

**2014**  
**ADVANCE REPORTS**

**New York Yearly Meeting  
of the  
Religious Society of Friends**

**Prepared for Summer Sessions  
July 20–26, 2014, Silver Bay, NY**

**Please use the documents of this book throughout the week in preparation for business sessions, committee meetings, and the special meetings being held this year.**

**THIS COPY BELONGS TO .....**

## NEW YORK YEARLY MEETING ADVANCE REPORTS

The documents of this publication were printed in advance of the 2014–2015 *Yearbook* for consideration at sessions of New York Yearly Meeting in July of 2014.

Please note that the budgets and expenditures of many committees may be found in the Treasurer’s Accounts, page 52. Committees that have their own financial clerks submitted financial reports as part of their committee’s Advance Report. All financial reports are for the 2013 calendar year.

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**NEW YORK YEARLY MEETING  
FALL SESSIONS  
November 16–17, 2013**

Caldwell College, Caldwell, New Jersey  
Saturday, November 16, 2013, 9:30 A.M.

*Jeffrey Hitchcock (Rahway & Plainfield), Clerk*  
*Lucinda Antrim (Scarsdale), Assistant Clerk*  
*Roger Dreisbach-Williams (Rahway & Plainfield), Recording Clerk*  
*Karen Snare (Bulls Head-Oswego), Reading Clerk*

2013-11-01 The Clerk recalled with appreciation the Friday evening program at Chatham-Summit and spoke of the commitment made by those who prepared for, and are attending, these sessions. He reviewed the agenda and introduced those at the clerks’ table.

2013-11-02 Friends were asked to stand as their region was called. All nine regions, quarters, & half-yearly meetings are present.

2013-11-03 Judith Hinds (Montclair) spoke for the host committee welcoming us.

2013-11-04 Excerpts from “Remembrance of Elizabeth Moger,” prepared by Westbury Monthly Meeting, were read. Friends spoke of how Elizabeth Moger (and her husband, Roy) affected their lives. She was a force of nature. Her memorial minute was prepared by Hanover Monthly Meeting (New England Yearly Meeting) and printed in the October issue of *Friends Journal*.

2013-11-05 Minutes 1-4 were approved.

2013-11-06 John Cooley (Central Finger Lakes), serving as Clerk of the General Services Coordinating Committee, reviewed the items that will come before us.

2013-11-07 Christopher Sammond, the General Secretary, brought a message in addition to his prepared report. Both the report and a fuller version of his message are attached. [See pages 13 and 17.]

“If you always do what you have always done; you will always get what you have always gotten” was the essence of his message. “We have had years of declining membership, eroding capacity for renewal, budget reductions, and all the while I have been gently admonishing us to greater faithfulness without offering specific actions. The Yearly Meeting organization is understaffed, under-funded and lacking in a vision which inspires Friends to support our work.”

Christopher reported that twenty to thirty percent of active members and attenders make no financial contribution and that many give fifty dollars or less per year. The Development Committee is trying to raise thirty-four thousand dollars (ten dollars per member). Yet he is hopeful, inspired by many examples of what one Friend can do, and signs of growth—new meetings, growing meetings, and greater attendance at this session than at any Fall or Spring Session in many years.

His vision is of one integral yearly meeting led by the Spirit: one body faithful, discerning, well-led, and empowered.

To support that vision, he told us, we need a Young Adult Field Secretary three-quarter time instead of half time, a Children and Youth Secretary at the same level, and a communication director at full time instead of four-fifths time. That’s the base line. It would also be desirable to have a half-time Field Secretary for Advancement.

He concluded with three specific actions for each of us to consider:

1. Engage in daily spiritual practice—more than an hour on Sunday. If you can’t devote 15 minutes a day, examine your priorities.
2. Are you compelled to rise and speak, or are you protecting a project or committee?
3. Financial participation—even a small amount—to monthly, yearly, and wider Friends organizations is important. With it we can prosper, without it we will get what we always have gotten.

Friends spoke with appreciation for the General Secretary’s message.

2013-11-08 Susan Bingham (Montclair), serving as Treasurer, presented her report. Last year the closing balance was \$8,000 more than the opening balance. This year it is \$18,000 less. There may be several reasons for this. Friends were asked to find out the situation in their monthly meetings and try to eliminate the deficit by the end of the calendar year. The full report is attached. [See page 21.]

2013-11-09 Friends received the reports of the General Secretary and Treasurer.

2013-11-10 Matthew Scanlon (Scarsdale), serving as Clerk of Financial Services, presented the draft operating budget for 2014. There are two stories: How does the energy generated by contributions and donations get translated into the work of the Yearly Meeting? How does the energy generated by trust funds get translated into the work of the Yearly Meeting?

The real problem with our budget is that revenue is not keeping pace with inflation.

By moving some donations and expenses from the operating budget to related trust funds we will be able to meet our budget obligations during this period of transition.

A minute from World Ministries Committee objecting to this proposal was read.

Friends continue to consider this matter.

2013-11-11 The session concluded with a period of reflective worship.

Saturday, November 16, 2013, 12:45 PM

*Jeffrey Hitchcock (Rahway & Plainfield), Clerk  
Lucinda Antrim (Scarsdale), Assistant Clerk  
Karen Way (New Brunswick), Recording Clerk  
Robin Mallison Alpern (Scarsdale), Reading Clerk*

2013-11-12. Friends gathered in worship. The Clerk reviewed the agenda for the afternoon session.

2013-11-13 Lee Haring (Bulls Head-Oswego), clerk of the Priorities Working Group (PWG), described the two years the group has spent visiting and listening to 53 monthly meetings,

3 worship groups, and 5 prison worship groups.

The purpose of these visits is to discover the leadings and priorities of the monthly meetings and to make recommendations for change in the Yearly Meeting. The visits also became a way to begin addressing the feeling of disconnection expressed by many local Friends about Yearly Meeting.

When monthly meetings were asked about the role of Yearly Meeting, their responses fell into two categories:

1. what the meetings want the Yearly Meeting to do to help at the local level,
2. what they want the Yearly Meeting to do as a whole.

On the local level, monthly meetings would like support that would deepen their spiritual learning and experience. This includes advice on vocal ministry, spiritual leadership, pastoral care, and clerking, and help resolving conflicts within meetings.

Meetings also asked for help with advancement and First Day School. Increased visitation and enriched contact via *Spark* and *Infoshare* are crucial in addressing these needs.

On a broader level, monthly meetings would like the Yearly Meeting to represent them to national Quaker organizations and speak for them to the media on state, national, and international issues. By publicly stating our spiritual vision, the Yearly Meeting could raise awareness of Quakerism.

The PWG is charged with making recommendations for implementing the priorities they are discovering. Although the process of implementation is not yet clear, the PWG is considering several recommendations that will be presented in full at Spring and Summer Sessions.

First, we must find more ways to increase contact between meetings at all levels of our organization.

Second, we need to make the Yearly Meeting's finances transparent to all, with the goal of increasing involvement at an earlier point in the budget process and clarifying financial decision-making. A draft of a sample consolidated financial report was distributed during this part of the presentation.

Third, the PWG is looking to identify which elements in the Yearly Meeting structure should be laid down. The short answer is: Everything that doesn't benefit monthly meetings or act on their behalf. The PWG will make its final report at NYYM

Summer Sessions, 2014.

Friends spoke in response. There was excitement about the change that could come if we truly decide to be faithful to the priorities of the monthly meetings. We will need to let go of some familiar forms and invent some new ones. This is an opportunity to reinvent a Yearly Meeting better tuned to the life of the Spirit.

Another Friend noted that Friends will need to venture out from their monthly meetings to do this work, reaching out to like-minded individuals across the expanse of the Yearly Meeting. And all this internally focused effort takes place in a world beset with many external problems.

The full report is attached. [See page 22.] Friends received the report.

2013-11-14. Lucinda Antrim (Scarsdale) presented the report of the Meetings for Discernment Steering Committee. The two most recent Meetings for Discernment were held on March 2 and July 23, 2013. The next one, which will be the 13th Meeting for Discernment in the series, will be held March 1, 2014 at Purchase Monthly Meeting.

The March queries that guided the extended worship of the Meeting for Discernment were similar to those asked by the Priorities Working Group in visiting monthly meetings; for example: what work does God call us to do, as individuals, as meetings, and as a Yearly Meeting? The committee is working to make sure all queries used in Meetings for Discernment are available online, plus the reports on each meeting.

At Summer Session 2014, the Steering Committee expects to recommend continuation of the Meetings for Discernment. Because the Yearly Meeting on Ministry and Counsel has been suspended, Meetings for Discernment provide an important venue for Friends to consider the concerns of the Yearly Meeting more deeply.

When the Steering Committee was first created, there was an expectation that it would also be able to consider minutes from monthly meetings and support individual leadings. Although this has not yet happened, the Meetings for Discernment have become an important part of the spiritual life of the Yearly Meeting, and Friends have expressed much gratitude for the

opportunity of extended guided communal worship.

The full report is attached. [See page 27] Friends received the report.

2013-11-15 Buffy Curtis and Liseli Haines (Mohawk Valley Monthly Meeting) testified to the wonderful experience of the Two Row Wampum paddle from Troy, New York, to Manhattan, culminating at the U.N.

The event celebrated the 400-year anniversary of the signing of the Two Row Wampum treaty between the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) and European settlers. Illustrated by two parallel rows of purple wampum woven on a white background, the treaty was a commitment to friendship between peoples living in peaceful parallel forever.

There are plans under discussion for a river trip from the Onondaga Nation to Washington D.C. next September. Buffy and Liseli expressed much gratitude to the many Friends who participated. What the Two Row Wampum experience taught was that we are of many minds but one heart—a lesson for all people, including New York Yearly Meeting.

2013-11-16. The Minutes for this session were approved.

Meeting closed after announcements and a period of community worship.

Sunday, November 17, 2013, 9:00 a.m.

*Jeffrey L. Hitchcock (Rahway & Plainfield), Clerk*  
*Lucinda Antrim (Scarsdale), Assistant Clerk*  
*Andrew Mead von Salis (Brooklyn), Recording Clerk*  
*Sylke Jackson (Rockland), Reading Clerk*

2013-11-17. Convening at 9:00 a.m. directly out of our morning worship, the Yearly Meeting turned its attention to the agenda presented by the Clerk.

2013-11-18. The Reading Clerk read the memorial minute of Rahway-Plainfield Meeting for Marianne Adler Longstreet, who died at age 92 on December 23, 2012. An emigrant from Austria on the eve of war, she became a Friend in 1941. A decades-long

member of Manasquan Meeting, she became a certified nursing home administrator. She managed our Yearly Meeting Friends Home (the McCutchen) in North Plainfield, New Jersey, for 24 years, always active in professional associations and committees. The gracefulness of her adaptable, warm manner enriched her many friendships, led her into caring beautifully for gardens and animals, and gained wide professional recognition.

Marianne's generosity of spirit was remembered as Friends worshiped.

2013-11-19. Irma Guthrie (Perry City), on behalf of the Ministry Coordinating Committee, introduced a proposed Apology to Afro-Descendants, explaining its background, features, language, testing and revisions in her presentation. The introduction is to the Apology attached. [See page 29] After several years of consideration by our monthly meetings and further seasoning, the Apology was now brought to us by the Ministry Coordinating Committee for discernment and approval. Charley Flint (Rahway & Plainfield), of the Task Group on Racism, read the text of the Apology to our silent assembly.

Some well-considered and heartfelt comments and suggestions arose from the floor. The impetus and labor that brought us this Apology were valued and appreciated. A strong sense of a call to speak our truth was felt, and wide approval of the need for this Apology was voiced. Yet some Friends also saw deficit in the inherent limitations of the very act and effect of apology, troubling references in the text itself, or error in some of its premises. We acknowledged that we encompass inevitably varied opinions and experiences, but also asked whether the Yearly Meeting must be a white body to issue this Apology. Upon consideration, we were not in unity to adopt the proposed Apology today.

