

## SCQM Spring Gathering Minutes – April 27, 2019 – at San Diego Meeting

### Plenary I

#### Opening Worship

The clerk reminded Friends to wait to be called upon and to say one's name and Monthly Meeting before speaking. She also passed out and reviewed the community expectations from Fall Fellowship, which will also be applied to Spring Gathering.

#### Roll Call:

All Meetings and Worship Groups are present, with the exception of Las Vegas, Marloma/Long Beach, and Whitleaf

Visitors: Mary Klein, Palo Alto MM & Western Friend editor, Sandy Kewman, PYM presiding clerk, Grass Valley Meeting.

### **Ministry & Counsel**

Gail Thomas reported. She indicated that the evaluations from Fall Fellowship, where Annie Peterson and Peter Blood were keynote speakers, were very positive and noted all the activities that took place over that weekend. A perennial Fall Fellowship challenge is the kitchen and there were some negative comments about the food. She also noted M&C also does pastoral care and is responsible for the state of the Meeting reports. They have received 12 thus far. There will also be an opportunity for evaluations for this gathering and she encouraged Friends to provide feedback. They will also be discerning if anything rises from this gathering. Lastly, this year they hope to have a follow up retreat to the one held last year but don't have one as yet.

### **Clerk's Report**

Sarah Rose House-Lightner, presiding clerk, noted the Fall Fellowship 2018 minutes were just sent to the listserv editor to be distributed.

She also noted the Children's and Teen programs have been working on and discerning an abuse prevention policy. They have completed a 9-page document, just finished in March, that describes definitions, responses and policies. The clerk recommended the document be accepted with gratitude and sent out to Monthly Meetings for their discernment and consideration before it comes up for approval for SCQM.

She then reminded Friends of the Peters Legacy Fund, which we received in 2014. The Fund has been underutilized and the clerk wanted to remind Friends of its availability. It's used for speakers and facilities at retreats, youth activities, intergenerational activities, subsidized attendance at quarterly gatherings and new activities to deepen the spiritual life of the quarter, among others. Friends submit to Monthly Meetings to season requests and then to M&C of

SCQM. SCQM Finance Committee also reviews. She showed the form to actively encourage people to apply for the funds.

She also noted that Santa Barbara MM proposed a sub program of the Peters Legacy Fund and that's still being considered by SCQM. It has yet to be distributed to Monthly Meetings.

Three years ago we had a 3 year experiment to have an inter-visitation exchange with Casa De Los Amigos. At Fall Fellowship recently, after the program had expired, an ad hoc committee was formed to evaluate the program. Since there's been a change in leadership at the Casa, the ad hoc committee is in a holding pattern. The clerk encouraged us all to consider how we can hold the Casa in the Light as they experience their change.

The ad hoc committee consists of Lawrence Alderson and others.

The clerk then noted that last year she stitched together a version of the Directory and will send out now the current version. She noted that some Monthly Meetings, upon being contacted, didn't know what the Directory was for. Thus she wanted to make Friends aware of the resource of the Directory and its importance to SCQM.

She then gave an update on the effort to find paid administrative assistance for the clerk. SCQM approved this effort in principle but an ad hoc committee was formed to work out the logistics. Hiring a full-time employee is a big task for SCQM. However, what has been approved in the interim are funds to hire an independent contractor. The presiding clerk can determine the needed tasks and then working with the contractor to oversee the execution of those tasks. The clerk can then work with the Treasurer to insure the contractor is paid.

A Friend noted that on the east coast, a gathering of Friends who are employees of Friends organizations meet regularly to provide resources and support to each other. This is provided by FGC.

## **Finance Committee**

Sharon Gates, clerk, reported on behalf of the Finance Committee.

She then presented the current and proposed 2019-2020 budget with explanations of different topics. It will come back for approval in the afternoon.

She noted the budget included the actual expenditures to date, the Fall Fellowship budget and the assessment. She noted that the Fall Fellowship budget is much higher than in the past, due to the food. Because food has been such a burden in the past, the food budget is higher in the spirit of making our gatherings easier to do.

There is also a line item for administrative support for the clerk and an amount for the Directory, should someone be hired for that. The Casa de los Amigos support continues in the budget, from the Peters Fund, until clarity is reached on the future of our inter-visitation exchange.

The Finance Committee is recommending the per-Meeting Assessment remain at \$10.

A Friend noted that he hopes \$25 per hour will be considered for payment to any contractor. It was noted that there's a typo in the budget and we approved 10 hours/week at \$20/hour, not 20 hours/week at \$10/hour, as noted in the budget.

This was then laid over to the afternoon.

### **Naming Committee**

Judy Leshefka, the clerk, reported. Report attached.

She noted that Marion Holsworth is nominated for a 3-year term on Nominating as a new addition to the committee. All others are being considered for approval for a new second term.

The Naming Committee itself is comprised of Judy Leshefka and Michael Dunn.

Dan Strickland is also nominated for the Naming Committee itself and will be held over until the afternoon.

### **Nominating Committee**

Katrina Mason, clerk, and Shayne Lightner reported. See report attached.

