

**NEW YORK YEARLY MEETING**  
**327<sup>TH</sup> SUMMER SESSIONS**  
**|SUNDAY-SATURDAY, JULY 24-30, 2022**

**Monday morning, July 25, 2022**

In-person at Silver Bay YMCA, NY; Online via Zoom

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

**2022-07-01. Opening and welcome**

On Sunday evening, July 24th, Friends gathered in person in the Auditorium on Silver Bay YMCA campus. They welcomed each other and over fifty people attending Opening Worship via Zoom. Technical difficulties did not dampen our joy. Helen Mullin (Brooklyn), Barbrah Bleecker (Montclair), Annemarie (Dawn) Pozzi (Rochester), and Susan Stillman (Montclair), led us in “Re-Membering our Yearly Meeting,” caring for ourselves and each other in this time of COVID, and meeting the JYM volunteers. We met again Monday morning for community worship where Beth Kelly (Brooklyn) read the roll call, Friends responding as their meeting or worship group was named, and David Herendeen (Easton) led us in song.

The technical team apologized when it was discovered that the Zoom settings were such that online Friends could not participate in the roll call the way they “normally” would (keeping in mind that this new normal is only two years old). Our first hybrid Summer Sessions will offer many challenges and moments of grace. In closing, our youth departed with their Junior Yearly Meeting groups.

**2022-07-02. Gathering**

Friends remained gathered in expectant worship.

**2022-07-03. Agenda**

Clerk Elaine Learnard noted that we have rich opportunities to learn this week from many Friends from the wider Quaker community. She reviewed the agenda for the week.

**2022-07-04. Clerk’s table**

The clerk introduced the clerks’ table.

**2022-07-05. Clerk's welcome**

The clerk welcomed the body and previewed the week.

**2022-07-06. Welcome visitors**

The clerk welcomed visitor Jacqueline (Jackie) Stillwell from New England Yearly Meeting, who serves as general secretary of Right Sharing of World Resources. Also welcomed was Tom Rothschild, former NYYM member, who lives in California now.

**2022-07-07. Welcome new at-large member**

The clerk welcomed our newest New York Yearly Meeting (NYYM) at-large member Autumn Kirkpatrick.

**2022-07-08. State of Society Report**

Lucy (Lu) Harper (Rochester), reporting for Ministry Coordinating Committee, presented a summary of the State of Society report. It is quite lengthy and Lu suggested that Friends read the full report (attached). In summary, Lu said:

“As we all sit with this report, more thoughts and queries will most likely arise. Going forward let us all hold space together, waiting for Spirit to lead us into the next steps, and into the New.”

**2022-07-09. Powell House Capital Campaign**

Mary Brown, clerk of the Powell House Committee, reported on the Powell House Capital Campaign. The campaign has raised \$380,000 so far. Mary encouraged everyone to contribute whatever amount they can — please Pay as Led. Mary noted that updating and repairing the infrastructure needs \$1,000,000, especially as they work to move away from having to use fossil fuel. A second \$1 million is necessary to establish an endowment for programming. Friends can make donations on the Powell House website. Also, Mary encouraged folks to visit the display table in the Inn or speak to anyone with a yellow “Powell House” badge.

Regina Baird Haag, co-executive director of Powell House, offered her thoughts on the Powell House Capital Campaign, via Zoom:

“The spiritual foundation of Powell House is based on the sharing of “radical welcome” with anyone and everyone who visits our space. No matter where you come from, where you are going, who you are, what you believe, what you are looking for you ARE WELCOME at Powell House. Welcoming opens both the givers and receivers to being seen, accepted, and LOVED, as an integral piece of the community that is built and lived into during the time spent on our 50 plus acres. Powell House is a THIN PLACE—where the separation between the present and eternity is permeable, and almost negligible.

Spirit is palpable and active in everything—the programs, the beauty of the natural setting, and of course; among all those who were, are, and will be a part of this place. My conviction and hope is that through the efforts of our capital campaign, we will continue to be renewed, inspired, and empowered, to be or become exactly what is needed for our world, as we experience the miracle that is Elsie K. Powell House.”

Friends of all ages spoke of their love of Powell House, one noting that the yearly meeting cannot survive without Powell House education and programs. All spoke to how meaningful Powell House has been in their lives.

**2022-07-10. Approval of minutes**

Minutes were read and approved to this point.

**Wednesday morning, July 27, 2022**

In-person at Silver Bay YMCA, NY; Online via Zoom

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

**2022-07-11. Clerk's welcome**

Gloria Thompson, serving as clerk for this session, offered readings while Friends gathered in deep worship.

**2022-07-12. Clerks' table introduction**

The clerk introduced the clerks' table and thanked the technical team.

**2022-07-13. Welcome visitors**

Visitors were invited to introduce themselves. In person: Alan Crosman, Pacific Yearly Meeting (PYM), welcomed us to his summer home in Silver Bay; Anissa New-Walker, Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) Development Representative. On-line visitors were: Kathleen Wooten, New England Yearly Meeting; Arthur Larrabee, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting; Lori Piñeiro Sinitzky, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and Friends General Conference (FGC) visitor.

**2022-07-14. Annual meeting of the corporation**

Roseann Press (Housatonic), clerk of NYYM Trustees, noted that this business meeting will serve as the annual meeting of the corporation. As a follow up to the Lindley Murray

Testamentary Trust presentation given at Fall Sessions, she reported that the process for naming Friends Fiduciary Corporation as the trustee was in process but not yet completed. Also, until such time as the trusteeship is resolved and all appropriate paperwork filed, there will be no grants or awards given to individuals, only organizations. This has to do with IRS regulations governing testamentary trusts; such awards require prior approval from the IRS. Roseann was also glad to report that trustees approved grants of \$12,800 for the maintenance and upkeep of our NYYM meeting houses and properties.

**2022-07-15. Report from Sarah Clarke, QUNO**

Sarah Clarke, executive director of QUNO in New York City, gave her report. She is a member of Ottawa Meeting, Canadian Yearly Meeting, where she grew up. Sarah spoke of the many family connections she has in NYYM and PYM.

Quakers have been affiliated with the United Nations since 1948, supporting its charter. QUNO (quno.org) provides a bridge between the formal UN structure and an informal communications vehicle. QUNO's business is guided by a board appointed by both Friends World Committee on Consultation (FWCC) and the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). This is QUNO's 75th anniversary and a celebration is planned in June 2023. Sarah noted that the QUNO staff is available to visit monthly meetings.

**2022-07-16. Report from Portia Skenandore-Wheelock, FCNL**

Portia Skenandore-Wheelock reported on her work at Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). Portia is a citizen of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin. She is the Congressional Advocate at FCNL, Native American Issues. FCNL worked in a coalition with tribal nations to pass the "Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act" (S.2907, H.R. 5444). Portia noted that the legacy of the residential schools in the USA and Canada are still affecting families today.

**2022-07-17. Approval of minutes**

Friends approved the minutes to this point.

**2022-07-18. General secretary's report**

Steven (Steve) Mohlke (Ithaca), NYYM's general secretary, shared a story of how, while gardening, he placed several rocks under his melons to keep the worms away. The garden has drip irrigation, but only with rain do the melons thrive. The people of NYYM support each other in multiple ways. The rocks provide our foundation. In the last few years, we improved our electronic communications so we can function with our essential business, similar to drip irrigation. Our in-person gatherings are like the rain. We can have deeper conversations and read the people with whom we interact. He noted that a big concern for any gardener is weeds. It's a challenge to know what to pull immediately

and what can wait. It's unrealistic to think we can eliminate all the weeds, but the work must be done. Over the past year, more than 100 Friends from NYYM attended trainings to understand a racist system that perpetuates itself. Participants moved from an understanding of racism only as that awful thing that one person did or said to an understanding of a system that is making it much harder for some fruit to flower.

Steve summarized the extensive planning for this, our first hybrid Summer Sessions, to bear fruit. He asked how the technology can be used to better support our community.

Steve introduced Beth Kelly (Brooklyn) as NYYM's new Children, Youth, and Young Adult Community Director. Beth will offer her own report later in the week.

**2022-07-19. Close of meeting**

The clerk reminded us to be kind and asked us to hold the remaining minutes for our next meeting for business. The meeting closed in worship.

*(These minutes are approved in minute 2022-07-22.)*

**Thursday morning, July 28, 2022**

In-person at Silver Bay YMCA, NY; Online via Zoom

*Elaine Learnard (Conscience Bay), Clerk  
Gloria Thompson (Manhattan), Assistant Clerk  
Melanie-Claire Mallison (Ithaca), Recording Clerk  
Barbrah Bleecker (Montclair), Reading Clerk*

**2022-07-20. Gathering**

Friends gathered in worship.

**2022-07-21. Clerks' table introduction**

Elaine Learnard, clerk, introduced those at the clerks' table.

**2022-07-22. Review and approval of minutes**

Melanie-Claire Mallison, recording clerk, read new minutes to begin our Summer Sessions minutes, summarizing opening worship on Sunday and the community worship on Monday morning. With some adjustments the minutes were approved. Then Melanie-Claire read the final three minutes from the previous meeting for worship with a concern for business. With requests for additions to the general secretary's report, the minutes were approved.

**2022-07-23. Treasurer's report**

Laura Cisar (New Brunswick), YM treasurer, reported on the NYYM Financial Summary, up to June 30, 2022. Laura reported remotely and shared her screen. Laura thanked the monthly meetings and individuals who contributed both their time and their money to the work of the yearly meeting. She noted that the finances are always a “snap-shot in time” —and this is the snap-shot from June. We have received about 40% of our anticipated monthly meeting contributions. She suggested that the deficit shown is unrealistic, but we will have a better picture in August. Laura especially brought to our attention the fact that funds disbursed under the care of witness committees through June are shown on page 5 and include the Sharing Fund, grants from Barrington Dunbar, Earthcare, Witness Activities, and World Ministries funds. Disbursements from the Mahlon York, Stevens, and Meeting Houses and Properties funds are shown on page 6. The Lindley Murray Testamentary Trust fund has been separated from the other NYYM Invested funds. At the end of June, the NYYM invested funds were valued at ~\$5.7M and the Lindley Murray Trust was valued at around \$950,000 — an approximate 20% decline due to the current financial climate. The Treasurer's Report is attached.

**2022-07-24. Report on Friends United Meeting**

Emily Provance (15<sup>th</sup> Street Meeting) presented a report on Friends United Meeting (FUM). Emily has been a member of the FUM Board for about five years. She told a story of being on a farm in Iowa, with too much snow falling to attend the conference she was there for. Her host told her that he has a hard time explaining to people why he is part of FUM when it is so liberal. FUM includes an enormous diversity of Friends, theologically and culturally. Emily knows that being in relationship across such differences is how change starts. Emily noted the many ways we can learn more about Friends United Meeting ([www.friendsunitedmeeting.org](http://www.friendsunitedmeeting.org)), including Traveling in the Ministry via the Living Letters program. She described a peer-to-peer program for teenage boys to work together at their Belize Friends church and discern their Quakerism. She described the work of Getry Agizah, programme coordinator, Friends Church Peace Team in Kenya, and Emily asked for our prayers for peaceful elections there in August. Emily has been in touch with Kelly Kellum, general secretary for FUM, regarding the devastating fire this past Monday that destroyed the Lindi Friends School in the Kibera slum region of Nairobi. Although the building was a total loss, Kelly reported that classes will resume in alternative locations next Monday with the help of FUM funding and the kind assistance of many many Friends.

Friends spoke out of the worship to express their gratitude for this work and Emily's willingness to take it on. Friends spoke to the very real tension between FUM and the LGBTQ+ Community. We were urged to continue to hear the overarching message from FUM's global community of Friends and to care for those suffering in Kibera; to be in

conversation, peer-to-peer, in FUM and in our monthly meetings, like the young men in Belize.

**2022-07-25. Report from Ramallah Friends School**

Rania Maayeh, Head of School, Ramallah Friends School, noted it is an honor and a blessing to be here today, in person, with NYYM Friends. The Ramallah Friends School was first opened in 1869 by New England Yearly Meeting Friends ([www.rfs.edu.ps/en](http://www.rfs.edu.ps/en)). It has witnessed civil wars, occupations, and much strife. Still, the school stands as a Light for education in Palestine, for all girls and boys. The school has 5,000 graduates each year and a long waiting list for the incoming classes. Rania described the unique and inclusive programs of the school, and spoke of the challenges of funding the successful education of such a diverse student body. She encouraged us to contribute to the Ramallah Friends School, so it can continue its vital impact on the children of the Holy Land.

Friends asked about the effects of COVID and the trauma of living in such a volatile area. Rania acknowledged these trials and tribulations, noting again that support in all ways, financial and expertise, is welcome.

**2022-07-26. First draft of epistle**

Julia Giordano (Bulls Head-Oswego), Epistle Committee, read the first draft of the 2022 New York Yearly Meeting Epistle to Friends Everywhere. Friends were encouraged to contact the committee with additions, etc.

**2022-07-27. Closing**

Noting the time, our clerk asked to hold the minutes over to our next meeting for business. We settled into open worship.

*(These minutes were read and approved in minute 2022-07-31.)*

**Friday Morning, July 29, 2022**

In-person at Silver Bay YMCA, NY; Online via Zoom

*Elaine Learnard (Conscience Bay), Clerk  
Gloria Thompson (Manhattan), Assistant Clerk  
Marvea Thompson (Brooklyn), Reading Clerk  
Melanie-Claire Mallison (Ithaca), Recording Clerk*

**2022-07-28. Gathering and settling**

Friends settled into worship. Gloria Thompson, serving as clerk for this session, offered the following centering quote, “Any great change must expect opposition because it shakes the very foundation of privilege.”; Lucretia Coffin Mott, 1793-1880. A message was delivered out of the worship using song and spoken word.

**2022-07-29. Reading and introduction of clerks’ table**

Our clerk read the following passage from our *Faith & Practice* — “In Meetings for Worship with a Concern for Business, 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 (NYYM *Faith & Practice*, Page 26). She then introduced those at the clerks’ table.

**2022-07-30. Welcome visitors**

Visitors were invited to introduce themselves. In person: Greta Kirk Mickey reintroduced herself. She was a long-time member of Bulls Head-Oswego, but moved and is now attending Gunpowder Friends Meeting, Baltimore Yearly Meeting. She is pleased to be back with us in person at Silver Bay after ten years away. A second visitor, Sara Gada, from Friends Publishing Corporation, introduced herself via Zoom.

**2022-07-31. Approval of minutes**

Melanie-Claire Mallison, recording clerk, read the minutes from Thursday morning. Friends approved.

**2022-07-32. Report from children, youth, and young adult community director**

Beth Kelly (Brooklyn), reported for the first time as NYYM’s children, youth, and young adult community director. She began by explaining her understanding of “community” in the Religious Society of Friends. She feels that to survive as a faith community and as friends — we must hang out together. Play. Share our vulnerability. In her experience, meetings with too little joy lose not only their young people, but also their vision and corporate discernment. Beth feels her work will first focus on asking children, youth, and young adults how to create that community in their own monthly meetings. She noted that so far, she has learned NYYM needs to do a much better job in educating our young Friends on Quakerism in general and specifically on how Quakerism works, especially by offering mentoring and arranging opportunities for learning at our Summer Sessions. Beth then summarized her current work, including taking up “old business” and finding new ways to reach out. Beth’s full report is [attached](#).

Friends offered advice and encouragement for Beth and her work.



**2022-07-33. Interim actions**

Steve Mohlke (Ithaca), NYYM general secretary, reported on interim actions taken on behalf of NYYM by the YM clerk in consultation with the general secretary and others as appropriate. The list of their actions include:

*Letters of condolence following the shooting in the supermarket in Buffalo, NY to: Dr. Stan Bratton, Executive Director, Network of Religious Communities, and to Pastor Angela Stewart, African Methodist Ministers Alliance*

*Sign-ons to two New York State Council of Churches comments on a rule-making, urging the Biden Administration to act quickly to finalize responsible reforms that protect immigrant families' access to the health and social services safety net*

*Sign-on to "An Urgent Call to the RSOF" concerning the rise of authoritarianism and the defense of our democracy*

Friends spoke to their concerns regarding the practice of allowing our clerk to take interim actions. The clerk heard these concerns and will discern a response.

**2022-07-34. Seasoned Business Items (Nominating report)**

The clerk presented the Seasoned Business Items list, consisting solely of the Nominating Committee report, which had been made available in advance online and in hard copy on the Inn porch. Friends approved the Seasoned Business Items list.

Jill McLellan (Central Finger Lakes), Nominating Committee, read the following additional nominations. Friends approved these nominations.

**Additional Nominations for NYYM Summer Sessions 2022**

		<i>Assistant Treasurer</i>
Albert Hsu ('18)		Wilton
		<i>NYYM Trustees</i>
Robert Schutt	Hamilton	Class of 2026
<i>Friends United Meeting Triennial 2023 representatives</i>		
Adria Gulizia	Chatham-Summit	
David Herendeen	Farmington	
Ndanga Ramazani	Christ is the Answer Friends Church	
Rebecca Schillenbeck	Poplar Ridge	

Cai Quirk	<i>Alternate FUM representative</i> Ithaca	
Rebecca Schillenbeck	<i>Committee for Conflict Transformation</i> Poplar Ridge	Class of 2025
David Herendeen ('19)	<i>Ministry and Pastoral Care</i> Farmington	Class of 2025
Rebecca Schillenbeck	<i>State of Society Committee</i> Poplar Ridge	Class of 2025
Christopher Klemek	<i>Records Committee</i> Easton	Class of 2025
Pamela Wood	<i>Barrington Dunbar</i> Morningside	Class of 2025
Madeline Hubbard Schmitt ('16)	<i>Indian Affairs</i> Rochester	Class of 2023*

*\*co-opted for one year to serve as treasurer*

### **Releases**

Claire Simon ('18)	Montclair	Faith and Practice	Class of 2024
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### **2022-07-35. Closing**

The clerk noted the time and asked that the minutes of this morning's session be read at this evening's meeting for business. Friends settled into worship.

