

Morningside Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Minutes of the Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
January 7, 2018

1. The Meeting began with worship at 12:30 p.m., and Pamela Wood read from Faith and Practice:

“Friends have been concerned to communicate with integrity, to make our words and action fit the truth of our lives. We endeavor to speak truth as we know it, honestly and forthrightly, speaking plainly from our own lives. Sometimes this practice has been difficult; sometimes the results surprise and delight us....

“Thoughtful listening is as important as speaking, and a necessary part of resolving our conflicts. If we listen attentively to the Spirit, in ourselves and others, words and action can become a way of knowing God, a form of prayer. To speak, write or act from the truth of our lives brings a spiritual force to bear on us in ways that may develop into concerns or leadings if we listen further.”

Faith and Practice of New York Yearly Meeting, 2015 edition, page 31

The reading was also followed by silent worship.

2. Mason Jenkins read the report for Ministry and Counsel. M&C met on Jan. 1st at the home of Pamela Wood. The next meeting will be at the home of Pamela Wood on January 29th at 7:15 p.m. All are welcome to the first part. Please RSVP. Friends accept the report. The written report is attached.
Friends accept the report.
3. Friends approve the releases of membership of Courtney Bowles and Kia Heath both of whom have been long absent and unable to be located.
4. The concern about children being present during Afterwords and joining part of Meeting for Worship were discussed. A range of ways of handling these were offered. Friends sent these options back to the Committee for Meeting with Children for a proposal at our next Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business. Friends ask Ministry & Counsel to consider a discussion of appropriate sharing during afterwards and strategies for inappropriate sharing.
5. Daniel A. Seeger gave the Treasurer’s Report. After some discussion, Friends accept the report. The written report is attached.
6. Stephen McDonnell read the draft of the State of the Meeting report. Friends were offered time for suggestions and reflections. Friends approved the report.
7. Naomi Paz Greenberg gave the Peace and Social Concerns report. Friends offered some suggestions, and Friends accept the report. The report is attached.
8. Naomi Paz Greenberg shared a request that we received from the Flushing Interfaith Council that all member organizations appoint a representative to cast a ballot for their Board of Directors, and Naomi offered to serve in this capacity. Friends approved Naomi Paz Greenberg to this position, to serve for one year.
9. Lee Rada gave the second reading of the Nominating Committee Report, the slate of yearly committees and positions. Friends accept the report, and approved all nominations. The report is attached.

10. Pamela Wood gave a Clerk's Report:

- Greg Batista's request for a transfer of membership from Morningside to Brooklyn Meeting has been approved by Brooklyn Meeting.
- "On the weekend of April 6-8, 2018, the NYQM is hosting NYYM's Spring Sessions. Although we have yet to finalize plans, the Sessions are likely to be held at Brooklyn Friend's School. The NYQM needs to form a Host Task Group (HTG) to organize Spring Sessions. The Host Task Group consists of a clerk, treasurer, hospitality coordinator, Children and Youth Programs Coordinator and a couple of people familiar with the venues. Fortunately for us, Helen Garay Toppins has agreed to be both our registrar (taking place through the NYYM Office) and Hospitality Coordinator, so this position on the Task Group is filled. Of primary importance is filling the position of Children and Youth Programs Coordinator as this program must be fully in place by early February in order to be published and promoted in InfoShare and Spark.

"Since this is a NYQM effort, we are looking for six or more members/attenders representing all of our monthly meetings to be on the HTG. As time is of the essence here, please let your meetings know and have people interested in being on the Host Task Group contact Nancy Britton (nancy@brittonfamily.org),

"In friendship,
Nancy Britton, clerk of NYQM"

- I am regularly receiving reports from the Hispanic Federation to which we gave money to help Puerto Rico. They have:
 - Delivered 4 million pounds of food and water to 75 of 78 municipalities in Puerto Rico thanks to your support.
 - Provided 600,000 people with water filtration systems, medical support, meals, emergency tarps, mosquito nets, solar lamps and other essential provisions.
 - Invested \$7.5 million dollars in innovative projects that will build a stronger and more resilient Puerto Rico in the areas of housing, agriculture, workforce development, energy and communications, and the environment.

