

Minutes

Plenary 1, 7th day, November 7, 9:30 am

Meeting began with worship.

Presiding Clerk Jane Bount (La Jolla) welcomed Friends and reminded us of our theme: Hearts Open Wide, Breathing into the Gap Between Reality and Possibility. Jane introduced members of the Ministry and Council Committee and noted that many hands have gone into the planning of this Fall Fellowship. She went over some Zoom logistics, including noting that use of the Chat can be disruptive and so “Chat to Everyone” will be disabled during our Plenary sessions. Chat to the Co-Hosts will be available. She also reminded Friends of the Raise Hand Zoom feature and asked Friends to wait to be recognized before speaking. The Zoom room will be available during meals for fellowship.

Roll Call

Friends from the following SCQM Meetings and Worship Groups were present: Claremont Meeting, Inland Valley Meeting, La Jolla Meeting, Las Vegas Worship Group, Ojai Worship Group, Orange County Meeting, Orange Grove Meeting, San Diego Meeting, Santa Barbara Meeting, and Santa Monica Meeting. In addition, Friends from Mexico City Meeting were present. There were no Friends from Conejo Valley Worship Group, Marloma Long Beach Meeting, or Whitleaf Worship Group.

Welcoming Visitors

Jane invited visitors to introduce themselves. The following Friends are visiting from outside of SCQM: Mary Ann Percy (Bellingham, WA), Susan Wilson (Ben Lomond Quaker Center), Andrea Harmon (Palo Alto), Jennifer & Bitsy Carr (Sacramento), and Sandy Kewman (Sacramento)

Jane highlighted some aspects of the schedule. Sunday morning at 7:30 is the Meeting for Healing, which will be co-facilitated by Lawrence Alderson and Angelina Carpenter. Tonight’s Community Night will begin with sharing of Friends’ “Praying in Color.” If you want to share, take a photo of your drawing and email it to Allison Kirkegaard, who will put together a slideshow of these images. We will also have Annie Patterson and Peter Blood leading a sing-along.

Call to Interest Groups

We have four interest groups this afternoon and presenters may choose to record their sessions.

Peace & Social Order Committee

Arthur Kegerreis (Orange Grove), Clerk of Peace & Social Concerns Committee, noted that Joe Biden appears to have won the Presidential election, which seems to be contributing to a feeling of relief amongst us. Arthur then presented the Committee report (Attachment 1). Kate Connell (Santa Barbara) gave a brief description of the Truth in Recruitment project. Betty Guthrie (Orange County) described the Orange County Monthly Meeting's racial justice study group that meets bi-weekly. Holly Anderson (Ojai) referred Friends to the Racial Justice discussion board on the Western Friend website, where many activities happening in Monthly Meetings are posted.

Naming Committee

Clerks' Committee forgot that Naming Committee was laid down at Spring Gathering 2020 and that Clerks' Committee is taking over the work of Naming Committee. So there is no report from Naming Committee at this meeting.

Nominating Slate - first reading

Katrina Mason (Claremont), Clerk of Nominating Committee, reported that Georgia Daniels (Orange Grove) has resigned from Ministry & Council. New nominations are as follows:

Ministry & Council

Henry Yang (Santa Monica) 11/20 to 5/23

Robin Durant (Orange Grove), co-clerk, 5/20 to 5/23

Children's Education

Louise Sherikar (Orange County) 11/2020 to 5/24

Peace & Social Order

William Dolfen (Claremont) 11/20 to 5/23

Peggy Craik (Conejo Valley) 11/20 to 5/23

Meeting Contacts to P&SO

Inland Valley: Linda and Michael Dunn

Claremont: Alicia Sheridan

La Jolla: Dede Donovan

Katrina reminded Friends that you can participate in P&SO even if you are not a member of the Committee.

The full report is Attachment 2.

Welcoming of Wess Daniels and Deborah Shaw

Jane briefly introduced our keynote speaker, Wess Daniels, and referred Friends to the more extensive introduction included with the materials sent out prior to Fall Fellowship.

Wess thanked SCQM for inviting him to speak to Fall Fellowship and thanked Deborah Shaw for serving as his elder. Deborah reminded us that she was with us for a previous Fall Fellowship in 2017, when she traveled as elder to our plenary speaker, Ben Pink Dandelion. She said it was good to see SCQM Friends again.

Wess acknowledged that we are all sad not to be meeting in person. He had been looking forward to visiting Southern California, where he and his wife lived for 6 years while he was in graduate school. Wess noted that we come bearing lots of weight, lots of things on our hearts and minds. As he was preparing for this gathering, he was trying to imagine what it would be like to address us a few days after the election. He shared that Guilford College is undergoing dramatic changes with numerous faculty and staff being laid off, others being furloughed, and the termination of some study programs. This turmoil is painful for Wess and he sees this period of adjustment continuing for some time. He asked for our grace and prayers.

Wess pastored a Quaker Meeting in Washington State before he moved to Greensboro NC. He got involved in the Poor Peoples' Campaign in Washington and began to see his Meeting as an advocate for the poor in his community. He began to look at what it means to resist empire and began to look at Scripture through that lens. He wrote a book on Revelation as part of this exploration. Is there a different way of reading these stories? It is easier to make Revelation into a joke, because then we don't have to take its message seriously. The story is actually about how a small group of people resisted the Roman Empire and provides a model for the Lambs' War. What did Jesus have to say about resisting empire? Is there wisdom there that we as people of faith in the Quaker tradition can benefit from? Wess's talk tomorrow will be on "Jesus Against Empire."

Wess acknowledged that a focus on Jesus may be challenging for some Friends. However, we are in a period of struggle against empire, an ancient struggle in which Jesus played a part. Having Biden and Harris in the White House may feel like a win, but empire is still there, still oppressing the poor and the dispossessed, still targeting

Black and brown people. What does our theme of hearts wide open and standing in the gap between reality and possibility mean? Jesus was a brown-skinned, Jewish Palestinian person who was oppressed and executed by State violence. He taught us that our hearts should be open to the “insignificant ones,” those who are victims of empire. When we do that, we will find new ways of living and being together.