2013-11-20. After the preceding minutes were heard and approved, Friends put aside our remaining agenda to rise in expressions of regret and grief. Our poorness in spirit has inflicted pain, and has continued to do that today. We heard experiences of the possibility and power of collective apology and institutional forgiveness, and we resolved to do more to proceed. We began by explicitly inviting all our Friends back

into our embrace.

Even while acknowledging the need to complete our essential business, the Yearly Meeting devoted itself to prayerful and receptive worship. Messages of challenge, humbleness, repentance, and even of hope came, leading us to reconsider whether we could unite in approving the Apology or committing to another step forward. We recognized that our words must speak our mind, while true unity must live in our hearts. Understanding that our Minute is not enough, we united in approval of the proposal to adopt and issue the Apology, and committed the Yearly Meeting to further action.

Alanna Badgley, and Ron Peterson (speaking on behalf of his monthly meeting), were recorded as standing aside.

The apology reads as follows:

### **Apology to Afro-Descendants**

We the NYYM of the Religious Society of Friends apologize to Afro-Descendants\* everywhere for Quaker participation in the terrible acts of enslaving your ancestors and for the destructive effects that those acts have had on succeeding generations.

Slavery is an abomination. We regret that Friends participated in or benefited from slavery. This included trafficking of human beings from Africa, capitalizing on the products of their labor and suffering, and being enriched by an economy based on chattel slavery. We apologize that NYYM allowed its members to hold Africans and their descendants in bondage up until 1777, when Friends were directed by the Yearly Meeting to manumit the people they held in slavery.

We abhor the decades of terror and legalized racial segregation that followed the abolition of slavery declared in the 13th amendment, which was ratified in 1865. The amendment reads: "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction." This exception gave rise to a justice system that disproportionately targeted and incarcerated Afro-Descendants, a practice which continues today.

We acknowledge in sorrow that those of us who enjoy a high standard of living today are still benefiting from the

unpaid and underpaid labor of enslaved peoples and their descendants. We deeply regret that even after emancipation, despite the Quaker testimony of equality, Friends schools denied admission to Afro-Descendants and many Friends meetings enforced segregated seating. We regret the effects that those policies had and continue to have on all of us.

Over the centuries, some individual Quakers and Quaker groups have joined efforts to end slavery and eradicate racism and have supported African Americans in their struggle for civil and human rights. We honor the work of these Quakers and are moved to follow their example. Thus we re-commit ourselves to the testimony of equality as regards Afro-Descendants. This work will include challenging existing racist assumptions, and educating ourselves about the direct relationships between the past enslavement of Afro-Descendants and current conditions in the United States.

We recognize that this apology is a step towards healing and trust, and that more openings will follow as we strive with DIVINE assistance to discern what we as Quakers are called to do to bring about justice and reconciliation in our beloved community.

*\* Afro-Descendants is a term now officially in use by the United Nations to identify the more than 250 million descendants of enslaved Africans dwelling in North America, Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Slavery Diaspora.*

2013-11-21. We approved our last minute of this morning. The Clerk invited Friends to join Chatham-Summit Meeting in devoting the room to its regular 11:00 a.m. meeting for worship.

2013-11-22. After worship, welcomes, thanks, and announcements with Chatham-Summit Meeting, we returned to our business agenda at 12:15 p.m.

2013-11-23. The Consent Agenda was presented by the Clerk. The following minutes 24 through 27 were approved in accordance with our consent agenda process.

2013-11-24. Friends were asked to approve the *Handbook* page for the representative to the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund board. The page was approved.

2013-11-25. Friends were asked to approve revisions in the listing of constituent committees, resource persons and representatives in the *Handbook* page for the Witness Coordinating Committee. Friends approved the revisions.

2013-11-26. The following Friends were nominated for service in committee or other positions, respectively. These appointments, each ending in July of the specified year, were approved:

Faith and Practice Revision Committee (2016)	Sara Niccoli, Brooklyn Meeting
Development Committee (2016)	Linda Hill Brainard, Fifteenth St. Meeting
Financial Services Committee (2014)	Luc Douyon, Albany Meeting attendee
Financial Services Committee (2014)	Albert Hsu, Wilton Meeting attendee
Sessions Committee (2016)	Cheshire Frager, Flushing Meeting
Nurture Coordinating Committee (2016)	Jennifer Perry, Rochester Meeting
Nurture Coordinating Committee (2016)	Janice Ninan, Collins Meeting
Member of the Powell House corporation (2016)	Pierre Douyon, Albany Meeting
Member of the Powell House corporation (2018)	Meredith Downey, Chappaqua Meeting
Member of the Powell House corporation (2018)	Catherine Wald, Amawalk Meeting
Member of the Powell House corporation (2018)	Cheshire Frager, Flushing Meeting
Member of the AFSC corporation (2016)	Robin Whitely, Chatham-Summit Meeting
Black Concerns Committee (2016)	Wilma Campbell, Rochester Meeting
Indian Affairs Committee (2016)	Thomas Rothschild, Brooklyn Meeting

Representative to the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund board (2014)	Frederick Dettmer, Purchase Meeting
Prisons Committee (2016)	Robert Martin, Poughkeepsie Meeting
National Consultative Committee of William Penn House (2016)	Anthony Christopher-Smith, New Brunswick Meeting

2013-11-27. The Yearly Meeting was asked to release from service the following Friends under committee or other appointment, respectively. These releases were approved:

Advancement Committee (2015)	Margaret Webb, Binghamton Meeting
Trustee of the Lindley Murray Fund (2015)	Todd Tilton, Westbury Meeting
Member of the Powell House corporation (2014)	Susanrachel Condon, Old Chatham Meeting
Member of the Powell House corporation (2015)	Carol Holmes, Brooklyn Meeting
Young Adult Concerns Committee (2014)	Rebecca Sue Nellenback, Poplar Ridge Meeting
Witness Coordinating Committee (2014)	Newton Garver, Buffalo Meeting

2013-11-28. Richard Eldridge, believed to be a member of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting although on the rolls of Fifteenth Street Meeting, was approved by Friends for appointment to the Oakwood Friends School Board of Managers for a term ending in July 2016.

2013-11-29. John Cooley (Central Finger Lakes), clerk of the General Services Coordinating Committee, reported that the 2014 budget proposal presented to us yesterday morning has been re-examined by the Financial Services Committee, as well as many other involved Friends. Matthew Scanlon (Scarsdale), clerk of the Financial Services Committee, brings a revised proposed budget, reflecting certain changes that were enumerated on a new "Amendments" page of the proposal.

The budget was approved. The Clerk was directed, as proposed with the budget, to ask the General Services and

Nurture Coordinating Committees to write to Friends General Conference, Friends United Meeting, Friends World Committee for Consultation, and Oakwood Friends School to alert them to the decrease of donations to them in our 2014 budget from the 2013 level, and to suggest that those entities consider applying to New York Yearly Meeting endowment funds, such as World Ministry and Lindley Murray, for specific project aid in 2014.

2013-11-30. The Reading Clerk read the Chwele Task Group's brief report. Friends discussed its plans. The Task Group seeks more Alternatives to Violence facilitators. The report was received.

2013-11-31. The World Ministries Committee commended to our attention their minute, which is read by the Reading Clerk, as follows:

In grateful recognition of the love and dedication given by Newton Garver to the Andean Quakers in Bolivia, the NYYM World Ministries Committee is in unanimous agreement that, in his honor, we establish a scholarship for two Bolivian Quaker students each year to attend a university-level course of study.

The students will be selected by the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund, which also will administer the scholarships. This scholarship program will be reassessed by World Ministries Committee after ten years, at which time the process and funding will be reviewed for renewal and any necessary changes.

Those Friends who have served with Newton Garver have been inspired by his vision and his untiring work toward non-violence, equality, and dignity for all people. We look forward to the success of those who will receive these scholarships.

2013-11-32. This afternoon's minutes were heard, corrected and approved. Friends adjourned at 1:00 p.m., to convene again at our Spring Sessions on April 5, 2014, at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, Rochester, New York.

## Attachments

### General Secretary Report

*See minute 2013-11-07, page 1.*

In my advance reports, I usually cover a period from mid-May to mid-May, the time the reports are due for dissemination. Last year I was on sabbatical leave until mid-June, so I will be reporting on the eleven months after my return to active work. I have already reported to the Yearly Meeting body about my sabbatical leave, and that report can be found at [nyym.org/?q=Minutes\\_2013SummerSessions-GeneralSecretaryReport](http://nyym.org/?q=Minutes_2013SummerSessions-GeneralSecretaryReport).

I came away from my sabbatical leave having settled spiritually, and having learned a lot. It was a time of transformation, and much of my last year has involved integrating its lessons into my daily work. These lessons have been as varied as slowing the pace at which I work, seeing my role in the Yearly Meeting differently, altering how I prioritize my work, my attention to self-care, and holding this work more openly, more loosely. Applying these lessons has been a work in process, imperfectly done, but I hope with some integrity and some success.

I came back from my sabbatical clear in my leading that the main focus of my work needs to be helping Friends to deepen—in our practice, in our community, and in our worship. My supervisory committee has agreed with my sense in this, and has supported me in making this the first priority for my 2014 work plan. I see a happy confluence here between leadings for my service and the needs of the Yearly Meeting at this time. Giving this area of my work greater priority has meant a shift, doing less in some areas than before. It has also meant I have needed to deepen in my own practice, in order to live out what I believe we are all called to.

I have welcomed opportunities to lead monthly meetings in retreats focused on spiritual deepening, opening to deeper worship, and discernment in vocal ministry. And I have found that what I have felt led to offer has resonated well with the monthly meetings with which I have shared this. Frederick Beuchner said that one's vocation lies where one's great joy meets the world's great need. Doing this work has felt like that kind of fit. It is sacred work. It is such a privilege and a blessing

to be with Friends as they seek greater spiritual depth and a fuller sense of our practice as Friends. And its impact can be profound. As the M&C of one meeting that entered into this work said, “before the retreat, our meeting didn’t have a core, a center. Now we do.”

It takes some time to schedule visits with meetings, and much more lead time to schedule a retreat. In the first few months back, I was mostly setting up opportunities for later in the year. Despite that, in the eleven months since my sabbatical I made nineteen visits to monthly meetings and worship groups, eight of which had me providing some level of program. The programs varied from 1-3 hour mini-workshops to full-weekend retreats.

At the same time, I returned from my sabbatical clear in my commitment to my own practice as a Friend, and maintaining a balance in my life that might sustain this work with integrity. Previously, I made myself available virtually all the time. I am now more intentional in guarding my time off as Sabbath time, time to renew my spirit so that I can do this work from a more centered place.

Increasing travel and visitation, while at the same time preserving enough time at home to feel grounded in my life and the life of my monthly meeting has not been an easy task. I am still finding my way into it, with some success and some room for improvement.

In addition to increasing the “field secretary” aspect of my work, I have also given a high priority to supporting those Friends who are similarly committed to our deepening in our practice. I have spent a lot of time supporting Friends on the Advancement Committee, helping to support the committee in general, and to plan and facilitate the fourth Advancement consultation. I have also been supportive of the members of the Spiritual Nurture Working Group and the Meetings for Discernment Steering Committee as they each address different aspects of this larger work. And I have been supportive of those Friends committed to revitalizing visitation in the Yearly Meeting.

We are at a pivotal time in the life of this yearly meeting. Change is upon us, partly due to the financial shift of 2008 onward and our response to it, but more so due to faithful leadings and efforts that go back many years. We have spent

years preparing for this change. A lot of my work with the yearly meeting organization in the past year relates in one way or another to the changes we are moving through. I see these changes as critical for us, and my role in them to be supporting Friends in being faithful as an institution, as well as individually. Here are some of those movements of change which took larger blocks of my time and attention:

*Priorities Working Group:* It has been more than four years since the Yearly Meeting initiated a process for determining our priorities and vision as a whole body. The first two years involved designing a process with which Friends could unite. In the last two and a half years, the Priorities Working Group, those Friends tasked with implementing that process, have been listening to Friends across the Yearly Meeting and discerning how to respond to what we have heard. I have been a part of this work from its inception, and have continued to give significant time to it, participating in three weekend meetings and numerous conference calls over the last year. It has been heartening to labor with a group of hard working Friends passionately committed to this crucial work.

