### GRASS VALLEY FRIENDS MEETING

Of the Religious Society of Friends of the Truth

College Park Quarterly Meeting, Pacific Yearly Meeting

### MINUTES & RECORD

Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business

June 8, 2025

We met in a hybrid meeting in person at the meetinghouse and on Zoom.

**Present:**  Dorothy Henderson, clerk; Jennifer Smith, recording clerk; Doug Hamm, Dianne Marshall, Arly Helm, Kathy McCreery, fosten wilson, Steve Borroum, Al Stahler, Lo Hamm, Judy Hamilton, Reed Hamilton, Lawren Giles, Stuart Smith, Peter O’Rourke, & Marilyn Guida

The Meeting opened with silent worship.

##### **Clerks’ Remarks and Query**

* Query: What is one thing you are bringing to our Meeting for Worship for Business today to offer to this process?
* Friends spoke out of the silence:
  + I bring concern and care for others in our meeting who are not feeling well.
  + I think one thing that I bring is that I don’t say too much.
  + I bring history.
  + I bring an increasing sense of humility.
  + I bring appreciation of the process to carry us through difficult times.
  + I bring ears that will hear and a heart that will listen and try to understand.

##### 

##### COMMITTEE REPORTS

(see reports appended, committee clerk is noted in bold)

**Spirit and Witness: Amy Cooke** (2024-2027),Stuart Smith (2023-2026), Reed Hamilton (2022-2025), Sharon Davisson (2022-2025), Dean Olson (2023-2026), Dorothy Henderson (ex-officio, GVFM Clerk)

Reed Hamilton gave the report, appended.

**MINUTE 2025.06.01: Grass Valley Friends Meeting approves Chamba Cooke for the position of Nominating Committee for the term of 2025 - 2026.**

* There was a lengthy discussion about the proposed minute on supporting the Nevada County Immigrant Rights Network. One Friend expressed concerns about how the minute supporting the Immigrant Rights Network is currently written, as a license for civil disobedience. This individual doesn’t believe that the meeting should support civil disobedience.
* Another Friend appreciates the concerns, and believes we should define civil disobedience. It is not always violent. Civil disobedience can also be sitting down in the middle of violence.
* Another Friend acknowledged historical riots, though it is not the only way demonstrations take place. Bayard Rustan told us that there is the potential for very real violence in these demonstrations, and peace activists need to be a part of these demonstrations so the situation does not get out of hand.
* One Friend reflected on this not being just about protecting immigration, but it is about protecting the process, and that we should be a part of peaceful protests where due process is not being protected. We need due process for people to come into our country legally and should reflect this in any Minute that goes out from our Meeting.
* There is incivil disobedience and there is civil disobedience. Quakers have founded and grown their religion though the use of civil disobedience. I appreciate that Quaker tradition and believe it is central to our beliefs.
* If we focus on violence, rather than civil vs. incivil disobedience, it might help us focus. How does this minute support Quaker values and practice and encourage our testimonies?
* Several members would like to add the phrase “utilizing our commitment to non-violence” to the last sentence of the Minute.
* A Friend expressed concern that we should not hinder arrests, or protect individuals from arrests, because it is where due process begins. We should be advocating for this administration to follow due process.
* Some people who are here have been “disappeared” and due process, such as a phone call, has not been followed.
* Another Friend brought up our Quaker history by not following the laws, when the laws are wrong, specifically with Quaker involvement in the Underground Railroad. When laws do not protect individuals, we should work to protect them because it is right.
* One Friend asked what the word “protection” meant to those who originally wrote the minute. It was clarified that this wording was taken from the Nevada County Immigrant Rights Network.
* Perhaps instead of the word “protection” we should use the word “witness.”
* Should we change the phrase to say “immigrants and others who are being denied due process?”
* Another concern was raised that immigrants do not get due process. If we say we support due process, we are cutting them out.
* According to the constitution, the 14th Amendment's Due Process Clause prevents state governments from depriving individuals of life, liberty, or property without following proper legal procedures or violating fundamental rights. This is also in the 5th Amendment.
* Is the meeting prepared to take illegal immigrants into the meeting house and potentially endanger the meeting by protecting them?
* We do not have the right to harbor immigrants in this meeting house being guests on Nisenan land. By saying we support this minute, we are potentially placing our meeting at risk with this administration, who is not committed to due process.
* We might need to bypass the Nevada County Immigrant Rights Network's tactics and instead support the importance of due process as laid out in the 5th and 14th Amendments. Possible wording could be “We affirm our unwavering support that the principle of due process, as guaranteed by the 5th and 14th Amendments, is central to our values in protecting life, liberty, and property.”
* It seems that this minute is not ready to be brought to the meeting. It should go back to Spirit and Witness to be further discerned.
* It’s important that the word “understanding” should be used.
* Queries for S&W: Why are we bringing this minute? What is our goal?

