

NEW YORK YEARLY MEETING
THE 323RD NEW YORK YEARLY MEETING
SUMMER SESSIONS—MINUTES
July 22–28, 2018

Silver Bay, NY

Sunday, July 22, 2018; 6:45 p.m.

Lucinda Antrim (Scarsdale), Clerk
Jeffrey Aaron (New Brunswick), Assistant Clerk
Bridget Bower (Perry City), Recording Clerk
Robin Alpern (Amawalk), Reading Clerk

2018-07-01. Lucinda Antrim, clerk, welcomed Friends to the 323rd Summer Session of New York Yearly Meeting. She introduced the clerks on the facing bench and offered insights on Quaker practices and looked ahead to our week together.

“What are Sessions for? Sessions are for business. We have good business before us. We will hear reports from Friends throughout the world, telling us how God is showing up among them.”

“How will God show up among us this week? Some of the work to be done this week involves how Spirit will express itself in and through our structure, as we seek to find new ways to get the work done.”

She reminded us that we are only about 12% of the yearly meeting and asked us to remember the 88% at home. She encouraged us to treat ourselves and each other with love and respect, including following our agreement not to drink or do drugs. Clerking is about paying attention, both to ourselves and others; we are all encouraged to clerk this week.

She introduced the Circle of Care and Concern and asked those Friends to rise. Friends briefly held the circle of care and concern in the Light.

2018-07-02. The reading clerk read the roll of regions, monthly meetings and worship groups. Friends stood as their meetings were called. All regions were represented.

2018-07-03. Ann-Marie Scheidt (Conscience Bay) presented

an acknowledgement of the land. The land we stand and sit on today, sometimes known as the Mohawk Hunting Ground, was used for hunting by many Native Nations under the treaty, or wampum, of “The Dish With One Spoon.” Like them, we recognize that there is only one dish, Mother Earth. As Native Peoples did before us we will take only what we need and leave the dish clean. We meet now in gratitude for the care of Mother Earth taken by Native Nations and for the wisdom they taught and are still teaching us today.

2018-07-04. Sylke Jackson (Rockland) and Dawn Pozzi (Rochester), serving as Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) co-coordinators this year, expressed their thanks for parents bringing their children and for the support of the volunteers. The planning done by the volunteers has been grounded in Quaker practice; there will be worship every day. There is a new group for 3-5 year olds. Due to smaller numbers of children, there will be three grades to each JYM group. Afternoon child care will be every day during committee meetings and evenings during interest groups until 9:00.

Dawn reviewed the locations for the groups and programs, as well as the responsibilities of parents. All JYM groups start after community worship. She encouraged us to pay attention to the children and to listen to them.

The leaders for each group were introduced, and they led the children out to meet their groups.

2018-07-07. Reading and approval of this evening’s minutes were held over until Monday morning’s session.

Monday, July 23, 2018; 10:45 a.m.

Lucinda Antrim (Scarsdale), Clerk
Jeffrey Aaron (New Brunswick), Assistant Clerk
Karen Reixach (Ithaca), Recording Clerk
Elaine Learnard (Conscience Bay), Reading Clerk

2018-07-08. The meeting opened with expectant worship. The clerk introduced the individuals at the clerks table, including Isabella Aguirre (Purchase), clerk of Young Adult Friends here at sessions, who is observing the clerking process. The clerk

then introduced the following visitors: Oliver Waterhouse, Friends House, London; Oscar Mmabali and Adrian Bishop, Belize City Friends Center; Jacqueline Stillwell, Right Sharing of World Resources; Windy Cooler, Baltimore Yearly Meeting and Earlham School of Religion, with a concern for families; Sharon Lane-Getaz, Friends General Conference; Shelley Tanenbaum, Quaker Earthcare Witness.

The clerk reviewed the agenda.

2018-07-09. Bridget Bower, (Perry City), recording clerk, read the minutes from Sunday evening. Friends approved these minutes.