*Development Committee:* This is the second year since we created a Development Committee to help us augment Covenant Donations as a way of supporting the work of the yearly meeting. Much of this work has been to build systems and structures from the ground up, and it has been very time consuming. I serve ex-officio on this committee, and have devoted a lot of time and energy to getting this work off the ground. I am grateful for the many Friends who have given so generously to support the work we are led to do as a whole yearly meeting.

*Children and Youth Staff Position:* Since at least 2001, many Friends have expressed the clear need for a staff position addressing the needs of children and youth in our monthly meetings. I have initiated conversations with our Personnel, Youth, and Nurture Coordinating committees, the yearly meeting Trustees, and other interested Friends as to how best to meet this need. Personnel and Youth committees are now poised to be collaborating on a proposed job description, as we move from vision to implementation.

I also continue with ongoing responsibilities such as serving

as head of staff, collaborating with the Yearly Meeting clerk, and representing NYYM in the wider body of Friends, to name but a few.

*Staff Leadership:* I have greatly enjoyed working with our skilled and dedicated staff. We are working more as a team than in any time since I started here. Our morale is high, and our output is impressive, given our small numbers. We have started integrating the ARCH Coordinators into our staff meetings and retreats, allowing the three coordinators much needed support and a sense of being connected to the work of the yearly meeting. It has also been important to hear regularly from our ARCH coordinators about their work and the impressions from their travels as to how the Yearly Meeting is doing.

*Collaborating with our Clerk:* It has been a real pleasure to work with Jeff Hitchcock, our very able clerk. We have met regularly, discussing our sense of where the Yearly Meeting is, where it seems to be headed, and what is needed at this time. More recently, Lucinda Antrim, the yearly meeting assistant clerk, has joined us in those meetings.

*Representing NYYM in Wider Friends:* I continue to meet with the general secretaries of BYM, PhYM, and NEYM every other month, mostly by phone. It is invaluable to compare notes with them about the conditions of their yearly meetings and how Friends there are responding to changes and situations that often parallel our own. I also attend the annual Superintendents and Secretaries Retreat, with leadership from yearly meetings across the continent and across the spectrum of Friends practice. I have continued on the FUM North American Ministries Committee, and at the yearly meeting's request, have agreed to serve on the FUM General Board for another three year stint.

I am still integrating the changes and leadings from my sabbatical into the focus and scope of my work. I am making progress in balancing the need to make this position sustainable while being faithful to my leadings and the broader expectations of the position. Without the opportunity of my sabbatical leave, these changes would not have happened. As I move through integrating my sabbatical experience, my understanding of just

how important that time was continues to deepen, as does my gratitude for it.

*Christopher Sammond*

## **General Secretary's Oral Report**

*See minute 2013-11-07, page 1.*

*The following is a rendering after the fact of the message that was given to me to share with Fall Sessions. I have tried as best I could to capture not just the words, but the spirit in which the words were given.*

Good morning Friends. I had prepared a written report for you all, and copies of that will be available after the rise of this meeting. But I was up much of last night, with Spirit wrestling with me, and I was given a different report to share with you today. It will contain some of what is in the written report, but not all, so I would encourage you to read that report, as well.

What I heard over and over again in the night was the adage "If you always do what you have always done, you will always get what you have always gotten."

For many, many years we have had dropping membership, an eroding of our capacity for renewal, and the cutting of our budgets. Throughout my time here, I have given reports naming our condition and gently admonishing Friends towards greater faithfulness, without specific actions recommended as to what greater faithfulness might mean. These have been received with thanks and affirmation.

"If you always do as you have always done, you will always get what you have always gotten." I include myself in that pattern of what we have been doing, so it is my intent to do my part of this process a little differently today.

Our yearly meeting organization is understaffed, underfunded, and lacking in sufficient vision to inspire support.

Four years ago at our Fall Sessions, also in All Friends Regional Meeting, we wrestled for four sessions with a \$4,000 deficit in our budget. What we recognized and were able to name as a result of that process was a dysfunction in our priority setting. To address that we created the Priorities Working Group, which has been at work since then. What we did not see as clearly

at that time were the other implications from our inability to find unity on a budget. We didn't see that first, we were not led to cut the budget any further, and second, that our vision did not inspire the support needed to accomplish the work in that budget.

- The \$34,000 the Development Committee is charged with raising amounts to only \$10 per active member or attender, or the cost of two lattes.
- A number of years ago I did some rough calculating of what we, in all of NYYM, give to our monthly meetings, the Yearly Meeting, and to the wider Quaker organizations such as FGC, FUM, AFSC, FWCC, and FCNL. The rough guesstimate I came up with was \$1.5 million. This comes down to an average of less than \$500 per member. Is this all our Society is worth to us?
- In talking with monthly meeting treasurers, I have heard that between 20-30% of active members and attenders give nothing at all. Many give between 0 and \$50 per year.
- Some meetings don't mention money at all. This has gotten somewhat better in the past few years, but as a whole, we don't communicate a need for funds to those attending worship.

We are out of alignment, out of integrity, as to how we do money.

In spite of the serious challenges that we face, which are more fully outlined in my written report, I retain great hope for the renewal we have been seeking for more than forty-five years. I do so because I see the potential realized every day as to what one inspired individual can do. What I see is that the renewal we hope for is SO EASY, if we just try some different behaviors.

- I heard this morning of a Friend who goes to Friends who are already more than maxed out, to enlist them in what she is doing. They find what she is doing so inspiring that they say that they have to join in it.
- I heard last night from a Friend who started walking up to newcomers after meeting, and just saying "hi" to them. Now, instead of them leaving and not coming back, they are returning.

- This is the largest Spring or Fall session in years, quite possibly because we have added a youth program, welcoming all Friends to participate.
- We have greatly increased our capacities in our practice as Friends, reclaiming the positive role that those with gifts as elders can play. This has deepened and enriched our worship and our business.
- We just celebrated the opening of a new meetinghouse, the second in as many years.
- Attendance has increased in sixteen of our meetings, and stayed the same in twenty-two.
- In each of the last three years we have added new worship groups.
- The two (count 'em, two) young adult Friends active at 15th Street Monthly Meeting decided to hold a brunch once a month for other young adults. The group is now up to forty-five, and is a significant presence in the meeting.
- Many of our meetings report a depth of worship that is vital and nourishing.
- Some meetings that had been concerned about their shrinking numbers are now glad to be welcoming newcomers who are staying.

When I look at all of this, and the changes that are happening, I don't really know if we are still in decline, or if these are the first indicators of the renewal we have sought for so long.

We will be hearing the results of the Priorities Working Group at Spring and Summer sessions, and I am not clear as to the vision that they will lay before us. But I want at this time to lift up a vision of what I feel we are called to be. I believe we are called to be one integral yearly meeting, not a yearly meeting organization as distinct from the monthly meetings that pay for it. We are called to be one integral yearly meeting, not a witness-focused yearly meeting over and against a ministry-focused yearly meeting. Not a yearly meeting devoted to community over and against one invested in deepening our mystical practice. One integral yearly meeting, led by the Spirit. One body, faithful, discerning, well led, empowered.

What we need for the staffing support to help us to get there, to address the needs we encounter every day, is a <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> time Young

Adult Field Secretary, not a half-time one. And we need a Field Secretary for Children and Youth at the same staffing level. And we need a Communications Director at full-time instead of 0.8 time. That's just the baseline, just barely meeting the needs we encounter. A half-time Field Secretary for Advancement would also be important, but is beyond that bare baseline level of support.

We are heading for a lot of change. Some is already happening, and the Priorities Working Group report will bring more. As we leave the shore of what's familiar, and launch ourselves into the unknown, there will come a time when the shore we've left behind is no longer visible, and the shore we are approaching is not yet in sight. Without familiar landmarks, it will be sorely tempting for us to go back to what is familiar to escape the feelings of fear and anxiety over the unknown. One of my favorite stories in the *Bible* is in Exodus, when the Hebrew people, who had been in crushing, oppressive slavery for generations finally escape and wander in the wilderness. After a time, sick of the uncertainty, the people start complaining, saying "Maybe we should go back to Egypt. Making all those bricks wasn't that hard, really. Maybe we'd be better off going back." It's a temptation, one we're better off not giving in to.

I have three specific things I would ask of you as we prepare to meet the changes already afoot, actions that may help us not act on that very human capacity to want to go back to the familiar, the "old normal."

- Engage in a daily practice. Whatever you do that centers you, helps you to connect to the Divine, and refreshes your spirit, do that for at least twenty minutes each day. And if you don't make time to do so, notice, without any judgment or self-recrimination, what seemed to be a greater priority that day.
- When in business here or in your monthly meeting, test and double test your leading to speak. Does it come from the tender heart led by the Spirit? Or does the urge to speak come from some other place, such as our attachment to the way things have been, our perception of "our turf," "our money," "my committee," etc. Can we hold ourselves to the same discipline of the Spirit to speak in our

business meetings as we do in our meetings for worship? Can we only rise to speak if we are clearly and powerfully compelled to do so? After all, that is our practice, though I often witness us fudging it in our business.

- When you get the request for funds from the Development Committee, please give something. Even if it's just \$5— give something—the cost of a latte. Our goal is for everyone to give something, no matter how small. It is my hope that we would each give something to our monthly meeting, the yearly meeting, and to the wider Quaker organizations. This is as much about participation and relationship as it is about raising money to support our work. It is our interrelationship which builds the fabric of community, and money is one aspect of being in relationship.

If we do these things, I believe we will be stepping into the kind of yearly meeting we are called to be. We will be preparing ourselves and our community to live into the changes being asked of us.

Thank you.  
Christopher Sammond

### Treasurer's Report

*See minute 2013-11-08, page 3.*

The rounded totals below are (exact amounts are in parentheses for the minutes)

The opening balance was \$205,000	(204,908)
Total receipts for the year are \$379,000	(378,838)
Total Disbursements are \$397,000	(396,592)
Closing Balance is \$187,154	(187,154)
This is a net change of -\$18,000	(-17,754)
At this time in 2012 the net change was +\$8,000.	(+8,026)

## Priorities Working Group Report

*See minute 2013-11-13, page 3.*

Dear Friends:

[Preamble:

The Priorities Working Group was established at Spring Sessions 2011. By minute 2011-01-35, the Group was charged with responsibility in five areas:

- (a) To gather the sense of the monthly and regional meetings and of individual Friends as to how the Spirit is at work among us and where it is leading us as a society of Friends in the immediate future;
- (b) To distill those insights and discern from them a proposed Statement of Leadings and Priorities that is both prophetic and workable;
- (c) To reflect those insights and priorities back to our constituent regions to ensure that the Working Group has discerned accurately;
- (d) To report its findings to the Yearly Meeting Body and to lead the process for considering and approving the Statement of Leadings and Priorities; and
- (e) To design a process to assess the implementation of these priorities.

This report is submitted to Fall Sessions 2013 in partial fulfillment of these charges.]

Two years ago we launched our plan to visit and listen to monthly meetings. We have reported to you about it at every session since. The visits have proceeded well. We have now visited three worship groups (Brooktondale, Philipstown, Greater Canandai-gua), five prison worship groups (Cayuga, Auburn, Attica, Green Haven, Sing Sing) and fifty-three monthly meetings (we'll spare you the full list). From reporting to meetings and to each other about the visits, we have begun to reach clarity on our formal statement of leadings and priorities, which we are to bring before you in spring and summer sessions. We have also begun to identify potential changes in organization and practice that are needed to support the leadings and priorities. This report includes a first look at possible recommendations.

Changes are also needed to respond to the disconnect between monthly meetings and the rest of the Yearly Meeting. Many monthly meetings, we observe, feel detached from the rest of the Yearly Meeting. They put themselves in one category and the Yearly Meeting organization in another; they do not feel part of a "we" that is the whole of New York Yearly Meeting. Indeed, during our visits, the Priorities Working Group has been referred to as a group of "Yearly Meeting Friends," separate from local meetings and somehow different from the local meeting. This disconnect inhibits the best functioning of the Yearly Meeting. It limits the full realization of a beloved community that embraces and serves us all. Consequently, we shall recommend realigning New York Yearly Meeting, so that by addressing the priorities and leadings of the monthly meetings, Friends will rebuild that beloved community.

