

Morningside Meeting for Business –January 8, 2012

The meeting opened in silence.

Friends' decision-making is based on communal discernment of where God is leading us. Discernment involves careful listening and recognizing God-inspired leadings. Discernment offers tools to distinguish between an interior leading from God and a worldly impulse such as a desire to feel important or look clever.

In meeting for worship, Friends can come into a powerful experience of unity. The same unifying spirit of worship is the basis for Friends' decision-making. Quakers do not decide by voting. Instead, we look for a unity deeper than majority rule.

Ideally, Friends come to business meeting in a prayerful, open state of mind ready to listen attentively to others and to the Spirit. We may express contradictory views, but do not argue with one another. We state what we want to say frankly and briefly without belittling each other.

Because Friends place such a high value on unity, we are willing to wait until we can agree on a decision before moving ahead. This may seem impractical, not to mention exasperating in how long it seems to take to come to a decision. Implementation, however, may go quickly.

Source is the Lake Erie Yearly Meeting website. They say that “portions of this text are based on *Silence and Witness: the Quaker Tradition*, by Michael L. Birkel. Other parts of this text are based on a document written and produced by Friends and Attenders from Glasgow Meeting, Scotland.

20120108.1 The agenda was reviewed and visiting Friends Seminary students were welcomed.

20120108.2 David Evans reviewed the Nominating Committee report and Sally Campbell highlighted the new members of the various committees. Friends accept the slate. A copy of this report is attached to these minutes. It was noted that there are at two openings that can be filled – one for the Communication Committee and one for Ministry and Counsel, Friends should contact a current nominating committee member if they are interested. The nominating committee will review and get back to the Meeting at the February 2012 Meeting for Business.

20120108.3 15th Street Meeting has requested assistance with the NYYM meeting in Fall 2014. Our meeting is willing to seek volunteers to provide this assistance.

20120108.4 Pamela Wood read the Ministry and Counsel report. Friends accept the report as read. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes. The next Ministry and Counsel meeting will be Thursday February 2, 2012 at 7:15 pm at Pamela Wood's home. Also, if Friends know of good places for a retreat in fall 2012, they are encouraged to speak with a member of M&C.

20120108.5 Bart Dominus made the Treasurer's report. A copy of this report is attached to these minutes. It is noted that this is entitled 2011 Preliminary Results, as final disbursements to Peace and Social Concerns have not been made. Friends accept the report as read. It has been our custom to have a checking account for the Meeting. When the bank accounts are moved, the Finance Committee would like the option of having a CD or Savings Account for some of the Meeting's money. Friends approve this change.

20120108.6 Morningside's Peace and Social Concerns report was reviewed by Pamela Wood. A copy of this document is attached to these minutes. One Stop Senior Services and Progressa Guatemala did not have representatives at the last Peace and Social Concerns Meeting, so it was decided to postpone contributions to these groups until we get more information. A contribution to East New York Farm is also on hold until we determine if this is still an active organization. It is noted that we no longer support South Bronx Food Coop because it no longer exists. We remember having Friends active both in the organization and active in the life of our meeting is an important criterion for determining contributions. Peace and Social Concerns is asked to bring the list of criteria for contributions to our next Meeting for Business.

In order to make all of the proposed contributions, we will have to go into our reserves. If we take money from the reserves now, we have money to meet our expenses for 2/3 of the year. Friends suggest a maximum payment for Peace and Social Concerns of \$8,500.

20120108.7 Last month the Finance Committee recommended that the Meeting end contributing to the Quarterly Meeting in the amount of our rent, in order to be able to continue contributing to Yearly Meeting and making Peace and Social Concerns contributions. Friends had decided in December to continue this discussion at this Meeting for Business. We have notified the clerk of Quarterly Audit and Budget that it is possible our meeting may suspend making payments for our rent. It was noted that our rent payment to the quarter is currently booked as a contribution, not a reimbursement for rent. It was suggested that we make contributions for our rent only if we do not have to go into our reserves. Others suggest we suspend contributions to the Quarter as long as the Quarter has a budget surplus.

