

## **Morningside Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Minutes of the Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business**

Morningside Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Minutes for Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

January 8, 2017

1. The Meeting began with worship at 12:25 p.m., and the Clerk read an excerpt from Covenant Relationships section of Faith & Practice, approved November 2016. This month 30 years ago, Morningside MM approved its same sex marriage minute.

“Early Friends believed that marriage depended on the prayerful inward life of the couple’s deep, abiding commitment to each other and to God, not on the outward forms of ecclesiastic blessing or legal contract. Our witness today must uphold the same high standards for ourselves in our covenant relationships: standards of love, fidelity, and discipline that bear witness to the presence of the Spirit among us rather than to the self-interest and immediate gratification of desires prized in our culture. Sexual relationships, especially, are too tender and powerful to be left to unspoken understandings.

“Love reaches further than words, and we experience the Spirit long before any words. The family is a precious spiritual community, and we rejoice and are nourished in homes full of friendliness, refreshment, and peace, where God becomes real to those who live there and to all who visit. We joyfully acknowledge the sustaining, enriching presence of loving unions among us, whether between persons of different or the same sex, and we want the meeting’s strength to undergird these covenants.

“Some of us live alone and find love and community among our friends. Some of us are single parents, caring for our children. Some members’ families follow traditional patterns; others do not. Many monthly meetings honor committed gay and lesbian relationships and support or perform same-sex marriages. Just as there is that of God in every person, there is that of God in every relationship that calls upon God. We seek to treat responsible, loving relationships tenderly and respectfully. We seek to hold each other in the light of our ideal that Spirit-filled covenant relationships are the one sure basis for love and sexuality.”

2. Stephen McDonnell was approved to be Recording Clerk for this meeting.
3. Mason Jenkins read the report for Ministry and Counsel. The committee met on Jan. 2 at the home of Dave Evans. The next meeting will be at the home of Pamela Wood on Jan 30. All are welcome to the first part. Please RSVP. The Meeting accepts the report. The written report is attached.
4. Naomi Paz Greenberg read the written report for Peace and Social Concerns. The Meeting accepts the report. The written report is attached.
5. Charlene Ray read the Treasurer’s Report. With the correction that the narrative totals will align with the spreadsheet, the report is accepted. The report and spreadsheet is attached.
6. Charlene led the review of the proposed budget. Friends approved the budget for 2017. The budget is attached.
7. The State of the Meeting draft was read by Jerry Reisig. One Friend offered an addition concerning the availability of childcare. One Friend asked about comparative reports from other Meetings. NYYM publishes all of the State of the Meeting reports from each Monthly Meeting. One Friend asked about our outreach to the Columbia University community. Our draft of the State of the Meeting will be circulated via our email list so that edits can be made by the end of the week for inclusion in the newsletter. The Meeting approved the draft with the edits.
8. Stephen McDonnell for the Nominating Committee read a second reading of committee positions for 2017 with additions and asked Friends to consider vacancies. Until a new Treasurer is appointed, Charlene Ray will continue as acting Treasurer and Bryan Oettel will be Assistant Treasurer. Friends approved the nominations and additions. The written report is attached.
9. Bryan Oettel read the report for the Communications Committee. The Meeting accepts the report. The written report is attached.

10. A Friend suggested that we renew our lease with Riverside Church, and this was discussed. Friends approved asking Charlotte Ehrman to ask Riverside administration about their policy of renewal, and renew if possible.

Friends approved these minutes. The meeting ended with worship at 1:30 p.m.

