

**Morningside Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Minutes of the Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
February 4, 2018**

1. The Meeting began with worship at 12:30 p.m., and Pamela Wood read from Mark 10:13-16:

“People were bringing their little children to him, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, ‘Let the little children come unto me, do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.’ Then he put his arms around them, laid his hands on them, and gave them his blessing.”

The reading was also followed by silent worship.

2. Mason Jenkins read the report for Ministry and Counsel. M&C met on Jan. 29th at the home of Pamela Wood. The next meeting will be at the home of Pamela Wood on February 26th 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. Daniel A. Seeger gave the Treasurer’s Report and Proposed Budget. With amendments, including those from the Communications Committee, Friends approve the Budget. The written Treasurer’s Report, report from the Communications Committee and Approved Budget are attached.

4. Sally Campbell gave a report from the Meeting with Children Committee:

“Burr and Emily, Mason, Ernie, Tom and Sally gathered on January 14th and after some thoughtful discussion came up with this “minute” of what we think would work at this time:

“We will bring children down to the Meeting for Worship on 12 T at about 5 or 10 minutes before noon. They will remain in meeting but can go near or into the library as needed.

“Parents are encouraged to tell Ernie or other caregivers topics the children have been asking about.

“We can, of course, talk about this some more and will do what is needed at any particular moment for each child, but we will see how this works.”

Friends accept the report, and approve the change, welcoming the children into Worship.

5. Corona Machermer gave the Peace and Social Concerns report. Friends accept the report. The report is attached.

6. Pamela Wood gave a Clerk’s Report:

As your liaison to New York Yearly Meeting, I want to report on the meeting of the Coordinating Committee last weekend. There is discussion about reorganizing the structure of Yearly Meeting to make it more agile, increase communication between its various parts and constituencies and to make the participation of younger members easier. Most immediately there is a desire to lay down the Nurture Coordinating Committee, to which representatives to various organizations, such as FGC, FUM and AFSC report. The Nominating Committee has not been able to get people for the at-large positions. This will be part of the focus at the April Representative Meeting, which will be held in New York City. I also remind you that volunteers are needed for that event. If you can offer housing to out of towners, contact Helen Garay Toppins.

Friends accept the report.

7. The Clerk made the following Announcement:

Meeting for Discernment

February 17, 2018

15th Street Meetinghouse, New York, NY

- How do I prepare myself to be receptive to the Light, in worship and in the world? How does this experience affect my life?
- How does my meeting support me and other Friends to test and support the leadings that arise in the Light?

The next Meeting for Discernment will take place at Fifteenth Street meetinghouse, 15 Rutherford Place, New York, NY 10003, on Saturday, February 17, 2018, from 9:30am to 5:30pm, hosted by Fifteenth Street Friends. (Rain Date is March 3, 2018.)

Friends aspire (in Rufus Jones's words) to be "a living body of Christ in the world to-day [by] coming into union with God in our gatherings." Twice a year, a large body of NYYM Friends gather to experience "the tremendous power of silent community fellowship with God." No business is considered; the work of the day is simply extended worship on the basis of silence. Through prayerful discernment, those in attendance listen for God's guidance in what is rising at the monthly meeting level and throughout the yearly meeting body.

All monthly meetings and worship groups are asked to appoint at least one person to attend. Appointees are asked not to bring prepared messages, but to speak as moved in the moment by Spirit, by God, by the Inner Christ. By meeting this way in the fullness of our community, we hear that which might not be heard in the midst of committees and attending to business.

Friends are invited to arrive soon after 8:30. Coffee, tea, and snacks will be provided. Worship will begin at 9:00, with lunch provided at noon and resumption of worship from 1:00 p.m. Please indicate on your registration form if you will be present for morning snacks and/or lunch. A donation of \$20 per person, paid on-site, will help defray the cost of childcare, lunch, and other necessities. Please be advised that the donation is suggested and not required.

To register, please fill out and return the registration form to office@nyym.org. Registration will be available online at nyym.org next week. For information regarding financial assistance for travel expenses, contact Jeffrey Aaron: (732) 247-9430 or jephreyaaron@aol.com. The local contact person is Chloe Tomlinson: chloe.e.tomlinson@gmail.com or 516-778-7718.

