

Ministry Coordinating Committee

22 July 2013

Present: Mary Pugh Clark, Ann Davidson, Chris De Roller, Charley Flint, Mary Kay Glazer, Irma Guthrie, Lu Harper, Jeff Hitchcock, Mia Kissel-Hewitt, Sarah Miller, Amy Willauer-Obermayer, Peter Phillips, Anne Pomeroy, Tom Rothschild, Ann Schillinger, Rima Segal, Claire Simon, Sarah Way

The meeting began with a period of worship.

1. Amy announced a session Wednesday night on drug & alcohol use at Silver Bay and encouraged all to attend.
2. Amy reminded committee clerks to consider their budget needs for next year and to let Amy know what they are. If she hasn't heard from committee clerks by Friday's meeting, she will submit last year's budget. A concern was raised that in the future that we carry forward intentionality about budgeting rather than decide budgets by default.
3. Amy reviewed the agenda, report from internal nominating committee and the clerk of MCC; report from State of Society Committee; and the Apology from the Task Group on Racism.
4. Irma Guthrie reported from Internal Nominating Committee. Several friends were approached but were not able to take on the commitment of MCC clerk at this time. We are still looking for a clerk for MCC. What is the opportunity for us as a YM, given that no one is able to fit into this role in the YM structure? Is there an opportunity to restructure the responsibilities? Priorities Working Group or Meeting for Discernment representation requires only a representative from the Coordinating Committee, not the clerk per se, although our practice has been that if there is no representative, the responsibility falls back to the Clerk. Amy reminded us that she is rotating off at the end of Summer Sessions. We will return to this on Friday.
5. Sarah Way reported for the State of Society Committee. She reminded us that we've had a problem with monthly meetings replying late to the State of Society queries, and that at Spring Sessions we had explored the possibility of having one standard query to respond to each year. She shared 5 queries that might be reused every year:
 - a. How would you describe the spiritual health of your meeting?
 - b. How does your meeting minister to the needs of individuals? How do individuals relate to the meeting?
 - c. How does the meeting function as a body?
 - d. How does your meeting engage the wider world for witness, service, and outreach?
 - e. How does your meeting understand its connection to the history of Quakerism? How does your meeting understand its Quaker witness today?

Some Friends appreciated having the same queries every year. Others suggested a simple, single query inviting meetings to share their state. Friends wondered whether it might be helpful to send monthly meetings a letter from the State of Society committee suggesting ways to interact with the queries. We might suggest these as permanent queries, and ask for feedback from the monthly meetings. It might take a few tries to be certain we have the queries well-worded. Friends suggested language connecting the life of the Meeting with God/Spirit. The committee will work on that further.

Friends approved State of Society Committee sending out these queries as revised as proposed queries.

6. Irma Guthrie brought a revised version of the Apology to Afro-Descendants from the Task Group on Racism. Friends asked for clarification in the 3rd paragraph relating to the 13th Amendment, replacing the word “exemption” with “exception.” An interest group will be held on Wednesday. Friends approved the Apology, and asked that it be sent to the floor of the Yearly Meeting at a future session.

Meeting closed at 3:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lu Harper
Rochester Meeting
Recording Clerk

Ministry Coordinating Committee

Summer Sessions 7/26/2013

Present: Don Badgley, Nathaniel Corwin, Steven Davison, Charley Flint, Irma Guthrie, Lu Harper, Jeff Hitchcock, Sarah Miller, Amy Willauer-Obermayer, Anne Pomeroy, Tom Rothschild, Christopher Sammond, Rima Segal, Anne Wright

Our 2nd meeting during summer sessions opened at 3:32 pm with a period of worship.

1. Irma Guthrie reported from the Committee to Revise Faith & Practice on an edit to the language that had its first reading at Spring Sessions on the proposed definition of Worship Groups for Faith & Practice. Friends considered a change to the first sentence, that would read “When Friends or other seekers choose to worship together on a regular basis, whether in a community or in prison, they may form a worship group *and request* [previously *by requesting*] the care of a nearby monthly, quarterly, regional, or half-yearly meeting.” Friends were not clear to accept the change in language, and recommended that the committee on Faith & Practice discuss the relationship of worship group to indulged or allowed meetings. A Friend raised the question of how unaffiliated Quaker bodies within the geographic area of the Yearly Meeting are listed in the Yearbook.
2. Clerk Amy Willauer-Obermayer proposed that the current clerk of the internal nominating committee, Irma Guthrie, who by our process cannot nominate herself, be named the incoming clerk of Ministry Coordinating Committee. Friends approved. Irma is currently clerking the Task Group on Racism and the Committee to Revise Faith & Practice. Irma will consult with those committees as to whether there are Friends willing to clerk. Irma asks whether someone would serve as MCC’s representative to Meeting for Discernment Steering Committee. Tom Rothschild will consider whether he is called to that service. The committee is clear to approve Tom in that service subject to his discernment.

Friends were invited to reflect on the query, “What in this work sustains our faithfulness?” Meeting closed with a period of worship at 4:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lu Harper
Rochester Meeting
Recording Clerk