Announcements:

1. Quarterly Meeting will be Jan. 22 at 1:00 p.m. at Brooklyn Meeting.
2. Thurs. Jan 19 at 7 p.m. MLK Concert to raise funds for Friends Shelter will be at 15<sup>th</sup> Street. Enter at 222 E. 16<sup>th</sup> Street.
3. Peace vigil on Fri. Jan. 20: Washington Sq. Park 12:00-2:00 p.m. Organized by a member of 15<sup>th</sup> Street. Look for the Quaker Peace sign.
4. NYC Sister March Sat. Jan. 21, a Quaker contingent will probably meet at 10:30 a.m. in front of Quaker House, 247 E. 48<sup>th</sup> St., exact time will be announced Jan. 14. This invitation is not for women only.
5. Jan. 29 is the last day for the exhibit of Kerry James Marshall at the Metropolitan Museum. A Friend finds the show "striking." Marshall was in dialogue with European Art and the African American experience.
6. A Friend asked about Quaker contingent at the march in Washington, and was directed to seek out Friends Meeting of Washington.
7. Jack Patterson sends his greetings to the Meeting.
8. Aging issues meeting: 9:30 am, next Sunday Riverside Café: contact Charlene Ray.
9. Peace and Social Concerns next Sunday for letter writing.
10. FCNL newsletter is inspiring. We are urged to support them.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephen McDonnell

Present: Jerry Reisig, Jane Alexandre, Kirsty Tinto, Naomi Paz Greenberg, Artis Klavins, Charlene Ray, Joyce Richardson, Robert Kolins, Mason Jenkins, Hanna Juszezak, Kathy Stackhouse, Joseph Campagna, Ed Elder, Bryan Oettel, Robert Renwick, Richard Schmidt, Calvin Ramsey, Karen Taborn, Constance Benson, Stephen McDonnell, Pamela Wood.

### **Ministry and Counsel Report**

1. M&C met on Monday January 2<sup>nd</sup> at the home of Dave Evans.
2. The next meeting will be Monday January 30<sup>th</sup> at Pam Wood's.
3. Our next welcome breakfast will be on January 22<sup>nd</sup> hosted by David Fletcher in the Riverside Cafe. All are welcome. If any Friends have an interest in hosting a breakfast, see an M&C member.
4. There will be no fourth Sunday discussion in January.
5. Bible Study was held this morning at 9:30.
6. M&C currently has 5 support committees.
7. Friends are agreed that we will hold an annual retreat at Stony Point Center in early October. We are also beginning to plan a one day retreat for a Saturday in May. If you would like to help with the planning of either of these retreats please speak with someone on Ministry and Counsel.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mason Jenkins  
January 8, 2017

## **Peace and Social Concerns Committee Report**

Peace & Social Concerns did not meet in December.

The committee can report that Morningside's share of the proceeds from last May's Rummage Sale at 15<sup>th</sup> Street—\$400—was received at last from 15<sup>th</sup> Street and deposited in Morningside's account. A check for \$520, which included additional contributions from individual Morningsiders, was sent to the Lambi Fund for hurricane relief in Haiti in November.

Morningside's participation in the annual Amnesty International Write for Rights campaign will take place on January 15, 2017 (next Sunday) following Meeting for Worship. (This event is usually held on the second Sunday in December in conjunction with Human Rights Day, but this was not possible in 2016 due to the scheduling of the wedding of Bart Dominus and Virginia Shipley.)

The next regular meeting of Peace & Social Concerns will be held on the fifth Sunday in January. At the meeting, Naomi Paz Greenberg will make a presentation on the Coalition of Immokalee Workers and its ongoing campaign to ensure fair treatment and increased wages for farm workers.

Respectfully submitted,  
Corona Machermer, Clerk

## **Communications Committee Report**

The committee met on January 4, 2017. Attending were Bryan Oettel, Kathy Stackhouse, and Corona Machermer (acting as clerk)

Continuing its focus on the new Address Register, the committee updated the database, incorporating the information Morningsiders provided on the draft copies of the Address Register that were made available after Meeting for Worship from early November through mid-December. Further updates await input from Ministry & Counsel, which is reviewing the current list to make sure only those who are truly part of our community are included.

Going forward, Friends may update their profiles by entering the new information (a new email address, for example) in the Redbook (write "update" on the entry).

Friends may also update their profiles directly in the database. At its meeting on January 4, the committee finalized changes to the lay-out of the Profile Page on the website to make it more intuitive to navigate. Instructions for editing (updating) your profile are available on the Help page of the website. (If you have trouble logging on to the website, use the "Contact" tab on the website to contact Bryan Oettel; include his name in the subject line of your query.)