2018-07-10. To set the context for the changes to the by-laws of NYYM being recommended to the body, trustee Roseann Press (Housatonic) began by reading a quotation from William Penn's *Some Fruits of Solitude*: "The humble, meek, merciful, pious and devout souls are everywhere of one religion, and when death has taken off the mask they will know one another though the divers liveries they wear here makes them strangers. This world is a form; our bodies are form; and no visible act of devotion can be without forms. But the less form in religion, the better, since God is a spirit...."

Our yearly meeting is a legal entity defined by the laws of New York State.

Roseann introduced the revision to the by-laws of New York Yearly Meeting. She assured the body that the changes do not alter the responsibilities of the yearly meeting and the trustees.

In summary, trustees propose revising the yearly meeting's by-laws to accomplish three goals: (1) clarifying and distinguishing between the identity of the "officers" of the corporation for certain legal and financial matters and the "officers" of the Society for the spiritual concerns of the body; (2) increasing the maximum size of the Board of Trustees from five-seven trustees to five-ten so that a broader diversity of Friends and skills can be represented on the board; and (3) shortening the length of a trustee's term from five years to four years and reducing the number of terms a trustee can serve consecutively from three terms to two terms, which will reduce the total number of consecutive years a Friend can serve as a trustee from fifteen to

eight years, in order to increase the transparency of and opportunities for participation in the work of trustees.

This revision is on the consent agenda for Thursday; the second reading will come to Fall Sessions.

2018-07-11. Out of worship the committee summarized the State of Society report for 2017-2018 using a Power Point presentation of highlights. Members of the drafting group: Marissa Badgley (Poughkeepsie), Anne Liske (Albany), and Audrey Jaynes (Montclair). Each read portions of the report. Rising from the body others read as well: Angel Ramos (Rochester); Angela Hopkins (Ithaca), Robert “Sunfire” Kazmayer (Easton), Patricia Glynn (Brooklyn), Chad Gilmartin (Morningside attendee), Kenn Harper (Rochester), Analea Blackburn (Genesee Valley Executive Meeting) clerk of high school JYM; and Glenn Josey (Fifteenth Street).

The full report can be found on the NYYM website under Summer Sessions Advance Documents and on page 111 in this *Yearbook*. Excerpts follow:

Meetings posed rich questions for themselves, and perhaps in turn for Quakers everywhere:

- Can we reclaim the discipline of speaking truth with love to each other—and to the world?
- Are we making Friends' testimonies a way of life?
- What would it look like to be a radical spiritual community?
- Is it possible for us...to push back against overstimulation—to keep the Sabbath, to make room every day for the Holy? Can we find a way to do this as individuals and as a community?
- How has the meeting changed me? Are there ways we would like the meeting to change us?
- What is the shadow side of our Light?
- What is experiencing the Spirit?
- How do we keep the channels of Love and Truth alive?
- Has the State of Society report become a “redundant process” ...“new ways to say the same thing”?

The report includes reflections on worship, witness and service and the tensions that arise, outreach, the capacity to recognize and address conflict, experimentation with and examination of our structures. The report concludes,

While many of our meetings and worship groups experience fragility and fear of the future, together this year's state of meeting reports tell more of a story of continuing revelation, openness to change, optimism, and hope. . . . "Just as the Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Philippi nearly two thousand years ago, we have not yet reached perfection in the Lord, but we move ever forward to reach that mark and attain that goal." From our small corner of Quakerdom, New York Yearly Meeting shares praise, blessings, wisdom, and gratitude with each other and the wider world.

Friends were invited to bring the reflection on questions posed by the State of Society report into meeting for discernment tomorrow.

2018-07-12. Robin Alpern (Amawalk) of the European American Quakers Working to End Racism Working Group introduced Sharon Lane-Getaz (Northern Yearly Meeting). She provided an interim report on the Friends General Conference institutional assessment on racism.