8. Friends approved these minutes. The meeting ended with worship at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen McDonnell

Present: Jane Alexandre, Joyce Richardson, June Tano, Kirsty Tinto, Daniel A. Seeger, Tom Goodridge, Charlene Ray, Peter Beck, Robert Renwick, Bryan Oettel, Sally Campbell, Kathy Stackhouse, Corona Machermer, Bryan Wigf.

Ministry and Counsel Report

1. M&C met on Monday January 29th at the home of Pam Wood.
2. The next meeting will be Monday February 26th at Pam Wood's at 7:15. The first half is open to anyone with concerns.

3. Our next welcome breakfast will be on February 25th hosted by Pam Wood at 9:30 in the Riverside Cafe. All are welcome.
4. Also on February 25th after meeting Mason Jenkins will lead a worship sharing on the testimony of community.
5. Bible Study will be held on February 11th at 9:30.
6. Formation of groups for Quaker sixes is nearly complete.
7. Formation of new Spiritual Nurture Groups and additions to existing groups is in process.
8. M&C currently has 6 support committees.
9. M&C plans to hold a one-day retreat in the spring as we did last year. Anyone interested in helping with the planning of this event should be in touch with a member of M&C. More details to come.

Charlene Ray and Mason Jenkins will continue as co-clerks of Ministry and Council.

Treasurer's Report, February 4, 2018

When I presented the year-end figures a month ago, the excess of income over expenses in the 2017 year was slightly less than \$400. I described this as balancing the budget by a hair's-breadth. Since the January meeting for business another \$1,300 in contributions have come in which can legitimately be considered 2017 donations, so the new excess of income over expenditures is \$1,716. This is still fairly close, however, given an expense budget of approximately \$40,000.

This closeness has inspired the Finance Committee to propose a "hold the line" budget - that is, we are proposing an expenditure budget for the 2018 year roughly in line with the expenses of 2017. This new budget which is offered for the Meeting's approval is shown on the attached spreadsheet highlighted in yellow. Members should feel welcome to propose changes if led by the Spirit to do so.

The footnotes below are offered to clarify some of the line items in the proposed budget.

Although the balance of income and expenses has been close, members and attenders should take satisfaction that an ambitious program of expenditures for outreach and operations has been completely covered through the generous gifts of participants in the meeting community.

Activities in the new year have been modest, so far. \$790.00 in income has been received. The regularly scheduled January disbursements (website maintenance, child care payments, Yearly Meeting allocation, etc., etc.) have not yet been made pending approval of the budget. A \$100.00 transfer has been made to the Woodbourne Quaker group.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel A. Seeger, Treasurer

Treasurer's Report

February 4, 2018

	2016 Actual	2017 Budget	2017 Yr-to-date (Dec 31)	Approved 2018 Budget	
1	Balances at the Beginning of the Year				
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4					
5					
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11					
12					
13	Income				
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24					
25					
26					
27					
28	Expenses				
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36					
37					
38					

Treasurer's Report

February 4, 2018

	2016 Actual	2017 Budget	2017 Yr-to-date (Dec 31)	Approved 2018 Budget
39		300		
40		50		1,000
41	1,460	2,320	2,000	2,400
42	0			100
43	373	300	362	400
44	101	200	166	200
45	25	200	393	400
46			3,060	3,200
47	177	300	144	300
48	297	300	108	300
49	SUBTOTAL:	32,157	37,686	39,065
50			388	
51				
52			500	
53				
54				
55	TOTAL EXPENSES:	32,157	37,686	39,953
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	500
63	SUBTOTAL for Cash at TD Bank:	38,720	38,720	38,634
64	Minus uncashed checks plus un-posted deposits	(2,218)	(685)	
65	Unrestricted funds in Schwab	500	500	500
66	Unrestricted funds in petty cash (hospitality)	144	144	132
67	TOTAL ENDING BALANCE:	37,146	39,364	38,581

Footnote 2

FOOTNOTES:

1. Since the Yearly Meeting's budget probably consists largely of staff costs, a modest 3% increase would seem minimally humane.
2. The costs of a retreat will presumably be balanced out by fee income and by a transfer from the scholarship line, so this figure is really a placeholder rather than an estimate. The retreat Planning Committee should remember to charge \$10.00 per person more than Stony Point requires so there are sufficient funds for extras, like audio/visual equipment and snacks.
3. No estimates for expenses or income in the restricted fund category are made under the assumption that the committees in charge of each of these funds will keep expenditures to amounts within the

funds available, and therefore these transactions will have no material impact on the Meeting's finances overall.