Friends are reminded to visit the website ([www.morningsidemeeting.org](http://www.morningsidemeeting.org)) regularly (daily?!) to check the Calendar and log in to view the Bulletin Board. Instructions on using these two "community building" features of the website are available on the "Help" page of the website.

Respectfully submitted,  
Corona Machermer, Clerk

## **Treasurer's Report for December 2016**

For the first year in quite a while, we have spent more than we took in, some \$1,633 more, primarily due to our decisions to pay for childcare, for a website backup while overall contributions been declining, number of contributors have been declining but the average contribution has risen. Total contributions have softened from \$34,000 from 80 people in 2012 to \$31,000 from 50 people in 2016; average contribution amount has risen 15% annually from 2014.

For the year 2016, we received some \$30,487 in contributions, disbursed \$32,120 and realized a \$1,633 shortfall. In addition to regular donations from 50 people, we took in \$400 from a rummage sale, we accepted \$500 from Huntington House to provide school supplies and Christmas presents to families whose mothers are or have recently been incarcerated. Some of the donations were specific: \$660 for AGLI and \$120 for Haitian relief work. Disbursements of \$32,160 included \$15,397 for our 2016 NYYM Covenant payment, \$11,568 for Peace and Social Concerns, \$660 was paid in scholarships (for members to attend Friends General Conference and the Morningside Retreat), \$2,100 for website assistance, \$1,460 for childcare, \$373 for hospitality (inclusive of some \$90 of contributed food), clerk expenses of \$25, finance expenses of \$166 which do not include donated stamps and photocopying, \$297 has been spent for library additions.

The unrestricted bank operating balance at 1/7/17, net of checks issued but not yet paid, was \$35,864. A proposed budget for 2017 is attached.

