

Southern California Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Fall Fellowship Plenary 1
November 6, 2022

Jane Blount, Clerk, read the community agreements and the Covid safety agreement, and introduced the members of the Arrangements Committee and the other committees who give service to the Quarterly. Three Friends will be listeners for the gathering.

Role call: and visitors

Registrars report: Lawrence Alderson reported on wifi availability, the decision to contribute in the form of pay-as-led and reminded Friends that parking passes are available to park near the dining hall. Keys to cabins will be entrusted to one of the Friends there. Help is needed in the kitchen and for clean-up; contact Cynthia Cuza.

Naming Committee: The Clerks Committee acting as the Naming Committee brought forward George Gastil as Clerk of the Nominating Committee for a first reading. A Friend who stood in the way of this nomination at Spring Gathering is no longer doing so.

Silent Retreat: Judy Leshefka reported that the 25th retreat was held at Prince of Peace Abbey, with 23 Friends, including 9 under the age of 45. Next year, the retreat will be held on March 3-5th.

Fire Gathering: this will be held in the dining hall, next to the fireplace. Storytellers and musicians are welcomed.

Announcements: Friends noted where worship-sharing information could be found for in-person and online attenders; the possibility of S'Mores at the fire gathering, and the affinity groups that will be meeting (Friends of Color, LGBTQ+ and Children and Families.)

The meeting ended in silent worship.

Jane Blount, Clerk
Ann Fuller, Recording Clerk

11th month 6, 2022
Plenary II

Plenary II opened at 1:30 at Stewart Hall in Temescal Canyon. Jane Blount served as presiding clerk and Elizabeth Bills as recording clerk.

I. Clerk of Nominating Committee

Friends approved George Gastil, San Diego Monthly Meeting to serve as clerk of Nominating Committee for a 3-year term ending in November, 2025.

II. Registrar's Report

Lawrance Alderson presented the report. A copy will be attached. About 62 Friends were present at Temescal Canyon and 34 joined on Zoom. 92 Friends were signed up for the workshops. Lawrance detailed the amount of attenders at each workshop.

A number of Friends were not able to attend because they had not complied with the COVID guidelines. A Friend asked to be recorded as saying she was barred from attending due to the fact that she had not taken the COVID pharmaceuticals.

Friends are urged to fill out the evaluation survey.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Blount
Presiding Clerk

Elizabeth Bills
Recording Clerk

Report from the Registrar, SCQM Fall Fellowship Gathering

This was the first combined online and in-person (hybrid) gathering of Fall Fellowship. An estimated 96 friends joined us online via Zoom and at Temescal Gateway Park, with about 1/3 of

friends joining us online and the rest in-person. Additionally, this was our first major SCQM in-person gathering since 2019 and the beginning of the COVID pandemic. Finally, this was also our first pay-as-led gathering for in-person attenders.

Other new elements of registration this year were the use of an interest group and workshop sign-up form, which allowed us to better plan these parts of the gathering, and detailed volunteer requests within the registration process.

This gathering was governed by a safety policy (another new element), developed under the care of our Ministry & Counsel Committee by a group of medical professionals in our community. Following the guidance detailed in our Safety Policy, some friends who would like to have joined in-person at Temescal Canyon could not attend. There was no exception process to the policy developed ahead of time, and agreement to the policy was a requirement to complete registration. This is something that will need more attention in future gatherings, should similar policies be needed.

One friend asked to be recorded that they were barred from coming because they had not “received any of the COVID pharmaceuticals”. We look forward to when the concerns, restrictions and divisions regarding the COVID-19 pandemic will allow us to gather with confidence in our providing for the safety and health of our attenders.

Following is a summary of registrant and participant information from our gathering:

- 97 friends registered to attend Fall Fellowship
 - 61 registered to attend in-person
 - 34 registered to attend online
 - 2 friends canceled (ahead of time)
- Of the 61 in-person attenders,
 - 23 chose to commute to Temescal Canyon
 - 42 chose to stay overnight in one of the cabins (31) or bungalows (11) -- note some friends who chose the bungalow option were accommodated in cabins so as to minimize added costs and meet lodging preferences
- 44 friends volunteered to help with 1 or more tasks at the gathering, such as kitchen clean-up.
- Of the 90 friends who answered the age question,
 - 6 were 18 or younger.
 - 3 were young adult friends (18-35).
 - The average age was 63.
- 63 friends opted to participate in Worship Sharing.
- 27 friends expressed interest in joining an affinity group -- those groups with 5 or more were Friends of Color, LGBTQ+ community, and Parents and guardians of school age children.
- 46 registrants opted to pay online (via PayPal) when they submitted their registration.

Here is a summary of event participation statistics:

- About 65 friends joined us at Temescal Canyon over the weekend.
- About 39 friends stayed overnight on Saturday and close to 20 came early on Friday evening to help set-up for the weekend and join the interest group in-person from Stewart Hall.
- 5 friends who registered to attend were not able to join us due to illness, 3 of whom were planning to stay overnight.
- 2 friends were able to join us despite being unsuccessful in registering ahead of time (they had partially completed their registrations).
- Advanced interest group and workshop sign-ups (attendance numbers are noted where available):
 - 49 - Radical Transformation: Long Overdue for the Religious Society of Friends (about 65 participated)
 - 21 - Weaving ourselves together without words: Using relaxation, movement and dance for fun and connection
 - 26 - Towards Right Relationships with Native Peoples (27 participated)
 - 17 - Spirit & Structure in the Life of the Meeting
 - 18 - F/friends in Unlikely Places: Engaging Those Who Disagree
 - 10 - Deep Listening
- Online participants:
 - Friday night interest group on Radical Transformation: 49
 - Saturday plenary: 145 (including friends who logged out and left the meeting for a period and then returned later)
 - Sunday worship and plenary: 54

Here is a summary of contributions made by friends attending Fall Fellowship:

- Total contributions received (62 payments): \$7,940
- Contributions via PayPal (50): \$6,535
- Contributions by check (12): \$1,405
- Average contribution (combined online and in-person): \$128
- Fees paid to PayPal for online payment service (average 3.6%): \$234.11
- Net contributions: \$7,705.89

Several factors were used to calculate the suggested contributions for this pay-as-led gathering, including:

- The age of our attenders (costs for those 18 and under were covered by SCQM)
- Type of attendance (online or in-person, staying overnight or commuting)
- Type of accommodation requested for overnight attenders (cabin or bungalow)
- Add-on for friends coming early and staying Friday night
- Add-on for dinner Saturday night for commuting attenders

I would like to extend my gratitude for the blessing of working with the Clerks Committee and everyone involved in planning and supporting our 2022 Fall Fellowship Gathering, and I am looking forward to next year.

Submitted by Lawrence Alderson, Registrar, November 16, 2022