During the 2016 FGC Gathering Friends of Color pre-conference, stories of racial profiling emerged. In addition, FGC had invited Friends of color to sit on the facing bench at FGC. Further discernment led to the need to ask permission of Friends of Color for participation in site selection and in a broader institutional assessment of the structures that reinforce white privilege and disadvantage people of color.

The focus of the institutional assessment is not issues between individuals or microaggressions. Instead the focus is on the processes, procedures, and institutional structures that disadvantage Friends of color within FGC.

The decision to move forward with an institutional assessment of FGC required training. Forty-three Friends participated in a training by Crossroads World Cafe Conversation at Stony Point Center. Twelve Friends formed the core of the working group.

The assessment involved a survey, a review of FGC records,

and focus groups. Sharon urged Friends in NYYM to complete the assessment survey.

The working group is currently analyzing the rich amounts of data from focus groups and the survey. Crossroads will assist in looking for ways of change. In August the full working group will receive and review the report. In September the findings and recommendations will go to the FGC Central Committee.

2018-07-13. Minutes were held over for consideration at the next session. Following a brief open worship, the meeting closed with announcements.

Wednesday, July 25, 2018; 10:45 a.m.

*Lucinda Antrim (Scarsdale), Clerk
Jeffrey Aaron (New Brunswick), Assistant Clerk
Karen Reixach (Ithaca), Recording Clerk
Robin Alpern (Amawalk), Reading Clerk*

2018-07-14. The meeting opened with expectant worship. The clerk introduced those at the clerks' table and noted the presence of elders and whisper buddies.

2018-07-15. Deborah Wood (Purchase), clerk of the Priorities Support Working Group, summarized the progress and remaining work to be done on the priorities envisioned by NYYM. Members of the Working Group: Roger Dreisbach-Williams, Jeffrey Aaron, Callie Janoff, Don Badgley, Rachel Pia, Doug Way, Jeffrey Hitchcock, Deb Dickinson, Kathy Slattery, Deb Wood.

Our priorities envision a yearly meeting that

- is deeply grounded in the practice of our faith.
- is made up of strong, vital monthly meetings.
- is gathered into one body.
- nurtures our children, youth and young adults.
- supports and amplifies our witness.
- is accountable and transparent

The working group noted the additional development of

support for aging Friends through ARCH. She invited Friends to share other observations and suggestions for ways of building on these priorities. Several Friends rose to mention positive developments around young adult Friends, the Friends Center for Racial Justice in Ithaca, and the Witness Activities Fund. We were reminded that the clarity of financial reporting was a broader effort than General Services and efforts continuing.

The report will incorporate the supplementary comments before being published in the *Yearbook*; see Attachments.

2018-07-16. Dennis Haag, co Executive Director of Powell House, the NYYM conference and retreat center, described Powell House facilities and activities.

Powell House Committee began working on a strategic plan in 2017. He described the extensive, Spirit-led process to develop this plan.

The Powell House Committee has approved a strategic plan for fiscal years 2019 through 2023.

Chris De Roller (Old Chatham), co-youth director, describe the foundation of the plan: the mission to foster spiritual growth after the manner of Friends and to strengthen the application of Friends' testimonies in the world. And the vision to be the place of heart-felt welcome where all are empowered to live authentically in the world and to recognize truth and call it forth from one another. The values derive from the conviction that there is that of God in every person. Each of us has the capacity to experience and respond to the movement of Spirit in our lives. We honor the upwelling of Spirit and its expression in one another, including children, the aged and all in between. Grounded by this Spirit, we:

- recognize the dignity of every person
- accept our responsibility to care for the earth and all its inhabitants
- reject violence of any kind
- strive to conduct ourselves with integrity and to focus on what is essential, and
- embrace community through active listening, shared work and joyful connections

The specifics of the plan provides a roadmap to help make choices about program direction, set fundraising priorities, allocate the use of limited human and financial resources, and develop long-term action plans.

