

Morningside Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

MINUTES

of Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

June 5, 2016

12th Floor, Riverside Church, Manhattan, NY

(*Note:* All attached reports — also mentioned below — are dated the date hereof unless others noted.)

OPENING: After an opening silence the Clerk read the following to be considered:

“The path of wisdom invites us to walk with a humble heart, recognizing the dance between diversity and unity, action and restraint.” Douglas Steere

A . MINISTRY & COUNCIL: Charlene Rey reads the attached Ministry and Counsel report.

1. Friends accept the report.

B. CLERK’S REPORT: Pamela Wood reads the attached Clerk’s report.

1. Friends accept the report.
2. Friends decide to reschedule the meeting for business to September 11, 2016.
3. Friends decide to continue to list the Meeting in the Gay Yellow Pages.

C. PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS: Corona Macher reads the attached report of Committee on Peace and Social Concerns.

1. Friends accept the report, with additional material to be added regarding the white privilege conference.
2. 2016.06.05 Corona Macher presents a letter sponsored by a number of organizations to the New York State Assembly urging opposition to: A9036, a bill that would limit the right to boycott as a form of free speech; and A8220/S6806 that similarly limits the right to boycott. Friends approve having Morningside Monthly Meeting sign on to this letter. Friends ask the clerk to send it to our Yearly Meeting representative to forward it to the New York Yearly Meeting and ask for an endorsement, and we will send it to the New York Yearly Meeting office so that they can inform other Meetings about this issue.

D. QUAKER PARTY: Nancy Britton spoke about the young adult Quaker Party dinner on Friday, June 17th at 6pm at 15th Street and asked for contributions of food, drinks, and time.

1. Friends accept the minute.

E. TREASURER’S REPORT: Naomi Paz Greenberg presents the attached Treasurer’s report.

1. Friends accept the report.

F. COMMUNICATIONS REPORT: Corona Macheimer reads the attached Communications Committee report. A sheet with instructions about Morningside emails lists is attached to the report.

1. Friends accept the report, as amended.

G. ATTENDANCE:

Susan Carmody

Ernie Buscemi

Charlotte Ehrman

Pamela Wood

Vince Buscemi

Stephen McDonnell

Corona Macheimer

Richard Schmidt

Bryan Oettel

Nancy Britton

Charlene Ray

Lupe

H. CHILD CARE: Child care for Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business was rendered by Ernie Buscemi.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Carmody,

Recording Clerk, Morningside Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

ATTACHMENTS:

Below, listed as attached, are reports of Morningside Meeting's Religious Society of Friends:

A. **MINISTRY AND COUNSEL**

B. **CLERK'S REPORT**

C. **PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS**

D. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

E. **COMMUNICATIONS**

ATTACHMENT A:

Morningside Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Report of **MINISTRY AND COUNSEL**,

June 5th, 2016

1. M&C met on Wednesday June 1st.
2. The next meeting will be Wednesday September 7th at the home of David Evans.
3. There will be no Bible Study this month but it is expected to resume next month.
4. Our next welcome breakfast will be on June 26th at 9:30 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.
5. There will be an after meeting discussion about the White Privilege Conference on June 26th at 1 pm.
6. M&C currently has 5 support committees and 2 clearness committees.
7. The Morningside Retreat will be October 7th to the 9th. Ministry and Counsel suggests the following queries for friends to consider in preparation for a fruitful time together:

How can we create a community of Care? How do we converse with people that are different from ourselves? How can we bring to the meeting our whole selves, troubles as well as gifts? How can we grow relationships of trust and support?

ATTACHMENT B:

Morningside Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Report of the **CLERK'S REPORT**,

Labor Day is on Monday, June 5, 2016. Do we wish to schedule Meeting for Worship with a concern for Business on the following Sunday, September 11, 2016?

We have been listed in the Gay Yellow Pages for some time. Each year the group checks to see if we wish to continue being listed. Do we wish to continue our free listing? The listing gives our address, website and Sally's phone number.

ATTACHMENT C:Morningside Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Report of the **PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS** Committee

Peace & Social Concerns met on May 8, 2016, at 1:00 pm, following Meeting for Worship.

Attending: Sally Campbell; Lupe; Naomi Paz-Greenberg; Artis Klavins; Richard Schmidt; Kathy Stackhouse; David Fletcher; Lupe; Robert Renwick; Corona Machermer (clerk)

Note: There is one action item, #6 on the list, which is described in Boldface.

