

Morningside Monthly Meeting for Business Minutes

12/4.16

1. Opening worship and reading: “Our life is love, and peace, and tenderness; and bearing with one another, and not laying accusations one against another; but praying for one another, and helping one another up with a tender hand.” *Isaac Pennington*
2. David Fletcher reads the report from Ministry & Counsel. The Meeting receives the report, which is attached.
3. For our discussion of the state of the Meeting, Mason Jenkins will clerk; Jerry Reisig will write the report, and Sally Campbell, David Fletcher, Charlene Ray and Pam will take notes. Approved
4. Corona Macheimer reads the report from Peace & Social Concerns, attached. The Meeting receives the report. Ministry and Counsel & Peace & Social Concerns will confer on the schedule of after Meeting activities in January. More details will be announced.
5. Pam Wood reads the Clerk’s report. Pam proposes a minute supporting the closure of the Rikers Island Jail Complex, which would be included in the press packets that are being distributed after this afternoon’s demonstration at Gracie Mansion urging Mayor DiBlasio to close the Rikers Island Jail Complex. The Meeting receives the report. The following minute is approved:
6. As members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), we believe that there is that of God in everyone. To honor that belief, we strive to respond to others non-violently, with compassion, and to treat each person with equal respect. We are convinced that by doing so, we are not only responding to that of God within the person, we are also supporting constructive growth and change in the most effective ways. The systemic and structural violence and disregard for personal needs at the Rikers Island Jail Complex go against everything we believe. These conditions and habits of mind are so deeply embedded in the institution that we do not believe reforms can be effective, and so we call on Mayor DiBlasio to close the Rikers Island Jail Complex. In its place we call on the City of New York to take steps towards bail reform and to create healthy, safe and secure restorative facilities in New York City.
7. Lee Rada presents the report from the Nominating Committee for a first reading, which is attached. There are a number of vacancies. If people have suggestions they may contact Nancy Britton, Ed Elder, Stephen McDonnell and Lee Rada.
8. The Meeting approves scheduling the Sunday sing on the third Sundays of the month at 10 am.
9. Charlene Ray presents the Treasurer’s report and a preliminary budget for us to review for future approval. The reports are accepted and attached.
10. Bernard Winter reads the report from the Lighting Committee, attached. The Meeting accepts the report.
11. Corona Macheimer reads the report of the Communications Committee. The report is accepted.
12. We discuss how much we wish to pay for gift subscriptions for new members We agree that we will continue to use the discounted rate for Friends Journal subscriptions when we give a gift of Friends Journal to new members. In the

future we will discuss giving a gift to the Friends Journal Foundation, which supports the costs of the Journal.

Present: Richard Schmitt, Charlotte Ehrman, Naomi Paz Greenberg, Artis Klavins, Bernard Winter, Katharine Alford, Sally Campbell, David Fletcher, Lucille Adinoff, Joyce Richardson, Charlene Ray, June Tano, Bryan Oettel, Corona Machemer, Lee Rada, Jane Alexandre, Pamela Wood

Treasurer's Report for November 2016

For the year, we have received some \$20,378 in contributions, disbursed \$26,917 and realized a \$6,549 shortfall. Disbursements include \$15,397 representing our 2016 NYYM Covenant payment, \$7,950 for Peace and Social Concerns, \$660 was paid in scholarships (for members to attend Friends General Conference and the Morningside Retreat), \$675 for website assistance in a Communications Budget of \$2,790, \$1,300 for childcare (of a \$3,350 budget line), \$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, \$297.46 has been spent for library additions.

Some \$4,320 in Peace and Social Concerns allocations are planned to be paid during December.

The unrestricted bank balance at 11/30/16 was \$33,189, plus \$400 due from NYQM thrift sale.

A draft budget is attached for your information. Please address any questions to the respective committees; questions for the Treasurer are requested to be submitted to Charlene by email. Committees with budget lines are urged to submit their budget requests by December 15.

A reminder: Contributions to the work of the meeting may be made directly from your bank; for information, please contact Charlene Ray, moneycoach@earthlink.net or leave a message at 212-757-3504.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Ray

