

MCC Agenda
Summer Session 2015

Tuesday July 21, 2015

Present: Annie Bancroft, Mary Pugh Clark, Ann Davidson, Stephen Davison, Charlie Flint, Irma Guthrie, Kenn Harper, Lu Harper, David Herendeen, David Male (sp?) (Ohio YM), Steve Mohlke, Anne Pomeroy, Emily Provence, Tom Rothschild, Claire Simon, Kathy Slattery, Karen Way, Ann Wright

1. The meeting began with a period of waiting worship.
2. Clerk Irma Guthrie invited Friends to reflect on ways in which we help others' lights to shine.
3. The clerk reviewed the agenda.
4. Changes to Faith and Practice (in anticipation of presentation to the floor).
 - a. Revision of Discipline (page 140)
REVISION OF DISCIPLINE. Proposed revisions to Faith and Practice may originate from any monthly meeting, regional meeting or yearly meeting body. When seasoned by the Committee to Revise Faith & Practice, Ministry Coordinating Committee may bring the proposed revision to any Yearly Meeting session. After being brought forward the first time, proposed revisions may be brought a second time for approval at a subsequent Yearly Meeting summer session.

Friends approved.

- b. Recording of Gifts in the Ministry
CARE OF MINISTRIES AND RECORDING OF GIFTS IN MINISTRY. In cases when a member has given public ministry which is sustained, consistent and enlivening and has rendered this service to such an extent as to afford a basis for discerning the nature of those gifts and calling, the monthly meeting on ministry and counsel should carefully consider whether there is evidence of a gift in the ministry that should be officially named or recognized. Friends should bear in mind that such recording of gifts of ministry is a recognition of the gift of the Spirit to the community and a recognition of the need for care and nurture of that gift.

When the monthly meeting on ministry and counsel is satisfied that a member carries a gift in the ministry that they consider to be of suitable character, they should consult with the member about officially recognizing his or her gift and then report this to the monthly meeting. If the monthly meeting approves, the monthly meeting's ministry and counsel should prepare a minute for the consideration of the yearly meeting's Ministry Coordinating Committee, with a copy to the regional or quarterly meeting ministry and counsel for their information. MCC should refer the proposal to a designated committee for examination and recommendation. If, after due consideration, the way seems clear, the designated committee shall

forward their recommendation to the Ministry Coordinating Committee, who may approve the recording and furnish a copy of its minute to the monthly meeting, the individual, and the region of which the individual is a member. The action should also be reported to the yearly meeting for record. If Ministry Coordinating Committee does not approve a proposal to record, they should so inform the individual and the originating meeting.

The recording of an individual's gifts in ministry carries a responsibility on the part of Friends in the monthly, regional and yearly meetings to nurture, support and hold accountable the individual in the exercise of those gifts, including by being present during the exercise of the gifts, knowing the spiritual condition of the individual, hearing reports of the ministry, etc.

In naming the gift of ministry, the monthly meeting carries the primary responsibility for nurture and oversight of the gift throughout its life cycle, including naming changes in the gift and its possible withdrawal. Care committees, peer groups, etc. may provide structures for this work, which may also be carried by the regional meeting.

In recording the gift of ministry, Ministry Coordinating Committee carries a concern for both the individual carrying the gift and the meeting in which the gift is manifested.

In cases where the gift has been withdrawn, a proposal to rescind the action recording the member as a minister may originate with ministry and counsel of the monthly meeting of which the minister is a member or with the Ministry Coordinating Committee. Final action rests with the Ministry Coordinating Committee. The individual concerned and the monthly meeting to which that person belongs shall be notified before final action is taken, and care should be exercised that any rights involved are fully safeguarded.

The status of a minister is transferable with the certificate of membership from one monthly meeting to another and from one yearly meeting to another. It is expected, however, that a minister planning to engage in the pastoral ministry in another yearly meeting will endeavor to meet the requirements of the yearly meeting to which transfer is made.

Friends approved the revised text. Friends also raised the question of the pamphlet on recording gifts in ministry's status, and whether it needs to be revised.

- c. Spiritual Care of Members: Friends looked at a revision of this section, and referred it back to the Committee to Revise Faith & Practice, to report back on Friday.

5. Approval of SOM Report. What was read on the floor earlier in the week was technically a draft and needs to be approved. Friends approved the report.
6. Report from the Committee to Record Margaret Webb in the Ministry. Kathy Slattery reported that she & Annie Bancroft most recently met with Margaret on June 15th. They made the following recommendation:

The Committee to Record Margaret Webb in the Ministry, in service to New York Yearly Meeting, joyfully sends our recommendation to NYYM Ministry Coordinating Committee in unreserved support of the recording of Margaret in the ministry.

We will continue to offer support to Margaret as our recommendation proceeds through the yearly meeting Ministry Coordinating Committee to its conclusion.