**MINUTE (Seasoning until 8th Month): Grass Valley Friends Meeting releases Charity Bryson from membership in Grass Valley Friends Meeting. A certified letter notifying her of this release of membership was returned unopened.**

**Stewardship: Gordon Starr,**  Pat Phillips, Reed Hamilton, David Bowman. Dianne Marshall (ex-officio, Newsletter editor), Mary Starr (ex-officio, Treasurer), Don McCormick (ex-officio, Librarian), HaileyWilson (ex-officio Tech Support).

Jennifer Smith read the report, appended.

**Welcome: Peter O’Rourke** (Website and Facebook coordinator), Kathy McCreery, Don McCormick, Pat Phillips, Cheryl Hendrickson, Cindy Bliss, Lo Hamm, Judy Hamilton (ex-officio email coordinator), Nancy Anderson (ex-officio directory clerk).

Peter O’Rourke gave the report, appended.

**Nominating Committee: *(terms as noted)***, **Gordon Starr: 2022-2024**, Judy Hamilton: 2022-2024, Dean Olson 2023-2025, fosten wilson 2024-2026.

Dorothy Henderson gave the report, appended, and approved the slate.

**MINUTE 2025.06.02: Grass Valley Friends Meeting approves the 2025 - 2026 Nominating Slate of Committees and Officers.**

**Children’s Program: Keely McDonald,** Doug Hamm, Judy Hamilton, Dean Olson, Reed Hamilton, Don McCormick, David Cowan, Lo Hamm.

No report was given.

##### OFFICER REPORTS and REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

**Treasurer:** No report given.

**Pacific Yearly Meeting**: No report given.

**College Park Quarterly Meeting:** No report given.

**Interfaith Nevada County**: No report given.

**Sharings from the wider Quaker world**:

* Quakers at First Friends Church in Indianapolis, IN, have been actively working to intervene in death penalty cases in the state of Indiana. An article on their ongoing efforts was released by Indianapolis First Friends Church, on May 19, 2025. They are standing witness to this.
* Reproductive Care Alternative Queries, from Kansas Meeting, will be made available in the library.

##### CLERK’S REMARKS:

* What makes the meeting really work? It’s us listening respectfully and openly. This discernment today might have repercussions, and we should be sitting with this further and really listening. I am grateful to be brought to a place of deep discernment going forward.

##### ITEMS SEASONING or CARRIED OVER

**MINUTE (Seasoning until 8th Month): Grass Valley Friends Meeting releases Charity Bryson from membership in Grass Valley Friends Meeting. A certified letter notifying her of this release of membership was returned unopened.**

##### ANNOUNCEMENTS

* **Monday,** **June 9**, **Barry Crossno** **Potluck** - the FGC general secretary is coming to Gordon and Mary Starr’s house for a community potluck. All in meeting are welcome.
* **Thursday, June 19** – **Potluck** at David Bowman’s clubhouse at Ponderosa Pines. Time TBA.
* **No July Meeting for Worship for Business:** There will be no meeting for worship for business in July. There will be a Meeting for Worship for Business in August.
* **Facebook:** please follow the Grass Valley Friends Meeting page, or join the Facebook Grass Valley Friends Meeting group. If you share a post from the page, your friends will see it, and it helps our visibility. Follow this [link.](https://www.facebook.com/GrassValleyFriendsMeeting/?view_public_for=108833097152257)
* The **2023-2024 PacYM General Directory.** The directory is now available. The Directory is for use by members and attenders of monthly meetings and worship groups within Pacific Yearly Meeting and by Friends serving on Pacific Yearly Meeting committees. It is not to be shared beyond this community. Dorothy and Don have the new password for the PacYM Directory.
* **Carl Magruder:** You can follow Carl’s healing journey on the CaringBridge.org website [HERE](https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/carlmagruder). Friends have also set up a daily Meeting for Healing from 7:30 to 8 am (Pacific) on Zoom [here](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85108606375?pwd=MmdDczRVd3MxQUxtLzBEUExxMDU0QT09) or contact Amy Cooke at amylisette@gmail.com for the link.
* **Contributions to Grass Valley Friends Meeting** are gratefully accepted. You can give by mailing a check to Mary Starr or through Tithely on the website or our newsletter.

##### 

##### READING OF THE RECORD AND MINUTES

The record and the minutes were read, corrected, and approved.