The clerk closed with a prayer — "Father of Light and Love, we thank you for your loving kindness and tender mercies toward all your people. As we face this day with new hope, we ask that you fill us with Godly wisdom, a discerning spirit, and an understanding heart. Lord guide us by your Holy Spirit to stay steadfast and strong in our faith, and trust you in all circumstances. Use us as vessels so others can see your handiwork in us, we pray in your Mighty Name. Amen."

*(These minutes were read and approved in minute 2022-07-45.)*

## **Friday evening, July 29, 2022**

In-person at Silver Bay YMCA, NY; Online via Zoom

*Elaine Learnard (Conscience Bay), Clerk*  
*Gloria Thompson (Manhattan), Assistant Clerk*  
*Melanie-Claire Mallison (Ithaca), Recording Clerk*  
*Marvea Thompson (Brooklyn), Reading Clerk*

### **2022-07-36. Gathering**

Friends gathered together in the auditorium and on Zoom.

### **2022-07-37. Introduction, and apology from clerk and general secretary**

Annemarie (Dawn) Pozzi (Rochester), clerk of Sessions Committee, introduced Susan Stillman (Montclair), assistant clerk of the JYM Subcommittee. Susan deferred to the message that Steve Mohlke, general secretary, and Elaine Learnard, NYYM clerk, brought to the body. Steve offered a heart-felt apology to us all for the confusions in the hybrid technology and for the hurts caused by the last-minute COVID changes and instructions.

### **2022-07-38. Introduction of new JYM coordinators**

Susan introduced the new JYM coordinators: Lily Claire Bergstein, Louise Tiano, and Omen Cullinane. Susan acknowledged that this year has been full of challenges as they recreated their in-person JYM program after two years away.

### **2022-07-39. Epistle from grades K-2 group**

Columbine Loza and Faith Brzostoski joined their three young ones to present the JYM K-2<sup>nd</sup> Epistle.

“This week started off with Dilara, Ella, Lennon, Luca, and Theo. We had Abby come visit and were led on a guided meditation. We really liked arts and craft time, playing toilet tag, everything and painting. We didn’t like the pointy grass and some didn’t like the taste of pretzels though. On Tuesday we went to the beach with the older kids and got to say hi to Lennon who had joined the older kids group. We thought everything was good, especially the swimming, not even our sandy feet could bring us down! On Wednesday we got to meet a new friend Quinn and then got a visit from Marty and Sarah who taught us some games and a little bit about Powell House. Our favorite parts of the day were art time, making chains, making wings and playing duck duck goose. We planned on continuing to work on our wings and even making some for “my little sister” and “my cat” and finishing a flower on our mural! Unfortunately, it was time to say

goodbye to Ella and Luca so we said our goodbyes and hope to see them next year! On Thursday we went to the Nature Center and REALLY had a lot of fun. We also enjoyed finishing our wings “for my sister” and our own. We look forward to finding more frogs, coming back to Silver Bay, and adding pom poms to our wings. On Friday we got to meet Eamonn and finished up our Mural and made some boats before meeting up with all of JYM to sing together!”

The children presented their artwork on the mural!

**2022-07-40. Epistle from grades 3-5 group**

Matt Baney-Giampoala and Mathias Contois worked with their group to present the 3rd to 5th Epistle. They talked about their thorns and roses over the week. Thorns were: boredom, wearing face masks, and too many bee stings (seven!). Roses were: reading books, hill rolling race, beach day, and games like My Precious My Precious My Precious, and What Time is It, Mr. Fox? — with demonstrations.

**2022-07-41. Epistle from grades 6-8 (junior high) group**

Avery J, Carol Clark and their group presented — actually, sang — the 6th to 8th (Jr High) Epistle:

Epistle for the NYYM Junior High (6th, 7th, 8th grades) Group 2022

To F(f)riends everywhere,

(Epistle Sung to the tune of ‘Deck the Halls...’)

We're the Not So Wee Woozles  
Fa La La La La, La La La La,  
We've been working on inclusion,  
Fa La La La La, La La La La,  
Snacks took Teamwork 4 to carry  
Fa La La La La, La La La La,  
And the heavy sand hanitizer  
Fa La La La La, La La La La

We did Worship on the water  
Fa La La La La, La La La La,  
In a giant boat amoeba  
Fa La La La La, La La La La,  
We sang carols in the summer  
Fa La La La La, La La La La,

That way everyone could join us  
Fa La La La La, La La La La

I said Connor was detective  
Fa La La La La, La La La La,  
I was really bad at lying  
Fa La La La La, La La La La,  
Mafia was a crowd favorite  
Fa La La La La, La La La La,  
We played Godly games on beach day.  
Fa La La La La, La La La La

COVID kept us outside buildings  
Fa La La La La, La La La La,  
Volunteers kept coming and going  
Fa La La La La, La La La La,  
COVID didn't stop our singing  
Fa La La La La, La La La La,  
Songbooks kept us all included  
Fa La La La La, La La La La

Don the masks that we kept wearing  
Fa La La La La, La La La La,  
Thorns and roses kept us posted  
Fa La La La La, La La La La,  
Network outage lost our epistle  
Fa La La La La, La La La La,  
Another fun mem'ry made this week.  
(Slowly) Fa La La La La, La La La La

The adult volunteers this year were Avery J and Carol Clarke (with help from Omen, Cai, Alyx, and Susan). We had 11 participants in the group.

Our group approved one incoming clerk for this age group for 2023, Jasper Bacon (New Paltz Meeting), and two alternate clerks: Justin McKenzie, and Lianna Mullaney (Old Chatham Meeting).

**2022-07-42. Epistle from grades 9-12 (senior high) group**

Franklin Crump, Jens Braun, and their group presented the Senior High School Epistle. They began with a joke! Over the week they planned their Fun(d) Fair activities, spent beach day with the younger JYMers, then they pulled together the acts for Café Night,

and on Friday watched a sailboat race and sang with all the JYMers outside the boathouse.

**2022-07-43. Welcome to business**

With that, Elaine Learnard welcomed us to our evening meeting for worship with a concern for business. She introduced those at the clerks' table.

**2022-07-44. Second reading of epistle**

Polly Duke offered the second reading of the NYYM Epistle to Friends Everywhere on behalf of the Epistle Committee.

Friends offered corrections and ministry. Friends approved the following process for the epistle. With the understanding that concerns and clarifications have been heard by the clerk and the Epistle Committee, revisions will be made. The final document is attached.

**2022-07-45. Approval of previous minutes**

Melanie-Claire Mallison, recording clerk, read the minutes from our Friday morning session. Friends approved.

**2022-07-46. Approval of more recent minutes**

Melanie-Claire then read the minutes of our Friday evening session. Friends approved.

**2022-07-47. Report from Sessions Committee**

Dawn Pozzi reported for the Sessions Committee. First she wanted us to know, she loves us. Very few people do the peculiar work we do in the peculiar way we do it and she is thankful. And loves us for it.

Dawn summarized the process of creating the 2022 contract with Silver Bay YMCA in the face of the ongoing global pandemic. Those involved noted that signing the contract was "a leap of faith."

For this 327<sup>th</sup> Summer Sessions, we received 486 total registrations. Of those; 306 registered to be here in person, 180 online. More numbers; 52 JYM-age participants, 76 self-identified young adult Friends, and 138 first time attenders. Unfortunately, seven participants had to leave during the week due to COVID concerns.

Money raised:

Tagless Tag Sale, \$1,000.00

Café Night, \$2,886.58

Fun(d) Fair, \$364.25

The total of \$4,250.83 will be divided between Powell House and the Sharing Fund.

We will meet next for Fall Sessions, December 2-4, 2022. It will be entirely virtual. Spring Sessions will occur on April 14-16, 2023, as a hybrid event at Oakwood Friends School. Summer Sessions, also hybrid, will be held July 23-29, 2023, at Silver Bay YMCA.

**2022-07-48. Closing**

Elaine closed our final session with the following quote. She also wanted to make clear that she loves us and loves this time together.

"The world is violent and mercurial—it will have its way with you. We are saved only by love—love for each other and the love that we pour into the art we feel compelled to share: being a parent; being a writer; being a painter; being a friend." Tennessee Williams

**2022-07-49. Settling to worship**

We settled into worship, to meet again as a yearly meeting in December.

**Addendum: Memorial Minutes**

In a Meeting for Remembrance, Thursday, July 28, the following memorial minutes were read and are attached: Wilma Campbell (Rochester), Gordon Clark (Shrewsbury), Robert Martin (Bulls Head-Oswego), Paula McClure (Montclair), Will Tesdell (Brooklyn), and Dorothy Garner (Quaker Street).

# State of Society Report 2021

## Introduction

In their 2021 State of Society Reports, meetings described a range of experiences. Joys, sorrows, hopes, and opportunities as well as stumbling blocks and traumas were all mentioned. Spiritual growth and awakenings were also noted. In their reports, each meeting spoke to its lived experience and to its spiritual condition. Taken together the accounts provide a glimpse into the collective condition of the yearly meeting as a whole.

Meetings raised up the experiences of incarcerated Friends, children and families, and monthly meetings discerning how to process the realities of aging and death. Some meetings found new ways of “being meeting” and others addressed differences and harms. Meetings described social and political witness work undertaken individually and collectively. Meetings shared how they have been engaging with racism within and outside of the Religious Society of Friends. From the nuts and bolts of exploring new worship formats to the work of maintaining meeting facilities and finances, Friends persevered.

## Challenges of the Pandemic

“One of our members stated that COVID is global in nature and has required and allowed us to exercise compassion in new ways — with global compassion, not tribal and national compassion.”

Friends reflected on a year “begun and ending in pandemic.” Prison worship groups reported grappling with mental fatigue, trauma, sorrow, and loss of loved ones. Especially trying were the enforced restrictions on contact with family and Friendly visitors. This sentiment echoed the experience of outside Friends who expressed “weariness of spirit.” Many noted they “struggled to simply connect with one another.”

Meetings found that COVID-19 impacted their ability to do the work of the meeting. Some reported increased ability to do the work, others reported too few people to do the work. One meeting “labored to reach out to one another when the humanness of interaction was challenged.”



Familiar ways of celebrating community ceased, were changed, or “felt muted.” Having given much in previous phases of the pandemic, in one meeting, “Friends sometimes felt that they were being asked for more than they had left.” Another meeting observed that

“in 2020, there was a degree of honesty, revealed vulnerability, and intimacy in some settings that felt full of possibility. That receded in 2021, as we re-armored to persevere, as we figured out how to re-engage, and as we experimented with how to maintain our connections and deepen engagement in our Worship.”

For some meetings, the challenges of the pandemic led to deeper spiritual connection. They were able to find hope and meaning in the midst of struggle. The yearning to meet together continues.

### “Nuts & Bolts”

Most meetings noted changes in how they held meetings for worship. Variations included worshipping inside or outside, masked and/or distanced, online via Zoom or Facebook Live, or a blended combination of these. Some meetings experimented with changes to the format of meeting for worship in response to evolving pandemic conditions. Some meetings held in-person and Zoom meetings for worship at separate times. Some smaller meetings were able to continue to meet in person, masked and distanced, with the windows open. One meeting reflected a common experience, stating: “The art of pivoting has become important to embrace through the pandemic, through the process of closing down, re-opening, changing mask requirements, etc.”

Meetings reported both positive and negative aspects of online worship. Friends were grateful for the ability to use technology to meet online when other modes of worship were not available. One meeting wrote: “Some Friends do not like meeting by Zoom, but using it is much better than not meeting at all.” Other meetings voiced concerns for Friends who stopped attending as worship formats changed during the pandemic. A monthly meeting reported: “After some frustrating experiences attempting a hybrid meeting, [one] Worship Group did not meet for most of the year. In December it met for three weeks in person and then recessed again because of Omicron contagion.”

Many meetings spoke of the benefits of blended worship. These included COVID-19 safety; access by distant, ill or disabled Friends; reduction of resources of time and travel; and reduction of the collective carbon footprint. One meeting found that “meeting by Zoom has met well the needs of those concerned about possible Covid exposure and has also been an attractive option for those who are homebound, those who live a greater distance from the meetinghouse, and those who are late risers.”

Reflecting on their experience of the COVID-19 pandemic, a meeting shared:

“It’s been hard—it is stretching us. And while we have been stretched, we have not broken. We are finding strength and resilience as we face the peculiar challenges that the pandemic has offered us. In some ways, this has made us stronger. We rely on each other more, and treasure the community we have, even though it is not all of what we have been used to. We long for some of the pieces of our community life still deemed inadvisable, and know we will never go back to just how it used to be, since we are now committed to being a hybrid meeting. In being stretched, we are larger than we were before, and we embrace the changes we have had to live into.”

## Incarcerated Friends

Reports from prison worship groups and preparative meetings, collected by the ARCH Coordinator for Prisons, speak powerfully of the particular impact of the pandemic’s second year on incarcerated Friends:

“In the past year, our worship groups have faced multiple stumbling blocks and sorrows. The continuing specter of Covid-19 has hung over New York State prisons and jails. Men have lost loved ones to the pandemic and family visits have been restricted. Outside volunteers have been unable to enter facilities and so some worship groups have not been able to meet.

“Prison worship groups were challenged by being without a clerk, having their clerk and/or members being transferred to other facilities, being unable to meet or becoming inactive through reduced numbers. Two worship groups report that “the release of their Clerks on parole is a joy to be cherished” while leaving those worship groups with no remaining members.

“A clerk of one worship group reported ‘I find myself mentally exhausted as well and forcing myself to be engage[d] especially with matters that have my life in the balance. Just when I think I took two steps forward, I am six steps behind. I am really trying to rely on my faith to get me through these turbulent times.’”

Three additional prison worship groups submitted reports, one of which was blocked twice when sent via JPay, and finally received via USPS.

One Prison Preparative Meeting reported that

“the prison administration has created stumbling blocks to our return to normalcy in the prison as a result of COVID and changing administration.... One member expressed his being traumatized by contracting COVID and not knowing if he would survive. Seeing men dragged out of their cells and assaulted during the last lockdown was traumatizing.”

In this preparative meeting, many of the men felt hopeful regarding sentencing reform, which would “allow an incarcerated person to apply to the court for a sentence reduction.” A Friend found that “skills previously learned to cope and help others cope during difficult times...gave him the strength to remain committed even when feeling like throwing in the towel.” For incarcerated Friends, “freedom is a vision for our futures.”

Another Prison Preparative Meeting described itself as “a vibrant steward in providing a sanctuary for the weary. The effort we place into our existence is a testament to our will [to] persevere the daily hardships of prison life. We are fortunate to be able to meet with one another for Worship and in that way we can stay in touch with one another.”

Friends in another worship group reported that they are “reading *Faith and Practice* and the Bible” every Sunday afternoon and they hope to see the “civilian volunteer” once COVID-19 restrictions change. “Then we can Fellowship together.” The Friend concluded: “My vision for the future. Is freedom! To go back to Society and help my Family and Committee.” He ended the report “Stay Blessed my Brothers and Sisters! In Jesus Name Always Amen! I loved you all! Alleuia, Amen!”

The Inside Outside letter writing collective “provided joyful opportunities, through correspondence, for mutual accompaniment between Friends in the Yearly Meeting on both sides of the walls. This was particularly important at a time when outside volunteers were unable to be in contact with Friends inside.”

Outside Friends reflected on helping released Friends in their re-entry: writing petitions and letters for clemency, and seeking parole release for the aged and for those at risk due to COVID-19. Friends across the yearly meeting held separate, simultaneous Friday night worship for inside Friends. One small meeting continued its greeting card ministry and “made a significant effort to visit a member of our meeting who is incarcerated, even when he was transferred...to a facility without a Quaker worship group several hours from our area. At least 5 members/attenders of our meeting visited this Friend in person during 2021. At least 4 members of our meeting correspond with him via JPay. He is also able to call, sometimes when we are meeting via Zoom, to worship and check in with us.”

Another meeting wrote that “Friends are continually nourished through contact with [an] incarcerated member and his deep spirituality. One member of our meeting has been able to visit him once a month and provide pastoral care and laughter. We are supporting his appeal for clemency (on grounds of his age) to the new governor of New York. He has been able to set up an Internet web site to broaden his contact with other Friends, advance his appeal, and to generate conversation about criminal justice reform.” The meeting also welcomed a recently released Friend who “attended several meetings in person; there he met some of the Friends he had been in correspondence with while incarcerated.”

## Children and Families

As the pandemic continued into its second year, many meetings again expressed concern over lost connections with families and children. This was not universal, however, as some meetings' connections to families grew throughout the year.

One meeting reported that "one of our great joys has been a thriving First Day School, with at least 13 children attending regularly." The children gathered for walks, outdoor activities, a book and toy swap, picnic, and other intergenerational fun. The meeting reflected that "their presence adds to our spirituality and sense of God."

One meeting celebrated that "First Day School happily reconvened when the meeting house was open, with children and teachers gathering outside at the picnic table." They scheduled First Day School twice a month, increasing the likelihood that children from several families would be there.

Another meeting is seeing a "revival" with children from the very young to early teens. Families started out meeting informally at the beginning of the pandemic, morphing into a vibrant spiritual community. The meeting reported joyfully adapting to circumstances as they arose, meeting when families were able, and involving everyone in figuring out when to meet and what projects to complete.

### **Creative responses to declining or absent First Day School programs:**

When, due to the pandemic, one meeting had no First Day School program to offer a visiting family with children, the meeting responded by putting together a "basket with stories and some art supplies. If another family comes with children, one of the adults attending will be able to present a program."

One meeting noted declining family participation in meeting for worship, and has endeavored to keep young people involved. On fifth Sundays a "youth-centered multigenerational worship is offered," with activities that can be done at home. "This effort has reaped the benefits of keeping our children engaged in these services."

In response to declining youth participation, another meeting had a presentation on Welcoming Families and Youth, which "inspired us to consider new ways of inviting young families." The presenter affirmed that rebuilding a youth program may take as long as five or six years.

## Grief, Loss, and Trauma

Grief, loss, and trauma were themes for many meetings this year. Meetings supported those who mourned the loss of Friends and families, and those who struggled with holding memorial services or making arrangements at a distance. Some memorial services were delayed in hopes of being held in person at a future time.

