

Morningside Matters

*The Newsletter for Morningside Monthly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)*

www.morningsidemeeting.org

September 2018

Calendar

Weekly	Sunday	Meeting for Worship	Riverside Church 490 Riverside Drive, room 12T (childcare provided in room 13T)	11:00 am
	Thursday	Downtown Outdoor Meeting https://www.nycquakers.org/event/downtown-meeting-2/2018-05-03/	The Battery, NE corner	6:00 pm
Monthly	First Sunday	Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business moved to October 14	room 12T	12:30 pm
	Second Sunday	Bible study	room 12T	9:30 am
	Second Sunday	Peace & Social Concerns Committee meeting: Everyone welcome	room 12T	1:00 pm
	Fourth Sunday	Welcome Breakfast: An easy way of getting to know other members and attenders. Just tell the cashier you're with the Quakers. The tab is picked up by our hosts, the Ministry & Counsel Committee	Riverside Café	9:30 am
Monthly, Quarterly, Yearly Meeting events	September 19	Threshing Session: Our Relationship with Quaker Schools	15 th St. Meeting	6:30 – 8:00 pm
	September 22	What to Do with the Body: Plain Talk about What Happens after Death	Brooklyn Meeting	9:30 am – 12:00 pm
	September 25	Racial Justice Study Group: <i>Deep Denial</i> by David Billings	room 12T	1:00 – 2:00 pm
	September 26	Threshing Session: Our Relationship with Quaker Schools	15 th St. Meeting	6:30 – 8:00 pm
	October 5 – 7	Morningside Meeting Fall Retreat	Stony Point Conference Center	
	October 28	Quarterly Meeting	Flushing Meeting	1:00 – 5:00 pm
	November 4	Moving with Spirit	room 12T	10:00 – 10:30 am
	November 9 – 11	NYYM Fall Session	Rochester, NY	
Events of interest	First Sundays	Monthly Vigil for Peace	Washington Square Arch	1:00 – 2:00 pm
	Saturdays	Vigil for Yemen	Astor Place	11:00 am – 1:00 pm
	September 12 – 14	Take Back the Rite: Celebrating Women's Friendship, Healing the World	Powell House	
	September 16	AVP Fundraiser, Mamaroneck United Methodist Church, 536 East Boston Post Rd.	Mamaroneck, NY	4:00 pm
	September 21 – 23	Couples Enrichment Workshop	Powell House	
	September 28 – 30	ARCH Re-up 2018 – for everyone	Powell House	

September 28 – 30	Lives of Service	Pendle Hill	
October 5 – 7	Rest for the Weary with John Calvi	Powell House	
October 7	World Quaker Day		
October 11 – 14	Within and Without: Liberation Theology at Work in Social Movements	Pendle Hill	
October 25 – 28	Radical Faithfulness in Action	Pendle Hill	
October 26 – 28	Fall Work, Contra Dance, Storytelling	Powell House	
November 3	Beyond Belief: The Secret Gospel of Thomas	Powell House	
November 4 – 8	A Workshop for Women Writers of Color	Pendle Hill	
November 9 – 11	Journey Toward Wholeness: A Courage & Renewal® Retreat Series	Pendle Hill	
November 16 – 18	Clerking: Serving the Community with Joy and Confidence	Pendle Hill	
November 14	George Lakey book tour: <i>How We Win: A Guide to Non-violent Direct Action Campaigning</i>	Powerhouse Arena Bookstore, 28 Adams St., Brooklyn	
November 28 – December 2	FCNL Annual Meeting: Prophetic, Persistent, Powerful	Washington, DC	
November 30-December 2	Weaving Yourself Toward Wholeness	Pendle Hill	
November 30-December 2	12-Step Quaker Weekend	Powell House	
December 9 – 13	Beyond Diversity	Pendle Hill	
December 14 – 16	What Does Justice Look Like? Moving Towards a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel	Pendle Hill	
December 21	The Winter Solstice: In Touch with Your Whole Self	Powell House	
December 30 – January	Powell House Annual New Year's Celebration	Powell House	