The forward to Howard Thurman’s *Jesus and the Disinherited* explores what it means for us to practice liberating spirituality. Wess invited those of us who are not poor and do not feel ourselves pressed against the wall of oppression to feel ourselves joined in the struggle with those who are.

Keynote Address, 1st day, November 8, 9:30 - 11:30 am

Presiding Clerk Jane Blount (La Jolla) welcomed Wess Daniels (First Friends Greensboro), William R. Rogers Director of Friends Center & Quaker Studies at Guilford College. Wess is interested in strategizing better ways, better human interactions to support spiritual development and the revitalization of liberatory faith traditions and community.

Wess began by saying that it has been a joy to be with SCQM and invited Friends to join him in taking a few deep breaths. Wess thanked Deborah Shaw, his travelling elder, and acknowledged that he lives on land that was a meeting place for the Cheraw People to the west and the Occaneechi and Sappony People (and later Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation) to the east. He offered this prayer: May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable and pleasing to you, our Rock and our Redeemer.

Wess spoke on “Jesus Against Empire,” beginning by playing Melvina Reynolds’ rendition of *God Bless the Grass*. Jesus understood the grass and stood with its resistance to the concrete. Ancient wisdom may help us in reframing our current troubles. Wess has been doing a lot of work on resisting empire. What does Jesus have to say to us about resisting empire? We in the modern Quaker movement have largely ignored that Jesus was a poor brown-skinned Palestinian Jew who organized the poor and stood against the Roman Empire. What does it mean to align ourselves with the victims of empire, against the Christian Nationalism and White supremacy today? Wess recalled growing up poor & working class, with his church providing needed financial support to his family and many others in the community. He grew up with a basic understanding of a Jesus who was white and not radical, but came to feel there was more to him. His understanding expanded when he attended Malone College, particularly about Jesus as a practitioner of non-violence and his concerns for the poor and oppressed. This Jesus was very different from our white American Jesus. In order for us to understand the subversive life of Jesus, we need to understand the backdrop of Jesus’s life. Wess shared a quote from Drew Hart, an African American Mennonite theologian which read, in part, “few have considered the subversive life of Jesus as the way out of our racialized and hierarchical society.”

The religion of empire claims to be grounded in God to justify blessing and abundance for some at the expense of others. This contrasts with the religion of creation that is grounded in the experience of God that leads to the blessing and abundance of all people and for all of creation. Wess provided a number of contrasts between these two religions:

Feature	Religion of Creation	Religion of Empire
God's Home	Beyond and within creation and among people	In a temple near the palace in the royal city
Places of sacred encounter	All of the Earth	Urban temple, mediated by priestly elite
Basic social structure	Egalitarian kinship	Hierarchical patronage
Basic economics	Gift, barter, collaboration amid abundance	Money, debt, competition amid scarcity, capital
Political ideology	God alone reigns	Human king reigns as presence of supreme god
Relationship with "strangers"	Hospitality, love	Suspicion, scapegoat, violence
Relationship with Land	Belongs to God, people are tenant	Belongs to king and those who can afford to buy it
Relationship with "enemies"	Love them	Destroy them

Today we are faced with something very similar, with systemic racism, poverty & inequality, war economy & militarism, ecological devastation, and the distorted moral narrative of Christian nationalism.

Four ways Jesus resisted empire:

1. Born with his back against the wall, he lived & worked from the perspective of the disinherited & oppressed. His birth may have been a miracle, but to remain alive was an act of resistance.
2. Jesus organized the poor, announcing that God was with those who found their backs against the wall and proclaiming a liberating spirituality. He worked from the bottom up and from the outside in.
3. Jesus used subversive tactics like storytelling and counter-teachings to challenge the distorted moral narrative of empire and help the poor to understand that God was with them. The stories (parables) were little shock waves that opened up our moral imagination to new possibilities. We can read the parables in ways that prop up the status quo or in ways that challenge it. Why do we assume that the person casting people out or punishing them is God? Jesus never says it is God doing

these things. “The poor will always be with you” has been used to mean that there is nothing that can be done about the poor. But Jesus actually was warning that poverty would continue as long as the people refuse to follow God’s will.

4. Jesus taught an alternative ethic that created a socially alternative community and stood as a witness to a world that was possible. Jesus taught active nonviolent resistance, not pacifism. He allied himself with the victims of empire and taught prayer as a tool for resistance. He remixed Jewish theology to better deal with the cultural and political issues of his time. He paid homage to the past while allowing the tradition to grow and evolve. He taught non-reaction as resistance. We are to become unhooked from reaction to empire, to stop playing their game.

Wess digressed briefly to note that many early Friends also had their backs against the wall, and so were better able to imagine an alternative future. Because of the great persecution of early Friends, their position was much closer to Jesus’s original position than our own. This is why they understood Jesus’s liberatory teachings in a way that we have lost today. What happens when we get comfortable and no longer orient ourselves and our theology to overcoming empire?

What does it mean for us to stand in this tradition of resistance with Jesus, to align ourselves with those whose backs are against the wall, to allow the subversive parts of our tradition to shape us, to embody alternative morals that empire and late-stage capitalism provide? Will you join with this age-old work, to unlearn domination and relearn current and ancient wisdom that can guide us? Never settling for compromise with the religion of empire is the path of new possibilities, new coalitions and new connections that can bring us together. Maybe Jesus will once again lead us into the resistance.

Wess then invited us to settle into worship for a while, after which he took questions.

- A Friend expressed appreciation for Wess’s presentation and told a story of his own personal resistance to empire.
- Another Friend expressed gratitude for our theme of “opening our hearts wide.” Maintaining an open heart has allowed her to realize that she is not angry with Jesus, but with the way Jesus has been distorted. Wess said that one of the things that makes him angry is the way Jesus’s subversive message has been co-opted to perpetuate oppression.
- Another Friend asked what is the incentive to try taking care of the poor if God says they’ll always be with us? Wess responded that the statement that the poor would always be with us was more of an indictment of our proclivities, rather than a prediction. It’s not a foregone conclusion. Jesus said that you can’t serve both God and Mammon and he actually meant it. This Friend also asked if there are other examples among Friends, other than John Woolman, who voluntarily gave up their own comfort? Are there Friends whom we can look to for courage? Wess gave some examples such as Elizabeth Gurney, Lucretia Mott, Ely Coffin & other early Quaker abolitionists who worked to create the Underground Railroad. Wess suggested that learning about such Friends would be good work for SCQM to pursue.