One Prison Preparative Meeting spoke to the condition of many meetings when it wrote: "We are all experiencing trauma created from 'the new normal' that has resulted from COVID." While the unique traumas experienced by inside Friends are quite different from the experience of outside Friends, there is a commonality in the disruption of life routines.

Friends noted and grieved the loss of day-to-day community-building activities, including potlucks and discussions. One meeting spoke to the toll of the pandemic: "The COVID-19 pandemic has taken much from our vitality as it forced us to grow and adapt." Still they reflected that they "ground on with flickers of lightness in a heavy time. We are still together."

## Aging

Many meetings spoke to the reality of their aging community. ARCH (Aging Resources, Consultation and Help) pivoted, moving trainings online to meet the ongoing needs of the yearly meeting community. One meeting shared their ongoing concern for elder Friends as they seek more affordable and supportive caregiving circumstances. Several years ago, in response to these concerns, the Quarterly Meeting created a working group, Concern for Quaker Living (CQL). The working group is actively looking at options to meet these needs.

Another meeting continued a unique project, "Faith Journeys of our Elders," creating three video interviews of elder Friends' spiritual journeys. Links to the full videos are included at the end of this report.

## Deceased Friends

Over twenty Friends were named by meetings in their reports as having passed away in the last year. Other meetings noted the deaths of others in their community without naming them.

Dolores Applegate (Manasquan)  
Sara R. Baker (Fifteenth Street)  
David Bassett (Rochester)  
Glenn Bibler (Brooklyn)  
Nelson Bradshaw (Butternuts)  
Gene Braun (Old Chatham)

Barbara Carey (Albany)  
Shelley Cochran (Rochester)  
Dorthea Coiffe-Chin (Fifteenth Street)  
David Cullen (Albany)  
Sue Clark (Albany)  
Judy Damkoehler (Albany)  
Alexandra Fingesten (Fifteenth Street)  
Lawrence Bradford Greene (Fifteenth Street)  
Richard Hathaway (Poughkeepsie)  
Fredric Hoffmann (Scarsdale)  
Bert Howard (Albany)  
Ivan Jenkins (New Brunswick)  
Renda McCaughan (Wilton)  
Ruth Ramsdell (Manasquan)  
Godfrey Roberts (New Brunswick)  
Will Tesdell (Brooklyn)

## Opportunities and Joys

Several meetings raised up ways in which the expansiveness of pandemic time provided opportunities for growth. A Prison Preparative Meeting noted that

“all of the men appreciated the opportunity to meet new people through the correspondence project. Some enjoyed the opportunity to relax and exercise more during the slower pace of the pandemic. Some enjoyed the opportunity to grow closer to family and friends. Others enjoyed the opportunity for self-reflection during down time while others appreciated the opportunity to get unfinished work done.”

Another meeting noted that individual “F/friends...shared that their personal spiritual practices, such as meditation and inspirational reading, blossomed with the more unscheduled time brought about by pandemic restrictions.”

A meeting reflected that meeting for worship is “where faith is renewed and strengthened, and spiritual values reaffirmed,” and found that they were “refreshed on a weekly basis...by the spirit and by the fellowship we feel in the presence of each other.”

Under very different circumstances, incarcerated Friends at one Prison Preparative Meeting reported that “some guys said it was a joy to receive stimulus checks while some said it was a joy to receive thank you letters from the government for making coffins during the pandemic.”

## New Ways of Being Meeting Together/Meetings in Transition

Several meetings expressed a sense of opportunity, of possibility of “being meeting” together in new ways, both structural and spiritual. One meeting wrote: “As we move toward coming back together in-person in 2022, basic questions that are asked when people undertake a new beginning seem fresh and important. Who are we? What do we believe? What does it mean to be in community? How do we treat one another? What is it we are called to do?”

Reflecting that “electronic meetings offer some simplicity,” one meeting found that “relying on them can make the work of the Clerk, if anything, more difficult,” and envisioned sharing these responsibilities among two or several Friends. Other Friends found themselves moving out of their comfort zones by taking on new roles, participating more fully in the life of the Meeting, and deepening their sense of community.

Other Meetings experienced transitions in their physical meeting spaces. Reflecting that the property is not who they are, several meetings united around the sale of beloved meetinghouses and felt released “from the burden of maintaining a building.”

Many meetings reflected on the difficulties of filling “a committee structure that was created when our numbers were larger.”

One meeting wrote: “We continue processing the how and implications of letting go of our Monthly Meeting status. We are well on our way to becoming a Quaker worship group but haven’t actually ‘minuted’ that...We are blessed to have the members and attenders who have kept us functioning throughout the pandemic and appreciate the sense of being enLightened in coming to an awareness that we are ready to continue in the Religious Society of Friends but as a Worship group...”

Another meeting reports struggling: “In our limited capacity, we continue searching for the truth, centering down and focusing on the Inner Light.”

### Caring for Community

Meetings reported on little and big ways they were caring for one another. One meeting bravely wrote:

“Our Meeting stumbled on a few separate occasions this year, with attenders and members experiencing insensitivity and harm on issues related to race, gender and ethnicity. Ministry & Counsel (M&C) saw this as an opportunity to renew our commitment to allyship – to do our best to promote a culture of inclusion through positive and conscious efforts, sensitive to the diverse life experiences of all members and attenders. M&C has articulated a commitment to addressing harm because we understand the negative impact that insensitivity and

microaggressions can have. We hold the care of the entire Meeting in mind when we listen to and believe the experiences of people, and when we challenge insensitivity and address harms. We recognize a range (and lack) of privileges among Friends and embrace our responsibility to use our privileges to lift each other up....This year, M&C invited Friends from the Yearly Meeting to help us draft community agreements with the goal of care of the committee and care of the Meeting body. M&C Friends have reported this to be a moving and helpful process.”

Some meetings were concerned that they lost touch with individuals who were unable or unwilling to connect electronically. Other reasons for individuals no longer being active in the life of the community included conflict, and not being seen.

A small meeting lamented: “The State of our Society is frustrated. While we contain great love, we are small and craving the magic formula for growth.”

Several meetings spoke of receiving “Lessons in the Importance of Listening.” One meeting wrote:

“Our dealing with conflict is ongoing, as we learn how to better talk and listen to each other, to discover who[m] we are and bring clarity to the issues being discussed.”

For another meeting, listening was both technical and spiritual:

“In 2021, [we] put a lot of effort into making Worship accessible, with a focus on making sure that we could hear the words of Spirit spoken in our Meeting.”

This meeting also

“put a lot of effort into being supportive of each other and searching for and making connections. We moved into really listening for Spirit’s leadings, both in ourselves and in hearing each other. We recognized our holes and our needs, and we worked together to begin to address them. Where problems were solved, we listened to each other’s views and searched for mutual understanding and group leadings. We continued to make ourselves vulnerable and we continued to do everything we could to come together, keep ourselves and each other safe, and follow the leadings of Spirit.”

In one meeting, “F/friends felt that the primary purpose of the Meeting was to provide sanctuary and support for spiritual growth, [while] others wished for the Meeting to have a witness in the community as a corporate body and felt that this corporate witness was integral to the spiritual growth of the meeting as a whole.”



Another meeting wrote:

“There is a sense of acceptance and of being an allied and welcoming community. However, we need to work on being more welcoming of people from a variety of communities and in different stages of life. To have more folks of color come and stay, there is something in us that would have to radically change. We should interrogate what that is. It is important that the Meeting be a refuge for people in busy stages of life not a place that makes them feel overwhelmed. Balances are hard to maintain, but we probably have a better chance of maintaining balance as we listen to the many levels of diversity in our community.”

A meeting that has rematriated the land behind its meeting house raised up the connections to the land and to its indigenous neighbors, noting that “the Meeting House continues to be a shelter and resource for our Oneida Nation neighbors who...come out to the...land... and find joy and comfort there.” The meeting acknowledges and honors their indigenous neighbors’ presence and history with a spoken acknowledgement at the opening of business meeting and “with a sign over the entry which states: ‘This Meeting House sits on the ancestral lands of the Oneida Peoples of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy.’”

### Addressing Differences and Harms

Meetings expressed a need for healing or meetings for healing that might deepen their sense of community. Some spoke of experiencing differences that caused harm to their meeting community. One meeting spoke of the ways in which “the continuing political divisiveness in the broader society...seeped into our meeting community.” Another reported moving forward lovingly with agreed upon COVID-19 protocols, while experiencing differences about how to implement them.

Several meetings described differences around the use of technology in meeting for worship. Another source of conflict was around individuals not feeling support for their leadings.

Often differences exacerbated pre-existing conflicts within meetings. One meeting noted that “the challenges presented by our differences have demanded that we dig deep into our understanding of Quaker practice to find ways to accept and respect each other’s opinions and to hold each other in the Light.” The clerk of another meeting experiencing conflict called the body to “search [their] hearts for their role in the harm that has been done, acknowledge the conflicts, and commit themselves to worship, love, and deep listening to do the work of healing.” The clerk asked, “Are we ready for this brave conversation?”

## Witness

In 2021, a significant witness initiative took place in response to restrictions on the Green Haven Prison Preparative Meeting. The yearly meeting, Nine Partners Quarterly Meeting, several monthly meetings, and individual Friends petitioned the United States Supreme Court to review rulings in their litigation against the New York Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) to restore Green Haven Prison Preparative Meeting's regular business meetings and its annual gatherings ("Quarterly Meetings") with non-incarcerated Friends at Green Haven Correctional Facility.

## Social/Political

Friends reflected on a broad spectrum of social and political concerns. Several Meetings spoke of supporting FCNL legislative priorities by participating in lobbying efforts through advocacy teams and support of specific legislation. Others spoke of providing "financial support for a local food pantry" and sponsoring a "virtual event on immigration with AFSC staff."

Many meetings, in one way or another, spoke of how "social action often begins with the involvement of individual members that then draw in the Meeting." A meeting wrote:

"We were concerned about the turmoil in our broader society, with the assault on democracy, climate change, and issues around racism. We found support in our faith community. The wider Quaker community has been a place to share, listen, and take action. While we did not take action together as a meeting, we are each grounded in our faith in how we move forward to face these challenges. We recognize that each member conscientiously works towards a better society by living our faith in our daily interactions."

## Anti-Racism

Friends engaged in anti-racism work in various ways. Some meetings educated themselves through book groups (reading Isabell Wilkerson's *Caste*, Layla F. Saad's *me and white supremacy*, and many other books), watched films, and attended anti-racism trainings. Some meetings put up Black Lives Matter signs (some of which were then stolen or vandalized), and joined with and financially supported local community organizations in their work. Friends participated in anti-racism vigils. Good Trouble, originally a regional group seeking to support meetings in learning about and addressing racism, opened its meetings to the yearly meeting as a whole. Several meetings lifted up appreciation for the anti-racism trainings held.

Another meeting looked into its history around enslavement. They gained "a perspective on the realities of grappling with a practice which [was at the time] fully accepted in the surrounding society, but [was] eventually condemned by Quakers."

One way a meeting addressed racism was to “take action on the vitally important area of reparations, and in particular, the continual problems faced by Black farmers.” Recognizing the importance of making a financial commitment to anti-racism work, they added a line item in their budget for racial justice and in this past year made several large donations to area organizations that support Black farmers.

Another meeting stated:

“We continue not to attract or...include many persons not of European descent and/or who are not professionals. We don’t know how to. Our compartmentalized lives leave most of us not knowing each other. We are not a community, and we are not integrated.”

Several meetings reported on their engagement with the yearly meeting’s Draft Statement on Becoming an Anti-Racist Faith Community. One meeting reflected that although “individuals are involved in...anti-racism activities in the greater community, the meeting as a whole has not yet integrated this witness into the spiritual life of the meeting.” Another meeting minuted its support for the Draft Statement. Some meetings lifted up a concern about the importance of “using loving inclusiveness for discernment around racism.” Other meetings have yet to consider the Draft Statement.

A meeting reported on its internal work to address racism, encouraging “committees to work towards further inclusivity, diversity and building a beloved community.” The meeting went on to say:

“We encourage committees to continue to ask themselves about the impact of their decisions on members and attenders who are BIPOC, and what actions they can take to identify and dismantle structural racism. We continued to labor for shared understanding and shared action around the issue of race. We range in our awareness of the ways our community unfairly burdens or does not welcome people of color. Some Friends were pained by a lack of a widespread sense of responsibility to challenge racism. The gulf in understanding is sometimes a source of friction [in] our meeting. We continue to endeavor towards unity on this aspect of the Quaker testimony of equality.”

Some meetings posed questions and queries about how to proceed in doing anti-racist work. One meeting asked themselves:

“Whose ministry is this, individuals’ or the full Meeting’s? What does anti-racism work look like? Are there right and wrong ways to do it? How does this work call us to action, together and separately?”

The meeting further reflected on the importance of being able to “openly take stock of where we are in this work and how we feel about it,” to be able to move forward as a group, and acknowledged “the need for deeper, more honest, safer connections” in their community.

Another meeting asked itself what the term antiracism really means, lifting up the queries:

“Does holding AVP workshops for racially mixed groups count as anti-racism work? Does being part of a racially mixed family count as anti-racism? Does interacting with people of color on the basis of who they are as individuals, including their experiences of racism, count? Does being aware that a person of color may see things differently from me, and for good reason, count as anti-racism? Does anti-racism work mean lobbying for laws that will (we hope) chip away at structural racism?”

These meetings’ queries reflect the importance of our individual and collective work around anti-racism.

Overall, meetings continued to “educate ourselves about the meaning and work of antiracism, to consider what it will mean for us to become an antiracist meeting, and to explore what we must do to achieve that.”

## Facilities

A meeting reported how COVID-19 impacted their meetinghouse:

“...it is a little eerie to arrive at the meetinghouse and find the parking lot covered in grass with signs of deer making themselves at home in the weedy gardens. It almost felt as though the vacant, dark building invited nature to come closer for company. The meeting house seemed to act out this neglect by flooding its basement for the first time and allowing its heating system to falter with corrosion. The Wi-Fi router even stopped sharing information. Like the boy who cried wolf, the repeated false fire alarms continued to call the fire department to come visit at random hours. The entire building now looks older, in need of repair and paint. One wonders if our remote hearts to God will show up with hands to work.”

Many meetings spoke of working on their facilities during periods when the meeting houses were closed: working on a new roof, new pavement, dampness remediation, furnace replacement, thermostat updates and converting heat systems to renewable energy sources. Some meetings received NYYM financial support for this work.

A meeting addressing property usage extended its Memorandum of Understanding with the Friends Center for Racial Justice (FCRJ) for an additional year.

Meetings reported on their relationships with Quaker schools, noting the continuing impact of the pandemic and the need for continued healing of some relationships.

## Finances

Meeting's financial resources vary. Some meetings struggled to make ends meet, worrying that "as the funds continue to decline and the membership decreases, becoming more involved with the local community and beyond, is only a vision." Other meetings' contributions met or exceeded their budget goals.

One meeting noted the ways in which "economic elitism inform[ed] the Meeting's morality," stating "We need to shift the center of gravity toward the spirituality of poor and oppressed people. I don't know if George Fox was poor and oppressed, but Jesus was."

## Suggestions for NYYM support

Friends appreciated the various programs NYYM staff offered online in 2021 and wanted more. Recognizing the gifts of technology, some meetings suggested that programs conducted by a monthly meeting could be offered to the yearly meeting as a whole. A meeting hoped the yearly meeting can "continue to offer...opportunities for participation and can keep them open to Friends with limited financial resources." One meeting "would be grateful for more help with our advancement efforts." Another meeting expressed a desire that the yearly meeting reach out more to smaller monthly meetings.

In a time when meetings around the world were experimenting with developing hybrid solutions to fit the unique needs of individual meetings, one meeting "pointed out the helpfulness of a recent *Spark* publication that highlighted ways in which different monthly meetings have dealt with virtual and hybrid gatherings."

## Thoughts & Queries

Friends serving as this year's State of Society committee were in unity as we discerned the themes of this report. We selected and edited the content contained in the body of the report to reflect our sense of what we were hearing from meetings. We believe the words we chose speak for themselves.

We were, however, unable to find words that we could all unite with to reflect a "sense of the meeting" beyond what we wrote. One Friend suggested "That we are not able to discern a conclusion is spirit speaking through us – calling every one of us to gather and journey in spiritual accompaniment as we find our way – carefully not getting ahead of our Guide."

While we were holding ministry and seeking to agree on threads in the reports we received, the following queries arose for some of us:

We wonder whose voices are present and whose voices might be missing in meetings' reports and thus also in this report?

We wonder if this report we are sharing reflects the spiritual condition of the meetings, and of the yearly meeting?

We wonder what we are being called to do individually, as meetings and as the body of NYYM?

As we all sit with this report, more thoughts and queries will most likely arise. Going forward let us all hold space together, waiting for Spirit to lead us into the next steps, and into the "New."

Videos of Buffalo Meeting elders:

[Rodney & Ann Pierce](#)

[Roberta Bothwell](#)

[Sue Tannehill](#)

June 30, 2022

## NYYM Financial Summary

**Goals**

- ❖ Meetings and Friends understand and support the work and finance of the entire Yearly Meeting.
- ❖ Comprehensible consolidated financial statements are published annually.

<b>Operations</b>				<b>Goal</b>	<b>Overall</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>2022 Budget</b>	<b>2022 YTD</b>	<b>% Budget YTD</b>		<b>% Budget</b>
Meetings (Covenant Donations)	\$ 430,000	\$ 157,872	36.7%		45%
Grants	64,000	64,000	100.0%		7%
Contributions (Annual Fund)	50,000	20,750	41.5%		5%
Invested Funds	77,000	39,772	51.7%		8%
Sessions <sup>1</sup>	181,000	139,124	76.9%		19%
All Other	50,000	5,861	11.7%		5%
Operating Reserve <sup>3</sup>	103,875	-	0.0%		11%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 955,875</b>	<b>\$ 427,379.02</b>	<b>44.7%</b>		<b>100%</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>	<b>2022 Budget</b>	<b>2022 YTD</b>	<b>% Budget YTD</b>		
Personnel	\$ 494,500	\$ 232,978	47.1%		52%
Office Admin & Support	128,000	48,896	38.2%		13%
Sessions <sup>2</sup>	180,500	88,398	49.0%		19%
Committees & Working Groups	20,025	12,872	64.3%		2%
Programs & Publications	22,250	5,983	26.9%		2%
Support of FUM/FWCC/FGC	17,350	463	2.7%		2%
Donations to Others	93,250	43,000	46.1%		10%
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$ 955,875</b>	<b>\$ 432,590.15</b>	<b>45.3%</b>		<b>100%</b>
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (5,211)</b>			

<sup>1</sup> includes Summer Sessions registration Contributions, and Spring/Fall Sessions Reg & Meals<sup>2</sup> does not include travel and lodging costs of attending sessions for staff and for others paid by committees or funds<sup>3</sup> per the budget approved at Fall Sessions 2021, the operating reserve could be used to balance the budget.

