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# July, 2018

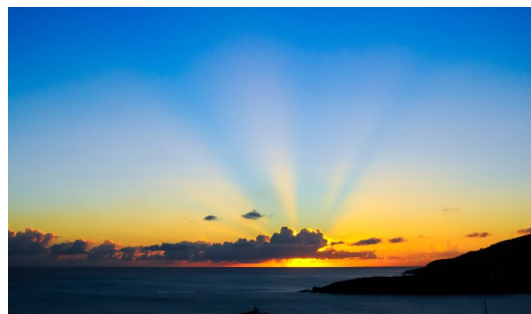


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## [Upcoming Events](#)

- Pacific Yearly Meeting 2018:
  - [Registration](#) now open

- Volunteering as a [FRAP](#) at PYM 2018
- [Affiliating with Friends General Conference](#)
- Workshops:
  - [Leadings as a Central Feature of our Quaker Action in the World](#) (June 16th)
  - [Labor Day Silent Retreat](#) (August 31 - September 2)

## **Advices and Queries June 2018. Worship and Friends Decision-Making (All from SEYM, Faith and Practice) Queries**

### **Queries**

- Are our meetings for worship held in expectant waiting for divine guidance, with a living silence in which we feel drawn together in the Light by the presence of God?
- In decision-making, do we promote a spirit of love, understanding and patience, as we seek unity on an appropriate course of action?
- Are we able to unite in good grace with the sense of the meeting, when our personal desires tend in another direction?

### **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: all our testimonies grow from this leading. *British Yearly Meeting, F&P*
- 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*
- Our worship is a deep exercise of our spirits before the Lord, which doth not consist in exercising the natural part or natural mind either to hear or speak words, or in praying according to what we, of ourselves, can apprehend or comprehend concerning our needs; but we wait...to hear with the new ear what God shall please to speak inwardly in our own hearts, or outwardly through others... *Isaac Pennington 1661*
- How does a Quaker Meeting work? Its foundation is the conviction that God is not a distant remote being, but a living presence into be discovered in the deep centre of every human being...The Quaker experience is that, in the silence, as we are open to one another in love, we help each other by sharing our strengths and weaknesses. The Quaker conviction is that as we go deeper into ourselves we shall

eventually reach a still quiet centre. At this point two things happen simultaneously. Each of us is aware of our unique value as an individual human being, and each of us is aware of our utter interdependence on one another.

*George Gorman 1982*



## [Draft Minutes - June 10, 2018](#)

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

Present: JoAnn Taylor, Brian Johnston, Andrea Beane, Gretchen Woelfle, Grant Ramey, Debbie, Henry Yang, Grayson Schick, Karsten van Sander Curtis Raynor, Sarah Rose House-Lightner, Shayne Lightner, Mattie Hutchinson, Celia Carroll, Gail Thomas, Wendy Christensen, Jan Bartholomew, Stan Searl, Elizabeth Coca, Cindy Waite, Donna Cooper, Cristine Reynaert, Dahlia van Gelder, Kate Watkins-Shaw.

Kate Watkins-Shaw, Clerk, opened the Business Meeting with silent worship.

**1. Advices and Queries** – Clerk read aloud the Advices and Queries for June 2018, which focused on Worship and Friends Decision-Making, all taken from Southeastern Yearly Meeting (SEYM) Faith and Practice. Clerk invited Friends to speak out of the silence to the Queries.

Minutes from May will be held over for approval until the July Business Meeting. The Agenda was approved as amended with the addition of a Pastoral Care Committee report after Nominating Committee.

**2. Finance Committee** – Wendy Christiansen reported on mid-year status of the Meeting income and expenses as compared with budgeted. She highlighted key points.