- Another person related her own experience working with the dispossessed around the issue of housing justice. She suggested that “poor will always be with you” should be seen as a directive to include the poor in our Meeting communities. Wess responded that we have essentially abdicated the Christian narrative to the dominant narrative of Christian Nationalism. If we don’t understand the Christian Nationalist argument, then we will have a very difficult time resisting and challenging it, and providing an alternative.
- Another Friend brought up the description of Jesus as the Prince of Peace and his teachings of resistance to militarism. Wess responded that we need to remember that Jesus’s death was the result of State-sanctioned violence. Christianity approved of lynching, but Christ was lynched. How could Christians condone and celebrate this? Very few Christians have been able to identify Jesus in the body of those who have been lynched.
- Another Friend asked how individuals and communities that Wess has spoken with have responded to his work? They also asked if Christianity is redeemable, given the degree to which it has been distorted? Wess noted that he has addressed mostly Quakers, but also others within the wider Christian communities and the response has been quite positive. One group he addressed set up follow-up meetings to discuss how they would embody the lessons Wess brought. He also noted that Christianity is not inherently imperial and we can recast our own Christianity. He also noted that there are many other streams other than Christianity and we should link arms with them to move forward with the work.
- Another Friend asked if we need something new, such as a new education in discipline, ethics, morality, justice, non-violence, etc. Wess agreed that we need a bottom-up education, but we need to address the other interlocking evils that he addressed during his talk. Education in and of itself is not enough.
- Another Friend noted that we will always have the poor amongst us, but they will not always be the same poor people. She decried those who take this a justification to sit back and do nothing. She wonders what our work is on this earth? Is it just to have “the good life”? Jesus noted that the earth is Satan’s dominion. We are not ever going to settle everything. Our work is to shift things towards the Kingdom of God on earth and there will always be work to do. Wess said he was not ready to give up on the idea that we can eradicate poverty. We tend to think of poverty as an accident, in which case, we just need a good social safety net. We also think of poverty as pathological (it’s because of bad decisions, etc.). But the reality is that poverty is systemic. We have an economic system set up in the “image of the Beast.” We have poor because the system (as it is currently structured) is working. We can change the system.
- Another Friend said that many of us are working to improve systems. Wess noted that we need to continue to work to extract ourselves from the machinery of empire. How do we become less like empire? We need to have those conversations in our Meetings, in our places of work, etc. If nothing else, we will have changed lives and let people know that they are loved.
- Another Friend remarked that she sees Jesus as a Universalist. She expressed appreciation for looking at the Bible; that many Quakers have become alienated from Scripture and have just “dumped it.” Can we survive as a spiritual community

without a common source of inspiration? Wess advised linking arms with the Black churches. Part of the reason we miss the radical Jesus is we don't acknowledge that Jesus was lynched. Also don't know our Quaker heritage. Early Quakers were from a poor area of England and were mainly poor with some richer allies, which informed their social position against Empire. "Christ has come to teach the people himself," is a hugely anti-imperialist statement. We over spiritualize. More of us need to be more upfront about our spiritual heart and testify to our roots in Jesus. Also we tend to believe newcomers learn to be Quaker through osmosis. We have to apprentice folks. Otherwise they keep setting a foot wrong, getting eldred, creating a second class of members who don't get "the rules." They often move on, never feeling a part of the community. We have a tradition and we can teach it.

- Another Friend remarked that it is deeply rooted that we do not confront our finances- personally or as a meeting. We hoard our wealth. Wess remarked we need a better practice for admitting our shortcomings, not living up to what we want to do, forgive one another then move on. We need to normalize naming and forgiving so we can be authentic when discussing challenges. It's a lifetime of work. Wess invited us to reach out to folks in our community and work together. What would it mean to center victims of empire in our meetings and theology? He suggested reaching out to our local Poor people's Campaign.

More information and additional resources about the things Wess spoke about can be found at <https://roamresearch.com/#/app/NurseLogNotes/page/WXPIHKydf>.

Plenary 2, 1st day, November 8, 12:30 - 2:00 pm

Meeting began with Worship.

Presiding Clerk Jane Blount (La Jolla) welcomed us to Plenary II. She asked Friends to hold her in the Light as she seeks to listen deeply to clerk this Plenary session. Jane acknowledged that she is on the unceded land of the Kumeyaay and she invited Friends to acknowledge on whose land we each are.

Jane invited visitors to introduce themselves. Richard Chamberlain (London), formerly of Santa Monica Meeting introduced himself.

Jane reviewed the agenda and reminded Friends to use the Zoom Raise Hand feature to be recognized.

Nominating Committee

Katrina Mason (Claremont), Clerk of Nominating Committee, presented their report and slate. She read the ad hoc website committee for the first time. She read the names for Ministry & Council, Religious Education, and Peace & Social Concerns for the second time. Sharon Gates (Orange Grove) noted that the Website Committee does not need a

2nd reading as it is an ad hoc committee. Jane said the 2nd reading would be removed from the agenda.

Minute 11-20-01: SCQM approves the Nominating Committee slate as presented.

Children's Program Committee

Kate Connell (Santa Barbara), Clerk of Children's Program presented their report (Attachment 3).

A Friend said she wished she were 6 years old as the Children's Program sounds fabulous and she would have loved to participate.

Silent Retreat

Judy Leshefka (La Jolla) reminded Friends that the Silent Retreat has been happening every year for many years but recently was taken under the care of SCQM. This year was the 23rd annual retreat. They had 33 participants, including 7 Friends younger than 39 years old. Because the retreat was on Zoom, they sent out recommendations for participants to prepare themselves and their spaces, along with activities participants could do on their own during the retreat. The concluding sharing was very deep. Judy noted that we can have deep experiences even in this era of Zoom.