<b>Fund Balances</b>	<b>Operating Reserve</b>	<b>Sharing Fund</b>	<b>Designated Use Funds</b>
Opening Balance	\$ 450,144.16	\$ 64,316.36	\$ 170,390.83
Plus Income	427,379.02	39,744.88	105,156.70
Minus Disbursements <sup>1</sup>	432,590.15	30,171.40	177,522.33
<b>To Date Balance</b>	<b>\$ 444,933.03</b>	<b>\$ 73,889.84</b>	<b>\$ 98,025.20</b>

<sup>1</sup> Designated use fund disbursements include FFA grant income transferred to the Oper Res (Jan 2022)

<b>Invested Funds</b>	<b>Jun-22</b>	<b>Dec-22</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Planned Distributions</b>			
NYYM Operations	\$37,693.69	\$37,693.69	\$75,387.38
Witness Funds	\$28,231.78	\$28,231.78	\$56,463.55
Other NYM Funds	\$11,818.50	\$11,818.50	\$23,637.00
Other Organizations	\$36,872.32	\$36,872.32	\$73,744.64
Lindley Murray Trust	\$17,780.66	\$17,780.66	\$35,561.32
<b>Total Planned Distributions</b>	<b>\$ 132,396.95</b>	<b>\$ 132,396.95</b>	<b>\$ 264,793.90</b>

<b>Invested Funds Value</b>	<b>December 2021</b>	<b>June 2022</b>	<b>December 2022</b>
NYYM Invested Funds	\$8,320,025	\$5,710,670	
Lindley Murray Trust	-	\$949,738	
<b>Total (NYYM Funds &amp; LMT)</b>		<b>\$6,660,408</b>	

**Reminder:** Page 6 has the Sharing Fund report; Page 7 has the Designated Use Funds report

DISBURSEMENTS	2022 Budget	YTD 2022 Expenses	% Bud	2021 Budget	YE 2021 Expenses	Notes
<b>General Services Coordinating Committee</b>						
General Committee Expense	800	7,700.00	963%	300	25.00	4
NYYM Officers' Expense	1,000	-	0%	1,000	-	
Aging Concerns Committee	775	-	0%	775	-	
Book Table - Summer Sessions	500	-	0%	500	532.15	
Development Committee	4,000	-	0%	5,000	2,808.87	
<b>Total Committee Expense</b>	<b>7,075</b>	<b>7,700</b>	<b>109%</b>	<b>7,575</b>	<b>3,366</b>	
Spark	9,970	5,329.00	53%		8,996.00	
Yearbook/Adv Reports	5,800	73.26	1%		6,023.83	
Other/Handbook/Faith&Practice/ARCH	480	105.27	22%		759.58	1
<b>Total Publications Expense</b>	<b>16,250</b>	<b>5,508</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>15,779</b>	
Fall/Spring Sessions Program	4,000	-	0%	10,000	42.86	2
Summer Sessions Program	6,000	407.76	7%	8,500	2,366.36	
Summer Sessions Contract: Stays	150,000	87,990.00	59%	228,000	-	
Sessions Committee Expense	2,500	-	0%	3,000	-	
Junior YM Planning	2,000	-	0%	2,400	-	
Junior YM Summer Sessions	15,000	-	0%	15,000	478.71	
<b>Total Sessions Expense</b>	<b>179,500</b>	<b>88,398</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>266,900</b>	<b>2,888</b>	
ARCH Programs	500	475.00	95%	200	500.00	
Young Adult Programs	2,000	-	0%	2,000	1,625.00	
Youth Programs	2,000	-	0%	2,000	-	
<b>Total Program Expense</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>4,200</b>	<b>2,125</b>	
Staff Salaries	370,000	186,033.95	50%	414,000	339,444.64	
Medical and Pension Benefits	68,000	26,246.51	39%	51,000	49,108.32	
Other Wage Related Expenses	37,000	17,367.70	47%	32,000	33,353.78	
Staff Development	1,500	1,150.00	77%	1,000	685.59	
Staff Travel	18,000	2,180.31	12%	15,000	970.28	
<b>Total Personnel Expense</b>	<b>494,500</b>	<b>232,978</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>513,000</b>	<b>423,563</b>	
Administrative Expenses	16,000	7,549.77	47%	17,500	10,953.10	3
Liability Insurance	12,000	3,517.54	29%	11,569	11,664.40	
Rent and Utilities - 15th St Office	25,000	12,202.00	49%	23,874	23,465.00	
Office Equipment & Support	5,000	216.00	4%	4,000	3,278.68	
<b>Total Office Expense</b>	<b>58,000</b>	<b>23,485</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>56,943</b>	<b>49,361</b>	
Bookkeeping & Payroll service	36,000	18,436.16	51%	32,000	32,329.10	
Temp Staff/Consultants	34,000	6,974.50	21%	22,000	14,495.96	
<b>Total Services Expense</b>	<b>70,000</b>	<b>25,411</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>54,000</b>	<b>46,825</b>	
<b>Total General Services</b>	<b>\$ 829,825</b>	<b>\$ 383,955</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>\$ 918,618</b>	<b>\$ 543,907</b>	

Note 1: Faith & Practice expense includes committee expenses; offset by contributions for products and services (\$560).

Note 2: Fall/Spring Sessions Program expense is offset by Spring/Fall Reg & Meal contributions.

Note 3: Includes Acceptiva+Transfirst administrative expense (\$633.92+\$979.87), offset by contributions (\$2492.71).

Note 4: Includes anti-racism training expense; partially offset by contributions for products & services, see page 4 for year to date contributions, and underspending in other budget lines within GSCC.

<b>Ministry Coordinating Committee</b>						
General Committee Expense	750	-	0%	1,000	4,725.00	
Spiritual Nurture Working Group	700	-	0%	1,200	473.67	
Task Group on Racism	5,000	1,350.00	27%	1,000	800.00	
Outreach Working Group		-	0%	2,500	-	
Powell House Committee	1,000	-	0%	1,000	566.84	
Youth Committee	1,000	-	0%	1,000	-	
Conflict Transformation	1,000	-	0%	1,000	200.00	
Ministry & Pastoral Care Committee	500	1,272.00	254%	500	-	1
<b>Total Committees/Working Groups</b>	<b>9,950</b>	<b>2,622</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>9,200</b>	<b>6,766</b>	
Bible Study & Worship Summer Sessions	1,000	-	0%	1,000	-	
<b>Total Sessions</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>-</b>	
Pastors' Conference	1,250	-	0%	1,250	495.00	
Other Programs		-			-	
<b>Total Program Expense</b>	<b>1,250</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1,250</b>	<b>495</b>	
<b>Total Ministry</b>	<b>\$ 12,200</b>	<b>\$ 2,622</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>\$ 11,450</b>	<b>\$ 7,261</b>	

Note 1: Expense offset by underspending from MCC Committee General Expense and GSCC Sessions.



DISBURSEMENTS	2022 Budget	YTD 2022 Expenses	% Bud	2021 Budget	YE 2021 Expenses	Notes
<b>Witness Coordinating Committee</b>						
<i>Total General Committee Expense</i>	3,000	2,550.00	85%	1,500	-	1
<i>Contributions to Membership Orgs</i>	1,650	-	0%	750	750.00	
<b>Total Witness</b>	<b>\$ 4,650</b>	<b>\$ 2,550</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>\$ 2,250</b>	<b>\$ 750</b>	

Note 1: This account is for expenses incurred by Sharing Fund committees and appointees and the Sharing Fund appeal.

Includes anti-racism training expense; partially offset by contributions for products & services.

Includes portion of expense from Green Haven Prison Meeting v. DOCCS.

<b>Affiliated Organizations - Representatives</b>						
FGC Central Committee	3,200	-	0%	5,200	-	
FUM Board Representatives	2,700	463.40	17%	1,800	200.00	
FWCC Section Meetings	1,800	-	0%	1,800	600.00	
<b>Total NYYM Appointee Expense</b>	<b>7,700</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>8,800</b>	<b>800</b>	
Provision FUM Triennial Sessions	7,250	-	0%	6,200	-	
Provision FWCC Hosting		-	0%		-	
Provision FWCC World Gathering	2,400	-	0%	2,400	2,400.00	
<b>Total for Gatherings not held annually</b>	<b>9,650</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>8,600</b>	<b>2,400.00</b>	
<b>Total Contributions to Quaker Orgs</b>	<b>91,600</b>	<b>43,000.02</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>87,300</b>	<b>87,300</b>	
<b>Total Affiliated Organizations</b>	<b>\$ 108,950</b>	<b>\$ 43,463</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>\$ 104,700</b>	<b>\$ 90,500</b>	

<b>Other</b>						
Meeting for Discernment	-			800	50.00	
Miscellaneous Program Expense	250	-	0%	4,050	-	
<b>Total Other Groups</b>	<b>\$ 250</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>\$ 4,850</b>	<b>50</b>	

<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>\$ 955,875</b>	<b>\$ 432,590</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>\$ 1,041,868</b>	<b>\$ 642,468</b>	
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<b>Contributions to Other Organizations*</b>				<b>Lindley Murray Trust Fund grants, awarded 3/2022</b>	
<b>Named in Operating Budget**</b>					
Friends General Conference (FGC)	2,500			Akwesasne Freedom School	3,000
Friends United Meeting (FUM)	2,500			AFSC-NY	2,000
Friends World Committee (FWCC)	1,000			American Indian Artists, Inc.	3,000
FWCC Section of the Americas	300			Alternatives to Violence Project-NY	3,000
Oakwood Friends School	5,300			Christ is the Answer Friends Church	2,835
Powell House	80,000			Creative Response to Conflict	3,000
<b>Total Named in Operating Budget</b>	<b>\$91,600</b>			FCNL Education Fund	3,000
				Friends of Ganondagan	3,000
<b>Contributions to Membership Organizations**</b>				FGC	3,000
NJ Council of Churches	250			Friends Publishing Corporation	3,000
NYS Council of Churches	500			Individual Scholarships (6)	11,137
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)	300			Individual award (1)	1,800
Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)	300			Oakwood Friends School	3,000
Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW)	300			Penington Friends House	3,000
<b>Total Membership Organizations</b>	<b>1,650</b>			Powell House	2,000
				Soup Angels	1,000
				Westbury Friends School	2,119
				Youth Service Opportunities Project (YSOP)	2,000
				<b>Total Lindley Murray Trust grants</b>	<b>54,891</b>

\* Scholarships and contributions to other organizations are also made from the Sharing Fund.

\*\* Planned contributions Named in the Operating Budget or Designated by Witness CC will be phased over the year

INCOME	2022 Budget	YTD 2022 Income	% Bud	2021 Budget	YE 2021 Income	Notes
<i>Meetings</i>						
All Friends Regional		8,256			35,854.95	
Butternuts Quarterly		550			4,900.00	
Farmington-Scipio Regional		26,930			69,513.00	8
Long Island Quarterly		18,888			47,375.00	
New York Quarterly		29,559			94,733.70	6
Nine Partners Quarterly		15,500			40,650.00	
Northeastern Regional		5,650			32,828.00	
Purchase Quarterly		31,490			60,470.00	
Shrewsbury & Plainfield HY		21,050			51,800.00	
<b>Total Meeting Income</b>	<b>430,000</b>	<b>157,872</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>430,000</b>	<b>438,125</b>	
<i>Other Sources</i>						
Summer Sessions - Contributions	30,000	42	0%	47,000	13,250.01	
Summer Sessions - Stays	142,000	-	0%	215,000	-	
Summer Sessions - Contributions OR Stays		136,714	0%		-	
Spring/Fall Sessions Reg & Meals	9,000	2,368	26%	14,500	4,442.79	
Invested Funds	77,000	39,772	52%	68,900	72,533.39	4
Grants	64,000	64,000	100%	64,000	74,000.00	
Annual Fund/General Contributions	50,000	20,750	41%	50,000	36,144.17	
ARCH Contribution	20,000	-	0%	20,000	25,457.42	1
CYYA Contribution	20,000	-	0%	20,000	22,158.48	1
Products/Services Contributions	2,500	3,167	127%	2,500	3,622.20	3
Other Income	7,500	2,694	36%	7,500	3,251.35	7
Income from Assets	-	-	0%	13,320	13,318.44	2
Operating Reserve	103,875		0%	89,148	-	5
<b>Total Other Sources</b>	<b>525,875</b>	<b>269,507</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>611,868</b>	<b>\$268,178</b>	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 955,875</b>	<b>\$ 427,379</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>\$ 1,041,868</b>	<b>\$ 706,303</b>	

Note 1: Calculated at year end based on ARCH or CYYA expenses, respectively, minus income. See page 6 for year to date contributions.

Note 2: Stamford-Greenwich mortgage income for year 3 (2021) of 3 years per minute from Fall Sessions 2018

Note 3: Includes contributions from products & services from the Yearbook (\$28); Faith & Practice (\$560); Hats (\$200); Anti-racism training (\$2309.99); Other (\$4); Conflict Resolution DVD (\$15); ARCH (\$50)

Note 4: Includes distribution from the Lafayette Fund from NYQ, designated for training and support of YM members

Note 5: Per the budget approved at Fall Sessions 2021, the operations reserve could be used to balance the budget

Note 6: Includes covenant donation (\$900) from 2021

Note 7: Includes income to offset Acceptiva expenses (\$2492.71)

Note 8: Includes covenant donation (\$2205) from 2021

Operations Summary	Jun-22	YE 2021
Income	\$ 427,379.02	\$ 706,302.90
Disbursements	\$ 432,590.15	\$ 642,467.68
Surplus/Deficit	\$ (5,211.13)	\$ 63,835.22

2022 Grants	
Friends Foundation for the Aging (FFA)	\$ 64,000
	\$ 64,000

2021 Grants	
Friends Foundation for the Aging (FFA)	\$ 64,000
Private Foundation	\$ 10,000
	\$ 74,000

June 30, 2022

## Sharing Fund Financial Report

	Balance January 1, 2022	General Contrib	YTD Designated Contrib	YTD Disbursed	Balance June 30, 2022	SF Budget	Planned Designated Fund Distribution	Steward/ Committee
<b>Contributions to Other Organizations</b>								
AVP (Alternatives to Violence) Donation	\$ -	\$ 1,004.93	\$ -	\$ 193.98	\$ 810.95	\$ 2,999.63		Quarterly contribution
Right Sharing	\$ -	\$ 1,507.35	\$ -	\$ 290.96	\$ 1,216.39	\$ 4,499.44		Quarterly contribution
Bolivian Quaker Education Fund	\$ -	\$ 705.19	\$ -	\$ 136.12	\$ 569.07	\$ 2,105.00		
Friends Peace Teams	\$ -	\$ 837.33	\$ -	\$ 161.64	\$ 675.69	\$ 2,499.69		Friends Peace Teams
<b>Designated Use Funds</b>								
Barrington Dunbar Fund for Black Development	\$ 9,852.68	\$ 5,024.55	\$ 2,477.91	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 13,355.14	\$ 14,998.13	4,955.82	Barrington Dunbar Committee
Black Concerns	\$ 5,281.78	\$ 1,674.86	\$ 645.61	\$ 1,275.00	\$ 6,327.25	\$ 4,999.38	1,291.22	Committee on Black Concerns
Conscientious Objection to Paying for War	\$ 487.34	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 487.34			COPW Working Group
Earthcare	\$ 6,118.05	\$ -	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 2,300.00	\$ 5,018.05			Earthcare Working Group
Euro American Quakers Working to End Racism	\$ 2,793.96	\$ 553.57	\$ -	\$ 750.00	\$ 2,597.53	\$ 1,652.43		EAQWER Working Group
Indian Affairs	\$ 4,848.50	\$ 1,473.87	\$ 2,842.19	\$ -	\$ 9,164.56	\$ 4,399.45	5,184.38	Indian Affairs Committee
NYYM Named Representatives	\$ 3,776.33	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,776.33			Witness CC
Peace Concerns	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250.00			Peace Working Group
Prisons	\$ 8,514.74	\$ 2,168.51	\$ 6,305.75	\$ 10,253.00	\$ 6,736.00	\$ 6,472.88	4,611.50	Prisons Committee
Torture Awareness	\$ 524.40	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 524.40			Pending decision
Witness Activities	\$ 4,635.92	\$ 334.97	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 3,970.89	\$ 999.88		Witness CC
Witness to the World	\$ 2,804.33	\$ 669.94	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,474.27	\$ 1,999.75		Witness CC
World Ministries	\$ 10,125.23	\$ 1,004.93	\$ 6,725.10	\$ 5,700.00	\$ 12,155.26	\$ 2,999.63	13,450.20	World Ministries Committee
FUM Missions (World Ministries)	\$ 925.37		\$ 1,918.38	\$ -	\$ 2,843.75		3,836.76	World Ministries Committee
<b>We're All in This Together</b>	\$ 3,377.73	\$ 669.94	\$ -	\$ 4,110.70	\$ (63.03)	1,999.75	1	Witness CC
<b>Not allocated</b>		\$ -		\$ -	\$ -			
<b>Total Sharing Fund</b>	<b>\$ 64,316</b>	<b>\$ 17,630</b>	<b>\$ 22,115</b>	<b>\$ 30,171</b>	<b>\$ 73,890</b>	<b>\$ 52,625</b>	<b>\$ 33,329.88</b>	

Note 1: Adjusted at end of year from endowment income before distributing balance to sharing funds by %

