

## Quarterly Quick Notes

College Park Quarterly Meeting  
10/15/21 to 10/16/21

College Park Quarterly Meeting gathered on Zoom for Fall Quarterly on October 15 through 16, 2021. The theme was:

*How are we finding spiritual sustenance in the time of pandemic, zoom, isolation?*

*How have we been able to support each other in our spiritual groundedness in this difficult time?*

This session allowed more time for conversations and small groups, rather than panels and business activities, to provide some of the contact and interaction that is often missing in remote gatherings,

On Friday night, after opening worship and introductions, participants were offered the opportunity to participate in small discussion groups of 4 people. In the first 15 minute session, participants discussed what is alive for them now. In the second 15 minutes, with a new group of 4, participants discussed what would be most nourishing for them for the remainder of the Quarterly session.

On Saturday, Sierra Friends Center reported on how it is moving forward in the face of wildfire damage and pandemic. Insurance payments have facilitated fire recovery. A new program, the Jorgensen School of Non-Violence, is being organized. The board is including Nissinan tribal members in discussions of future land use. Sierra Friends Center is currently interviewing candidates for a new Executive Director. The full report is on the Quarterly website.

The naming committee was filled, and nominations for the Ministry and Oversight committee were approved.

There was some discussion concerning whether the Quarter should rename its Ministry and Oversight committee as some meetings have done. Some believe that the word oversight may be offensive due to associations of the word with slavery. There remains a sense that there is little unity on this point, and that there may be benefit in exploring the broader topic of how meetings may be more welcoming to people from diverse backgrounds.

On Saturday afternoon, facilitated conversations on various topics were offered in lieu of interest groups. Topics included:

1. Lectio Divina

2. At the Intersection of Spirit and the Arts
3. Walking In Racial Unity
4. Mysticism among Friends
5. Activism and Issues with FCL-CA
6. Quaker Concepts of God
7. Gardeners and Farmers
8. Fossil Fuel Addiction
9. Loneliness during the pandemic and ways to help safely alleviate it
10. When is simplicity possible?

Worship sharing provided an opportunity to discuss themes related to spiritual growth, the pandemic and service. This was followed by a full group worship/worship sharing. We were invited to share what we have learned, and what gifts we have received during the pandemic.

There were no children at Quarterly Meeting. However, a successful children's gathering was held the weekend before Quarterly Meeting at Sierra Friends Center. Several families with children and teens attended. It was a relaxed time with informal play, a walk to Mel's Pond, and a first day school program. There were some "new" families participating. By all accounts it was a successful fully-subscribed weekend. Thanks to Barbara and to Pacific Yearly Meeting Youth Program Coordinator, Keenan Lorenzato [DA] and Pacific Yearly Meeting Children's Program Coordinator, Mary Miché [LC/RF], for producing this event.

The one day Winter Quarterly will again be on Zoom on January 15, 2022. We hope that by spring we will be able to return to in person gatherings.

Jan Turner  
Assistant Clerk

