

Morningside Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
MINUTES
of Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

May 1st 2016

OPENING: After an opening silence the Clerk read the following to be considered:
“...it is when we are anchored in Meetings (no matter what the style of our worship may be) where pure fellowship and common life is deep and sustaining, where we are known in our weaknesses and strengths and are still loved and held up by our fellows, where our worship is centered around the transforming power of the spirit that Jesus promised would invade us, melt us down and renew us, and send us out again—that we find our powerhouse that is alone adequate to support our outward testimonies.”

Douglas Steere

A . MINISTRY & COUNCIL: Charlene Rey reads the report of Ministry and Counsel, dated May 1, 2016. (attached).

1. Friends accept the report.

B. TREASURER’S REPORT: David Fletcher distributes the treasurer’s report of May 1st, 2016 (attached). Pamela Wood reads some of the highlights the report, as Naomi Paz-Greenberg is absent.

1. Friends accept the report with (a) a deletion to the April 1, 2016 disbursement to the library and (b) agreement that the the hospitality budget and expenses for April 2016 will need some clarifications.

C. COMMUNICATIONS: Corona Machermer reads the report of the Communications Committee, dated May 1st, 2016 (attached).

1. Friends accept the report.

2.

D. CLERK’S REPORT: Pamela Wood reads the State of the Meeting Report of the Woodbourne Worship Group (attached). Pamela also reads the Clerk’s Report of May 1, 2016 (attached).

1. Friends accept the reports.

E. PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS: Corona Machermer reads the report from the Committee on Peace and Social Concerns, dated May 1st 2016.

1. Friends approved the report, with corrections.

F. ATTENDANCE:

Susan Carmody

Pamela Wood

Mason Jenkins

Corona Machermer

Matthew Bell

Joyce Richardson

Bernard Richardson

Artis Klavins

David Fletcher

Sally Campbell

Bryan Oettel

Charlene Ray

Tim Dalton

Rob Stevens

Tom Goodridge

Calvin Ramsey

Kathy Stackhouse

Lucille Adinolf

Ernie Buscemi

Vince Buscemi

Richard Schmidt

Nancy Britton

June Tano

Charlotte Ehrman

G. 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

Morningside Meeting

Ministry and Counsel Report

May 1st, 2016

1. M&C met on Thursday April 28th. The next meeting will be Wednesday June 1st at the home of David Evans.
2. Bible Study will be May 8th at 9:30.
3. Our next welcome breakfast will be on May 22nd at 9:30 hosted by Jack Patterson in the Riverside Cafe. All are welcome. If any Friends have an interest in hosting a breakfast see an M&C member.
4. M&C currently has 5 support committees.
5. M&C is trying to gauge interest in a mid-week meeting. If you are interested please put your name on the list by the door.

Morningside Monthly Meeting
Corrected Treasurer's Report May 1, 2016

	Feb 2016 YTD	Mar 2016	Apr 2016	Apr 2016 YTD	Budget
Disbursements:					
NY Yearly Meeting		3,849.50		3,849.50	15,396.50
Peace & Social Concerns/Friends in Unity w Nature			1,900.00	1,900.00	12,800.00
Misc. Contributions					300.00
Matching Fund for Friends Peace Teams AGLI					
Scholarship/Relief		200.00		200.00	2,500.00
Communications		375.00		375.00	2,790.00
1st Day School/ Child Care	320.00	185.00	225.00	730.00	3,350.00
Hospitality	51.61		151.55	203.16	200.00
Breakfast					750.00
Clerk, M&C	25.00			25.00	200.00
Finance					300.00
Library	22.74			22.74	300.00
Total Disbursements	419.35	4,609.50	2,276.55	7,305.40	38,886.50
Income					
Contributions	1431.80	380.00	3,330.20	5,142.00	38,886.50
Matching Fund for Friends Peace Teams AGLI			200.00	200.00	
Book & Rummage Sale					
Interest	1.69		2.91	4.60	
Total Income	1,433.49	380.00	3,533.11	5,346.60	38,886.50
Net Income	1,014.14	(4,229.50)	1,256.56	(1,958.80)	0.00

In Kind Contributions of 19.96.