To see how your support is making a difference in Puerto Rico, please visit www.hispanicfederationunidos.org. We update this website regularly with our latest accomplishments on the island.

I will be reporting to Peace and Social Concerns about the issues that the Hispanic Federation feels are need action for a successful rebuilding of Puerto Rico.

Friends accept the report.

A Friend made an announcement.

Friends approved these minutes. The meeting ended with worship at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen McDonnell

Present: Mason Jenkins, Rafeeq Tharayil, June Tano, Bryan Wigfall, David Fletcher, Joyce Richardson, Naomi Paz Greenberg, Jane Alexandre, Kathy Stackhouse, Sally Campbell, Tom Goodridge, Daniel A. Seeger, Dave Britton, Nancy Britton, Lee Rada, Ceci Silberstein, Pamela Wood, Stephen McDonnell.

Ministry and Counsel Report

For the January 7th, 2018 Business Meeting

1. M&C met on Monday January 1st at the home of Pam Wood.
2. The next meeting will be Monday January 29th at Pam Wood's at 7:15. The first half is open to anyone with concerns.
3. Our next welcome breakfast will be on January 28th hosted by Charlene Ray at 9:30 in the Riverside Cafe. All are welcome.
4. Also on January 28th after meeting Pam Wood will lead a worship sharing on the testimony of integrity.
5. Bible Study will be held on January 14th at 9:30.
6. The State of the Meeting was held on 12/17.
7. A concern was raised at the State of the Meeting about children being present during After-words. It is possible that some people feel inhibited from sharing sensitive information if children are present and that it may not be appropriate for small children to hear some of these messages. This is a concern not shared by many members of the meeting. M&C would like to ask business meeting if further discussion or action is needed regarding this issue.
8. M&C currently has 6 support committees.
9. The list of friends interested in Quaker Sixes and Spiritual Nurture Groups has been compiled, and M&C is in the process of arranging the groups. If you signed up you will likely be contacted in the next month. If you are interested and have not signed up please let a member of M&C know.
10. M&C recommends the release of membership of Courtney Bowles and Kia Heath both of whom have been long absent and unable to be located.

Treasurer's Report, Year End for Fiscal Year 2017

The attached spreadsheets give preliminary results for income and expenses in the fiscal year just ended. A few small adjustments still need to be made, but these will be small and immaterial. For practical purposes, although preliminary, these figures fairly and accurately present the Meeting's financial situation as of December 31, 2017.

The first spreadsheet shows income and expenses by categories for the twelve months. This presentation is analogous to those which have been offered on a monthly basis throughout the year. All bills due during the year have been paid; all scheduled Peace and Social Concerns disbursements have been made; and all donations arriving before January 5, 2018 have been included as FY 2017 contributions.

There is nothing extraordinary in the details of the report. Of crucial significance is the figure in the lower righthand corner: income exceeded expenditures by \$839.24. This is a heartening re-

sult, given last year's shortfall of \$1,665.00, and the fact that this year's expenditure budget exceeded last year's by \$5,529.00. So, the downward spiral the Treasurer feared as he took up his duties last February has not materialized.

But if we look closely at the \$839.24 excess, we see that \$500.00 of it consists of a new restricted grant for the reintegration of formerly incarcerated persons into society, so only \$339.24 is an actual surplus in the originally budgeted activity. Given that total expenditures amounted to \$39,093 the income and expenditures were balanced only within a hair's breadth.

The second spreadsheet presents the same data in a format which allows a comparison both to the original budget for 2017 and to the actual results of the previous fiscal year, 2016. This second sheet also shows how the 2017 activity affected the Meeting's balances and net worth.