Treasurer

January 4, 2017 Morningside Meeting

Treasurer's Report: 2016		Actual	YTD	% Spent	Budget
		2015			2016
Disbursements					
Fixed	NY Yearly Meeting	14,840.00	15,396.50	100.0%	15,396.50
Total Fixed			15,396.50	100.0%	15,396.50
Outreach	P&SC/FUN		7,950.00	62.1%	12,800.00
& Support	Misc. Contrib.		0.00	0.0%	300.00
	Scholarship/Relief		660.00	26.4%	2,500.00
Total Outreach			8,610.00	55.2%	15,600.00
Operating	Communications		675.00	24.2%	2,790.00
Expenses	1st Day/Childcare		1,300.00	38.8%	3,350.00
	Hospitality		373.10	186.6%	200.00
	Breakfast		73.50	9.8%	750.00
	Clerk/ M & C		25.00	12.5%	200.00
	Finance		166.25	55.4%	300.00
	Literature		297.46	99.2%	300.00
Total Operating Expenses			2,910.31	36.9%	7,890.00
Total Disbursements			26,916.81	69.2%	38,886.50
	In Kind Contribtuions/Disbursements		203.40		
Income					
	Contributions	20,484.77	21,141.40		38,886.50
	Net of AGLI+Haiti		20,361.40		
	Interest		16.75		
			20,378.15	52.4%	38,886.50
Net Income			(6,538.66)		0.00
Assets					
	Ending Bank Balance	42,190.58	33,775.80		
	Hospitality Petty Cash	31.65	195.51		
	Cash at Schwab	500.00	500.00		
	Due from Thrift Sale		400.00		
Liabilities					
	Crumlish Bequest	(1,000.00)	(500.00)		
estimate	Hope Lives for Lifers	(189.54)	0.00		
May-15	Huntington House	(282.19)	(782.19)		
Net Worth			41,250.50		33,589.12
Actual annual rent paid by NYQM is					
\$11,000, 1/2013-12/2015					

Ministry and Counsel Report For December 4th Business Meeting

1. M&C met on Monday November 28th at the home of Charlene Ray.
2. The next meeting will be Monday January 2nd at Dave Evan's.
3. Our next welcome breakfast will be on December 25th hosted by Charlene Ray 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 December
5. Bible Study this month will be on December 11th at 9:30.
6. The State of the Meeting Meeting will be held on December 18th after meeting. With the support of the Meeting Mason will clerk and Jerry will record. Volunteers to take notes are needed.
7. M&C currently has 6 support committees and 1 clearness committee.
8. The Marriage of Bart Dominus and Virginia Shipley will take place during meeting on December 11th. A reception will follow on the 13th floor.
9. Friends are agreed that we will hold an annual retreat at Stony Point Center in early October. Any Morningsiders interested in holding a spring Saturday 'retreat' are invited to step forward to organized it.
10. Young Adult Friends gathered for a brunch at Mason Jenkins's home on November 19th at noon. If anyone is interested in helping to arrange gatherings of Young Adult Friends in the future please contact Mason.

Respectfully submitted,

David Fletcher

Dec 4, 2016

Report from Peace and Social Concerns

Peace & Social Concerns met on November 13, 2016, at 1:00 pm, following Meeting for Worship.

Attending: Pam Wood; Richard Schmidt; David Fletcher; Maria Cordones; Bryan Oettel; Connie Benson; Brian D'Agostino; Sally Campbell; June Tano; Corona Macheimer (Clerk)

The meeting begins with a few minutes of silent worship.

1. As reported to Business Meeting on November 6, at its meeting on October 23 the committee approved sending Morningside's share of the proceeds from last May's Rummage Sale at 15th Street—\$400—to the Lambi Fund for hurricane relief in Haiti. The committee invited additional contributions from individual Morningsiders to be added to this sum. However, the check from 15th Street had not yet arrived as of November 13. Therefore, the committee approves asking the treasurer to send the \$400 plus any additional contributions from individual Morningsiders immediately. When the check arrives from 15th Street, it can be deposited to the reserves.
2. Pam Wood reports on the that part of the Annual Meeting of the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) that she attended, in particular the lobbying which preceded the Meeting itself and in which she participated. She reminds us that FCNL focuses on lobbying for bills that in their estimation have some chance of being

passed. This time around the focus was on getting bills relating to criminal justice reform, which have bipartisan support, through the lame-duck session of Congress.

Pam also notes that, in specifying its legislative priorities for the next congress, FCNL recognizes the importance of consulting, in addition to Friends, the people who are affected by any legislation, in particular legislation related to immigration and incarceration. In the latter case, she notes there is unanimous opposition to solitary confinement and support for parole reform.