### **I. Priorities we see now**

When monthly meetings speak to the Priorities Working Group, they call for two kinds of priorities: what monthly meetings want the rest of New York Yearly Meeting to do for them, and what monthly meetings want it to do that they can't do alone.

**A. What would local meetings like the rest of the Yearly Meeting to do for them?** Because local Friends see us, and many of you, as belonging to the "Yearly Meeting Organization," they primarily want the organization to help them locally. They say gratefully, "You came and visited us," or "Visits are wonderful." Most of the meetings we visit wish for more contact with those they identify as "Yearly Meeting Friends." Again and again, meetings tell us that worshiping together is their priority, saying, "For many of us, worship is what holds our lives together." Friends treasure the support that their Meeting provides to members and attenders—the "love and care and support for each other," the deepening of each person through worship and spiritual growth. Spiritual deepening and spiritual learning appear to be their first priority. Hence they would like advice and information about deepening meetings for worship, perhaps by "sending Friends to deepen our worship." When they think beyond their local meeting, they ask that assistance and guidance from the broader Yearly Meeting be brought to their own regions. Several meetings want help with vocal

ministry and clerking. “Spiritual leadership,” said one, asking for “help learning Quaker process, practice and beliefs.” They also want advice on pastoral care for members, and on resolving conflicts within a monthly meeting. Their worship would be deepened, they say, if Friends from other meetings came to visit and connect with them.

Some Friends feel God is calling New York Yearly Meeting to promote advancement, through coordinating the efforts of many monthly meetings. Other needs named by monthly meetings are (1) resources and ideas for attracting new members and retaining their young people, (2) “help with First-Day School planning; how to teach Quaker history to teenagers,” and support for First Day School teachers, (3) support for pastors, (4) help with property management, and (5) help with their boards and committees.

It takes visitation, contact, and money to answer these needs. Meetings express appreciation for visits from the General Secretary, the Young Adult Field Secretary, and the Associate Secretary. Clearly, these visits are something the Yearly Meeting organization is doing well. Most of the meetings we have visited wish for more of it. One Friend welcomed the visit of the Priorities Working Group by saying it could be thought of as preparation for a meeting retreat. Meetings also praise a number of actions already being carried on, mostly by the staff. The Yearly Meeting website is being enlarged to give monthly meetings and their committees access to committee records and resource materials. News of staff activities and monthly meetings is carried in InfoShare, the electronic partner of Spark, which is a potent means for Friends to get news of other monthly meetings, Yearly Meeting activities, the wider world of Quakerism, and upcoming conferences and workshops. More Friends have begun reading both InfoShare and Spark. Monthly meeting Friends think of Powell House as a Yearly Meeting entity and often praise its benefits to youth. And the ARCH program, Friends say, “has been extraordinarily beneficial,” as has the work of the Conflict Transformation Committee. In short, the Yearly Meeting, as an organization, is already carrying on activities which Friends value. Funds must be provided to keep these activities going.

**B. What would local Friends like the rest of the Yearly Meeting to do on their behalf?** Mainly they ask for a Quaker voice in public affairs, to the Council of Churches in each state, to state legislatures, to the governors’ offices, to the world. No monthly meeting can speak for “all Friends,” but the Yearly Meeting can get media attention for Quaker concerns. Friends ask for a louder voice for their peace witness, earthcare, social justice, income inequality, and prison concerns. Friends also hope that this Yearly Meeting, being one of the few that belong to both Friends General Conference and Friends United Meeting, will maintain its working memberships in both. They urge the Yearly Meeting to advise Friends Committee on National Legislation, American Friends Service Committee, Friends World Committee for Consultation, and other Friends organizations, and to receive and pass back their information to local meetings by sharing it on InfoShare. Generally, Friends want the Yearly Meeting organization to raise public awareness about Quakers in the wider world; to proclaim our spiritual vision and display our spiritually based activism on issues in the world; even to provide a clear statement of our faith. These activities also require funding.

## **II. Our possible recommendations**

The Priorities Working Group was charged to “design a process to assess the implementation of these priorities” (minute 2011-04-35). We are seeking unity on how to fulfill this charge—that is, how far to go toward designing implementation. We anticipate making recommendations to address both structural and procedural issues. The final content, language and scope of our recommendations, however, is still not clear to us. We are approaching these questions by meeting in worship, seeking the guidance of Spirit.

A. We expect to recommend ways that the Yearly Meeting organization can be in more frequent and more direct contact with the monthly meetings it serves, expecting to be accountable to them.

B. We expect to recommend, as an efficient way of removing the sense of distance between monthly meetings and the Yearly Meeting organization, to involve more Friends in the budget-making process. We have agreed that the budget-set-

ting process should begin early each year, at the Coordinating Weekend, in a Spirit-guided manner, and be fully developed by Fall Sessions.

C. One of our Advices directs Friends to inspect frequently the state of their temporal affairs. Following that Advice, we expect also to recommend that statements of Yearly Meeting income and expense should be easily accessible to all who contribute to its work. Budget statements should transparently reflect the activities of the organization, the cost of major initiatives, the achievements of the various programs, and the way that local Friends can become engaged in them. We have been working with the Financial Services Committee and the Treasurer to make ready a consolidated statement of the Yearly Meeting's finances. Today we are distributing to you a sample of such a statement. It is intended to help Friends understand better the income and expense cash flow of New York Yearly Meeting. Thereby, more Friends will carry out more of our financial planning, more effectively and efficiently, to ensure that we direct our funds to answer the spiritual leadings and priorities of the monthly meetings.

D. Finally, we ask: what should be laid down? Based on what we have heard in our visits to this point, the short answer is: Everything that doesn't benefit monthly meetings or act on their behalf. We shall be testing this answer as we complete our process and prepare for our final report to Summer Sessions 2014. We are questioning whether our current structure contributes to the sense of disconnection between our monthly meetings and the Yearly Meeting organization. We seek to create a unified body based on relationship, transparency, and accountability. We are in discernment as to what changes that may necessitate in our structure.

*Lee Haring, Clerk  
Priorities Working Group*

## **Meeting for Discernment Steering Committee Report**

*See minute 2013-11-14, page 5.*

Since our last report to this body there have been two Meetings for Discernment, one on March 2 at Brooklyn Monthly Meeting and one on July 23 at New York Yearly Meeting's Summer Sessions at Silver Bay. Both were occasions of deep worship around queries. Our winter queries paralleled those that the Priorities Working Group asks when they visit meetings. They were: "What are your dreams, yearnings, and hopes for your meeting? What is God calling your meeting to become? What are your hopes, leadings, and expectations for our yearly meeting as a gathered body? What work is God calling us to do together that we cannot do separately?" Our 2013 summer queries focused on faithfulness, revisiting earlier queries along those same lines, and were: "What does it mean to be faithful as individuals? As a gathered body? What does faithfulness mean for a meeting?" There were many messages as Friends responded to these queries, and with the help of elders holding the meeting in prayer worship was deep.

On March 1, 2014, with a snow date of March 8, we will hold our 13th session, at Purchase Monthly Meeting. As usual, elders will gather the evening before to prepare and to enjoy fellowship. Purchase Meeting has appointed a host committee and has recruited help from Purchase Quarter. Registration details and our queries will be in the January Spark, as well as be available on line in InfoShare and at [nyym.org](http://nyym.org).

In our continuing effort to widely share the experience of the Meetings for Discernment, our report from the March sessions and several previous reports are available on the NYYM website under Committees/Meeting for Discernment Steering Committee. Our report on the Meeting for Discernment held at summer sessions, when finished, will also be available on line. We have been working with Steve Davison to allow easier access to Meetings for Discernment information on the website and look forward to our own page when the site is redesigned. On that page we hope to have a list of all the queries that have been used in the Meetings for Discernment, in the hope that Friends might find revisiting them a useful way to deepen their spiritual lives, both corporately and individually.

The Meeting for Discernment Steering Committee is preparing for the decision the Yearly Meeting will make at summer sessions 2014 on the continuation of the Meetings for Discernment. Meetings for Discernment are charged with carrying out some of the work of the suspended Yearly Meeting on Ministry and Counsel; it is unlikely that that Meeting will be revived, and some provision is likely to be made to take up its work. The Meetings for Discernment provide opportunities for deeper consideration of concerns the Yearly Meeting has agreed to focus on, one of the tasks it was formed to do. As noted above, our winter queries were essentially those that the Priorities Working Group uses, allowing a continuing and deepening consideration of them.

Other work which was considered possible in the minute which formed the Meetings for Discernment, such as “consider minutes from monthly and regional meetings that reflect their concerns, and support individual leadings that have been seasoned by monthly and regional meetings” (YM Minute 2007/07-38) the Meetings for Discernment have not yet done. We are open to continuing direction. These are some of the roles the Meetings for Discernment now fill: they offer a Yearly Meeting experience to those who do not attend summer sessions, or do not attend the full summer sessions. They are an opportunity for sharing around queries and for hearing the condition both of individuals and of monthly meetings, and they have begun, powerfully, to fill a need for many for a time of guided extended communal worship. In addition, they have proven to be an enriching experiment in eldering.

As the Steering Committee works to understand the place of Meetings for Discernment in the life of the Yearly Meeting we have invited the clerk of the Priorities Working Group to one of our meetings and have followed the work of that group. We feel that the minute we bring to this body in summer 2014 should coordinate with the work of that group and that the Meetings for Discernment should attempt to meet some of the needs they have identified. We have begun to discuss ways that might happen.

At summer sessions the committee held several mealtime talks to listen to Friends’ experiences of Meetings for Discern-

ment. We continue to invite all to talk to a member of the committee. We know that opening space for extended worship during the crowded calendar at summer sessions and giving the time and energy necessary to host a winter Meeting for Discernment means that other things may not get done, (although we have heard from others that the work we do together is increasingly enhanced by our worship together in Meeting for Discernment), and we want to listen for God’s will for us going forward. Almost all of what we have formally heard is that Meetings for Discernment are highly valued. There is some confusion about what we are discerning and perhaps some hesitation about extended worship from those who lack that experience, and we may need to work more on educating those new to the Meetings about the practice. But for most of those from whom we heard, the meetings are a highlight of their Yearly Meeting experience.

At the end of the Meeting for Discernment day, there is a time for reflection on the day. All are invited, but those who have served as elders are encouraged to speak first about their experiences. We have found that as the elders ground the meetings in worship, they also are moved. I want to close with a quote from an elder at the March meeting: “I was very aware of the increased level of discipline and trust. Many times I felt I was in a gathered meeting. It feels as though the spirit is doing the holding and it has less to do with me. Usually in the past I’ve felt myself called to hold and encircle the body, but not today. It was a body.”

*Lucinda Antrim, Clerk*

*For the Meeting for Discernment Steering Committee*

## **Introduction to the Apology to Afro-Descendants**

*See minute 2013-11-19 and 2013-11-20, page 7.*

Hello Friends!

Ministry Coordinating Committee (MCC) is bringing the Apology to Afro-Descendants today for discernment and approval. Copies were available at the registration table along with some background information compiled by the European American Quakers Working to End Racism Working Group. I trust you have had a chance to read over those documents.

This Apology has been many years in the making. The original version was written by the European American Quakers Working to End Racism Working Group, better known as EAQWER, printed in *Spark* in January 2008, and displayed on the Black Concerns table in the summer of 2008 and 2009, where more than 90 Friends signed it indicating their approval.

In January of 2010 the Apology was given to the Task Group on Racism, which is under the Ministry Coordinating Committee. At that time the EAQWER group was not in the Yearly Meeting structure and it seemed best to move the Apology through the Ministry Section of the Yearly Meeting. The Task Group brought the original version to the Ministry Coordinating Committee in the summer of 2010. There were mixed responses with several Friends approving it as read and others concerned with where it might be leading our Yearly Meeting. It was referred back to the Task Group for further work.

