

# Southern California Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Inc.

## Spring Gathering Advance Materials April 29 & 30, 2022

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## 2022 Spring Gathering Schedule

Friday, April 29:

6:30 – 8:00 pm Friends Peace Teams Toward Right Relationships Interest Group

Saturday, April 30:

9:30 – 11:45 am Worship, Plenary 1, State of Society Reports Part 1

11:45am – 1:00 pm Lunch Break - optional fellowship

1:00 – 2:45 pm Plenary 2, State of Society Reports Part 2,

2:45 – 3:15 pm Closing Worship

## Plenary Agendas

### Plenary 1

1. Opening Worship
2. Welcome, [Land Acknowledgment](#) (Native Land)
3. Roll Call
4. Clerk's Report
5. Naming for Nominating Committee - first reading
6. Nominating Committee Report - first reading Treasurer's Report
7. Finance Committee Report -
8. Proposed Budget for FY 2022-2023 first reading
9. Spiritual State of Meeting Excerpts - Part 1
10. Reflection on SSOM Queries Part 1

### Plenary 2

1. Naming second reading
2. Nominating second reading
3. Ad hoc Reflection on the Peace Committee Report
4. Ad hoc Website Committee Report
5. Proposed Budget for FY 2021-2022 second reading
6. Spiritual State of Meeting Excerpts - Part 2
7. Reflection on SSOM Queries Part 2
8. Closing Worship

# Southern California Quarterly Meeting

## Proposed Roster of Officers and Committee Members 4/25/22

### OFFICERS

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

#### **Recording Clerks Circle:**

**Ann Fuller clerk, Santa Monica, 5/22 to 5/23**

**Sarah Rose House Lightner, Orange Grove**

**Elizabeth Bills, La Jolla**

**Oliver Ryder, La Jolla**

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

**Directory Clerk:** **Dan Strickland, Orange Grove, 5/22 to 5/25**

#### **Co-Webmasters:**

**Kerwin Flowers, La Jolla, 5/22 to 5/25**

**Mitchel Cox, Orange Grove, 5/22 to 5/25**

### COMMITTEES

#### **Arrangements**

Peggy Craik (clerk), Orange Grove, 5/18 to 5/24

Judi Oehmen, Santa Monica. 11/21 to 11/24

**Gail Thomas, Santa Monica 5/22 to 5/25**

#### **Children's Program Committee**

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

Louise Sherikar, (convenor) Orange County, 11/20 to 11/23

### **Finance Committee**

Rebecca Searl (clerk), Santa Monica, 5/20 to 5/23

Bill Brock, San Diego, 5/21 to 5/24

Kip McBane, La Jolla, 5/21 to **5/23**

Dan Strickland, Orange Grove, 11/21 to 11/24

Gary Wolff (ex officio)

### **Ministry and Counsel committee**

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

Elva Carter, Inland Valley, 5/18 to 5/24

Cate Wilson, Orange Grove, 5/21 to 5/24

Will Barclay, Inland Valley, 5/21 to 5/24

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

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

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

**Stephen Pope, Santa Barbara, 5/22 to 5/25**

### **Peace & Social Concerns Committee (re-emerging, details in process)**

**Lawrence Alderson (co-clerk) Orange County, 5/22 to 5/25**

**Susana Cervantes (co-clerk) La Jolla, 5/22 to 5/25**

### **Retreats Committee**

Pat Wolff (clerk), Orange Grove, 5/14 to 5/23

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## **Representatives to Pacific Ackworth Foundation**

Gary Wolff, Orange Grove

Kip McBane, La Jolla

Michelle White, Orange Grove

Ron Theders, Claremont

## **Representatives to Pacific Ackworth Friends School**

Jan Tappan, Orange Grove

Peggy Spear, Claremont

**Registrar:** Lawrence Alderson, Orange County, 5/19 to **5/25**

## **Teen Program Committee**

Robert Valente-Neighbors, San Diego, 5/21 to 5/24

Rob Cimorelli (**co-clerk**), Orange Grove, 5/21 to 5/24

**Kindred Gottlieb (co-clerk), Orange Grove, 5/22 to 5/25**

## **Nominating Committee**

**George Gastil (clerk), San Diego, 5/22 to 5/25**

Betty Guthrie, Orange County, 5/17 to 5/23

Susana Cervantes, La Jolla, 11/21 to 5/23

Mary Jo Housman, San Diego, 5/21 to 5/23

## **Website Committee**

**Jane Blount (clerk), La Jolla, 5/22 to 5/23**

**Kerwin Flowers, La Jolla (ex-officio)**

**Mitchel Cox, Orange Grove (ex-officio)**

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## **Finance Committee Report to Spring Gathering 04/30/2022**

Finance Committee has continued to meet regularly via Zoom. Finance Committee has a full complement of members this year, including Gary Wolff, Treasurer, Orange Grove; Bill Brock, San Diego; Kip McBane, La Jolla; Dan Strickland, Orange Grove; Rebecca Searl, Committee Clerk, Santa Monica.

Finance Committee has supported the Treasurer in opening the new accounts for the Peters Memorial Fund, as approved at Fall Fellowship, 2021. That process continues at this time.

