

Morningside Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
4/1/2012

present: Jack Patterson, Jerry Reisig, Patricia Chernof, Elaine Ruschetta, Jennifer Jones, Chad Gilmartin, Joyce Richardson, Lee Rada, Charlene Ray, Jean Ferris, Corona Machermer, Charlotte Ehrman, Bart Dominus, Nancy Britton, Pamela Wood, Dave Britton, Sally Campbell (clerk)

The Meeting begins with silent Worship at 1:05 pm. The Clerk reads from Daniel Seeger:
Silence

For inner silence, the calming of the agitations of our hearts and minds of all that is stubborn and grasping is essentially an expression of the love of Truth. To be dispassionate, not to let one's own needs or emotions or prejudices color one's actions, is essentially to put Truth before everything else. To love Truth in this way is to love God, who is Truth. Thus the practice of inner silence is the same as the love of God. To practice it successfully, if we can, means that we can participate in political and social life in its fullest sense without demanding anything for ourselves, without there being any narrowness or pettiness of soul to poison our work. It is to establish an inner peace, an inner harmony, which will allow us authentically to contribute to the establishment of an outer peace and an outer harmony in the world at large.

From Silence, Our Eye on Eternity by Daniel A Seeger, p. 23 Pendle Hill Pamphlet # 318

Friends review and approve the agenda.

2012.04.01.1 Charlotte Ehrman presents a request from Friends to support and sponsor the Annual Sacred Harp Sing using Fifteenth St. Meeting House on 9/15/2012. Friends approve.

2012.04.01.2 Pamela Wood presents the Ministry and Counsel report. Their next meeting is 5/3 at 7:15 pm at her house. The next Welcoming Breakfast is on 4/22 at 9:30 am. On 4/22 "Let your life speak" will be the after-Meeting discussion. The committee is investigating possibilities for a retreat center. Stonypoint is the only one with space this Fall; the cost is \$200 per person. Proposals for retreat topics are invited. There are 11 clearness and support committees, 5 spiritual nurture groups. The committee is revising materials for spiritual nurture groups and new ones are planned for Fall. Friends are advised to contact Ministry and Counsel if they wish to join a spiritual nurture group sooner. Friends are reminded that the "Small Committee" provides financial aid for Friends in need; contact Vince Buscemi or Nancy Britton for more information. The report is attached.

2012.04.01.3 Friends discuss the retreat costs, including transportation. Friends agree to have M&C go forward with the plans to use Stonypoint for this Fall or Spring for the retreat.

2012.04.01.4 Charlene Ray presents the Treasurer's report. She shows a poster illustrating that we have raised 13% of our 2012 budget to date (\$4,487). We have received acknowledgements of our support from Argus, One Stop Senior Services, and FCNL. The transition to TD Bank is still in process. The report is attached.

2012.04.01.5 Corona Machermer presents the Peace and Social Concerns report. The revised criteria for discernment of outreach contributions are presented. A roster of the past year and current P&SC contributions is presented and described. Friends discuss some of the items for clarity. New York Yearly Meeting Adult Young Friends is added to the list for consideration. Larry White is invited to speak to the Meeting on his concern about punishment as the topic for after-Meeting discussion on 4/29/2012. Friends discuss support for Haiti, focused on longer term development assistance. Organizations for this are being reviewed. The concept of water filters, as used in Indonesia, is raised as a possible focus. Friends discuss establishing a letter writing process for Friends in the Meeting to readily convey support or opposition about current situations, policies and political actions; Jack Patterson and Naomi Paz Greenberg agree to take leadership of this. The report is attached.

2012.04.01.6 Friends approve the P&SC criteria as revised.

2012.04.01.7 Nancy Britton presents a revised version of the proposed minute to Quarterly Meeting on QM's Property Task Group. Friends discuss the minute and a phrase is added. Friends approve the minute and request the clerk to submit it to Quarterly Meeting.

2012.04.01.8 (The full wording of the minute is attached and included here by reference.)

The Meeting ends at 1:50 pm with silent Worship.