It is the sense of the meeting that we are not going to pay a contribution in the amount of our rent to the Quarter any longer. Instead we will include a budget line as a projected contribution in the amount of \$10,000 and the beneficiary(ies) of this contribution will be considered in January 2013. This projected contribution, or some part thereof, would be made only if we do not go into our reserves. It is the meeting's intent to continue to make Peace and Social Concerns contributions during the course of the year.

20120108.8 Sally Campbell read the State of the Meeting 2011 as prepared by David Britton. This will be posted on the website for all to review. Any proposed changes/corrections should be forwarded to David Britton. Final approval will be considered at the February 2012 Meeting for Business.

Meeting ended with a moment of silence

Lee Rada, recording clerk for the day

Attendance: Peter Beck, Ernie Buscemi, Vince Buscemi, Sally Campbell (clerk), Patricia Chernoff, Bart Dominus, David Evans, Tom Goodridge, Naomi Pas Greenberg, Corona Machermer, Stephen McDonnell, Lee Rada, Charlene Ray, Jerry Reisig, Joyce Richardson, John Slater, Susan Wells, Pamela Wood

MORNINGSIDE MONTHLY MEETING NOMINATIONS FOR 2012—SUBMITTED 12-4-11

PROPOSED MORNINGSIDE COMMITTEES AND POSITIONS: New nominees are underlined, unless noted, positions are 1-yr renewable.

CLERK: Sally Campbell

ASSISTANT CLERK: Lee Rada

RECORDING CLERK: Dave Britton

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Charlene Ray, Bart Dominus, Pam Wood

TREASURER: Charlene Ray

ASSISTANT TREASURER: Pam Wood

MINISTRY AND COUNSEL: (3 years, renewable once)

2012: Nancy Britton, Pat Chernoff, Vince Buscemi, Ernie Buscemi (all 1st term)

2013: Lee Rada (1st term), Pam Wood (2nd term)

2014: Mason Jenkins, Steve McDonnell, **opening**

RECORDER FOR MEMBERSHIP/HISTORIAN: Helen Garay-Toppins

NOMINATING: David Evans, Patricia Chernoff, John Tweddle, Charlotte Ehrmann, Charlene Ray

HOSPITALITY: Joyce Richardson (Clerk), Richard Schmidt, Katherine Alford, David Vassar

FIRST DAY COORDINATOR: Bernard Winter, Tom Goodridge

FIRST DAY CAREGIVERS: Tom Goodridge, Sally Campbell, Robert Renwick, Dot Savage

LIBRARY/LITERATURE COMMITTEE: Pamela Wood, Sally Campbell, Richard Schmidt

LIBRARIAN: Sally Campbell

RIVERSIDE SPACE COMMITTEE: Charlotte Ehrman (Convener), Susan Wells, Sally Campbell

COMMUNICATIONS AND WEBSITE COMMITTEE: Dave Britton, Corona Machermer, Helen Garay-Toppins, Steve McDonnell, **opening**

KEEPER OF THE ADDRESS LIST: Helen Garay-Toppins

E-NEWSLETTER: Helen Garay-Toppins

FRIENDS IN UNITY WITH NATURE: Tom Goodridge, Patricia Chernoff, Committee of the Whole.

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS: Corona Machermer (Convener), Patricia Chernoff, Vince Buscemi, Sally Campbell, Pam Wood, Committee of the Whole.

FIRST DAY MONTHLY SING: Kathy Wood (Convener), Nancy Britton (Asst. Convener)

LIAISONS/REPRESENTATIVES:

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE (AFSC): Pam Wood

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION (FCNL): Jack Patterson

NEW YORK QUARTERLY MEETING: Dave Britton, Ed Elder

YOUNG ADULT FRIENDS: Sara Lavenhar

POWELL HOUSE: Nancy Britton, Tom Goodridge Tom

PENDLE HILL: Steve McDonnell

FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE (FGC): Vince Buscemi

NEW YORK YEARLY MEETING: Pat Chernoff

NEW YORK YEARLY MEETING COMMITTEE ON DISCERNMENT: Edd Fenner

NEW YORK QUARTERLY MEETING POSITIONS (filled by Joint Nominating, except for Joint Nominating itself, which is a Morningside nomination):

TRUSTEES: (no one from MMM this year)

