**Humboldt Friends Meeting – 2017 Minutes**

**2017-1 (January)**

The Ad Hoc Committee to consider establishing a Transition Streets program is laid down. Approved.

**2017-2 (February)**

Humboldt Monthly Meeting directs the Clerk, in cooperation with the Ministry & Oversight Committee, to provide letters of support for Lorena Boswell’s applications for scholarships to Pendle Hill. Approved.

**2017-3 (March)**

The slate of Meeting officers and committee members proposed by the Nominating Committee at the February Business Meeting is accepted, with the exception of Bill Spencer on Peace and Social Concerns, whose name will be seasoned for one month. Approved. [Slate is **attached**.]

**2017-4 (March)**

The State of the Meeting report as edited and read during business meeting is approved. [The final version is **attached**.]

**2017-5 (April)**

The Nominating Committee’s recommendation is that Bill Spencer be appointed to the Peace and Social Concerns Committee for the period 2017-2019 is approved. [Nominations attached.]

**2017-6 (April)**

Sarah Peter’s request that her membership be transferred from the Multnomah, Oregon Monthly Meeting to the Humboldt Monthly Meeting is approved. [**Place this in her folder]**

**2017-7 (April)**

The invitation from Unitarian Universalist Fellowship to join their Sunday service including a brief explanation of Quaker worship and a period of silent worship is accepted. M&O will coordinate.

**2017-8 (April)**

A one-day retreat at Leslie Zondervan-Droz’s house in Trinidad with the topic of Spiritual Renewal on May 13 is approved. P&SC will coordinate.

**2017-9 (April)**

There will be a Retreat at Blue Slide August 18, 19 and 20. The Ad Hoc Retreat committee will organize under the auspices of M&O.

**2017- 10 (April)**

The Meeting supports tabling at North Country Fair and approves approximate expenditure of up to $200 to pay for registration. The Meeting also supports tabling at other appropriate venues such as Arts Alive or HSU. To be determined by P&SC.

**2017-11 (May)**

Judy Houck’s application for membership is approved.

**2017-12 (June)**

The meeting approves changing the payment to Quaker Cloud from the previously approved $130 to $150 which is the amount all new subscribers must pay. Approved.

**2017-13 (June)**

The 2017 Budget will be corrected to show actual charges for the Pacific Yearly Meeting assessment of $111 for 14 members for a total of $1,554; and to show actual charges for the Website of $21 for Go Daddy and $150 for Quaker Cloud for a total of $171. Approved.

**2017-14 (July)**

Friends approved a new line item in the budget for North Country Fair of $150.

**2017-15 (October)**

Humboldt Friends Meeting encourages Suellen Lowry to familiarize herself with, and participate in, the activities of Quaker Earthcare Witness and report back to the Meeting with a recommendation as to whether we should have a formal nominated representative to QEW.

**2017-16 (October)**

The Meeting is interested in the traveling minister program of the Friends World Committee for Consultation and requests M&O to gather more information and make a recommendation.

**2017-17 (November)**

Finance Committee is authorized to make up to $100 in adjustments during the fiscal year.

**2017-18 (November)**

Disbursements of donations for 2017 are approved as budgeted.

**2017-19 (November)**

The meeting will no longer require separate approval of donations since they have already been considered by the meeting during the budget process. The meeting now has a Finance committee to keep track of these matters.

**2017-20 (December)**

The budget for fiscal year 2018 is approved as seasoned from November. [2018 Budget attached.]

In September the following discussion ensued:

Possibly skip another month of Meeting for Business besides August, for instance January or February but the decision can be made in December. The budget may need attention at year end. A short MFB with some kind of sharing after might also be considered. M&O could suggest a hiatus if nothing is urgent. M&O can meet even if MFB doesn’t.

Attachment to Minute **2017-4 (March)**

Humboldt Friends Meeting

State of the Meeting 2016

March 2017

Sometimes doubt and a sense of spiritual emptiness can lead to isolation but the renewal experienced in the Seekers Discussion Group, in fellowship, and in Friends’ commitment to improving our world bring us back to the Meeting for Worship. Seasoned clerks, the reliable structure of committees, fellowship with kindred spirits and deepening spirituality are reasons cited why Friends keep returning. We recognize that there is consolation and desolation along our paths in life. In both cases, Friends are supported by worship, fellowship and work in the Meeting.