Contributions from Meetings and Individuals	\$ 28,866
Sharing Fund Endowment	\$ 23,134
<b>2022 Sharing Fund Total Budgeted Income</b>	<b>\$ 52,000</b>
<b>YTD Percentage of Total Budgeted Income</b>	<b>33.9%</b>

Planned NYYM Invested Funds Designated Income	June	December	Total
Barrington Dunbar	2,477.91	2,477.91	4,955.82
Black Concerns	645.61	645.61	1,291.22
FUM Missions	1,918.38	1,918.38	3,836.76
Indian Affairs	2,592.19	2,592.19	5,184.38
Prisons	2,305.75	2,305.75	4,611.50
World Ministries	6,725.10	6,725.10	13,450.20
	<u>16,664.94</u>	<u>16,664.94</u>	<u>33,329.88</u>
Sharing Fund Endowment	11,566.84	11,566.84	23,133.68

June 30, 2022

## Designated Use Funds - Financial Report

Fund	Balance January 1, 2022	Income	Disbursed	Balance June 30, 2022	Planned 2022 Fund Distribution	Steward	Notes
Equalization Fund	\$ 4,658.08	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,658.08		Sessions C	1
Mahlon York (Butternuts)	\$ (86.92)	\$ 5,175.64	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 288.72	\$ 10,351.28	NYYM Trustees	
Meeting Houses & Properties	\$ 6,163.45	\$ 3,381.13	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 4,744.58	\$ 6,762.26	NYYM Trustees	
Stevens	\$ 318.45	\$ 3,261.73	\$ 4,500.00	\$ (919.82)	\$ 6,523.46	Pastoral Care C	
Aging Concerns (ARCH)	\$ 69,000.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 64,000.00	\$ 5,500.00		Aging Concerns C	2
Children, Youth, Young Adult (CYA)	\$ -	\$ 11,045.00	\$ -	\$ 11,045.00			
FWCC World Gathering	\$ 7,978.03	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,978.03		FWCC C	
FUM Triennial	\$ 3,540.12	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,540.12		FUM C	
FWCC Regional Hosting	\$ 2,598.44	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,598.44		FWCC C	
Legal/Administrative	\$ 31,811.05	\$ 43,531.54	\$ 44,531.54	\$ 30,811.05		NYYM Trustees	
Sufferings	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00		Sufferings Liaison	
Lindley Murray Trust	\$ 34,410.13	\$ 38,261.66	\$ 54,890.79	\$ 17,781.00	\$ 35,561.32	Lindley Murray C	3
	<b>\$ 170,390.83</b>	<b>\$ 105,156.70</b>	<b>\$ 177,522.33</b>	<b>\$ 98,025.20</b>	<b>\$ 59,198.32</b>		

Note 1: Income from individual/meeting contributions

Note 2: \$64,000 from Friends Foundation for the Aging (FFA) grant moved to operations in January 2022 for 2022 expenses

Note 3: Grant awards from the Lindley Murray Trust for 2021 totaled \$54,891. An additional distribution of \$20,481 was made related to the value of the trust's assets in 2021.

As a 4947(a)(1) trust, at least 5% of the assets must be distributed annually.

**June 30, 2022**

## NYYM Invested Funds and Properties

Invested funds consist of bequests or gifts to NYYM and the assets of Meetings that have been laid down. Trustees determine an annual distribution per investment unit. The distributions are disbursed semi-annually in June and December. The assets are currently invested under the care of Friends Fiduciary Corporation.

<b>Invested Funds</b>	<b>June 2022 Distribution</b>	<b>December 2022 Distribution</b>	<b>6/30/2022 Value</b>	<b>YE 2022 Value</b>
<b>Operations</b>				
<i>Operations - Unrestricted*</i>	\$31,578.55	\$31,578.55	\$1,183,145	
<i>Operations - Ministers</i>	\$1,423.71	\$1,423.71	\$77,626	
<i>Operations - Aging Concerns</i>	\$2,600.88	\$2,600.88	\$141,810	
<i>Operations - Publications</i>	\$2,090.55	\$2,090.55	\$113,984	
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>\$37,693.69</b>	<b>\$37,693.69</b>	<b>\$1,516,565</b>	
<b>Funds under the care of Witness Coordinating Committee and Sharing Fund</b>				
<i>Barrington Dunbar</i>	\$2,477.91	\$2,477.91	\$135,105	
<i>Black Concerns</i>	\$645.61	\$645.61	\$35,201	
<i>FUM Missions</i>	\$1,918.38	\$1,918.38	\$104,597	
<i>Indian Affairs</i>	\$2,592.19	\$2,592.19	\$141,336	
<i>Prisons</i>	\$2,305.75	\$2,305.75	\$125,718	
<i>Sharing Fund</i>	\$11,566.84	\$11,566.84	\$630,667	
<i>World Ministries</i>	\$6,725.10	\$6,725.10	\$366,677	
<b>Total Witness Funds</b>	<b>\$28,231.78</b>	<b>\$28,231.78</b>	<b>\$1,539,302</b>	
<b>Other Designated Use Funds</b>				
<i>Mahlon York</i>	\$5,175.64	\$5,175.64	\$282,195	
<i>Meeting Houses and Properties</i>	\$3,381.13	\$3,381.13	\$184,352	
<i>Stevens</i>	\$3,261.73	\$3,261.73	\$177,842	
<b>Total Other Designated Use Funds</b>	<b>\$11,818.50</b>	<b>\$11,818.50</b>	<b>\$644,388</b>	
<b>Designated to Quaker Organizations</b>				
<i>Friends Historical Library</i>	\$3,512.74	\$3,512.74	\$191,528	
<i>Oakwood</i>	\$31,373.56	\$31,373.56	\$1,710,603	
<i>Powell House</i>	\$1,986.02	\$1,986.02	\$108,285	
<b>Total Quaker Organizations</b>	<b>\$36,872.32</b>	<b>\$36,872.32</b>	<b>\$2,010,415</b>	
<b>Lindley Murray Trust</b>	<b>\$17,780.66</b>	<b>\$17,780.66</b>	<b>\$949,738</b>	
<b>Total (LMT + NYYM Invested Funds)</b>	<b>\$132,396.95</b>	<b>\$132,396.95</b>	<b>\$6,660,408</b>	

\* June and December dividends each include \$10,000 towards NYYM administrative costs (bookkeeping, insurance, audit accrual).  
An additional \$1,000 for NYYM administrative costs will come from the Legal/Administrative fund

<b>Property under the care of Trustees</b>	<b>Value/Disposition</b>
Stamford - Greenwich Mortgage	Payments \$1,109.87/month reinvested.
Morris Cemetery	Cemetery fund pays for maintenance (est. \$1500 in 2022)

June 30, 2022

# NYYM Balance Sheet

## ASSETS

June 30, 2022

### Current Assets

#### Checking/Savings

##### Cash

(628,057.53)

#### Total Checking/Savings

(628,057.53)

#### Other Current Assets

##### Other Receivables (Web)

(8,905.54)

##### Prepaid Expenses

(40,050.08)

#### Total Other Current Assets

(48,955.62)

### Total Current Assets

(677,013.15)

## TOTAL ASSETS

(677,013.15)

## LIABILITIES & EQUITY

### Liabilities

#### Current Liabilities

##### Accounts Payable

##### Accounts Payable

3,320.75

##### Total Accounts Payable

3,320.75

##### Other Current Liabilities

##### Total Payroll Liabilities

16,844.33

##### Total Other Current Liabilities

16,844.33

#### Total Current Liabilities

20,165.08

#### Long Term Liabilities

##### Witness - Sharing Funds

73,889.84

##### Other Funds

98,025.20

#### Total Long Term Liabilities

171,915.04

### Total Liabilities

192,080.12

### Equity

484,933.03

## TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY

677,013.15

Note 1: Includes \$40,000 deposit on contract for Silver Bay Summer Sessions venue incurred in 2018.

## **7-2022 Introductory Report from the CYYA Community Director.**

Hello, Friends. My name is Beth Kelly. I am a member of Brooklyn Meeting and I am currently serving the Yearly Meeting as Community Director for Children, Youth and Young Adults. I am glad to be with you.

I took up my role as the Community Director for Children, Youth and Young Adults towards the end of May, so I don't have a whole year to report on. I've largely been learning for the past two months. I'm excited to continue having conversations with the many people who either are younger Friends or are engaged in the nurture of younger Friends. I want to thank the Friends who have been holding those ministries, staff and committees alike.

I'll do a bit of "reporting" about the work that committees and individuals have done to hold the concerns of Children, Youth and Young Adults and about some of the concrete things I have been working on.

But first, I want to explain my understanding of the role of Community in Quakerism. Simply, I think Friends only listen to Spirit well in our Meetings for Worship with a Concern for Business when we know and trust each other. I believe hanging out is the key to being able to function as a religious society. I know a lot of Friends who are invested in our work and missions have been a little disappointed with turnout at programs during summer sessions this year—this includes myself, because it's hard to create a program and have few Friends show up. But I am holding two thoughts: one is, "It's not personal."

The other is, Hanging Out is what people are doing because it is the only way we will survive as a community: it IS the spiritual work Friends need to do this week. Friends need to trust each other and enjoy being

together in order to succeed in offering all our ministry to the world AND to each other. There's an aphorism about interfaith work that says the key to doing it well is, "eat together, pray together, hold one another's babies." But I would add that in our faith communities we must PLAY together, not just kids but adults. The understanding that play helps people find their vulnerability is what makes Powell House programs so effective. Meetings that don't have enough fun, don't share enough joy, where Friends don't really KNOW each other, become ineffective at making important decisions. They also do not retain young people. We need to know each other in the silly times in order to trust each other's sense of the Spirit in more serious times.

I am committed to creating spaces for young people to hang out. I hope older Friends will hang out in those spaces too. Because our young adults, our teens and our children all have wisdom already: Spirit is ALREADY speaking in and through younger Friends. But when older Friends treat younger Friends like all they have to offer is "the future of Quakerism," we all miss out on the way the Light is shining through the souls and bodies of younger Friends in the present. I would like to encourage an experiment: Consider addressing younger Friends, even children, with the same respect and seriousness that you address older Friends with. Allow wisdom to grow, and don't chase them away. There should be no minimum age for participation in the life of a Meeting, a committee, or an opportunity for spiritual deepening; if a younger Friend wants to participate in something, older Friends should encourage it and show them how to do it if they are still learning. This will become easier when we're all hanging out together.

The way that I plan to model respecting the Light in younger Friends is by seeking their as we learn together about deepening community and growing spiritually. I'm not entirely clear what that will look like yet—I am telling children and teens that I want to know their ideas because I



think that often adults plan programs without asking the folks who are invited what they need. My dream is an advisory group primarily made up of Friends under the age of 18. I don't know when that will be feasible—our younger Friends don't all know me yet and neither do the adults that they live with. But I think it's an important vision.

Our youngest adults are again saying they wish they'd received more education and mentoring about how adult Friends do Quakerism—both in their local meetings and specifically at Sessions. While these are concerns that both Whisper Buddies and the Mentoring Program were created to address, we need to do a better job preparing our young people before they leave high school.

So what has been happening in the past year and particularly for the past two months?

I have convened supportive spaces for Friends to process current events that I either heard directly were causing significant stress or predicted would cause significant stress to segments of our community—caring for children by offering supportive space and resources for parents after the shootings in Buffalo and Uvalde, caring for Friends who were scared about not just the right to abortion being stripped but their right to get married or receive appropriate medical care related to reproductive health or gender affirmation. And after receiving feedback about Friends not all being on the same page politically, I offered a reflection to YAF's about caring for each other in the midst of our diversity.

I have been writing a weekly email to Young Adult Friends conveying announcements about activities and opportunities of particular interest and including both a brief reflection of my own and a set of queries. I have also been posting those queries on Instagram and inviting Friends to offer ministry there, which sometimes Friends do.

Like the previous Young Adult Field Secretary, I am engaging in frequent spiritual care conversations.

The mentoring program has had a challenging year, affected by two transitions of staff leadership. The program cycle just ended, so we don't have a report yet. Members of the Mentoring Advisory Committee understand that while the program was successful for many participants, we need to do some things differently the next time around. We believe that having a consistent staff member and resuming some past best practices will help us be more available and consistent for program participants.

When the mentoring program recognized we were providing the majority of programming for young adults, we decided to open most of our late spring workshops and other times to the wider community. This included social time open to all YAF's. We also experimented with creating more worship opportunities.

In projects for children, I want to highlight three things. One is that prior to my arrival in this position, the Standard Operating Procedures group's ad hoc committee on Child and Youth Safety (part of the General Services Committee) created a handbook of recommendations/sample policies/resources with input from the Youth Committee. This handbook is not yet in its final form—there are some bits of information we were waiting for that still need to be added. I expect we will be able to report on that at either Fall or Spring Sessions. But in my conversations with Friends about the handbook's recommendations, we realized that the handbook, which generally focuses on training and vetting persons who work with children in JYM or First Day School, did not account for the many informal ways that adults and children interact in Quaker spaces. The statement provided to you at the start of Summer Sessions about "Caring for a Community

of All Ages” was a product of those serious and worshipful conversations.

The second is the related projects Joy Mickle and Mattie Johnson have been engaging in for over a year. Joy has been compiling a directory of the “Person at each meeting who holds the concern for children’s nurture” and Mattie is doing a listening tour to learn about the needs of children, parents and First Day Schools in our Yearly Meeting. Neither of these projects is quite complete yet. I am enormously grateful for the resources that will benefit my engagement with local Meetings.

And the last is something Youth Committee has spent the last couple of years on: a Vision Statement. It reads:

A Vision for Our Young People: We want our young people to have a home in our yearly meeting and a sense of having internalized shared values - around a nonviolent approach to conflict, around decency, around authenticity - regardless of whether they remain Friends as adults.

We want our young people to be grounded in Friends’ history, faith and practice, and have a language to describe it.

We want them to have experience being guided by the Spirit, both as individuals and in community.

We want them to have experience of their own gifts and leadings that they can step into as adults.

And we want them to do all of these things in a community that *cherishes* them and their families at all stages of life.

Friends. I cherish all of you and look forward to cherishing our young people together.

May 24, 2022

Dr. Stan Bratton  
Executive Director, Network of Religious Communities  
1272 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209-2496  
[nrc@religiousnet.org](mailto:nrc@religiousnet.org)

Dear Dr. Bratton,

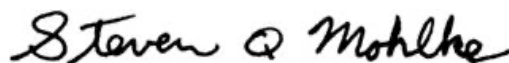
On behalf of the New York Yearly Meeting organization of Quaker congregations we offer our condolences on the recent shooting in Buffalo. Quakers throughout our community, in New York, western Connecticut, and northern New Jersey, want you to know that we are with you in your grief and sorrow.

We are all one in the Light of God. When any among us are injured, we all suffer. That suffering may be intensified when it results from racial hatred. We know we must resist this racial hatred for God calls us to create a just and loving society.

May God's healing power flow freely among all who grieve these losses. May we always remember those who fell prematurely that day.



Elaine Learnard  
Clerk of New York Yearly Meeting



Steve Mohlke  
General Secretary of New York Yearly Meeting

May 24, 2022

Pastor Angela Stewart  
African Methodist Ministers Alliance  
314 E. Ferry St., Buffalo, NY 14208  
[sangel54@verizon.net](mailto:sangel54@verizon.net)

Dear Pastor Stewart,

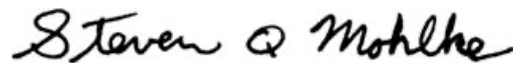
On behalf of the New York Yearly Meeting organization of Quaker congregations we offer our condolences on the recent shooting in Buffalo. Quakers throughout our community, in New York, western Connecticut, and northern New Jersey, want you to know that we are with you in your grief and sorrow.

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May God's healing power flow freely among all who grieve these losses. May we always remember those who fell prematurely that day.



Elaine Learnard  
Clerk of New York Yearly Meeting



Steve Mohlke  
General Secretary of New York Yearly Meeting

**See minute 2022-07-33**

New York State Council of Churches office@nyscoc.org via email.actionnetwork.org

Apr 20, 2022, 9:25 PM (2 days ago)

Dear Elaine

We just signed New York State Council of Churches on to a comment **urging the Biden Administration to act quickly to finalize responsible reforms that protect immigrant families' access to the health and social services safety net**. I'm reaching out to ask that your organization consider signing on, too.

As you may know, the Trump "public charge" regulations put immigration applications at risk if lawfully-present immigrants used specific safety net programs for which they qualified. Because the Trump regulations named programs that serve both citizens and non-citizens, they deterred millions in mixed-status families from getting the care and help they needed during the pandemic.

Before President Biden took office, our partners at the Protecting Immigrant Families coalition urged him to replace the Trump policy with less biased, less dangerous, more responsible public charge regulations. The Biden DHS recently responded, with a regulatory proposal that:

- Assures eligible immigrant families that they can use safety net programs without immigration concerns
- Makes it harder for future presidents to radically change public charge policy, and
- Clearly states that:
  - A child's or other family member's use of federal safety net programs never affects immigration applications
  - Medicaid is safe for eligible immigrant families to use for any other health care need besides long-term institutional care
  - SNAP, WIC, the Child Tax Credit, Section 8, and other "non-cash" federal programs (and state- and locally-funded versions of those programs) never affect immigration applications

We want to encourage them to finalize the proposal quickly, so immigrant families can feel safe getting the care and help they need. And to facilitate timely action, we want to minimize the number of comments DHS must review before finalizing the regulations, while providing a forum that brings nonprofits together around a shared message. We also want to take advantage of the opportunity for public comment to urge DHS to make specific improvements. The PIF sign-on comment is below.

in faith,  
Peter Cook

Submitted via [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov)  
April 25, 2022  
Samantha Deshommes, Chief  
Regulatory Coordination Division, Office of Policy and Strategy  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
Department of Homeland Security

Re: DHS Docket No. USCIS-2021-0013, Comments in Response to Proposed Rulemaking,  
Public Charge Ground of Inadmissibility

The undersigned [NUMBER] national, state and local organizations in [ALL 50 STATES AND DC] are writing to share our support for, as well as recommendations to improve on, the public charge notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) published in the Federal Register on February 24, 2022.