In sum, we have about a year's expenditures in reserves, the great preponderance of these reserves being unrestricted funds.

The second spreadsheet has a blank fourth column for the budget in 2018. The Finance Committee will be meeting in January and will be prepared to recommend a budget for approval at the February business meeting. We will be operating for a month without an approved budget, but this seems preferable to trying to devise a budget in December, since a surge both in income and in Peace and Social Concerns expenditures at the end of the year would make planning on the basis of actual experience impossible in December.

Many members make contributions by instructing their banks to send a specified amount each month. The Treasurer encourages this practice, which makes personal and Meeting financial planning easier. But whether contributions are made monthly or spasmodically, as a community we should take satisfaction that members continue to be steadfastly generous in their financial support of the Meeting, the hairbreadth balancing of income and expenditures being a result of ambitious goals rather than weak commitment.

Respectfully submitted, Daniel A. Seeger, Treasurer

**Income/Expense by Category
1/10/2017 through 12/31/2017 (Cash Basis)**

1/4/2018

Category	1/10/2017- 3/31/2017	4/1/2017- 6/30/2017	7/1/2017- 9/30/2017	10/1/2017- 12/31/2017	OVERALL TOTAL
INCOME					
General Fund Contribution	5,072.61	10,997.65	5,995.67	13,935.34	36,001.27
Huntington House Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	400.00	400.00
Interest and Dividends	4.57	4.82	5.02	4.86	19.27
Reintegration Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
Retreat Fee	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,170.00	5,170.00
TOTAL INCOME	5,077.18	11,002.47	6,000.69	20,010.20	42,090.54
EXPENSES					
Huntington House	215.68	0.00	0.00	303.73	519.41
MMM Oper. — Hospitality	200.00	0.00	150.00	39.92	389.92
NYYM Allocation	3,994.00	3,994.00	3,994.00	3,994.00	15,976.00
Operations -- Breakfast	69.50	30.00	0.00	66.00	165.50
Operations -- Finance	0.00	34.97	0.00	157.53	192.50
Operations — First Day Child Care	550.00	300.00	635.00	515.00	2,000.00
Operations — Literature	108.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	108.43

Category	1/10/2017- 3/31/2017	4/1/2017- 6/30/2017	7/1/2017- 9/30/2017	10/1/2017- 12/31/2017	OVERALL TOTAL
Operations - Ministry and Counsel	75.00	103.00	125.00	90.00	393.00
Operations, Comm. - Member Directory	0.00	0.00	0.00	566.54	566.54
Operations, Comm. -- Website	525.00	525.00	525.00	525.00	2,100.00
Outreach - Peace, Social Concerns	100.00	3,800.00	2,100.00	6,150.00	12,150.00
Outreach -- Scholarships, Relief	000	300 00	0.00	1,220.00	1,520.00
Retreat	1,100.00	0.00	0.00	4,070.00	5,170.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	6,937.61	9,086.97	7,529.00	17,697.72	41,251.30
OVERALL TOTAL	-1,860.43	1,915.50	-1,528.31	2,312.48	839.24

Treasurer's Report
December 31, 2017

	2016 Actual	2017 Budget	2017 Yr-to-date (Dec 31)	2018 Proposed
1 Balances at the Beginning of the Year				
2 Unrestricted Reserves		37,437	37,438	36,972
3 Funds Restricted as to Use				
4 Huntington House		782	782	663
5 Crumlish Bequest		500	500	500
6 Reintegration Fund				500
7 SUBTOTAL for Cash at TD Bank:		38,720	38,720	38,634
8 Minus uncashed checks plus unposted deposits		(2,218)	(1,858)	(685)
9 Unrestricted funds in Schwab		500	500	500
10 Unrestricted funds in petty cash (hospitality)		144	144	143
11 TOTAL		37,146	37,506	38,593
12				
13 Income				
14 Contributions — General	31,254	37,686	36,001	
15 Contributions - Restricted as to Use:				
16 Reintegration Fund			500	
17 Huntington House			400	
18 Interest and Dividends	18		19	
19 Contributions earmarked for other organizations	(780.00)			
20 Retreat Fees			3,060	
21 Transfers from Reserves — General	1,665			
22 Transfers from Reserves — Restricted				
23 Huntington House			119	
24 Crumlish Bequest				
25 Reintegration Fund				
26 TOTAL	32,157	37,686	39,981	