Remember to check the Calendar and the Bulletin Board at www.morningsidemeeting.org

Newsletter Submission Guidelines: The purpose of the newsletter is to inform members, attenders and other interested people of Meeting news, including member interviews, news of Friends, other Quaker-related subjects, news of Quaker organizations, upcoming events, Meeting-sponsored projects, book reviews, etc. Articles and pictures are welcome. The deadline for the newsletter is the Sunday of the Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business. Please e-mail your material in Word or text format to morningsidequakermeeting@gmail.com by the end of that day. Past issues of the newsletter are archived at www.morningsidemeeting.org.

Reflection

We are called upon to love the loveless and the unlovable, to reach out to the racists and the torturers, to all who hurt and damage, cripple and kill God, through us, and in many other ways, offers them healing love and divine pity and takes their hurts away. We are called to that obedience which freely gives up self, possessions, life, beliefs, in following that vision, that greater love in which alone is life and peace. This does not mean that we lie down like doormats to be trampled on, or that we give up our freedom or our grasp of truth—it means that we join ourselves to the risk of creation, to the venture of authentic human being, that we “stand in the Light,” reveal that measure of truth that is known to us... that we face the pain of the world, and match it with forgiveness.

– Janet Scott, “What Canst Thou Say,” 1980

Morningside Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Minutes of the Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
September 9, 2018

1. The Meeting began with worship at 12:40 p.m., and Pamela Wood read from John Woolman's Journal:

“First, except that our minds are rightly prepared and we clearly understand the case we speak to, instead of forwarding, we hinder business and make more labour for those on whom the burden of business is laid.

“If selfish views or a partial spirit have any room in our minds, we are unfit for the Lord's work. If we have a clear prospect of the business and proper weight on our minds to speak, it behooves us to avoid useless apologies and repetitions. Where people are gathered from afar, and adjourning a meeting for business attended with great difficulty, it behooves all to be cautious about how they detain the meeting, especially when they have sat six or seven hours and a good way to ride to home.”

Quoted in John Woolman 1720-1772: Quintessential Quaker by David Cox

The reading was also followed by silent worship.

2. Mason Jenkins read the report for Ministry and Counsel. M&C met on Sept. 3rd at the home of Pamela Wood. The next meeting will be at the home of Charlene Ray on October 1st at 7:15 p.m. All are welcome to the first part. Please RSVP. Friends accept the report. The written report is attached.
3. Sally Campbell, Richard Schmidt, Kathy Stackhouse, Corona Machemer, Bryan Oettel (for communications) and Charlene Ray (as convener) volunteered to help with Naomi's Memorial Meeting, to be held Saturday, November 17, 2018, 2:00 p.m., at the 15th Street Meetinghouse. Friends approve this committee.
4. Daniel Seeger gave the Treasurer's Report. Friends accept the report. The report is attached.
5. Pamela Wood gave the Clerk's Report:

At this time, we need more people on the Nominating Committee to join Charlotte. Bob Leuze is currently in the hospital. Emily Eckstut has asked to be released from service on the committee, and Burr Eckstut has been travelling for work. David Britton is also travelling on the next few weekends, so he is unable to be

active for a period. I have taken the liberty of asking Ernie Buscemi, who has extensive experience clerking FGC's Nominating Committee, to serve on the Nominating Committee until January and to be the convener of the committee until the committee chooses a clerk. She has agreed to do so, subject to the Meeting's approval. We also need a couple of other people to work on the committee until January. It would be helpful if at least 2 people would volunteer to do so.

One of my other roles for the Meeting is to be our representative to New York Yearly Meeting. At Summer Sessions this year, several important decisions were approved. The Yearly Meeting is adopting a “pay as lead” policy that will allow people to choose to pay less than the cost of the room at Silver Bay, the actual price of the room or to make a contribution beyond the cost of the room. This is a policy that has been adopted by New England Yearly Meeting with some success. It is a policy designed to put less of financial burden on people who are unable to afford to come. The NY Yearly Meeting plan will be somewhat more complicated than that of New England because the rooms at Silver Bay vary in price whereas the sites used by New England do not. Registration will be much earlier, beginning in January and ending in May as the Yearly Meeting has to pay everything up front.