We are grateful for the opportunity to learn about Margaret's call to ministry and her continued growth in that role with Farmington Friends. We value the opportunity to worship, listen and learn from one another and deepen in our appreciation and celebration of community throughout the process.

Annie Bancroft
Kathy Slattery
June 15, 2015

Friends approved the recommendation to record Margaret Webb in the ministry. If the YM approves the changed language in F&P regarding recording of gifts, we will either report that Margaret's gifts have been recorded. If the YM does not approve the changed language we will recommend to the YM that Margaret's gifts be recorded.

7. Appointment and Approval of Clerk and Recording Clerk. Cheshire Frager and Tom Rothschild will serve as a naming committee for these positions and will report back on Friday.
8. Task Group on Racism: on behalf of the Task Group, Mary Pugh Clark and Charlie Flint asked MCC for ongoing feedback, support & direction on the work of the task group. Friends affirmed that the work around racism and white privilege is an urgent spiritual matter and encouraged MCC to respond further at our next meeting. Friends also asked to review the original charge to the task group.
9. Meeting closed with a period of silent worship.

Friday, July 24, 2015

Present: Annie Bancroft, Mary Pugh Clark, Ann Davidson, Steve Davison, Charlie Flint, Irma Guthrie, Lu Harper, Kenn Harper, David Herendeen, Jeff Hitchcock, Elaine Learnard, Peter Phillips, Anne Pomeroy, Tom Rothschild, Claire Simon, Karen Way, Ann Wright

10. The Meeting began with a period of worship.
11. Friends approved the minutes from Tuesday's meeting.
12. Faith & Practice: Friends continued the discussion of the revised language on Spiritual Care of Members, and were clear to bring this language back to the Committee to Revise Faith & Practice, and bring back to MCC at Fall Sessions.
13. Friends continued the discussion with the Task Group on Racism. Mary Pugh Clark reported that the Task Group is currently clear to work on arrangements for co-hosting the White Privilege Conference and beyond, and continuing to working on visitation around racism.
14. Mary Pugh Clark brought the following query: what do we, "as Ministry & Counsel," do when members of our community experience situations where they feel unsafe, unheard and invisible.
15. Committee for the Recording of Margaret Webb: With the language of the revision to Faith & Practice approved in Sessions, Friends approved the recording of Margaret Webb's gifts in ministry and will report that action to the YM body.
16. Committee Reports:
 - a. Conflict Transformation: Peter Phillips reported that the committee has worked with several meetings since last summer, and has been more than usually busy. They have received several requests from bodies outside the YM, and have presented workshops at FGC Gathering, FWCC, NEYM, and monthly meetings outside the YM. The Committee has asked requesting organizations to make donations to YM. The funding has allowed the committee to make a film of a workshop held at NY Quarter, to distribute without cost the DVD's throughout NYYM, YM's in the US and Canada, and in Britain YM.
 - b. Inter-Visitation Group: David Herendeen reported that the committee has identified new prospects. M&PC recommended Lucinda Antrim (Scarsdale) and Barbara Bleeker (Montclair) to be approved as meeting visitors. Both have committees of care in place. Friends approved. The Inter-Visitation Group recommends that the stipend for ministers and elders should be the same. Friends approved. Friends noted that since John & Elizabeth Edminster have moved outside of the YM, they are no longer available for intervisitation.
 - c. Ministry and Pastoral Care: Anne Pomeroy reported that M&PC clarified the scope of expenditures from the Stevens fund is understood to include those who are impoverished through service to Friends, and their

families. The trustees have recommended that M&PC have direct authority to expend the Stevens Fund. M&PC reported that they will disburse \$ to Bea Kimble, Ruth Kinsey, Dorothy Garner, & Deb Dickinson in the next year. The trustees have recommended that M&PC expended accrued income in the Stevens fund, and the committee will discern ways to do that in the upcoming year.

- d. Spiritual Nurture Working Group: Anne Pomeroy reported that the SNWG is developing local and regional based retreats, and distributed handouts describing the retreats. Anne Pomeroy also described a retreat series at POHO, the next retreat will be in October with Jan Wood. Anne noted that the SNWG's budget request has increased to supply stipends for facilitators and scholarships to POHO for these retreats. The brochures will be added to the Resources for Meetings section of the website.
17. The Clerk reported that a first reading of a proposal to lay down the YMMC is planned to come to sessions this afternoon. Friends noted that there are functions that were a part of the YMMC that do not have a home, and suggested that MCC should pay attention to this. Some Friends suggested suspending the YMMC for another year rather than laying it down. Friends were not in unity to bring the proposal to lay down the YMMC at this time but were clear that a minute to re-suspend the YMMC was necessary. Friends approved.
18. Tom Rothschild & Cheshire Frager brought the names of Irma Guthrie & Lu Harper for clerk & recording clerk respectively, for the coming year. Friends approved.
19. Friends approved the minutes.
20. Meeting closed after a period of worship.