

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

May 7, 2017

In attendance: Bernard Winter, Nancy Britton, Charlotte Ehrman, Richard Schmidt, Tom Goodridge, Daniel Seeger, Dot Savage, Bryan Oettel, Charles Sirey, David Fletcher, Sally Campbell, Kathy Stackhouse, Robert Leuze, Naomi Paz Greenberg, June Tano, Charlene Ray, Jane Alexander

1. Reading by Nancy Britton to open the meeting at 12:25

“We have tried to discover the grounds of the social responsibility and the social sensitivity of Friends. It is not in mere humanitarianism. It is not in mere pity. It is not in mere obedience to Bible commands. It is not in anything earthly. The social concern of friends is grounded in an experience - an experience of the Love of God.... Social concern is the dynamic of Life of God at work in the world. “

Thomas Kelly

“The Eternal Now and Social Concern”

The Quaker Reader, pg. 510 – 11

2. M&C committee report. Charlene Ray gave report of the M&C committee. Report is attached.

M&C recommends moving the September meeting to September 10th to avoid the Labor Day holiday.

M&C forwarded for approval letter from Neena Das as her status as a conscientious objector.

A one-day retreat is scheduled for May 20th. Ed Seliger from NYYM meeting will facilitate.

Vince Buscemi’s memorial is set for May 27th at 11:00, and those who wish to attend or bring food should rsvp to Pam Wood.

A retreat is scheduled for October 6 -8th at Stony Point.

3. The proposal to move September meeting from Labor Day Sept 3rd, to first day Sept 10th was approved by Friends.
4. A proposed letter of support for Neena Das was read on her conscientious objection status to accompany her application of citizenship. Discussion followed. Questions were raised. M&C will ask Nina to meet with them before the next business meeting. The report is attached.

5. Treasurer's report. Dan Seeger presented. Income to date has exceeded our expenses. Dan stated that auto transfers to MMM will help stabilize our cash flow. Dan will provide the information needed for those who wish to set up such a system of payment. Dan reminded the meeting that last year the meeting exceeded its income. We have a pattern that income arrives late in December, and we do not know during the year what our cash flow will look like. Questions followed and Dan clarified the figures. The report is attached. Friends accepted the report.
6. Woodbourne State of the Meeting forwarded to NYYM a copy of the letter was read aloud to the meeting and was much appreciated. The letter is attached. We will acknowledge the receipt of the letter.
7. Space Committee report by Charlotte Ehrman. Charlotte stated that there was concern we do not have a contract for next year. Charlotte made contact with Richard Glassey from Riverside. Going forward, contracts will only be on a yearly basis and will be renegotiated yearly. Questions and discussion followed. Friends accepted the report.
8. Announcements
Cards for inmates at Woodbourne are available to sign at the rise of meeting. Several announcements were made. Dot raised the possibility of Friends meeting the other spiritual communities at Riverside and suggested that Riverside could organize such an event. Discussion followed as to possible occasions when these communities could meet. Bryan announced that Quarterly Meeting has a new web site: Nycquakers.org
9. Silence. The meeting concluded at 1:32 pm.

Ministry and Counsel Report

For the May 7 Business Meeting

1. M&C met on Monday May 1 at the home of Pam Wood.
2. The next meeting will be Monday May 29 at Pam Wood's. The first half is open to anyone with concerns.
3. M&C recommends that the meeting consider moving the September business meeting to the second Sunday, the 10th, so as to avoid Labor Day.
4. Our next welcome breakfast will be on May 28 hosted by Ed Elder in the Riverside Cafe. All are welcome.
5. We will hold a one day Spring Retreat on May 20 from 10 to 4 at Our Saviour's Atonement Lutheran Church at 178 Bennett Ave and 189th Street. The topic will be Deepening Worship and we will have someone from NYYM with us to lead the day. Please sign up if you would like to come.

6. Bible Study will be held on May 14th at 9:30.
7. M&C currently has 6 support committees.
8. Our fall retreat at Stony Point Center will be October 6-8. The topic will be Race Awareness.
9. The Memorial Meeting for Vince Buscemi will be held on May 27 at 11 am at 15th Street. Please RSVP with Pam if you plan to attend. If you can help with food please contact Pam Wood.
10. M&C forwards with a recommendation for approval a letter of support for Neena Das in her position as conscientious objector.

Treasurer's Narrative Report

Activity in April 2017

During the month of April, checks have been written to cover the following expenses:

Scholarship	\$300.00
Breakfasts	\$30.00
Website maintenance (covering April)	\$175.00

Contribution income received in April totaled \$4,000.00.

These transactions are incorporated into the spreadsheet report attached giving year- to-date figures for the January through April period.

