

**Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting
for Worship on the Occasion of Business
May 12, 2024 minutes**

The meeting opened at 12:30 p.m. online. Beth Wrightson clerked. 24 Friends were present via Zoom.

Lee Douglas shared the Nominating Committee's reflections on the Advices and Queries on Peace.

The Clerk reviewed the agenda, which had been posted on groups.io on May 11, 2024.

The minutes of the March Meeting for Business were approved with the following corrections:

1. The partial quote from Cindy Trueblood's report on John Woolman School / Sierra Friends Center and its sale of land to California Heritage: Indigenous Research Project (CHIRP) was removed, and Cindy shared her complete report on groups.io April 22.
2. Site Search Committee. Margaret Moses Schneider is appointed to replace Ragni Larsen-Orta on the Site Search Committee. Ragni found it necessary to spend more time in Friends of Color spaces not available at Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting. The ad hoc SSC is now: Margaret, Amy Dewey, and Emily Thurston.

The Clerk read the prompt: "*We are reminded to consider how our work and decisions today support SCMM in becoming an actively anti-racist faith community.*"

Correspondence and Clerk's Business:

1. The Clerk noted that there has been an exchange on the listserv regarding racism. Several clerks are paying attention and working to address the concern.
2. We received thank you letters from the Alternatives to Violence Project, Quaker Center Ben Lomond, and CHIRP. The letter from CHIRP included a poem on culture by Shelly Covert.

Old Business

Nominating committee (Charlie Blanchard) The meeting approved the slate of committee clerks and members, officers, and representatives, which was presented last month. The modifications, which will be seasoned for a month, are:

AFSC representative vacant

FCNL representative David Rutschman

Pac YM Julia Bazar, representative for 2024 and 2025

- Care of the Meeting Chris Hogness will serve as co-clerk, with the other co-clerkship to be addressed by the committee
- Worship and Ministry Larry Strain will serve as clerk, not co-clerk. Tom Rothschild will join the committee.

New Business

1. Worship and Ministry Committee (Larry Strain) proposed to make mask use optional, in keeping with The California Department of Health recommendations. One Friend noted that in communities of color masking practices have persisted, as people care for the vulnerable. Several Friends encouraged the committee to consider alternatives including keeping the doors closed in cold weather, and asking people who have cold symptoms to stay away,
2. Communications Committee (Sarah Hawthorne) Western Friend Representative job description. Nancy Wilkinson has been handling the meeting's subscriptions to Western Friend, and the committee is looking for someone else to fulfill that role. If you are interested in serving, please contact Charlie Blanchard or other members of the nominating committee (Lee Douglas, Paul Jolly, Jeanne Diller, Elizabeth Moses Strain, Rhea Farley).
3. Margaret Moses Schieder (Mutual Care) read a report from the marriage committee for Peter D'Angelo and Ilene Goldman. The committee recommended marrying them under the care of the Meeting, and the Mutual Care Committee concurred. The recommendation will be seasoned for a month.

Reports

1. There are no reports.

Query: *"How did our work and our decisions today support us in becoming an actively anti-racist faith community?"* One Friend expressed appreciation for a member of the community who raised issues of cultural sensitivity during today's business meeting. Another Friend mentioned that greeting newcomers with a request to put on a mask feels like othering and inhospitable.

Announcements

- a. Next Meeting for Business: June 9, 2024, at 12:30 p.m. It will be followed by a corporation meeting. The Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Recording Clerk, Treasurer, and the clerks of the Finance, Nominating, Worship and Ministry, and Care of the Meeting committees are members of the corporation, and are urged to attend.

- b. Peace Earthcare & Social Witness (Ragni Larsen-Orta) The committee is presenting a discussion on the meeting's zoom account, with Power, Privilege, and Race on May 19, at 12:30 p.m. on Retrospective Justice: The California Reparations Report.
- c. Care of the Meeting (Beth Wrightson) Care of Meeting Committee is offering financial assistance for attending Quaker gatherings. Please get any requests in to Kathy Barnhart by May 26, the date of the next Care of Meeting committee meeting.
- d. Betsy Morris announced that on May 16th there will be an interracial town hall addressing a variety of issues at McGee Avenue Baptist Church from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. The Berkeley Faith and Justice coalition is sponsoring it, among other organizations. City and regional candidates will participate.
- e. Larry Strain mentioned a noon discussion this Thursday, in person at the Bancroft Library on the UC campus, and also online, with the author of *California, a Slave State*.
- f. A monthly book discussion group will be starting June 24 at 6:30 p.m. *The Five Wounds* by Kirsten Valdez Quade will be the first book discussed. The meeting will be on zoom or at the home of Derek Larson, depending on how many Friends respond. Let Paul Jolly know if you are interested.

Meeting closed with worship at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Beth Wrightson, Clerk
Elaine Emily, Alternate Clerk
Paul Jolly, Recording Clerk