The Task Group worked on the Apology at its next three meetings and brought a new version to MCC in the summer of 2011. After some discussion and several changes, MCC approved the Apology, with one Friend standing aside. MCC also approved sending the Apology to monthly meetings for their consideration. It was read on the floor of Yearly Meeting prior to being sent out, but was not brought to the body for approval at that time.

The Task Group on Racism and MCC are deeply appreciative of the work that Friends have done within their monthly meetings to engage with this issue. We acknowledge that meetings created time in their busy schedules to consider this Apology and appreciate that this work has brought us closer as a yearly meeting family. In their discernment meetings either were undecided about the Apology or endorsed it. MCC did not receive reports of any meeting minuting opposition. Meetings that notified us that they approved the Apology are Albany, Binghamton, New Brunswick, Rahway-Plainfield, Scarsdale, Shrewsbury, Syracuse, and Wilton.

Some meetings referred the Apology to their peace and social action committee; some held after-meeting discussions with those who were able to attend; some reported that they had not considered it; and some were led to write their own. The latter group includes Albany and Rahway-Plainfield. Manasquan

Meeting wrote their own Minute on Racism with regrets for Quaker participation rather than an apology. The EAQWER group also continued to work on it. The Task Group considered each of the suggestions they received but could not include all of them in the minute.

The most consistent objection came from Friends who are uncomfortable with the word “apologize.” We received several thoughtful versions from individual Friends “regretting” our actions as Friends but the Task Group felt strongly that expressing regret falls short of apologizing. When we apologize we admit wrongdoing, accept responsibility, and express remorse. All of these are important if we are to begin healing from the effects of slavery on all of us. The Task Group incorporated some suggestions from one of our prison worship groups and wording from a minute on racism we received from Manasquan Monthly Meeting.

We are grateful for everyone’s participation in this process and thankful for the time meetings have taken to labor with this issue. It is clear that this is not a perfect document in letter, but we trust and believe that it will open the door in Spirit to better understanding and further healing in the future.

The Task Group reported to MCC on the progress of the Apology throughout 2012 and brought a revised version back to MCC at summer sessions in 2013. MCC approved that version with one small change. That is the version we are bringing to you this morning.

Read the Apology!

**NEW YORK YEARLY MEETING**  
**SPRING SESSIONS**  
**April 5–6, 2014**

Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, Rochester,  
New York

Saturday, April 5, 2014, 10:00 a.m.

*Jeffrey L. Hitchcock (Rahway & Plainfield), Clerk*

*Lucinda Antrim (Scarsdale), Assistant Clerk*

*Roger Dreisbach-Williams (Rahway & Plainfield), Recording Clerk*

*Robin Mallison Alpern (Scarsdale), Reading Clerk*

2014-04-01. The Clerk spoke of our meeting as a corporate body in the chapel with its uplifting architecture (Friends spoke to the body from an elevated pulpit), and reviewed the agenda, reminding Friends about the Consent Agenda, which will be considered tomorrow.

2014-04-02. Friends stood as their region was called. All regions are represented.

2014-04-03. Lucy (Lu) Harper (Rochester) welcomed us on behalf of the Farmington-Scipio Host Committee. 135 Friends have registered.

2014-04-04. Clerk of the Priorities Working Group, Lee Haring (Bulls Head-Oswego), presented a report from the Priorities Working Group. The report includes six areas of concern; actions, both immediate and to be completed over the next five years; goals to be achieved; and a process of accountability that will be presented in a few weeks. Friends were asked to read the report, share it with other Friends, and hold it in prayer/reflection. Reflections should be sent to the clerk of the Priorities Working Group. The report is attached. [See page 39] An updated version will be presented for approval at Summer Sessions.

2014-04-05. Minutes 2014-04-01 through 2014-04-04 were approved.

2014-04-06. The Meeting received a minute of travel from Rochester Monthly Meeting, endorsed by Farmington-Scipio

Regional Meeting, for their members Mary Kay Glazer and Mark Moss to carry their concern for couple enrichment work. They began this work in 1999 after a period of discernment. This minute was first issued in 2002 and renewed in 2009 and again in 2013. A Care Committee of Rochester Monthly Meeting oversees their work and maintains a fund for this calling. Friends directed the Clerk to endorse this minute of travel.

2014-04-07. The Meeting received a minute of travel from Syracuse Monthly Meeting, endorsed by Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting, for their attender Rachel Pia to travel as part of a team under the care of, and serving, Friends General Conference's New Meetings Project. An Anchor Committee of Syracuse Meeting and Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting will meet with her to support her faithfulness in this work. Friends directed the Clerk to endorse this minute of travel.

2014-04-08. The Meeting received a minute of travel from Fifteenth Street Monthly Meeting for their member Emily Provance to sojourn in Britain from Ninth Month 2014 till the middle of the year 2015 with a concern to travel in the ministry among British Friends worshipfully exploring Quaker faith and practice. A Care Committee has been established and is working with her in preparation for this work. She will be asking questions (rather than bringing a message) and reporting on her experience. Friends directed the Clerk to endorse this minute of travel.

2014-04-09. The Meeting received a report from Mara Komoska (Brooklyn) and Shirley Way (Ithaca) on their travel to El Salvador to hold Alternatives to Violence Project workshops. This trip was supported by the Witness Coordinating and World Ministries Committees.

2014-04-10. The Meeting received a report from Frederick Dettmer (Purchase) on an *amicus curiae* (Friend of the Court) brief filed on behalf of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and New York Yearly Meeting by the Religious Liberty Clinic of the Stanford Law School on the appeal of a case regarding an Orthodox Jewish community in Teaneck, New Jersey. The case is pending.

2014-04-11. Minutes 2014-04-05 to -10 were approved.

2014-04-12. Lucinda Antrim assumed the clerkship of the session.

2014-04-13. Jeffrey L. Hitchcock (Rahway & Plainfield) reported on the Clerk's leading that we need to visit meetings and worship groups other than our own. This is already being done to some extent: he wants to see it expanded. He shared a vision of local meetings and worship groups knit together into a Yearly Meeting through inter-visitation, and introduced a website to record and report on these visits. The website has already recorded more than 20 visits. His report is attached. [See page 43]

2014-04-14. Minutes 2014-04-11 to -13 were approved.

Rochester Meetinghouse, Rochester, New York  
Sunday, April 6, 2014, 10:15 am

*Jeffrey Hitchcock (Rahway & Plainfield), Clerk*  
*Lucinda Antrim (Scarsdale), Assistant Clerk*  
*Andrew Mead von Salis (Brooklyn), Recording Clerk*  
*Karen Snare (Bulls Head-Oswego), Reading Clerk*

2014-04-15. Friends settled easily into silence, in a sunny room freshly seasoned by an hour of worship. Welcoming us, the Clerk reminded us of the differences and sameness of visiting new spaces for our meetings. He reviewed our agenda.

2014-04-16. Lucinda Antrim stepped aside from the clerks' table. As clerk of the Meetings for Discernment Steering Committee, she presented and summarized the Committee's report. She highlighted the Meetings for Discernment's role in our Yearly Meeting's life, and its coordination this year with the Priorities Working Group. Ruth Bryan (Scarsdale) and Beverly Archibald (Manhattan) were appointed to service on the Committee, while Alanna Badgley (Poughkeepsie) and Irene Goodman (Manhasset) were released from service, pursuant to the Committee's process.

Friends spoke to the quality and value of the Meetings for Discernment. The report was received.

2014-04-17. The Treasurer, Susan Bingham (Montclair), presented her December 31, 2013 report, consisting of final statements of the Yearly Meeting's operations, funds activity, and financial position for the 2013 year, and her February 28, 2014 report, consisting of statements of the Yearly Meeting's operations, funds activity, and financial position for the first two months of 2014.

These reports have been posted on our website. They show that for 2013, our receipts exceeded disbursements by \$173.89 upon operations totaling about \$487,000. This was our second year in a row with a surplus of about \$200. For the months of January and February 2014, our disbursements exceeded receipts by \$7,896.79 upon operations totaling roughly \$70,000; this shortfall is a small fraction of the shortfall at this point last year. Our closing balance on hand thus fell a little below \$200,000.

Friends received the report.

2014-04-18. A proposed *Handbook* page for the Advancement Committee was given its first reading by Mia Kissil Hewitt (Chatham-Summit), clerk of that Committee. The text was drafted to revise an existing page. It was approved by the Ministry Coordinating Committee at Fall Sessions 2013, and Friends' comments and suggestions were now welcomed. Some were voiced today and received by the Committee. Further consideration of the *Handbook* page was held for its second reading at our Summer Sessions.

2014-04-19. A proposed *Handbook* page for the Sessions Committee was given its first reading by Melanie-Claire Mallison (Ithaca), assistant clerk of that Committee. The draft revised an existing page. Friends were reminded that the Committee's subcommittees each maintain an internal handbook of additional details within that subcommittee's purview. Friends' comments and suggestions were welcomed. Further consideration of the *Handbook* page was held for its second reading at our Summer Sessions.

2014-04-20. John Cooley (Central Finger Lakes), clerk of the General Services Coordinating Committee, reported orally to us. The committee had no items for our action today. He introduced Linda Houser (Purchase), clerk of our Trustees, who read and commented on their report. Its primary theme is a shift toward greater transparency. Their financial reports were made to be quarterly rather than annually, and are posted on our website. They began to report Trust operations with clearer organization. Several other steps under consideration were detailed.

In 2014, the Trustees have expended \$37,200.00 from funds that they manage: \$29,650 from specified funds toward five related Yearly Meeting operating expense lines, as well as \$7,550.00 from the Trustee Administrative Fund for two items of Trustees' internal operating expenses. A further report from the treasurer of the Trustees will be posted on our website when final data from Friends Fiduciary Corporation arrives.

Friends commented on the Trustees' work and received their report.

2014-04-21. John Cooley proceeded to advise us of progress in selecting new auditors. He made available a report of the Audit Committee to the General Services Coordinating Committee.

John went on to inform us of the current status of our budget. He said, "We wanted to show in the budget what it really cost to run the Yearly Meeting, so we put in the budget both the expenses and the additional revenue from the Trustees, rather than just having the Trustees pay for things directly." But this effort to improve transparency has introduced a complication to our accounting. The Financial Services Committee has thus amended the budget to reflect better how our money is actually raised and spent.

John also described activity regarding the Lindley Murray Fund, whose report to the Coordinating Committee was widely distributed. He discussed certain work and accomplishments of the Communications Committee, Development Committee, Personnel Committee and Supervisory Committee for the General Secretary, among others. He assured us that these committees' reports, while not made to our Sessions, are posted in the General Services section of the Yearly Meeting website, along with that Coordinating Committee's minutes.

Friends received the report of the General Services Coordinating Committee.

2014-04-22. The Clerk presented for approval the Consent Agenda that had been published in advance. In accord with our consent agenda practice, Minutes 23 and 24 were approved.

2014-04-23. The following Friends were nominated for service in committee or other positions, respectively. These appointments, each ending in July of the specified year, were approved:

Representative to Friends United Meeting Triennial (2014)	Christopher Sammond, Poplar Ridge
Alternate Representative to Friends United Meeting Triennial (2014)	Gabrielle Savory Bailey, Chatham-Summit
Prisons Committee (2016)	Anne Wright, Scarsdale
Sessions Committee (2016)	Kathleen (Kate) Lawson, New Brunswick
Worship at YM Sessions Committee (2016)	Janice Ninan, Collins

2014-04-24. The Yearly Meeting was asked to release the following Friends under committee or other appointment from their service through July of the specified year. These releases were approved:

Youth Committee (2016)	Helen Staab, Purchase
Committee for Conflict Transformation (2016)	Jack Cuffari, Montclair

2014-04-25. Irma Guthrie (Perry City), clerk of the *Faith and Practice* Revision Committee, reported that the Ministry Coordinating Committee has approved the proposed new section in our book of discipline, *Faith and Practice*, that defines "Worship Groups." Since its first reading, it was amended both before and after the text was distributed and posted on our web site in preparation for this second reading for approval. The amended definition clarifies a pathway to membership for worship group participants. The amended text was read aloud, as follows:

When Friends or other seekers choose to worship together regularly, whether in a community or in a prison, they may form a worship group by requesting the care of a nearby monthly, quarterly, half-yearly, or regional meeting. A committee of care and accountability should be appointed by that meeting to assure the conduct of the worship group in the manner of Friends. The care committee for that worship group should include meeting members or attenders who attend the worship group regularly. Attenders at the worship group should become familiar with the ways of Friends' faith and practice. New attenders should be welcomed.