The meeting begins with a few minutes of silent worship.

1. Before taking up what happened at the meeting, there are two Peace & Social Concerns actions to report on:
 - *The Matching Fund Campaign*, which was initiated in response to an urgent appeal from the Friends Peace Teams African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI), raised \$660. Adding the \$500 in matching funds from the Crumlish Bequest brings the total contribution to \$1,160. A check for this amount will be sent to AGLI next week, with a cover letter from Corona inviting AGLI to use the sum as it sees fit for the two projects described in the appeal letter: a Peacemaking Response to the Current Conflict in Burundi, and the establishment of a Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities (HROC) Program with Central African immigrants in the U.S. (For more information, see the March issue of *Morningside Matters*.)
 - *15th Street Rummage Sale results*: The gross take from this event, which took place on May 8, is expected to be over \$2100 when all is said and done (some items that did not sell on the day are still being offered for sale on Craig's List). Morningside's share, which will benefit Peace & Social Concerns, will be proportional, depending on the amount of goods and volunteer labor Morningsiders contributed.
2. Artis Klavins gives a presentation about his year-long on-line friendship with Bikima Ag Ibnou, a citizen of Mali, who has taken the initiative to establish a school in his village, named Timbolo, where currently there is none. Artis describes the project in detail—the progress already made and what is still needed. He has provided written material which will be distributed ahead of the next meeting of Peace & Social Concerns, when the project will be discussed further.
3. Sally Campbell briefly describes her participation in the Lobby Day conducted on April 12 by the New York Campaign for Alternatives to Isolated Confinement to push for movement on the Humane Alternatives to Isolated Confinement (HALT) Solitary Confinement Act in the New York State Legislature. An article by Sally appeared in the May Newsletter. *Look for nyCAIC-sponsored events in the Calendar of Events on the website.*
4. Lupe reports briefly on the White Privilege Conference, with a focus on what to do going forward:

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- A packet of information, the W.P.C. Library Resource Packet, has been donated to the Morningside Library. It is necessary that this packet be available for the discussion of the W.P.C. that will take place on June 26 (see Calendar of Events on the website). P&SC recommends that the information in the packet be copied so that a reference packet can be maintained in the Library, with a second copy available for circulation.
 - Recommended websites:
 - a. www.robindiangelo.com: In addition to two books for sale, including especially What It Means to be White, there are free downloads of various articles available.
 - b. www.beyonddiversity.org is the website of the Beyond Diversity Resource Center. Many different types of materials are available through the site.
 - c. www.euroamerican.org is the website of the Center for the Study of White American Culture (CSWAC), which was founded in 1995 by Charley Flint and Jeff Hitchcock, Euroamerican Quakers who will be plenary speakers at Sliver Bay this summer. CSWAC is involved in training, publishing and organizing around the issue of how whites deal with racism.
5. NRCAT (National Religious Campaign against Torture) asks that, during the month of June, which is Torture Awareness Month, faith communities show “solidarity with victims of torture and indefinite detention by incorporating the color orange into a worship service or vigil.” Given that Morningside has no pastor who might conduct a service in an orange jumpsuit like the one worn by prisoners, David Fletcher agrees to obtain orange ribbons for those Morningsiders who wish to participate to wear.
6. At Quarterly Meeting in April, Brooklyn Meeting brought forward a letter, which it has endorsed, opposing two bills now before the New York State Legislature. A. 9036 would create a blacklist of individuals and entities that exercise their constitutional right to utilize boycott as a form of free speech. Individuals or companies that boycott a country from a selective list of “allied nations” would be ineligible to contract with the state; the legislation also calls for the state to divest its holdings from any corporation that boycotts an “allied nation.” A8220/S6086 would blacklist and bar from receiving state funds any individual or entity that has taken any action to boycott Israeli policies. *A copy of the endorsement letter is attached to this report.* For more information and a list of endorsers go to https://docs.google.com/forms/d/10nARPzULr_Ufhthf56M8Yw5FFkzyMP-58jrlgRjC_QY/viewform?c=0&w=1

P&SC asks that Morningside join Brooklyn in endorsing the letter and in forwarding it to NYYM.