Mike Clark (Old Chatham), co-youth director, listed the strategic thrusts in support of the program priorities for FY19-FY23. Powell House has prioritized these operational efforts:

- *Operational Priority #1:* Preserve our **facilities** and enhance them to support program goals, meet our guests' needs and expectations, and reduce long-term stress on staff and financial resources, and in accordance with our values.
- *Operational Priority #2:* Implement an effective **communications** plan in support of our program and fund raising strategies and achievement of our mission.
- *Operational Priority #3:* Institutionalize program and financial **planning, monitoring, and evaluation** systems to strengthen program, fiscal, and operations management.
- *Operational Priority #4:* Conduct a **capital campaign** that prioritizes funding for preserving and enhancing key aspects of Powell House's physical plant and bolstering investment income to meet programmatic and operational needs.

Dennis concluded by describing aspects of the capital campaign.

Friends offered suggestions and descriptions of the responsiveness of Powell House in reaching out to people of color and in fostering the spiritual development of young Friends. The full report is published on the Powell House website.

2018-07-17. Out of the silence Steven Mohlke (Ithaca) offered powerful ministry and reflection regarding his first year as General Secretary, beginning with "*May words of the Spirit be spoken, and words of the Spirit be heard.*" He identified himself—as a part of Ithaca meeting and as a person who answers to the pronouns he, his, him. His message contained experiences that called out important themes. He described a missed opportunity when he met with a group of high school

youth and young adults and a couple people who he was not sure whether they identify as young adults or not. He thought they would be talking about business practice but they ended up talking about how to get involved with yearly meeting. Questions such as: Are we allowed to go to business meetings? They pled for someone to advocate for them, to help organize events and to inform them of ways the yearly meeting functions. He also met with Financial Services where it seemed that the yearly meeting could not hire anybody at this time and have a balanced budget. He told the group of youths that. Steve said, *“What I should have done was asked them to look through the budget with me.”*

He described the use of technology to simplify rather than perplex. He also described the opportunity for meetings to apply to be part of the Vital Meetings project.

Finally, he described the experience of connecting with Christ is the Answer Church, a congregation of immigrants from the Democratic Republic of Congo in Buffalo. He reflected, “I was starting to think that maybe we should steer them toward the Evangelical Friends in the U.S. But then I stopped. Thanks to programs at the Friends Center for Racial Justice, I had been reading the book *Fit for Freedom Not for Friendship*, which chronicles a multitude of reasons why European Quakers for generations kept saying to African descendents that they really might not want to become part of us. And here I was thinking exactly that. At that point I ended the call and sought help for my cultural competency. Perhaps the most important thing I learned was that this was not my decision. Like a clearness committee, my job is to help them decide.” Christ is the Answer Church is now the newest congregation in New York Yearly Meeting.

Steve closed with the quotation from Lao Tsu

Do you have the patience to wait
Til your mud settles and the water is clear?
Can you remain unmoving
Til the right action arises by itself?

2018-07-18. Minutes were approved during this session except number 2018-07-17 recording the message from the General Secretary. Following brief open worship, the meeting closed with announcements.

Thursday, July 26, 10:45 a.m.

*Lucinda Antrim (Scarsdale), Clerk
Jeffrey Aaron (New Brunswick), Assistant Clerk
Karen Way (New Brunswick), Recording Clerk
Rima Segal (Rochester), Reading Clerk*

2018-07-19. Minute 2018-07-17 from previous session was approved.

2018-07-20. The clerk reminded Friends to look at the consent agenda, which will be considered for approval in the Friday morning session.