RECORDING CLERK: Nancy Britton

AUDIT AND BUDGET: Bart Dominus, Beth Bugdaycay

EDUCATION FUND: Dave Britton

MINISTRY AND COUNSEL: Sally Campbell, Ed Elder, Charlotte Ehrman, Mason Jenkins

NOMINATING: Jack Patterson

RELIEF: Joyce Richardson

FRIENDS SEMINARY SCHOOL COMMITTEE: Corona Machermer

HOUSING COMMITTEE (Friends House in Rosehill): Ed Elder

THE GREAT LAKES REGION (Africa) EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Corona Machermer

COMMITTEE FOR DOWNTOWN MANHATTAN ALLOWED MEETING: Sally Campbell

**Report of Ministry & Counsel to Meeting for Concerns
January 8, 2012**

1. The next meeting of Ministry & Counsel will take place on Thursday, February 2, 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, January 22, 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.
3. Ministry and Council has planned the following after Meeting discussions: Sunday, January 29- "Why Do I Come to Meeting?" with brief presentations from a panel of four, followed by worship sharing. Sunday, February 26, ARCH will sponsor worship sharing around end of life issues. Sunday, March 25 there will be a discussion about Spiritual Nurture Groups to which anyone who has been part of a group in the past, is currently part of one or is interested in participating in the future is invited.
4. We currently have 9 support and clearness committees with one in formation.
5. Ministry & Council is continuing a process of getting in touch with absent members and attenders.
6. We are working on a sheet explaining the process of becoming a member of Meeting, working from the sheet developed a few years ago for an after Meeting discussion.

Morningside Meeting Treasurer's Report

2011 Preliminary Results

		2011	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	9 mos	Oct	Nov	Dec	12 mos	Variance
		Proj. Exp.	Actual	Actual	Actual	YTD	Actual	Act	ACT	Total	Budg-Act
EXPENSE											
Fixed	NY Yearly Meeting	13100.00	3275.00	3275.00	3275.00	9825.00	0.00	3275.00	0.00	13100.00	0.00
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>2472.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>9888.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
		22988.00	5747.00	5747.00	5747.00	17241.00	0.00	5747.00	0.00	22988.00	0.00
Outreach	P&SC/FUN	9850.00	0.00	150.00	2750.00	2900.00	450.00	0.00	0.00	3350.00	6500.00
& Support	Misc. Contrib.	400.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	75.00	0.00	0.00	275.00	125.00
	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>285.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>685.00</u>	<u>815.00</u>
		11750.00	200.00	550.00	2750.00	3500.00	525.00	285.00	0.00	4310.00	7440.00
Operating	Communications	500.00		70.00	543.51	613.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	613.51	-113.51
Expense	1st Day/Childcare	750.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	70.00	0.00	0.00	70.00	680.00
	Hospitality	750.00	306.90	120.18	233.61	660.69	0.00	230.06	0.00	890.75	-140.75
	Clerk/ M & C	350.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	350.00
	Finance	450.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	450.00
	<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>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>212.00</u>	<u>-12.00</u>
		3000.00	364.40	190.18	817.12	1371.70	184.50	230.06	0.00	1786.26	1213.74
Total Exp		37738.00	6311.40	6487.18	9314.12	22112.70	709.50	6262.06	0.00	29084.26	8653.74
INCOME											
	Contributions		6788.29	5588.18	7256.00	19632.47	2175.33	2625.42	7875.00	32308.22	
	Books		<u>10.00</u>	<u>99.47</u>	<u>5.00</u>	<u>114.47</u>	<u>85.00</u>	<u>61.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>260.47</u>	
			6798.29	5687.65	7261.00	19746.94	2260.33	2686.42	7875.00	32568.69	
Assets	Bank Balance		32299.99	29292.46	26172.95		28,275.45	24692.39	32552.39		
	Cash		419.00	427.00	579.00		664.00	629.00	400.00		
	Crumlish Bequest		(1500.00)	(1500.00)	(1500.00)		(1500.00)	(1500.00)	(1,500.00)		
	Hope Lives for Lifers		(169.09)	(169.09)	(169.09)		(169.09)	(169.09)	(169.09)		
	Incarcerated Girls		(766.10)	(766.10)	(766.10)		(766.10)	(766.10)	(766.10)		
Net Worth				26857.27	24316.76		27168.26	22886.20	30517.20		