The Yearly Meeting approved combining the positions of Youth Secretary and Young Adult Secretary into one full time position. It proved difficult to get applicants for part-time positions with no benefits. The General Services Committee is now reconsidering our resources to see if there is a way to fund the position.

In addition, the Yearly Meeting approved joining the legal suit by the men at the Greenhaven Correctional facility who say their freedom of religion has been violated when they were no longer able to hold a Quarterly Meeting. The men have decided to pursue this case at some personal risk. Having the Yearly Meeting join the suit strengthens it and makes the men feel supported.

Friends accept the report.

6. Friends approve the release of Emily Eckstut from the Nominating Committee. Friends approve Ernie Buscemi (as Convener) and Jason McGill to serve on the Nominating Committee until January.

7. Friends discussed using the back door for late entry into Meeting for Worship, after announcing this for two weeks, and starting Sept. 30th. Bernard Winter will explore fixing the central door. We will revisit this at November Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business.
8. Friends made Announcements.
9. Friends approved these minutes. The meeting ended with worship at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen McDonnell

Present: Bernard Winter, Sally Campbell, June Tano, Bryan Oettel, Daniel A. Seeger, Tom Goodridge, Corona Machemer, Charlene Ray, Kathy Stackhouse, Ed Elder, Jason McGill, Joyce Richardson, Mason Jenkins, Bryan Wigfall, Richard Schmidt, Robert Renwick, Pamela Wood, Stephen McDonnell.

Ministry and Counsel Report

For September 9th 2018 Business Meeting

1. M&C met on Monday September 3rd at the home of Pam Wood.
2. The next meeting will be Monday October 1st at Charlene Ray's at 7:15. The first half is open to anyone with concerns.
3. Our next welcome breakfasts will be on September 23rd at 9:30 in the Riverside Cafe. All are welcome.
4. September 23rd the Racial Justice Study group will meet from 1-2. All are welcome.
5. Bible Study is expected to begin next month.
6. M&C currently has 7 support committees.
7. Our annual weekend retreat, October 5th to 7th at Stony Point Conference Center is around the corner

and we hope everyone will be there. The time to be with each other is precious and especially with this year's focus: Anger, Forgiveness & Love. Registration by September 18 is requested. Fliers on the back table have details; send registration and payment to Pam Wood.

8. A Memorial Service for Naomi Paz Greenberg is being planned for Saturday, November 17, at 2pm, at the 15th Street Meetinghouse in cooperation with Caroline Lane and other Flushing Meeting Friends. We request Friends to volunteer to help with the arrangements and memorial meeting

Respectfully submitted,
Mason Jenkins, clerk
Charlene Ray, co-clerk
September 8, 2018

Treasurer's Report

September 9, 2018

The first sheet attached shows the income and expenses to date for the current year. Overall, expenses outstripped income by approximately \$700.00, and at first blush this would not seem very consequential. But a closer look at the figures does raise some concerns.

First, disbursements for Peace and Social Concerns are considerably behind schedule because the Treasurer has not received the required data for the recipients. The third attached sheet shows the Peace and Social Concerns disbursements which have been made, amounting to \$3,100.00. The fourth attached sheet shows the schedule of disbursements, and the circled items are ones which ought to have been made by now but which are still pending. These amount to \$5,100.00. So the expenditures on the first attached sheet are understated by that amount.

As far as income is concerned, a look at the second attached sheet, which shows income and expenses for the same period in the year 2017, indicates that income this year is down by \$6,876.68, or 33%.

The contributions from people who give monthly have been holding up. No one has discontinued their scheduled contributions. So the fall off is among the spasmodical givers, and it may be due to the fact that the spring appeal got out very late this year due to the difficulty of scheduling a Finance Committee meeting. Last year a "bump up" of donations of approximately \$6,500 occurred in June; this year the appeal did not go out until late June, and the summer did not show a similar "bump up." The summer may not be a good time for appeal letters to land in members' mail boxes.