The full report is Attachment 4.

Finance Committee

Sharon Gates (Orange Grove), Clerk of Finance Committee, presented their report (Attachment 5).

The finance committee has been reconstituted with five members. Jonathan Anderson (Inland Valley), Rebecca Searl (Santa Monica), Rob Hanna (Orange Grove), Gary Wolff (Orange Grove, Treasurer), and Sharon Gates (Orange Grove, Clerk).

It has taken up some work not completed previously, and is meeting monthly. The committee acknowledges the Spiritual center of this work.

- Wells Fargo—responding to concerns about Wells Fargo investment practices, The committee has changed banking services and is now with Interfaith Federal Credit Union, which has policies consistent with Friends testimonies. They plan to close the Wells Fargo accounts as the last transactions are completed.

- Donations—Previously SCQM could only accept donations of cash or checks. PayPal seems to meet most of our needs. Donations may be sent to **paypal.me/scqmtreasurer**.
- The quarter received a bequest from Ruanne Peters in (2014/15). It was put into a memorial fund with the purpose of supporting the spiritual vitality and building community in the Quarter. To that end, It funds keynote speakers, and community night at SCQM. It has also funded some special projects. The accounting was somewhat inconsistent over the years. The current balance of the fund is \$72,078.85. A request form is available on the SCQM website.
- Reimbursement—The treasurer can only reimburse expenses authorized in the budget. The budget can be augmented when appropriate, with approval. The form is available on the SCQM website. Receipts and documentation are required.
- Financial Review—There is a formal process to review transactions at monthly committee meetings. The committee will verify the Treasurer's activities, and the documentation behind them.
- Employment status for assistant to the Clerk--The quarter contracts for an admin assistant for the clerk. The quarter must decide, based on new laws governing contract workers, whether the assistant is a contract worker or an employee. Once the statutes are more fully understood, the committee will continue to explore and make the appropriate choice.
- Friends Fiduciary Fund—Since we have a significant amount of money on hand, the finance committee is forming an investment plan so that large amounts of cash are invested appropriately—available as necessary, but not sitting as cash in a bank account.
- Tax exemption—A few years ago our non-profit tax exempt status was revoked due to missed filings. The committee has requested reinstatement of our tax-exempt status, and is awaiting a decision.

There was no discussion of this report.

Clerk expressed thanks to Sharon and the Finance Committee.

Treasurer's Report

Gary Wolff (Orange Grove), Treasurer, reported. Gary went over the Income & Expense report (Attachment 6), which includes 2 full years of data plus the partial year up to 10/31/2020. Gary noted that he is still configuring our QuickBooks data to accurately reflect our budget and activities. He mentioned that our conferences have had very low expenses and our other expenses have been low, but donations have continued. Gary

noted that the substantial filing fees we had to pay this year were for reinstatement of our tax-exempt status, this expense is not expected to be repeated.

One Friend asked if there would be technical support expenses for Fall Fellowship. Gary said that there would, but he does not have the details at present. Another Friend noted that payment for the keynote speaker and the concert should be coming out of the Peters Fund. Gary said he had not yet received approved requests for those expenses, so he has not attributed them to the Peters Fund at this point.

A Friend asked about the donations for the Lucy Duncan workshop. Gary said that he was still working on accounting for the direct donations made by workshop participants so he can ensure that SCQM contributes the agreed-upon amounts to the designated organizations.

Gary then went over the Balance Sheet (Attachment 7) , which provides a snapshot of our assets and liabilities. The net of assets less liabilities is our equity. Gary has not yet closed the Wells Fargo account, as he is waiting until all transactions have been accounted for and documented. He also noted the importance of having an approved investment policy before we move cash into Friends Fiduciary. Gary said that we used to use the term “assessments” to refer to the amount we ask Meetings to contribute based on their membership. We are now calling this a “requested donation.” Gary then went through our liabilities. He explained that the Peters Fund was not restricted by the donor, but that SCQM has restricted use of the Fund.

A Friend asked if speaker’s fees and entertainment are “automatically” paid out of the Peters Fund or if they are paid from registration fees first. Sharon Gates responded that nothing is “automatically” paid out of the Peters Fund and it has not been an issue previously because we have not had a surplus of registration fees over Fall Fellowship expenses. Finance Committee will be considering if we should pay some of those expenses out of registration fees this year.

A Friend asked if the bulk of our bank account is the Peters Fund. Gary responded that it currently is, and Finance Committee is considering whether to separate the Peters Fund from our other cash assets.

A Friend asked if the amount to be moved to Friends Fiduciary could be moved into a non-stock account on an interim basis until the investment policy is approved. Gary said that Finance Committee will look into that.

Retreats Committee

Jane Blount (La Jolla) presented the report from Pat Wolff (Orange Grove), Clerk of Retreats Committee. There will be no more retreats until there is a vaccine for the Coronavirus.

A Friend asked if Fall Fellowship is considered a “retreat.” Jane said that the committee focuses on the Joshua Tree campout and clarified that there will be no more in person retreats until a vaccine is available.

Registrar’s report

Lawrence Alderson (Orange County), Registrar, reported the following registration data:

- 134 valid registrations were received, excluding 14 duplicate and cancelled registrations.
- 104 friends selected Worship Sharing; 73 for both Saturday and Sunday.
- 69.5 is the average age of our registered attendees.
- 8 minors registered, 6 after the initial deadline, thanks to efforts to encourage more parents to register their children.
- 5 Young Adult Friends registered to attend.
- The registration process seemed to work well this year, much aided by the simplification of not needing to manage accommodations.

