

Morningside Matters

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

www.morningsidemeeting.org

September 2016 Calendar

Weekly	Sunday	Meeting for Worship	Riverside Church 490 Riverside Drive, room 12T (childcare provided in room 13T)	11:00 am
Monthly	First Sunday	Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business	room 12T	12:45 pm
	Second Sunday	Bible Study	room 12T	9:30 am
		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 29	NYYM fundraiser Register at https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=577bc9		7:00 – 9:00 pm
	October 7-9	Morningside Meeting Retreat: Creating a Community of Care. Info at: http://stonypointcenter.org/	Stony Point, New York	
	October 13	Quakers & Business Info at http://www.nyym.org/sites/default/files/QuakersandBusiness-Flyer-10-13-16.pdf	1140 6 th Ave., 18 th floor New York City	5:30 pm
	October 14-16	Conflict Resolution Workshop Info at: http://www.nyym.org/?q=node/1518	AVP New Jersey 117 3 rd Avenue Neptune City, NJ	
	October 22	NYYM Budget Saturday Info at: http://nyym.org/?q=node/1508	Purchase Meeting House 4455 Purchase St., Purchase, NY 10577	9:00 am
	October 29	Beyond the Bars: From Reentry to Reconciliation Register at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/beyond-the-bars-from-reentry-to-reconciliation-tickets-27675276497	Brooklyn Meeting	9:00 am – 4:00 pm
	November 11 - 13	NYYM Fall Session Information at http://www.nyym.org/?q=node/458 Registration deadline: October 28, 2016	Ethical Culture Society, White Plains (Saturday) Scarsdale meeting (Friday evening and Sunday)	
Events of interest	Weekly (through September)	Downtown Manhattan Outdoor Meeting	Labyrinth Footpath, NW corner of Battery Park	6:00 – 7:00 pm
	September 25	New York Friends in Unity with Nature Committee meeting	15 th Street Meeting	12:30 pm
	November 10-13	FCNL Annual Meeting and Lobby Day: Spirit Led Action in 2017 https://fcnl.org/events/annual_meeting/2016/	Washington, DC	

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

“Blessed are the confused, for they may see the light. And beware of those who know all the answers, for they are wrong.”

Reginald Reynolds, 1958

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

July 3, 2016

1. The Clerk reads query 16, from the New York Yearly Meeting Faith & Practice: Are we engaged in nurturing and deepening our relationship with all creation? Do we make time to open to the Spirit through our contact with nature? Do we strive to live in harmony with the earth? How can we transform our lives in witness to our right relationship to the Earth, and join with others in active stewardship, realizing that we share one planet, now and in the future?
2. The Meeting approves taking the marriage of Thomas Goodridge and Daniel Seeger under its care. The marriage is planned for Sunday, September 11, 2016 at the Stony Point Retreat Center.

3. The Meeting approves the appointments of Nancy Britton, Kathy Hinton, Mason Jenkins and Dorothy Savage to the Marriage Committee.

Respectfully submitted
Pamela Wood, Clerk

Present: Bryan Oettel, Joyce Richardson, Stephen McDonnell, June Tano, Nancy Britton, Artis Klavins, Ed Elder, Dorothy Savage, Daniel A. Seeger, Tom Goodridge, Ernie Buscemi, David Evans, Charlene Ray, Kathy Stackhouse, David Fletcher, Bernard Winter, Vince Buscemi, Charlotte Ehrman, Richard Schmidt, Lupe Femily, Naomi Paz Greenberg, J.M Margolis, Angela Margolis, Peter Beck, Pamela Wood

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

September 11, 2016

1. The Clerk read the following passage: “We are called upon to love the loveless and the unlovable, to reach out to racists and the torturers, to all those who hurt or 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 revealed to us...that we face the pain of the world, and match it with forgiveness.” (2014)

What Canst Thou Say by Janet Scott, pp. 49-50 in NYYM Faith & Practice

2. The Clerk has received the following request for release from service:

“I keep avoiding writing this email in the hopes that I will see you in meeting, but I have missed you there for the last two weeks. We are leaving NYC on August 1st, so I need to resign my position as Recording Clerk from Morningside Meeting. (BIG sniff!!)” Susan Carmody”

3. The Meeting approves the release of Susan Carmody from her position of Recording Clerk of Morningside Monthly Meeting.