If any members who ordinarily donate in response to the spring appeal but have not done so this year could do so soon, it will help keep the Meeting's finances in order.

The fifth attached sheet summarizes the information the Treasurer needs in order successfully to make disbursements to the organizations the meeting has resolved to support. If the members who are assigned as liaisons to the organizations on our disbursement list will get this information to me by e-mail, I will continue to make the payments the Meeting has agreed to.

Thank you for any help you can give with these two things: belated spring donations; and contact data for the organizations we want to support. The Finance Committee will endeavor to get appeal mailings out in a timely fashion in the future.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel A. Seeger, Treasurer

Income/Expense by Category - Year To Date 1/1/2018 through 9/8/2018 (Cash Basis)

Category	1/1/2018- 1/31/2018	2/1/2018- 2/28/2018	3/1/2018- 3/31/2018	4/1/2018- 4/30/2018	5/1/2018- 5/31/2018	6/1/2018- 6/30/2018	7/1/2018- 7/31/2018	8/1/2018- 8/31/2018	9/1/2018- 9/8/2018	OVERALL TOTAL
INCOME										
Uncategorized	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	500.00
General Fund Contribution	793.40	455.00	5,154.29	710.12	830.63	1,155.00	1,165.18	2,666.12	30.00	12,959.74
Interest and Dividends	1.68	1.57	1.85	1.76	1.78	1.62	1.60	0.00	0.00	11.86
Reintegration Grant	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
TOTAL INCOME	795.08	456.57	5,656.14	711.88	832.41	1,156.62	1,166.78	3,166.12	30.00	13,971.60
EXPENSES										
Huntington House	0.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
MMM Oper. -- Hospitality	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	300.00
NYYM Allocation	0.00	0.00	4,125.00	0.00	0.00	4,125.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,250.00
Operations -- Breakfast	0.00	36.00	40.00	0.00	21.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	97.50
Operations -- Finance	0.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	176.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	196.35
Operations -- First Day Child Care	0.00	290.00	185.00	0.00	370.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	845.00
Operations -- Literature	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-235.33	248.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.47
Operations, Comm. -- Website	0.00	0.00	160.00	60.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	220.00
Outreach -- Peace, Social Concerns	100.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	1,900.00	0.00	0.00	600.00	3,100.00
Outreach -- Scholarships, Relief	0.00	0.00	0.00	350.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	350.00
Retreat Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,100.00	0.00	0.00	1,100.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	100.00	546.00	4,510.00	910.00	356.17	6,450.15	1,100.00	100.00	600.00	14,672.32
OVERALL TOTAL	695.08	-89.43	1,146.14	-198.12	476.24	-5,293.53	66.78	3,066.12	-570.00	-700.72

Income/Expense by Category 1/11/2017 through 9/8/2017 (Cash Basis)