Assets	Ending Bank Balance	36,671.16
	Hospitality Petty Cash	300.00
	Cash at Schwab	500.00
	Cash for Child Care	200.00
	MMM Retreat Deposit	1,100.00
	Total	38,771.16
Liabilities	Crumlish Bequest	(1,000.00)
	Hope Lives for Lifers	(82.03)
	Huntington House	(243.93)
	Total	(1,325.96)
Net Worth		37,451.55

Communications Committee Report to Business Meeting May 1, 2016

While the committee was unable to schedule a meeting in April, we will have updated mailing labels ready for the Finance Committee mailing scheduled for May 9. We also plan to provide the text for a new Address Book, which will be sent to members and attenders to check. We plan to publish the new Address Book, which is desperately needed, before the end of May. At the request of Ministry and Counsel, a 4th-Sunday at which the committee will offer a “primer on the technological concerns of the meeting” related to the website and the various email systems has been tentatively scheduled for May 22.

Respectfully submitted,
Corona Machermer

Clerk's Report, May 1, 2016

Plans for the Rummage Sale at 15th Street, on Sunday, May 8 are proceeding. Items may be left in the small room off Andy Doan's classroom after 4 pm. They may be left in the closet under the stairs to the lower level near Andy's classroom anytime during the day. To get into the building, buzz the NY Quarterly Meeting; they will also help with directions. Margaret Lew is also willing to drive items delivered to her house. An email with contact information will be sent around.

The Quaker Party, being held from Friday, June 17 to Sunday, June 19. There are registrations coming in from all up and down the East Coast. They are aiming for about 140 beds beyond the Brooklyn Meeting house. The form for registering is accessed through a link, which will be sent around. If you have any trouble let me know. I can probably put the information in for you.

Ann Kjellberg, Clerk of Trustees, has announced that there will be a day-long discernment about the future of the NY Quarterly Meeting in the years ahead and how we should care about our spaces to support that future on Saturday, May 14, from 10 am to 4 pm, at Brooklyn Meeting. Lunch will be served.

The State of the Meeting from Woodbourne is read.

Report from Peace & Social Concerns

Peace & Social Concerns meets on April 10, 2016, at 1:00 pm, following Meeting for Worship. Attending: Sally Campbell, Pam Wood, Naomi Paz-Greenberg, Richard Schmidr; Kathy Stackhouse; Bryan Oettel; Corona Macheimer (clerk)

The meeting begins with a few minutes of silent worship. The status of various projects and concerns is discussed. This report is not a report of those discussions. Rather, it is an account Peace & Social Concerns activities during the past month. There is one action item for Business Meeting, which is presented below in bold face.

1. The Matching Fund Campaign in response to the appeal from the Friends Peace Teams African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI), which was approved at Business Meeting on March 6, has raised \$360 to date. It is probable that the sum is not larger due to the failure of the clerk of Peace & Social Concerns to broadcast the appeal as widely as planned. The original idea was to send off an initial sum at the end of March and the remainder at the end of April, when the campaign was to end. **The clerk asks that business meeting approve sending \$720 to AGLI now (the \$360 contributed plus \$360 in matching funds from the Crumlish Bequest) as soon as possible, and that the campaign be extended to the end of May so that the wider appeal may be made.**
2. The legislative priorities that Morningsiders deem most important for the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) to pursue in the next congress (2017-2018), as discerned by a special called meeting of Peace & Social Concerns on February 28, were forwarded to FCNL on April 15. The Priorities are attached.
3. On April 10, as part of a new campaign by Amnesty International to supplement the Write for Rights Campaign, Friends sent letters of support to Chelsea Manning and signed letters petitioning various Myanmar officials for the release of activist Htin Lin Oo. It is reported that the Amnesty campaign helped raise the profile of Htin Lin Oo, and that he has been released by the new government of Myanmar.

Upcoming Events:

1. Rummage Sale on May 8 at 15th Street. P&SC are participating and will share in the proceeds. Details on delivering items for the sale and helping in the sorting and pricing will be circulated as soon as possible.
2. The second annual Transformative Practices & Restorative Justice Conference will be held on May 6 at Lehman College. Registration begins at 7:30 am. The keynote address is at 9:00 am. Friends who wish to attend should pre-register at the website as conference presenters, so they will not be charged a registration fee. The best way to reach the website for details of the conference program is to Google the conference.

