

Sunday, November 6, 2011

The meeting opened in silence.

David Britton read a quote from William Penn from Twenty First Century Penn Translated into Modern English by Paul Buckley. "I know very well that there is something in all people that draws them toward religion and that thing is not to be found in tradition nor in mere formal rituals. But in order to appear devout and pious, people engage in needless activities and mix their own conceptions in with divine commands. As a result, what is called religion becomes more a human creation than the works of Truth. People become so attached to these inventions that, like the ancient tyrants, they impose them on the consciences of others to secure their domination in this world."

The agenda was reviewed.

11.11.6.1 Vince Buscemi read the Ministry and Counsel report. Friends accept the report as read. A copy of this report is attached to these minutes. The next Ministry and Counsel meeting will be Thursday December 1 at 7:15 pm at Pamela Wood's home.

11.11.6.2 Bart Dominus made the Treasurer's report. A copy of this report is attached to these minutes. Friends accept the report as read. A fall solicitation letter was sent out Saturday, November 5. The meeting is doing a little better with contributions than last year as evidenced by the "thermometer" of contributions; Friends would like to see a graphic display of contributions in the monthly newsletter.

11.11.6.3 It was noted that no money will be issued for Peace and Social Concerns this month. Friends agree that we hold off with further disbursements for Peace and Social Concerns until late December or early January.

11.11.6.4 The Peace and Social Concerns Committee does not have an active convener and there is no formal report. It was noted that we received thank you notes from American Friends Service Committee, the African Great Lakes School and FLGBTQC. At the previous Committee meeting Friends revised the SAFE Minute to be put before the Quarterly Meeting for Business.

11.11.6.5 It was noted that our minute in support of the Safe and Fair Evaluation (S.A.F.E.) Parole act was endorsed by the New York Quarterly Meeting on October 23, 2011. This minute will be sent to the New York Yearly Meeting for endorsement.

11.11.6.6 The nominating committee has put forth concerns about term length. Currently, members are restricted to a single term of one year. The nominating committee proposes that members be permitted one-year terms until they are needed for another committee. Friends approve that members of the nominating committee are given one year terms renewable.

11.11.6.7 The Nominating Committee suggests the meeting create a Library Literature Committee with a librarian and three other people to help the librarian and also assist in the book sales. Friends approve the suggestion.

11.11.6.8 The Nominating Committee requests the Finance Committee have a designated convener. Friends agree to designate the Treasurer as clerk of the Finance Committee unless the Finance Committee selects a different person to serve as clerk.

11.11.6.9 The Nominating Committee proposes that the Keeper of the List be listed under the Communications and Website Committee. Friends agree. Nominating also proposes that this committee have a designated clerk selected by the committee. Friends approve.

11.11.6.10 The Hospitality committee has requested a shift in procedure. They would like \$200 to be advanced to a Hospitality Petty Cash fund that can be replenished upon presentation of receipts. This will allow Hospitality to provide immediate reimbursement upon receiving proof of payment, with documentation to be forwarded to the treasurer. Friends approve.

11.11.6.11 Questions have been raised as to whether Morningside would like to take any actions in regard to Occupy Wall Street. Some Friends feel that the focus of Occupy Wall Street is more for individual expression rather than institutional enterprise. We discussed ways that the meeting could provide creative support of Occupy Wall Street. Friends are encouraged to think about this and to discern what right action would be. The clerk read the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Worship and Care Standing Committee statement and offered it for consideration:

"Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Worship and Care Standing Committee endorses Quaker presences at Occupy sites and Friends' support of Occupy encampments. This is consistent with Friends' deep heritage of providing worshipful presence, pastoral and material care, education consistent with non-violent social movements. We gratefully acknowledge plans for the Occupy Philadelphia site to include worship and a center for Friends' activities. We encourage Friends to seek Spirit's guidance on how they are led in relation to Occupy."

Friends approve.