- **A.** Most committees are at or under budget because they have not submitted their reimbursement requests.
- **B.** House committee is slightly over budget due to increase in insurance premium. After further investigation, it is on track for what was budgeted.
- **C.** Income is higher than expenses.
- **D.** YTD, Total income is 31,371, and budgeted is \$35,625 and total expense is \$19,870; budgeted expense \$31,628.
- **E.** Capital reserve contribution has not been made yet.
- **F.** Summary: Meeting has spent less than budgeted; expenses are have been less than budgeted.
- **G.** Balances report:

Capital reserve savings – \$56,602  
 AHC – \$11,788  
 General fund checking – \$24,190

Invested for capital reserve – \$23,446  
 Total balance for capital reserve is about \$80,000 (\$56,602 + \$23,446)  
 AHC investments –

1. Calvert Social In – \$77,000
2. Friends Fiduciary – \$120,000
3. Pax World – \$85,000

Many thanks to Finance Committee for all their work

Clerk called for brief worship

**3. House Committee** – Maggie Hutchinson introduced Grant Ramey to report on his research regarding paving the parking lot. Grant reported in detail about paving options, including maintenance and life span for each option.

- **A. Minimal repair:** resurface – add more asphalt to the existing asphalt and re-stripe. Cost \$12,000; requires re-sealing once a year; should last 10 years.
- **B. To remove existing asphalt and then resurface with new asphalt:** cost, \$34,000; lasts for 20 years with annual resealing.
- **C. Permeable paving** – True Grid – consists of 4 foot squares of plastic with gravel between squares. Grant explained how the paving is installed. It is ADA approved.
  - Estimate of \$62,000 for the project
  - There is a company in Chino that does this installation, but we are too far away for them to come here. However it is supposed to be not difficult to install.
  - Does not need annual sealing
  - Is environmentally friendly
- Grant researched other permeable systems, but there are significant maintenance requirements and he does not think they will last as long.
- Current paving is unsafe and something must be done about it. House Committee recommends the permeable paving option.

Clerk called for questions, which were answered

- Will it be possible to walk comfortably in heels on the True Grid surface.  
Yes, because it is ADA approved
- Is it possible to check with people who already have this installed? National parks have this installed, though we don't know exactly which ones.
- How about paver blocks? Grant checked on various types of paver blocks but they all had various problems
- What is the significance of environmental of permeable vs non-permeable?  
Is it worth the extra cost? Grant responded that Santa Monica bay is very polluted, and that we have to balance between sustainability value and finances. We could be a huge example. Santa Monica has a parking lot with permeable asphalt, but Grant can see that it is falling apart already.
- Other alternatives were asked about, including other approaches to drainage, and decomposed granite.
- This request exceeds House's budget, and this is why we are discussing the issue. This expense would come from capital reserves.
- Grant says that True Grid says that we could lay the plastic grids ourselves, which would save about \$20,000.
- There were questions about finances related to the True Grid parking lot:  
How much of the Capital Reserve would need to be used? Is the annual maintenance in the House Committee budget? Are there any rebates or grants available?

- How do you get to grade level since there is a slant to the parking lot?  
Prepare lower surface to accommodate the level we want.
- Do we know whether or not in the local environment the durability would be the same as it is in the east, where there is more experience with the use of True Grid?

Clerk called for a short period of worship, and then called for response to the Minute from House Committee.

Since Finance Committee is conducting a capital reserve study that would identify the major expenses that are coming up in the next 10 years, it was suggested that we wait until it is done before making a decision.

A breakdown of the cost was requested: removal of old surface, grading, new material, installation of new surface. For people who want more information about True Grid, the web site is: [TruGridPavers.com](http://TruGridPavers.com)

Clerk gave her sense of the Meeting: Friends have some questions and would like to familiarize themselves with the information about TruGrid. We also want to wait for the results of the Capital Reserve Study so we can see how this project would fit into the future needs of the Meeting. Recommend that House Committee get a bid to see if a local contractor could do the work. We will consider whether we are led to move forward at our next business meeting. There was agreement that Clerk had accurately captured the sense of the Meeting.

