### 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

September 14, 2025

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

**Present:**  Dorothy Henderson, clerk; Jennifer Smith, recording clerk; Anita McCormick, Don McCormick, fosten wilson, Kathy McCreery, Dianne Marshall, Reed Hamilton, Dean Olson, Judy Hamilton, Doug Hamm, Amy Cooke, Chamba Cooke, Mary Starr, Gordon Starr, elder to the clerk, Steve Borroum, & Stuart Smith

The Meeting opened with silent worship.

##### **Clerks’ Remarks and Query**

##### Query: How are we coming together to rest for sabbath? When coming together with proposals to ponder and discern, how do you find rest? How do you observe the sabbath?

* Friends spoke out of the silence:
	+ If we are going to meet in discernment, it is helpful to rest before getting there.
	+ Being able to set your own opinions aside and instead focus on the process of discernment, seemingly insurmountable solutions can be found. Allowing the process can be a form of rest.
	+ Resting into God’s will, and not the details of the work, and allowing our attention to return to God’s will is an ideal.
	+ Resting is something we all do, animals included, when we have trust. It is trusting the process that leads to the possibility of rest.
	+ I find rest in releasing ideas I’ve had beforehand, and letting go to see where the process leads us, and as Friends share their leadings.
	+ Allowing us to take the time we need, and to go really slow with silence, allows us to rest and release into the safety and community that we are. It is a holy moment.
	+ The query and the sharings of others in our community can open up new ideas and perspectives that we might not have on our own.

##### COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

**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).

 Amy Cooke gave the report, appended.

* One Friend had a concern about the length of time for some of the presentations in the season of non-violence. Amy will address this concern outside of Meeting for Worship for Business.
* Another concern was about if it is comfortable for the Nisenan to invite the public onto the land here for these presentations. It was decided the tribe needs more time to settle and feel that this is a place where they get to invite people. So, these presentations have not been made public.

**MINUTE 2025.09.01: We hereby release Amy and Chamba Cooke from their sojourn with the Groupe Languedoc in Congénies, France (see letter, appended). We send our gratitude to Friends there for providing another spiritual home for Amy and Chamba, and look forward to hearing more about their discernment as traveling Friends.**

**MINUTE 2025.09.02: Grass Valley Friends Meeting approves the Minute of Service letter for Stuart Smith.**

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

 Reed Hamilton gave the report, appended. Fosten Wilson gave the budget report, appended.

* There was a question about what the word limit is for articles. Dianne will include it in the newsletter.
* There was confusion about if we were approving the budget now, or later during the treasurer’s report.
	+ We have two separate issues, and two separate minutes. One is approving the budget for next year, and another for the use of surplus funds.

**MINUTE 2025.09.03: Grass Valley Friends Meeting approves the proposed use of the surplus funds to double our out-bound donations. This is a one time change of $1,025.**

**MINUTE 2025.09.04: Grass Valley Friends Meeting approves the contribution of $500 to both the FGC and PYM/CPQM scholarship funds. This is a one time contribution out of surplus funds.**

* There was a long discussion about the trial meeting for worship at Peace Lutheran Church in Grass Valley.
* There was a question about why the decision was made to have a Sunday morning non-hybrid trial meeting vs. an evening meeting for worship.Stewardship found that moving the meeting and ongoing weekly worship is of higher priority to see how it works for us as a meeting.
* For the trial meeting, we would only have access to one room, so Religious Education would not be able to meet that day.
* There is a concern about not using the hybrid equipment. We would want to try this before a decision is made. The hybrid could still be carried out by simply bringing a laptop which would allow Friends at a distance to still participate in the trial.
* The trial doesn’t address all concerns, such as signage, etc. There are logistical and spiritual concerns here, and should make sure that spiritual concerns are being addressed. We have a spiritual commitment to equality. We don’t want to discriminate against people who don’t have a car.
* An evening meeting means we wouldn’t have to notify the public of a change in location. It would keep this trial internal to our meeting. An evening meeting might exclude people who are not comfortable driving at night.
* To help visitors or members who weren’t notified of the change in location, several members could be at the current meeting house to worship and guide visitors to the new location. This information can also be included in the email that goes out to the email list.
* Part of the reality of the experiment is to see what it is like to co-exist with the Peace Lutheran congregation. It will be a bumpy transition no matter what.
* The experiment means nothing will be decided yet. We would return to discern further.
* We can bring a laptop to allow this to be hybrid. It’s possible to set up the equipment, if it’s really important to members.
* Notification would not go out on Facebook or the website.
* Music would happen before the trial meeting.
* Shelly Covert (CHIRP) has been notified.
* Spirit and Witness and Stewardship will work with all involved parties on deciding on a date.
* We want to make sure the members of CHIRP know we are grateful and that this process is not because of them.
* There would be a $45 charge for the use of one room for the experiment.
* Any concerns about details for the experiment should be addressed to Stewardship.
* Spirit and Witness will be involved with figuring out the logistics on who will be at the current meeting house. Spirit and Witness and Stewardship will communicate with each other on the planning of this experiment.

