

[Click here](#) to view this email in your browser.



March, 2018



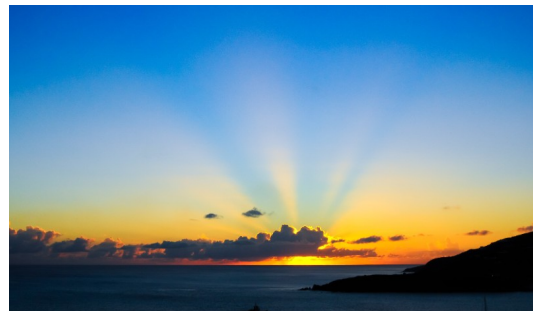
Inside this Issue:

[Upcoming Meeting Events](#)

[Advices & Queries](#)

[Minutes 2/11/2018](#)

[Highlights in the Community](#)



COMMUNITY ♦ EQUALITY ♦ SIMPLICITY ♦ UNITY ♦ PEACE ♦ INTEGRITY

Upcoming Events

- Meeting for Business – Sunday, March 11
- Memorial Meeting for Worship for Jim Shuman – April 22, 2018

[Advices and Queries October 2015. Worship and the](#)

Gathered Meeting

Queries

- Do I seek and expect a gathered meeting?

What do I bring to Worship?

- Does my presence contribute to the experience of the gathered meeting?

Advices

- In the practice of group worship on the basis of silence come special times when the electric hush and solemnity and depth of power steals over the worshipers. A blanket of divine covering comes over the room, a stillness that can be felt is over all, and the worshipers are gathered into a unity and synthesis of life which is amazing indeed. *Thomas Kelly, The Gathered Meeting*

- I want to suggest that the gathered meeting is a by-product of..."the Covenant Community." In a covenant community "we choose to be in relationship with God, and God gives us to one another and to the community. Our primary bond is to God." In a covenant community we are called together by God, because it is only in community that we can learn what God longs to have us learn: the transforming lessons of love, service, humility, compassion and forgiveness. *Tom Gates, Worship, The Gathered Meeting revisited.*

- It is in silence that we still our hearts and minds so that the Spirit of God may enter. This silencing, this waiting in expectancy, this listening for that which is deepest within—this is what Friends call worship. We seek a gathered stillness in our meetings for worship so that all may feel the power of God's love leading us and drawing us together. *Intermountain Yearly Meeting*

- Worship is our response to an awareness of God. We can worship alone, but when we join with others in expectant waiting we may discover a deeper sense of God's presence. We seek a gathered stillness in our meetings for worship so that all may feel the power of God's love drawing us together and leading us. *British Faith and Practice*



[Draft Minutes - February 11, 2018](#)

Draft Notes on the Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business

Attending: Dahlia van Gelder, Celia Carroll, Maggie Hutchinson, Wendy Christensen, Grayson Schick, Stan Searl, Brian Johnston, Rachel T. Fretz, Joy Loeser, Michael Loeser, Grant Ramey, Jo Ann Taylor, Cindy Waite, Judith Searle, Tim Vreeland, Debbie, Kim O'Brien, Kate Watkins-Shaw, Ann Fuller

Meeting began with silent worship on queries on Unity: “In what ways do I prepare my heart and mind to receive the power of God's presence and love?” Baltimore Yearly Meeting and “Are we prepared to let go of our individual desires and let the Holy Spirit lead us to unity? Do we accept with grace a decision of the meeting with which we are not entirely in agreement?” Intermountain Yearly Meeting

- A Friend said that they were struck by persuasion being part of discernment, e.g. committees assemble factual information to bring to business meeting, knowing that the decision needs to hold up ultimately to the heart inspiration of Spirit.
- Friends said that “Allow” suggests open searching together, and “submit” means not listening to ego. Since we have choice, not only willingness, but consent, is important.
- A Friend described Father Boyle listening with respect to people taking back their community under his guidance; “I will support you because you know what to do”.
- Friends said that mutual trust facilitates a willingness to labor and listen to different points of view; some meetings exist in a closer community than Santa Monica – how can we facilitate knowing each other?
- Another Friend related that although they were told “Quakers believe whatever they want to”, they now understand that Quakers believe whatever is in their heart.

The agenda was read and accepted.

Copies of “Friends Meeting for Business” and “The Role of Those Present” were distributed, and we read them together.

Finance Committee – Wendy Christensen distributed copies of the proposed 2018 budget. In the Income section she called attention to the inclusion of rental income from Aurelia and projected income from rentals, based on 2017 figures. Under Expenses, House Committee has revised their request to add \$3000 for expected expenses. Under Dues and Contributions, she called attention to the increased contributions to Quaker and interfaith organizations, the Burundi Clinic and the pilot program under the discernment of Peace and Social Action. The sense of the meeting was to retain the budgeted surplus of \$2,880 for unexpected expenses, rather than putting it into capital reserves. She reported that as of December 31, 2017, capital reserves stood at \$54,694.06.

02-18-01: Meeting approves the 2018 budget.

