

**Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting
for Worship on the Occasion of Business
Jan 14, 2024 Minutes
Approved Feb 11, 2024**

The Meeting opened with worship at 12:30 pm. Elizabeth Moses Strain and Nancy Wilkinson served as acting clerk and alternate clerk. Twenty-two Friends were present via Zoom.

Kathy Barnhart shared the Care of the Meeting Committee's reflections on the Advices and Queries on Personal Integrity. Friends returned to worship and offered additional reflections in the gathered silence.

The Clerk reviewed the agenda which had been posted on groups.io on January 11, 2024.

The minutes of the December Meeting for Business were approved with no corrections. The minutes for the January 7th called business meeting were approved with the addition of "The question was raised whether B-Tech could resolve some of our recent issues."

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:

Elizabeth shared a save the date flier for a workshop sponsored by Friends General Conference on Quakerism in changing times. She sent details and a link to FGC's website via groups.io on January 14th.

Quaker Earthcare Witness sent a thank you letter for our donation, which the clerk read portions of, promising to share the whole via groups.io.

The clerk read a letter from Emily Thurston requesting membership, mentioning the appreciation for community provided for her and her son Tommy. Elizabeth will forward the letter to the Care of the Meeting Committee. We shared a moment of celebratory worship, and Emily shared that, after surgery last month, she is free of cancer.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

Reports

Treasurer (Nancy Wilkinson) shared a preliminary synopsis of the Meeting's financial picture for 2023, and will bring a complete report later. In 2023, our income is expected to exceed both budgeted income and actual expenses. A question was raised about restricted contributions for the community sharing fund: \$700 was the total of all restricted contributions. A question was raised about the Contingency Fund (originally the Site Contingency Fund). The meeting has about 50K in that fund which can be used for a future site, if needed.

Care of the Meeting (Kathy Barnhart) mentioned that one person has responded to the request to serve on the ad hoc committee to find a new site, and she invited others to contact the clerk if they would like to join. The Care of the Meeting Committee has also undertaken to populate an ad hoc committee to support the First Day Children's Program Committee. Given the difficulties that the current site presents for childcare, Care of the Meeting has decided to put that request on hold until the Meeting has found a better site.

A Friend who serves on the First Day Children's Program Committee mentioned that the committee has designated one Sunday a month to provide a children's program. Starting in February, that will be the fourth Sunday. However, only one teacher will be available. It was proposed that, if a child shows up, a second adult be solicited from the Meeting for Worship.

Laura Magnani mentioned that there are several Friends with young children currently not attending Meeting (Darcy Stanley, Faith Eastwood, and, soon, Nora Cook). If we provide a program once a month, we might be able to generate a critical mass of youthful joy. A friend encouraged us to read the draft epistle from NYYM on fostering an inter-generational Meeting, posted on groups.io on January 13 by Chris Hogness.

Emily Thurston said that she is interested in arranging playdates with other Quaker families.

The Clerk read the query *"How did our work and our decisions today support us in becoming an actively anti-racist faith community?"* Friends spoke of the importance of finding a hospitable site and creating a childcare program, both of which are important steps in becoming more welcoming. Another said the queries on integrity and accountability help us in becoming an actively anti-racist community.

Announcements

- February 11, 12:30 p.m., next Meeting for Business on the Meeting's Zoom account.
- January 20, College Park Quarterly Meeting will take place online. Details and registration are at [this link](#).
- January 21, 1:00 p.m. Power Privilege and Race is facilitating a discussion of the use or modification of our anti-racism prompt and query, and next steps we might want to take in our journey towards joyful inclusiveness.

Meeting closed with worship at 2:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elizabeth Moses Strain, Acting Clerk
Nancy Wilkinson, acting Alternate Clerk
Paul Jolly, Recording Clerk.