Attenders of a worship group may apply to the monthly meeting providing care for the worship group for membership in the Religious Society of Friends, or for marriage, in accordance with the process used by the meeting to which they apply and the guidance offered in this *Faith and Practice*. If the worship group is under the care of a regional, quarterly or half-yearly meeting, attenders may apply to any monthly meeting in the region for membership or marriage.

A worship group may hold property and/or financial assets, and may receive and disburse funds on behalf of its attenders. It may also choose a clerk, a treasurer, and other officers as needed, conduct business of its own, and prepare business to be forwarded to the meeting under whose care it operates.

The change to *Faith and Practice* was approved, effective immediately.

2014-04-26. On behalf of the Ministry Coordinating Committee, Irma Guthrie also described the responses to the Task Group on Racism's queries following up our Fall 2013 Apology to Afro-Descendants. The responses of various individuals and local meetings were of value and will be published.

2014-04-27. Melanie-Claire Mallison (Ithaca), assistant clerk of the Sessions Committee, reported the updated results of our participation this weekend. 126 Friends attended these Spring Sessions, including six teens and five younger children. 21 hosting homes provided lodging and hospitality for 57 Friends. Appreciation of the host committee's work and of Rochester Monthly Meeting's accommodations was expressed by all.

Melanie-Claire also announced the dates of our Summer Sessions at Silver Bay, New York, in July. She informed Friends that Margaret Lew and Helen Garay Toppins will convene the host committee of New York Quarterly Meeting for our Fall Sessions 2014 at Fifteenth Street meetinghouse in New York City on November 14-16.

This report was received.

2014-04-28. The minutes were read, corrected, and approved in stages during today's session.

2014-04-29. The Clerk invited Friends to join in silent worship to conclude our meeting, and the Yearly Meeting did so in gratitude. Friends adjourned at 12:15 p.m., to convene again at Silver Bay, New York from July 20 through 26, 2014.

## Attachments

### **Priorities Working Group Report to Spring Sessions 2013**

*See Minute 2013-04-04, page 32.*

Since Fall Sessions, the Priorities Working Group has continued to carry out its charge from two years ago, "to gather the sense of the monthly and regional meetings and of individual Friends as to how the Spirit is at work among us and where it is leading us." Today we tell you our present insights into New York Yearly Meeting's priorities. Since our last report, at Fall Sessions in November, we have met with thirteen more meetings: Orchard Park, Kendal-on-Hudson, Manasquan, Saranac Lake, Chatham-Summit, Bulls Head-Oswego, Albany, Schenectady, Manhasset, Fifteenth Street, Morningside, Manhattan, and Westbury. We have also been asked about visits to prison worship groups. So far we have visited three, Auburn, Cayuga and Sing Sing. In all visits we focus on three queries: First, How is the Spirit alive in your monthly meeting? Second, What work, ministry, witness is your meeting called to? And third, What work do you feel God is calling New York Yearly Meeting to do?

These queries are as useful to us as they were when they were used at the recent Meeting for Discernment. In our meeting visits, we spend most of the time listening to local Friends. We are as likely to hear things like “We want to partner with Chwele Yearly Meeting in Kenya as well as New York Yearly Meeting” as we are to hear, “Because of our geographical location, most of our focus is local.”

When we ask the first question, “Where is the Life in your meeting; what ministry and witness are your meeting and individual Friends engaged in?” we hear again and again that Friends’ priority is their involvement with the spiritual community of their local meeting, from which Friends derive their primary sustenance. Although for some Friends the meeting is subordinate to other activities, many tell us that their meeting is central to their lives. Gathering on First Day is an opportunity to be enriched by spirit and receive the support of other Friends. Also, in some meetings, the life is felt to center on children and First Day School. In others (I quote from one meeting), “the meeting provides spiritual support for Friends doing work outside the meeting, and then they in turn bring those experiences back to meeting, enriching them all.” Nurturing our local meeting is a top spiritual priority for many of us.

I’ll come to our second query in a moment. Our third query, “What are your hopes, expectations, and leadings for our Yearly Meeting as a whole? What work is God calling our Yearly Meeting to do?” brings us back to the first one. Friends want those who are led to be active in New York Yearly Meeting to connect more meaningfully with monthly meetings and individual Friends. This theme has been sounded many times in our visits. The expectation is that the Yearly Meeting’s activities should be either in support of, or on behalf of, the monthly meetings, and not unconnected with meetings’ spiritual condition and leadings. As stated at a visioning exercise held at Coordinating Committees weekend on January 25, “a yearly meeting that articulates our faith, teaches our practices of centering, aids our preparation for worship, and helps us recognize gifts in ministry.”

Now as to the second query: when we ask, “How can the rest of the Yearly Meeting support you?” we are surprised and

pleased at one answer we often get, namely what a blessing it is that Priorities Working Group Friends are there to visit. Sometimes we are told, “This meeting feels little connection to New York Yearly Meeting, and we are blessed by your visiting us.” From these two comments we see a priority emerging. That would be to increase face-to-face contact between Friends engaged mainly in local meetings and Friends engaged in the work of the Yearly Meeting. Those who are active in New York Yearly Meeting are to connect better with monthly meetings and individual Friends. Friends want the Yearly Meeting, as a spirit-led organization, to encourage and support the kind of visitation we have been practicing, where there is more listening than telling. This theme has been sounded many times in our visits. The priority therefore is to find paths to taking away all reason to feel that our Yearly Meeting is a place far away, or that it is an event that happens once a year at Silver Bay, and remind Friends that the Yearly Meeting surrounds them as their large spiritual home. God is calling New York Yearly Meeting to become more connected with monthly meetings and individual Friends.

We have heard specific suggestions for how the Yearly Meeting can help a local meeting. One is to provide them with spiritual inspiration and shared teaching about Quakerism. We have been told that *Spark* is already a vehicle for keeping NYYM grounded in spirituality, and that the ARCH program and the Young Friends in Residence program ought to be better publicized. But very few local Friends read *Spark*, and fewer know how to take advantage of ARCH. We conclude that New York Yearly Meeting must make its presence, resources, and skills better known. Meetings are also requesting help with Quaker process, guidance in good clerking, and help with vocal ministry. They seek connection with other local Friends who have similar interests or challenges. At this time, for example, many Friends are seeking divine guidance to help them speak to the dangers of hydrofracking. Other Friends seek more practical information on such problems as the upkeep of older meetinghouses and cemeteries. Evidently the Yearly Meeting is the central body that can give advice on where to turn when looking for others with a witness concern. We are also told that the Yearly

Meeting can help Friends travel in ministry. On the financial side, Friends suggest that the Yearly Meeting could aid local meetings to enable children to attend Friends schools.

The Priorities Working Group foresees a number of action items we may be considering bringing you in future sessions. First is that the Yearly Meeting offer assistance to monthly meetings to help them enrich their worship on fundamental spiritual topics, such as guides to good clerking, the role of after-thoughts, guidelines for vocal ministry, principles of meeting for worship with a concern for business, and how to maintain love and cohesion through periods of disagreement or conflict. Yearly Meeting activities might also be planned for locales other than Silver Bay and Powell House. Friends are more eager to attend such activities than they are able to.

A second action item is doing a better job of providing practical information of immediate use to most monthly meetings, such as curricula for First Day School, ARCH resources, fund-raising tools for building repairs and maintenance, cemetery upkeep, insurance, advancement, and increasing their impact on local communities through the peace testimony. New York Yearly Meeting is positioned to advertise, through radio announcements for example, who Friends are and where a Friends meeting can be found.

A third recommendation may be for the Yearly Meeting to produce clearer, more complete and more user-friendly information on the Yearly Meeting itself. The recent appointment of a communications director expands our use of electronic communication. We can now make *Faith & Practice* current and accessible online and show updates in it as these are approved. We can also publish more thorough and more comprehensible information about finances and staffing. Friends want to know more about the services that the Yearly Meeting treasurer, trustees, and staff are dedicating to the benefit of our portion of the Religious Society of Friends. Through the Internet, the Yearly Meeting can encourage inter-meeting communications and active intervention in quarterly and regional events, by maintaining an inter-meeting bulletin board or listserv. Technology can help engage Friends in Yearly Meeting committees and overcome obstacles such as the time and costs of travel.

Finally, more broadly, Friends are suggesting that New York Yearly Meeting be an instigator of spirit-led change on our behalf and a spearhead for our testimonies to the larger world of Friends and indeed to the world itself. Modern communication offers global impact. The Yearly Meeting's resources can stimulate monthly meetings to speak our truth to the world.

We welcome your comments. Part of our charge is to reflect our insights and priorities back to our constituent regions, to ensure that we have discerned accurately. Quarterly, half-yearly, and other regional meetings over the next year should expect to hear from us and respond. We would also welcome more Friends to join the Priorities Working Group, which continues to be a richly rewarding service for all its members.

*Lee Haring, clerk*

## **Meeting Visitation Initiative**

Report of Jeffrey L. Hitchcock, clerk of New York Yearly Meeting

*See Minute 2013-04-13, page 34.*

Friends I wish to share with you a leading that has come to me over time as I've been serving as your clerk, and that is that we need to visit one another. By that I mean we need to visit monthly meetings and worship groups other than our own.

I know this is not a new reflection. Friends have held a concern for "visitation" for many years. We have just heard from the Priorities Working Group, and they too are calling for an increase in visitation.

It's important to acknowledge that some programs are already underway. There is a yearly meeting effort, and there are at least two regional efforts that I'm aware of. One is taking place in Northeast Region and the other here in Farmington-Scipio Region. There already is something at work among us. I am simply trying to lift up that which is needed, that which is opening up to us, and that which will enrich us. So I don't claim to have an original leading, just a persistent one that has been growing upon me.

Speaking personally, I, along with my partner, have visited many meetings over the years, and we continue to do so. It's

a joyful and enlightening experience to worship with another group of Friends in their own surroundings. So many things are familiar, and so many things are different. We have found that Friends are not always skillful and polished in receiving visitors, but they are always open and welcoming.

I know several other Friends who enjoy the same practice. Those who partake of visiting experience it as an important part of their spiritual life as Friends. When one travels among others in the Spirit, one gains confidence in the Spirit's presence beyond our home meetings.

But I fear that our meetings are often very isolated. The demands of our modern lives can be overwhelming, and the society we live in can be uncaring. It certainly does not speak to our spiritual needs as a first priority. All too often we are pitted against others in a competition not of our making or choosing. Call it the "rat race" or the hustle and bustle of everyday life, it saps our energy.

So Sunday becomes a blessed event when we can find an hour of peace and then fellowship with familiar faces who accept there are other, and more important, things in life. We drink deeply in the renewal this brings us. And many of us participate in the life of our meeting communities. These obligations, aside from our weekday routines, also sustain us.

Yet I worry when this is all we do. When our meetings become islands in the midst of an otherwise uncaring and often turbulent secular ocean, they run the risk of becoming insular as well. Friends, I think many of our meetings have become this way. And it's not good for us.

I'm speaking of our experience as Friends who share a Yearly Meeting. I know that some Friends make broader Quaker connections through FGC, FUM and other Quaker umbrella groups. The FGC Gathering is a regular event on many Friends' calendars. Some Friends, to varying degrees, also attend our regional, quarterly and half-yearly meetings. And of course Friends attend our Yearly Meeting sessions as all of you are doing today.

These are important, and even essential, activities. Friends who travel widely among other Friends then return and enrich their own meetings, and nurture the wider network of Quaker

practice that makes our presence known in the world.

But I am speaking first of the practice of visiting our neighboring monthly meetings and worship groups. The experience is different, and important.

