

Southern California Quarterly Meeting
Spring Gathering Minutes
April 25, 2020
Held online via Zoom

Plenary 1

The Clerk introduced herself and noted the presence of Allison Kirkegaard, assistant to the Clerk, who is hosting the online meeting, as well as Ann Fuller who agreed to be our recording clerk for today.

Roll call: All Meetings and Worship Groups were present, with the exception of Marloma/Long Beach MM & Whitleaf WG.

The Clerk called for centering worship, being mindful of the indigenous people on whose land we meet for worship and our right relationship with them and the earth.

The Clerk asked that Friends hold her in the Light today as we discern together how we are called to care for ourselves and each other. We will discern how we are called to gather again in the future; are there new openings now with new possibilities? Friends are asked to have compassion for ourselves and each other as we explore this new way of communicating online. The Clerk read offerings from Thomas Kelly and Isaac Pennington.

Treasurer's Report – Gary Wolff, Treasurer, presented an Income and Expense Report comparing the past two years, ending May 31, 2020. SCQM's expenses outweighed our income in the last year, amounting to a \$4500 net loss due to Fall Gathering expenses, which exceeded attendance fees. Many Friends did not attend because of the proximity of fires near Temescal Canyon. [attachment 1]

Gary also presented a financial report [attachment 2]. SCQM's cash on hand is \$88,000, and the limited use Peters Bequest is at \$64,800. Some of the bequest has been spent and the Treasurer is still looking into those details. Our reserves are \$26,600. Friends had concerns about banking with Wells Fargo. It was noted that this will be covered in the Finance Committee Report. A Friend asked about how expenses will be affected by meeting online; Gary noted that Spring Gathering is not usually included in the budget since it is hosted by a monthly meeting. (The food costs are usually covered by attendee donations). The situation for this year's Fall Fellowship is still unknown. A Friend appreciated the presentation of the report which was easy to follow.

Finance Committee – Sharon Gates, Clerk, reported that the committee met a couple of weeks ago and came to unity on authorizing the Treasurer to move our savings accounts to Friends Fiduciary.

Minute 04-20-01: Meeting approves transferring savings account to Friends Fiduciary.

Sharon reported that the committee will explore other options than Wells Fargo for Quarterly's checking account.

In response to concerns arising at Fall Fellowship, Finance Committee will continue to perform financial oversight with an ongoing financial review, working with the Treasurer.

Sharon presented the proposed budget for 2020, to be held over for approval at Plenary 2. The \$10/member stays the same, \$4000 is budgeted to be earned and spent from the Peters Fund. The Committee notes that interest income was up in 2019, but is expected to be lower in 2020. No transfer from reserves is anticipated for this year.

Sharon presented a report on Fall Fellowship's actual vs. proposed expenses [attachment 3]. A Friend asked meetings to check whether they had been billed, or paid, for 2019 Fall Fellowship.

Nominating Committee – Katrina Mason, Clerk, noted that “We are in good shape.” The only needs that remain unfilled are for an experienced, strong Friend to serve as Teen Committee clerk, additional Friends to serve on Peace and Social Action, Religious Education and to produce the newsletter. Katrina noted that one-time commitments are possible, rather than a full committee commitment. Katrina presented the 2020 slate, to be held over for approval to Plenary 2; concerns to be made by phone to Katrina. She asked Friends to call her if they were not contacted and have a leading to serve.

Friends expressed enthusiastic appreciation for Sarah Rose House-Lightner's service as Quarterly Meeting Clerk.

Naming Committee – Judy Leshefka presented the names of George Gastil and Lonnye Pickels for two-year terms on the Nominating Committee, which was held over for Plenary 2. In the interest of time, Clerks' Committee will endeavor to name more Friends to the Naming Committee as it has done in the past when needed, rather than trying to name more individuals here today. The Clerk called for closing worship before a half hour break for lunch, during which time the Zoom room will remain open. Friends met in breakout rooms for worship sharing after lunch, guided by queries which were posted on SCQM's Facebook page. [attachment 4]

Ministry and Counsel Committee - Sarah Rose House-Lightner, Presiding Clerk, thanked all the monthly meetings who submitted State of the Meeting Reports. The reports will be reviewed by M&C, forwarded to Pacific Yearly Meeting and distributed by email to all monthly meetings. We are setting aside our custom of reviewing them together as a gathering today to allow for more time for worship sharing on how we can care for ourselves and each other in the midst of Covid-19.

Plenary 2

Meeting began in worship.

Second readings were presented from Finance Committee and Nominating Committee.

Minute 04-20-02: Meeting approves the 2020 budget, noting that expenses and income from Fall Fellowship 2020 remain uncertain.

