

Southern California Quarterly Meeting  
Spring Gathering – **April 30, 2022**  
via Zoom

The gathering began in silent worship at 9:30 a.m. Plenary 1 began at 10:00 a.m.

**Welcome** – Jane Blount, Clerk, invited Friends to rename themselves, adding their home meetings, preferred pronouns, and the tribal land on which they live. Jane shared her personal family history and the names of the tribes who lived on land where her ancestors emigrated, and where tribal peoples were removed. Jane posted a link to an interactive map at <https://native-land.ca> where Friends can find out which tribal peoples lived where they now reside.

The agenda was read and posted in the Chat. The agenda was approved.

**Roll Call** – 42 Friends spoke up as their monthly meetings were called. We welcomed Keenan Lorenzato, Youth Programs Co-ordinator. Keenan said that he had met with Childrens Program and Young Friends.

Jane outlined Zoom etiquette on muting and un-muting, using the reactions button to raise your hand to speak, and refraining from using the Chat during worship and the plenary.

**Clerk's Report** – Jane read the Clerk's Report (see attached). George Gastil was brought forward for Nominating Committee by the Clerks Committee, acting as Naming Committee.

**Nominating Committee** – Katrina Mason, Clerk, share screened the proposed slate for 2022-23. She noted that it would be her last report before stepping down as clerk.

*Recording Clerk Circle* – in response to Friends' inability to commit for more than one session, Nominating has formed a sub-committee of four Friends, with Ann Fuller as Clerk, to share the role of recording clerks at Fall Fellowship and Spring Gathering. Sarah-Rose House Lightner, Elizabeth Bills, and Oliver Ryder have come forward to serve.

Dan Strickland has come forward to serve as *Directory Clerk*, and will use Pacific Yearly Meeting's data base as a resource.

*Arrangements Committee* needs more members as we look forward to returning to in-person gatherings.

*Peace and Social Concerns Committee* has been dormant, but is re-awakening. A job description and vision will be presented at Plenary 2.

The *Teens* have had no clerk for two years, now two Friends who have worked together before have come forward.

*A representative to the Pacific Ackworth Friends School* has been added.

Lawrence Alderson will continue as *Registrar*, with a new term ending in 2025

*A Website working group* is ready to become a committee, and would welcome several new members to this enthusiastic, committed committee.

Thanks were expressed to Nominating for great ideas, and faithful persistence as they made their many calls. Katrina reminded us that the mission of the committee is to find people who could grow in a position, bringing their gifts, and soaring in spirit. A Friend thanked Katrina for doing a brilliant job.

Concerns with the proposed slate should be brought to Katrina before Plenary 2.

**Finance Committee** – Rebecca Searl presented the Financial Report and proposed Budget (see attached). The report included comparisons with years when we met in person. Overall, most costs and income come from Fall Fellowship. The Peters Fund has been used for speakers and entertainment at Fall Fellowship in the past; requests can be submitted to Finance, to be reviewed by the Clerk, Ministry and Counsel and Finance. These documents are available on the SCQM website under Advanced Materials for Spring Gathering. A Friend was concerned that the practice of transferring from reserves to balance the budget was a bad habit. Friends thanked Rebecca and the committee for their work.

The clerk called for a 3 minute break and stretch.

**Ministry and Counsel** – Gail Thomas, Clerk, reported that State of the Meeting Reports were received from 8 monthly meetings and two worship groups. Gail noted that all meetings had found energy and ways to deal with the times. Excerpts from responses to the first two queries: “How do you care for one another in your meeting and your community?” and “Are you able to give and receive care?” were read by representatives of the monthly meetings, followed by worship sharing. At Plenary 2, excerpts will be read from responses to the second two queries, followed by small group worship sharing. The full reports are available on the website, under Advanced Materials for Spring Gathering.

One Friend misses the support at close of meeting in person and the sharing of fellowship. Another Friend was grateful for the break-out rooms where they learned what others are doing with their lives during pandemic, and felt that fellowship in their meeting had been enriched. A Friend said that they had become close to others in the sharing after meeting for worship, although some attenders who cannot attend or who dislike the Zoom environment have been ignored. This Friend questions their role going forward. A Friend was deeply grateful for the real and virtual life-line during the pandemic. A Friend from Inland Valley reported a new practice at rise of meeting: a query is proposed and everyone responds; the results are often humorous and full of delight. A Friend felt that their meeting has not fragmented, and is open to the challenges and benefits of new ways to be present and attend to one another. Another Friend said that they attend two meetings now, one in-person, and feels “enfolded by all.”