If you are giving a report to GVFM, please send the actual report to the recording clerk at **jenniferjksmith@gmail.com** THE WEDNESDAY BEFORE MEETING FOR BUSINESS and share with both Dorothy and Jennifer.

GVFM Newsletter Reminder: Please have items into Dianne Marshall by Tuesday at 10 am.

The Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully recorded by Jennifer Smith, recording clerk.

## 

## APPENDICES:

1. Spirit and Witness Committee report
2. Stewardship Committee report
3. Welcome Committee report
4. Nominating Committee report
5. Children’s Committee report
6. Treasurer’s Report
7. Pacific Yearly Meeting report
8. Interfaith Nevada County report

-------------------------------------------------------------------------

**Spirit & Witness Report**

June 2025

The Spirit and Witness committee gathered for our final meeting of the 2024-2025 year. Together, we held tender concern for Friends in our midst who are facing life challenges. We also spoke out of worship in celebration of our Friend Sharon, who is leaving the committee after fulfilling her term. We are looking forward to welcoming Doug Hamm, who will join us for our next meeting in August (we are not meeting in July unless needed).

We are holding concerns for the world at this time, and know that we may be called to respond. Toward Right Relations, as a Witness Committee under our care, has continued seeking how we can deepen into greater awareness of how we relate to the earth and its inhabitants. They have been reviewing two films for a possible showing to the Meeting for our October Spirit and Witness program. We are also listening for how we are present to the settling of the Nisenan tribe onto this land that has been theirs for centuries. We are mindful that this settling is slow and organic.

Another way we are listening for how we may be called to witness into the world is through the Nevada County Immigrant Rights Network. We are moved by this local group’s commitment to the rights of immigrants in our community, as well as others who may be targeted for deportation and detention. We bring to the Meeting this proposed minute:

**Proposed S&W minute:** Grass Valley Friends Meeting supports the Nevada County Immigrant Rights Network, a network of local individuals and groups who support the rights and wellbeing of all people in our community, especially immigrants and others who are being targeted for detention and deportation. We stand in solidarity with our vulnerable neighbors and will offer our help, resources, spiritual support, and protection as we are able.

There have been Friends from our Meeting attending the IRN meetings. We encourage those in the Meeting who feel drawn to this work to become involved and that a member or attender of GVFM be willing to serve as a liaison who can keep us apprised of ongoing activities.

Don McCormick, Gordon Starr, and Amy Cooke have been meeting as the Programs sub-committee of Spirit and Witness. The following after-Meeting programs have been scheduled:

* + June 23; Preston and Joy: "Preston and Joy will discuss the five keys of the Peace Center, why these areas of focus, the importance of creating spaces of deep listening and connectivity, and helping the people around us feel seen and heard in such troubled times."
  + July 27: Gordon Starr, program feedback and suggestions
  + August 24: Don McCormick, worship sharing
  + September 28: Dorothy Henderson and Gordon Starr, Nonviolence

We continue to check in with several support committees and anchor committees under our care, as well as others in the meeting.

Naming Committee: We bring the minute for approval for Chamba Cooke on the Nominating Committee, 2025-2026, one year term to insure staggered terms: seasoning until June 8

Nominating Committee: (terms as noted),

fosten wilson 2024-2026

Dean Olson 2025-2027

Mary Starr: 2025-2027

We have followed the Faith and Practice process in contacting members of the Meeting whom we have not heard from in some time. We have been unable to contact Charity Bryson, whom we remember fondly and with deep appreciation. Dorothy Henderson has send a certified letter to Charity’s last address to release her from membership, and the letter has been returned. We now bring this minute in Meeting to release Charity Bryson from membership:

**Proposed Minute:** Grass Valley Friends Meeting releases Charity Bryson from membership in Grass Valley Friends Meeting. A certified letter notifying her of this release of membership was returned unopened.

Reed announced that the Climate Champions/Faith Groups for Climate will march in the 4th of July parade. All are invited to participate.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday 2 August 8 am. We noted that we can call a meeting if needed in the interim.

### Stewardship Committee Report

Notes from meeting on June 1, 2025

**Present:** Gordon Starr, clerk, Reed Hamilton, Dianne Marshall, newsletter editor, Mary Starr, treasurer

**Newsletter.** Dianne questioned whether the Meeting Calendar on the front page of May’s newsletter was correct. Upon inspection it seemed ok. However, it did not have specific dates for the usual monthly programs.

She also suggested that the Quaker Call for Action would make an excellent Spiritual Life Fourth Sunday program.