Presiding Clerks’ report

Jane Blount (La Jolla) described the discernment process she had gone through when she was asked to take on the job of Presiding Clerk. Her visualization of stepping into this role was energizing. She is finding the role energizing, though she is quite tired as we approach the end of this gathering. Jane recalled the Memorial Day worship-sharing around the suffering experienced as a result of the Coronavirus. We have tried to share information about what Monthly Meetings are doing around racial justice. In the process, we realized that we need to do some work around our website, and an ad hoc committee has been constituted for that purpose. Jane expressed her gratitude for the work of Allison Kirkegaard (Santa Monica), the Administrative Assistant. Jane appreciates the accompaniment of this Young Friend. Jane and Allison are working on making the records of the Quarter more accessible. They hope to have more to report on that in the Spring. Jane noted that questions have come up about an SCQM directory. She said that Pacific Yearly Meeting is creating an online directory, which will make creation of an SCQM directory much easier. Many of the members of the PacYM Communications Committee also serve on the SCQM Clerks’ Committee. Jane sees her role as SCQM clerk is to listen deeply with openness and compassion. A lot of information and resources have been shared this Fall Fellowship. Jane and Allison will be working on ways to make this information available to Friends.

A Friend asked if there were ways in which the Presiding Clerk could have used more support from the Quarter. Jane responded that Judy Leshefska (La Jolla) has provided important support and that she will discuss this further at the Clerk's Committee.

Another Friend said that she has felt energized by Jane's presence in the role of Presiding Clerk.

New Concerns

Thanks were expressed for the work of Andrea Harmon. Another Friend expressed gratitude for being able to participate via Zoom.

Minutes of this meeting were read and approved.

The meeting closed with Worship.

Jane Blount, Presiding Clerk
Sharon Gates, Recording Clerk

Attachment 1. Peace & Social Order Committee Report

Our P&SC Committee has continued to support interested members throughout the quarter, which has led to a number of workshops, both online and, prior to the pandemic, in person.

We've had trouble finding people willing to commit to the committee in the past, but with Katrina's commendable help, we now have a handful of members who seem interested in joining the committee. I hope to set up a "Meet and Greet / Q&A" soon where we can see what interests these people have, and hope we can return to truly functioning as "a committee." I encourage anyone interested to contact me and join in. My contact info is at the end of this report.

Allison has been a great help trying to establish communication channels for us to reach out to all the monthly meetings and worship groups. Astonishingly, amidst the national turmoil we've all been facing over the last several years and this election, we only know of 4 Monthly Meetings with P&SC committees and clerks. As a consequence, I often have to reach out through meeting clerks to their members, or attempt to include people whom I know might be interested in some of our projects. This can make simple notifications and registrations into a big job, but we're trying to streamline that process, and hope that some of our members can help in these administrative efforts.

Please let me or Allison know if there's someone at your meeting that isn't a clerk who would be the best person to contact. We know some Monthly Meetings are sensitive about getting "spammed," so we'd like to avoid that situation.

Also, for anyone using G-mail, we've discovered that some people miss our mailings because they end up in the "promotions" column of their inbox. If you're interested in the Quarter's activities, please check if that's the case. It's easy to redirect them to the "primary" column.

History:

These are some of the projects we've initiated in the last couple of years. We're always hoping to help support leadings among the Quarter, so if you have a concern that you think we could help you with, don't hesitate to contact us.

Restorative Justice

We offered our first Zoom workshop 1-1/2 years ago on 2/26/19; Peggy Craik offered a restorative justice presentation, and we hope to get the recording of that online soon, perhaps on a SCQM YouTube channel. Notes from the workshop are available here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1w3WTAvKbUPMe6efuEtDpnvdO_8OkBZynxqRydAJkCoU/edit?usp=sharing

Border Tour

The following Spring, in tandem with our Spring Gathering, we held a border tour with Pedro Rios and Shan Cretin.

Flyer:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PAVfrQLxs_r_GUNgH3rWVburs0A3b5cN/view?usp=sharing

Article about the trip with photos and related videos:

<https://quaker.destinymanifestation.com/2019/05/09/up-against-the-wall/>

Lucy Duncan and Mary Watkins

Last year, AFSC's Lucy Duncan delivered our 2019 FF keynote; we now have the audio recording available on our website <https://scqm.org>. It is also available here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UbM9A0NXoQA8X8C0bSAjIM82YCRFjCYY/view?usp=sharing>

Conversations with Lucy led to us offering a workshop with Santa Barbara Meeting's Mary Watkins on June 6, 2020. Lucy and Mary's work is integrally related in their accompaniment-based approach, and Mary discussed "Weaving the Fabric of Our Lives Through Mutual Accompaniment" with workshop participants. We made and edited a Zoom recording that will be shared publicly online soon. Until then, you can view the recording here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZZZ-5hvM85THHo86hb-r6uNG2wFV7vtJNmFvCZ4NIE/edit?usp=sharing>

Truth in Recruitment

Last fall, the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service held sessions asking for community input regarding changes to the selective service system. Kate Connell, also from Santa Barbara Meeting, and director of www.truthinrecruitment.org, gave some presentations encouraging meetings to respond by calling for the abolition of the Selective Service System. She continues to be a valuable resource for those who'd like more updates and involvement with this concern. You can contact her through the TIR website.

George Lakey

Recently there was interest among members to share George Lakey's work preparing for the event of a coup following this election, so we sent out information about his online sessions.

Info here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nxeV2EWMOLxLRfRmPpUqWz3r-9b_4ijHWgDktOd_Szg/edit?usp=sharing

Attachment 1. Peace & Social Order Committee Report

There was a request to have the quarter undertake some Democratic voting support activity, but we can't really do that since we're technically a non-partisan organization, as much as many of us might like to.

Racial Justice and Healing Group

We just started what we hope will be monthly Racial Justice Zoom Calls with Holly, on 3rd Sundays from 4-5:30. Our next session after Fall Fellowship will be November 15th, next week. A number of people joined us from neighboring College Park Quarterly Meeting, thanks to the help of PacYM's Racial Justice Subcommittee. Notes from our first call and zoom links for future ones can be found here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NCPFKBlhEEyO13FfmZ_JcTZQ4GUcKu8Sw9eDGmp5WHM/edit?usp=sharing

Orange County is having a Racial Justice reading group which others are invited to participate in; please contact Betty Guthrie if you're interested. Our monthly calls will be a good place to learn and get involved with activities that other neighboring meetings are doing too.