The Clerk asked for silent holding of San Diego meeting in their struggle with different opinions on in person and online meetings for worship.

In response to the queries “Is your meeting providing a grounded spiritual center?” and “How could this be more inviting and deeper?” excerpts were read, followed by worship sharing.

A Friend said it was hard to get into using Zoom and hard to get out – there are strong feelings both ways. They said we need to listen below the words and persist. A Friend said that time was needed to heal wounds that some are carrying from so much fear that has become a reflex. A Friend’s meeting continues to meet in person, and although they are disparate in their political and spiritual beliefs and in the work they do, they love and support each other. More people have attended. Some Friends are missing personal touch and breaking bread with friends. Adult Education in one meeting has been a spiritual gardener enriching the soil and quality of worship. A Friend misses the prison program that was

canceled because of the lack of security guards during pandemic. With spiritual journeys in common, a Friend finds spiritual grounding in their meeting.

Friends are encouraged to read the full reports.

Minutes were not read since there were no action items. Consolidated notes from the plenaries will be posted on the website. The clerk asked us to post announcements on the announcements page. The Zoom link will stay open during lunch break; break out rooms can be set up if needed.

Jane Blount, Clerk  
Ann Fuller, Recording Clerk

Plenary II opened with worship at 1:00 with Jane Blount as clerk. Jane invited any Friends who were not present for the first Plenary to introduce themselves. SY Bowland joined us from Georgia.

#### **I. Naming Committee**

Jane informed the meeting that the consideration of George Gastil as clerk of the Nominating Committee will be held over until a later date. Friends were reminded that the Clerk's Committee which serves as the Naming Committee is able to name members of Nominating Committee without immediate approval of the Plenary.

#### **II. Nominating Committee**

Jane Blount read the nominations report for the second time.

**2022.4.1 - Friends approved filling the positions as specified in the Nominating Committee report. (See attached).**

#### **III. Ad hoc reflection on the Peace and Social Concerns Committee**

Lawrence Alderson read the report (attached).

Jane pointed out that the draft of the job description is available in the advance materials. Friends are invited to read this draft and to share their thoughts.

#### **IV. Ad hoc SCQM Website Committee**

Mitchell Cox read the report (attached). Friends are asked to reach out with any ideas or feedback concerning the website.

#### **V. Proposed Budget for FY 2022-2023, second reading**

Rebecca Searle read the report for the second time (attached).

Jane informed Friends that uncommitted reserves amounts to approximately \$20,000.

**2022.4.2 - Friends approved the proposed budget for fiscal year 2022-2023.**

#### **VI. Children's Program Committee**

Robin Durant read the report (attached).

## **VII. Spiritual State of the Meeting Excerpts - Part 2**

Excerpts from the State of the Meeting reports were read in response to the queries, “Where is the energy moving in our meeting? What is our meeting struggling with?” and “What are the challenges and gifts of Zoom and a blended meeting?”

Friends separated into breakout rooms to discuss the queries in a worship sharing format. We subsequently came back together to discuss insights gained during the worship sharing. Some meetings are struggling with having a Zoom presence during in-person meetings. Others are reluctant to go back to being in person at all. We were reminded that many of us are under stress as a result of the conditions brought about by the pandemic. Some feel that Friends have become closer through Zoom meetings. A Friend mentioned that some pressing issues were no longer discussed due to the need to address worshipping in a blended format. Interactions on-line can sometimes lead to inadequate or inappropriate communication, and Friends need to be mindful of this. One Friend suggested that for one First Day all of the meetings in SCQM share a link and come together for worship both individually and in groups.

The minutes were read and approved.

Plenary II closed with worship from 2:45 to 3:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Blount  
Clerk

Elizabeth Bills  
Recording Clerk

## **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.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Blount

## **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."

## **Southern California Quarterly Meeting Approved Roster of Officers and Committee Members 4/25/22**

**Newly approved officers and committee members**

## **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**

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

## **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**

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)

## 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

## 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

### [Approved 2022 - 2023 Budget](#)

## **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.

Kenan 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