

**NEW YORK YEARLY MEETING**  
**FALL SESSIONS**  
**December 3-5, 2021**

Online via Zoom  
Saturday morning, December 4, 2021

*Elaine Learnard (Conscience Bay), Clerk*  
*Gloria Thompson (Manhattan), Assistant Clerk*  
*Laura Higgins (Wilton), Recording Clerk*

2021-12-01. Friends remained gathered in deep worship.

2021-12-02. Buffy Curtis (Mohawk Valley) read the Land Acknowledgement with gratitude, including a roll call of the Indigenous Peoples populating the New York Yearly Meeting geography. Our history with the Indigenous People intertwined with both good and bad outcomes. The Land Acknowledgement is attached.

2021-12-03. Roll call was read by Robin Alpern (Amawalk), reading clerk, including the names of regions, monthly meetings, worship groups, and at-large yearly meeting members. When we heard the name of our monthly meeting, Friends turned on their microphone and camera, which moved their window to the top of the other participants' "gallery view" in Zoom.

2021-12-04. Robin Alpern (Amawalk) invited visitors to introduce themselves. We welcomed Steve Willett from the UK and Daniel Lean-Moctezuma from Honduras, who attends the Mexico City Monthly Meeting on-line, part of Pacific Yearly Meeting.

2021-12-05. Elaine Learned (Conscience Bay) gave the clerk's welcome and introduced the clerks table. She noted we will likely experience the profound while dealing with the ordinary. Elaine's comments are [attached](#).

2021-12-06. The Treasurer's Report was presented by Laura Cisar, treasurer. Two major areas of income fell short of their budgeted amount as of November 30. Monthly meetings' covenant donations brought in 74% and individual contributions brought in 48.3% (\$318,395 and 24,139 respectively). Although disbursements were also well below budget, New York Yearly Meeting has a current deficit of \$70,169. The biggest change from last year is in covenant donations. However, by the end of the year, we anticipate an excess of approximately \$40,000. See the [latest Treasurer's Reports](#) on the New York Yearly Meeting website, [nyym.org/content/nyym-treasurers-reports-2021](http://nyym.org/content/nyym-treasurers-reports-2021).

2021-12-07. Minutes to this point were edited and approved

2021-12-08. The budget proposal was presented by Mary Williams, co-clerk of Financial Services Committee. This proposal reflects concerns that were considered at Budget Saturday and other meetings.

Two documents with different levels of detail are in the advance documents on the New York Yearly Meeting website: See the [overview](#) (attached) and/or the [full budget proposal](#). The proposed 2022 budget anticipates a \$103,875 deficit, which will be funded out of operating reserves that accumulated during excess years. Individuals and meetings can contribute overall, unrestricted to New York Yearly Meeting, or specifically to Aging Concerns; Children, Youth, and Young Adults; Equalization; and the Sharing Fund. Pay as Led contributions can be made when people register for a Sessions.

By far the largest expense is personnel. The forecast for 2022 is slightly lower than the budget for 2021. Lower participation is anticipated for Summer Sessions. The higher 2022 budget for the Task Group on Racism reflects planned training.

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), Friends Center on National Legislation (FCNL), Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) have been added to our budget as affiliated organizations because Nominating brings names of representatives for those organizations. Also, contributions to these organizations will no longer come from the Sharing Fund, but they will receive other funds from Witness.

Friends approved the 2022 budget of \$852,000 income vs. expenses of \$955,875 with the deficit of \$103,875 being covered by the operating reserves (as necessary). Two Friends indicated they could not be in unity with this decision, because it seemed to them unwise to fund our work from the operating reserves, as this course of action cannot be sustainable.

2021-12-09. Minutes to this point were amended and approved.

Online via Zoom  
Saturday afternoon, December 4, 2021

*Gloria Thompson (Manhattan), Clerk  
Bridget Bower (Perry City), Assistant Clerk  
Lucy (Lu) Harper (Rochester), Recording Clerk  
Robin Mallison Alpern (Amawalk), Reading Clerk*

2021-12-10. Friends remained gathered in deep worship.

2021-12-11. The clerk opened our business session with two readings:

“Friends are not to meet [in meetings for business] like a company of people about town or parish business ... but to wait upon the Lord.” – George Fox, *Letters*

“We look with tender hearts, especially during meetings for worship with a concern for business, for one another’s spiritual vision. Truths of the Spirit may come from any of us.” (*New York Yearly Meeting, Faith & Practice, Page 26*)

The clerk introduced the clerks table and invited visitors to introduce themselves. Frances O’Hara (Storrs, NEYM), Kathleen Wooten (Fresh Pond, NEYM), Ian Weinstock (attender Purchase) introduced themselves, in addition to Friends who introduced themselves in the morning session.

