

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

February 5, 2017

1. The Meeting began with worship at 12:25 p.m., and Pamela Wood read a quote from Junot Diaz from the New Yorker magazine dated November 21, 2016:
“But all the fighting in the world will not help us if we do not have hope. What I am trying to cultivate is not blind optimism, but what the philosopher Jonathan Lear calls radical hope. ‘What makes this hope *radical*,’ Lear writes, ‘is that it is directed towards a future goodness that transcends our ability to understand what it is.’ Radical hope is not so much something you have as it is something you practice; it demands flexibility, openness and what Lear calls ‘imaginative excellence.’ Radical hope is our best weapon against despair, even when despair seems justifiable; it makes the survival of the end of your world possible...I believe it will help us create a more loving future.”
2. Mason Jenkins read the report for Ministry and Counsel. The committee met on Jan. 30 at the home of Pamela Wood. The next meeting will be at the home of Pamela Wood on Feb. 27. All are welcome to the first part. Please RSVP. The Meeting accepts the report. The written report is attached.
3. Friends heard the first reading of request for membership from Bryan Oettel.
4. Mason read Elizabeth Horstmann’s request for transfer of membership to Orange Grove Monthly Meeting. The Meeting approved this transfer.
5. The Meeting approved the request for transfer Dan Seeger from Newtown Monthly Meeting to Morningside. Charlene Ray, Dot Savage and David Fletcher will be the Welcoming Committee for Dan.
6. Pamela Wood gave a Clerk’s Report. Friends accept the report. The report is attached.
7. Friends approved the release of Nancy Britton from the Nominating Committee.
8. Friends approved the release of Dave Britton from Ministry & Counsel.
9. Nancy Britton gave the report for the Nominating Committee. The written report is attached. The Meeting accepted the report. The Meeting reviewed the slate and approved the new committee members that are underscored in red in the report. The Meeting approved expanding the Nominating Committee from four to six members for two years.
10. Corona Machermer read the written report for Peace and Social Concerns. The Meeting accepts the report. The written report is attached.
11. Charlene Ray read the Treasurer’s Report. Friends accept the report. The report and financial chart are attached.
12. Corona Machermer read the report for the Communications Committee. The Meeting accepts the report. The written report is attached. The Communications Committee is responsible for making updates to the website.
13. Clerks of committees are asked to send written reports to the Recording Clerk so that he can forward the reports to the Newsletter editor.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen McDonnell

Present: Corona Machermer, Mason Jenkins, Jane Alexandre, Bryan Oettel, Joyce Richardson, Charlene Ray, Dot Savage, Katherine Alford, Peter Beck, Naomi Paz Greenberg, Robert Leuze, David Fletcher, Jason McGill, Nancy Britton, Wallace Bass Boyd, Richard Schmitt, Daniel A. Seeger, Tom Goodridge, Charlotte Ehrman, Pamela Wood, Stephen McDonnell.

Clerk's Report

by Pam Wood

I received the following requests for release from service:

“While I have enjoyed serving on the Nominating Committee this first year of two, I am asking to be released from serving my second year. Unexpectedly, this past year was a challenging and stressful one at work including both voluntary and involuntary layoffs, benefit rollbacks and a new department head. The fluctuating circumstances made it difficult to attend to my non-work commitments in a metered way. While perhaps some of this will not occur again in the coming year, I now have both increased responsibilities and work load due to understaffing and would prefer not to undertake outside responsibilities that I may not be able to meet in a timely manner.

In friendship,
Nancy Britton”

And:

“Dear Friends,
I ask for release from Morningside's Ministry and Counsel Committee, since I am still continuing with my dissertation work this Spring.

Dave Britton”

At NY Quarterly Meeting, I included the text of our minute on Rikers Island. It was suggested that NYQM might like to endorse it, however, the meeting was long and by 5 pm there weren't many people left so Andy von Salis suggested that I send it to the Clerks of the various Meetings in the Quarter for seasoning, which I plan to do.

Also at the Quarterly Meeting, an urgent need for a member of Morningside to be nominated to the NYQM Nominating Committee was expressed.

Ministry and Counsel Report

1. M&C met on Monday January 30th at the home of Pam Wood.
2. The next meeting will be Monday February 27th at Pam Wood's.
3. Our next welcome breakfast will be on February 26th hosted by Rob Stevens in the Riverside Cafe. All are welcome. If any Friends have an interest in hosting a breakfast see an M&C member.
4. Fourth Sunday discussion will be held after meeting on February 26th. It will be led by Charlene Ray on the topic of ARCH.
5. Bible Study will be held February 12th at 9:30.
6. M&C currently has 5 support committees.
7. Our annual retreat at Stony Point Center is confirmed for October 6-8. We are also planning 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.
8. Ministry and Counsel forwards the request for membership from Bryan Oettel with a recommendation for approval.
9. Ministry and Counsel forwards Elizabeth Horstmann's request for a transfer of membership from Morningside Monthly Meeting to Orange Grove Monthly Meeting with a recommendation for approval. Her letter is attached.
10. Ministry and Counsel forwards the approval of the Newtown Monthly for the request by Dan Seeger for a transfer of membership from Newtown Monthly Meeting to Morningside Monthly Meeting with a recommendation for approval of the transfer.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee Report

Peace & Social Concerns met on Sunday, January 29, 2017.