Respectfully submitted,  
Charlene Ray  
Treasurer

February 1, 2017

| <b>Treasurer's Report: 2016</b>    |                                     | <b>Actual</b>    |                  |                   |                | <b>Budget</b>    | <b>Budget</b>    |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|
|                                    |                                     | <b>2015</b>      | <b>Dec</b>       | <b>YTD</b>        | <b>% Spent</b> | <b>2016</b>      | <b>2015</b>      |
| <b>Disbursements</b>               |                                     |                  |                  |                   |                |                  |                  |
| Fixed                              | NY Yearly Meeting                   | 14,840.00        | 0.00             | 15,396.50         | 100.0%         | 15,396.50        | 14,840.00        |
| <b>Total Fixed</b>                 |                                     |                  | 0.00             | 15,396.50         | 100.0%         | 15,396.50        | 14,840.00        |
|                                    | Outreach P&SC/FUN                   |                  | 3,617.78         | 11,567.78         | 90.4%          | 12,800.00        | 12,800.00        |
|                                    | & Support Misc. Contrib.            |                  |                  | 0.00              | 0.0%           | 300.00           | 300.00           |
|                                    | Scholarship/Relief                  |                  |                  | 660.00            | 26.4%          | 2,500.00         | 2,000.00         |
| <b>Total Outreach</b>              |                                     |                  | 3,617.78         | 12,227.78         | 78.4%          | 15,600.00        | 15,100.00        |
|                                    | Operating Communications            |                  | 1,425.00         | 2,100.00          | 75.3%          | 2,790.00         | 2,190.00         |
|                                    | Expenses 1st Day/Childcare          |                  | 200.00           | 1,460.00          | 43.6%          | 3,350.00         | 950.00           |
|                                    | Hospitality                         |                  |                  | 373.10            | 186.6%         | 200.00           | 700.00           |
|                                    | Breakfast                           |                  |                  | 73.50             | 9.8%           | 750.00           | 750.00           |
|                                    | Clerk/ M & C                        |                  |                  | 25.00             | 12.5%          | 200.00           | 200.00           |
|                                    | Finance                             |                  |                  | 166.25            | 55.4%          | 300.00           | 350.00           |
|                                    | Literature                          |                  |                  | 297.46            | 99.2%          | 300.00           | 350.00           |
| <b>Total Operating Expenses</b>    |                                     |                  | 1,625.00         | 4,495.31          | 57.0%          | 7,890.00         | 5,490.00         |
| <b>Total Disbursements</b>         |                                     |                  | <b>5,242.78</b>  | <b>32,119.59</b>  | <b>82.6%</b>   | <b>38,886.50</b> | <b>35,430.00</b> |
|                                    | In Kind Contributions/Disbursements |                  | 12.62            | 216.02            |                |                  |                  |
| <b>Income</b>                      |                                     |                  |                  |                   |                |                  |                  |
|                                    | Contributions                       | 20,484.77        | 9,716.79         | 31,248.82         |                | 38,886.50        | 40,316.50        |
|                                    | Net of AGLI+Haiti+Rummage Sale      |                  | 400.00           | 30,468.82         |                |                  |                  |
|                                    | Interest                            |                  | 1.44             | 18.19             |                |                  |                  |
|                                    |                                     |                  | <b>10,118.23</b> | <b>30,487.01</b>  | <b>78.4%</b>   | <b>38,886.50</b> | <b>40,316.50</b> |
| <b>Net Income</b>                  |                                     |                  | <b>4,875.45</b>  | <b>(1,632.58)</b> |                | <b>0.00</b>      | <b>4,886.50</b>  |
| <b>Assets</b>                      |                                     |                  |                  |                   |                |                  |                  |
|                                    | Ending Bank Balance                 | <b>42,190.58</b> | <b>38,719.52</b> |                   |                |                  |                  |
|                                    | Hospitality Petty Cash              | 31.65            | 144.10           |                   |                |                  |                  |
|                                    | Cash at Schwab                      | 500.00           | 500.00           |                   |                |                  |                  |
|                                    | Due from Thrift Sale                |                  | 0.00             |                   |                |                  |                  |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                 |                                     |                  |                  |                   |                |                  |                  |
|                                    | Crumlish Bequest                    | (1,000.00)       | (500.00)         |                   |                |                  |                  |
|                                    | Pending Checks                      |                  | (2,217.70)       |                   |                |                  |                  |
| estimate                           | Hope Lives for Lifers               | (189.54)         | 0.00             |                   |                |                  |                  |
| May-15                             | Huntington House                    | (282.19)         | (782.19)         |                   |                |                  |                  |
| <b>Net Worth</b>                   |                                     | <b>41,250.50</b> | <b>35,863.73</b> |                   |                |                  |                  |
| Actual annual rent paid by NYQM is |                                     |                  |                  |                   |                |                  |                  |
| \$11,000, 1/2013-12/2015           |                                     |                  |                  |                   |                |                  |                  |