2021-12-12. The reading clerk read an [announcement](#), attached, about the [Draft NYYM Statement on Becoming an Anti-Racist Faith Community](#), anti-racism training, and resources. (See Summer Sessions 2021 minutes or visit [nyym.org/anti-racism-statement](http://nyym.org/anti-racism-statement).) Individuals are encouraged to participate in [anti-racism training opportunities](#) and meetings are asked to explore what becoming an anti-racist faith community will ask of and give to their community. Questions can be directed to [antiracism-questions@nyym.org](mailto:antiracism-questions@nyym.org).

2021-12-13. Fred Dettmer (Purchase) reported on NYYM’s application for a group 501(c)3 exemption from the IRS, allowing the yearly meeting to hold the exemption on behalf of all monthly meetings. The group exemption may facilitate some charitable trust donations to monthly meetings. The IRS has sent the initial application back with a form they expect us to fill out and resubmit, which Fred expects to be able to do in January 2022.

2021-12-14. Rosanne Press (Housatonic), clerk of NYYM Trustees, reported on the Trustees’ lengthy review of the Lindley Murray Testamentary Trust Fund (LMT), undertaken in the spirit of transparency, as part of their ongoing review of all the yearly meeting’s invested funds. The LMT was set up in the 1830s as a testamentary trust under the will of Lindley Murray. Due to changes in tax law since the LMT was initially set up, the LMT is currently subject to many of the same rules as a private foundation, including the need to distribute at least 5% of its value per year. NYYM Trustees determined that having an institution rather than individuals serve as trustee of the LMT would better preserve the LMT’s resources and decided to name Friends Fiduciary Corporation as the trustee for the LMT. NYYM’s Lindley Murray Committee will continue to manage the trust distributions as they have in the past. Ro thanked Ian Weinstock (Purchase Meeting) for his expert help to the trustees in this matter. Friends received the report.

2021-12-15. The recording clerk read the minutes to this point. Friends approved the minutes.

2021-12-16. Fred Dettmer (Purchase) reported on the status of the DOCCS/Green Haven case (Green Haven Prison Preparative Meeting vs. New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, et al). Fred summarized the origins of this case. NYYM went to court in 2018, making a motion for a preliminary injunction restoring the Green Haven Quarterly Meetings. The District Court and the 2nd Circuit denied the motion. The NYYM is planning to petition the US Supreme Court for a writ of certiorari, and to go forward with proceedings in the

district court, simultaneously. Fred summarized the points the petition to the Supreme Court will cover (see [full report](#), attached). In response to a question, Fred noted that contributions from Prisons Committee and from monthly and quarterly meetings are supporting this case. Fred has offered his professional time pro bono. Friends received the report.

2021-12-17. Steve Mohlke (Ithaca), NYYM general secretary, reported that between 2018 and 2020, the yearly meeting approved the concept of, and funding for, a position or positions serving children, youth and young adults. Things take longer than expected. With the help of many Friends, a job description was created and a search process begun. Steve reported that Daniela Salazar Monárrez (Flushing) has accepted the position of Children, Youth and Young Adult Community Director. Daniela will work with both the Youth Committee and the Young Adult Advisory Group. Unfortunately, Daniela was too ill today to be with us and introduce herself. Steve told us about Daniela and shared his excitement about her acceptance of the position. She is expected to begin in the position on January 24th. Friends were asked to hold Daniela in the Light. Friends asked about the change in job title from Field Secretary to Director, and “Families” missing from the title. Steve asked us to hold the vision of how this position will help us serve these communities. Friends held up the importance of the committees in supporting Daniela’s work. Friends received Steve’s report.

2021-12-18. Powell House report: Regina Haag, co-executive director of Powell House began her report by sharing photographs highlighting Powell House’s challenging past year.

**Attendance Dec 31. 2020-Nov 30 2021**

Adult/Intergenerational: 305 participants;

Monthly Meeting retreats: none;

Community groups: 217 participants (bolstered by sojourners);

Youth program: 220 participants;

Yearly meeting events: 49 participants.

Virtual programming has attracted a geographically expanded, more diverse audience. Second Thirds program aimed at mainly 35-59 year olds included 15 events.

Regina reported on PoHo’s gratitude for yearly meeting support of its capital campaign. \$250,000 is already in place; the campaign has a goal of \$2M.

Many improvements have been made over the year. Almost all of the inside of Pitt Hall has been painted. PoHo now has a 65” TV screen to support hybrid/virtual events. The pandemic continues to affect programming. Programming decisions continue to be made on an event-by-event basis. As of January 1st PoHo will require that all visitors be fully vaccinated, supported by on-site rapid testing.

Regina concluded by reminding us that Powell House is still here!

Friends received the report.

2021-12-19. The recording clerk read the remainder of the minutes. Friends approved the minutes.

2021-12-20. Meeting closed with a period of worship.

Online via Zoom  
Sunday afternoon, December 5, 2021

*Elaine Learnard (Conscience Bay), Clerk  
Gloria Thompson (Manhattan), Assistant Clerk  
Laura Higgins (Wilton), Recording Clerk  
Karen Snare (Bulls Head-Oswego), Reading Clerk*

2021-12-21. Friends remained gathered in deep worship.

