

Morningside Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship With a Concern For Business
6/1/2014

Minutes

present: Joyce Richardson, Jerry Reisig, Ernie Buscemi, David Fletcher, Deborah Dahl, Elizabeth Horstman, Patricia Chernoff, Pamela Wood, Corona Machermer, Charlene Ray, Helen Garay Toppins, Vince Buscemi, Naomi Paz Greenberg, Sally Campbell, Dave Britton, Lee Rada (clerk)

Meeting begins at 12:56 pm.
The clerk reviews the agenda.

20140601.01 Corona Machermer reports for the Peace and Social Concerns committee. The committee heard about the movement to support Occupy Wall Street activist Cecily McMillan. The Friends Committee on National Legislation event planned for 10/24/2014 will be rescheduled to 2015 because the earlier date conflicts with FCNL staff responsibilities. An ad hoc committee will be recruited in 9/2014 to assist with the event. Friends heard about lobbying in support of the Humane Alternatives to Long Term (HALT) Solitary Confinement Act. The committee proposes the Meeting approve a minute to Governor Cuomo about this issue, as religious organizations pressure can be helpful. Friends accept the report, which is attached.

20140601.02 Friends hear a background statement and proposed minute on solitary confinement. Friends approve the following minute:

Morningside Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends call on Governor Cuomo to support the reform of the practice of solitary confinement as developed in the Humane Alternatives to Long Term (HALT) Solitary Confinement Act, Bill #A8588/S6466 in both NY State correctional facilities and jails.

We ask that Governor Cuomo support the changes in the use of solitary confinement as proposed in the HALT Solitary Confinement Act, which would make New York a leader in stopping human right abuses in the United States.

Meeting forwards this minute to New York Quarterly Meeting, asking that Quarterly Meeting approve it as well, and forward it on to New York Yearly Meeting for approval. Friends accept the P&SC report, which is attached, with background on the HALT act.

20140601.03 Friends hear a follow-up report from the ad hoc surplus committee. The Bolivian Quaker Education Fund has agreed to manage our contribution to support 4 years of college at \$700 per year, changing from the previous requirement of one student for four years. The Treasurer has sent the \$2,800 funds. The Bolivian fund generally provides for the student to communicate with donors, and Naomi Paz Greenberg agrees to serve as our Spanish-speaking contact. The planned \$1,500 contribution to Breathing Space, which contemplated having an additional \$1,500 in matching funds, needs to be advanced to support BS to repair their truck which broke down recently. Two Friends volunteer the \$1,500 matching funds, which enables the full \$3,000 contribution to be made as planned. Sally Campbell agrees to send out an email to ask for further donations to BS. Friends lay down the ad hoc matching fund committee along with the surplus committee.

20140601.04 Jerry Reisig reports for the Communications committee. The new website is scheduled to go to "beta test" this coming month. The committee is preparing the initial written "static" content for this. The address book is scheduled to be ready in two weeks. Friends accept the report, which is attached.

20140601.05 Charlene Ray presents the Treasurer's report. The Meeting has taken in \$5,605 so far this year, which is 16.5% of our annual goal. We have disbursed \$8,450 so far which is \$2,837 more than what has been received. The contributions of our surplus funds have been disbursed. Several more disbursements are planned for June including \$3,537.50 to Yearly Meeting. The spring appeal letter was mailed 5/26 with the help of Friends who assembled it the day before. The report is accepted and attached.

20140601.06 The Ministry and Counsel report is unavailable to be read, but it is to be attached to these minutes. Friends are reminded of the M&C plan for an indoor picnic on 6/22 from 1 pm to 3 pm after Meeting. Spouses and children are welcome. The welcoming breakfast is also scheduled for that morning in the Riverside cafe.

The next Meeting for Worship With a Concern for Business is scheduled for 9/7/2014, with no meeting scheduled during July and August.

Meeting ends at 2:19 pm with silent Worship.

In Friendship,
Dave Britton, recording clerk

Morningside Monthly Meeting

Treasurer's Report for May 2014

The Meeting has taken in \$5,613 this year, 16.5% of our annual goal. However we have disbursed \$8,450 for the year, or \$2,837 more than what has been received. For the month of May, we received \$765 and expensed \$830, inclusive \$650 for Outreach and \$180 in regular disbursements, leaving a \$65 deficit of receipts over disbursements for the month.