**4. Children's Education** – Brian Johnston reported that the committee is now meeting face-to-face regularly. The committee will put out a survey on the listserv soon about how happy or unhappy people are with the Children's Education program. In addition, the committee is planning a "Silly Sunday," an all-generations event to do fun things with the kids during fellowship. The first one will be July 1.

The Committee has a lot of Minutes and wonders where they should be stored, where they can be archived. Celia Carroll stated that she is chair of the Archives Ad Hoc Committee; Rick Shaw is also a member. There is space in the room upstairs. Minutes will be archived in paper. The disadvantage with digital storage is migration to new systems.

**5. Worship and Ministry** – Stan Searl reported for Worship and Ministry. Functioning as the Naming Committee, W&M is nominating one person for Nominating Committee: Abby Adorney. The nomination does not need to be approved by Business Meeting. A question was raised about whether or not Meeting as a whole approved that Worship & Ministry take on the Naming Committee role. There is some value to having a separate Naming Committee from the worship and ministry committee.

Starting with a hymn, "Spirit of God Descend upon my Heart," Stan introduced the Meeting Retreat, entitled "Quaker Social Change Ministry" on October 13. The retreat is designed to meet spiritual and political challenges. Lucy Duncan of the AFSC will help us discern the link between spirit and activism. AFSC has a curriculum about this. AFSC has identified 5 key issues: mass incarceration, migrant rights, racial justice, Israel/Palestine, confronting Islamophobia. Their model for change is 'accompaniment.' The location is still to be determined.

**6. Nominating Committee** – Donna Cooper presented the nomination of Elizabeth Rineman, for the second time, to the Fellowship Committee. Since we should know who she is, Clerk suggests that we hold the nomination over for another month, contact Elizabeth and let her know that several people would like to meet her.

Clerk reminded Nominating Committee that June is usually the month when nominations for the coming year are first presented at business meeting, because they will to be held over until July for action. Nominating Committee has had difficulty meeting. The committee was reminded that if there is difficulty, they can request support from Meeting.

**7. Pastoral Care** – Celia Carroll reported on behalf of Carol Tantau, clerk of the committee. The committee is presenting Karsten Van Sander for membership, for the first time, to be held over until the next Business Meeting for approval.

Celia reported that Pastoral Care had a meeting for worship with Miriam Covington at here board and care residence, on the patio. She was very appreciative of the visit. She is in hospice. Miriam would like to leave a bequest for some component of the building remodel that would serve to enhance the experience of worship at Meeting.

**8.** Clerk closed the business meeting with silent worship.

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

### [Labor Day Weekend Silent Retreat: Transcending Suffering](#)

How can suffering become life-giving rather than death-dealing? When personal challenges or social/political conflicts kidnap our attention, our primal impulses—fight, flight, or freeze—tend to take over. Some of us fight off our anxieties with blame, some of us flee from our fears with distractions, and others among us numb our worries with anesthetics.

Personal and public suffering can move us toward life-giving power when we learn what suffering has to teach us both individually and collectively. Holding the tension of opposites strengthens us to transcend inner and outer conflicts.

Since the 1660s, Friends have created microclimates of quietude within which turmoil can settle. Sharing stillness together can hold us at the heart of pain and help us to make space for “that of God within” to help us find our way. Nurtured by silence, we can stop taking our leads from the clamoring voices of ego and society, and start listening for guidance from the still, small voice of all that is Holy.

Discover the healing power of silence at our 21st annual Friends’ Silent retreat. In the peaceful setting of a Benedictine Abbey that looks out over the ocean so aptly named “Pacific,” we can explore re-centering ourselves in the presence of the Divine through gentle and optional activities that include meetings for worship, worship-sharing, individual art creation, guided writing, gentle yoga, soul collage,

meeting for healing, and walking on the lovely grounds.

Twenty-First Annual Friends' Silent Retreat  
Friday, August 31-Sunday, September 2, 2018  
Prince of Peace Abbey, 650 Benet Hill Road, Oceanside CA 92058

To find out more about the retreat, please read a complete [description of the event here](#).



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