In Friendship,
Dave Britton, recording clerk

Report of Ministry & Counsel to Meeting for Concerns April 1, 2012

1. The next meeting of Ministry & Counsel will take place on Thursday, May 3, 2012, 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.
2. Ministry & Counsel's next welcoming breakfast will take place on Sunday, April 22, at 9:30 am, in the Riverside Café. Lee Rada and Patricia Chernoff will host. People should look for the sign on a table close to the door of the Cafe.
3. Ministry and Council has planned an after Meeting discussion on Sunday, April 22, "Let Your Life Speak!" We will share the ways we witness our faith and the challenges we experience There will be no after Meeting discussions in May and June because of the Memorial Day holiday and the Gay Pride Parade
4. We have been investigating retreat centers for a fall retreat. The only one with space for the fall is at Stoneypoint [at last contact], a center used by the ARCH visitors. The cost is \$200 per person for the weekend. We wished to consult Meeting about the cost. We are also considering topics for our retreat. One proposal is a retreat focused on spiritual journeys, possibly incorporating some materials from early Friends. What do people think about this idea and are there other ideas people would like us to think about?
5. We currently have 11 support and clearness committees with one in formation.
6. As a result of our discussion last week, we will revise it, incorporating suggestions made at the meeting. Anyone who is interested in joining a spiritual nurture group should let a member of Ministry & Counsel know. We will see if there is space in one of the ongoing groups. Next fall we will form new groups.
7. The "Small Committee," which administers our scholarship and relief funds, currently consists of Nancy Britton and Vince Buscemi. We will be adding a third person shortly. Anyone in need of financial aid may either email committee members or let one of them know of the need in person.

In response to the New York Quarterly Meeting clerk's (Nancy Black) request at the First Month Quarterly Meeting 2012, for discerning the way forward for the Property Task Group, Morningside Monthly Meeting brings forward the following for Quarterly Meeting's worshipful consideration:

Preamble:

All members and attenders of the New York Quarterly Meeting's Monthly Meetings share the stewardship responsibilities in our spiritual and business relationship with Friends Seminary. Although 15th St. shares the physical space with the school, the scope of responsibility for right sharing and proper care of these resources includes all Monthly Meetings and Friends within the Quarter. The Quarter as a body must acknowledge and affirm this as we move forward.

The decisions to be made will shape the future of the Quarter for many years to come, affecting the Quaker community of Friends as individuals, children, families and Monthly Meeting participants now and into the ongoing future. The individual parents, teachers, students and administrators of the school community bring a more specific and immediate focus on the school while they are part of that school community. We acknowledge and respect that there are two distinct communities involved (with some Friends in both at times) who necessarily see the concerns through different lenses, in different time scales, and with different priorities and different backgrounds. Quaker practices of discernment and decision making can guide us in a Spirit led process toward understanding and right action.

In the light of our informational meetings and with worshipful consideration and seasoning at two Meetings for Worship With a Concern for Business, we affirm that we strongly support the Property Task Group and recommend that it continue forward with the following considerations:

Specific recommendations:

- Its membership be composed of Friends and regular attenders of the Quarter currently active in Monthly Meetings of the Quarter. In addition to including Quaker School Committee members and Friends from Trustees, Audit and Budget, and 15th St. Property Committee, members should be sought from each of the Monthly Meetings.
- We suggest the clerk be from Quarterly Ministry and Counsel to support the meetings being conducted with conscious and worshipful attention to acting in the manner of Friends.
- We offer our support for the committee's regular reports to the Quarter and on-going and regular meetings with Monthly Meetings, that Friends will hear about its work and hold its process in the Light.
- We encourage the group to engage with and listen to interested representatives of the school community, and to engage outside consultants as needed for professional advice and/or technical or clerical support, to be empowered to address all its concerns without the demand that an expertise necessarily be available within the group itself.

In addition, to underline the renewed commitment, we respectfully encourage the Property Task Group to consider adopting a process-focused name, perhaps such as the Property Concerns Committee, as they undertake this important work.

April 1, 2012

Morningside Monthly Meeting with a Concern for Business

Report on Meeting Peace & Social Concerns, March 11, 2012

The language of the first sentence of the Criteria for Discernment of the Peace and Social Concerns budget was revised to read: "One of the important ways in which Morningside Monthly Meeting participates in the work of the Spirit—God's work—in the world is through its outreach program."

A copy of the revised criteria is attached and will be forwarded to Helen for the newsletter.

The P&SC budget for 2012 was discussed in light of the criteria. See the edited spreadsheet, which is attached. Note that a few organizations were cut, some because the organizations no longer exist, others because no current attender at Morningside is involved. In several cases decisions were postponed pending input from the Morningsider most involved.

Larry White is carrying a concern on our society's reliance on punishment and retribution in law enforcement. We decided to invite him to speak to this concern in an after-meeting presentation on the 5th Sunday in April (April 29), when we will be hosting what has become the annual reunion, in association with Purchase Meeting, of Friends who have participated in prison worship groups. (Larry has agreed to do this.)

The issue of development aid for Haiti was revisited. Jack Patterson suggests that we support an organization involved in the Creole Pig Project (restocking Haitian farms with this small pig, which was developed in the island and is well suited to the needs of small farmers) and recommends the Cooperative Farm Initiative, which also helps farmers plant trees and give them seed for crops. (Friends will recall that after the earthquake in Haiti, we donated some funds for immediate relief and determined to set up a special matching-fund campaign [based on a sum from the Crumlish bequest] to contribute to a long-term development project.)

An initiative regarding water filters in Indonesia was discussed. Naomi Paz Greenberg commits to finding out more.

Letter writing was discussed. Jack Patterson is supported in tabling for FCNL in anticipation of legislation and events as needed.