2018-07-21. Sandra Beer (Old Chatham), Dare Thompson (Poughkeepsie), Callie Janoff (Brooklyn), and Steve Mohlke (Ithaca) gave a lively presentation of a new opportunity from the Development Committee. A generous donor has offered \$50,000 as a matching fund: any new recurring donation, or new increase in an existing recurring donation, will be matched dollar for dollar for the first year. Recurring donations, whether monthly or annual, are a great aid to yearly meeting planning. And if the pledge can be made this week at Silver Bay, donors can receive a fine Friend/Quaker hat.

Some Friends expressed concern about the potentially coercive, worldly nature of the matching fund strategy. Steve Mohlke spoke to the donor's intention of inspiring enthusiasm in giving, as well as trusting the yearly meeting's discernment as to how funds will be spent. After worshipful discussion, Friends approved the plan, with some Friends standing aside.

2018-07-22. John Cooley (Central Finger Lakes), clerk of General Services Coordinating Committee, introduced the report from the Personnel Committee.

Pamela Wood presented the recent history (see Attachments) of two part-time Field Secretary positions: one for Children and Youth, one for Young Adults. Both positions are currently un-staffed. Personnel is proposing to combine the two part-time positions into one. The new position would provide benefits, which would aid recruitment. The position would be structured following the model that has worked for the Aging Resources Consultation and Help (ARCH) program. In that

model, one full-time person anchors the program while local coordinators, working on a monthly stipend, carry out the work in closer connection to monthly meetings. Local coordinators can also be hired to balance any missing skills (children and youth vs. young adults) of the full-time person.

This new arrangement could raise expenses as much as \$50,000 per year. While this might be accommodated in the short term, additional funds will need to be found for long-term support.

Personnel Committee proposes to begin the process of creating a job description and looking for candidates, with a report expected at the next yearly meeting session.

We approved the forming of this position. We affirm this vital work. And we charge our committees (especially Financial Services) to craft a 2019 budget that includes this position.

2018-07-23. Young adult Friends spoke from the body and challenged the yearly meeting body to prepare Friends of every age to more fully participate in our business processes, and to address ageism in every aspect of our functioning. We are called to invite youth and young adults to participate, that we may hear the voices, become curious about the gifts among us, and engage with our whole ministry. The yearly meeting body is already wounded from missed opportunities to nurture our youth, support them through their mistakes and ours, and strengthen our community by investing in the next generations. In filling the new position of Youth and Young Adult Field Secretary, we are challenged to remember and avoid potential barriers to hiring: age, race, gender, sexuality, and membership status. We are called to do great work—we need all ages and kinds of people to do it.

2017-07-24. The minutes through 2018-07-22 were read and approved. After announcements, meeting closed with worship. Minute 2018-07-23 was held over to the beginning of the next meeting for business.

Thursday, July 26; 2:45 p.m.

Lucinda Antrim (Scarsdale), clerk
Jeffrey Aaron (New Brunswick), assistant clerk
Bridget Bower (Perry City), recording clerk
Rima Segal (Rochester) Reading clerk

2018-07-25. The meeting opened with a period of worship. The clerk introduced the clerk's table and reviewed the agenda.

2018-07-26. Minute 2018-07-23 from the morning session was read, modified and approved.

2018-07-27. Lindsey Butler, Sales and Conference Director of Silver Bay YMCA Conference and Family Retreat Center, welcomed us to Silver Bay. She expressed her appreciation for our willingness to put up with the new facility and the growing pains that they are experiencing. She spoke about future enhancements to the facility including a green, environmentally sustainable waste water system.

2018-07-28. Douglas Way (New Brunswick) reported for the Pay As Led subcommittee of Sessions Committee (see Attachments). Sessions is prepared to initiate Pay As Led for Summer Session 2019. In that year, instead of paying Silver Bay directly, Friends will pay NYYM. Friends will choose to pay a small minimum amount or more, or much more, based on a pricing model that gives guideline numbers for the minimum amount, the standard amount charged by Silver Bay, and a "full" amount that covers all NYYM costs. Grants from NYYM or local/regional meetings will be taken into account. We plan to take advantage of the software that New England Yearly Meeting has used to implement their successful Pay As Led process. The transition to that software has begun. The schedule for registration will shift, opening in January and with a Pay as Led deadline in mid-May, although registrations will be accepted through Summer Sessions. They invite suggestions for publicizing these changes.