Draft 2017 Budget  
Pending additional committee input

|                            |                          | 2014    | 2015          | 2016          | 2016          | 2017          |              |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
|                            |                          |         | Budget        | Budget        | Actual        | Budget        | change<br>%  |
| <b>Disbursements</b>       |                          |         |               |               |               |               |              |
| Fixed                      | NY Yearly Meeting        |         | 14,840        | 15,397        | 15,397        | 15,976        | 3.8%         |
| Total Fixed                |                          |         | 14,840        | 15,397        | 15,397        | 15,976        | 3.8%         |
| Outreach<br>& Support      | P&SC/FUN                 |         | 12,800        | 12,800        | 11,568        | 12,800        | 0.0%         |
|                            | Misc. Contrib.           |         | 300           | 300           | 0             | 300           | 0.0%         |
|                            | Scholarship/Relief       |         | 2,000         | 2,500         | 660           | 2,000         | -20.0%       |
| Total Outreach             |                          |         | 15,100        | 15,600        | 12,228        | 15,100        | -3.2%        |
| Operating<br>Expenses      | Communications           |         | 2,190         | 2,790         | 2,100         | 2,990         | 7.2%         |
|                            | Website                  |         | 1,500         | 2,100         | 2,100         | 2,100         |              |
|                            | Member Directory         |         | 540           | 540           | 0             | 540           |              |
|                            | Newsletter               |         | 100           | 100           | 0             | 300           |              |
|                            | Advertising/listings     |         | 50            | 50            | 0             | 50            |              |
|                            | 1st Day/Childcare        |         | 800           | 3,350         | 1,500         | 2,320         | -30.7%       |
|                            | 1st Day literature, etc. |         | 150           |               | 0             |               |              |
|                            | Hospitality              |         | 700           | 200           | 229           | 300           | 50.0%        |
|                            | Breakfast                |         | 750           | 750           | 74            | 300           | -60.0%       |
|                            | Clerk/ M & C             |         | 200           | 200           | 25            | 200           | 0.0%         |
|                            | Finance                  |         | 300           | 300           | 166           | 300           | 0.0%         |
|                            | Literature               |         | 300           | 300           | 297           | 300           | 0.0%         |
| Total Operating            |                          |         | 5,390         | 7,890         | 4,391         | 6,710         | -15.0%       |
| <b>Total Disbursements</b> |                          |         | <b>35,330</b> | <b>38,887</b> | <b>32,016</b> | <b>37,786</b> | <b>-2.8%</b> |
| <b>Income</b>              |                          |         |               |               |               |               |              |
|                            | Budgetted Contributions  | 34,000  | 35,180        | 38,887        | 31,249        | 37,786        |              |
|                            | Actual Contributions     | 31,444  | 32,990        | 30,468        |               |               |              |
|                            | Difference               | (2,556) | (2,190)       | (8,418)       |               |               |              |

## 2016 Morningside State of the Meeting Sunday, December 18, 2016

*“The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” (Matthew 9: 37b-38 NIV).*

On December 18, 2016, Members and Attenders of Morningside Monthly Meeting gathered to consider the spiritual state of the Meeting over the past year. The convener presented three Queries as the basis for our Worship Sharing:

1. What is the state of the Meeting?
2. Where are the light and joy able to work and be active?
3. Where are we challenged or where is the light not breaking through?

Attendance has flowered this year, and the “gathered quality of silence” is appreciated. Meeting for Worship has been well attended and a suggestion was made for an additional mid-week Meeting. Two weddings were held under the care of Meeting this year, and an increased number of Young Adults visited and continue participating. Meeting with Children is going well with “two wonderful spaces” and two very good people whom we pay to be with the children. “The regular and reliable childcare is an invitation to parents to attend Meeting.”

This growth of new people has been accompanied by a reduction in present and available seasoned members, mostly due to pressing concerns in their lives. This change in the makeup of meeting has resulted in several challenges, most notably a difficulty in finding seasoned Friends to fill vital committees, as well as the loss of seasoned members who served as mentors, and who have helped build our beloved community. While it was agreed that the successful Retreat is an important annual event for Meeting, it was also noted that the planning and execution of it had left the diminished leadership of M&C “overwhelmed and stressed.”

Accompanying these challenges is the resolve of the Meeting to continue reaching out to more and different people, as well as to those who have been missing from Meeting. We can institute reaching out by “sharing what Quakerism means to each of us” to others, within and without Meeting. Sharing within would allow us to better know one another; sharing without would help bring more people into Meeting. For this reason, the re-establishment of the newsletter is greatly appreciated, and Friends are urged to provide contributions to it. One Friend wondered if she could include messages received after Meeting. Another Friend wondered if pictures of children could be added to the newsletter and the website. The larger question is “How can we make our website and newsletter more conducive to the life of the community, sharing information about important events in folks’ lives (e.g. birthdays, etc.)?”

Other ways of sharing include Monthly Bible study, which has been “valuable and meaningful in helping develop the capacity to listen to and welcome different perspectives and interpretations.” Hospitality at Meeting is a welcoming by the entire Meeting, since all may participate, not only bringing food, but also volunteering. Even Announcements after Worship can become places to share. One person spoke of how important it is to hear about beauty in each other’s lives--friendship, recommending films and books and music--which allows us to learn about and appreciate what others perceive as beautiful.