Respectfully submitted, Daniel A. Seeger, Treasurer

Report from Peace and Social Concerns Committee

Peace & Social Concerns met on January 14, 2018. Attending were: Sally Campbell; Richard Schmidt; Steven Soblick; Amala Lane; Pamela Wood; Dave Britton; Bryan Oettel; Kathy Stackhouse; Charles Sirey; Natalie Studt; Ceci Silberstein; Diane Keefe; Soo Bok Kim; Corona Machermer (clerk)

The meeting opens with a few minutes of silence.

1. The committee hears a proposal from Soo Bok Kim that Morningside sponsor a forum led by Daniel Jasper of AFSC to educate Friends on North Korea and how very real the danger of war with the DPRK is. As Soo Bok puts it, Americans are “filled with wrong information” about the DPRK, and therefore make bad decisions. Friends are enthusiastic about the proposal and decide to enlist the wider community of Friends in New York with, we hope, an event at Fifteenth Street. The possibility of combining the event with a presentation of photos and videos from Soo Bok's several visits to North Korea is discussed. [The proposed event was mentioned in the Clerk's Report to Quarterly Meeting on January 22 and representatives from Fifteenth Street responded positively.]
2. Sally Campbell notes that one way to act against the possibility of war on the Korean Peninsula is through the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), which is lobbying for a bill in the Senate (S 2047) to prevent a pre-emptive strike against North Korea. Friends should write to our Senators. Kirsten Gillibrand is a co-sponsor, and should be thanked; Chuck Schumer is not, and should be urged to become one. Also express appreciation to Senator Chris Murphy of Connecticut, who introduced the bill. Go to www.fcnl.org to compose and send your letters. The website makes it easy.
3. The situation of Ravi Ragbir, husband of Amy Gottlieb of the AFSC, who faces imminent deportation, is discussed. Friends are urged to contact their Representatives at the federal, state, and local levels and to do what they can to publicize the situation. [For subsequent developments, check out the internet. The gist of it is that, as one headline put it, thanks to the movement that he helped found, Ravi is free for the moment. However, the stay is temporary. The focus of current efforts, which have been joined by a number of elected officials, is to call for “the permanent presence in the United States of Ravi Ragbir and stop his deportation.” The quote is from a New York City Council Press Advisory headlined “Ravi Must Stay.”]
4. There was further discussion of the P&SC budget for 2018. Allocations are being based on a continuing budget from the Meeting of \$12,800, the same as for 2017. In 2017 the committee deliberately did not allocate the entire budget so as to retain a “P&SC Reserve Fund” of several hundred dollars for emergencies. This money was not spent in 2017 but may well be in 2018. We expect to finalize the budget at the next regular P&SC Meeting.
5. The next CAIC (Campaign for Alternatives to Isolated Confinement) “Advocacy Day,” when CAIC organizes a lobbying campaign in Albany against Solitary Confinement, will be March 13. A number of Morningsiders have participated in these events. Contact Sally Campbell to learn more.
6. Every two years, during election year, FCNL solicits the views and concerns of Quaker meetings, churches, and organizations around the country to help discern what should be FCNL's Legislative Priorities for the new Congress, which is seated the following year. This process, for the 116th Congress (2019-2020), is now underway. In the past Morningside has convened a special meeting of Peace & Social Concerns to discern what Morningsiders believe should be the priorities and we expect to do so

this year, with a special meeting to be held on March 11 in place of the regular meeting of the committee. The regular meeting of the committee will be held on the third Sunday, March 18.

7. The next regular meeting of Peace & Social Concerns will be held on the *third* Sunday in February, February 18.

Respectfully submitted,
Corona Macheimer, clerk