2018-07-29. Caroline Lane (Flushing), co-clerk, reported for Meeting for Discernment Steering Committee. She reflected on how being on the committee has affected her. Her first experience was a powerful experience; she has since moved to the committee and then to co-clerk of the committee. The

committee is now asking itself how or whether it should prepare queries. Should they address the life of the meeting, or the life of the individual? The next meeting will be in Poughkeepsie in February and Friends are invited to come.

2018-07-30. John Cooley (Central Finger Lakes) reported that the Treasurer's report has been distributed in the documents in advance and it is in good order. Friends received the report (see Attachments).

2018-07-31. Report on Travel Minute. Emily Provance (15th Street) read her travel minute from August 2016. Much of her travel happens online and she brings greetings from the Internet, from her blog, from her Facebook reading groups and from her face-to-face travels among Friends. She also brought greetings from meetings where she had travelled, both from within New York Yearly Meeting and in other parts of the country and the world. From this, she has learned to be brave, to be brave enough to make mistakes and sometimes amazing things come out of it. She knows that she is not alone, that we are with her. Her full report is attached; see Attachments.

2018-07-32. Oscar Mmbali (Kenya) and Adrian Bishop (Baltimore Yearly Meeting) reported on the ministry of Belize City Friends Center. Oscar spoke of his work as a pastor and as an advocate for the poor in a violent part of Belize City, working with other faith leaders and residents to ease tensions between residents and the police, including producing video clips for police and young people to demonstrate both respectful and not-so-good interactions between them. They have been invited to assist in the areas of mediation and peace-building and are looking for expertise in those areas. Adrian reported on his work as an FUM Living Letter in Belize City Friends School. The school moved into a new space in 2017 and Friends have begun to remodel it while having an active school at the same time. Belize has required exams for children at the end of primary school; failure of that exam means the student gets no more education. The Friends school is intended to help children who failed the exam re-enter that system and continue their education. It has a good success rate. Five students graduated this year, with 4 going to high school and 1 to trade school. 25 students is a full school.

2018-07-33. Rima Segal presented the first reading of the Epistle. She invited Friends to leave messages with suggested changes.

2018-07-34. Jillian Smith (Saratoga) spoke for the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) committee on the topic of climate change. The report and requests for action are attached; (see Attachments). Friends resonated with the report and its timeliness and also the need for additional information from several groups before moving ahead. Friends directed that we forward the report to the trustees, Earthcare Working Group, the Communications Committee, and any other groups whose charges are relevant to the FWCC Committee's request for action. These groups should work together and with the FWCC committee to prepare a collective report to the body at fall Sessions on the feasibility of the requests for action, with all relevant supporting information. Jeffrey Aaron will take responsibility for providing this information to the committees.

2018-07-35. Minutes were approved at intervals during the session. The meeting closed with a period of open worship.

Friday, July 27, 10:45 a.m. *Lucinda Antrim (Scarsdale), Clerk*
Jeffrey Aaron (New Brunswick), Assistant Clerk
Karen Way (New Brunswick), Recording Clerk
Robin Alpern (Amawalk), Reading Clerk

2018-07-36. The clerk introduced those at the clerks' table and reviewed today's agenda.

2018-07-37. The clerk read a list of Friends visiting us with travel minutes: Oliver Waterhouse, Friends House London; Sharon Lane-Getaz, Friends General Conference Institutional Assessment on Racism; Oscar Mmbali and Adrian Bishop, Belize City Friends Center; our plenary speaker Jacqueline Stillwell, Right Sharing of World Resources; Shelley Tanenbaum, Quaker Earthcare Witness; Windy Cooler, Earlham School of Religion traveling with a concern for families.