Minute 04-20-03: Meetings approves transferring savings accounts to Friends Fiduciary.

Minute 04-20-04: Meeting approves the 2020 nominating slate, with changes [attachment 5]

The incoming Presiding Clerk, Jane Blount, from La Jolla Monthly Meeting, and her assistant, Allison Kirkegaard, member of Claremont MM attending Santa Monica MM, were introduced.

Nominating Committee – Katrina Mason, Clerk, noted that Connie Green's term runs from May 2017 to May 2023 on Ministry and Counsel. Wording was discerned on Allison Kirkegaard's position; noting that this is not a position filled by the Nominating Committee. Interim appointments are reviewed by Clerks Committee and approved the next business meeting (Fall Fellowship or Spring Gathering), but Friends can start serving on committees when nominated in these cases. A Friend noted that all Arrangements Committee members terms end in the same year; and Katrina responded that the Clerk, Kate Watkins-Shaw, brings in Friends for particular jobs who are not full committee members. The term

for newsletter editor is left open; Sarah Rose House-Lightner will continue.

The Clerk called for worship.

Naming Committee – Two names were brought forward for second reading.

Minute 04-20-05: Meeting approves George Gastil and Lonnye Pickels for terms on the Nominating Committee, both serving from May 2017 through May 2023.

Presiding Clerk and Clerk's Committee

Clerk's Committee had labored with whether to proceed with holding this gathering online in light of the coronavirus pandemic and ultimately found unity to do so. We were called to limit our business to the essential business, and on worship and fellowship. In addition to tabling discernment around the state of the meeting reports, we postponed Spring Gathering the facilitation of programs for children, teens & peace and social concerns. This pandemic has created some limitations but it has also created new opportunities. Friends were asked to discern on the question: "How are we led?"

A Friend said that they experienced a deep longing to extend their worship group today, which led to asking how we can create ongoing worship-sharing groups. A Friend said that some monthly meetings are holding worship-sharing as part of First Day worship, or in place of it. A Friend suggested sharing information through the Quarterly website about monthly meetings' practices now; they also felt that quarterly meetings could be held quarterly, noting the ease of set-up on Zoom and hoping that there would be more time for worship when business had been discerned.

A Friend thought about a retreat format that would include teens and children, with an appropriate theme, possibly a dance party, in about four weeks. A suggestion that quarterly meetings be marked by more fun, when business was done was met by much waving of hands. A Friend noted La Jolla Meeting's retreat on May 16-17, and considered whether it could be expanded to include all Quarterly meetings, including opening fellowship during dinner; a dance is planned, with an intergenerational playlist.

Arthur Kegerreis noted Mary Watkins' accompaniment workshop now being offered online, and asked Friends to contact him for more information. Friends noted the connection with Friends who live far from their meetinghouses, and suggested visiting other meetings for worship; meetings could be paired for worship-sharing several times a year, which would particularly benefit smaller meetings.

Meeting closed in worship. Friends reflected on the aura of tiredness at last year's gathering and the energy this year and the realization of how much we need each other; appreciation for the separation from Wells Fargo, and the suggestion to write to the bank with praise for their divestment of support for private prisons. A Friend spoke of the "mighty" meeting together and our ability to "rest in each other." A Friend asked how we can support Friends who cannot attend online. A San Diego Friend shared the abundance of poppies in her garden.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Rose House-Lightner, Clerk
Ann Fuller, Recording Clerk

Southern California Quarterly Meeting List of Approved Officers and Committee members as of 4/25/20

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

Web and listserv clerk: Kerwin Flowers, La Jolla, 11/14 to 11/21

Backup web and listserv clerk: ??

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, 8/16 to 5/22

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

Connie McPeak Green, Claremont, 5/17 to 5/23

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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

Georgia Daniels, Orange Grove, 5/20 to 5/23

Robin Durant, Orange Grove, 5/20 to 5/23

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

Peace & Social Order

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

Newsletter/Quarterly Report Editor: Sarah Rose House-Lightner

Southern California Youth Planning committee (teens)

Susanne 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

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, Inland Valley 5/19 to 5/22

Sayuri Hanna, Orange Grove 5/19 to 5/22

Lonnie Pickels, San Diego 5/20 to 5/23

Naming Committee (as named by Clerks Cmte)

Judy Leshefka, La Jolla

Dan Strickland, Orange Grove

Worship Sharing Queries SCQM Spring Gathering 2020

How have you been able to act from your spiritual heart in these times? Are there ways your meeting could help?

How are you sustaining hope? What practices are you using that are working for you?

Are there people entrusted to your care? How are you helping with their-or your-experiences of loss, loneliness, lament and longing? What helps them – and you- connect with sources of light and love?

Is there something else on your heart that you feel led to share?