Katrina introduced the work the committee has been doing and emphasized that SCQM is actually in pretty strong shape. Many of the committees do have many members and strong clerks. She also noted that nominations for her are not just about filling names into slots but looking at ways Meetings can be connected and rising gifts for individuals who may grow into their roles.

She then reviewed the list of those being brought forward for approval at today's gathering. She noted that the Treasurer resigned two days ago but will serve until there's a replacement. Thus the biggest openings are for presiding clerk/co-clerks, co-recording clerk and Treasurer.

Shayne gave context for the clerk nomination vacancies and explained that the Nominating committee had been working on it since August 2018 and had exhausted its creativity for developing candidates, having used several approaches. In addition he noted that bringing the slate forward with a clerk vacancy was something that has been done before.

The presiding clerk then asked for worship to see if anyone was lead to volunteer themselves for these roles. After a period of worship, the current presiding clerk, Sarah Rose House-Lightner, offered to continue her term for an additional year.

The report was then laid over to the afternoon.

Plenary closed with worship.

Plenary II

Opening Worship.

The clerk welcomed any new guests

### **Naming Committee**

Judy Leshefka, the clerk, asked for approval of proposals put forward in the morning.

**Minute 04-19-01:** SCQM approves Dan Strickland for a 3-year term commencing 2019 on Naming Committee.

**Minute 04-19-02:** SCQM approves Katrina Mason, Betty Guthrie, Trudy Friedel and Marion Holsworth for 3-year terms commencing 2019 (2019-2022) on Nominating Committee.

### **Nominating Committee**

Katrina Mason reported. There was a second reading of nominated names, with addition of Sarah Rose House-Lightner as clerk for an additional 1-year term.

**Minute 04-19-03:** SCQM approves the 2019-2020 Nominating Committee slate as presented by Nominating Committee.

### **Finance Committee**

Sharon Gates reported. There was a second reading of the committee's proposals.

**Minute 04-19-04:** SCQM approves a 2019-2020 per member assessment of \$10.

**Minute 04-19-05:** SCQM approves the 2019-2020 budget of \$24,110 as presented by Finance Committee.

### **Peace And Social Concerns Committee**

Arthur Kegerreis, Orange Grove Meeting, reported. Two years ago, SCQM had a workshop with Pedro Rios at Orange Grove about border militarization. SCQM didn't have an opportunity to follow up on that with a border tour. Way has now opened and it will take place tomorrow, Sunday, 4/28/19. Two last minute spots have recently opened. He gave additional information on the geography of the tour. The second half is at Friendship Park. Shan Cretin will give a presentation on the nonviolent action that happened there in December.

P&SO also had an online workshop on social justice. 6 people attended, including a person from Seattle. He invited Friends to join the Peace and Social Concerns committee to help with this work.

## **FCLCA**

Peggy Craik reported. She has been pressing FCLCA for issues for those of us in the south to address. She's asking Friends from Meetings to participate in the general committee. She invited Friends to participate in Lobby Day, June 3 in Sacramento. The General Committee meets June 2 (the day before). Meetings can send someone to the General Committee who's not a member of the Meeting. She encouraged Meetings to name someone to be a part of that General Committee meeting.

She's also exploring having a Zoom meeting the day of the General Committee meeting, or sometime thereafter. Please let her know or call the FCLCA office and let the staff know if Friends are interested in participating in the Zoom meeting.

## **Silent Retreat**

Judy Leshefka reported. This is the 23<sup>rd</sup> year and they appreciate that SCQM M&C took this event under their care for spiritual support (but not for financial support). Nearly every Meeting except Orange Grove was represented at the most recent retreat.

## **Other Events**

The clerk mentioned SCQM Fall Fellowship Nov 2-3, 2019 at Temescal Canyon. Lucy Duncan will be the keynote speaker.

PYM Annual Session is July 12-17, 2019 at Walker Creek Ranch, Petaluma, CA

Look for the SCQM Martin Luther King Day weekend campout in 2020 at Joshua Tree National Park (the 2019 camp out was cancelled because of the government shut down and the close of the National Parks).

PYM Representatives Committee Meeting will be March 1-3, 2020

The next SCQM Spring Gathering is scheduled for April 25, 2020 (location TBD).

The clerk also encouraged Friends to look for events at the LA Young Adult Friends Facebook page.

Another Friend encouraged awareness of all the programs at Ben Lomond Quaker Center.

A Friend asked about the current size of the Peters Fund. Since the Treasurer's not present, this will be reported on at Fall Fellowship.

## **Pacific Ackworth Foundation Board**

The clerk noted we just received information from Gary Wolff about the Board and SCQM needs to look at its relationship with them. We have a long relationship with Pacific Ackworth and we need to season our connection with them going forward.

## **Unseasoned Concerns**

Gail Thomas reported on QREC (Quaker Religious Education Collaborative). They recently produced a version of “Quaker Meeting & Me” in Spanish. It’s all available for free. Quakersforre.org. They also just had a zoom conference on Quakers and Parenting, and next month’s Zoom conference is on teens.

The action minutes were read and approved.

Plenary II closed with worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Rose House-Lightner, Presiding Clerk

Shayne Lightner, Recording Clerk