

Witness Coordinating Committee Minutes for April 5, 2014

Present: Mary Eagleson, *clerk*; Helen Garay Toppins, *treasurer, also Black Concerns Committee and Prisons Committee*; Robert Kazmeyer (Sunfire), *member at large*; Robin Mallison Alpern, *recording clerk, European American Quakers Working to End Racism Working Group*; Fred Doneit, *Earthcare Working Group*; Frederick Dettmer, *National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund, NYS Council of Churches*; Joan Cope Savage, *member at large*; Tom Rothschild, *visitor*; Susan Wolf, *Indian Affairs Committee*; Chris DeRoller, *visitor*; Jeffrey Hitchcock, *NYYM clerk, NYS Council of Churches*; Emily Boardman, *Indian Affairs Committee*; Jane Simkin, *Rural & Migrant Ministries*; Shirley Way, *member at large*; Naceo Giles, *Barrington Dunbar Fund*; Pamela Wood, *Prisons*; Suzanne Blackburn, *member at large*; Judy Meikle, *member at large*; Paddy Lane, *visitor*; Charlie Ulrich, *visitor*

Regrets: Patricia Chernoff, Sue Weisfeld, Naomi Paz Greenberg, Jens Braun

01-2014-1. Witness Activities Fund grants:

a. We approved changing the purpose of the WAF grant to the **Chwele working group** from travel for AVP facilitators to Chwele to bringing Friends from Chwele to our Summer Sessions.

b. Friends approved **Judy Meikle's application** to apply the \$412 left over from her 2011 WAF grant, for which she has sent a detailed report, towards attending an Organizing Skills Institute workshop at Training for Change in Philadelphia this month.

c. We approved granting \$2000 toward the cost of producing a **Sharing the River of Life Teach-In** on honoring Native treaties and protecting the Earth. It will take place at Brooklyn Meeting on April 25-26, and is co-sponsored by the Two- Row Wampum Renewal Campaign, Brooklyn Friends School, Brooklyn Friends Meeting and others.

d. We approved \$700 to Ithaca Monthly Meeting for the “Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change” workshop on June 20, to explore indigenous issues and concerns. If other sponsors donate funds, or if participants are charged a fee, some or all of the WAF grant will be returned.

e. Scarsdale Friends Meeting requests \$175 to offer an AVP mini-workshop in White Plains in September, to introduce prospective participants to AVP. Friends approved this grant.

01-2014-2. Sharing Fund policy (continuation from January discussion): After lengthy discussion, we agreed Helen Garay Toppins, Mary Eagleson and Joan Cope Savage will work together on a proposal to bring back to us.

01-2014-3. Friends discussed at length the question of whether to transfer some or all of the SF endowment to the **Green Fund of Friends Fiduciary**. We agreed to lay over a decision.

01-2014-4. Jane Simkin reported on **activities of Rural and Migrant Ministries**, including outreach events, work with youth, and interfaith activity. Friends suggested Jane send

announcements and reports to InfoShare.

01-2014-5. Robert Kazmeyer urges us to **submit photos and videos for the "social witness" section** of the NYYM website.

01-2014-6. Friends empowered Mary find two people to serve on an **internal nominating committee** to nominate a clerk, assistant clerk, recording clerk and financial clerk in July.