Respectfully Submitted,

Corona Macheimer, Clerk

MORNINGSIDE'S LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR FCNL TO PURSUE IN THE 115TH CONGRESS (2017-2018)

(Sent by email to FCNL on April 15, 2015)

April 14, 2016

Dear Friends on the FCNL Policy Committee:

Where are Friends called to focus their congressional advocacy work in 2017 and 2018? What follows is the response to the above question discerned by Morningside Monthly Meeting. The format of our response is an adaptation of the online form, with our response to the last two queries on the online form, which ask for comments on the process, presented first, followed by the list of our priorities. [That portion of the online form that asks for contact information has been omitted from this version of our response.]

How the group was organized:

On February 28, at a special meeting of the Peace & Social Concerns Committee (a committee of the whole) gathered to discern which issues we felt should be FCNL's legislative priorities for the 115th Congress. (While the intention was to engage in worship sharing, as it turned out, the meeting involved more of a discussion.)

Twelve Friends participated. A few participants were aged between 40 and 61. Most were over 61.

Comments:

As it turned out, the suggested framework for discernment did not work very well for us. There were none of the nine priorities for the 114th Congress that we felt should not also be priorities in the 115th. In particular, "supporting solutions to mitigate and adapt to climate change" has become ever more urgent. However, we found ourselves reaching unity on "lifting up" certain concerns that may be perceived as sub-sets of current priorities: while they may be mentioned in the current edition of "The World We Seek," they are not specifically included among the 9 current legislative priorities.

We found that the concerns we would like to see "lifted up" were generally related to two kinds of issues:

1. Those having to do with reducing violence (domestic and international, political, as well as physical) and
2. Those having to do with enhancing the "commons" (social and political, as well as environmental)

Priorities in the first category:

- Advance policies to reduce weapons violence, including not only "gun control" laws, but, for example, repeal of the measure that currently prevents the federal government from funding studies of the effects of gun violence.
- Advance policies to promote the use of transformative practices and restorative justice programs to reduce the appalling violence (both physical and moral) that is now inherent in our criminal "justice" system and that also afflicts our immigration system.
- Advance policies aimed at combating the violence of racial, sexual and ethnic prejudice and discrimination, including accurate depictions of our history. Friends are deeply concerned about the rhetorical violence that currently afflicts our politics, and in particular, the fact that so many seem to feel that such rhetoric is "just saying what we really think."
- Advance measures to curtail the policy of assassination by drone, as well as other tactics used in the "war on terror," which may not always involve physical violence, but which are violations none the less, such as the entrapment of Muslim "suspects" by law enforcement.

Priorities in the second category:

Morningsiders felt that Friends should be focused on raising up as an issue how we as a nation deal with “the commons,” especially in the face of efforts since the 1980s to gut measures aimed explicitly at “promoting the general welfare.” Priorities should include:

- Measures to protect and enhance social security and the social safety net in general, and to reduce income inequality.
- Legislation aimed at encouraging maximum participation of all citizens in the political process, including restoration of the Voting Rights Act, an end to systematic efforts at voter suppression, and the reduction of money’s influence in politics.
- Repair and enhancement of the nation’s infrastructure, while maintaining maximum access to it for all, regardless of wealth. In our view, “infrastructure” includes everything from the ground we walk on, the air we breathe, and the water we drink to public libraries, schools and parks. It also includes the internet, access to which should be expanded and the “neutrality” of which should be maintained.

One more thing: Several Friends expressed concern that, while conscientious war tax resistance has been a persistent Witness of Friends from before the American Revolution, the Quaker lobby makes no mention of the Peace Tax Fund Bill, ever. (Nor, indeed, in the current edition of “The World We Seek” is there even any explicit reference to reducing funds for the military.) This has the appearance of relegating the Witness of many Friends, past, present, and future, to irrelevance. While we recognize that FCNL’s lobbying priorities are necessarily limited by available resources, and that enactment of the Peace Tax Fund may seem a forlorn hope, we feel that at least some lobbying on the Peace Tax fund Bill would constitute a Witness: a win would be one more legislator considering the issue and signing on to support the measure.

In Friendship,
Corona Macheimer