The clerk asked these and any others with travel minutes to seek her out if they wish her signed endorsement on their minutes. She also asked for input from anyone who had experienced the ministry of those traveling.

2018-07-38. In accordance with our consent agenda practice, the clerk reported that the previously posted contents had required no amendments. Friends therefore approved the following minutes.

2018-07-39. The report on Interim actions by the clerk and general secretary was received (see Attachments).

2018-07-40. Nominations for appointment to service are approved; see the Friends Under Appointment section in this *Yearbook*.

2018-07-41. The revisions of the by-laws have received their first reading (attached).

2018-07-42. Elaine Learnard (Conscience Bay), clerk of the Nominating Committee, read the names of individuals whose nominations must be approved separately, because they are asked to serve for a 7th year of service. Friends approved:

<i>Committee to Revise Faith and Practice</i>	Class of 2019
Carolyn Emerson ('12)	Conscience Bay (7th year)*

<i>Personnel Committee</i>	Class of 2019
Hans-Jurgen Lehmann ('12)	Brooklyn (7th year)*

<i>Friends World Committee for Consultation</i>	Class of 2019
Gloria Thompson ('12)	Manhattan (7th year)*

<i>FWCC Section of the Americas</i>	Class of 2019
Gloria Thompson ('12)	Manhattan (7th year)*

2018-07-43. Permission of the yearly meeting is requested for appointment of the following Friend, a member of New England Yearly Meeting, to service on the following NYYM committee. Friends approved:

<i>Oakwood Friends School Board</i>	Class of 2021
Elizabeth Porter ('15)	NEYM**

2018-07-44. Friends accepted the following release from service: Janice Warner from Indian Affairs. Friends approved the appointment of Liseli Haines to the Indian Affairs Committee.

2018-07-45. Peter Cook, Executive Director of the New York State Council of Churches, spoke of his work on behalf of the council's eight religious partner groups, including NYYM. Peter expressed gratitude for Friends who have served in various ways on the Council of Churches. These included Fred Dettmer for his legal assistance in supporting immigrants, DACA participants, and the sanctuary movement. In April the council joined an ecumenical program in Washington DC, with projects ongoing to help families separated from their children. The council also works to lift the poor and disenfranchised on issues such as bail reform, the Affordable Care Act, housing, and the many ways in which the social safety net has been diminished. Additional efforts aim to improve accessibility to voting. Peter invited Friends, particularly young Friends, to join in upcoming programs, this year and next. Members of the council seek to do justice and be bearers of hope. Friends in their comments highlighted examples of the good work undertaken by the council.

2018-07-46. Pamela Wood (Morningside) from the Prisons Committee reviewed the history of a recent concern at Green Haven Prison Preparative Meeting, which is part of Nine Partners Quarterly Meeting.

For many years, the prison meeting was allowed to hold full-day bi-annual meetings (called Quarterly Meetings) at Green Haven Correctional Facility (GHCF). Beginning with 2015, New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) stopped granting permission for the Quarterly Meetings. Over the last few years, efforts at negotiation and repeated appeals from the Prison Meeting, from an incarcerated member of Bulls-Head Oswego, and from members of the Prisons Committee have been ignored. Thus the members and attenders who make up Green Haven Prison Preparative Meeting, many of whom are incarcerated, decided to sue for reinstatement of their practice based on the First

Amendment guarantee of religious freedom. Nine Partners Quarterly Meeting is considering joining the suit. Fred Dettmer (Purchase) is helping them as legal counsel pro bono.

The Prisons Committee is asking that NYYM join the suit. The report, attached (see Attachments), was submitted for approval.

Friends asked questions and expressed support. It was pointed out that the incarcerated persons know and accept considerable risk of retribution.

