

**NEW YORK YEARLY MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
October 4, 2015
Held at Cornwall Monthly Meeting**

Present: Spee Braun, Frederick Dettmer (Clerk), Peter Phillips (Recording Clerk), James Whitely, Mary Williams

The meeting opened with worship.

1. **Old Business:** Open items from prior Trustees Meetings: (20 minutes)
 - a. Use of grants from the Martin Leach Fund and Florence Stevens Fund was addressed at its meeting of July 22, 2015. Spee Braun reported that the designation of the Florence Stevens Fund and the Martin Leach Fund to the use of the general operating fund has been approved by the body.
 - b. Status of requests for Accountability Reports from recipients of funds: No further reports have been received. **Fred Dettmer will contact World Ministries.** Neither Advancement nor Mosher has reported. **Peter Phillips will contact Advancement to clarify the status of the report, and will advise Mosher that, in the absence of a report, no additional grants will be distributed.**
 - c. **If needed, Fred Dettmer will forward to General Services Coordinating Committee a proposal to include the Trustees' Clerk or designee in the Liaison Committee.**
 - d. **Jim Whitely is approved to serve as the Trustees' representative to the Audit Committee. Fred Dettmer will advise Tim Johnson.**
 - e. At its June meeting, the Trustees agreed to propose to General Services Coordinating Committee that Lindley Murray, Mosher Fund and all other granting entities within the Yearly Meeting be reorganized and consolidated. The Trustees discussed whether the separate incorporation of the Lindley Murray Fund would prohibit the fulfillment of the strategy of all applicants for grants applying to a single entity – the Trustees – and delegated to “centers of competence” for review and recommendation to the Trustees. **Fred Dettmer will contact the Clerk of Lindley Murray to propose a telephonic meeting of both bodies to discuss the issue.**
 - f. In April, the Trustees agreed to dispose of the Morris Cemetery (and cemetery maintenance fund); the Monkton property (Methodist Church); and Yorktown Heights (Calvary Bible Church). Mary Williams reported that she had not yet contacted Yorktown, and **Fred Dettmer will request a meeting with Calvary Bible Church. Fred Dettmer will advise the Morris Cemetery municipality that the Yearly Meeting asserts no claim to the property, and will also investigate the proper disposition of the associated fund. Fred Dettmer will contact Linda Hauser about the status of finding a real estate broker to sell the Monkton property.**
 - g. Management of the Stevens Fund, to support ministers and others in need, is in a state of confusion and uncertainty. It is desirable that the Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee account

for the use of these funds, with an eye to determining whether the current recipients are in need and whether other potential recipients are being identified. **Spee Braun will draft a letter to the Committee for Fred Dettmer's signature, requesting an accounting of their stewardship of this Fund.**

2. **Treasurer's Report:** No report was made.
3. **By-Laws:** The Trustees reviewed two proposed revisions to the draft By-Laws, and approved the version attached. A second reading will be presented at Fall Sessions.
4. **Funding Request:** A request has been received from the General Secretary for funds to assist Meetings to attend Yearly Meeting sessions. There are no restricted funds available for this purpose. As a general matter, the Trustees are moving away from receiving and assessing the merits of specific proposals from specific applicants for specific purposes, in favor of making a large grant to the Yearly Meeting from unrestricted funds, for uses that that body, not the Trustees, may determine. **The Clerk will advise the General Secretary of this action.**
5. **Plattekill Meeting House:** Nine Partners Quarter Co-Clerk has advised the Trustees that he had been contacted by a representative of Huguenot Historical Society, to which the Plattekill Meeting House had been transferred in the 1960s, asking if there were any interest in the Quarter's receiving it back by (presumably) gratuitous transfer. We are advised that there is both a right of way and a right of reverter in the Deed. **Peter Phillips will inquire about the deed and also inquire with a local real estate broker as to the marketability of the property.**
6. **Legal Counsel:** The Trustees will discuss at a future meeting the practices and recommendations of obtaining pro bono legal advice for its actions.
7. **Trust Funds Restructuring:** Mary Hannon Williams distributed a spread sheet and explanatory document (both attached) on how trust funds may be restructured to create groups of similarly purposed funds. After presentation of the rationale behind the allocation of funds among the proposed groups, questions were posed and a report was made on the discussion of this topic that took place in Silver Bay during an interest group session. Among these concerns were whether smaller concerns of grantors might be overlooked upon consolidation; whether funds to the operating budget be designated for specific use if so restricted; whether funds going to outside groups be made directly by the Trustees or through the operating fund; and whether the principal of each fund be respected. A Friend proposed that unrestricted funds be distributed in a single payment to the Yearly Meeting, annotated with respect to any prior uses; and that restricted funds also be given to the Yearly Meeting with an expectation of accountability for its uses from the Yearly Meeting to the Trustees. A similar plan might be undertaken for funds distributed to committees, perhaps through the offices of the Sharing Fund. The proposal that outdated funds be consolidated or repurposed through legal action was also to be addressed in the future. The Trustees discussed the adoption of the plan as proposed, and distributing the reorganization as a proposal with the hope that further refinements to it will be forthcoming as the entities affected are made aware of it. No action was taken, and **the matter will be revisited at Fall Sessions.** The proposal will be revised prior to our meeting again.
8. **Clerk's Report:** Fred Dettmer has included the General Secretary, Yearly Meeting Clerk and Yearly Meeting Assistant Clerk in distribution of general Trustee materials, such as agendas and minutes. The Trustees approved the practice.

9. The Trustees will next meet on Saturday, November 7, during Fall Sessions.

The meeting closed in worship.

Frederick Dettmer, Clerk

Peter Phillips, Recording Clerk