I envision a year in which Friends reach out to one another by visiting each other in monthly meetings and worship groups throughout the area of our yearly meeting.

I envision a sharing of community that helps us understand we are more than isolated meetings who can only relate upwards to regional and yearly meeting structures and broader Quaker organizations.

I envision that we will build new relationships among our sister meetings who share our hopes and struggles.

I envision our meetings becoming enriched by an understanding of the many small and interesting ways in which other meetings hold worship and fellowship, manage their facilities, and express their sense of shared community.

I envision a time when we begin to understand we are not so isolated after all, but rather part of a network of meeting communities.

I envision that our individual spirits will grow and strengthen as we nurture the growth of relationships among us.

I worry a little that calling for something as clerk of the Yearly Meeting could lead to the opposite of what is needed. Friends may think I'm calling for a top-down approach, and some may even resent being told what to do. We don't need a single "top down" program so much as we need an opening among Friends at all levels. I'm calling for all Friends, each in our own way, to explore possibilities and programs and plans and spontaneous acts of visiting. We need individual Friends with individual leadings. We need monthly meetings and worship groups who understand how they are enriched when their members visit other meetings and worship groups. And our regions might encourage visitation among constituent meetings, as some are doing already. Rather than a single program, we already have a few, and it's my hope we might have many more.

So I lay it in the hands of all Friends everywhere in the yearly meeting. As clerk I can place the call and give some encouragement. As a body of Friends in our 86 meetings and worship

groups, we will see what rises among us.

Along with placing this call, I want to make our efforts visible so that we can see how our work unfolds among us. As Friends are moved to live into this concern, our efforts may feel small, insignificant and unrecognized. It will help us to see how our work is coming forth. Some visible measurement might encourage us and lead others to join in the effort. So I've arranged to set up a simple online form that allows any Friend to report a visit that has been made. And all Friends may then check online to see the number of visits Friends have reported.

These simple tools, the form and reports, are already available and in use and we have recorded 21 visits so far in 2014. I'd like to see these tools more widely used, so I ask you to help spread the word. On the documents table outside you will see a yellow sheet that briefly describes what I've just said and gives the links to the online form and reports.

To summarize, Friends I ask 3 things.

1. Visit another meeting or worship group sometime this year.
2. Make a simple report of that visit.
3. Let other Friends know about this visitation initiative and encourage everyone to participate.

I invite Friends to continue to hold the topic of visitation before us in our meetings and worship groups, and I look forward to contributing individually to our effort as well.

Thank you for your time this morning.

## 2014 OPERATING BUDGET

<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<b>General Services Section</b>	<b>2014 budget</b>	<b>2013 budget</b>
<b>Section Expense</b>		
General expense & travel	2,000	2,000
NYYM officers' expenses	2,600	2,600
Audit	3,550	3,550
Provision for Equalization Fund	-	1,000
<b>Total section expenses</b>	<b>8,150</b>	<b>9,150</b>
<b>Committees</b>		
Communications Committee	14,000	14,000
Nominating Committee	200	200
Records Committee—Contrib to Frds Hist Lib	-	2,500
Sessions Committee	9,220	9,220
Development Committee	1,500	1,500
<b>Total committee expenses</b>	<b>24,920</b>	<b>27,420</b>
<b>Office Expense</b>		
Office operations:		
Administrative expenses	12,900	12,900
Liability Insurance	4,850	4,850
Rent @ 15th St	27,307	23,941
Utilities @ 15th St	1,500	1,800
Office staff travel	12,600	8,500
Computer consultation	375	700
Office equipment	1,200	1,200
<b>Total office operations expenses</b>	<b>60,732</b>	<b>53,891</b>
<b>Personnel expenses</b>		
Staff employees salaries	175,020	170,000
Staff Hourly Wages	24,891	24,891
Salary and wage-related expenses	74,000	71,845
YAFS Salary & Benefits	20,565	
Staff development	1,000	1,000
Volunteer support	400	400
<b>Total personnel expenses</b>	<b>295,876</b>	<b>268,136</b>
Accounting/Bookkeeping services	31,200	31,200
<b>Total General Services Section</b>	<b>420,878</b>	<b>389,797</b>

<b>Ministry Section</b>	<b>2014 budget</b>	<b>2013 budget</b>
Section expense	500	500
Programs		
Advancement Committee	200	250
Bible study leader	800	600
Conflict Transformation	675	700
Ministry & Pastoral Care	200	200
Meeting Program Assist	–	–
Pastor's Conference	1,250	1,250
Provision for Meeting Visitation	–	–
Rep to Council on Minister Advise	–	–
Spiritual Nurture Working Group	750	800
Worship at YM Sessions	100	50
Task Group on Racism	500	500
<b>Total program expenses</b>	<b>4,475</b>	<b>4,350</b>
<b>Total Ministry Section</b>	<b>4,975</b>	<b>4,850</b>
<b>Nurture Section</b>	<b>2014 budget</b>	<b>2013 budget</b>
Section expense		
Section expense	1,700	1,700
NYYM Resource Library	300	300
<b>Total Section</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>2,000</b>
Committees		
Disability Concerns		
FWCC Committee		
Junior Yearly Meeting Planning	1,500	1,500
Junior Yearly Meeting Summer Sessions	16,350	16,350
Young Adult Concerns	650	650
Young Friends in Residence	50	50
Youth Committee	250	250
<b>Total committee expenses</b>	<b>18,800</b>	<b>18,800</b>
Appointees		
FGC Central Committee	1,400	1,400
Earthcare Witness	–	–
FUM Board Representative	3,500	3,500
Provision, FUM Triennial Sessions	550	550
FWCC Section Meetings	1,435	1,435
Provision for FWCC World Gathering	900	900
Provision for FWCC Regional Hosting	–	–
<b>Total YM appointees expenses</b>	<b>7,785</b>	<b>7,785</b>

	<b>2014 budget</b>	<b>2013 budget</b>
Allocations & Donations		
Friends Council on Education	150	150
Friends General Conference	2,500	5,000
Friends United Meeting	2,500	5,000
FUM—Third World attendance to Triennial	150	150
FUM—Third World Board reps	150	150
Friends World Committee	1,000	2,000
FWCC Section of the Americas	150	150
Friends LGBTQ Concerns	150	150
NJ Council of Churches	–	–
NYS Community of Churches	–	–
Oakwood School	–	6,000
Powell House	65,000	58,022
Young Friends in Residence	–	5,000
Quaker Earthcare Witness	–	–
<b>Total allocations &amp; donations</b>	<b>71,750</b>	<b>81,772</b>
<b>Total Nurture Section</b>	<b>100,335</b>	<b>110,357</b>
<b>Witness</b>	<b>2014 budget</b>	<b>2013 budget</b>
Section		
Section		
Coordinating Committee	–	–
<b>Total Section</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
Bolivian Quaker Education Fund		
Committees		
Barrington Dunbar		
Black Concerns		
Indian Affairs		
Peace Concerns		
Prisons		
Right Sharing of World Resources		
William Penn House		
World Ministries		
<b>Total committee expenses</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>1,550</b>
Appointee Expenses	500	1,000
Donations	1,600	2,250
Sharing Fund Campaign	–	2,400
<b>Total Witness Section</b>	<b>2,800</b>	<b>7,200</b>

	2014 budget	2013 budget
Meeting for Discernment	750	750
Priorities Working Group	750	2,000
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>530,488</b>	<b>514,954</b>

**Expenses Consolidation**

	2014 budget	2013 budget
General Services	420,878	389,797
Ministry	4,975	4,850
Nurture	100,335	110,357
Witness	2,800	7,200
Meeting for Discernment	750	750
Priorities Working Group	750	2,000
Contingency	0	0
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>530,488</b>	<b>514,954</b>

**INCOME**

	2014 budget	2013 budget
Meeting Income	430,500	427,926
Registration fees	22,000	24,000
Trustees	29,650	11,500
YAFS Fund	7,065	0
Other revenue	42,000	45,050
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>531,215</b>	<b>508,476</b>

**Covenant Donations**

All Friends	49,750	51,500
Butternuts	5,400	5,850
Farmington-Scipio	70,622	69,430
Long Island	47,260	48,855
New York	74,361	72,811
Nine Partners	36,400	36,533
Northeastern	31,563	30,399
Purchase	67,285	66,080
Shrewsbury & Plainfield	47,893	46,468
<b>Covenant subtotal</b>	<b>430,500</b>	<b>427,926</b>

**Revenue – Other Sources**

Grant Admin	6,000
Interest Income	2,000
Individual Donations	34,000
<b>Total Other Revenue</b>	<b>42,000</b>

	2014 budget	2013 budget
<b>Contributions Moved to Funds</b>		
Share Fund Expense/Share Fund Endow	2,400	
<b>Letter on Applying to Funds</b>		
Friends General Conf from Lindley	2,500	
FUM Contributions from World Ministries	2,500	
FWCC Contribution from World Ministries	1,000	
Oakwood Contribution from Lindley Murray	6,000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,400</b>	
<b>Op Expenses Pd by Trustees</b>		
Director's & Office Insurance		
Audit		
	<b>2014 budget</b>	<b>2013 budget</b>
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>531,215</b>	<b>508,476</b>
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>530,488</b>	<b>514,954</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>727</b>	<b>(6,478)</b>

**NEW YORK YEARLY MEETING  
OPERATING BUDGET 2014**

**NOTES**

1. A portion of contributions related to FUM, FGC, FWCC, and the entire contribution to Oakwood will be considered for funding from funds outside the operating budget.
2. The expenses related to the Pastor's Conference, Records, the expense for the Sharing Fund Appeal, liability insurance, and audit will be funded outside the operating budget.
3. The fee for Director's and Officer's Insurance is paid by the NYYM Trustees and is not included In the operating budget.

**TREASURER'S ACCOUNTS**  
**Statement of Operations 1/1/13 to 12/31/13**

	2013 Budget	2013 Actual
<b>Disbursements and transfers:</b>		
<b>General Services</b>		
<i>Section expense</i>		
General expense & travel	2,000	343.93
NYYM officer's expense	2,600	1,430.00
Audit	3,550.00	3,575.00
Provision for Equalization Fund	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total section expense	9,150	6,348.93
<i>Committees</i>		
Communications	14,000	14,820.88
<i>Handbook</i>		-
Other		1,049.06
Spark		8,286.11
Web site/Yearbook/Adv Reports		5,485.71
Development Committee	1,500	1,251.54
Nominating	200	-
Records committee		
Contribution—Friends Historical Library	2,500	2,500.00
Sessions committee	9,220	7,393.27
Fall/Spring Sessions		2,731.00
Summer Sessions		4,559.67
Other		102.60
Total committee expense	27,420	25,965.69
<i>Office expense</i>		
<i>Office operations</i>		
Administrative expenses	12,900	10,933.37
Insurance	4,850	5,036.33
Rent 15th St.	23,941	24,754.64
Utilities 15th St.	1,800	1,771.60
Office staff travel	8,500	9,337.40
Computer consultation	700	-
Office equipment	1,200	1,200.00

	2013 Budget	2013 Actual
<i>Personnel</i>		
Staff employee salaries	170,000	180,019.83
Hourly staff compensation	24,891	24,450.00
Salary and wage related expenses	71,845	54,664.97
Staff development	1,000	365.00
Volunteer support	400	327.52
Bookkeeping service	<u>31,200</u>	<u>31,200.00</u>
Total office expense	353,227	344,060.71
<b>Total General Services</b>	<b>389,797</b>	<b>376,375.33</b>
<b>Ministry</b>		
<i>Section expense</i>		
	750	395.00
<i>Programs</i>		
Bible study leader Summer Sessions	600	600.00
Conflict Transformation	700	578.55
Ministry & Pastoral Care	200	-
Meeting program assistance	-	-
Pastor's conference	1,250	1,226.60
Provision for meeting visitation	-	-
Spiritual Nurture Working Group	800	-
Worship at YM sessions	50	-
Task Group on Racism	500	100.00
Total program expense	<u>4,100</u>	<u>2,505.15</u>
<b>Total Ministry</b>	<b>4,850</b>	<b>2,900.15</b>
<b>Nurture</b>		
<i>Section expense</i>		
	1,700	472.00
NYYM Resource Library	300	-
Total section expense	2,000	472.00
<i>Committees</i>		
FWCC Committee	-	220.60
Junior Yearly Meeting	17,850	18,134.55
Planning		1,856.20
Silver Bay		16,278.35
Young Adult Concerns	650	650.00
Young Friends in Residence	5,050	-
Youth Committee	250	-
Committee on Aging Concerns	-	-
Total Committee Expense	23,800	19,005.15