Brooklyn’s Minute: 2016.04.08 Ken Diamondstone presents a letter sponsored by a number of organizations to the New York State Assembly urging opposition to: A9036, a bill that would limit the right to boycott as a form of free speech; and A8220/S6806 that similarly limits the right to boycott. Friends approve having Brooklyn Monthly Meeting sign on to this letter. Friends ask the clerk to submit the letter for the agenda of New York Quarterly Meeting, to send it to our Yearly Meeting representative to the New York State Council of Churches, and to the New York

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Yearly Meeting office so that they can inform other Meetings about this issue. **[To be adapted for Morningside.]**

7. P&SC intends to explore initiating a campaign for the repeal two anti-boycott laws/regulations, with language similar to that in A9036, that are apparently still on the books from the late 1970s and 1980s. These are New York State Finance Law § 139-H and New York City Administrative Code § 6-114

Respectfully Submitted,

Corona Machermer, Clerk

LETTER TO NY STATE ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

We are writing to strongly oppose A9036, currently in the Governmental Operations Committee of the NY Assembly, as well as any similar legislation that creates unconstitutional blacklists. We share deep concerns about unconstitutional attacks on boycotts, a form of protected political speech. **We call on you to stop this legislation, and oppose any similar efforts.**

This legislation mandates that New York State create a blacklist of individuals and entities that exercise their constitutional right to utilize boycott as a form of free speech. Under this bill, individuals and entities that boycott a country (or companies based in that country) from a selective list of "allied nations" will be ineligible to contract with the state. The legislation also calls for the state to divest its holdings from any corporation that boycotts an "allied nation."*

The proposed legislation runs counter to the US Supreme Court decision in NAACP v. Claiborne Hardware Co., which concluded that boycotts constitute a political form of expression that "occupies the highest rung of the hierarchy of First Amendment values." If passed, this legislation would require that New York utilize the power of the state to:

- Punish those advocating for a boycott of Turkey because it uses U.S. weapons to commit human rights abuses against Kurds, or for advocating for a boycott of Colombia because it uses U.S. weapons to commit atrocities against its citizens.
- Bar United Methodist Churches from contracting with the state to run homeless shelters and soup kitchens because the church supports the boycott of Israeli settlement goods.
- Punish those advocating for a boycott of Israel because it uses U.S. weapons to inflict systemic human rights abuses against Palestinians. It would prevent New York from investing in corporations that have severed their complicity with Israel's oppression of Palestinians in response to boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) campaigns.

Should it become law, the bill would put a chill on speech, and deter constitutionally protected speech by intimidating people from engaging in actions for fear of being blacklisted. This bill was passed in the NY State Senate the first week of the session with virtually no debate and it must be stopped now.

We are also concerned about A8220/ S6806, a bill just as unconstitutional. This legislation blacklists and bars state funds to individuals and entities that have taken any action to boycott Israeli policies. We believe A8220 is just as dangerous as A9036. No legislation should restrict the rights of New Yorkers to engage in efforts to bring sanctions against a nation engaged in human rights violations.

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We ask you to act in accordance with this state's history of defending free speech and the rights of New Yorkers to engage in peaceful efforts to change policies.

We urge you to make sure A9036 does not pass in the Assembly. We are counting on you to defend free speech and reject this new version of McCarthyism.

signed by organizations

- * The definition of "allied nation" in this bill is: any country that is a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, any country that is a signatory of the Southeast Asia Treaty of 1954, any country, other than Venezuela, that is a signatory of the Rio Treaty of 1947, Ireland, Israel, Japan, and The Republic of Korea

For a list of current signers of the letter, go to

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/10nARPzULr_Ufhthf56M8Yw5FFkzyMP-58jrlgRjC_QY/viewform?c=0&w=1

ATTACHMENT D:

(June Treasurer's Report to be added)

ATTACHMENT E:

Morningside Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Report of the **COMMUNICATIONS** Committee,

Communications Committee Report to Business Meeting June 5, 2016

On May 22, the Committee hosted a workshop on the operation of the Morningside website (<http://morningsidemeeting.org>) and on the various email distribution systems now in use.

Friends attending the session received a draft of Instructions for Using the Website and were invited ask questions and make suggestions for changes. These instructions as finally revised will be distributed to all Morningsiders at the same time as the June newsletter. (The instructions also appear on the Help page of the website.)