Safety net programs for health, nutrition, housing, and other basic needs help nearly half of Americans to make ends meet at some point in their lifetime. In an economy where, for millions, working full-time isn't enough to pay the rent, take the children to the doctor, or put food on the table, getting help doesn't make a person – citizen or not – a public charge. It makes them part of a typical family.

The public charge ground of inadmissibility is an antiquated policy reflecting centuries of racial and class bias. We are committed to working with Congress to strike it from the law. We also recognize, however, that at present it remains a provision of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) must administer the law. To that end, we urge DHS to move quickly to improve and finalize the proposed rule.

Finalizing a responsible public charge policy is critical to ensuring that immigrants who qualify for safety net programs can be confident that seeking health care, food and nutrition assistance, housing or other help will not put future immigration applications at risk. This proposed rule is an important step mitigating the damage of the 2019 public charge policy.

The proposed regulation restores and improves upon the public charge policy that was in use from the late-1990s through the late 2010s, and that was consistent with longstanding public charge policy. Importantly, the NPRM recognizes that use of core health, nutrition, and housing assistance programs should in no way be linked to the INA's public charge provision. They represent our country's policy choices about how to help all workers and families succeed. This is a common sense foundation on which to build.

We commend DHS for proposing significant improvements to the 1999 guidance. These improvements – especially proposed definitions and instructions for adjudicating officers – will reduce the bias and harm resulting from the application of the INA's public charge provision. “Primarily dependent” is the appropriate standard for a public charge determination and we support its use. We also recommend that if a person uses any programs considered in a public

charge determination to overcome hardships caused by a temporary situation, that use should not be considered an indication of primary dependence. Examples include the use of such programs by survivors of domestic violence, serious crimes, disasters, accidents, or by children, pregnant or recently pregnant persons. Similarly, we support DHS's proposal to clarify that an individual's use of safety net programs while in an exempt immigration status will not be considered.

The proposed rule also improves on the 1999 guidance by defining "receipt" of safety net benefits for the purpose of public charge determinations. Under the proposal, applying for benefits, being approved for benefits in the future, assisting another to apply for benefits, or being in a household or family with someone who receives benefits does not count as receipt of benefits. This reform is crucial to ensure the administrability of the public charge rule and to mitigate the "chilling effect" of the 2019 public charge policy, especially on U.S. citizen children in mixed-status households.

We support DHS's decision not to define the five statutory factors described in the INA: the applicant's age; health; family status; assets, resources, and financial status; and education and skills. We support the rule's favorable consideration of the affidavit of support. We recommend that, consistent with longstanding Department of State instructions, a valid affidavit of support be deemed sufficient to overcome a public charge test, unless "significant public charge factors" are present, under the totality of the circumstances. Placing a focus on the affidavit of support to mitigate issues arising under the statutory factors is the most administrable approach. Defining the statutory factors would necessarily result in far more complexity and discretion, unnecessarily adding administrative burdens and opening the door to bias. In addition, we recommend that DHS retain the proposed language regarding the term "totality of the circumstances," where no one factor other than an insufficient affidavit of support, if required, should be the sole criterion for determining whether an applicant is likely to become a public charge.

We also support the enumeration of 29 categories of immigrants—beginning with refugees and asylees and ending with Syrian nationals under the Syrian Adjustment Act and others exempt under federal law—to whom the public charge ground of inadmissibility does not apply. We also urge that DHS update the USCIS policy manual to reflect any additional exempt groups. Such a comprehensive and responsive list can simplify communications and reduce the chilling effect against use of benefits for those who are clearly exempt.

However, the proposed rule falls short in several key areas and must be strengthened. The improvements detailed below are critical to ensure an equitable public charge rule consistent with President Biden's direction that DHS and other federal agencies eliminate "barriers that prevent immigrants from accessing government services available to them."

The only two programs that should be relevant in determining whether a person is "likely at any time to become primarily dependent on the government for subsistence" are Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program (TANF) cash



assistance (non-cash services and short term benefits under TANF should not be considered as cash assistance). The Immigration and Naturalization Service's 1999 Field Guidance indicated that both of these programs should be considered in a public charge determination and in a 2022 letter to DHS, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services agreed. Consideration of an applicant's use of these programs should be qualified in two essential ways. First, the rule should make clear that receipt of SSI or TANF will not automatically result in a public charge determination, but will simply be considered along with other factors in the totality of the circumstances. Second, only the applicant's current use of SSI or TANF should be considered—a person who has received benefits in the past but is not currently using benefits has had a change in circumstances that may make them unlikely to need safety net programs in the future. Past use of benefits should not be considered in public charge determinations. No other benefits should be considered as part of the public charge determination. Specifically, we urge DHS to revise the proposed rule to exclude:

- State, Tribal, territorial, or local safety net programs, including programs providing cash assistance for income maintenance. DHS should define cash assistance as limited exclusively to cash assistance for income maintenance under the two federal cash assistance programs (TANF or SSI) and exclude all other programs, including state, Tribal, territorial, or local programs. Failure to exclude all non-federal programs, including cash assistance programs, would undermine states' efforts to mitigate social problems and inequity, as well as complicate messages about the policy, undermining nationwide efforts to combat the persistent chilling effect.
- Long-term institutionalization at government expense. Allowing any type of Medicaid coverage to be considered in a public charge determination causes confusion and perpetuates the chilling effect caused by the 2019 public charge rule. It also discriminates against people with disabilities and older adults because only people with disabilities and older adults experience long-term institutionalization. If federal long-term institutionalization is considered in a public charge determination, DHS should clarify that state, Tribal, territorial or locally funded institutionalization is excluded.

DHS should strengthen the scope of protection for vulnerable immigrants such as VAWA self-petitioners, qualified battered immigrants, and individuals who have applied for or obtained U or T status, by adding language clarifying that, consistent with the statute, they are exempt from a public charge determination, regardless of their pathway to adjustment of status.

We appreciate DHS's invitation to provide input on "how to communicate to parents of U.S. citizen children that the receipt of benefits by such children would not be considered part of the public charge inadmissibility determination for the parents." We recommend the inclusion of a non-exclusive list of exempted benefits within the text of the regulations. Beyond the rule itself, a broad, government-wide outreach and engagement campaign would be the most effective way to meet DHS's goals, especially its stated desire to limit the negative effects of public charge policy on children, including children in mixed-status households. Materials and messages developed for the campaign should be multilingual and include a clear statement that benefits used by a child or other person in the applicant's household would not be treated as received by the applicant. This would be accomplished most effectively in partnership with states, cities and community-based organizations.

The social and economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrate why the final public charge regulation must be crystal clear. The complicated and confusing nature of the 2019 public charge policy significantly increased the damage it did to the nation. For example, it deterred immigrant families from applying for not only Medicaid and SNAP, which could be considered in public charge determinations under the 2019 regulation, but also CHIP and WIC, which remained excluded. This policy not only deterred eligible immigrants from using safety net programs, it has also deterred U.S. citizens in immigrant families from getting the health care and help they need during the pandemic. To eliminate “barriers that prevent immigrants from accessing government services available to them,” DHS’s final regulation must be clear and easy to explain.

The changes described above are critical in encouraging millions of persons in immigrant families to get the help and care they need, so they can power the pandemic recovery and build a healthier, stronger future for the United States. We urge DHS to act quickly to issue a final rule that makes these essential improvements.

#### PARTNER EMAIL

We just signed OURNONPROFIT on to a comment urging the Biden Administration to act quickly to finalize responsible reforms that protect immigrant families’ access to the health and social services safety net. I’m reaching out to ask that YOURNONPROFIT consider signing on, too. The deadline is today, so please put this at the top of your to-do list!

As you may know, the Trump “public charge” regulations put immigration applications at risk if lawfully-present immigrants used specific safety net programs for which they qualified. Because the Trump regulations named programs that serve both citizens and non-citizens, they deterred millions in mixed-status families from getting the care and help they needed during the pandemic.

Before President Biden took office, our partners at the Protecting Immigrant Families coalition urged him to replace the Trump policy with less biased, less dangerous, more responsible public charge regulations. The Biden DHS recently responded, with a regulatory proposal that:

- Assures eligible immigrant families that they can use safety net programs without immigration concerns
- Makes it harder for future presidents to radically change public charge policy, and
- Clearly states that:
  - A child’s or other family member’s use of federal safety net programs never affects immigration applications
  - Medicaid is safe for eligible immigrant families to use for any other health care need besides long-term institutional care
  - SNAP, WIC, the Child Tax Credit, Section 8, and other “non-cash” federal programs (and state- and locally-funded versions of those programs) never affect immigration applications

We want to encourage them to finalize the proposal quickly, so immigrant families can feel safe getting the care and help they need. And to facilitate timely action, we want to minimize the number of comments DHS must review before finalizing the regulations, while providing a forum that brings nonprofits together around a shared message. We also want to take advantage of the opportunity for public comment to urge DHS to make specific improvements. The PIF sign-on comment:

- Urges DHS to act quickly to finalize public charge reform
- Comments the agency where its proposal would provide critical protections for immigrant families
- Urges DHS to make specific improvements, including:
  - Ensuring that state- and locally-funded “cash assistance” programs, like excluded workers funds and universal basic income programs, are not considered in public charge determinations
  - Clarifying that Medicaid is never considered in public charge determinations, even when used for long-term institutional care in a nursing home
  - Exempting orphans, domestic violence survivors, victims of other crimes, and other vulnerable immigrants from public charge determinations entirely

If you have questions about public charge, the Biden proposal, or the sign-on comment, I can connect you with our PIF partners. Meanwhile, thanks for considering our request.

## TALKING POINTS

- This is our chance to protect immigrant families
- We asked the Biden Administration to develop new regulations that:
  - Make public charge less racist, less arbitrary, and less dangerous for millions in immigrant families
  - Shield families from attacks by some future president
- That’s what this proposal does – it:
  - Assures eligible immigrant families that they can use safety net programs without immigration concerns and
  - Makes it harder for future presidents to radically change public charge policy
- But the proposal isn’t perfect
- It would count state and local safety “cash assistance” programs against immigrants
- And long-term care under Medicaid counts too, effectively biasing public charge policy against older adults and people with disabilities
- We can thread the needle
- We want to make this regulation as good as we can
- Without burying DHS in comments that will just slow down regulatory reform

That's why our partners at the Protecting Immigrant Families coalition developed a sign-on comment: to unite nonprofits around a reform agenda without slowing down the regulatory process

Sign onto the Protecting Immigrant Families comment

Tell the Biden Administration how they can build a public charge regulation that really protects immigrant families

**Elaine signed on to the comment on 4/22/22**

# An Urgent Call to the Religious Society of Friends

May 2022

We Quakers, members of the Religious Society of Friends, hold strongly to the principle of speaking truth with integrity. We ground our speaking truth in our worship and our searching of ourselves, as we listen deeply and honestly within and across all differences. Our testimony to the world includes standing up for spiritually discerned Truth, the equality of all persons, the peaceful resolution of conflicts, and respect and care for our neighbors and the earth. Right now, we see many forces at work in our country and the world that are undermining these basic values. Accordingly, we call on Friends everywhere to act.

In this country, in 2020, we witnessed an attempted coup. The January 6 assault on the Capitol was a deliberate, violent attempt to prevent Joe Biden — the clear winner of the 2020 election — from taking office and keeping then-president Donald Trump in power. To maintain that the last election was riddled with fraud is demonstrably false. This politically motivated movement has now embarked on an orchestrated campaign to suppress voting by black, brown and young people and to pass new state election laws giving the power to throw out huge numbers of valid ballots to highly partisan legislatures, governors, and state attorneys general. Thus, this lie is being used to deprive people of their constitutional rights and constitutes a major injustice.

As Friends, we feel called to speak out against these falsehoods and anti-democratic actions. We encourage Friends to seek spiritual guidance on any actions that you and your meetings might take to witness against this gross injustice. If this politically motivated movement succeeds in its anti-democratic takeover attempt, any hope of making significant progress on racial and economic justice, the equality of all people, the climate crisis, gun violence, and other urgent issues of our time will be gone.

We know that democracy in the United States has many flaws. During the past 100 years, our local, state and federal governments have acted to prevent formerly enslaved people and other communities of color from voting. It was not until 1920 that women finally won the right to vote, and their equality is still being challenged. We call on Friends to act — first, to resist all efforts to undermine our current democratic processes, and second, to support true democratic reforms to our still flawed election system. We cannot allow a government that is built on lies and injustice.

We the undersigned are encouraging Quakers throughout the country to work in their local communities, states, and the national arena to take critical actions to prevent an authoritarian takeover of our democracy. We urge Friends to discern the deep truths that provide a foundation for active love, wisdom, compassion, and a truly democratic electoral system—and then to actively support such changes. We know that love conquers fear. Let us lean into Divine Love and find ways forward in Truth.

On the reverse are two queries for you and your meeting to consider in response to this call. We've also included a list of specific actions that Friends could begin taking now. Some actions may become necessary later if there is another attempted coup during the next presidential election cycle.

See *minute* 2022-07-33

## MARIAN BEANE

Charlotte Friends Meeting, Piedmont Friends - Yearly Meeting and Fellowship

## BRUCE BIRCHARD

Central Philadelphia Friends Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Former General Secretary, Friends General Conference

## LAURA BOYCE

Providence Friends Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Ujima Friends Peace Center

## MARTHA BRYANS

Downingtown Friends Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

## SAM CALDWELL

Providence Friends Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Former General Secretary, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

## GRETCHEN CASTLE

Doylestown Friends Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Dean, Earlham School of Religion, Former General Secretary, Friends World Committee for Consultation World Office

## ROBERT DOCKHORN

Green Street Friends Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

## TOM EWELL

Whidbey Island Friends Meeting, North Pacific Yearly Meeting

## EILEEN FLANAGAN

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

## JOHN HELDING

Lopez Island Friends Meeting, North Pacific Yearly Meeting

## AYESHA IMANI

Ujima Friends Meeting, Philadelphia, Clerk, Ujima Friends Peace Center, Former Clerk of the Fellowship of Friends of African Descent

## PHIL LORD

Ujima Friends Meeting, Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

## MARY ELLEN MCNISH

Byberry Friends Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Former General Secretary, American Friends Service Committee

## DIANE RANDALL

Hartford Friends Meeting, New England Yearly Meeting, Sojourning Friends Meeting of Washington, Baltimore Yearly Meeting, Former General Secretary, Friends Committee on National Legislation

## CHRISTINA REPOLEY

Atlanta Friends Meeting, Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association, Founding Director of Quaker Voluntary Service

## COLIN SAXTON

North Valley Friends Meeting, Newberg, Oregon

## JOE VOLK

Executive Secretary Emeritus, Friends Committee on National Legislation

## MICHAEL WAJDA

Goshen Friends Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Sojourning Bennington Friends Meeting, New England Yearly Meeting, Former Associate Secretary, Friends General Conference

## PAM YALLER

Upper Dublin Friends Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

*Meeting and Organization Affiliations are listed for identification purposes only.*

# Queries & Actions

## QUERIES

1. What, if anything, is the Light Within calling Friends to do in response to the unprecedented rise of domestic extremism, white supremacy, and authoritarianism that is threatening the destruction of our democracy at home and abroad?
2. How can I/we respond with resolute love even while I/we may be struggling with fear, anger, apathy, or hate?

You can endorse this Quaker message, find additional resources, register for national conversations on these issues, report on specific actions that you, your meeting, or your organization has undertaken, and sign up for continued updates at [www.quakercall.net](http://www.quakercall.net).

We also welcome your questions, suggestions, and resources at [info@quakercall.net](mailto:info@quakercall.net).

Some queries and suggestions regarding what Friends and meetings might do in response to the *Urgent Call to the Religious Society of Friends*

## POSSIBLE ACTIONS

### ***Defending Truth***

We urge all Friends to discern the deep truths that provide a foundation for active love, wisdom, compassion, and peace in the world — and then to defend them. We ask:

- Individual Friends to search yourselves about the threats to our country, and the world, and to witness publicly to the truths that you discern are grounded in your experience of the Spirit.
- Quaker meetings and organizations to issue public statements calling out lies and the purveyors of lies, all in the context of our understanding of love, equality, and justice for all.

### ***Working for True Equality and Justice for All***

We urge Friends to act for equality and equity within our diverse society:

- Join or support organizations led by people of color which are working for the empowerment of black, brown, indigenous and Asian people and communities.
- Speak, write, and protest in support for full equality of all people in American society, whatever their racial or sexual identity, gender, or class.
- Support legislative and economic changes that would lead to actual equity among all peoples.

### ***Promoting Free and Fair Elections***

Stemming from our testimonies of Integrity and Equality, we urge Friends to:

- Support non-partisan voter-registration drives, particularly in communities under attack from those seeking to prevent them from voting.
- Publicly condemn partisan efforts to restrict access to voting.
- Confront partisan efforts to seize control of the election administration apparatus.
- Support conscientious, non-partisan election officials in our communities.
- Volunteer as poll workers, election monitors, and drivers to get people to the polls.

### ***Preparing for Non-Violent Resistance***

We believe that as a religious society grounded in nonviolence, we can:

- Initiate discussions on the impacts of voter suppression and new laws enabling partisan actors to legally throw out ballots and change the results of elections, then garnering support for nonviolent resistance against all this, and forming community-based networks of support for such actions.
- Arrange for nonviolent direct-action training in our Quaker meetings and organizations, as well as with others in our larger communities.
- Form small “affinity groups” that can prepare to carry out direct actions in support of free and fair elections and the state and local officials who support them.
- Support wider efforts to plan and organize nonviolent resistance on a state and nationwide level, as needed.