Category	1/11/2017- 1/31/2017	2/1/2017- 2/28/2017	3/1/2017- 3/31/2017	4/1/2017- 4/30/2017	5/1/2017- 5/31/2017	6/1/2017- 6/30/2017	7/1/2017- 7/31/2017	8/1/2017- 8/31/2017	9/1/2017- 9/8/2017	OVERALL TOTAL
INCOME										
General Fund Contribution	1,350.00	1,617.00	2,105.61	4,055.00	424.65	6,518.00	1,891.30	2,929.12	0.00	20,890.68
Interest and Dividends	1.56	1.45	1.56	1.56	1.65	1.61	1.65	1.67	0.00	12.71
TOTAL INCOME	1,351.56	1,618.45	2,107.17	4,056.56	426.30	6,519.61	1,892.95	2,930.79	0.00	20,903.39
EXPENSES										
Huntington House	0.00	0.00	215.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	215.68
MMM Oper. -- Hospitality	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
NYYM Allocation	0.00	0.00	3,994.00	0.00	0.00	3,994.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,988.00
Operations -- Breakfast	0.00	42.00	27.50	30.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	99.50
Operations -- Finance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	34.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	34.97
Operations -- First Day Child Care	0.00	360.00	190.00	0.00	300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	850.00
Operations -- Literature	0.00	108.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	108.43
Operations -- Ministry and Counsel	0.00	75.00	0.00	0.00	103.00	0.00	0.00	125.00	0.00	303.00
Operations, Comm. -- Website	0.00	350.00	175.00	175.00	175.00	175.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,050.00
Outreach -- Peace, Social Concerns	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	3,800.00	0.00	1,100.00	0.00	5,000.00
Outreach -- Scholarships, Relief	0.00	0.00	0.00	300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	300.00
Retreat Expense	0.00	1,100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,100.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	200.00	2,035.43	4,702.18	505.00	578.00	8,003.97	0.00	1,225.00	0.00	17,249.58
OVERALL TOTAL	1,151.56	-416.98	-2,595.01	3,551.56	-151.70	-1,484.36	1,892.95	1,705.79	0.00	3,653.81

Outreach – Peace, Social Concerns 1/1/2018 through 9/8/2018 Description

Date	Account	Description	Memo	Category	Clr	Amount
1/30/2018	Morningside F...	Quaker Worship Group At Woodbourne		Outreach -- P...	R	-100.00
4/19/2018	Morningside F...	Trust For Conservation Innovation (Sane Energy Proje..		Outreach -- P...	R	-500.00
6/5/2018	Morningside F...	Hispanic Federation		Outreach -- P...	R	-300.00
6/5/2018	Morningside F...	AFSC Northeast Region	Liberation S...	Outreach -- P...	R	-600.00
6/5/2018	Morningside F...	Sacred Heart Church	for Sacred H..	. Outreach -- P...	R	-200.00
6/14/2018	Morningside F...	Progresa Guatemala		Outreach -- P...	R	-200.00
6/14/2018	Morningside F...	Mercy Corps	Guatemala ...	Outreach -- P...	R	-200.00
6/14/2018	Morningside F...	American Friends Service Committee	supplementa..	.Outreach -- P...	R	-200.00
6/18/2018	Morningside F...	Friends For LGBTQ Concerns	Sent early; s...	..Outreach -- P...	R	-200.00
9/4/2018	Morningside F...	Lambi Fund of Haiti		Outreach -- P...		-600.00
1/1/2018 – 9/8/2018						-3,100.00
TOTAL INFLOWS						0.00
TOTAL OUTFLOWS						-3,100.00
NET TOTAL						-3,100.00