	2016 Actual	2017 Budget	2017 Yr-to-date (Dec 31)	2018 Proposed
27				
28	Expenses			
29	New York Yearly Meeting allocation	15,397	15,976	15,976
30	Outreach:			
31	Peace and Social Concerns/FUN	11,568	12,800	12,150
32	Miscellaneous Outreach	0	300	
33	Huntington House		519	
34	Reintegration Allocations			
35	Scholarships/Relief	660	2,000	1,520
36	Operations			
37	Communications: Website	2,100	2,100	2,100
38	Communications: Member Directory		540	567
39	Communications: Newsletter		300	
40	Communications: Advertising/List- ings		50	
41	First Day: Child Care	1,460	2,320	2,000
42	First Day: Literature, etc.	0		
43	Hospitality	373	300	391
44	Breakfast	101	200	166
45	Clerk/Ministry and Counsel	25	200	393
46	Retreat			3,060
47	Finance	177	300	144
48	Literature	297	300	108
49	SUBTOTAL:	32,157	37,686	39,093
50	Transfers to General Reserves			388
51	Transfers to Restricted Reserves			
52	Reintegration Fund			500
53	Transfer to petty cash for Hospitality			
54	Transfer to petty cash other than Hospi- tality			
55	TOTAL EXPENSES:	32,157	37,686	39,981
56				
57	Balances at the End of the Year:			
58	Unrestricted Reserves	37,438	37,438	36,972
59	Funds Restricted as to Use			
60	Huntington House	782	782	663
61	Crumlish Bequest	500	500	500
62	Reintegration Fund			500
63	SUBTOTAL for Cash at TD Bank:	38,720	38,720	38,634
64	Minus uncashed checks plus unposted deposits	(2,218)		(685)
65	Unrestricted funds in Schwab	500	500	500

	2016 Actual	2017 Budget	2017 Yr-to-date (Dec 31)	2018 Proposed
66 Unrestricted funds in petty cash (hospitality)	144	144	143	
67 TOTAL ENDING BALANCE:	37,146	39,364	38,593	

Report from Peace and Social Concerns Committee

January 7, 2018

In preparing for the Amnesty International Write for Rights events, the Flushing Amnesty Group, an outgrowth of the Flushing Interfaith Council (of which Morningside Meeting is a member) Social Justice Committee, prepared letters, somewhat edited from the sample letters prepared by Amnesty, mailing labels, stamps, envelopes and pens.

Furthermore, we tried to keep the letters and the mailing labels in the same order, so that it would be relatively easy to do one letter at a time without getting things confused.

There was nevertheless some confusion, so there was clerical work both before and after.

We had two events, one here at Morningside Meeting and another at the Free Synagogue of Flushing, a first time for them.

We had to summarize the letters generated for a report to Amnesty, and Caroline Lane of Flushing Meeting took charge of the letters signed at the Synagogue, while I reported on the letters signed here:

The Free Synagogue of Flushing event generated 205 letters.

The Morningside Quaker Meeting event generated 106 with another 13 'after-letters' signed two weeks later, so all told 119 for Morningside.

This is far more than we've ever generated before, so the prep work and the after-work seem to be something we should continue.

We also learned that it was a good idea to put out a donations basket, since each of the letters represents \$1.15 in postage, and we recovered somewhere in the neighborhood of \$60 at the Flushing event.

