

Witness Coordinating Committee

Meeting: January 30, 2016

Present: Lucinda Antrim (NYYM Clerk), Fred Dettmer (FCNL, NCPTF, AFSC), Mary Eagleson (At large, clerk), Regina Bard Haag (fund recipient), Glenn Josey (fund recipient), Robert Kazmayer (Sunfire, At Large, Recording Clerk), Jill McLellan (Prisons, AVP), Judy Meikle (At large), Helen Toppins (Black Concerns, Barrington Dunbar), Andy von Salis (COPW, At large), Pamela Wood (At large), Jens Braun (NRCAT, Torture Awareness)

Minute 2016-01-01: Reports/requests were received from all committees (including Right Sharing and Barrington Dunbar received today).

The following percentages were approved as allocations from the Sharing Fund.

AVP - 8%

Barrington Dunbar – 21 %

Black Concerns - 8 %

Earthcare Working Group - 1 %

EAQWER - 1 %

Indian Affairs - 15 %

Prisons - 8 %

Right Sharing - 6 %

World Ministries - 10 %

Witness Activities - 16 %

Witness to the World (Contributions to outside organizations) - 6 %

Minute 2016-01-02: Finance committee expressed concern about the lack of material from committees justifying budget decisions. The clerk requests that – for 2017 – the budgets be prepared and approved by the committees by the end of Fall Sessions 2016 and submitted promptly so that decisions can be made on allocations from the Sharing Fund in a timely manner.. She will send out a calendar to all committee members at the end of July. The finance committee worked with a goal of \$45,000 from fundraising and \$20,000 from endowments. After the 2015 books are closed, the committee will have final figures on contributions and will be able to adjust the contributions goal appropriately, if necessary.

Minute 2016-01-03: The following expenditures were approved from the Witness to the World Line:

BQEF	20%	\$ 780*
AFSC (Healing & Trans.)	10%	\$ 390
Friends Peace Teams	10%	\$ 390
NJ Council of Churches	10%	\$390
NY Council of Churches	10%	\$ 390
Quaker Earthcare Witness	15%	\$ 580*
William Penn House	10%	\$ 390
NCPTF	10%	\$ 390
NRCAT	10%	\$ 390

*[When these minutes were proof-read, the clerk noticed that those percentages we approved add up to 105%. The financial subcommittee therefore adjusted them so that BQEF would receive 17% (\$663) and QEW, 13% (\$507).

Minute 2016-01-04: Minutes approved to this point.

Minute 2016-01-05: Finance recommended that the cost of the appeal letter be again taken from the endowment funds before the funds are divided among recipients. Approved.

Minute 2016-01-06: The clerk proposed a set of questions to give to committees making requests for funds for their budgets. The queries are appended to these minutes so that they will be available to the committees at summer sessions. Friends will note that they refer specifically to the NYYM Leadings and Priorities.

Minute 2016-01-07: Minutes approved to this point

Minute 2016-01-08: Applications for Witness Activities Fund grants:

--Montclair's Application approved for \$350 for a Solitary Confinement Cell which will belong to the Yearly Meeting.

--We approved the following amounts for monthly meetings who requested support for their members and attenders to attend the White Privilege Conference. In each case, we approved grants up to the requested amount, pending applications from the members and attenders of those meetings: \$1000 for Rahway-Plainfield, \$420 for New Paltz \$420, \$350 for Old Chatham, and \$600 for adult chaperones for youth who go with the Powell House youth program.

--Remaining applications – \$ 100 for Old Chatham for film series, \$1,200 to Orchard Park for textbooks for secondary students at Crossroads Springs School in Hamisi, Kenya, and \$1000 to Fifteenth Street Meeting for their homeless shelter - were approved.

Minute 2016-01-09: Regina Haag reported on NY Council of Churches conference she attended . Report is attached.

Minute 2016-01-10: Sunfire presented a report from the Earthcare Working Group The report is attached.

Minute 2016-01-11: Minutes approved up to this point. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.

In the afternoon, a session to consider what leadings for witness activities are alive among us was held. Friends shared their personal leadings, and also those within their own monthly and regional meetings. Notes were taken, and as more meetings and regions respond to our queries, these will be augmented so that we obtain a better picture of the concerns we share at present.

Queries for Committees as they plan their budgets for the next year

Committees are urged to plan for their activities in the following year at Summer Sessions, and based on this plan, to create a budget for approval by the committee at Fall Sessions. The budget should then be submitted to the WCC financial subcommittee soon after Fall Sessions.

- **What are the planned work, activities or contributions for the coming calendar year?**
- **What Friends and/or communities will do this work?**
- **Which NYYM priorities or needs does the work, witness or activity meet? What other needs does it meet?**

- **Have efforts been made to involve Friends from at least two different monthly meetings in the proposed work, witness or activity? How successful have these efforts been?**
- **What are the goals of this proposed work, witness or activity?**
- **How will Friends know that this work, witness or activity is finished? Are there milestones and/or benchmarks along the way? If so, what are they?**
- **How do Friends plan to sustain this work, witness or activity? What is needed for its sustainability?**
- **Who is the clerk of the committee submitting this request? Is there a contact person other than the clerk?**

Name, email, phone, street address

Report from Regina Baird Haag on the Faith for a Fair New York Retreat

Thank you for your financial support that enabled me to attend this event! This was my second retreat; I attended last year as well. The focus of the retreat is to bring faith community leaders "up to speed" about a variety of issues that concern folks at the grass roots level as we unite to advocate for social and economic justice in New York State. The growing network of people of faith with community and labor allies is a partnership undergirded by both Scripture from the First and Second testaments, as well as the testimonies of the Religious Society of Friends.

For me, the most compelling presentation was the "Rise of the Low Wage Economy" as we heard about the struggles and realities from a person who is experiencing them firsthand. I was also inspired by the concluding segment on how we might act to make an impact this year.

I personally am committed to supporting the Moral Mondays events, as I am able. I would also like to share this information widely in our Yearly Meeting. Last year's retreat encouraged me to vote for a local Green Party candidate for the first time in my life, so I am aware of the impact that this information can carry and inspire.

Additionally, Friends might be interested to learn that Sara Niccoli, who is the director of the Labor Religion Coalition, as well as a Friend, is initiating a campaign to run for the State Senate in her home district.

Summary of the Oral Report Given by Sunfire on Jan 30 to the Witness Coordinating Committee

The core of the Earthcare Working Group consists of five Friends who had all in 2014 agreed to be Connector Friends who would visit meetings to help them better implement the **2007** Eco-Spirituality

and Action Minute and Advice 17 and Query 16. We have visited Monthly Meetings, Quarterly Meetings and Quaker Schools. We are now considering offering one-day retreats for Monthly Meetings, as part of the program being offered by the Nurture Committee. We feel we need to work on the design for this retreat before offering it. We are also working to include others in our efforts from the group that has previously expressed interest in Earthcare, and to this end are circulating a questionnaire – but have had some technical difficulties emailing a message about the questionnaire to the Google group that has most of the email addresses of those expressing interest in the group.