See minute 2022-07-34

## **Summer 2022 NYYM Nominations**

### **Officers:**

Clerk Elaine Learnard ('20)                      Conscience Bay

### **Assistant Clerk**

Gloria Thompson ('21)                      Manhattan

### **Treasurer**

Laura Cisar ('18)                      New Brunswick

### **Recording Clerk**

Lucy Bjorklund Harper ('20)                      Rochester

Melanie-Claire Mallison ('22)                      Ithaca

Laura Higgins ('20)                      Wilton

### **NYYM Trustees**

Albert Hsu                      Wilton                      Class of 2026

### **Oakwood Friends School Board of Managers**

Robert Hidell ('20)                      Baltimore Yearly Meeting

### **Class of 2025**

Kate Moss ('19)                      Fifteenth Street                      Class of 2025

Elizabeth Porter ('15)                      NEYM                      Class of 2024

Philip Richmond ('19) Baltimore Yearly Meeting                      Class of 2025

## **Affiliate Groups**

Friends General Conference

Helen B. Mullin ('19)

Brooklyn

Class of 2025

Friends United Meeting Triennial 2023 reps

Gabrielle Savory Bailey

Chatham-Summit

Emily Provance

Fifteenth St.

NYYM Meetings for Discernment Steering Committee

Lucy Bjorklund Harper ('20)

Rochester

Class of 2025

## **Ministry Coordinating Committee**

At large

Regina Baird Haag ('20)

Old Chatham

Class of 2025

Committee on Conflict Transformation

Grace Perez-de-la-Garza ('19)

Fredonia

Class of 2025

Anne Pomeroy

New Paltz

Class of 2025

Ministry and Pastoral Care

Don Badgley ('19)

Poughkeepsie

Class of 2025

Jennifer Swann ('18)

South Berkshire (NEYM)

Class of 2024

Lauren Scott

Westbury

Class of 2025

Guelmy Neris

Montclair

Class of 2025



### Epistle Committee

Roger Dreisbach-Williams ('21)	Rahway-Plainfield	Class of 2025
Julia Giordano ('19)	Bulls Head-Oswego	Class of 2025
Polly Duke	Westbury	Class of 2025

### Committee to Revise Faith and Practice

Roger Dreisbach Williams ('19)	Rahway-Plainfield	Class of 2025
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Julia Giordano	Bulls Head-Oswego	Class of 2025
Benjamin Frisch ('19)	Brooklyn	Class of 2025
Ann-Marie Scheidt ('19)	Conscience Bay	Class of 2025

### Elsie K. Powell House Committee

David Frackman ('17)	Brooklyn	Class of 2025
Neil Murdock	Rockland	Class of 2025
Louise Tiano ('19)	Brooklyn	Class of 2025
Kirsten McGiver		Class of 2025
Will Strayer	Nine Partners	Class of 2025

### State of Society

Lisa Gasstrom	Westbury	Class of 2025
Hans-Jurgen Lehmann	NYYM	Class of 2025

### General Services Coordinating Committee

#### At large

Bridget Bower ('19)	Perry City	Class of 2025
Robin Gowin ('19)	New Brunswick	Class of 2025

### Committee on Aging Concerns

Matthew Bell ('18)	Fifteenth St.	Class of 2024
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### Audit Committee

Michael Mascari	Westbury	Class of 2025
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### Development

Mary Hannon Williams ('19)	Bulls Head-Oswego	Class of 2025
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### Financial Services

Gary Barnes	Buffalo	Class of 2025
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Lisa Gasstrom ('17)	Westbury	Class of 2023
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### Lindley Murray

Carol Warner ('16)	Fifteenth St.	Class of 2026
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Lisa Bateman ('21)	Fifteenth St.	Class of 2023
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### Personnel

Michael Mascari ('19)	Westbury	Class of 2025
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### Sessions

Columbine Loza	Brooklyn	Class of 2025
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Ellie Rosenberg ('19)	Ithaca	Class of 2025
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### **Witness Coordinating Committee**

### At large

Frederick Dettmer	Purchase	Class of 2025
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Margaret McCasland ('19)	Ithaca	Class of 2025
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AFSC

Lisa Gasstrom ('19)	Westbury	Class of 2025
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Hans-Jurgen Lehmann ('19)	NYYM	Class of 2025
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Friends Committee on National Legislation

David Kirkpatrick	Bulls Head-Oswego	Class of 2025
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Margaret Lew	Fifteenth St.	Class of 2025
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Indian Affairs

Lucy Bjorklund Harper	Rochester	Class of 2025
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New York State Council of Churches

Robert (Sunfire) Kazmayer ('19)	Easton	Class of 2025
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Prisons

Khary Bekka	Brooklyn	Class of 2025
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Suzanne Blackburn	Genesee Valley	Class of 2025
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Phyllis Rantanen Bunker ('19)	Poplar Ridge	Class of 2025
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Robert Rose, III	Scarsdale	Class of 2024
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Matthew Scanlon ('19)	Scarsdale	Class of 2025
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Quaker Earthcare Witness Representative

Margaret McCasland	Ithaca	Class of 2025
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World Ministries

Charlotte (Tay) Tahk	Orchard Park	Class of 2025
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Marvea Thompson	Brooklyn	Class of 2025
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## **Memorial Minute for Wilma Louise Campbell**

Born: Edgefield, South Carolina Fourth Month 20, 1948 Died: Rochester, NY Fifth month 26, 2020

Wilma, known to many as a social justice warrior and dedicated friend, wanted to be remembered as “a drum major for justice.” She was an accomplished professional employee of Xerox Company for a good part of her adult life, and was a brilliant photographer. When she retired, she was able to devote herself more fully to racial justice issues, and help smaller activist organizations with her accounting skills. Twelfth Month 11, 2011 she became a member of Rochester Friends Meeting.

A personal story shared by Wilma with a white Friend over lunch at a Quaker Spring Gathering that helped that Friend understand structural racism more clearly:

“She [Wilma] told of having been stopped by a policeman in an area near her home. He had wondered why she was in that neighborhood. Because she lived there. He didn’t believe her and continued to question her over and over. When she got out identification showing her address, he accused her of stealing it.”

Her family history with Friends included a grandfather who taught Black children in a one-room school house in Edgefield Co, South Carolina, where Strom Thurman was serving as Superintendent of Schools. Her grandfather was also a Trustee of Bettis Academy for Black children, a residential, private school, now laid down but on the National Register of Historic Places in South Carolina. This school was funded, in part, by several eastern Yearly Meetings, including New York Yearly Meeting. Wilma graduated from the segregated William Penn High School for Girls in Philadelphia, where she had experienced some interaction with girls from Friends Select.

After 30 years of on and off attendance, Wilma sought and was approved for membership with Rochester Friends Meeting. At that point she desired to take a stronger part in a spiritual community. Feeling like she had come “home”, she was ready to take part in the life of Friends.

As a member, Wilma deeply engaged herself with anti-racism work among Friends. She served the Meeting with her gifts in accounting, participating in Finance Committee and serving as a Meeting auditor. She introduced anti-racism work to Rochester Friends Meeting. She brought the film, “I’m Not a Racist, Am I” to Rochester and, in 2015, she shared this film and led a

discussion of it at Rochester Friends Meeting. She led the Meeting's attendance at a Rochester Museum and Science Center exhibit on racism and PBS's film showing of Rochester's 1964 racial uprising. With these, and many more opportunities, she was persistent and encouraging, never judging or impatient with our education.

In the Yearly Meeting, she was appointed to the Black Concerns Committee in 2013, and served 2 terms, until 2019. In 2016, the Philadelphia White Privilege Conference was held with 100+ NYYM Friends attending. One Black Friend who attended that Conference and remembered Wilma's face on the front cover of Friends Journal [October 2014], described running up to her as a total stranger, and hugging her. "It was as if I had just found a long missing relative I had been waiting my whole life to meet". She felt instantly spiritually connected to Wilma-she had met another Black Friend. She described Wilma as a "life saver and guardian angel". When that Friend experienced a stroke during the Conference, Wilma embraced caring for her children. "I knew they were in good hands and would be ok." Wilma made great efforts to bring the White Privilege Symposium to Rochester. Working with a local organizing committee, she became increasingly ill during this planning process. When the local organizing committee withdrew over issues of control, the national leaders of the White Privilege Conference picked up the process and arranged for the Symposium to be held at East High School, where Friends showed up in numbers.

Wilma was a community leader for racial and social justice. Voting mattered deeply to her and one friend remembers serving on the local Democratic Committee together and doing neighborhood canvassing. "Wilma would want to have a conversation with the person we were talking to. She was never satisfied with just telling them how, where or when to vote. It was much more important to her that she form the beginning of a relationship."

Wilma was known to be "on fire" and her "flame [could] burn hot". As a member of the Board of the Greater Rochester Community of Churches, representing Rochester Friends Meeting, she doggedly raised consciousness about racism. She served ROC ACTS [the Rochester Alliance of Communities Transforming Society] as a Coordinator, Metro Justice as an at-large Council member involved in the Racial Justice Committee, and was the prime convenor for a series of

workshops for the community called Sacred Conversations on Race. She volunteered for the Alternatives to Violence Project, Inc., which is dedicated to community and prison-based teaching of nonviolent approaches to conflict used by Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. On May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 she received a “Bridge Builder for Racial Justice” award at the 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Activist Awards from the Rochester Genesee Valley chapter of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women’s Clubs. Her son, Arleigh, and many of her friends were there to celebrate that recognition with her.

These are external recognitions; what matters most is what was in Wilma’s heart. These are words that friends and Friends used to describe her: spiritually strong; inspirational; humble; patient; curious; wise; brilliant; direct; blunt; witty; hilarious; canny; surprising; kind, gentle and caring; adventurous; daring and reckless; connected; down-to-earth; a great story teller; always late — i.e. “on her own time”; radiant, regal, warm, non-intimidating — but challenging, piercing. This last quality led her to speak her Truth, even when it could be difficult for others-Black or White- to hear.

Wilma could be overly self-critical, and she sensed that her time was limited on this earth. So, she examined her own efforts through use of a Meeting Clearness Committee. Although she authentically embodied a non-violent anti-racism approach to living in the world, during those weeks with the group she seemed to begin realizing something else: that she needed to use the same non-violent approach for her own body.

Many remember that Wilma responded to smiles and that her smile could light up a day. They remember her as a great and enthusiastic cook and sharing meals with her. They remember her deep love for her mother, Rose, her son, Arleigh, and her treasured dogs. They remember her love of books, trees, ice cream, her engagement with art, and having adventures with her that could be scary at times because of her curiosity and determination. They also remember that, as her health deteriorated, she needed to accept their help out of necessity. They were grateful for the opportunity. Even in her decline, speaking her Truth out of genuine caring as well as her sensitivity to the possibility of subtle racism, she treated all, including “...overworked nurses, aides and cleaning staff with [deep] respect. She ordered catered lunches for one crew and

bought meaningful gifts for another. Not one person who'd worked with her went without thanks and jokes and love. She teased everyone, no matter how she was suffering." On the day she lay dying at Strong Memorial Hospital, where she was to be disconnected from life support following a severe stroke, a diversity of friends formed a circle across the street from her room, at the edge of Mt Hope Cemetery, to share personal stories; and, most of all, their respect and love for Wilma, and the impact she had had on their lives. Friends also held her in prayer. The following day Wilma traveled on; her son and a close friend talking and singing to her as she made her transition.

In her last year, Wilma talked a fair amount about her death and dying. She said, "This body is not my home. My spirit is only here a little while. I'll be celebrating my spirit going back where it came from."

Howdy.... hey. Stars in your soup, Wilma.

Shrewsbury Monthly Meeting, Religious Society of Friends  
Approved at Meeting for Business on June 12, 2022

Memorial Minute for Gordon Clark

One memorable observation that Gordon liked to share was about how, sitting in meeting for worship, he would imagine, and perhaps even experience the presence of the many generations of Friends who had assembled here in years past.

While this is hardly a summary of his significance to the meeting, it does point to two dimensions of his long standing commitment and meaningful contributions to the meeting community.

Much of Gordon's work among us is related in almost equal parts to the meetinghouse itself, and to the history it represents to us.

Over the years, he organized and oversaw more than a dozen capital projects supporting the repair and restoration of our 200 year-old meetinghouse. Most of these involved, and required detailed applications for county historical commission preservation grants. They also required our raising amounts equal to the 'county share' from among Friends, or from other community resources.

Not a season was missed over the years that Gordon led that effort.

Meanwhile, he was also actively engaged in representing the history behind the meeting's presence in Shrewsbury, through conducting research, connecting with local historians, and giving presentations at the meetinghouse and beyond.

Best known to us were his talks at the annual early December Shrewsbury Corners Lantern Tours, at which eight groups of twenty or more would rotate among local sites, each for a half-hour presentation on the history and architecture of the place being visited.

Slightly less formal were the annual two-day spring 'Weekend in Old Monmouth' open-house occasions, at which Gordon would entertain and inform group after group of interested visitors.

He also made a table display and developed a slide show that could be adapted to cover as much or as little of the repertoire as our guests' interests might suggest. Occasionally, he would also take these 'on the road' to share with other groups in our community and beyond.

But that was hardly all of what he brought to the meeting.

For many years, while his children were much younger than we all are today, he was regular car and driver for a car pool that took not only his daughters, but other



youngsters from both our meeting and neighboring meetings to Powell House, a Quaker education and retreat center in upstate New York, so they could spend some time with other Quaker kids. Likewise, the Junior Yearly Meeting each summer at Silver Bay on Lake George.

Those of us who were privileged to share time with Gordon at Silver Bay also knew of his skills in sailing, and, to the amazement – and entertainment- of many, with the yo-yo.

All this on top of his employment as a teacher, and as chair of the science department at South River High School.

Which brings us to another of his favorite stories, which seems to have happened to each of his daughters in turn at another public school which they attended.

While studying William Penn and the Quaker settlement in Philadelphia in their history or social studies classes, each of them had occasion to volunteer the information that they, too, were Quakers. ‘Oh no’, the teacher was reported to have said. ‘You can’t be Quakers. Quakers are extinct.’

With a conviction no doubt consistent with that of their parents, each of them replied to that teacher that another teacher in that same school, identified by name, was also a member of the same Quaker meeting they attended.

Hardly extinct.

Gordon himself also continues to be a real presence for us, not only via the physical evidence he’s left with us, and probably even beyond what any one of us might personally remember about him.

He was a Friend and a friend, always ready to lend support, whether in time of need, or in time of moving forward an idea or a project.

And that presence continues in the persons of his family, his friends, and the many others he has influenced for the good, both inside and beyond the scope of our little meeting.

Many of the Friends who might also have had occasion to remember something special about Gordon are themselves no longer here to share their particular memories. But it’s hard to imagine they’d be any less fond and uplifting than these.

When the ultimate book of memories gets to be written, we can hope that we will all be on hand to hear them, as well as to share our own.

Dorothy Garner Memorial Minute, June 26, 2022, as approved by Quaker Street Monthly Meeting.

Dorothy K. Garner, of Quaker Street Monthly Meeting, died on August 3, 2021 at home, following a long and eventful life. She was 98 years old.

Dorothy was born on June 11, 1923, in Turon, Kansas. She was a birthright Friend. Her father, Joseph Hayden Kershner (a graduate of Friends University in Wichita, Kansas) was a high school principal and her mother, Mary Artemesia Franklin (a graduate of Wilmington College in Wilmington, Ohio) was a school teacher in a one-room schoolhouse. When Dorothy was three the family moved to Los Angeles. Her mother was instrumental in founding the Los Angeles Friends Meeting, where Dorothy grew up. Dorothy remembered her Meeting supporting missionary Joy Ridderhof, author of "Catching Their Talk in a Box."

A deep sense of the Holy Spirit was instilled in Dorothy from her early years. She remained faithful to that Spirit, and her Quaker upbringing, throughout her life.

During WW 2, she helped support the conscientious objector young men who went to CPS camps. She was called to account by her boss, where she worked at the American Can Company, to explain why she was not buying War Bonds to support the war effort, as all the other employees were doing. Also during this time, Dorothy raised a Victory Garden and discovered a love for growing things. Searching for a college that would support this, she transferred to Earlham College, in Richmond, Indiana. Dorothy graduated in 1946 with a degree in Rural Life. It was at Earlham College that she met her future husband, Carroll Garner. Carroll was also a birthright Friend, and had grown up as a member of West Richmond Friends Meeting in Richmond.

In 1946, Dorothy visited Carroll in Mexico, where he was doing alternative service as a conscientious objector, at a work camp. Together they returned to her family home in Los Angeles, where they were married in a Quaker wedding ceremony, on October 18, 1946.

Dorothy and Carroll returned to Richmond, Indiana, where Carroll graduated from Earlham College in 1948. Their first two children, Lee and Anthony, were born in Richmond. In 1953, they joined college friends operating a dairy farm in Columbus, New Jersey, where their other two children, David and Amy, were born.

In June of 1956, Dorothy and Carroll, with their four young children, moved to New York State, where they had purchased a dairy farm in Schoharie County. Dorothy and Carroll farmed together there for 32 years. During that time, they developed their farm into one of the top farms in the county. Dorothy spent many hours in the summer doing field work, baling hay and chopping corn, while managing a large vegetable garden, and canning and freezing vegetables and fruit. They were very active in the community, particularly in farming organizations. Dorothy and Carroll retired from farming in 1988. Together they had supervised many young people, over the years, who came to experience farm life - from all over the United States, as well as from Finland and Sweden.

Upon arriving in New York state, Dorothy and Carroll were informed that Quaker Street Monthly Meeting, the closest to them geographically, did not have any children. Soon after that, they received a call from Schenectady Monthly Meeting, informing them that Schenectady Meeting had a Sunday School, and inviting them there. Dorothy and Carroll, along with their four children, became members of Schenectady Monthly Meeting. Many years later, the Garners learned that Schenectady Meeting - learning of the Garner family with four children, as well as another family with four children that had also recently moved into the area - had hatched up a Sunday School "overnight" to attract these new families! It worked, and the Garners regularly attended Schenectady Monthly

Meeting, where their four children grew up attending Sunday School. It was a one-hour drive each way, through all kinds of weather, after the milking and barn chores were done.

During this time, Dorothy taught Sunday School. She was instrumental in a program of Family Worship Books. She created a scrapbook for each family and worked with the children on topics of importance to children (such as family, food, and natural resources). The children would cut out representative pictures from magazines, for their scrapbooks. Dorothy would find relevant passages in the Bible. She would ink, in fancy lettering, the passage, for the children to learn. Each would copy the passage on a card for their scrapbooks, and all would memorize it. One child would be selected to recite the passage during Meeting for Worship. That child would get the fancy lettered card to include in his/her Family Worship Book. Dorothy kept the Garner Family Worship Book.