4. The Clerk read parts of the letter she sent to the Trustees of the NY Quarterly Meeting in her position as the Clerk of the Healing and Restorative Justice Program Committee of NY Office of the AFSC. (The complete letter is attached.) Katharine Alford as a trustee reports that the Trustees received the request for space in June, and the program was scheduled to begin in July, which did not give them much time to respond. Additionally, the trustees were still working on the separation agreement with the school, and no summer plans for programs for children were planned by the school because of the construction. The rate of \$80 an hour for space is not, in fact, market rate. The Meeting approves the minute.
 5. The Clerk presented the request of the NYYM Financial Services Committee for an increase of 3.75% for our covenant donation. The Meeting will make a decision at our October Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business after the Finance Committee has had a chance to consider it. The report to the Meeting from the Yearly Meeting Financial Services Committee is attached. The Meeting approves the minute.
 6. Charlene Ray gave an oral report for Ministry & Counsel. The written report is attached.
- Attendance: Bryan Oetell, Barton Dominus, Richard Schmidt, Calvin Alexander Ramsey, Kathy Stackhouse, Katharine Alford, Corona Macheimer, Charlotte Ehrman, Sally Campbell, Naomi Paz Greenberg, Charlene Ray, David Fletcher, Charles Sirey, Pamela Wood

Letter to the Trustees of the NY Quarterly Meeting

July 7, 2016

Dear Friends on Trustees,

On May 17, the AFSC Healing and Transformative Justice Program applied to use Room 1 for their Liberation Summer Youth Advocacy Training Camp in July for a day program. This is a program that educates young people of varied backgrounds on immigration and criminal justice issues. Participants include high school children from Quaker schools, children of incarcerated parents and others. The goal of the program is to encourage students to understand the issues and to become active in addressing them.

Room 1 has been used for the last two years by the program without charge. Last year, apparently because of a misunderstanding, the room had been used without charge again. The AFSC was informed that the fee for this year would be \$8,640 or \$80 per hour. The staff asked if the figure could be reduced, and the trustees were consulted.

Trustees responded that Friends Seminary's large construction project, which is happening this summer, raised control and liability issues; that there was a lack of advance time for the request for the program, which would run almost a month and that the request had been made for free space for a room for which the NYQM usually charges when used over a longer time period than a day. The Trustees did not respond to the request to modify the charges.

As a member of the Quarter and as Clerk of the Healing and Transformative Justice Program in NYC, I find myself with several concerns and questions as a result of learning about this. I understand that the NYQM depends on rents for a significant portion of its income. I have also heard that we are aiming to charge "market rate."

Certainly the fee to be charged was high. To give you a basis of comparison, Morningside Monthly Meeting rents space from Riverside Church at a rate of \$21.15 per hour per room. We rent 2 rooms, both larger than Room 1, and one has a small library room and pantry attached. Riverside may certainly have given us a better rate as a religious group than it gives Columbia University, for example, because they deem us to be part of their larger community with similar goals.

My questions for the New York Quarterly Meeting are as follows:

1. What is the mission of the New York Quarterly Meeting that the Trustees are asked to support in their decision-making?
2. How do we define the community of the New York Quarterly Meeting? Are the New York Yearly Meeting, the American Friends Service Committee, the Youth Service Opportunity Project and the schools part of our community? How do we see ourselves acting in the context of the Quaker Testimony of Community in relation to these groups?

3. Is the kind of rent asked of the American Friends Service Committee and presumably a similar rate structure asked from any other group or organization wishing to rent space consistent with our tradition of fair pricing and our Testimonies of Simplicity and Integrity? Should we be looking at extreme New York City market rates as a model for setting our prices for any rental?

In my role as Clerk of the Healing and Transformative Justice Program in NYC, I met with Ahmet Baydur to see if I could clarify the issues. He was very helpful. Apparently last year, in addition to an incident where a participant was very rude, there were times when some of the participants wandered into the courtyard, and he was concerned that this behavior might be repeated while the school was using the courtyard as a staging area for construction. This is a legitimate concern, and it was on the minds of the staff of the program as they planned for this year. To remedy this, the plan was to have more adults present and to put in place greater supervision of the participants. It seems to me that some discussion around this concern might have led to some constructive problem solving that might have allowed the Camp to be held at 15th Street.