**MINUTE 2025.09.05: Grass Valley Friends Meeting will be experimenting with a single Sunday morning Meeting for Worship being held at Peace Lutheran Church in Grass Valley. We will begin with a single meeting experiment with a charge of $45.00 for the use of one room to be used from Stewardship’s discretionary funds.**

**MINUTE (Seasoning until 10th Month): Grass Valley Friends Meeting approves the proposed budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.**

* It was noted that if we decide to move the meeting to Peace Lutheran Church, the rent would be a little less than we are paying now, and internet would be included.
* Also, the large donation made this year has verbally been committed for next year again.

**Welcome: Peter 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).

Judy Hamilton gave the report, appended.

* Welcoming will be looking into some emails on Quakerism that could be shared with new visitors and attenders.

**Nominating Committee: *(terms as noted)***, Chamba Cooke: 2025-2026, Dean Olson 2025-2027, Mary Starr 2025-2027, fosten wilson 2024-2026,

No report was given.

**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

 No report was given.

##### OFFICER REPORTS and REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

**Treasurer:** fosten wilson gave the report, appended in Stewardship.

**Co-Archivists/Recorders:**

The co-archivists/recorders are reviewing paper and digital files for meeting members and attenders. We will be sending some messages in the coming months about updating the files for our members and attenders. Thank you for partnering with us on our goal of updated files in the meeting!

Kathy McCreery and Amy Cooke

**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**:

##### CLERK’S REMARKS:

* Coming here and being in this meeting with everyone here is a balm for my soul. This whole process is a balm for my soul. We are a small group but the way we hold making decisions and creating beloved community is so worthwhile.
* You can come to meeting when you are experiencing hardship and don’t feel whole. You can come here and be held.
* The beloved community feels alive and well in Grass Valley Friends Meeting and this was a sabbath day of rest.

##### ITEMS SEASONING or CARRIED OVER

**MINUTE (Seasoning until 10th Month): Grass Valley Friends Meeting approves the proposed budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.**

##### ANNOUNCEMENTS

* **College Park Quarterly Meeting:** Fall Meeting is scheduled for the weekend of October 17-19, 2025, at Ben Lomond Quaker Center.
* **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.

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##### 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.

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## APPENDICES:

1. Spirit and Witness Committee report
	1. Sojourn Letter for Amy and Chamba Cooke
	2. Minute of Service letter for Stuart Smith
2. Stewardship Committee report
	1. Proposed Budget for 2025 - 2026 fiscal year.
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

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**Spirit & Witness Report**

09.2025 Spirit and Witness Report to GVFM

**Tending Meeting.** We have appreciated the recent feedback we have received regarding the tending of our Meeting. After hearing about another Meeting that shared the opening and closing through a sign up sheet, we decided to try this new structure. Spirit & Witness members will tend the Meeting on first Sundays and read the Advices and Queries, as well as note the members of Spirit and Witness. We will start this practice in October, with S&W members rotating through the Sundays in September.