The Prisons Committee of New York Yearly Meeting and New York Yearly Meeting agree to support any legal action initiated by individual members of the Green Haven worship group against the NY DOCCS in pursuit of their religious rights under the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act. Such support may include pro bono legal representation, financial support to cover filing fees, etc. and spiritual support through the process.

2018-07-47. Rima Segal (Rochester), clerk of the Epistle Committee, gave a second reading of the Epistle. Friends spoke in response, proposing corrections and additions. The Epistle Committee, working quickly, was able to present a revised version during the same session. With a few more corrections, Friends approved.

2018-07-48. Minutes were read and approved at intervals during this business session.

2018-07-49. As our session came to close, the children of Junior Yearly Meeting entered the auditorium with drums and guitars, singing "River." Friends joined in the song and those at the clerks table joined the children on the floor.

At the end of the song and the usual announcements, the clerk said, "Meeting has risen with joy."

Friday, July 27, 6:45 p.m. *Lucinda Antrim (Scarsdale), Clerk*
Jeffrey Aaron (New Brunswick), Assistant Clerk
Karen Way (New Brunswick), Recording Clerk
Robin Alpern (Amawalk), Reading Clerk

2018-07-50. Melanie Claire Mallison (Ithaca), clerk of Sessions,

reported for Sessions Committee. There were 436 registrants, including 95 youth at this Summer Sessions. A total of \$5752 was raised; Fun(d) Fair raised \$525, Tagless Tag Sale, \$1,572, Café Night \$3,654. She invited Friends to Fall Sessions in Rochester in November 2018.

2018-07-51. Dawn Pozzi, Co-coordinator of Junior Yearly Meeting, thanked us again for bringing children to yearly meeting. They are wonderful! She asked Friends to consider taking a break from the business of the yearly meeting to come and spend time with the children. Dawn and Sylke Jackson will continue as co-coordinators for next year. Reports from each of the age groups followed.

2018-07-52. Ages 3-5 group has been a blessing to the leaders. They built a community of new Friends. They made agreements on how to treat each other, and had an abundance of games, snacks, stories and worship. They had a special visitor. The group led us in a rendition of “Let it Shine.” There were nine children in the group.

2018-07-53. Grades 1-3 group painted a river, sang “River,” made new Friends, and kept old ones. They had special visitors, they went to the beach with the high schoolers, visited the nature center and send their epistle to Friends around the world. They shared their painted rivers with us as we all sang River together.

2018-07-54. Grades 4-6 reported with enthusiasm: *This week, we decided what Quakerism means to all of us—teamwork, community, fun, equality and honesty. We formed committees and cooperated for the Fun(d) Fair, the epistle and for games. We enjoyed ourselves at Peach Day (Mark’s version of Beach Day.)*

We played African instruments with Don, went hiking in the rain, and reflected on our perceptions of the hike. We played with Chris and Mike, and enjoyed lots of stories from Mark. Overall, we enjoyed ourselves and learned a lot.

They demonstrated A-bun-dance for assembled Friends.

2018-07-55. The junior high group (grades 7-9) performed a skit, through which they shared their process through the week. Each shared a word of their experience of abundance through-

out Summer Sessions—sharing, joy, listening, fun...

2018-07-56. High school group. Graduating Seniors, Ella Matson and Julia Duxbury, were presented with copies of *Faith and Practice*. Senior high young Friends had a week of abundant activities, ranging from name whips to queries of expectations, to forming committees, to worship sharing on the water (and in the rain). They had visitors. Committees were formed to plan the week's events. Tuesday was fun. Fun time cleaning up in the rain. Worship sharing on the water. They had a busy week, full of play and amazing experiences. Fineas Jackson and Matt Winestock are clerks of the high school group in the coming year.

2018-07- 57. The reading clerk read the yearly meeting epistle. One last edit adjusted the words describing the contribution of young adult Friends.

2018-07-58. After approval of the minutes, Friends entered expectant worship to close the 323rd Summer Session of New York Yearly Meeting.