At home, Dorothy encouraged her four children to set aside some of their earnings to support American Friends Service Committee projects.

Penning a gilded letter of a Bible verse was just one example of Dorothy's creativity. She was very artistic, and saw possibilities in bits of drift wood, dried plants, and rocks. She drew with pen and ink, pencils, and pastels. Her creations were two-and three-dimensional, and are spread far and wide. Dorothy also loved poetry, and would recite from memory one of her favorite poems, "What is so rare as a day in June."

In 1957, Dorothy and Carroll participated in a program called "Farm Vacationlands and Holidays" in which farmers would offer to host people from New York City who wished to experience a vacation on a farm. Through this program the Garners met several families that they became good friends with, and several of whom returned yearly to visit their farm. One such person was an elderly gentleman who became a surrogate "grandfather" to the four Garner children, and visited once or twice a year for the rest of his life. Dorothy and Carroll maintained a correspondence with several of these families for many years.

During the 1960's Schenectady Meeting joined with Clacton-on-Sea Monthly Meeting in England to partner the children as pen pals. Through this arrangement, Dorothy "met" one of the adult couples, Ernest and Heather Hall, in the Clacton-on-Sea Monthly Meeting, and corresponded with them for most of the rest of her life. In 1979, when Carroll was a delegate to the FWCC Triennial in Switzerland, the Garners arranged a European tour, and they spent some time in England, where they finally met their pen pal couple in person.

Eventually, after their children were grown, Dorothy and Carroll transferred their memberships to Quaker Street Monthly Meeting, which was closer to their home. They became very active in Quaker Street Meeting, and Dorothy served for a time as clerk. In 2007, Quaker Street Meeting celebrated the 200th anniversary of the current meeting house. As clerk, Dorothy spearheaded an event to mark this occasion. She recruited Paul Lacey, a noted Quaker professor at Earlham College, to be the keynote speaker.

It was also during her active time in QSMM that Dorothy worked with the meeting's children on identifying projects to support, with the meeting's Children's Fund. These funds were raised through bottle returns. Dorothy would research possible projects for the children to consider donating the money to, and they would decide which project they wanted to support. One time they bought desks for a school in the Middle-East. Another time they bought reindeer to help replenish a herd for a community in Asia that relied on them for sustenance. Another example was buying moringa tree seedlings (a highly nutritious plant) for a community in Africa.

Dorothy was also active in the Regional and Yearly Meeting. She served as clerk of Northeastern Regional Meeting, as well as on many Yearly Meeting committees, including the Faith & Practice Revision Committee, over the years. Dorothy first attended New York Yearly Meeting in 1958, and attended nearly every year after that, with her children, until her “retirement” around 2007. Over the years, Dorothy attended FGC several times in different locations. She also attended New York Yearly Meeting Representative Meeting regularly.

Dorothy was involved in Powell House right from the beginning in 1960. Over the years she attended many conferences there, and served as Business Manager from 1980-1983, while Carroll was co-Director and sole Director (1980-1982). During that time, in 1981, Dorothy and Carroll arranged the 20th Anniversary Celebration of Powell House. For the occasion, Dorothy compiled a “Reminiscences of Powell House” booklet; which included taping an interview with Elsie Powell Jr, who lived nearby.

In 1987, Dorothy was hired as the first Literacy Coordinator of Schoharie County. She helped originate the program. She recruited and trained tutors. She recruited students, and matched them with tutors. She devised fun graduation ceremonies for the students. She attended Literacy conventions around the United States. She served in that position for eight years, until 1995, winning several awards for developing the SCLV program. For years afterwards, her former students would greet her whenever they encountered her, and some of her tutors still remember her.

Dorothy and Carroll did extensive traveling. They crossed the country many times, visiting Dorothy's sister in Grass Valley, California, and other relatives and places along the way. Together they had visited every state except Alaska. They had traveled in Canada, Micronesia, Costa Rica, Colombia, Peru, England, Scandinavia, and northern Europe. In addition, they backpacked across the Grand Canyon, and, on another occasion, went on a 12-day rafting trip through the Grand Canyon. They often enjoyed hiking and backpacking in the Adirondacks. Criss-crossing the US and Canada on many trips, they had visited many Quaker Meetings.

In 1994, Dorothy and Carroll built their retirement home in Gardnersville, across the road from the farm on which they had spent so many years, and loved. Dorothy continued her extensive involvement in local, regional, and state Quaker activities. She enjoyed visits from her friends, her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Twice a year her family would gather at her house to celebrate New Year's Eve (with home-made cream puffs), and her birthday (with a bonfire) in June. As many of her family as were able, would attend, from all over the United States. Her last celebration was of her 98th birthday in June 2021, attended by her four children and their spouses.

Dorothy had the remarkable ability to get along with everyone she met. She touched the lives of many people; through her family, her friends in the local communities, her Quaker involvement, the various jobs that she held, her work on the farm, and her various travels. Dorothy quietly lived her faith. She did not preach or sermonize, but managed to instill in her children such values as integrity, hard work, perseverance, patience, learning, and service. Her grandchildren also reaped the rewards of her presence. Her Quaker values prevailed in all aspects of her life, and in all her dealings with other people. Her good humor and sense of humor will be remembered by many. She is missed by all.

Dorothy's favorite Bible verse was “I can do all things through Christ which strengthenest me.”  
Philippians 4:13.

Dorothy was predeceased by her husband of 63 years, Carroll, in 2009. She is survived by her four children Lee, Anthony, David, and Amy, and their spouses, and foster-son Wesley Tucker and his sisters Helen and Angela and their spouses; as well as many grand- and step-grandchildren and several great-grand- and step-great-grandchildren.

Memorial minute for Robert Martin

Approved at Bulls Head-Oswego meeting for business

7.10.2022

Robert Martin was a tall, quiet man with a deeply centered presence in our meetings for worship at Bulls Head-Oswego Meeting, where he had been a member since the end of 2018, at Poughkeepsie Meeting before that, at the Green Haven Preparative Meeting, and at New York Yearly Meeting which he had attended faithfully since 1987. He died suddenly on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022. He cared for all of us, and we cared for him.

Born into poverty in South Carolina in 1943, Robert spoke frankly about his time on the streets of New York City, which led to his involvement with the criminal legal system. He first encountered the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) and Friends in the early 1980's while incarcerated at Fishkill Correctional Facility, when Steve Angell and Larry Apsey came in for a training session. Robert told the story of that day from his perspective: "I arrived with my gold chains, my Cadillac and \$1000 in my pocket (all in my mind), and thought, these two fools can't teach me anything.... But then, on the last day, as they were leaving, Larry Apsey turned and looked back at me, and in my mind I heard him say 'you can change your life.' I began to humble myself and work on discovering who I was."

That process of discovery took him (as it takes most of us) on a long journey. While still incarcerated he completed his GED, earned his college degree while working at Oakwood Friends School as a dormitory parent, and received his MSW in 1991. His profession as a social worker rested on his dedicated advocacy for imprisoned people and his deep, abiding faithfulness to AVP and to Friends worship. Since 2018 he worked as a Residential Support Specialist at Community Housing Innovations, which provides low-income families and individuals with housing and human services. Robert worked the night shift at the North Hamilton Street Program that houses eight formerly incarcerated men. After work on Sunday mornings, he drove to worship, first at Nine Partners Meeting in Millbrook, where he found a spiritual home and shared his beautiful voice in singing hymns and in vocal prayer. Leaving immediately upon rise of meeting, he drove to Bulls Head and, with a cup of coffee in hand, attended his second meeting for worship and stayed afterward whenever there was meeting for business.

Robert never forgot his brothers left behind in prison. He volunteered each Friday to go into Green Haven Correctional Facility to join the prison worship group. While serving on Ministry and Counsel at Bulls Head, he would leave promptly after the Friday afternoon meeting to drive to Green Haven. Such was his passion and his commitment. During his time on the New York Yearly Meeting Prisons Committee he brought forward a proposal that we provide grants to incarcerated Quakers as they came home from prison. That proposal was adopted, and many men have benefited during their reentry process as a result.

He said that "family is the most supportive and enduring relationship we have." He was a devoted brother and uncle, and he was bereft when his beloved sister Shirley Martin Grissett died on January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Robert also considered himself "Steve Angell's fourth son," and he developed a close

relationship with the family of Steve's son Tom. At the very end of his life, he went to Tom and Janet's home for hospice care.

His triumphant memorial meeting, fittingly held at Oakwood where he worked when he first got out of prison, was full of testimonies to his active witness in prison work. All of Robert's families were there and testified to the impact he had on their lives: his sister Shirley's children and grandchildren (one of whom ended the meeting with a drum solo), his "brother" Tom Angell and his family, people from Poughkeepsie and Bulls Head Meetings where he had been a member, and people from his prison work with AVP (who knew him as "Marvelous Martin") and from Community Housing Innovations where he was working when he died. All of us had the privilege to know his serious demeanor, his intense focus, and his deep, caring spirit.

After the memorial meeting his two families went into a boat and scattered his ashes on the Hudson River, as he had requested. His spirit will be with us always.

***Approved 6/12/2022***

Paula McClure (July 2, 1937 - July 28, 2021) was a gentle wise woman who shared her gifts freely. She was known in New York Yearly Meeting and in Montclair Monthly Meeting for her steadiness and her attention to detail. She spoke her truth with clarity and modeled humility and faithfulness to serve with just the right amount of humor.

From a young age Paula was alert and resourceful. Raised in North Bergen, NJ, she was the first child of Edna and Harold Ross. With her father working long hours at Bendix Paula spent much time alone with her mother before her brother Chuck, was born when Paula was 8.

When thinking back Paula remembered her mother was always ready to answer whatever question she thought up. Her mother also trusted Paula to take cash in hand to wait in line at grocery stores when rationed items suddenly became available. Following her mother and grandmother's example Paula took up sewing at a young age. As she grew older she was proud to use Vogue patterns as she made her own clothes.

Paula excelled at school. At 16 in 1954 she graduated from Weehawken High School as valedictorian. She went on to Douglass College on a full scholarship and became a member of Phi Beta Kappa. She majored in English with minors in theater arts and history.

Paula met her husband to be, Mel McClure, as a teenager. They were both active in the Reformed Church, a commitment they shared once they were married. Paula served in the consistory of the church and as an elder.

Paula and Mel were married while Paula was at Douglass and they had their first child, Dan, the summer before Paula began her junior year. Always organized Paula graduated in 1958 with her grandmother and mother helping with child care. Only the second person in her family to graduate from college, Paula's family celebrated her success.

While Paula kept the books for Mel's construction company, they had two more children, Margot in 1960 and David in 1962. Paula began using her education in 1968 when she started in the Pequannock Township schools tutoring special education children one on one. In 1971 she entered a master's program in special learning disabilities at William Paterson University.

In 1972 tragedy struck Paula's family. Mel died suddenly of a heart attack. Paula, ever steadfast, went to work full time. She completed her master's in 1974. That enabled her to serve on a child study team as a learning consultant evaluating how to create programs for special needs children.

In addition to her regular job during the 1970's Paula was president of the teachers' association and negotiated contracts. She succeeded in raising teachers' salaries to a more credible level. With consistent professionalism Paula continued to work in the Pequannock schools until her retirement in the late 1990's.

Paula's path to Quakers began soon after Mel passed. At the urging of her brother-in-law and sister-in-law, George and Madeline McClure, Paula spent a week at Silver Bay while Summer Sessions were in progress. The McClures sold the experience as a time with no cooking and children cared for. The experience likely had a deeper impact for after her children began leaving home Paula started attending Montclair Friends Meeting. Soon she was offering her skills to Montclair and to the Yearly Meeting.

At the Yearly Meeting level Paula served for many years as clerk of NYYM's General Services Coordinating Committee and also as Treasurer of the YM and financial secretary of NYYM's Board of Trustees. As GSCC clerk, Paula steered the committee with intelligent organizational skills, responsibility and love. She also referred to the committee meetings as places where "we always laugh together".

As Treasurer of NYYM, Paula met at the end of each year with the NYYM Associate Secretary and the clerk of GSCC to finalize the books of the YM



for her presentation at the next Spring Sessions. The meeting was usually held along with a meal of Chinese food takeout, a personal tradition combining work and good times together.

Paula's spirit was both exemplary and contagious and brought others into areas of responsibility. She made the work of the Yearly Meeting seem like something worth doing and also enjoyable. Her reports to the Yearly Meeting were clear, highly competent, and deeply appreciated. When difficulties arose, such as the uncertainties following 9/11, Paula remained level-headed and supportive of others.

Not so well known was the role Paula played serving the aged. She was key in the founding of Aging Resources, Consultation, and Help (ARCH). Paula helped devise the process for laying down and selling the McCutcheon Friends Home. That in turn created an independent private foundation known as Friends Foundation for the Aging which has supported NYYM's ARCH program along with giving grants in support of other programs and services for older adults.

Similarly, Paula served on the board of the retirement community Arbor Glen in Bridgewater, NJ, that was a Quaker inspired residence akin to a Kendal. For five plus years she was the board president of that institution.

Paula loved Montclair Monthly Meeting fully as she did the YM. Over the years she served in many capacities. She was on Ministry and Counsel, Trustees, House and Grounds and Pierson Scholarship Fund. She served as Clerk of the Meeting, Recording Clerk and Treasurer, keeping meticulous and accurate records.

Montclair Meeting's physical building was very important to Paula. As clerk of House and Grounds Paula saw that supplies and paper goods were well stocked. She showed up for every clean-up day, would climb any ladder, change any lightbulb. She applied the same attention to finances.

The spiritual well being of the community also concerned Paula. She kept tabs on people, asking them about their challenges and achievements. Here again she had a fine memory for telling details. In worship she was a quiet presence. She would become animated later in conversation at coffee hour. Young adults who knew Paula when they were children remember her standing during introductions and saying her name with distinct dignity.

Outside of Quaker activities Paula sought ways to expand her knowledge and enjoy the world. She traveled extensively in Europe, both East and West, and went to New Mexico in the US and to Venezuela. She and her daughter also took a vacation to Kyoto, Japan. They took in a variety of sights as guests of a professor friend who was teaching for a year at a university for foreign students. At home Paula enjoyed reading mysteries and caring for pet dogs and cats.

Taking in the theater was a life long consuming passion for Paula. Her daughter found a box with over 300 playbills including one for *Once Upon a Mattress*, the play that launched Carol Burnette's career. For over 35 years beginning in 1986 Paula had a subscription to Playwrights Horizon along with the McClures. The three enjoyed dinner at nearby Chez Josephine where they became fast friends with the owner.

Most exemplary of Paula's integrity was her personal practice of providing for others. Saving all the scraps from the clothes she made over the years, Paula made over 100 quilts in her lifetime. Most of these went to people in need. Paula was also always knitting scarves and giving them away. Paula's tax returns included a long list of charitable contributions and showed her concern for women's rights and anti-racist programs.

Paula developed a special practice for seeing that aid reach real people. On the many trips she made into New York City to do Yearly Meeting business she never arrived in an empty car. Rather she brought what she had made or no longer needed and encouraged Friends to drop off items at the meetinghouse for her to deliver as well. Paula would also go to Staples

and to Barnes and Nobles Bookstores to catch all the sales and buy books and school supplies in bulk.

Typically Paula would bring books for children in transitional housing shelters, quilts for women recently released from prison and school supplies for children whose mothers were on probation or parole and/or in treatment. At Christmas time Paula would help the Yearly Meeting in sending Christmas cards and calendars to incarcerated persons. She also would add special gifts for teens in very poor neighborhoods in the Bronx and other neighborhoods in the city.

Paula left Montclair and New York City in 2020 when her health began to fail. She moved to Ithaca to be close to her daughter, Margot, and son, Dan. There she passed away shortly after her 84th birthday.

Paula is survived by her three children, Dan (Wendy Robbins), Margot, and David, her three grandchildren, Melissa McClure (Ruud Visser), Colin McClure and Shannon McClure, her great granddaughter Annika Visser, and her brother Chuck Ross. She is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews, including George and Madeline's daughters Kit McClure and Mary Jane Johnson, and grandson Trevor Chase Johnson.

What is clear is that Paula gave of herself generously and consistently. And so she stands as an example of how to live a good life. She is missed and remembered by all those she touched.

## NYYM Memorial Announcement for Will Tesdell

We are sad to share that William Allen Giles Tesdell (he/they) passed away on January 8th, 2022. Will died peacefully at home, surrounded by love, with family and friends by his side. Will was an expert punner, a lover of bike rides, live music, and tiny Instruments, and an incredibly kind and affectionate person who loved his family and friends deeply. He was extraordinarily considerate of all he met, from his closest relatives to his attendants in the hospital.

Born and raised in New York City, Will graduated from Brooklyn Friends School and Bard College, where he studied electronic music and met some of his dearest friends. He became a teacher after college and was passionate about equality in education. Powell House, a Quaker retreat center in upstate New York, was a sacred place for him. Will attended youth conferences there beginning in middle school, then served as an adult presence and as a co-facilitator of weekend gatherings for children and youth. He recently organized several sojourns at Powell House for a small circle of friends and family. Will and his darling, Macayla Donegan, were married in June, 2021, shortly after adopting their puppy, Banjo.

Will is survived by his wife Macayla; parents Sherry Giles and Kerwin Tesdell; stepparents Diana Tesdell and Glenn Hudak; siblings Annika, Evan, Nicole and Ben; aunt Kerry Giles Miller (Bill Miller); uncles Rick Giles and Bill Giles; cousins Joshua, Grace, and Sarah; niece Bella, and nephew, Jay; and dog-child Banjo Donegan-Tesdell.

A memorial service celebrating Will's life was held on Saturday, January 15, at 2 p.m. at Brooklyn Friends Meeting House.

Condolences may be sent to  
Macayla Donegan at [macayladonegan@gmail.com](mailto:macayladonegan@gmail.com),  
Kerwin and Diana Tesdell at [ktesdell@gmail.com](mailto:ktesdell@gmail.com),  
and Sherry Giles and Glenn Hudak at [hollyce.giles@gmail.com](mailto:hollyce.giles@gmail.com).