Because the camp cannot be run in a Quaker space, another, less convenient, but also significantly less expensive space has been found for this year. It is my hope that some of these issues can be worked out to everyone's satisfaction so that the camp can take place at 15th Street next year.

At the same time, I believe that as a Quarterly Meeting, we need to consider the above questions to decide who we are and who we want to be.

In Friendship,

Pamela Wood, Clerk

AFSC Program Committee for the New York Healing and Transformative Justice Program

cc. to Clerks of Meetings within the New York Quarterly Meeting

NEW YORK YEARLY MEETING FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
REPORT TO MONTHLY MEETINGS ON 2017 COVENANT DONATION REQUEST

At Summer Sessions, the Financial Services Committee reviewed 2017 expense estimates provided by the clerks of the Coordinating Committees and revenue estimates from the treasurers of New York Yearly Meeting and the Trustees and the General Secretary. The revenue estimates do not include Covenant Donations for 2017. The total expense estimate is \$593,000, which is a \$6,000 increase over the 2016 Budget. The 2017 revenue estimate, excluding Covenant Donations, is \$148,000. This leaves \$445,000 to come from Covenant Donations.

The main expense increases are the following:

1. Sessions Committee: \$5,000: This is due primarily to venues for Fall and Spring Sessions both costing more and needing advance deposits beyond the fiscal year in question.
2. Staff Salaries: \$6,000. This represents a COLA increase of 1.7% and a portion of the salary of the new Children and Youth Field Secretary.
3. Young Adult Concerns: \$2,000. This increase covers costs for conferences, retreats, workshops, material/supplies, Outreach and Childcare
4. Oakwood: \$5,800. The line item was increased to offset reductions to Oakwood contributions as result of reallocating income from the Trust Funds from Oakwood to the operating budget.
5. Powell House: \$7,200 The line item was increased to offset reductions to Powell House contributions as result of reallocating income from the Trust Funds from Powell House to the operating budget.

There are projected expense decreases for 2017 over the 2016 Budget of: \$4,500 in the audit line, \$5,500 in Communications, \$2,600 in the From a Place of Abundance program, and \$2,600 on the FUM Board Rep line.

Revenue, other than from Covenant Donations, is projected to remain approximately at the level in the 2016 Budget.

1. Income from the Trust Funds is expected to increase by \$10,000 due to the reallocation of the Trust Funds
2. Income from the Annual Appeal is expected to increase by \$2,500
3. The line item in the 2016 Budget: "Provision for Next Budget" of \$7,850 is included in Other Revenue.
4. The income from NYYM Treasurer Managed Funds decreases by \$21,000, due to one-time allocations used in 2016 were greater than those available in 2017.

Not included in these estimates is the ARCH program. As a result of discussions at Yearly Meeting it is likely that some of the funding for ARCH will be included in the Yearly Meeting's budget. ARCH has been previously funded only through grants.

During the last 3 years, it has been necessary to rely increasingly on sources of income other than Covenant Donations in order to balance the Yearly Meeting budget.

Some of these sources, such as income from the Trust Funds, have reached their limit; while others, such as the YFIR Fund, have been entirely depleted. In future years, to continue to implement the Leadings and Priorities, the amount of Covenant Donations will need to increase up to the pre-economic crisis level of nearly \$480,000.

FSC recommends that each monthly meeting be requested to increase their 2017 Covenant Donation by 3.75% over 2016. There are 3 reasons for this request:

1. The proposed budget contains no funding for ARCH from the Yearly Meeting. It's likely that some amount will be needed
2. The proposed Budget contains a minimal Contingency Amount which should be appreciably higher for a budget of this size

As sources of income other than Covenant Donations, either reach their limit or are depleted, an increase in Covenant Donations will be needed to continue to implement the Leadings and Priorities. It is prudent for this increase to occur over time.

Morningside Meeting Ministry and Counsel Report September 11, 2016

1. M&C met on Wednesday September 7 at the home of Charlene Ray.
2. The next meeting will be Monday September 26 at the home of David Evans.
3. Bible Study this month will be on September 18.
3. Our next welcome breakfast will be on September 25 at 9:30 hosted by Lucille Adinoff in the Riverside Cafe. All are welcome. If any Friends have an interest in hosting a breakfast see an M&C member.
4. There will be an after meeting discussion about Visioning for the Quarterly Meeting on September 25.
5. M&C currently has 5 support committees and 2 clearness committees.
6. The Morningside Retreat will be October 7th to the 9th. Friends are encouraged to register soon. Forms are available on the Morningside website as well as on the counter by the door. Scholarships are available. Consult Mason or David Fletcher with requests. 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?
8. Ministry and Counsel is in need of some new members. Please consider whether you would like to be of service to our community in this way. We meet monthly in the week preceding business meeting.

