

MCC Minutes
4/1/17
6:45 to 9:00 pm
Spring Sessions
Friends Academy, Locust Valley

Present: Jeffrey Aaron, Lucinda Antrim, Mary Foster Cadbury, Mary Pugh Clark, Heather Cook, Deb Dickinson, Carolyn Emerson, Charley Flint, Cheshire Frager, Irene Goodman, Kenn Harper, Lu Harper, David Herendeen, Howard Gibbs Hopgood, Angela Hopkins, Arlene Johnson, Janine Laverty, Elaine Learnard, Steve Mohlke, Peter Phillips, Anne Pomeroy, Emily Provance, Christopher Sammond, Ed Seliger, Claire Simon, Jillian Smith, Robin Whitely, Mary Hannon Williams, Roger Dreisbach Williams, Anne Wright,

1. **Opening worship:** Meeting started at 6:54 p.m. after a period of worship.
2. **Check-in:** Elaine Learnard announced that she has been asked to clerk the meeting in Irma Guthrie's absence. She invited Friends to state their name, meeting, and a one-word check in.
3. **Outreach Working Group:** Arlene Johnson & Robin Whitely reported on work they have done in the last year and invited Friends to discern with them on future possibilities. They reported on the structure developed for the work; shared accomplishments and discussed possibilities for Year 2 and after. Friends upheld the OWG's focus on local meetings. The OWG has lightened the load for meetings of all sizes, finding their strengths, and empowering them to do the work with lightness and joy. Friends received the report.
4. **Social Media Outreach Experiment Proposal:** Emily Provance passed her laptop around to share pictures of quotations from the QUED talks with a royalty-free photographic background for a proposed social media experiment. Social media is used by the majority of people under 40 and almost everyone under 30. Emily would like our permission and financial support to experiment with a Facebook ad campaign, in 2 zipcodes for 2 meetings, costing up to \$300 but possibly much less. When someone clicks on an ad, they would be taken to a meeting website. She suggested that the \$ could come from a fund to be used for outreach/advancement purposes. A Friend suggested that we have the experiment last longer than one month, which might necessitate increasing the budget to ca. \$500. Below the image on the ad would be a caption like "there are Quakers near you." This would be done under the auspices of the Interim YA Field Secretary, to be reported back to MCC. A friend wondered whether the YM logo could be added to the image. Friends approved taking the experiment under our care and funding it for up to \$500 from the Leach Fund.
5. **Alternate Membership Pathways Working Group:** Jeffrey Aaron reported for the WG (attached). Friends received the report.

6. **Dispersement of Retained Income from Yearly Meeting of the Women, Lafayette Ave., and Leach Funds previously under Advancement:** Treasurer Mary Hannon Williams reported for the Trustees. 3 unrestricted Funds were redesignated from Advancement to the operating budget last summer: (Lafayette Ave., Leach, and Womens) with about \$14,000 in unspent income from these funds that has accumulated since 2015, which can be spent for advancement purposes. There will be no further income from these funds coming to Advancement. MCC is being asked to determine how the previously retained income should be spent, with a strong preference that it be expended this calendar year. Mary agreed that if necessary, the \$ could be put into one fund and rolled over if necessary. Trustees would like us to come up with a plan and a strategy to expend these funds. Friends heard the request from Trustees. The clerk asked Friends to volunteer to work on this, with a proposal to go out via email if action were needed to take place before Summer Sessions. Roger Dreisbach-Williams, Jillian Smith, Mary Pugh Clark volunteered. The group would be charged with reaching out to Outreach WG, and with including Christopher Sammond in one substantive call. Friends approved the formation of this small group and the charge.
7. Friends approved the minutes to this point.
8. **Whisper Buddies Program:** Jillian Smith discussed the program, started last year, which begins with an hour where people who are young in Quaker experience can get to know & be paired with more experienced Friends. She encouraged MCC Friends to attend the Whisper Buddies program at Summer Sessions. Ministry & Pastoral Care has agreed to take this leading under their care, supporting it with an elder for the session and for accompaniment of Jillian in this work. Friends received the report.
9. Worship at Yearly Meeting Sessions Committee: David Herendeen reported that Christopher Sammond has agreed to do Bible Study at Summer Sessions. Friends were asked to suggest leaders for closing worship at Sessions.
10. **Quaker Spring:** Angela Hopkins has agreed to be a representative from MCC.

11. Committee Reports

Ministry and Pastoral Care: Anne Pomeroy reported on the committee's concern for pastoral meetings. She also reported on the Stevens Fund recipients. Friends approved a distribution of \$750 each, to be distributed after May 1st, to go to: Ruth Kinsey; Ann Davidson; Dorothy Garner; and Deb Dickinson

Task Group on Racism: Mary Pugh Clark reported for the Task Group, addressing the task group's history, including its recent effort to bring a substantial NYYM presence to the White Privilege Conference. The Task Group is continuing to look at the ways in which the YM is grappling with our own racism. Angela Hopkins & Steve Mohlke reported on the development of the Friends Center on Racial Justice (FCRJ) out of a shared concern for racial

justice work with Ithaca Meeting, creating a space for Friends of Color to come together to offer their gifts to the Religious Society of Friends. A local committee of Ithaca meeting and a Coordinating Committee (consisting of representatives from Black Concerns, EAQWER (European American Quakers Working to End Racism), Task Group on Racism, Native American Concerns) meets monthly. Retreats and workshops are open to Friends from all Yearly Meetings. The Task Group is grateful for the Light that has followed from this faithful work.

Spiritual Nurture Working Group: Anne Pomeroy recommended the upcoming retreat on pastoral care at POHO.

12. **Reminders:** All committees should be answering the Accountability Queries every year. Leadings & Priorities WG will ask all Friends to submit their Advanced Report in light of the priorities.
13. Friends Approved the Minutes.
14. Closing Worship.

Report to MCC
Spring Sessions 04.01.2017

The Alternate Membership Pathways Working Group is active and alive, with a committed core group of a half dozen young adult members and one old guy advisor, plus numerous other interested and supportive adult “correspondents” of various ages who are unable to be active participants because of geography or other commitments. We have met, both in person and via technology, several times since our founding as a working group of MCC, I believe at Fall Sessions 2016.

We have studied the history of the membership process and concern since the beginnings of the Religious Society of Friends and enumerated the specific membership concerns of the Working Group that face Friends, in particular the current and future generations of young adult Friends and incarcerated potential members, but also others whose specific situations pertain to the concerns the group is addressing. We have learned that similar concerns are being addressed in some other yearly meetings, which concurrence reinforces our perception of the currency and depth of the matter, and we hope to inform ourselves of the status of their efforts. We look forward to sharing the specifics of our work to date with others who may hope to become more informed and who would like to share stories and brainstorm alternate pathways with us at a partial weekend retreat at Powell House on June 17, 2017. We expect to provide informative handouts. We have obtained scholarship funding for the retreat, and we hope to host Friends of all ages and perspectives. The results of our work could possibly become very meaningful for the future of our Society.

We will be meeting shortly to develop our detail agenda and schedule for the Powell House weekend, as well as to make plans to promote it. Anyone who is interested can find the retreat listed on the Powell House online calendar and sign up at any time.

Copies of our original, detailed charge and rationale to establish the WG under the care of MCC are available on request.

Jeffrey Aaron, Old Guy Advisor