Holly and Betty will be leading Interest groups at Fall Fellowship today, if you'd like to learn more from them.

Minutes of Concern

Many of our Monthly Meetings have created minutes of concern. In the past few months these mostly addressed racial justice and healing. We've begun coordinating with Pacific Yearly Meeting's Peace and Social Order Committee to share these minutes with each other. *I'd like to point out that these need to state the meeting's name on them!* Several we received didn't! Ideally, if your meeting has stationary with a letterhead, that would be ideal, but they need to include the meeting name and date of approval; the meeting address wouldn't hurt either. These minutes are often used during lobby visits with elected officials, so they need to know this information. When we're wrapped up in editing them and getting a meeting's approval, it's easy to overlook this step. PacYM is posting them on their website, so it can be helpful if people use the formatting guidelines used for Annual Session Meeting reports. That way when they're posted, people can clearly understand where each minute came from. Feel free to contact me for more information.

This link details suggested formatting information:

<https://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/2018/documents/pym-committee-reports/guidelines-for-reports-to-annual-session/>

Attachment 1. Peace & Social Order Committee Report

Finally, I asked all our Monthly Meetings for short updates on their activity and received the following three reports:

Orange Grove Monthly Meeting:

The members of our committee are involved in a variety of activities. We have members who are working on getting affordable housing in our area. We have members who are involved with immigration issues. We have members who are involved with the FCNL advocacy teams. One of our members is very involved with FCLCA. We are lucky to have a Meeting that is supportive of our many efforts.

Respectfully, Nina Rivinus, Clerk

Santa Monica Friends Meeting:

PS&A has most recently held a program on ballot propositions and judicial candidates for the upcoming election. We used FCL-CA recommendations as our guideline. We have ongoing programs on racial justice and held a program on Voting Rights issues. We urged participants to contact Vote Forward and write letters getting out the vote. We are working in conjunction with Adult Education, each providing programs on racial justice. P&SA is currently working on drafting a Minute statement for Santa Monica. We recently had two guest speakers. One discussed asylum seeking children taken from their parents and held by the government. The other reviewed LGBT+ issues for us.

Eleanor Edie Barrett

Clerk, Peace and Social Action Committee

Santa Monica Monthly Meeting

Santa Barbara PESC

In the last year, we've been focusing a lot of time on Racial Healing work, which resulted in a new Minute, among other fruits of labor. Truth in Recruitment sent representatives to a Selective Service Committee Meeting in Washington to testify before Congress with our recommendations and organized a Zoom Town Hall Meeting with Representative Carbajal. Meeting members continue to devote a great deal of time and effort on AVP, Vandenberg vigils for disarmament, prison visits to inmates in Lompoc Prison, and working with CLUE on various topics.

- Holly Anderson

For more info on our committee, please contact:

Arthur Kegerreis, SCQM P&SC Committee Clerk

librlart@gmail.com

(323) 573-4758

<https://quaker.destinymanifestation.com/>

OFFICERS

Clerk: Jane Blount, La Jolla, 5/20 to 5/23

Recording clerk: Sharon Gates, Orange Grove, 5/20 to 5/23

Treasurer: Gary Wolff, Orange Grove, 11/19 to 5/23

COMMITTEES

Arrangements

Kate Watkins, (clerk), Santa Monica, 5/18 to 5/21

Jan Bartholomew, Santa Monica, 5/18 to 5/21

Holly Anderson, Ojai, 5/18 to 5/21

Peggy Craik, Orange Grove, 5/18 to 5/21

Finance Committee

Sharon Gates, (clerk) Orange Grove 5/15 to 5/21

Jonathan Anderson, Inland Valley, 5/18 to 5/21

Rob Hanna, Orange Grove, 5/20 to 5/23

Rebecca Searl, Santa Monica, 5/20 to 5/23

Gary Wolff (ex officio)

Ministry and Counsel committee

Gail Thomas, Santa Monica, co-clerk, 8/16 to 5/22

Holly Anderson, Ojai, 4/15 to 5/21

Connie McPeak Green, Claremont, 5/17 to 5/20

Stan Searl, Santa Monica, 5/17 to 5/23

Elva Carter, Inland Valley, 5/18 to 5/21

Judith Favor, Claremont, 5/18 to 5/21

Robin Durant, co-clerk, Orange Grove, 5/20 to 5/23

Jack Leshefka, La Jolla, 5/20 to 5/23

Henry Yang, Santa Monica, 11/20 to 5/23

Peace & Social Order committee

Arthur Kegerreis (clerk), Orange Grove, 6/15 to 5/21

William Dolphin, Claremont, 11/20 to 5/23

Peggy Craik, Conejo Valley Worship Group, 11/20 to 5/23

Meeting Contacts to P&SO

Inland Valley: Linda and Mike Dunn,

Claremont: Alicia Sheridan

La Jolla: Dede Donovan

Newsletter/Quarterly Report Editor:

Attachment 2. Nominating Committee Slate

Southern California Youth Planning committee (teens)

Suzanne Doss, Orange Grove, 5/18 to 5/21
Jane O'Shields, Claremont, 5/19 to 5/22
Cassidy George, La Jolla, 5/20 to 5/21 (teen representative)

Religious Education Committee (children)

Kate Connell (convenor), Santa Barbara, 5/19 to 5/22
Mayli Castanedo, La Jolla, 5/19 to 5/22
Saima Farrukh, La Jolla, 5/19 to 5/22
Robin Durant, Orange Grove, 2020 to 2023
Louise Sherikar, Orange County, 11/2020 to 5/24
Volunteer teacher: Rob Cimorelli, Orange Grove

Registrar: Lawrence Alderson, Orange County, 5/19 to 5/22

Retreats Committee

Pat Wolff (clerk), Orange Grove, 5/14 to 5/21

Nominating Committee

Katrina Mason (clerk), Claremont, 5/15 to 5/21
George Gastil, San Diego, 5/18 to 5/21
Betty Guthrie, Orange County, 5/17 to 5/23
Trudy Freidel, 5/19 to 5/22
Sayuri Hanna, 5/19 to 5/22
Lonnye Pickels, San Diego, 5/20 to 5/23