Respectfully submitted,
Naomi Paz-Greenberg

Morningside Monthly Meeting 2017 State of the Meeting Report

On December 17, 2017, Morningside Monthly Meeting gathered to discern the spiritual state of the meeting and to meditate on the past year.

One participant spoke of Meeting as a large rough rock that provides handholds to the larger meeting without requiring the inclusion in all parts. By not smoothing over the roughness, we allow individuals to give what they can give, even if they can't come to Meeting for Worship. Meeting is not "just Sunday," for there are so many ways to be part of Meeting, including "Bible study and its good wanderings," occasions of sharing, such as one member's art on the Psalms;

the small group ARCH Meetings that “help build community,” support and clearness committees, and spiritual nurture groups. There are so many ways to be part of Meeting and we need to let people who visit know of the many opportunities to get to know each other.

The fall and spring retreats were cited as important events by several people, and were appreciated for their communal nature where the “Spirit was present throughout the day.” That communal nature was evident throughout the year, as individuals contributed their time and energy to Meeting. One person recognized the support of Meeting in preparation for the retreats; another spoke of how, unbidden, Friends took it upon themselves to do tasks large and small. “It is in the sharing of tasks that we witness the miracle of the loaves and fishes.”

The many ways that keep people attached to Meeting are possible because of the spiritual core of Meeting for Worship and Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business. In order to maintain the quality of worship and increase the number of people who remain for Business Meeting, Morningside has changed the flow of meetings, minimizing announcements and refreshment time. We begin and finish earlier, and the timing has increased participation. We recognize that we are all ministers and that anyone is able to call for a moment of silence. During a contentious meeting, one member reminded us that “We have all fallen short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

Concerns were expressed in how to maintain Afterwords as a solemn time. Although Meeting spoke fondly of watching and recording the growth of new children in the community and the joy in seeing little children entering at the end of Worship, concern was expressed that their presence might make the space feel less safe for attenders who need to share difficult things.

Inclusion into a safe space is an important concern of Meeting, which continues to express pride and joy in participating in Support and Clearness committees for Morningsiders in distress. One person questioned whether we communicate our care as individuals as a community, and queried, “Are we building the kinds of relationships that enable people to know when people need help and feel that they can ask for it?” One person responded that we need to learn to ask for help when we need it. Another added that as we are all ministers and all partake in different parts of Meeting, we should respond to the needs of the participants of our specific groups and communicate that to the larger meeting.

The conversation on inclusion extended to new people attending Meeting. “How can we better welcome people who drop in?” Suggestions included asking new people to help out with the immediate tasks of preparing for Meeting and refreshments, restoring the Welcoming Sign at the front desk, and inviting rather than requiring guests to introduce themselves after Meeting.

Inclusion requires an awareness of the language that we use, even if it has a long Quaker pedigree. One person expressed concern with the usage of “darkness” and “light” and its racial overtones. This is especially apt, for this year our retreat was on Deep Listening about Racism. One Friend recommended that rather than the light vs. dark image, we consider an openness and expansion, vs. fear and contraction image. When the meeting is open to Spirit, it is capable of change, but when it contracts in fear, it can only seek to hold on to what it has always had. Further changes in the structure of Business and the ability to change traditions, such as the yearly “cookie swap,” are indications that the Meeting has been open to the Spirit this year. In the future we must continue to evaluate the various activities of the Meeting to see how they are working.

We continue to experience the necessary change of transitioning from older Friends. Although we have had losses, deaths, people moving away, we haven't fallen apart. Our loss of longtime member Vince Buscemi was great, but his memorial meeting was a wonderful moment of humor and treasuring. We grieve but we also look forward, questioning how we can encourage children to come to Meeting when they are older. We remain an integral part of Quarterly Meeting and were pleased to receive recognition for our hospitality at NYQM. Although Peace & Social Concerns has not met as frequently as in previous years, the letter campaign "Write for Rights" for Amnesty International allowed Morningside to learn about problems in the world and the need for greater hospitality in the future. We use M&C to work on conflicts, although there are not really very many. We recognize the discipline of not gossiping, especially for revenge, as M&C helps us all grow in the spirit.

