 2023  
Approved December 10, 2023**

The meeting opened with worship at 12:58 pm. Beth Wrightson clerked. 24 Friends were present via Zoom.

The reflections on the Advices and Queries on Social and Civic Responsibility were offered from the Children's First Day School Committee. Friends returned to worship to consider these further.

The Clerk reviewed the agenda which had been posted on GroupsIO on November 11, 2023.

The minutes of the October Meeting for Business were approved with the addition that Clifford Hamm is requesting his membership be transferred to *New Bedford Meeting in Massachusetts*.

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.*"

1. Correspondence and Clerk's Business: For those not present at the Board meeting earlier today, the Clerk summarized the decision to move the Annual Meeting of the Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting Corporation to the second Sunday in June, from the second Sunday in May (Mother's Day). The corporation bylaws will be amended to reflect same.

The Clerk read a letter from Friends World Committee on Consultation, thanking Strawberry Creek for our annual donation. There was also an invitation to join the on-line meeting of the Section of the Americas on March 16, 2024. When details are available, they will be posted at <https://fwccamericas.org/events/>.

2. Old Business: There is no old business
3. New Business
  - a. Communications Committee (James Hosley) : The committee is proposing laying down librarian and newsletter editor positions. No one is currently willing to fill either role. The Librarian position has been un-filled for three years. Books are being managed on the honor system; the group subscription to Western Friend, paid for by Meeting, is temporarily being managed by others on the committee. The Newsletter Editor position has been unfilled since June 2023. Neither the former newsletter editor nor the nominating committee have been able to find a replacement. Newsletter content is currently being handled as follows:

the Recording Clerk has continued posting draft MFB minutes on the listserve; final minutes are posted on the website. The calendar is posted on the website. Friends discussed laying the positions down or holding them open and unfilled. Laying them down may most accurately reflect the current level of energy and availability in the meeting. Holding the positions open and visible on the slate without placing active expectation on Nominating to fill them may allow individuals to see where Spirit may move them.

After discussion, we came to unity on leaving these positions open for now as a passive invitation rather than an expectation that Nominating Committee actively recruit for the positions.

Concern was raised about the function of Communications Committee when two thirds of its current areas of responsibility remain unfilled. Communications Committee will consider this further.

- b. Due to time constraints, Laura Miller presented a short report from Events Committee. She reviewed the activities of the committee over the past year. The recent monthly potlucks have been a success. The next event will be a 12th month potluck and gift exchange on December 17. Potlucks will return to first First Days in January. The committee will be putting on a spring retreat at Ben Lomond, May 3-5, 2024, with the theme of Renewal and Regrowth. There will be a hybrid component Saturday morning.
  - c. Naming Committee (Elizabeth Strain, Kat Stenstedt, Laura Boles) proposed a Nominating Committee slate of Charlie Blanchard (clerk), Rhea Farley, Lee Douglas, Jeanne Diller, Paul Jolly, Elizabeth Strain. All have served before. This slate will season for a month.
  - d. Finance Committee (Lee Douglas) presented the proposed 2024 budget. The proposed budget reflects income and expenses of \$56,905, similar to our last pre-covid budget in 2019. This breaks to an approximate average of \$550 per member. This will season for a month. The proposed budget was posted to GroupsIO on 11/16/23.
4. Reports
- A. Mutual Care (Margaret Schneider and Deborah Marks). Margaret reviewed the job description of the committee. Among its many charges, Mutual Care creates and facilitates support in incidents of illness, and other needs. While age is increasing for us, our love for each other continues. Being asked to offer help allows us to get to know ourselves better, and we appreciate the gift. Margaret quoted Rufus Jones: *I pin my hopes to quiet processes and small circles, in which vital and transforming events take place.*

- B. Care of the Meeting (Kathy Barnhart): the largest item currently on the agenda for Care of Meeting is the issue of our current site and the possibility of exploring new sites. The Revisioning Committee has brought the possibility of a new site based on concerns including limitations on kitchen use, fan noise, tech set-up for hybrid meetings, problems with lights, problems with bells, and the major issue of appropriate space for First Day School. Care of Meeting notes that Strawberries' awareness of these issues ranges from deeply engaged on an ongoing basis and more than ready for a change, to completely unaware of any issues or dissatisfaction.

Due to the range of perspectives on the issue, Care of Meeting Committee was not in unity to bring an item for decision-making to the November or December Meeting for Business. They would like everyone to begin the discernment process that will culminate (hopefully) in unity to either move ahead with finding a new site, or not. The final decision to set up a site committee or not will be made at a Meeting for Business. Meanwhile, if anyone has questions Care of Meeting can answer about the site issue, please contact a member of the committee. The full report was posted to GroupsIO on 11/13/23.

- C. Treasurer (Nancy Wilkinson) reviewed the Treasurer's Report through September 30. We are currently -\$11,072 expenses over income. This negative balance is common for this point in the year and is a reminder for those who make financial donations at the end of the year to do so. The Treasurer's Report for Q3, 2023 was posted to GroupsOI on 11/11/23.

5. The Clerk read the query *"How did our work and our decisions today support us in becoming an actively anti-racist faith community?"* Several friends responded.

6. Announcements

- a. Next Meeting for Business will be December 10, 2023, at 12:30 p.m. on Zoom.
- b. 12<sup>th</sup> month potluck and gift exchange will be December 17, after rise of meeting.
- c. There will be the final presentation on Quakerism Today, sponsored by Worship and Ministry Committee, on December 3. The topic will be "where the words come from".
- d. Leonard Joy would welcome visitors, if you are moved to go see him at his new residence in Walnut Creek. Check with Charlie Blanchard to coordinate, or with Lee Douglas to carpool. Leonard is at: Abraham Rest Home, 116 Via Monte, Walnut Creek 94598-3528, (925) 944-5218. Cards are also welcome.
- e. We were referred to a video clip by Ta-hanisi Coates on the situation in Isreal and Palestine, posted to the list serve on November 11.

7. Meeting closed with worship at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Beth Wrightson, Clerk  
Elaine Emily, Alternate Clerk  
Nancy Wilkinson, acting Recording Clerk.