She asked that dates for any programs, meetings, or other activities that go into the newsletter be reported directly to her so that she can make sure they get into the next edition.

**Finance**. Mary reported contributions for the month totaled $577. Expenses were $678.

Gordon noted that the first printing of the new Meeting Song Book cost $297. However, due to an oversight, most of it had to be reprinted at a cost of $173, which he is willing to cover. He has received $50 in donations. Mary noted there is $200 in Miscellaneous Unbudgeted Expenses in the budget and suggested that this could be used to cover most of the remaining cost. The committee approved the use of the funds for this purpose.

### Welcome Committee Report

June 2, 2025 / 7:00PM / Zoom

Attendees: Judy, Kathy, Nancy, Don, Pete

Opening worship

1. Potlucks
   1. Community Potluck with Barry Crossno, General Secretary, Friends General Conference

| Monday, June 9, 2025  Time: 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.  Place: The home of Mary and Gordon Starr |
| --- |
|  |

* 1. Additional potluck, Thursday June 19, Ponderosa Pines, the clubhouse at David Bowman’s new residence; time to come in near future

1. Don’s “Grow Our Meetings Toolkit” review
   1. The simple act of preparing to welcome visitors can give new life to a meeting.
   2. Quaker way and offering opportunities for building meaningful connections within the meeting.
      1. Don’s detail:
         1. Reviewed poster
         2. Bidding Friends into the community
         3. Whittier – “shrinking meetings”
         4. Discussed potential religious education presentation with focus on Welcoming
         5. *https://www.fgcquaker.org/fgcresources/for-your-meeting/grow-our-meetings-toolkit/grow-our-meetings-toolkit-welcoming-integrating-newcomers/*
2. Review Welcome Committee job description
   1. Reviewed responsibilities
3. Reviewed Songbook link now embedded in “Contact and Resources” on our Website

Next Meeting – July 7 – 7pm

### Nominating Committee Report

**2025- 2026 Slate of Committees and Officers**

All committee members serve one-year terms with the exception of Spirit and Witness (3-year term) and Nominating (2-year term). Names in bold are current committee clerks and conveners for the new term.

**Stewardship:** **Gordon Starr**, Pat Phillips, Reed Hamilton, David Bowman. Dianne Marshall (ex-officio, Newsletter editor), Mary Starr (ex-officio, Treasurer), Don McCormick (ex-officio, Librarian), Hailey Wilson (ex-officio Tech Support).

**Welcome: Pete O’Rourke** (ex-officio, Website and Facebook coordinator), Kathy McCreery, Don McCormick, Pat Phillips, Cindy Bliss, Lo Hamm, Judy Hamilton (ex-officio email coordinator), Nancy Anderson (ex-officio directory clerk).

**Spirit and Witness: Amy Cooke,** 2024-2027,Stuart Smith, 2025-2026, Reed Hamilton, 2025-2028, Dean Olson, 2024-2027, Doug Hamm, 2025-2026, Dorothy Henderson, 2026 (ex-officio, GVFM Clerk), Gordon Starr (ex-officio, elder to the clerk).

**Religious Education:** **Judy Hamilton**, Doug Hamm, Dean Olson, Reed Hamilton, Don McCormick,Keely McDonald, Lo Hamm. Substitutes: Gordon Bishop, Gordon Starr, Alan Stahler. Fifth Sunday reader: Anita McCormick

Offices:

**Clerk:** Dorothy Henderson

**Elder to Clerk:** Gordon Starr

**Recording Clerk:** Jennifer Smith

**Newsletter Editor:** Dianne Marshall

**Newsletter Distributor:** Pat Phillips

**Email Coordinator:** Judy Hamilton

**Treasurer:** Mary Starr

**Tech Support:** Hailey Wilson

**Website/Facebook Coordinator:** Peter O’Rourke

**Librarian:** Don McCormick, Judy Hamilton, Kathy McCreery.

**Co-Recorders/Archivists:** Amy Co0oke, Kathy McCreery

**Directory Clerk:** Nancy Anderson

**Mail Clerk**: Dean Olson

**Representatives:**

*Please note: Most organizations no longer have representatives from GVFM. The following are exceptions:*

**Interfaith Nevada County**: Dianne Marshall

**Nisenan/Yulica:** Contact Person, Dorothy Henderson

**Pacific Yearly Meeting**: Doug Hamm

**College Park Quarterly Meeting:** Doug Hamm

### Children’s Committee Report

No report was given.

**College Park Quarterly Meeting report**

No report was given.

**Treasurer’s Report**

No report was given.

### Pacific Yearly Meeting Report

No report was given.

### InterFaith Nevada County Report

No report was given.