

Pacific Yearly Meeting
Southern California Quarterly Clerk's
Report to Representative Committee (RepCom) 2023

SCQM's mission, as articulated in our bylaws, is to strengthen the life of the nine Monthly Meetings and four Worship Groups in the southern CA region, to help relate our activities to those of Pacific Yearly Meeting, and provide regular opportunities for members and attenders to come together for worship, fellowship, religious education, and consideration of peace and social concerns.

We typically hold two gatherings each year, Spring Gathering occurs the last Saturday of April and Fall Fellowship the first full weekend of November. In addition to these gatherings, last March we hosted an online Singalong with Annie Paterson, Songs of Struggle and Hope.

Several Monthly Meetings have reached out to our Ministry and Counsel Committee for support and guidance on sensitive concerns and members of this committee have their ears and hearts to the ground of the meetings and worship groups that each is close and connected to.

Our committees are currently fairly well filled and doing good work, though 14 out of a total of 39 Friends serving in leadership roles or on committees, that's about 36%, have terms ending in May of this year. That in itself is a concern. Our nominating committee, and the naming committee has work to do in the next few months prior to Spring Gathering.

Our Peace and Social Concerns committee got a boost and a restart after an ad hoc group of Friends, over the course of six months after our Fall Fellowship in 2021, reflected on the structure and mission of this committee, which had been clerkless for awhile. This committee now has two dedicated co-clerks but no other members. Despite this, they've been very active in arranging interest groups and workshops for Spring Gathering and Fall Fellowship.

Other actions in the peace and social concerns realm include the SoCal Quakers Racial Justice Network, which held monthly meetings from October 2020 through August 2022. A primary intention of this group was to share racial justice news and resources from among the Quarter's meetings and worship groups. SCQM also supported the work of the Fit for Freedom: Not for Friendship Reading Group which is an ongoing offering initiated by f/Friends from La Jolla Monthly Meeting and Apple Seed Monthly Meeting.

We had about 90 f/Friends participate in our first blended in-person and zoom Fall Fellowship gathering this past November at Temescal Canyon Gateway Park. We learned a lot! Highlights include the Towards Right Relationships with Native Peoples with Paula Palmer and the F/friends in Unlikely Places: Engaging Those Who Disagree with Bobby Trice from FCNL, thanks to the PSC co-clerks for coordinating these workshops. Technical challenges of this blended gathering included sound issues, the need for better coordination between the online zoom host and a designated onsite zoom host who

could problem-solve on the fly, and the need for private spaces for the in-person portion of hybrid affinity groups. We had a very small children's program and unfortunately, no teens were able to attend. As a result of such minimal participation from teens and children in recent years, these two committees have decided to work together as one committee. All in all, though, it was a joy to gather with beloved Friends in a beautiful, nature-centered location.

Submitted in service and with gratitude, Jane Blount SCQM Clerk