Attending: Pam Wood; Jane Alexandre; Richard Schmidt; Kathy Stackhouse; June Tano; Constance Benson; Brian D'Agostino; Corona Macheimer (acting as clerk)

On January 15, instead of our regular Peace & Social Concerns meeting, Morningsiders held an Amnesty International Write for Rights event. Thanks to Naomi Paz Greenberg, who had prepared all the materials before going into the hospital for surgery, including drafts of letters to officials that Friends could sign, we sent a total of 75 letters to officials in support of individuals (and one group) in 10 countries. Thirteen hand-written personal letters were sent to individuals. In addition, Friends took home letters to send by email to President Obama supporting clemency for Chelsea Manning, Edward Snowden, and Leonard Peltier (a Native American leader who was sentenced to life in prison for the murder two FBI agents in 1975 during the Wounded Knee incident at the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota; many, including Amnesty International, believe he was railroaded).

At the meeting on the 29th:

1. Friends hear a presentation by Brian D'Agostino about his "Proposal for a Green New Deal." Brian asks Friends' help in building a coalition of groups to generate a movement to implement Green New Deal policies, which he and colleagues have developed, relating to an agenda of massive public investment in renewable energy, infrastructure, and other public works that create sustainable, productive jobs. For more, see Brian's book, *Manufacturing Green Prosperity: The Power to Rebuild the American Middle Class*, a copy of which he has donated to the Morningside library.

Friends offer suggestions on how to begin; most stress that movements with staying power generally start small and local, with local concerns and/or projects that demonstrate the principles at work. If innovative projects that fill the bill already exist, then a first step might be a conference bringing the innovators together to explore the implementation of policies that will further the development of their projects and similar ones through political action. It is suggested that Brian develop a concept paper to state more clearly what he means by "Green New Deal," in order to frame the policy agenda laid in the Proposal. It is also suggested that he get in touch with Quaker Earthcare Witness network, both through New York Yearly Meeting and the local Friends in Unity with Nature committee (Tom Goodridge is Morningside's liaison).

2. On February 12, in place of the regularly scheduled P&SC meeting, Christine Ashley, Field Secretary for the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) will lead a workshop from 1:00 to 3:00 pm, following Meeting for Worship, on "next steps" in the Age of Trump. We intend to invite people from Riverside and from other New York Meetings. Christine describes the event this way: *We'll have an opportunity to learn, strategize and plan the next steps to take: how we Friends can make our views heard and influence members of Congress and other government change agents on issues important to Quakers.*
3. The Peace & Social Concerns budget for 2017 is discussed. The total budgeted by the Meeting is \$12,800 (the same as last year). There are a few questions remaining, so the budget is not being presented with this report. The Committee has chosen not to allocate the entire budget, and as of this writing, \$550 remains in the new "P&SC Reserve Fund for Emergencies."
4. The next regular meeting of Peace & Social Concerns will take place on February 19 at 1:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Corona Macheimer, Clerk

Communications Committee Report

The committee met on February 1, 2017. Attending were Bryan Oettel, Kathy Stackhouse, and Corona Macheimer (acting as clerk)

Continuing its focus on the new Address Register, the committee further updated the database, incorporating information provided by Ministry & Counsel, which has been reviewing the current list to make sure only those who are truly part of our community are included. The Committee also continues to enter in the database contact information provided by newcomers in the Red Book. Because there are still questions to be answered and people to be contacted,

the new Register is not quite ready to go to press. The Committee compiled a list of those in the database whom Ministry & Counsel noted should be contacted; this list has been forwarded to M&C. We also made a list of those with missing or unclear information, and these people will be contacted by Kathy Stackhouse, who has taken on the job of database manager.

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. Instructions for editing (updating) your profile are available on the Help page of the website. (If you have trouble logging in to the website, use the "Contact" tab on the website to contact Bryan Oettel; include his name in the subject line of your query. You are especially likely to have trouble if you have recently changed your email address, because your old one was your default user name when the database was set up.)

The Committee is concerned that Friends are not visiting/using the Website as much as we had hoped. As a way to encourage more "traffic," we have decided to open the Bulletin Board up to all visitors to the site, the same way that all visitors may access the calendar. As with the calendar, only logged-in members may post notices to the Bulletin Board. But Friends (and others) will no longer have to go through the process of logging in to see what's up on the Bulletin Board.

Friends are reminded to visit the website (www.morningsidemeeeting.org) regularly (daily?!) to check the Calendar and to view the Bulletin Board (for the moment you still have to log in to do this). Instructions on using these two "community building" features of the website are available on the "Help" page of the website.

Respectfully submitted,
Corona Machemer, Clerk

Treasurer's Report for January, 2017

For the month of January 2017, we received \$782 in contributions and interest. And we disbursed \$463 (representing a \$200 cash advance to hospitality, \$260 for childcare, \$27 for breakfasts and \$17 for the library. Additionally, we made a \$1,100 deposit for our October retreat.