Morningside's Peace and Social Concerns	2018 budget	Schedule	Memo (in bold) / Comment
Local Hands-on Organizations			
Woodbourne Prison Quaker Worship Group (Pam Wood & Helen Garay Toppins)	300.00	As Requested	\$ 100.00 sent Jan 30, 2018
Alternatives to Violence Project NY (Pam Wood)	400.00	Aug	
Huntington House-Sarah Powell (Helen Garay Toppins)	200.00	Dec	
Redemption Center (Pam Wood & Helen Garay Toppins)	600.00	June	
Flushing Interfaith Council (Naomi Paz-Greenberg)	350.00	Dec	\$50 Mbrshp + \$300 for Social Justice Committee
Brooklyn for Peace (Pam Wood)	100.00	Dec	
✓ Sacred Heart Church School, Camden, NJ (Joyce Richardson)	200.00	June	For the School
Wider Quaker Fellowship			
Friends General Conference (FGC) (Robert Renwick)	400.00	March	
Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) (Bryan Wigfall)	400.00	Dec	
FCNL (Kathy Stackhouse)	700.00	March	
✓ AFSC: Healing & Justice NE Region (Pam Wood)	600.00	May	For Liberation Summer Youth Advocacy Training Camp + 200.00 June 14, 2018
Fellowship of Friends of African Descent (Karen Taborn)	200.00	July	NEW
✓ FLGBTQC (Robert Renwick)	200.00	Dec	
NY Yearly Meeting ARCH (Charlene Ray)	200.00	May	
NY Yearly Meeting Sharing Fund (Helen Garay Toppins)	600.00	Nov	
Quaker UN Office (Ernie Buscemi)	400.00	Nov	
Right Sharing of World Resources (Sally Campbell)	400.00	Nov	Note that Postage Stamps also go to Right Sharing
Quaker House of Fayetteville (David Britton)	200.00	Dec	
Ramallah Friends School (FUM) (Pam Wood)	800.00	ASAP July	\$200 ASAP for new Head of School; \$600 in July for Scholarship Fund
NYQM African Education Committee (Corona Macheimer)	800.00	Sept	
Bolivian Quaker Education Fund (Pam Wood)	400.00	March	
Samburu Mission (Kenya) (FUM) (Pam Wood)	100.00	August	NEW
National/ International Organizations			
National Religious Campaign Against Torture (Dave Britton)	50.00	Dec	Membership Fee (for 2019)
Center for Conscience and War (Pam Wood)	300.00	June	
Christian Peacemaker Teams (Naomi Paz-Greenberg)	500.00	July	
AGLI (African Great Lakes Initiative) (Pam Wood)	500.00	Dec	
✓ Progresa Guatemala (Charlotte Ehrman)	200.00	Dec	
✓ Lambi Fund of Haiti (Sally Campbell)	600.00	Sept	
✓ Hispanic Federation Unidos Disaster Relief and Recovery Program (Pam Wood)	300.00	April	NEW; Puerto Rico relief (Morningside made emergency contribution in 2017 out of Meeting funds)
Coalition for Immokalee Workers (Naomi Paz Greenberg)	100.00	August	NEW
✓ Mercy Corps - Guatemala	200.00	June 16	
Environment			
✓ Quaker Earthcare Witness (Tom Goodridge)	300.00	Dec	
✓ Sane Energy Project (Amalane Lane, Richard Schmidt)	500.00	ASAP	NEW
Total Provisionally Allocated (3/18/2018)	11,900.00		
P & SC Reserve Fund (for emergencies)	900.00		Difference between sum of initial allocations and budget from Meeting
TOTAL (Including Reserve Fund)	12,800.00		
BUDGET FROM MEETING	\$12,800.00*		
*Equivalent to P&SC's Budget from Meeting in 2017			

○ = \$5,100.00

Information Needed by Treasurer When Making Disbursements

In addition to the amount of the check and the month it is to be written, the Treasurer needs the following:

- 1) The exact name of the person to whom, or organization to which, the check is to be written as “payable to.”
- 2) The exact address, including the correct zip code, to which the check should be sent.
(For international organizations: Use a United States address if at all possible. For example, for the Geneva QUNO use the New York QUNO address, indicating in the check’s memo line that it is designated for the

Geneva office. For a donation to the World Office of the FWCC, channel it through the Philadelphia office of the FWCC’s Section of the Americas, with a designation in the check’s memo line that it is for the World Office in London.)

- 3) The content of the memo line of the check, if any is needed. This memo message must be 30 characters and spaces or fewer.
- 4) The telephone number of the check recipient. This is important in each and every case.

Call to Threshing Sessions Rutherford Place Meetinghouse, Meeting Room, Manhattan: September 19, 6:30-8pm & September 26, 6:30-8pm

The New York Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) stands at the opening of a new relationship with our Quaker schools after a long and arduous independence process. While embarking to find a way forward, our diverse communities were roiled this winter by the Friends Seminary leadership firing of a long-time teacher. This incident initiated a further series of related events. Our communities are struggling with the feelings and concerns evoked.

Under the coordination of the NYQM Ministry and Counsel Committee, the NYQM calls these Threshing Sessions in order to give members of our communities the opportunity to express their thoughts, concerns, ideas and hopes for resolution over these occurrences. As a body, in an accepting and open worship environment, perhaps we can begin to envision growing into a new and evolving relationship with our schools centered on shared Quaker practices and principles.