The Seekers Discussion Group before Meeting for Worship on First Day continues to be a source of connection and enlightenment for Friends as well as an enhancement to the Silent Worship that follows. When Silent Worship commences with a core group of Friends who have connected spiritually and collectively just prior to Meeting, a gathered sense is felt by many.

Topics at Seekers in 2016 included Names of God, Gratitude, Paradoxes, the Beatitudes, Forgiveness, the Transition Streets approach to right use of resources, and, finally, Love Thy Enemy, which was examined through “Theater for Dialogue,” a performance approach to stimulating thought and discussion. In addition, two books were studied: Catherine Whitmire’s Plain Living: A Quaker Approach to Simplicity, and Steve Smith’s Eastern Light, Awakening to Presence in Zen, Quakerism and Christianity.

The Peace & Social Concerns Committee organized tabling at the North Country Fair on the Arcata Plaza for outreach and to raise awareness about the ballot proposition to abolish the death penalty. In addition, they provided outreach to the community by tabling at the Arts Alive evenings in Eureka Old Town. Peace & Social Concerns also provided issues for letter writing at rise of meeting monthly to encourage elected officials and others in support of issues at the heart of Quaker Testimonies. These efforts and events increased connection among us as we were sustained by Humboldt Friends Meeting.

Reaching out into the community brought new attenders and returning Friends to the Meeting for Worship, including a diversity of young and not-so-young adults. Our meeting is growing in both size and spirit. The latter in particular is aided by the periodic presence of children. Although small meetings have a special feeling, a spiritual critical mass is reached when all the chairs set out are filled. Friends express pleasure and gratitude when this happens.

The difficult election of 2016 brought dismay and grief but also a renewed sense of care for each other and a commitment to reaching out to others in the wider community with understanding and tolerance. The political situation may have contributed to the addition of new attenders as well.

In August, Friends both near and far went on retreat to a remote camp with cabins, kitchen and meeting areas as well as hiking and swimming options. The focus of vocal and silent worship for the weekend was “Practicing the Presence,” adapted from materials from a five-day Quaker Center retreat held in the spring of 2016. Everyone pitched in to make the food preparation and healthful meals an enjoyable time together.

Deepening the spiritual and social life of the meeting through shared work, play, and worship carry us onward. We greet the new year with resolve and a sense of optimism for the continued growth and spiritual grounding of our Monthly Meeting.

Attachment to Minute **2017-3 (March)**

Nominating Committee Report

Approved March 5, 2017

Proposed Slate of Nominees for positions beginning June 1, 2017

Note: All positions are listed for clarity. **New nominations are in bold font.** The new nominations will be seasoned for a month for potential approval at the March 2017 meeting for business. Any concerns should be brought to a member of the Nominating Committee (Martha Hunkins, Joanne Barstow, and Pete Loetterle).

OFFICERS:

Presiding Clerk: John Dixon (16-18)

Assistant Clerk: Gail Coonen (16-18)

Recording Clerk: Barbara Palmerton (16-18)

Correspondence Clerk: Joanne Barstow (16-18)

Treasurer: Leslie Zondervan-Droz (16-18)

Archivist: Pete Loetterle (16-18)

List Serve Administrator: Jan Turner (16-18)

PYM/CPQM Representative: Jan Turner (16-18)

**PYM/CPQM Alternate Rep: Gail Coonen (17-19)**

COMMITTEES:

Ministry and Oversight: Gail Coonen (16-19), Sarah Peters (16-19), **Suellen Lowry (17-20), Barbara Palmerton (17-20)**, John Dixon (ex-officio)

Peace and Social Concerns: Andrea Armin (16-18), Judy Houck (16-18), **Pete Loetterle (17-19), Carol McNeill (17-19**), **\*Bill Spencer (17-19), Elaine Weinreb (17-19)**

Library and Building: Carman Gentile (16-18), **John Barstow (17-19)**

Hospitality: Martha Hunkins (16-18), Suellen Lowry (16-18), Jan Turner (16-18)

Website: Leslie Zondervan-Droz (16-18), **John Dixon (17-19), Suellen Lowry (17-19)**

Finance: Joanne Barstow (16-18), Martha Hunkins (16-18), Barbara Palmerton **(**16**-19)**, Leslie Zondervan-Droz (ex-officio)

[\*It was noted that Bill Spencer's name was not announced at the February business meeting, but was inadvertently included in the list that went out with the February Meeting for Business minutes. Therefore the addition of his name was announced March 5 and his addition to the committee will be seasoned for one month. Bill’s nomination was approved April 2.]