Friends attending the session also received a separate memorandum on the email systems currently in use to enable communication and distribution of announcements. That memorandum, as revised, is attached to these minutes. Its substance will also appear as an article in the June Newsletter and it will be distributed to the all-member list.

Unfortunately, there has been a delay in preparing the database for production of the new Address Book. We are now looking to complete preliminary work on the database and to have all members update their profiles before the end of June. However, because Ministry & Counsel does not meet during the summer and has to check the list to weed out people who are on it but should not be, the Address Book itself will probably not be ready before October.

The Committee continues to work on updating and refining the content of the Website. If you have text that you think should be added to the site or editorial suggestions or corrections for text that is already there, direct these to Corona Macheimer at Morningside.meeting.website@gmail.com. Include Corona's name in the subject line of your email.

Meanwhile, the Committee wants to draw your attention to a new feature of the website, the **Bulletin Board**. The Bulletin Board and the **Calendar of Events** are the principal community-building features of the site. Both require the participation of all Morningsiders to work as intended. Detailed instructions for creating posts for the Bulletin Board and adding events to the Calendar are contained in the *Instructions for Using the Website*, which will be distributed shortly. However there is no need to wait to get in habit of visiting the site and familiarizing yourself with these features in particular.

- The **Bulletin Board** is a place to find information about non-events, like a notice about a kitten who needs a home or a Friend who needs a place to stay, or a film or exhibition that a Friend thinks other Morningsiders might be interested in seeing. It is also a place to find information about events that may be of interest to Morningsiders but that are not directly related to Morningside or the wider Quaker Community and therefore are not appropriate for the Calendar. To view the Bulletin Board,

log in to the site and click on the link in the Member Menu. *Only logged-in members may view the Bulletin Board or post messages to it.*

- The **Calendar of Events** displays dates and times of events important to Morningside and Morningsiders, from Meeting for Worship and committee meetings to entertainments such as concerts in which Morningsiders are involved. Events are color-coded according to the type of event; scroll down to the bottom of the calendar to see the codes. The name of each event posted on the calendar is a link that connects you to a description of the event with its location. *To post an event to the calendar, you must log in. Only logged-in members can add events to the calendar.*
- Since your default user name on the website is your email address, if you have changed your email address in the last year or so, you will not be able to log on. Use the Contact Tab to contact the Committee for help. Put Bryan Oettel's first name in the subject line. (If the problem is that you have forgotten your password, follow the instructions on the log-in page to create a new one.)

Respectfully submitted,

Corona Macheemer, Clerk

June 5, 2016

To: Morningsiders

From: Communications Committee

Subject: Morningside's Email lists

Dear Friends,

Our Email Communication system is still a work in progress.

As you know, the email blast system connected with the website is no longer available. In its place we have established several alternate means of communication.

The new **Bulletin Board** feature on the website, as well as the **Calendar of Events**, should reduce the "need" for email blasts. Be sure to read the Instructions on how use these functions in the Instructions on Using the Website. **Be sure to check both features regularly (daily?!).**

morningsidequakermeeting@gmail.com: This is the address of the all-Meeting email list, which is managed by newsletter editor Kathy Stackhouse.

- All contributions to the Newsletter should be sent to Kathy at this address.
- All "official" announcements and other communications that should be distributed to all Morningsiders should be sent by email to Kathy at this address. She will distribute them as she does the newsletter. (Due to glitches remaining in the system, such email blasts may appear in your in-box as emails from Kathy herself, with the fact that this is a message for all Morningsiders made clear in the subject line.)

MorningsideQuakers@googlegroups.com: This is a special email blast system for messages having to do with Peace and Social Concerns.

- If you have subscribed to the Morningside Quakers Google Group, you will receive communications related to Peace & Social Concerns via this address, and you may use this address to send an email blast to the Group.
- If you are not a member of the Google Group and would like to subscribe, contact Naomi Paz Greenberg at naomipaz@nyc.rr.com.

Morningside.meeting.website@gmail.com:

- Use this email address if you have questions or concerns about website operations. Direct such concerns to Bryan Oettel by including his first name in the subject line.
- Also use this email address if you have a creative work you would like displayed (through a link) on the website; if you have text that you think should be added to the site; if you have editorial suggestions or corrections for text that is already there. Direct all these to Corona Machermer by including her first name in the subject line of your email. (See Instructions for Using the Website for additional details.)