During May, funds were disbursed under direction of the Surplus Committee, including \$2,800 to Bolivian Quaker Education Fund for a 4-year scholarship, \$1,200 in support of Larry White's work with AFSC on prison programs for sentencing planning and aging prisoners, \$600 to the Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Services for relief of people affected by the recent gas explosions, \$500 to The Harlem School of the Arts. Distributions of \$500 to Teachers Unite, \$1,500 to breathing space and \$1,365 to summer and fall advertising are pending clarification are pending more information.

For June, we are scheduled to send \$3,537.50 to NYYM as our quarterly covenant payment and for \$1,400 for Peace and Social Concerns (\$600 to Redemption Center, \$600 to NYYM in support of the Young Adult Field Secretary, \$200 to the Center for Conscience and War). Peace & Social Concerns also has another \$1,400 budgeted for July & August (\$300 for Alternatives to Violence, \$600 to the Ramallah Friends School and \$500 to Christian Peace Teams).

The Finance committee spring appeal letter was mailed the week of May 26 with the help of Morningsiders who assembled it the day before. Thank you! And thank you also to everyone who picked up their letters, saving some 40 stamps!

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

June 1, 2014

Treasurer's Report: 2014		Actual					Budget	
		2013	Mar	April	May	YTD	% Spent	2014
Disbursements								
Fixed	NY Yearly Meeting	13,611.00	3,612.50			3,612.50	25.3%	14,300.00
Total Fixed		13,611.00	3,612.50		0.00	3,612.50	25.3%	14,300.00
								3,537.50
Outreach	P&SC/FUN	10,850.00	2,600.00	400.00	250.00	3,350.00	27.1%	12,350.00
& Support	Misc. Contrib.	0.00				0.00	0.0%	300.00
	Scholarship/Relief	1,305.00		400.00	400.00	800.00	40.0%	2,000.00
Total Outreach		12,155.00	2,600.00	800.00	650.00	4,150.00	28.3%	14,650.00
Operating	Communications	295.29				0.00	0.0%	2,050.00
Expenses	1st Day/Childcare	61.94				0.00	0.0%	800.00
	Hospitality	683.91			9.43	334.35	47.8%	700.00
	Breakfast	354.80	16.00	41.00		88.57	11.8%	750.00
	Clerk/ M & C	106.50		45.00		45.00	30.0%	150.00
	Finance	211.95			128.40	160.17	53.4%	300.00
	Literature	152.15			42.44	59.44	19.8%	300.00
Total Operating Expenses		1,866.54	16.00	86.00	180.27	687.53	13.6%	5,050.00
Total Disbursements		27,632.54	6,228.50	886.00	830.27	8,450.03	24.9%	34,000.00
	In Kind Contributions/Disbursements		16.00	0.00	201.31	120.26		
Income								
	Contributions	37,483.90	2,381.00	1,381.00	763.83	5,605.09		34,000.00
	Interest	25.48	1.52	1.56	1.48	7.95		
Total Income		37,509.38	2,382.52	1,382.56	765.31	5,613.04	16.5%	34,000.00
Net Income		9,876.85	(3,845.98)	496.56	(64.96)	(2,836.99)		0.00
Assets								
	Ending Bank Balance	39,898.14	37,043.31	37,239.87	32,963.91			
	Cash Pam	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00			
	Hospitality Petty Cash	2.52	202.52	202.52	202.52			
	Cash at Schwab	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00			
	Cash Charlene	0.00	0.00	(21.00)	0.00			
Liabilities								
	Crumlish Bequest	(1,000.00)	(1,000.00)	(1,000.00)	(1,000.00)			
	Hope Lives for Lifers	(169.09)	(169.09)	(169.09)	(169.09)			
	Huntington House	(775.88)	(672.64)	(672.64)	(672.64)			
	From 2013	(8,465.65)	(8,465.65)	(8,465.65)	(3,365.65)			
Net Worth		30,005.04	27,453.45	27,629.01	28,474.05			