2021-12-22. Clerk asked for any visitors to introduce themselves, but none were present. Clerk said that although the budget was approved yesterday, we will continue to discern how we spend our money. Last year, we made a leap of faith and though right now it looks as if we may not need to use our reserves for this year's expenses, we have work yet to do to live up to that leap.

2021-12-23. Steve Mohlke (Ithaca), General Secretary, gave an announcement about the work on developing a standard operating procedures document. We sometimes do not know or forget how we "do things around here." On the New York Yearly Meeting website there is a Google doc at [nyym.org/sop](http://nyym.org/sop) with a Library of Policies and Procedures. This is where we say "who we be".

Clerk noted that having this library is part of our journey of transparency. Everyone has access to the information. We do not expect all the sections to be perfect. The person responsible for each section is named in the footnotes. Comments can be sent directly to them.

2021-12-24. Lu Harper (Rochester) reported on behalf of Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee that Hans-Jürgen Lehmann's membership was transferred from Ridgewood Meeting to New York Yearly Meeting At Large. No action except celebration is expected.

2021-12-25. Steve Mohlke, general secretary, reported that he and the clerk took two interim actions since Summer Sessions. (Two sign-ons were referred from the Climate Justice Working Group and Witness Coordinating Committee.) New York Yearly Meeting signed onto a letter from faith organizations and faith leaders calling on every national government in the world to sign the Fossil Fuel Non-proliferation Treaty. In response to a 2017 call from a consortium of least developed nations, civil society leaders from around the world formed a network called the Fossil Fuel Non-proliferation Treaty Initiative to campaign for a treaty to "phase out fossil fuels and build a just transition that is not made to the detriment of populations but with them," modeled on the non-proliferation treaties for landmines and nuclear weapons.

The second was the Trade Justice Campaign letter sent to the U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai urging her to consider that one of her initial steps include eliminating existing trade pacts' threats to climate initiatives in the United States and around the world. Climate policies must be made immune to any and all attacks made through trade agreements. The letter further asks Representative Tai to propose and secure a "peace clause" at the World Trade Organization (WTO), under which all nations agree not to use WTO rules to attack one another's climate policies.

A detailed report about the two letters New York Yearly Meeting signed is attached and available [online here](#).

2021-12-26. [Seasoned Business Items List](#) was not published early enough to be approved without discussion. The report from the Nominating Committee was read by Karen Snare, reading clerk. Friends approved the report from the Nominating Committee.

*Oakwood Board of Managers*

Patrick Crowley ('19)	Davis Mtg., Pacific Yearly Meeting	Class of 2022
Kate Moss ('19)	Fifteenth St.	Class of 2022
Elizabeth Porter ('15)	New England Yearly Meeting	Class of 2024
William Reagan ('15)	Easton	Class of 2024
Deborah Wood ('18)	Purchase	Class of 2024

*Friends General Conference Central Committee rep*

Eleanor (Ellie) Rosenberg	Ithaca	Class of 2024
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*Lindley Murray Committee*

Robin Gowin	New Brunswick	Class of 2024
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*Epistle*

Beatrice Beguin	Saranac Lake	Class of 2024
Roger Dreisbach-Williams	Rahway & Plainfield	Class of 2024

*World Ministries*

Lisa Stewart ('18)	Hudson	Class of 2024
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Friends approved the above report from Nominating Committee.

Nominating Committee reported the following **Release/Resignations**:

Bryan Wigfall, Morningside, from *Sessions Committee* (class of 2022)  
Benjamin Frisch, Brooklyn, from *Oakwood School Board of Managers* (class of 2023)  
Polly Duke, Westbury, from *Development Committee* (class of 2024)

2021-12-27. Minutes to this point were read and approved.

2021-12-28. Dawn Pozzi, Clerk of Sessions Committee, gave the Sessions report. The registration team for Fall Sessions 2021 was Helen Garay Toppins, Bronwyn Mohlke, and Ro Press. The team reported 144 Friends registered: 135 are over 35 years old; nine are young adult Friends. The registrants represented 48 monthly meetings (including two prison meetings and NYYM at large members.)

Spring Sessions is scheduled for April 1-3 at Oakwood Friends School. A hybrid meeting option will be available. Hybrid testing will occur prior to April.

Summer Sessions is scheduled for July 24-30 at Silver Bay. Having a hybrid option for Summer Sessions will be a larger undertaking. So, we will be testing with Silver Bay extensively. Our contract with Silver Bay guarantees only 300 persons. Consequently, we may not have the entire Silver Bay property. Another group, possibly larger, might be there at the same time. The Summer Sessions theme is "Being Changed, Living Faithfully". Let's keep the theme in mind throughout the year.

2021-12-29. Minute read and approved.

2021-12-30. The Winter Meeting for Discernment is February 26, 2022, and will be on Zoom only.

2021-12-31. The meeting ended in settled worship.