11.11.6.12 The cookie exchange will take place on December 18, 2011. Ernie Buscemi will be coordinator, She will provide more information at a later date.

11.11.6.13 Our next meeting for worship with a concern for business will be Sunday, December 4, 2011. The meeting ended in worship.

Attendees: Corona Machermer, Patricia Chernoff, Vince Buscemi, Ernie Buscemi, Joyce Richardson, Charlene Ray, Peter Beck, Stephen McDonnell, Robert Renwick, Barton Dominus, Charlotte Ehrman.

Respectfully Submitted, Lee Rada, Recording Clerk Pro Tem

**Report of Ministry & Counsel to Meeting for Concerns
November 6, 2011**

- 11.11.6.10 The next meeting of Ministry & Counsel will take place on Thursday, December 1, 2011, at 7:15 PM, at the home of Pamela Wood. Meeting members and attenders are welcome to attend the first, non-confidential part of the meeting. M & C requests that concerns be forwarded in writing if they are not to be presented in person. We ask the Meeting to hold our work in the Light.
- 11.11.6.11 Ministry & Counsel's next welcoming breakfast will take place on Sunday, November 27, at 9:30 am, in the Riverside Café. Ernie and Vince Buscemi will host. People should look for the sign on a table close to the door of the Cafe.
- 11.11.6.12 Ministry and Council plans to hold the State of the Meeting reflection on Sunday, December 18 at 1 PM. "Why Do I Come to Meeting?" will be the focus of brief panel presentations, followed by a discussion on Sunday, January 29. On Sunday, February 26, ARCH will sponsor worship sharing around end of life issues.
- 11.11.6.13 During the period from Sunday, October 30 through November 6, Ministry & Counsel organized "Quaker Sixes," small groups of people from Meeting who will meet once to socialize and get to know each other better. A total of 19 people signed up. The gatherings are taking place on four dates.
- 11.11.6.14 We currently have 11 support and clearness committees.
- 11.11.6.15 Ministry & Council is beginning a process of getting in touch with absent members.

Morningside Meeting Treasurer's Report
Sept YTD 2011 Results

		2011	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	9 mos	Oct	10 Mos	Nov/Dec	2,011
		Proj. Exp.	Actual	Actual	Actual	YTD	Actual	YTD	Projected	projected
EXPENSE										
Fixed	NY Yearly Meeting	13100.00	3275.00	3275.00	3275.00	9825.00	0.00	9825.00	3275.00	13100.00
Overhead	NYQM (Rent)	<u>9888.00</u>	<u>2472.00</u>	<u>2472.00</u>	<u>2472.00</u>	<u>7416.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>7416.00</u>	<u>2472.00</u>	<u>9888.00</u>
		22988.00	5747.00	5747.00	5747.00	17241.00	0.00	17241.00	5747.00	22988.00
Outreach	P&SC/FUN	9850.00	0.00	150.00	2750.00	2900.00	450.00	3350.00	6500.00	9850.00
& Support	Misc. Contrib.	400.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	75.00	275.00	0.00	275.00
	Scholarship/Relief	<u>1500.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>400.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>400.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>400.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>400.00</u>
		11750.00	200.00	550.00	2750.00	3500.00	525.00	4025.00	6500.00	10525.00
Operating	Communications	500.00		70.00	543.51	613.51	0.00	613.51	0.00	613.51
Expense	1st Day/Childcare	750.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	70.00	70.00	125.00	195.00
	Hospitality	750.00	306.90	120.18	233.61	660.69		660.69	218.03	878.72
	Clerk/ M & C	350.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Finance	450.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	225.00	225.00
	<u>Literature</u>	<u>200.00</u>	<u>57.50</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>40.00</u>	<u>97.50</u>	<u>114.50</u>	<u>212.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>212.00</u>
		3000.00	364.40	190.18	817.12	1371.70	184.50	1556.20	568.03	2124.23
Total Exp		37738.00	6311.40	6487.18	9314.12	22112.70	709.50	22822.20	12815.03	35637.23
INCOME										
	Contributions		6788.29	5588.18	7256.00	19632.47	2175.33	21807.80		
	Books		<u>10.00</u>	<u>99.47</u>	<u>5.00</u>	<u>114.47</u>	<u>85.00</u>	<u>199.47</u>		
			6798.29	5687.65	7261.00	19746.94	2260.33	22007.27		
Assets	Bank Balance		32299.99	29292.46	26172.95		28,275.45			
	Cash		419.00	427.00	579.00		664.00			
(1500.00)	Crumlish Bequest		(1500.00)	(1500.00)	(1500.00)		(1500.00)			
	Hope Lives for Lifers		(169.09)	(169.09)	(169.09)		(169.09)			
	Incarcerated Girls		(766.10)	(766.10)	(766.10)		(766.10)			
Net Worth				26857.27	24316.76		27168.26			