**Peace Lutheran Church.** We spent a good deal of time this month on the proposal to have a Meeting for Worship in town at Peace Lutheran Church, as a preparation for the discernment for a move there for the Meeting. We recognize that there is both discernment at the logistical level and the spiritual level. We are aware that a move is a major step for the meeting, and we join with others in dedicating ourselves to listening deeply for the losses and opportunities that this raises.

**Letter of Sojourn for Amy & Chamba Cooke.** We bring the following minute for your discernment:

**Minute** from Spirit and Witness: We hereby release Amy and Chamba Cooke from their sojourn with the Groupe Languedoc in Congénies, France (see letter, appended). We send our gratitude to Friends there for providing another spiritual home for Amy and Chamba, and look forward to hearing more about their discernment as traveling Friends.

Richard Thompson, Secrétaire

Groupe Languedoc

11, Avenue des Quakers

30111 Congenies, France

July 11, 2021

Dear Friends,

We offer greetings from Friends at Grass Valley Friends Meeting in Pacific Yearly Meeting. We commend to your loving care Chamba and Amy Cooke, who are members of Grass Valley Friends Meeting and will be sojourning with Groupe Languedoc. They will be serving as amis-residents at the Maison Quaker while retaining their membership with Grass Valley Friends Meeting.

We hold Chamba and Amy in our prayers and trust that God will richly bless your time together. On behalf of Grass Valley Friends Meeting,

Anita McCormick Don McCormick
Co-Clerks, Grass Valley Friends Meeting, Pacific Yearly Meeting

**Spirit and Witness programs: A Season for Nonviolence.**

* + September 28: Dorothy Henderson and Gordon Starr: Nonviolence
	+ October 5: Dianne Marshall: Daniel Hunter, a Quaker call to action recording
	+ October 26: Reed: Toward Right Relations, film
	+ November 23: Doug: A Force More Powerful video and discussion
	+ December 21: Amy (in person) : Stop, Drop, and Roll: a practice for living nonviolently

We are also bringing forward for approval a Minute of Service on behalf of Stuart Smith, attached.

25th, Seventh Month, 2025

Blessings of Peace & Joy to all who read this minute:

This letter is an introduction to Stuart E.W. Smith and a Minute of Service from our meeting, Grass Valley Monthly Meeting in Grass Valley, California. (College Park Quarterly, Pacific Yearly).

Stuart is a longstanding member of our Meeting and is in good standing. He is a deeply principled person who acts out of those principles in Spirit-led and heart-centered actions that have contributed to our Meeting and Quakerism for many years. He currently lives in Newcastle, an hour from our Meetinghouse, with his family. He has served on many committees in our Meeting over three decades, including serving as our Clerk. He carries a concern for the education of high school students in the lessons and craft of peacebuilding by using Quaker values. He hopes to listen to the Spirit on this concern and discern a way forward. Following this service call, Stuart is about to complete a PhD in Quaker Studies through the University of Birmingham, England. He himself is a lifelong professional educator in theatre, music, and English.

Stuart has weighty convictions and experience on this subject and has helpful ministry to share on the matter of teaching peacebuilding for you. We believe his presence will bring excitement and hope.

Our Meeting hopes you will open your community to hear Stuart’s ideas and share your questions and aspirations for the young people of this difficult moment.

**Stuart E.W. Smith believes that:**

* There has never been a more proper moment to broaden Quaker education to underserved high school aged youth;
* becoming a knowledgeable and well-trained peacebuilder is more vitally important in our country today than ever;
* such training involves personal development, societal understanding, and a practical understanding of nonviolent activism and its techniques;
* accomplishing this education effectively will require a reimagination of the high school experience; and that
* Quakers’ long history with education as ideally suited for just such a challenge.

We commend Stuart to your tender prayerful care, and ask that you allow him to share his concern. We would appreciate a note of documentation regarding his actions and ministry. We trust you will find him as joyful a presence as we do.

In the Light,

Dorothy Henderson,

Clerk,

Grass Valley Friends Meeting

### Stewardship Committee Report

Notes from meeting on September 4, 2025

**Present:** Mary Starr, clerk, Gordon Starr, recorder, Reed Hamilton, Fosten Wilson, Dianne Marshall, newsletter editor

We opened with a moment of worship.