Finance Committee has prepared a draft budget for 2022-23 with several major changes from past budgets. The presentation changes are designed to make the budget a more useful planning tool. The budget for Fall Fellowship continues to be included with the over-all general fund, and represents by far the largest proportion of the budget. There are many uncertainties around Fall Fellowship: will it be in-person or by Zoom? How many people will register? What will the facilities charges be? Given all these uncertainties, the Expenses could be in excess of the Income. Following the practice of Pacific Yearly Meeting, SCQM Finance Committee recommends to balance the budget with a transfer of funds from Uncommitted Reserves, if necessary.

Peters Memorial Fund expenses have been separated from the general fund since the Peters Memorial Fund will be in separate accounts and no longer combined with the general fund.

Use of the Peters Memorial Fund has expanded this year. In the past, the Fund was primarily used to support Fall Fellowship speakers and entertainment. Without an in-person Fall Fellowship, use of the Fund has expanded to various special projects including: a retreat of the National Network Opposing the Militarization of Youth (NNOMY), a reading group focused on the book [Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship](#), and a concert with Annie Patterson titled "Songs of Hope and Struggle."

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## Clerk's Report

Friends, our Quarter is strong in spirit. We are a widespread group of f/Friends with busy, full lives who are diligently and faithfully tending to the work in front of us one step at a time. Our numbers may be smaller than in past years but the good news is that despite our busy lives, more folk are stepping up to serve. Many blanks in our roster have been filled and new ideas to revitalize and transform the old Peace and Social Order committee are taking shape. In addition to hearing excerpts from the Spiritual State of the Meeting Reports and collectively reflecting on them, we will also hear from several of our committees today about the work they've been doing to support Southern California Quarterly Meeting.

Personally, daily prayer and bodymindspiritful moving meditation through the practice of Qigong continues to sustain me in my work on various Quaker committees for my monthly meeting, as clerk of the Quarter, and as a somatically sensitive bodyworker and massage therapist. I am grateful to be in a phase in my life where I can give abundantly of my time and energy.

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# Ad Hoc Website Committee Report

4th Month, 30th Day, 2022

Since September 2020, The Ad Hoc website committee has worked toward updating and modernizing SCQM's website.

Kerwin Flowers migrated our hosting service from JustHost to SiteGround and installed WordPress as our content management system.

We have been meeting monthly to discern our needs and goals for the new website. Early on, Sharon Gates proposed a new site map which we have used as the basis for our new page structure and navigation.

We have maintained the site's usability and accessibility—taking into account web accessibility standards—even while the content and features have become richer.

Some new features of the website worth highlighting include:

- A Documents page that makes important documents easily available, including Minutes dating back to 2012.
- An updated directory of Monthly Meetings, including an interactive map.
- Dedicated committee pages where the clerks of each committee can post relevant content.

Our hope is that our website is utilized more by the various committees of the quarter as well as members so it becomes an active resource where Friends can create and share posts about upcoming events of interest.

We still have an ongoing list of improvements we plan to make to the website, so please reach out if you have any ideas or feedback; we'd love to hear from you.

The Ad Hoc committee will soon become a standing committee, which will continue to work on website updates moving forward.

Respectfully Submitted by Jane Blount (clerk), Mitch Cox, Kerwin Flowers

**Children's Committee Report  
to Southern California Quarterly Meeting Spring Gathering  
Fourth Month, 30<sup>th</sup> Day, 2022**

The Children's Committee has been meeting on a more or less monthly basis. We currently have three members, plus PacYM's Youth Program's Coordinator, Keenan Lorenzato. One member left the Committee in October.

We decided not to have a Children's Program at this gathering, since our online fall program was not well attended. It appears that most children and youth are suffering from Zoom burnout and are not likely to attend online-only events.

Keenan has been keeping us up to date on planning for the children and youth programs for the PacYM annual gathering at Mt. Madonna. They need teachers and other volunteers for the children's program. The teachers will receive a stipend of \$500. Please let us know if you know of anyone who'd make a good teacher for the children or a Friendly Responsible Adult Presence (FRAP)" for the Teen Program, please let us know.

PacYM is also planning a series of family outings, two of which will take place in Southern California. One of the outings will be in Griffith Park, since a similar event last year was well-attended. The destination for the second outing has not yet been decided, but Keenan is looking into various possibilities.

We considered a family camping trip at Stone Pantry Orchard, where last year's apple-picking event was held, but dropped the idea because of the presence of bears in the orchard. We also decided not to repeat the day time event there. Although those present enjoyed the apple-picking immensely, most felt that it was too long a distance to travel. Instead, we are looking into camping locations that are closer to a greater number of people.

We have not started planning for Fall Fellowship because we are waiting for a decision on whether it will be in-person, online, or hybrid.