Morningside's Peace and Social Concerns

As of September 26, 2011

	2009	2010	2011	Schedule	
<i>Local Hands-on Organizations</i>					
Alternatives to Violence (Pam)	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	300.00	Summer 2011	#314 07/01/11
Catholic Worker (Vince)	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00	350.00	summer 2011	#315 07/01/11
Huntington House (Helen)	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	300.00	12-Jan	
One Stop Senior Services (Jason)	\$ 800.00	\$ 600.00	?		
Redemption Center (Helen)	\$ 550.00	\$ 550.00	550.00	12-Jan	
Campaign to End the New Jim Crow (Pam)			200.00	12-Jan	
Friends House Rose Hill (Ed Elder)	\$ 150.00	\$ 200.00	200.00	12-Jan	
<i>Wider Quaker Fellowship</i>					
NY Yearly Meeting Sharing Fund (Helen)	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	600.00	12-Jan	
American Friends Service Cttee (Pam)	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	500.00	12-Jan	NYMRO Healing Justice
Friends General Conference (Vince)	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	300.00	12-Jan	Gathering scholarships
Ramallah Friends School (FUM) (Pam)	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	600.00	summer 2011	#316 07/01/11
Friends World Cttee (Ernie)	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	300.00	Sep-11	earmark=travel #326 9/26
Quaker UN Office (Ernie)	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	200.00	Sep-11	#327 09/26
Bolivian Quaker Education Fund (Vince)	\$ 300.00	\$ 200.00	200.00	12-Jan	
NYQM African Education fund	\$ 450.00	\$ 450.00	450.00	Nov-11	
FLGBTQC (Ed Elder)	\$ 250.00	\$ 150.00	150.00	12-Jan	
<i>National/ International Organizations</i>					
Christian Peacemakers (Vince)	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	500.00	12-Jan	
AGLI (AfricanGreat Lakes) (Pam)	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	300.00	12-Jan	
FCNL (Jack)	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	600.00	Summer 2011	#317 07/01/11
Brooklyn for Peace (Pam)	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	150.00	12-Jan	
National Religious Campaign Against Torture (Patricia)	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	50.00	12-Jan	
Center for Conscience and War (Pam)	\$ 300.00	\$ 200.00	150.00	Paid	
N American Healing of Memories (Pam)	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	200.00	summer 2011	#318 07/01/11
Progressa Guatemala (Charlotte)	\$ 100.00	\$ 150.00	?		
Haiti Support La Romana (Sally)		\$ 500.00	0.00		
SUBTOTAL	\$ 8,750.00	\$ 8,850.00	7,150.00		
<i>Friends in Unity with Nature (FUN)</i>					
BCI: Healthy Family Pantry (Mason)	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	0.00		
Brownsville Co-op (Helen)	\$ 300.00		150.00	12-Jan	
East New York Farms (Helen)		\$ 150.00	?		
Quaker Earthcare Witness (Patricia)		\$ 150.00	300.00	12-Jan	
Argus(Buddha)	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	300.00	12-Jan	
South Bronx Food Coop (Buddha)	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	0.00		
SUBTOTAL	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	750.00		
TOTAL	\$ 9,750.00	\$ 9,850.00	\$7,900.00		

Morningside Monthly Meeting
State of the Meeting – 2011

On 12/18/2011 Morningside Friends gather at 1:00 PM to reflect on the state of our Meeting as the year 2011 draws to a close. Joyce Richardson clerks the special Meeting, and suggests that Friends consider aspects, events and memories of the past year that have been positive, and then those that have been negative, prior to addressing the specific queries offered by Yearly Meeting to assist this self-examination of our spiritual condition.