Sharing ourselves with others takes place outside of Meeting as well, at events, such as the interfaith breakfast in Flushing on December 3 and the November 26 Thanksgiving lunch at Breathing space, attended by Meeting members and attenders. The Woodbourne Prison Worship Group continues

under our care. The men appreciate the attendance of volunteers and the Meeting as a whole shows its support when members sign Christmas and birthday cards for the men, confirming our connection.”

The joy of Morningside is being part of a giving and caring community; the challenge for Morningside will be how to remain a giving and caring community when the number of seasoned workers is few, and as the presidential election has presented new challenges that will ask Friends to seek how we are going to position ourselves in the next four years. One answer to confronting our challenges was provided by a member of M&C, who related that the lack of available skilled hands has allowed “soul searching about the real, fundamental meaning of the Meeting,” what we are really called to do, and what is really important for the life of the community.

Perhaps the workers are few so that we may better hear what we are supposed to do. In the meantime, it is our small gestures of sharing and caring that maintain this often overwhelmed, but continually loving community called Morningside.

In Friendship,  
Jerry Reisig

## Nominating Committee Report

MORNINGSIDE MONTHLY MEETING COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2017

### PROPOSED MORNINGSIDE COMMITTEES AND POSITIONS:

**New nominees are underlined, unless noted, positions are 1-yr renewable.**

**CLERK:** Pamela Wood

**RECORDING CLERK:** Stephen McDonnell

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Charlene Ray, Bart Dominus, Pamela Wood, Bryan Oettel, Naomi Paz Greenberg

**TREASURER:** (Charlene Ray will continue as acting Treasurer until a new one is approved)

**ASSISTANT TREASURER:** Bryan Oettel

**MINISTRY AND COUNSEL:** (3 years, renewable once)

Ends January 2018: David Fletcher, David Evans, Charlene Ray (all 1<sup>st</sup> term)

Ends January 2019: Mason Jenkins (2<sup>nd</sup> term), Rob Stevens (1<sup>st</sup> term)

Ends January 2020: Ed Elder, Karen Taborn (all 1<sup>st</sup> term)

**RED BOOK COORDINATOR:** June Tano

**RECORDER FOR MEMBERSHIP/HISTORIAN:** Helen Garay Toppins

**NOMINATING (2-year position):** (through 2017) Lee Rada (convener), Nancy Britton,

(through 2018) Emily Eckstut / Burr Eckstut.

**HOSPITALITY:** Joyce Richardson (Convener), Richard Schmidt, Charlene Ray,

**FIRST DAY COORDINATORS:** Sally Campbell, Richard Schmidt

**FIRST DAY CAREGIVERS:** Naomi Paz Greenberg (Coordinator) Tom Goodridge, Sally Campbell

**LIBRARY/LITERATURE COMMITTEE:** Corona Machermer, Richard Schmidt, Jane Alexandre

**LIBRARIAN:** Sally Campbell

**RIVERSIDE SPACE COMMITTEE:** Charlotte Ehrman (Convener), Sally Campbell

**COMMUNICATIONS AND WEBSITE COMMITTEE:** Corona Machermer (Convener), Bryan Oettel, Kathy Stackhouse

**FRIENDS IN UNITY WITH NATURE:** Tom Goodridge, Committee of the Whole.

**PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS:** Corona Machermer / David Fletcher (Co-Conveners), Committee of the Whole.

**COMMITTEE FOR AGING CONCERNS (ARCH) / ARCH VISITORS:** (No committee at present.) (The following have had ARCH training: Sally Campbell, Kathy Hinton, Dot Savage, John Tweddle, Charlene Ray.)

**COMMITTEE FOR PRISON MINISTRY:** Helen Garay Toppins, Pamela Wood, Ernie Buscemi, Woodbourne Prison Quaker Worship Group.

*Committee member who does not visit the prison worship group - for correspondence - David Fletcher*

**FIRST DAY MONTHLY SING:** -Second Sundays at 10. Amala Lane (Convener), Nancy Britton