Respectfully submitted,  
Louise Sherikar, Convener  
SCQM Children's Committee

# **Ad Hoc Peace & Social Concerns Reflection Committee Report**

## **4/30/22**

The Peace & Social Concerns Committee has been the subject of a discernment process following Fall Fellowship in 2021, concerning the future of this committee, and whether and how it might be reconstituted and possibly renamed to serve the Quarter again. Additionally, since the SoCal Quakers Racial Justice Network was formed under the care of the P&SC committee, the ongoing support for this SCQM group is a concern. Two friends have been identified, and have agreed to co-clerk a newly constituted committee, and, if these nominations are approved, then completing a new proposed job description and focus for this committee will be among the first tasks.

Respectfully submitted by Susy Cervantes, Elisabeth Green, S, Jane Blount, Lawrence Alderson

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### **SCQM PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE (SCQM P&SCC) In Process Job Description Revision**

#### **PURPOSE**

To welcome Friends to gather and share their voices on leadings and topics related to creating a more inclusive community, that seeks to create, stimulate and nurture a sustainable worship space, with equality and collaboration within our Monthly Meetings and the Society of Friends at large.

The Southern California P&SC (Peace and Social Concerns) Committee of the Quarterly Meeting focuses on social concerns, inclusivity of all Friends, including peace-related issues that encourage equality, guided by Friends' testimonies of peace, integrity, stimulating community and stewardship, focusing on achieving our goals with purpose, intention, and simplicity.

#### **GOALS FOR THIS COMMITTEE**

To be bridge builders, listening to the voices of the Friends that have been historically ignored and excluded. Validate and include their presence, voices, leadings, leadership, and service in our Meetings, Quarterlies, Yearly and across the Religious Society of Friends. Providing

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meaningful, essential and proactive support, to be able to influence for the better, in our social relationships within the Religious Society of Friends.

Objectively assessing how we are the example of the standards for welcoming and inviting, humbly, and to be an open, warm, welcoming community to our Friends of all races, from all walks of life, including attenders and visitors alike. Assuring that all voices, concerns and leadings raised are heard, validated and held in equity, accordingly.

To provide a platform, a forum, to collaborate with Peace & Social Concerns and leadings, brought forward by Friends within the Quarter. Sharing such leadings, to network with Friends desiring involvement to help with each other's projects.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

The P&SC Committee is responsible for:

1. Providing a structure for members of Peace and Social Concerns related Committees of Monthly Meetings, including Threshing Sessions and Worship Groups, to share leadings, experiences, interests, and concerns, and receive support from the broader Quaker community in Southern California.
2. Facilitating the organizing of Interest Groups brought forward by Friends, assessing and supporting their visions and leadings. Embracing networking opportunities to expand the outreach among all interested Friends.
3. Receiving and assessing concerns from Monthly Meetings, Pacific Yearly Meeting, and other bodies of Friends, in the form of minutes, presentations, and letters by Friends, who will want support from the Southern California Quarterly P&SC Committee.
4. Seasoning concerns, including activities such as:
  - Determining (by an ad hoc or subcommittee if appropriate) whether suggested concerns or leadings represent the works of the SCQM P&SCC, consolidating if applicable with other Friends or Meetings' concerns or leadings. Assessing the complexity of the leading or project, identifying the target beneficiaries, distributing labor if necessary.
  - Distributing resource materials and background information to Monthly Meetings or individual Friends in advance of anticipated discussion.
  - Writing Minutes for presentations to a Quarterly Meeting for Business sessions.
  - Returning a concern brought directly by an individual, to that Friend's Meeting, or if warranted, to all the Meetings of the Quarter, for review and recommendations.

- Laying over decisions when necessary, so they are not made in haste.
- Use of other means, as occasions may provide and demand.
- To make space for the voices of Friends previously ignored or excluded, to create safe spaces within this Committee, to express their needs and desires to become a part of this space, while nurturing their need for acknowledgment and restorations.

5. We seek to do this work in a fashion that shows respect and accountability to all Friends, and we are open to invite contributors when there is an alternate way to create solutions.

6. Reporting on matters of interest and concerns, making recommendations for action when appropriate, directly to the Quarterly Meeting at Meetings for Business, and/or by contact with, or mailings to individual Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups, and/or by publication on the SCQM Website.

The Clerk(s) of this Committee is (are) a member of the Executive Committee. The Clerk(s) (are) is to see that the Minutes of Committee Meetings are taken and kept in a safe and permanent file.

## **COMPOSITION AND TERM OF OFFICE**

Participation in Committee activities is open to all interested Friends. Each Monthly Meeting and Worship Group is invited to send one or more individuals, usually member(s) of its own peace-related committee, to attend meetings of this Committee. There is also a Steering Committee to facilitate communications and coordinations. In addition to the Clerk(s), there may also be a Co-clerk or Recording Clerk. Both the Clerk(s) and Co-clerk(s) or Recording Clerk are nominated by the Quarterly Nominating Committee upon vacancy, or end of term and appointed by the Quarterly Meeting for rotating three-year terms.

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

The Clerk(s) of the Committee and the Co-clerk(s) or Recording Clerk(s) should be active in a Monthly Meeting of the Southern California Quarter and familiar with Friends' manner of conducting business, especially procedures for concerns and Minutes.

## **MEETINGS**

The Committee meets prior to Fall Fellowship and Spring Gathering. Other meetings may be called as needed.

Revised (on 4/28/2022)

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