**Finance.** Donations in August totaled $679; expenses were $634.

 Mary, Gordon, and Fosten met on September 1, to work on the new budget for the 2025 – 2026 fiscal year. They brought to the committee a proposed budget that is only $697 greater than the previous year. However, there were several changes brought forward. The donations for this year have blessed Meeting with a budget surplus of almost $3,000. After much discussion, the committee recommends the following:

 For *this* year*,* we propose doubling our out-bound donations. Last year we were unable to fund any of the organizations on our list and the committee felt this to be a good use of some of our surplus. This is a one-time change totaling $1,025. In the new 2025-2026 budget, the committee proposes increasing all out-bound donations by $25 from this year’s levels.

 Also, the FGC and PYM/CPQM scholarship funds are currently at $70 and $80 respectively. These scholarships are available to folks who wish to attend these Quaker gatherings. They are restricted funds and only get funded by designated donations. Stewardship recommends a contribution of $500 to each of these funds. The combination of these two expenses would still leave a surplus of around $900.

**Move to town?** There have been discussions around the difficulties and benefits of moving our worship into town for many years. This year, with the sale of the property, this has been particularly of interest. At the invitation of Pastor Christian of Peace Lutheran Church, Dianne, Gordon and Mary visited the church to look at and consider the spaces they have available to rent. We found two rooms that seemed to meet our needs; a smaller one, 17’x17’ that could work as the library and a classroom, and a larger room, 17x 29 with a small kitchen with sink and cupboards to one side. Peace Lutheran has made us an offer for the full use of the smaller room for our library and Sunday use of the larger room for four hours. All things considered, we would be paying less than we do now. They are open to our having a trial meeting there to see how it works for us. The committee recommends this trial meeting. Due to the complexity of setting up all the equipment, we recommend this trial meeting not be hybrid. There has also been talk of doing an evening Meeting for Worship in town, but, after discussion, the committee agreed that the regular Sunday worship was a higher priority. Many aspects of this move remain to be considered.

**Newsletter.** Dianne asked that there be a word limit on articles and content submitted for inclusion in the newsletter. She does not have room for large articles and asks that folks edit their submissions for brevity. Contact her if you have any questions about this.

 Our next meeting will be on October 2, 2025 at 3:00 PM on Zoom.

Proposed Budget for 2025-2026 fiscal year:



### Welcome Committee Report

September 8th, 2025 / 7:00PM / Zoom

Attendees: Judy, Kathy, Don, Nancy and Pete

Opening worship

1. Potluck update
	1. Pat Philips’ potluck went well
	2. Lo’s memorial – October 4th
2. Guest book entry by new Worship participants
	1. Dorothy’s Business Meeting question
		1. Is there a postcard in Welcome bag
			1. Welcome will check for letter and add action items for postcard
			2. New visitors are signing quest book
		2. Is there a letter from Dorothy in Welcome bag
			1. How does the new Friend use the postcard and letter to respond to GVFM
3. Clean up name tag board
	1. Scheduled in the coming week
4. Implications of moving for outreach.
	1. About five years ago, Fosten looked for other places we could meet.
	2. He could not find a place that would:
		1. somewhere we could put our stuff
		2. place where the children’s program could meet in a separate place
		3. a plus for Peace Lutheran
	3. Don says room for the library is not that important.
	4. How many cars would go by the location is important
	5. East main has a lot of cars go by the Peace Lutheran church
	6. Signage is important.
	7. If we leave Yulića, it will be sad
5. GVFM distribution which is password protected has been shared with PYM

Next Meeting – October 6th – 7pm

### Nominating Committee Report

No report was given.

### Religious Education Committee Report

 No report was given.

**College Park Quarterly Meeting report**

 No report was given.

**Treasurer’s Report**

 Proposed Budget was appended in the Stewardship Report.

### Pacific Yearly Meeting Report

 No report was given.

### InterFaith Nevada County Report

 No report was given.