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May, 2018

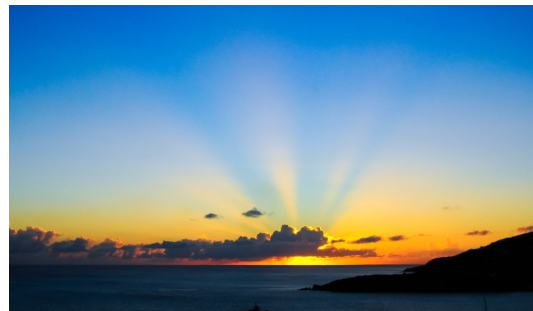


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COMMUNITY ♦ EQUALITY ♦ SIMPLICITY ♦ UNITY ♦ PEACE ♦ INTEGRITY

[Upcoming Events](#)

- Pacific Yearly Meeting 2018:
 - [Registration](#) now open
 - Volunteering as a [FRAP](#) at PYM 2018
 - [Affiliating with Friends General Conference](#)

- Workshops:
 - [Alternatives to Violence Project](#) (May 26-27th)
 - [Leadings as a Central Feature of our Quaker Action in the World](#) (June 16th)
- Adult Education (May 20th @ 8:30am)
- [Lobby Day](#) in Sacramento (May 21st in Sacramento)

Advices and Queries May 2018. Conflict: Listening and Speaking Truth

Queries

- When is it hardest for me to be ready to listen?
- Do I listen to those whose views differ from my own?
- How can I speak my truth so that those who disagree with me can hear it?

Advices

- Conflict happens, and will continue to happen, even in the most peaceful of worlds. And that is good—a world where we all agreed with one another would be incredibly boring. Our differences help us to learn. Through conflict handled creatively, we can change and grow; and I am not sure real change—either political or personal—can happen without it. *Mary Lou Leavitt, 1986*
- I have long believed that speaking truth is both the simplest way of leading your life and one of the most difficult to achieve. *Judith Aitchison*
- The capacity to listen is something which is greatly needed ...We so easily fall into a pattern of imagining we know what someone else is going to say to us. Sometimes this is the case, but more often than not we have just made up our mind, and have received a message which may be completely erroneous and precludes a true understanding. We must have all experienced the circumstances in which ...we have prejudged the meaning (of what we have heard). In that case we never meet. *D June Ellis, 1981*
- We must listen with our spiritual ear, the one inside, and this is very different from deciding in advance what is right and what is wrong and then seeking to promote our own agenda. We must literally suspend our disbelief and then listen to learn whether what we hear expands or diminishes our sense of Truth. *Gene Knudsen Hoffman 2003*
- Love is the hardest lesson in Christianity; but for that reason, it should be most our care to learn it. *William Penn, 1963.*



Draft Minutes - April 18, 2018

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

Attending: Kim O'Brien, Shan Cretin, Maggie Hutchinson, Cindy Waite, Jan Bartholomew, Rachel Fretz, Gail Thomas, Brian Johnston, Curtis Raynor, Grant Ramey, Beth Anderson, Elizabeth Cocca, JoAnn Taylor, Judith Searle, Tim Vreeland, Stan Searl, Kate Watkins-Shaw, Ann Fuller

Meeting began in worship on queries on Integrity.

- Love is one Friend's core value. Early Quaker business people were known for honesty; is that still true?
- This Friend hopes that in our peace and social justice work we still are known for plain speaking.
- In relation to the election of Donald Trump, one Friend read Jimmy Carter's declaration of honesty and simply wept.
- A Friend referred to the uncompromising simplicity of early Quakers, "in all our affairs."
- A Friend distinguished between "Truth" which we all share and that comes from God, and "truth" which is culturally determined, which was explored in Quaker 101.
- A Friend noted that all the deadly sins like vanity and anger are always encouraged by our culture; humility lies in doing something just because it's right.
- A Friend told of a street worker for peace in gangs whose absolute integrity keeps him safe, values he learned in 20 years in prison.
- A Friend cautioned about not saying "yea", meaning we think we should, rather than because we know we will follow through, especially challenging in unprogrammed meetings.
- A Friend wants to question their own interest more often, e.g. using a gas-powered car while knowing that it contributes to environmental damage.

The agenda was distributed and accepted.

Worship and Ministry – Stan Searl, reporting for Clerk Cynthia Cuza, read and distributed the final State of the Meeting Report, which incorporates changes reflecting discernment at the last meeting for business.

18-04-01: Meeting approves the State of the Meeting Report, with minor changes in the section Faith in Action to suggest where we are headed.

In response to Friends' questions, the Clerk clarified that the report covers where we were in 2017, not necessarily where we are at present. A Friend reminded Friends of the upcoming Spring Gathering on April 28, at which State of the Meeting Reports are read. It will be at Santa Monica, hosted by Inland Valley.

Pacific Yearly Meeting – Shan Cretin noted that the PYM website has the Clerk's Call to Yearly Meeting, and that the theme is Faithfulness. An important issue to be discerned is affiliation with Friends General Conference, and monthly meetings are being asked to consider materials which will be circulated in advance of

PYM. Shan gave a brief history of PYM's decision not to participate in the many schisms and divisions among American Quakers in the 1800s, and the subsequent isolation from larger Quaker groups like FGC. FGC has resources that we use, but we do not support it financially. The governance structure is rather unwieldy, and there are no smaller divisions (like AFSC or FCNL). Annually there is a 5 day meeting with workshops and a youth program.

The Clerk called for silent worship.

In response to Friends' questions, Shan clarified that we have an observer status but are not part of the work of FGC. FGC also hosts a process for Clerks of different Yearly Meetings to work together on issues like membership and new attenders; as an observer the Clerk of PYM cannot participate in this. Gail Thomas offered her experience as representative from other monthly meetings, and 25 years attendance at the annual FGC gathering.

Responses can be directed to Shan.

Nominating Committee – Judith Searle brought one Friend forward for final approval.

18-04-02: Meeting approves Mary Finn for Communications Committee, specifically to edit a new edition of the Directory

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.

Peace and Social Action – Curtis Raynor reported that the first panel of five Friends' presenting their individual leadings and current work for social justice will be held next Sunday. Curtis noted the last few years of searching for our corporate leading, most recently through the threshing session in January, which was well attended, and a subsequent small ad hoc group which reviewed the session and recommended the panel to the February and March Peace and Social Action committee meetings. This was also informed by Ben Pink Dandelion's presentation at SCQM, which revealed that an individual's passionate leading can lead to a shared passion in a meeting.

Minutes from the March 11, 2018 meeting for business were read and accepted.

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



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