Friends raise up positive recollections of specific events, including our retreat at Riverside Park, with its mindfulness walking meditation and sharing in the council of all beings; our happiness in welcoming Emerson Jenkins as our community's newest infant by passing him from arm to arm around our circle of Friends; our joyous celebration of Liz Stone's life at her potluck memorial service; our connection to our peace and social concerns outreach when Newton Garver visited to share the work of the Bolivian Quaker Education project that our contributions support; our excitement in exploring one another's theological perspectives during two after-Meeting discussions of theological diversity among Friends; our experiment with New York City apartment-sized "Quaker Sixes"; and six of us becoming trained as ARCH counselors. Friends were pleased that our web site initiative was expanded to include the Quarterly Meeting and all its Monthly Meetings. We certified one of our members as a chaplain to be able to work in a Veterans Administration hospital setting. We brought a minute of support for the S.A.F.E. parole reform legislation to the Quarter, and to the Yearly Meeting.

Friends express appreciation for our deep sense that the bedrock beneath these events is our strong spiritual community: a Friend feels amazed and grateful at being able to sink into the Meeting when returning from travels, another felt pride at the Michelle Alexander presentation on mass incarceration knowing that Morningsiders participated in creating the event, another noted how many Morningsiders contribute their time and effort to Earthcare Witness, Yearly Meeting's Spark publication and the Occupy Wall Street protests, and another Friend newly come to Morningside finds a spiritual home here. The Meeting's many support and clearness committees are a strength of our community. We seem to have a welcoming elasticity that stretches us to include newcomers. Friends value our deep, gathered meetings united in silence.

Friends spoke of the challenges we have faced this year: the newsletter has been a challenge; Peace and Social Concerns has not been as focused and active as it has been in the past; we have financial challenges as our contributions have dropped considerably; we have no Firstday School or childcare program because we have no regularly attending children; we have faced bureaucratic obstacles in getting paperwork processed to enable Friends to visit prisons; the windows of our meeting room can no longer be opened and we miss the breezes.

The windows of our hearts remain open, however. Ministry thrives somewhat mysteriously among us in business Meeting as we seriously listen and hear each other, willing to face initial disagreement without being contentious, with a sense that we can take the time to follow Quaker practice, that we are able to go into conflicts and issues while maintaining community, eventually to find unity. Our spiritual nurture groups allow Friends to build depth in their relationships, while our monthly newcomers' breakfasts offer new attenders and seekers a time to meet us in a safely informal environment, making it easier to reach out and connect in the after-meeting social hour. Our many support and clearness committees provide structure for caring for one another. Our Ministry and Counsel committee is strong, and reaches out to keep people engaged.

Vocal ministry is a less clear aspect of Morningside's spirituality as we are a quiet Meeting. Friends wonder whether we may inhibit vocal ministry, either making it seem that too high a threshold is demanded, or perhaps giving the impression, when we say how much we appreciate the gathered silence, that vocal ministry is somehow undesired. We notice that we may focus vocal ministry in "Afterwords" where "messages of a more personal nature, joys and sorrows" may be shared. Friends ask if even this has sometimes seemed hostile to serious sharing as we enjoin Friends to "keep your message brief, leave some space between messages and

refrain from answering another's message.” Does our lack of vocal ministry reflect inattention to Spirit? We hope not, but we are a quiet Meeting.

Friends seem confident that Morningside Meeting is effective as a voice for Friends in the world. Our prison work, Earthcare witness, concerns for Quaker theology, our participation in outside boards and ecumenical groups, our involvement with social action organizations such as Occupy Wall St and the Campaign to End the New Jim Crow, all bring us opportunities to carry our testimonies into the world by being a Quaker presence even when no formal or institutional relationship is involved. We contribute actively to the work of the wider Friends community as well, through active participation in Quarterly and Yearly Meeting committees and other Quaker organizations including AFSC, FWCC, QUNO and FGC.

As we each walk through the world, we aspire to do so cheerfully, speaking to that of God in everyone. This is easier to do among Friends than in the wider world. Within our Meeting we have a good sense of how to do this, many of us have been clerks and understand how to support the clerk during business Meeting. We are not terrified of conflict but we are oriented to being tender with one another. We do not have a Meetinghouse to oversee and maintain, which makes for a much lighter burden. Outside the Meeting in daily life it can be challenging to manifest one's faith in the larger world, to be openly Quaker. By caring for one another within our Meeting we strengthen each other's witness in the world.