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

Treasurer's Report: 2014		Actual							Budget		
		2013	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	YTD	% Spent	2014	
Disbursements											
Fixed	NY Yearly Meeting	13,611.00			3,612.50			3,612.50	25.3%	14,300.00	3,537.50
Total Fixed		13,611.00			3,612.50		0.00	3,612.50	25.3%	14,300.00	
Outreach	P&SC/FUN	10,850.00		100.00	2,600.00	400.00	250.00	3,350.00	27.1%	12,350.00	
& Support	Misc. Contrib.	0.00						0.00	0.0%	300.00	
	Scholarship/Relief	1,305.00				400.00	400.00	800.00	40.0%	2,000.00	
Total Outreach		12,155.00	0.00	100.00	2,600.00	800.00	650.00	4,150.00	28.3%	14,650.00	
Operating	Communications	295.29						0.00	0.0%	2,050.00	
Expenses	1st Day/Childcare	61.94						0.00	0.0%	800.00	
	Hospitality	683.91	200.00	124.92			9.43	334.35	47.8%	700.00	
	Breakfast	354.80		31.57	16.00	41.00		88.57	11.8%	750.00	
	Clerk/ M & C	106.50				45.00		45.00	30.0%	150.00	
	Finance	211.95	31.77				128.40	160.17	53.4%	300.00	
	Literature	152.15		17.00			42.44	59.44	19.8%	300.00	
Total Operating Expenses		1,866.54	231.77	173.49	16.00	86.00	180.27	687.53	13.6%	5,050.00	
Total Disbursements		27,632.54	231.77	273.49	6,228.50	886.00	830.27	8,450.03	24.9%	34,000.00	
	In Kind Contributions/Disbursements		31.77	72.49	16.00	0.00	201.31	120.26			
Income											
	Contributions	37,483.90	447.77	631.49	2,381.00	1,381.00	413.83	5,255.09		34,000.00	
	Interest	25.48	1.66	1.73	1.52	1.56	1.48	7.95			
Total Income		37,509.38	449.43	633.22	2,382.52	1,382.56	415.31	5,263.04	15.5%	34,000.00	
Net Income		9,876.85	217.66	359.73	(3,845.98)	496.56	(414.96)	(3,186.99)		0.00	
Assets											
Ending Bank	Balance	39,898.14	40,129.56	40,524.29	37,043.31	37,239.87	31,693.91				
Cash Pam		15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00				
Hospitality	Petty Cash	2.52	202.52	202.52	202.52	202.52	202.52				
Cash at	Schwab	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00				
Cash	Charlene	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(21.00)	15.00				
Liabilities											
Crumlish	Bequest	(1,000.00)	(1,000.00)	(1,000.00)	(1,000.00)	(1,000.00)	(1,000.00)	(1,000.00)			
Hope	Lives for Lifers	(169.09)	(169.09)	(169.09)	(169.09)	(169.09)	(169.09)	(169.09)			
Huntington	House	(775.88)	(672.64)	(672.64)	(672.64)	(672.64)	(672.64)	(672.64)			
From	2013	(8,465.65)	(8,465.65)	(8,465.65)	(8,465.65)	(8,465.65)	(8,465.65)	(3,365.65)			
Net Worth		30,005.04	30,539.70	30,934.43	27,453.45	27,629.01	27,219.05				

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

Morningside Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

June 1, 2014

Report from Peace & Social Concerns

Peace & Social Concerns gathered on May 11, 2014. Attending were Naomi Paz-Greenberg, Pam Wood, Amala Lane, Sally Campbell, Dave Britton, John Slater, Corona Machermer (clerk)