*Respectfully submitted,
Daniel A. Seeger, Treasurer*

Treasurer's Report

May 7, 2017

		2016 Actual	2017 Budget	2017 Yr-to-date (Apr 30)	Percent of Budget
1	Balances at the Beginning of the Year				
2	Unrestricted Reserves		37,437	37,438	
3	Funds Restricted as to Use				
4	Huntington House		782	782	
5	Crumlish Bequest		500	500	
6	SUBTOTAL for Cash at TD Bank:		38,720	38,720	
7	Minus uncashed checks plus unposted deposits		(2,218)	(1,858)	
8	Unrestricted funds in Schwab		500	500	
9	Unrestricted funds in petty cash		144	144	
10			37,146	37,506	
11					
12	Income				
13	Contributions	31,254	37,686	9,073	24
14	Interest and Dividends	18		5	

15	Contributions earmarked for other organizations	(780.00)			
16					
17	Transfers from Reserves — General	1,665			
18	Transfers from Reserves — Restricted			216	
19	TOTAL:	32,157	37,686	9,293	25
20					
21	Expenses				
22	New York Yearly Meeting allocation	15,397	15,976	3,994	25
23	Outreach:				
24	Peace and Social Concerns/FUN	11,568	12,800	100	1
25	Miscellaneous Contributions	0	300	216	72
26	Scholarships/Relief	660	2,000	300	15
27	SUBTOTAL for Outreach and NYYM	27,624	31,076	4,610	15
28	Operations				
29	Communications: Website	2,100	2,100	700	33
30	Communications: Member Directory		540		
31	Communications: Newsletter		300		
32	Communications: Advertising/Listings		50		
33	First Day: Child Care	1,460	2,320	550	24
34	First Day: Literature, etc.	0			
35	Hospitality	373	300	90	30
36	Breakfast	101	200	100	50
37	Clerk/Ministry and Counsel	25	200	75	38
38	Retreat			1,100	
39	Finance	177	300		
40	Literature	297	300	108	36
41	SUBTOTAL for Operations:	4,533	6,610	2,723	41
42	Transfers to General Reserves				
43	Transfers to Restricted Reserves				
44	Transfer to petty cash for Hospitality			110	
45	Transfer to petty cash other than Hospitality				
46	TOTAL EXPENSES:	32,157	37,686	7,443	20
47					
48	Balances at the End of the Year:				
49	Unrestricted Reserves	37,438	35,219	37,487	
50	Funds Restricted as to Use				
51	Huntington House	782	782	566	
52	Crumlish Bequest	500	500	500	
53	SUBTOTAL for Cash at TD Bank:	38,720	36,502	38,553	
54	Minus uncashed checks plus unposted deposits	(2,218)		(361)	
55	Unrestricted funds in Schwab	500	500	500	
56	Petty cash for Hospitality	144	144	254	
57	TOTAL ENDING BALANCE:	37,146	37,146	38,946	

Religious Society of Friends
State of the Meeting for the Year 2016
At Woodbourne Correctional Facility

Challenge and Joys:

The preparative meeting at Woodbourne is relatively small, ranging from 8 to 13 members of diverse backgrounds in terms of religious beliefs, culture, ethnicity, and geography. Such diversity has enriched the life of the meeting. An increase in the willingness to listen to diverse views and experiences among members is noticeable. Members have been very supportive of each other through silent worship, prayer, and dialogue. Community volunteers have also been very supportive (spiritually and financially) as well.

Last year our meeting faced several challenges. However, in each of those challenges we found opportunities to forge a better relationship with the Light, each other, and those who live with us in the prison. In turn, these opportunities became a source of joy.

The New York State Board of Parole finally decided to release our longtime clerk Tony Singh, for whom a clearness committee was called to help him prepare for his parole interview. The queries posed during the clearness committee meeting prompted us to reflect about and grow from our particular situation. They were also an opportunity for each of us to strengthen our faith by assessing our spiritual life, pondering our past and present circumstances, and looking forward to a better future by rectifying current attitudes, habits, and actions that may stand on the path of spiritual growth.

The question over who should fill the clerk's position led to some dissent. As a result, a member decided to sever his ties to the meeting and stopped attending our Sunday meetings. We were hurt by this. However, encouraged by the wisdom of our volunteer members, it was decided to put aside personal preferences to appoint a registered Quaker for the vacant clerk position. The clerk's transition was not smooth, but it was a joyful success in the end. Regardless of the earlier differences of opinion at the meetings, members grew in their determination to strengthen their commonalties. In fact, a dissenter and the new clerk became better friends.

It was a great joy to see a friend, our longtime clerk, return to his home country of Guyana after decades of unnecessary imprisonment. Being able to celebrate Christmas in the company of outgoing volunteers and to share a meal with them was also a source of great joy.

The overall spiritual condition of the preparative meeting at Woodbourne can be summarized best in the words of one of our New York City volunteers: "I find the meeting to be healing." We agree.

Submitted by Dwayne Pulliam, Woodbourne Clerk