Ad Hoc Website Committee

Allison Kirkegaard, Claremont
Megan Rogers, La Jolla
Kerwin Flowers, La Jolla
Mitchel Cox, Orange Grove
Sharon Gates, Orange Grove

For information only:

Administrative Assistant to the Clerk: Allison Kirkegaard, Santa Monica

Note: This is not a position filled by the nominating committee but one appointed by the clerk

Attachment 3. Children's Program Committee

Thank you to the children's program committee Saima Farrukh (La Jolla), Robin Durant (Orange Grove), and Mayli Levin (La Jolla) as well as the PYM youth programs coordinator Rebekah Percy (Orange Grove) and the SCQM clerk Jane Blount (La Jolla).

There were six children overall participating in Fall Fellowship this year. Four children attended our afternoon program Saturday afternoon. Robin facilitated and provided a gathering question (and this is a paraphrase) "what is unique to you that you think is only true about you within this group." This was followed by a story about favorite things, for example, one of the characters favorite dreams that they had ever had. Then Saima hosted an afternoon tea with a discussion about the experience of mindful eating and sharing tea with others. She talked about her life in Pakistan and her grandmother and her grandmother's ideas that she taught Saima around healthy and mindful eating. Some of these ideas related to the Aryurvedic diet and its approach to health. She talked about sweet and sour, as well as heavy food, as well as the idea of the 'bitter meal.' In our planning for the children's program we had spoken of grief and this brought up the idea of the tradition in Pakistan of a bitter meal when someone passes away. The children enthusiastically participated in the discussions and the teatime. After this activity we sang a song together with Robin and her husband accompanying us on guitar.

The Children's Program Committee will be debriefing about our last two virtual gatherings, both in June and at Fall Fellowship. We will be looking at the participation of children and how best to convene the next program. It is likely that Aoom fatigue contributed to the low participation of children in this year's Fall Fellowship. But attendance and engagement of families has been an issue for the Southern California Quarterly Meeting and a challenge even before the cessation of in-person gatherings. It is hoped that we can learn from these last two gatherings, and through creative outreach, encourage more families to attend and engage with friends.

The Twenty-Third Annual Friends Silent Retreat was held via the Zoom platform on Friday, September 4th through Saturday September 5th, 2020. The Committee chose to shorten the weekend this year because of the limitations of being virtual. The theme was: "HUSH: Grounding and Comfort in Turbulent Times."

Participants included twenty-nine Friends from SCQM meetings, three from Mexico and one from Idaho. There were 28 women and 5 men. Seven were between the ages of 20 and 39, five between 40-59, and twenty-one over 60. This was the first Silent Retreat for thirteen Friends.

To help participants prepare for a silent retreat at home, we provided several handouts which included suggestions on how to create a sacred space, queries to help Friends make a firm intention to avoid distractions, and several supplemental readings to enrich the retreat experience.

We offered opening and closing worship sharing sessions, two Meetings for Worship, and two workshops: Morning Pages and Nature Journaling. In addition, we sent out handouts on meditation practices that one could do alone and a link to a Tai-Chi Chakra video.

Evaluations were universally positive. The workshops were very well received although a couple of people were disappointed that they missed the workshops because they were confused about the schedule. The final worship sharing was very deep and gave evidence that a silent retreat at home can be very fruitful.

We had employed one of our regular participants to act as Zoom host and were gratified that it went well and that there were no major technical glitches.

We did not charge for the retreat. Our current balance is \$3,525.73

After many years of limited activity, the Finance Committee has roared back into action this year. Our complement of five members: Jonathan Anderson (Inland Valley), Rebecca Searl (Santa Monica), Rob Hanna (Orange Grove), Gary Wolff (Orange Grove, Treasurer), and Sharon Gates (Orange Grove, Clerk), including a Treasurer who is motivated to put our accounts in good order, has enabled us to move forward with work that has long needed to be done and has energized us to keep going. We are now meeting monthly via Zoom and our discussions are wide-ranging and Spirit-led. What follows is a summary of our work.

Transition from Wells Fargo

Many in SCQM have expressed concern that we have been banking with Wells Fargo due to its corporate governance failures. The Finance Committee looked at alternatives and came upon Interfaith Federal Credit Union (recently renamed from United Methodist Federal Credit Union) that Claremont Monthly Meeting has been using for many years. Interfaith FCU provides all the banking services we need including internet and mobile banking. More importantly, its governance is more compatible with the Quarter's social action concerns. For example, Interfaith FCU has a Corporate Resolution on Systemic Racism.

Our Treasurer set up Checking and Savings accounts with Interfaith FCU and has moved money previously deposited in Wells Fargo to the credit union with the goal of completely closing all Wells Fargo accounts.

Online Donations

Friends have expressed concerns that SCQM could only accept donations in the form of cash or check. This made financial contributions difficult for some Friends who do not have checking accounts. We looked at alternative ways and experimented with PayPal. Although it is not a perfect fit for the Quarter, PayPal seems to meet our needs at present. For example, for this Fall Gathering, 70% of the registrants used PayPal to make their donations.

Money can be sent to the SCQM PayPal account at paypal.me/scqmtreasurer.

Peters Memorial Fund

In 2014 and early 2015, the Quarter received an unrestricted bequest from the estate of Ruanne Peters, a deceased member of Orange Grove Monthly Meeting. With the assistance of the Finance Committee, the Quarter established the Ruth Klepfer Peters Memorial Fund with guidelines and procedures for how this fund could be spent. The

guiding principle for the use of the fund is to support the spiritual life and to build community in SCQM. This includes supporting children and youth activities and programs, providing resources to enrich the Quarter's adult programs and activities, and promoting attendance at Quarterly events.

Over the past several years, the Peters Memorial Fund has funded a number of major activities including keynote speakers and community night entertainment at Fall Fellowship. There was also a project of intervisitation with Casa de los Amigos in Mexico City.