The unrestricted bank operating balance at 1/31/17, net of checks issued but not yet paid, was \$38,438.

The Finance Committee anticipates that letters confirming donations of \$250 or more for tax purposes will be mailed the middle of February.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlene Ray
Treasurer

Treasurer's Report: 2017		Actual				Budget
		2016	Jan	YTD	% Spent	2017
Disbursements						
Fixed	NY Yearly Meeting	15,396.50		0.00	0.0%	15,976.00
Total Fixed		15,396.50	0.00	0.00	0.0%	15,976.00
Outreach	P&SC/FUN	11,567.78		0.00	0.0%	12,800.00
& Support	Misc. Contrib.	0.00		0.00	0.0%	300.00
	Scholarship/Relief	660.00		0.00	0.0%	2,000.00
Total Outreach		12,227.78	0.00	0.00	0.0%	15,100.00
Operating	Communications	2,100.00		0.00	0.0%	2,990.00
Expenses	1st Day/Childcare	1,460.00	220.00	220.00	9.5%	2,320.00
	Hospitality	373.10	200.00	200.00	66.7%	300.00
	Breakfast	100.50	12.00	12.00	6.0%	200.00
	Clerk/ M & C	25.00	14.00	14.00	7.0%	200.00
	Finance	176.77		0.00	0.0%	300.00
	Literature	297.46	17.29	17.29	5.8%	300.00
Total Operating Expenses		4,532.82	463.29	463.29	7.0%	6,610.00
Total Disbursements		32,157.11	463.29	463.29	1.2%	37,686.00
	In Kind Contributions/Disbursements	258.53	26.00	26.00		
Income						
	Contributions	31,253.81	780.75	780.75		37,686.00
	Net of AGLI+Haiti+Rummage	30,473.81		780.75		
	Interest	18.19	1.56	1.56		
		30,502.52	782.31	782.31	2.1%	37,686.00
Net Income		(1,654.59)	319.02	319.02		0.00
Assets						
	Ending Bank Balance	38,719.52	38,733.29			
	Hospitality Petty Cash	144.10	344.10			
	Retreat Deposit	0.00	1,100.00			
	Cash at Schwab	500.00	500.00			
Liabilities						
	Crumlish Bequest	(500.00)	(500.00)			
	Pending Checks	(2,217.70)	(2,057.29)			
	Huntington House	(782.19)	(782.19)			
Net Worth		35,863.73	38,437.91			

Actual annual rent paid by NYQM is
\$11,000, 1/2013-12/2015

MORNINGSIDE MONTHLY MEETING COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2017

PROPOSED MORNINGSIDE COMMITTEES AND POSITIONS: *new members are underlined, nominees are in red unless noted, positions are 1-yr renewable.*

CLERK: Pamela Wood (2nd year)

RECORDING CLERK: Stephen McDonnell (1st year)

Asst. RECORDING CLERK: Bernard Winter (one year only)

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Charlene Ray, Pamela Wood, Bryan Oettel

TREASURER: Dan Seeger

ASSISTANT TREASURER: Charlene Ray

MINISTRY AND COUNSEL: (3 years, renewable once)

Ends January 2018: David Fletcher, David Evans, Charlene Ray co-clerk (all 1st term)

Ends January 2019: Mason Jenkins co-clerk (2nd term), Rob Stevens (1st term) *one position open*

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

RECORDER FOR MEMBERSHIP/HISTORIAN: Helen Garay Toppins

NOMINATING (2-year position):

End January 2018: Lee Rada (convener), Tim Dalton, Peter Beck

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

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

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/ Earth Care Witness: Tom Goodridge, Committee of the Whole.

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

FIRST DAY MONTHLY SING: First Sundays at 10. Amala Lane (Convener), Nancy Britton, Kathy Wood

QUARTERLY JOINT NOMINATING (MMM appointment): *position open*

LIAISONS/REPRESENTATIVES:

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE (AFSC): Pamela Wood (Under care of Peace & Social Concerns)

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION (FCNL): Kathy Stackhouse

NEW YORK QUARTERLY MEETING: *position open*

YOUNG ADULT FRIENDS: *Currently under care of Ministry and Counsel*

POWELL HOUSE: Nancy Britton

PENDLE HILL: Steve McDonnell

FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE (FGC):

NEW YORK YEARLY MEETING: Pamela Wood

NEW YORK YEARLY MEETING COMMITTEE ON DISCERNMENT:

RIGHT SHARING OF WORLD RESOURCES:

NEW YORK QUARTERLY MEETING POSITIONS

(filled by Joint Nominating, except for Joint 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, (3rd term ends April 2017)

RELIEF: John Slater (term ends April 2017)

THE GREAT LAKES REGION (Africa) EDUCATION COMMITTEE: (term ends 2018, no maximum)

COMMITTEE FOR DOWNTOWN MANHATTAN ALLOWED MEETING: (no maximum, 3 year terms) Sally Campbell (term ends April 2017), Richard Schmidt (term ends 2019)