IN SUPPORT OF
The Safe And Fair Evaluation (S.A.F.E.) Parole Act

In support of the New York State Parole Reform Campaign (NYS PRC) we endorse "*The Safe And Fair Evaluation (S.A.F.E.) Parole Act*", a proposal to amend Executive Law § 259-i. At the core of this reform is the need to redefine the role of the Parole Board as an *evaluative one*. NYS PRC is a coalition of organizations and individuals who deal daily with the repercussions of repeated parole denials based on the nature of the crime – which can never be changed. **We are committed to reforms that require that parole applicants who have served their minimum sentences be evaluated on their readiness for reentry.**

Changing the parole board's responsibility from deciding the length of sentence to evaluating an individual's readiness to remain at liberty without breaking the law will bring the parole statute into alignment with Penal Law §1.05, which was amended in 2006 to add a fifth sentencing goal to these existing four: 1. Punishment (retribution), 2. Deterrence, 3. Incapacitation, 4. Rehabilitation. **The fifth goal is this: Promotion of Successful and Productive Reentry and Reintegration into Society.**

Under New York State's sentencing scheme, the Judiciary, the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, and the Board of Parole play different and distinct roles to achieve the five sentencing goals outlined in Penal Law §1.05—by either imposing or carrying out the penal sentence.

The Judiciary, when imposing sentences, is responsible for considering all of the sentencing goals contained in Penal Law §1.05, including the seriousness of the crime and criminal history.

The NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision is responsible for carrying out the judicial sentence, post-conviction. It implements the penal sentence and in doing so, incapacitation, rehabilitation, reentry and reintegration fall within its purview.

The Parole Board has the post-sentencing functions of determining rehabilitation and readiness for reentry and reintegration. **It must evaluate the sentenced person's progress while incarcerated and specify in detail what is expected of the parole applicant in the future.**

Although the Parole Board's implementation of discretionary parole release is not without shortcomings, it is necessary and can be an effective complement to our new awareness of the importance of promoting successful reentry and reintegration into society. In order to modernize and revitalize the functioning of the Parole Board, reform of the procedures the board follows are in order. At the core of this reform is a need to redefine the role of the Parole Board as an evaluative one. **The critical question is whether the parole applicant is ready for reintegration.** The sentencing goals of punishment (retribution) and deterrence are the sole purview of the judiciary, as described in the current sentencing scheme.

In addition, focusing on the readiness for reentry instead of the nature of the crime and the punishment can lead to **substantial cost savings for taxpayers**. The nature of the crime is now the most commonly cited reason for denial of parole; 63,768 persons were denied parole between 2005 and 2009, at a cost of \$80,000 for each additional two years of incarceration per person for each denial. **Because of these and other reasons, releases based solely on readiness for reintegration make practical as well as moral sense.**

In light of these facts, we add our name to the list of organizations calling for the changes described above and in the attached legislative proposal.

Endorsed by New York Quarterly Meeting
(minute 2011.10.24) on October 23, 2011.
Nancy B. Black
Clerk, NYCCM