Since the documentation for use of the Peters Memorial Fund was scattered and incomplete, the Finance Committee took on the task of researching what has been spent. We think we have a good understanding of which activities were supported with the Fund. That information has been compiled into our accounting and filing systems.

The bequest totalled \$84,392. As of this writing, the Fund has supported 10 projects with a total expenditure of \$12,313. The remaining balance of the Fund is \$72,079. The Fund has not been kept in a separate bank account. The Finance Committee is exploring the appropriate ways to invest and account for the Fund.

A form to request use of the Peters Memorial Fund is posted on the website. Friends will have to download the form, fill it out and save it on their own computer, and email it to the Finance Committee.

Reimbursements & Budget Augmentations

The Treasurer can only reimburse expenditures that are authorized in the budget. Expenditure of budgeted funds must be approved by the appropriate SCQM committee. The budget can be augmented to allow previously unbudgeted expenses upon review by the Finance Committee and approval by the Quarter (or the Clerks Committee when the Quarter is not in session). Starting that process after expenses have been incurred will delay reimbursement and you could be stuck with the expense if the augmentation is not approved.

The form to request reimbursement of expenses is posted on the SCQM website. All reimbursement requests must be accompanied by receipts and documentation of approval by the appropriate committee. As with the Peters Memorial Fund request form, the reimbursement form must be downloaded, filled out and saved on your computer, then emailed back with appropriate documentation.

Financial Review

The Finance Committee has instituted an informal process for on-going review of the Quarter's accounts and the Treasurer's activities. Since we have so few transactions, the Treasurer is providing both summary and detailed reports of all transactions at monthly Finance Committee meetings. The Committee will be verifying that the Treasurer has proper documentation for all disbursements.

Works in Progress

The following are issues that the Finance Committee continues to work on. We hope to be able to report back on these issues to Spring Gathering.

Employment Status for Administrative Assistant

The Quarter contracts for administrative assistance for the Presiding Clerk. In light of recent changes to California employment law, questions were raised as to whether the Administrative Assistant should be classified as a contractor or as an employee. We have gotten some guidance on the question, but not enough to feel that we can bring a recommendation yet.

Investment Policy

The Quarter has previously minuted (Minutes 04-20-01 and 04-20-03) that our investments should be with Friends Fiduciary Corporation. Friends Fiduciary was founded by Quakers to serve Quaker organizations and Friends meetings and churches. It seeks to embody Quaker values in its investments and operations. Since we have a significant amount of money on hand (primarily due to the Peters Memorial Fund), the Finance Committee is developing an Investment Policy to guide the financial investments we plan to make with Friends Fiduciary.

Reinstating SCQM's Tax Exempt Status

Soon after incorporation in 1994, SCQM received tax exempt status from the IRS as a 501(c)(3) organization and exemption from franchise or income tax from the State of California Franchise Tax Board (FTB). A few years ago our tax exempt status was revoked due to missed annual filings with the IRS and the FTB. The Treasurer recently filed the appropriate forms with the IRS and FTB to request reinstatement of our tax exempt status. Responses are pending.

Submitted by Sharon Gates, Clerk of Finance Committee

Southern California Quarterly Meeting
Fall Fellowship 2020
Attachment 6. Income & Expense Report

Southern California Quarterly Meeting (SCQM)

November 8, 2020
Accrual Basis

Income and Expense
June 2018 through October 2020

	June 2018 - May 2019 Jun '18 - May 19	June 2019 - May 2020 Jun '19 - May 20	June 2020 - October 2020 Jun - Oct 20	TOTAL
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Meeting Donations	3,218	3,471	0	6,689
Donations (Individuals)	80	40	0	120
Conference Attendance Fees	9,697	7,708	1,806	19,211
Interest Earned	1,039	947	8	1,994
Total Income	<u>14,035</u>	<u>12,165</u>	<u>1,814</u>	<u>28,013</u>
Gross Profit	14,035	12,165	1,814	28,013
Expense				
Committee and Officer Expenses				
Presiding Clerk				
Assistant to the Clerk	0	570	900	1,470
Total Presiding Clerk	0	570	900	1,470
Ministry and Counsel	35	0	0	35
Treasurer	0	60	61	121
Total Committee and Officer Expe...	35	630	961	1,626
Conferences and Meetings	12,812	14,044	0	26,856
Peters Memorial Fund projects	1,000	1,493	0	2,493
Filing Fees	25	5	325	355
Insurance Expense	248	221	0	469
Technology Services	16	251	18	285
Financial Service Charges	30	35	41	106
Total Expense	<u>14,166</u>	<u>16,679</u>	<u>1,345</u>	<u>32,190</u>
Net Ordinary Income	(132)	(4,514)	469	(4,177)
Other Income/Expense				
Other Income	0	0	170	170
Net Other Income	0	0	170	170
Net Income	<u>(132)</u>	<u>(4,514)</u>	<u>639</u>	<u>(4,007)</u>

**Southern California Quarterly Meeting (SCQM)
 Balance Sheet
 As of October 31, 2020**

11-08-20
 Accrual Basis

	Oct 31, 20
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Cash	
Interfaith Fed CU - Checking	10,569.31
Interfaith Fed CU - Savings	80,030.00
Wells Fargo-9931 Checking	1,138.92
Wells Fargo-0147 Savings	0.03
PayPal	0.10
Petty Cash and Postage Stam...	22.00
Total Cash	91,760.36
Total Checking/Savings	91,760.36
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable	390.00
Total Accounts Receivable	390.00
Other Current Assets	
Deposit, Conference Facility	1,000.00
Total Other Current Assets	1,000.00
Total Current Assets	93,150.36
TOTAL ASSETS	93,150.36
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Temporarily Restricted	
Board Imposed	
Peters Memorial Fund	72,078.85
Total Board Imposed	72,078.85
Total Temporarily Restricted	72,078.85
Total Other Current Liabilities	72,078.85
Total Current Liabilities	72,078.85
Total Liabilities	72,078.85
Equity	21,071.51
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	93,150.36