The special role of a Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Threshing is to allow everyone to say what they think and feel. Threshing Sessions are not a time for decision-making, but for listening deeply to one another. It is a rare opportunity to hear different, sometimes difficult, thoughts. Threshing can enable us to speak strongly, yet be able to grow into new perspectives and find fresh ways to make difficult circumstances work for us.

- Everyone in our extended communities is welcome to attend.
- Everyone is free to state his or her views clearly, passionately and honestly.
- All contributions are received with respect and attention, seeking the truth they hold.
- All contributions are confidential to the attending group.

Nancy Britton, Clerk
New York Quarterly Meeting (NYQM)

Steven Monroe Smith, Clerk
NYQM Ministry and Counsel Committee

ABOUT THRESHING SESSIONS...

Threshing sessions are for those members and attenders in the NYQM body to come together and listen to each other’s personal and experiential messages on a difficult issue. No one comes representing a committee or particular committee viewpoint. In fact, coming from that perspective undermines the purpose of a threshing session. Participants are called to be led by the Spirit as they listen and speak.

The NYQM isn’t ‘organizing’ these sessions in conjunction with outside organizations, though we acknowledge we have an extended community involved from other perspectives with these concerns. To address this the NYQM is opening our threshing sessions to those who are not affiliated with one of the NYQM’s monthly meetings so that they can also be heard in this form of worship, in the manner of Friends.

The NYQM is large, so we are scheduling two sessions for the body's convenience to hear as many voices as possible, perhaps in smaller groups as a result of multiple sessions. There is no expectation for attendance at any or all sessions.

As the Religious Society of Friends, we do not have religious holidays. We acknowledge that many of us grew up in other traditions and these continue to be important family times. Given busy fall schedules that include national holidays as well as religious holidays, we are scheduling at least two threshing sessions and would like to have some time for a third if necessary, before the Quarterly Meeting on October 28, 2018.

**Everyone is invited to access our *Faith and Practice* online,
or download a pdf at no cost at
<http://www.nyym.org/book/faith-and-practice>**

The Fate of the Selective Service System: From the Center on Conscience and War

The National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service is at work right now to determine the fate of Selective Service (Draft) Registration, and they need to hear from people of conscience!

Congress established the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service as part of the compromise reached by the Conference Committee during the 2017 NDAA (National Defense Authorization Act) process.

The Commission's mandate is to consider issues of national service, both military and civilian, including important questions about Selective Service registration: should it continue, should women be required to register, and are there changes that should be made to the Selective Service System, such as those CCW has long advocated for, which would protect the rights of conscientious objectors.

It has been decades since there has been a serious national conversation about Selective Service. This is a great opportunity to lift our voices to call for an end to Selective Service (draft) Registration. All branches of our government have affirmed that the primary purpose of Registration is to be prepared for war. This is a violation of conscience for many people of different faiths and beliefs. There is currently no option to register as a Conscientious Objector; as a result, individuals who cannot participate are punished for life, without due process.

If the Commission fails to end registration, they must allow people to register as conscientious objectors and restore full rights to people of conscience.

The Commission also needs to hear from people involved with church voluntary service programs about how proposals for mandatory national service will affect them.

The Commission is scheduled to report its findings to Congress in 2020 and held its first public meeting in Harrisburg, PA on February 23, 2018. There will eventually be meetings across the country, including in Tennessee, Florida, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Texas, and California. The schedule is at: <https://www.inspire2serve.gov/news-events/national-commission-military-national-and-public-service-announces-locations-public>. Please attend a meeting near you, and/or please submit written comments - - by September 30, 2018:

- through the Commission's website, <https://www.inspire2serve.gov/>
- by email, using the subject line, "Docket 05-2018-01" <national.commission.on.service.info@mail.mil>,
- by mail: National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service, Attn: RFI COMMENT—Docket 05-2018-012530 Crystal Drive, Suite 1000, Room 1029 Arlington, VA 22202.