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Friendly Notes

Santa Monica Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

April, 2018



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Highlights in the Community



COMMUNITY ♦ EQUALITY ♦ SIMPLICITY ♦ UNITY ♦ PEACE ♦ INTEGRITY

Upcoming Events

- Meeting for Business – Sunday, April 8th
- Movie screening at the Meeting House – [QUAKERS: THE QUIET REVOLUTIONARIES](#) Saturday, April 7 at 7 pm
- Memorial Meeting for Worship for Jim Shuman – April 22, 2018

Advices and Queries April 2018. Integrity.

Queries

- Do we keep to a single standard of truth? Are we punctual in keeping promises, prompt in the payment of debts and just and honorable in all our dealings? *IMYM*
- Are you honest and truthful in all you say and do? Do you maintain strict integrity in business transactions and in your dealings with individuals and organizations? *Quaker F&P*
- In what way does my life speak of my beliefs and values? *Baltimore Yearly Meeting F&P*

Advices

- The call for honesty lies at the heart of Quakerism. It is a testimony rooted in the Quaker respect for truthfulness. Respect for this kind of integrity calls for a correspondence between what one professes and how one translates that into action in real life. *Wilmer Cooper*

- Friends consider integrity a way of life. In the stillness of worship we come into the Divine Presence and open ourselves to the Light; we hide nothing of who we are. In keeping with that openness of spirit, Friends express themselves with honesty in their dealings with other. Plain truth needs no decorative flourishes. We speak with simple clarity to reflect in our words the reality of our perceptions and thoughts. *IMYM F&P*

- Our deepest calling is to grow into our own authentic self-hood, whether or not it conforms to some image of who we ought to be. As we do so, we will not only find the joy that every human being seeks, we will also find our path of authentic service in the world. *Parker J Palmer*

- It is in our lives and not our words that our religion must be read. *Thomas Jefferson*



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

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

Attending: Gail Thomas, Debbie, Cristine Reynaert, Cindy Waite, Curtis Raynor, Jan Bartholomew, Tim Vreeland, Judith Searle, Brian Johnston, Rick Shaw, Cathleen Loeser, Gretchen Woelfle, Maggie Hutchinson, Celia Carroll, Judy (), Henry Yang, Ann Fuller, Cynthia Cuza

The Clerk requested that we settle into the silence and open ourselves to the Light.

Queries and Advices for March on Worship and the Gathered Meeting were read together [see addenda].

- Friends spoke to experiencing a bond with those present and with the Spirit, uplifting and profound.
- In response to a new Friend's question, the Clerk noted that next Sunday there is an 8:30 meeting focused on the gathered meeting.
- Friends spoke to the different paths to worship, ways of being that lead one to the experience.
- Several Friends expressed a difficulty with the words “expect” and “seek”; one Friend prefers using “grace” to express that the experience is not human-driven or ego-driven, coming into the presence of God, the only immortal in the room.
- Another Friend said that labelling implies that one can fail at the set task. As a description it works – the beautiful connection, sometimes a heightened sense, an “entrainment” of body/mind/spirit, of Friends coming together week after week.

The Clerk reminded Friends of the guidelines for worship sharing; we are all here to listen to each other and to Spirit, speak only to the meeting as a whole, and wait to be recognized by the Clerk before speaking.

The agenda was read and accepted.

State of the Meeting – first reading

Following the first reading, for the benefit of some new to the process, we discussed the process and purpose of the report. We were also reminded that we were not there to word smith but discern if the report captured the sense – as best one can on one page and in 12 point- our present state as a meeting.

After much appreciation for the report and a suggestion to add a sentence describing our new tenant, Aurelia, the meeting approved the report.

18-03-01: Meeting approves the 2017 State of the Meeting Report

Pacific Yearly Meeting – The report from PYM was postponed until either Shayne Lightner or Shan Cretin could be present.

Nominating Committee – *Judith Searle* brought four names for a second reading: *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. All were approved.

Judith also brought *Mary Finn* as a first reading for Communications Committee, especially for the Directory. We were reminded again of the need for members on Pastoral Care and encouraged attenders to consider whether they have a leading to become members and serve the meeting in this way.

Alice Herman Annual Report – Gretchen Woelfle presented the proposed 2018 budget [see addenda]. She explained each item in the 2017 end of year budget and the reason for proposed changes on the 2018 budget. Her report was accepted with appreciation.

Pastoral Care– Celia Carroll reported on the charge from the meeting to Pastoral Care to develop a policy on confidentiality of membership records. She reported the file drawers will be locked ; the combination held by the Friend in Residence, Pastoral Care members and the Meeting Clerk. Celia also reminded the meeting of the content of meeting member files and invited members to view their file if desired.

The action of the committee was approved.

The minutes from February 11, 2018 were read and approved, with the correction that there are four, not three, members currently on Pastoral Care.

The meeting ended with silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Cuza, Clerk
Ann Fuller and Gail Thomas, Recording Clerks

Addenda:

Queries and Advices: 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

Addenda:

Alice Herman Committee 2018 Proposed Budget

Assets: \$13,367 checking account

	12/31/16	12/31/17
Calvert Social Investments	72,610	77,878
Friends Fiduciary Fund	108,045	120,661
PAX World Fund	78,583	85,670
TOTAL	259,238	284,209

2017 Budget (\$ spent in parentheses)

Quaker retreats and conferences \$3000 (\$3741)

Sojourning fellowships \$1000 (0)

Personal Spiritual Enrichment Grants \$1000 (\$440)

Quaker Center Meeting Pass \$1200 (\$1200) (10 attendees)

Community Outreach \$1500 (\$1408)

Meeting Enrichment \$1000 (0)

Emergency Grants \$2500 (\$700)

TOTAL: \$11,200 (\$6424)

2018 Budget

\$5000 – Quaker retreats and conferences

\$3000 – Sojourning fellowships

\$1000 – Non-Quaker spiritual enrichment programs
\$1200 – Quaker Center pass
\$1500 – Community outreach
\$1000 – Meeting enrichment speakers
\$2000 – Emergency grants
TOTAL \$14,700



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Highlight of the Community – Young Friends Meeting in Culver City.

LA Area young adult friends met, and well, just look at those smiling faces.



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