Naomi Paz Greenberg is supported in organizing an Amnesty International Write-A-Thon in support of prisoners of conscience. This is an annual event, in December. If you are interested in learning more, here is the link for the announcement of the December 2011 walkathon: <http://www.amnestusa.org/writeathon/>

In Friendship, Corona Machemer & Naomi Paz Greenberg

The Peace and Social Concerns Budget: Criteria for Discernment

One of the important ways in which Morningside Monthly Meeting participates in the work of the Spirit—God's work—in the world is through its outreach program. A substantial portion of our annual budget supports local hands-on organizations, the wider Quaker fellowship, national/international political/social action groups, and projects related to Friends in Unity with Nature. The Peace and Social Concerns Committee, which is responsible for making the financial distribution recommendation to the Meeting, is a committee-of-the-whole—that is, it consists of all members and attenders of Morningside Monthly Meeting. Thus any member or attender can bring his or her passions and concerns in any of the above categories to the committee for consideration.

The discernment of proposals for funding through our budget of projects in any category involves one or more of the following five criteria:

- Active Morningside members and attenders are directly involved;
- The project supports or embodies concerns of the meeting as a whole and/or individual members or attenders;
- The contribution represents seed money for a new endeavor;
- The contribution will provide critical funds for the activity—will make a difference;
- Political/social action groups we support are those of which we have direct knowledge.

Morningside Meeting Treasurer's Report

		2012 Budget	Feb Actual	Mar Actual	April Actual	YTD Actual	% Spent or Raised
Disbursements							
Fixed	NY Yearly Meeting	13,100.00		3,275.00		3,275.00	25.0%
Outreach & Support	P&SC/FUN	10,000.00				0.00	0.0%
	Misc. Contrib.	300.00				0.00	0.0%
	Contribution In Lieu Of Rent	6,000.00				0.00	0.0%
	Scholarship/Relief	2,000.00		200.00		350.00	17.5%
Total Outreach		18,300.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	350.00	1.9%
Operating Expenses	Communications	1,450.00				0.00	0.0%
	1st Day/Childcare	400.00				0.00	0.0%
	Hospitality	500.00		30.00	46.39	76.39	15.3%
	Breakfast	750.00	36.50	29.00		94.00	12.5%
	Clerk/ M & C	150.00	33.00			33.00	22.0%
	Finance	250.00				46.17	18.5%
	Literature	200.00				0.00	0.0%
Total Operating		2,950.00	69.50	59.00	46.39	249.56	8.5%
Total Disbursements		34,350.00	69.50	3,534.00	46.39	3,874.56	11.3%
Income							
	Contributions		1,840.00	2,289.47	1,967.00	6,437.64	
	Books		0.00	5.00	0.00	10.00	
	Interest		0.92	0.63	0.73	2.39	
Total Income		34,350.00	1,840.92	2,295.10	1,967.73	6,450.03	18.8%
Net Income		0.00	1,771.42	(1,238.90)	1,921.34	2,575.47	
Assets							
	Ending Bank Balance	27,960.59	29,603.62	28,659.75	30,661.09		
	Cash		340.00	321.00	321.00		
	Petty Cash for Hospitality		200.00	200.00	200.00		
Liabilities							
	Crumlish Bequest		(1,500.00)	(1,500.00)	(1,500.00)		
	Hope Lives for Lifers		(169.09)	(169.09)	(169.09)		
	Huntington House		(1,066.10)	(1,066.10)	(1,066.10)		
Net Worth			27,408.43	26,445.56	28,446.90		

*Actual annual rent paid by NYQM is \$9,888

2011 Contributions totaled \$32,308, at 4/30/11 \$8,828 in contributions had been received representing 23% of the annual budget
2011 Book sale and other proceeds were \$260

Morningside Monthly Meeting

April 2012 Treasurer's Report

YTD income of \$6,450 covered YTD disbursements of \$3,875 with a \$2,575 net gain. For the month of April, we received \$1,967.73 (\$1,967 in contributions and \$0.73 in interest from TD Bank). We reimbursed \$46.39 for hospitality. The reported balances assume that all of the Peace and Social Concerns checks that were authorized in February under the 2011 budget have cleared. At this writing there may be one or two yet to be deposited.

If you wish to make your contribution electronically, you can authorize an ACH (automated clearing house; it is the system banks use to clear funds electronically) transfer. Bank also offer wire transfers but they usually have fees. You will need to know:

- ABA number (aka Routing Number): 026013673 (TD Bank)
- Account Name: Morningside Monthly Meeting Religious Society of Friends
- Account Number: 4261233658
- The Kind of Account is Business Direct Checking.

It will be helpful for me to know if you plan to use this feature. If there are any questions about it, please feel free to call me at 212-757-2504 or email me at moneycoach@earthlink.net.

The transition to TDBank is still in process and when all the previously written checks clear we plan to close the account.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Ray

Treasurer

May 4, 2012