New York Friends in Unity with Nature

The New York Friends in Unity with Nature (FUN) committee invites you to attend our meeting at 15th Street Monthly Meeting on Sunday September 25 at 12:30 pm after the 11 am Meeting for Worship. FUN, based in New York City, welcomes Friends from all New York City Meetings.

FUN is re-envisioning its mission in light of the deteriorating conditions of our planetary home. One important new focus we will have is changing our perspective from a human-centered consciousness to one that is rooted in the Sacred Earth Community. What kind of work will this new perspective call for? Come join us to share ideas and learn what projects we are planning.

New York Yearly Meeting Epistle, 2016

To Friends everywhere:

New York Yearly Meeting met at Silver Bay, New York, on the seventh month, from 24th day through the 30th day, in this our 321st gathering for Summer Sessions. In attendance were 476 Friends including 106 in Junior Yearly Meeting.

We lived and reflected upon how Friends best nurture the Blessed Community at every age. We recognized that the blessed community exists among us to be faithfully discovered anew at every turn. We can nurture the blessed community with faithful listening and a readiness to grow and change, even—perhaps especially—when growth and change are hard. We learned from our new Children and Youth Field Secretary, our Young Adult Field Secretary, our ARCH [Aging Resources Consultation & Help] Director, and our General Secretary, many ways that, by hearing deeply the needs of Friends and potential Friends, we can grow our faithful community so we welcome and learn from one another. This year we began two experiments. One was starting each day with a gathering of the whole community in worship; we found beautiful ways, in storytelling, song, play, and one-on-one responses to queries, to share the indwelling spirit with young and older friends. Several Friends remarked that they experienced the gathered body as more inclusive this year. Another innovation was “Whisper Buddies,” the pairing of experienced Friends with those new to Meeting for Business, to explain the work of the Meeting.

Friends who attended the Friends World Committee for Consultation conference in Peru reported rich encounters with Friends around the world, with great energy around the work of young adults.

We yearn for a more economically and racially diverse body. We actively await leadings that envision action to move toward that yearning, including discernment around the Pay as Led payment system. In Meeting for Discernment, Friends dwelt on the need for trust as leadings unfold: trust in one another and trust in The Source. We honored those who have cared for our Yearly Meeting, some of whom are stepping down after long service. As change comes to the Yearly Meeting, we consider what we wish to become.

In this year of terrible racial violence, we were especially tender about barriers to community that arise from the persistence of racism: how difficult it is to expel the legacy of white privilege, how painful it is that so many Friends and potential Friends are kept from us by mass incarceration and an unequal criminal legal system, by money and time constraints. We marveled anew at the strength of spirit with which some Friends surmount these obstacles. Friends’ awareness of racism and privilege was amplified by more than one hundred New York Yearly Meeting Friends’ attendance at the Seventeenth White Privilege Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. We rededicated ourselves to advancing a more equal society that recognizes that of God in every person. Our search for Truth as individual Friends and as a body demands that we seek to create a Blessed Community that is available to all. As Jesus instructed his followers at the end of a chapter we considered in Bible Study, “love one another, as I have loved you” (John 13:34).

Lucinda Antrim,
Clerk

Save the Date: Ad Hoc Group on Aging in Community

Saturday, November 19, Brooklyn Meetinghouse – come hear about the work and join with the concerns of the ad-hoc group that has been meeting on aging in community and keeping our elders in New York City. We will meet in retreat for discussion and a lunch meal to talk about housing, socialization/fun, services for aging and building intergenerational community. This gathering is sponsored by NYQM’s Committee on Ministry and Counsel. All are welcome.

Free Online Course: Radical Spirituality, the Early History of the Quakers

A free 3-week online course by Ben Pink Dandelion explores the origins of the Quaker movement and the meaning it carries today. The course starts on October 3. For more information and to register go to: <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/quakers/1>.