One Friend seemed to sum up future concerns, asking, "How do we maintain the content in the communication channels we have?" How do we communicate with members and attenders in crisis; how do we communicate with others outside of Meeting; what is the nature of the language we use and how is it heard by others This is and will always remain a challenge, for we are one family even when we don't always like every family member. This year, in the current social political economic environment, we prayerfully ask "How does Morningside Monthly Meeting keep the channels of Love and Truth alive?"

In Friendship,

Pamela Wood

Clerk, Morningside Monthly Meeting

Morningside Monthly Meeting Committee members for 2018

WORKING COPY - PROPOSED MORNINGSIDE COMMITTEES AND POSITIONS:

New nominees are underlined

CLERK: Pamela Wood (3rd year)

RECORDING CLERK: Stephen McDonnell (2nd year)

Asst. RECORDING CLERK: Bernard Winter

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Charlene Ray, Pamela Wood, Bryan Oettel

TREASURER: Dan Seeger

ASSISTANT TREASURER: Bryan Oettel

MINISTRY AND COUNSEL: (3 years, renewable once)

Ends January 2019: Mason Jenkins co-clerk (2nd term), Rob Stevens (1st term) Jason McGill (to replace 1-year opening)

Ends January 2020: Ed Elder, Karen Taborn, Tom Goodridge (all 1st term)

Ends January 2021: David Fletcher, Charlene Ray co-clerk (both 2nd term) Jane Alexandre (1st term)

RECORDER FOR MEMBERSHIP/HISTORIAN: Helen Garay Toppins

NOMINATING (2-year position):

Ends January 2019: Emily Eckstut, Burr Eckstut, Charlotte Ehrman

Ends January 2020: David Britton, Robert Leuze

HOSPITALITY: Joyce Richardson (Convener), Richard Schmidt, Charlene Ray, June Tano, Bryan Wigfall

FIRST DAY COORDINATORS: Sally Campbell, Richard Schmidt

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

(Note – Meeting for Children includes First Day Caregivers, parents and children)

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, Emily Bishop (Facebook)

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

ARCH VISITORS: (No committee at present.) The following have 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

QUARTERLY NOMINATING (MMM appointment): Sally Campbell – interim – subject to Quarterly Meeting approval

LIAISONS/REPRESENTATIVES:

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE (AFSC): Pamela Wood

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION (FCNL): Kathy Stackhouse

NEW YORK QUARTERLY MEETING: Nancy Britton

YOUNG ADULT FRIENDS: Emily Bishop

POWELL HOUSE: Charlene Ray

PENDLE HILL: Bernard Winter

FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE (FGC): Lee Rada

NEW YORK YEARLY MEETING: Pamela Wood

NEW YORK YEARLY MEETINGS FOR DISCERNMENT: Peter Beck

RIGHT SHARING OF WORLD RESOURCES: Sally Campbell

FRIENDS IN UNITY WITH NATURE/ Earth Care Witness: Tom Goodridge

HUNTINGTON HOUSE: Helen Garay Toppins

NEW YORK QUARTERLY MEETING POSITIONS

(Filled by Quarterly Joint Nominating, except for “Quarterly Nominating” itself, which is a Morningside nomination):

TRUSTEES: Katherine Alford (term ends 2018), Bart Dominus (Term ends 2019)

RECORDING CLERK:

AUDIT AND BUDGET:

EDUCATION FUND:

MINISTRY AND COUNSEL: David Britton

RELIEF:

THE GREAT LAKES REGION (Africa) EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Corona Machamer

COMMITTEE FOR DOWNTOWN MANHATTAN ALLOWED MEETING: (no maximum, 3-year terms) Sally Campbell (term ends 2020), Richard Schmidt (term ends 2019)