Nominating Committee – Judith Searle brought four Friends forward for the first time: Jean Fiumara on Children's Education, Ann Fuller on Communications Committee, specifically as Recording Clerk; Dahlia van Gelder on Communications Committee, and Tim Vreeland on House Committee. Concerns can be brought to Judith, Ann Fuller, Donna Cooper or Karsten van Sander.

Judith noted that the three members of Pastoral Care is overwhelmed with their responsibilities and in need of additional participation. Since only Members can serve on this committee, Nominating urges attenders to consider whether they have a leading to become members and to serve the meeting in this way.

The Clerk called for worship.

A Friend brought a concern with the high proportion of long-time attenders to members. She noted that membership is a statement about being part of a peace

church.

Peace and Social Action – Brian Johnston reported that the committee is discerning our response to threats to our values from the current federal government. They are looking for common threads from the threshing session, which was well attended by 30 to 40 Friends, and encourage Friends to attend the open committee meetings on fourth Sundays after Sandwich Making. The committee plans a showing of Robert Reich's video on income inequality and injustice. A Friend asked about subsequent threshing sessions, which was referred to the committee.

Adult Education – Judith Searle reported that the first two Quaker 101 sessions were well attended by both new and seasoned Friends. She distributed a revised list of sessions, extending into August. More copies of the readings by Marsha D. Holliday are available.

Minutes from the January 14, 2018 meeting for business were read and approved, with one correction. Under Finance – the specific amount by which committees scaled back their requests in 2017 should be deleted.

A Friend suggested that development of policy related to confidentiality and security of records be referred to Pastoral Care, rather than the ad hoc archives committee. Another Friend asked about the original intent of capital reserves; the clerks of business meeting will look into that.

Meeting ended with silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,
Kate Watkins-Shaw, Clerk
Ann Fuller, Recording Clerk

Addenda:

Unity: A common understanding of the will of the Spirit, dependent on the willingness of all to seek the truth in each others' utterances, to be open to persuasion, and to recognize and accept the sense of the meeting. Intermountain Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice

In what ways do I prepare my heart and mind to receive the power of God's presence and love? Baltimore Yearly Meeting

Are we prepared to let go of our individual desires and let the Holy Spirit lead us to unity? Do we accept with grace a decision of the meeting with which we are not entirely in agreement? Intermountain Yearly Meeting

Advices:

As Friends we commit ourselves to a way of worship which allows God to teach and transform us. We have found corporately that the Spirit, if rightly followed, will lead us into truth, unity and love. Britain Yearly Meeting

In all our meetings for church affairs we need to listen together to the Holy Spirit. We are not seeking a consensus; we are seeking the will of God. The unity of the meeting lies more in the unity of the search than in the decision which is reached.

London Yearly Meeting, 1984

Individuals' submitting themselves to the corporate revelation of Truth forms the basis of Friends' approach to unity ... The commitment to reach for unity depends upon mutual trust, implies a willingness to labor and to submit to the leadings of the Spirit, and grows as members become better acquainted with one another.
Intermountain Yearly Meeting

Finance Committee report, attached



COMMUNITY ♦ EQUALITY ♦ SIMPLICITY ♦ UNITY ♦ PEACE ♦ INTEGRITY

Highlight of the Community - Visit to Senator Feinstein's Office

The office of Senator Dianne Feinstein at 11111 Santa Monica Blvd. lies just down the street from our Meeting House. Gail Thomas, Jo Anne Taylor, Shan Cretin, Dahlia Van Gelder and I met with Kristen Woodruff, the senator's field representative. Our main topic was the Nuclear Position Review (NPR), recently released by the Department of Defense. We spent almost an hour with Field Representative, Kirsten Woodruff.

We presented a letter which we had signed expressing our support of Senator Feinstein and 16 other senators as they described their strong reservations regarding the NPR. We also presented three pages of signed petition sheets from fellow Friends supporting our mission. Ms. Woodruff was especially pleased to receive the banner made by our First Day School children. As we left, it was prominently displayed among the senator's awards.

Salient points made by our group were:

- We are disturbed at the use of continuing resolutions in Congress to maintain troops in Africa, the Middle East and other parts of the world.
- The government is not telling soldiers in an honest way that they are not protected from battlefield weapons such as Agent Orange.
- The U.S. deployment of such a large military today requires a huge amount of national resources to keep it up.

Ms Woodruff listed some of Senator Feinsteins more wide-ranging priorities, in addition to the reduction of nuclear arms:

- Senator Feinstein wants reinstatement of the Assault Weapons Ban which legislation she had initiated in 1994. The law expired in 2004.
- The senator does not see the possibility of significant actions by Congress around reduction of nuclear arms and reducing defense spending. However, she has faith in her senatorial colleagues that for the remainder of the session no extremely harmful legislation will be passed. She gave examples of Republicans' failure to repeal Obamacare, or ending the DACA program.
- Senator Feinstein supports elimination of the electoral college as it violates the democratic principal of one person / one vote. Every state has two senators, no matter how large the population.
- Ms Woodruff has the special assignment of acting as the senator's liaison for the issue of homelessness with Los Angeles County.



COMMUNITY ♦ EQUALITY ♦ SIMPLICITY ♦ UNITY ♦ PEACE ♦ INTEGRITY

Copyright © 2018 Santa Monica Religious Society of Friends, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.

MailChimp