3. The 2016 Peace & Social Concerns budget is reviewed, both to determine whether certain 2016 contributions that have not yet been made should be made, and to make further discernments concerning the budget for 2107. It is decided not to request an increase in the budget for 2017, but to retain the 2016 figure of \$12,800.00. It is also decided not to fully allocate the budgeted total, so as to retain a P&SC “Reserve Fund” of several hundred dollars, which would be available in emergencies.
4. It is decided to schedule Morningside’s participation in the annual Amnesty International Write for Rights campaign on the third Sunday in January, 2017 (January 15), instead of in December. There will be no Peace & Social Concerns meeting in December. [The Original P&SC Report is amended at Business meeting as follows: The January schedule for after-Meeting programs other than the Amnesty “write-a-thon” is under review. The fourth Sunday is Quarterly Meeting; because Business Meeting will be held on the second Sunday, only the fifth Sunday remains open for either P&SC or M&C.] At the next regular meeting of Peace & Social Concerns, whenever it occurs, Nancy 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.

On November 20th and again on November 27th, after the rise of meeting, individual Morningsiders signed a letter to Governor Cuomo protesting Executive Order No. 157, which he issued on June 5, 2016, prohibiting the state of New York from doing business with any “institution or company” that supports or advocates boycott or divestment campaigns against Israel an edict that deploys the coercive powers of the state against the right to speak freely and protest peacefully. Twenty-three letters were signed and sent. The text of the letter is attached to this report.

Respectfully Submitted,
Corona Machermer, Clerk

November 27, 2016

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I am writing to protest in the strongest possible terms against Executive Order No 157 prohibiting State Agencies and Authorities from directing public funds to any “institution or company” that engages in or promotes any “Boycott, Divestment, or Sanctions” (BDS) activity “for the purpose of coercing political action by, or imposing policy positions on, the government of Israel.” While this letter is being written some months after you issued the executive order, I am hopeful that it will be received as part of a continuing protest against your action.

Executive Order No. 157 short-circuited a debate in the State Assembly on proposed legislation that would have barred state funds to those engaged in BDS activity against most “allied” nations. On June 5, 2016, the same day you issued your Executive Order, Morningside Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), of which I am a member, minuted our endorsement of a letter to members of the State Assembly strongly opposing this legislation.” A copy of that letter is attached. **

While the Executive Order and other actions that are part of the current Anti-BDS campaign are couched in language that purports to defend Israel against the “delegitimizing” actions of people who are basically anti-Semites, it in fact throws the government’s weight behind a particular vision of Israel and its current policies, however expansive the one and however discriminatory and cruel the other. It thus attempts, in effect to “delegitimize” all those, in Israel as well as in the U.S. and elsewhere, who oppose that vision and those policies. This is profoundly disturbing to all those who believe in the human right to act peacefully to change policies of which they disapprove. *In sum: To deploy the coercive powers of the state—and blacklisting in order to enable the denial of funds to, or prohibit contracting with, an institution or company is indisputably coercive—to inhibit BDS activity in relation to Israel is to deploy those powers against the constitutional right of every American to speak freely and to protest peacefully in opposition to policies of which he or she disapproves.*

Sincerely yours,

**The letter to the Assembly was printed in the June issue of *Morningside Matters*, which is available on the Morningside website, www.morningsidemeeting.org

PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS HERE:

Report from the Communications Committee

The Committee continues to focus on publishing the new Address Register. Printouts of a draft incorporating the data in the database as of November 5 have been made available after Meeting throughout November. Attenders are asked to check their entry, make any corrections and fill in any missing information. If their entry is correct and complete, they should indicate that this is the case. If an attender does not find his or her name, the contact information should be entered in the Red Book. (This should be done even if the attender believes the information has already been entered there, just to be sure it has been received.)

Friends may update their profiles directly in the database. The lay-out of the Profile page is now more intuitive to make doing this simpler. Instructions are available on the Help page of the website.

We intend that the new Address Register be printed and distributed early in the New Year. A cut-off date will be announced.

Friends are reminded to visit the website (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 Macheimer, Clerk

Report From the Lighting Committee

members: Bernard Winter, Sally Campbell, Richard Schmidt, Charlotte Ehrmann

The lighting committee met via a phone conference on Thursday, November 18th. It was decided at that meeting to:

- test all of the outlets to see if they are working.
- put tape over the electric 'eye' of the light switches to see whether the light would come on or not
- purchase one torchiere and try it out with a warm CFL bulb, and get the feedback from the meeting. the torchiere will be labeled as belonging to MMM and the label will say "please do not remove"

These ideas were tried out on Sunday, November 27th. All of the electrical outlets work. the tape was on the electrical eye, and the fluorescent lights did not come on. the feedback from the torchiere lamp was universally positive.

Next steps: Charlotte Ehrmann will be in communication with Riverside regarding our intention to place torchiere lamps in the room during meeting. If there is no obstacle, then Bernard will purchase three additional lamps and we will test out various watt bulbs (equivalent to either 60 or 75 watt incandescent light) in the room to find the best possible lighting.