1. Amala reports on her involvement in the movement to support Cicely McMillan, who was convicted at trial on May 5 of assaulting the police officer who arrested her following an Occupy Wall Street rally in Zuccotti Park in March 2012; she had refused a plea bargain and gone to trial because, she said, she had reacted instinctively when the officer grabbed her breast and had done nothing wrong. Following the trial, she was remanded to Rikers until sentencing on May 19. Amala invites us to sign an online petition supporting her, to attend a press conference scheduled for May 12 and a rally to be held in Union Square on May 18 or 19, which Amala is organizing, and to attend the sentencing. [Mcmillan was sentenced to 3 months at Rikers and 5 years probation.]
2. Because of the fact that FCNL holds its Annual Meeting in November, and therefore its staff is not readily available for events outside Washington in the weeks before, we decide to hold our FCNL event in February 2015 instead of October 2014.
3. Pam Wood reports on lobbying in Albany for the reform of solitary confinement, in particular in support of the Humane Alternatives to Long Term (HALT) Solitary Confinement Act. She makes two points in particular: a) Governor Cuomo is the power in Albany and b) pressure from religious organizations is helpful in swaying opinion.
4. The Committee agrees to propose a minute, framed by a statement of Quaker beliefs and urging Governor Cuomo to support the HALT bills, for consideration at business meeting on June 1. If approved, the minute would then be forwarded to NYQM and ultimately to NYYM. Pam agrees to draft the minute and circulate it by email for discernment by the committee.

Respectfully submitted

Corona Machermer , co-clerk

Draft Minute on Solitary Confinement

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) has a strong belief in the possibility of positive transformation within each person and a strong belief in non-violence. The way we treat people affects their ability to connect with that of God within. The current use of solitary confinement is very frequently for non-violent offenses and has nothing to do with the original crime. It makes incarcerated men, women and youth less able to make positive changes. They are more likely to suffer psychological damage and to become more of a risk to themselves, to Corrections Officers, and when released, to the public. Research on the effects of solitary confirms this. We have come to understand as Friends that violence may also be psychological and emotional, not just physical. We feel that solitary confinement as it is currently employed in NY State is a form of torture and must be stopped.

(The Religious Society of Friends has) Quakers have a history of involvement with the correctional facilities in New York State. In the 1970's, Friends developed the Alternatives to Violence Project at the request of men from the Greenhaven Correctional Facility. Many members of the NY Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends continue to volunteer with this program, which is active in 16 correctional facilities in New York. In addition, we maintain Quaker Worship Groups in 11 correctional facilities. Our involvement confirms our belief that positive interactions and programming support constructive change. The training and programs proposed in the HALT Bill have the potential, we believe, to be far more effective ways to change behavior and make prisons safer for both the incarcerated and members of staff than our current use of solitary confinement.

Acknowledging these circumstances, Friends are led to approve the following minute:

Morningside Monthly Meeting (New York Quarterly Meeting, New York Yearly Meeting) of the Religious Society of Friends call on Governor Cuomo to support the reform of the practice of solitary confinement as developed in the Humane Alternatives to Long Term (HALT) Solitary Confinement Act, Bill #A8588/S6466 in both NY State correctional facilities and jails.

We ask that Governor Cuomo support the changes in the use of solitary confinement as proposed in the HALT Solitary Confinement Act, which would make New York a leader in stopping human right abuses in the United States.

Local Meetings and individual Friends are encouraged to write to and call Governor Cuomo's office urging him to support this reform, and to send press releases and letters to the editor publicizing the issue.

Morningside Meeting
Ministry and Counsel report
June 1, 2014

1. M&C's next meeting will be Thursday, 7:15pm, September 4th, at Stephen McDonnell's, 352 7th Ave. between 29-30th Sts, accessible by the A and 1 at 34th St..
2. Welcoming Breakfasts will continue on the 4th Sunday throughout the summer. All are welcome to come to the Riverside Cafe at 9:30am for conversation and fellowship. M&C hosts and pays the Cafe for our breakfasts, so please tell the cashier you are with Morningside. Our summer dates are as follows:
June 22nd: hosted by Stephen McDonnell and Nancy Britton
July 27th: hosted by Vince and Ernie Buscemi
August 24th: hosted by Nancy Britton and Lee Rada
3. Bible Study with Jerry Reisig will continue in the fall on the 2nd Sunday, beginning September 14th in 12T, 9:45-10:45. Further information will available in September.
4. Our next fourth Sunday after meeting discussion will be on September 28th, hosted by our Prison Committee. Queries to consider:
What does the Peace Testimony say about incarceration?
What does it mean to support Wooburne?
5. Mark your calendars for celebration and fun on June 22nd! We've had a wonderful year full of babies, new members, weddings, many exciting endeavors, and sadly, some departures. Marking these events, our picnic will be an indoor affair, 1-3pm. Please bring games, a dish and music as you are inclined. Partners, family, significant others, friends are welcome to join us.