	2013 Budget	2013 Actual
<i>NYYM appointee expense</i>		
FGC Central Committee	1,400	923.86
FUM Board representatives	3,500	1,976.92
Provision for FUM Triennial Sessions	550	550.00
FWCC Section Meetings	1,435	-
Provision for FWCC World Gathering	900	900.00
Provision for FWCC Regional Hosting	-	-
Total NYYM appointee expense	7,785	4,350.78
<i>Allocations and donations</i>		
Friends Council on Education	150	150.00
Allocation and Donation	-	-
Friends General Conference	5,000	5,000.00
Friends United Meeting	5,000	5,000.00
FUM 3rd World Attend to Triennial	150	150.00
FUM 3rd World Board reps	150	150.00
Friends World Committee	2,000	2,000.00
FWCC Section of the Americas	150	150.00
Friends LGBTQ Concerns	150	150.00
Oakwood School	6,000	6,000.00
Powell House	58,022	58,022.00
Total allocations and donations	<u>76,772</u>	<u>76,772.00</u>
<b>Total Nurture</b>	<b>110,357</b>	<b>100,599.93</b>
<b>Witness</b>		
<i>Section/committee/appointee/program expense</i>	4,800	1,800.00
Sharing Fund Campaign Expense	2,400	2,269.40
Total Witness	<b>7,200</b>	<b>4,069.40</b>
<b>Meeting for Discernment</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>103.94</b>
<b>Priorities Working Group</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>322.70</b>
<b>Contingency</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,870.23</b>
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>514,954</b>	<b>487,241.68</b>

	2013 Budget	2013 Actual
<b>Receipts</b>		
<i>Meetings</i>		
All Friends Regional	48,500	50,200.00
Butternuts Quarterly	6,200	5,695.00
Farmington Regional	66,980	69,436.00
Long Island Quarterly	47,200	49,997.50
New York Quarterly ***	71,811	72,487.90
Nine Partners Quarterly	35,496	34,186.00
Northeastern Regional (c)	30,339	30,837.00
Purchase Quarterly	78,580	65,410.00
Shrewsbury & Plainfield HY	<u>46,718</u>	<u>46,968.00</u>
Total meeting income	431,904	425,217.40
<i>Other sources</i>		
Registration fees	24,000	17,553.07
Trustees	11,500	12,280.60
2013 Budget Fund Income	-	22,960.30
All other (a)	<u>47,550</u>	<u>9,415.04</u>
Total other sources	83,050	62,209.01
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>514,954</b>	<b>487,426.41</b>
<b>Year 2013 Opening Balance</b>		<b><u>204,908.47</u></b>
<b>+ Receipts</b>		<b>487,426.41</b>
<b>- Disbursements</b>		<b>487,241.68</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>		<b>205,093.20</b>
<b>NET CHANGE</b>		<b>184.73</b>

FUNDS REPORT (unaudited)

Sharing Fund	Balance as of 1/1/13	Sharing Fd Distribution	Fund Specific	Dist.	Balance as of 12/31/13
AVP Donation	\$ (20.00)	\$ 4,897.29	—	\$ 4,877.29	\$ —
Barrington Dunbar	7,891.23	12,985.93	1,228.00	9,865.00	12,240.16
Friends for Black Concerns	5,556.48	5,435.90	—	6,168.19	4,824.19
Indian Affairs Committee	11,359.91	10,044.56	5,115.40	19,857.29	6,662.58
Peace Concerns	7,062.98	150.00	—	—	7,212.98
Prison Committee	4,395.63	5,985.90	10.00	6,470.91	3,920.62
Right Sharing of World Resources	(15.00)	4,431.50	—	4,416.50	—
Witness Activities	2,138.95	8,613.07	—	4,150.00	6,602.02
World Ministries	14,907.62	3,820.10	19,705.22	9,500.00	28,932.94
Conscientious Objection to Paying for War	4,098.49	1,715.77	—	666.90	5,147.36
Meeting the Min. Needs of ALL Working Grp	3,552.46	—	—	—	3,552.46
Torture Awareness Working Group	524.40	—	—	—	524.40
NYYM Named Representatives	4,133.85	—	—	—	4,133.85
Quaker Earthcare Witness	1,714.43	50.00	—	360.00	1,404.43
Euro Amer Work End Racism	—	538.61	—	185.55	353.06
Sharing Fund Endowment Income	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total Sharing Fund</b>	<b>67,301.43</b>	<b>58,668.63</b>	<b>26,058.62</b>	<b>66,517.63</b>	<b>85,511.05</b>
General Sharing Fund Income Less Trustee Income		42,338.68			
Sharing Fund Endowment Income		22,700.00			
Total Sharing Fund Income Less Trustee Income		65,038.68			
2013 Sharing Fund Goal		55,000.00			
Percentage of General Sharing Fund Goal		76.98%*			

\* excludes Trustee and Endowment income

FUNDS REPORT (unaudited)—cont.

	Balance as of 1/1/13	Transfers from Oper. Budget	Fund Specific	Dist.	Balance as of 12/31/13
Advancement Committee—Lafayette	6,423.46	—	3,538.00	724.23	9,237.23
Advancement Committee—Leach	5,358.75	—	2,855.00	6,280.12	1,933.63
Advancement Committee—Women	615.38	—	428.26	825.00	218.64
Equalization Fund	3,158.20	—	15,081.90	10,353.62	7,886.48
Aging Concerns	8,293.53	—	63,969.00	75,811.43	(3,548.90)
Aging Resources Website	319.48	—	—	—	319.48
Faith and Practice Fund	3,772.94	—	277.94	155.00	3,895.88
Sufferings Fund	2,192.68	—	—	—	2,192.68
FWCC World Gathering	675.10	—	900.00	—	1,575.10
FUM Triennial NYYM Attendance	919.22	—	550.00	—	1,469.22
FUM Kenya Board Meeting	—	—	—	—	—
Records Preservation	1,251.93	—	—	14.54	1,237.39
FWCC Regional Hosting	1,860.00	—	—	—	1,860.00
Meeting Visitation	6,047.26	—	—	130.00	5,917.26
Youth/Young Adults	1,461.82	—	200.00	—	1,661.82
Young Adult Concerns—Circle of Young Friends	1,464.42	—	430.00	—	1,894.42
Mosher Fund	6,239.01	—	5,720.91	5,536.53	6,423.39
Young Friends in Residence Fund	22,163.52	—	675.00	1,400.00	21,438.52

FUNDS REPORT (unaudited)—cont.

	Balance as of 1/1/13	Transfers from Oper. Budge	Fund Specific	Dist.	Balance as of 12/31/13
Young Adult Field Secretary	13,315.77	10,000.00	2,600.00	23,640.62	2,275.15
Fall/Spring Sessions	—	—	10,118.85	10,118.85	—
Conflict Transformation Film Project	—	—	8,400.00	7,637.50	762.50
Sabbatical Fund	—	—	2,934.32	2,934.32	—
Hurricane Sandy Relief Fund	8,071.00	—	2,468.42	10,539.42	—
2013 Budget Fund	10,510.30	—	12,450.00	22,960.00	—
2014 Budget Fund	—	2,870.23	11,430.20	—	14,300.43
Contingency Fund	7,098.49	—	188.87	—	7,287.36
<b>Total Yearly Mtg Managed Funds</b>	<b>111,212.26</b>	<b>12,870.23</b>	<b>145,216.67</b>	<b>179,061.48</b>	<b>90,237.68</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>178,513.69</b>	<b>71,538.86</b>	<b>171,275.29</b>	<b>245,579.11</b>	<b>175,748.73</b>

MINISTRY SECTION

State of Society Report

May 17, 2014.

*Query for Reflection:* How are faith, love, and ministry evidenced in your meeting?

Faith, love, and ministry combine and intertwine in the lives of Friends and in Friends’ meetings. An attempt to separate them into categories often seemed arbitrary and artificial.

FAITH

Our monthly meetings report strong, rich experiences of shared, lived faith. Faith is perceived “as a journey, not a destination,” and therefore “we seek and expect communion with the Spirit . . . depending on ourselves individually and corporately to discern the right path.” Meetings identified many examples of how faithfulness arises out of Spirit. From Bible study, to embarking on Quaker Quest together, to monthly devotional singing, meetings offer members and attenders ample opportunities for exploring and living out our faith together. Some individuals chose to participate in Friends United Meeting’s “Forty Days of Prayer.” Some Friends felt their faith was expressed and shared through making and enjoying music together.

One meeting reflected that a trust in Quaker process was itself an expression of faith. Another said that “. . . when we do as we are led, we will find Divine guidance.” Commitment of time and participation in the life of the meeting are acts of living faithfully with one another. Several meetings appreciate worship-sharing meetings, weekly spiritual writing and discussion groups, and spiritual nurture groups that allow the faith community the time to know one another better. One meeting is deliberate in promoting a monthly gathering to hear about one member’s individual spiritual journey. As a society the individual faith impulse is treasured and tended in our corporate bodies.

Worship is also deeply respected and cherished. Many,

many meetings spoke of the strength and “depth of meeting for worship,” including meeting for worship with an attention to business. Other meetings echoed this sentiment, saying that they “feel spirit among us” in worship, that “worship is deep and Spirit led,” and that “gathering in Spirit feeds us all.” Friends reflected that it is energizing to see members’ emphasis on faith and prayer, and that faithfulness in worship leads out after the rise of meeting, for as one community put it: the “spirit of worship . . . can accomplish whatever . . . needs to be done.”

Our commitment to one another is reflected in how much we cherish our meetinghouses and the sense of community provided by monthly meetings. Many groups spoke of feeling that their meetinghouse is a sanctuary, providing “a place of peace, a respite from anxiety.” The willingness to plan building renovations takes a “leap of faith.”

Our monthly meetings “draw us into a community . . . blending worship and work, faith and practice.” Friends have faith that “the meeting will be here” to provide support. We practice a “ministry of presence” at meetings for worship, which “sustain and hold” our meetings together. One group asserted that “meeting is a place where Faith is renewed and strengthened and spiritual values reaffirmed.” It is here that “we come together for worship each week in the faith that others will join us,” and “people from many different faith traditions worship together harmoniously.” For one meeting, a “focus on truth supports our individual spiritual growth and our growth as a community.”

Guided by a sense of historical connection to Friends of the past and New York Yearly Meeting queries and advices, faith means doing our best and asking God’s guidance. It means seeking a closer relationship with God and serving Him as opportunities arise. It means expressing gratitude. We believe that “God will bring us all back to God’s light.”

## LOVE

Love is manifest in our meetings in myriad ways.

Love is manifest by responding to each other’s needs. In our meetings we provide rides for those who no longer drive or who have no car. We reach out to shut-ins and run errands for those

who are ill. We do shopping and pick up Friends who have been discharged from the hospital, getting them settled back into their homes. We call and visit members in need of support. We honor requests from Friends to hold them in the Light.

Love is manifest in seeking to better know one another and accepting one another for who we are. One meeting spoke of moving through difficult decisions with the realization that “the more we came to know one another, the more love there was.” Another meeting is able to state that “we trust one another to listen and to speak with love.” Many meetings say that social hours and opportunities to ‘check-in’ give us opportunities to hear and hold what is important in one another’s lives. We believe, as one meeting put it, that “everyone has something to offer” in the life of the meeting. We feel a connection to and affection for each other and for distant members.

Love is manifest in a strong sense of community. We abide in the comfort that strong community brings. We share fellowship with pot luck dinners, brunches, breakfasts and picnics. One meeting sends cards for attendees’ birthdays, and one sends packages and letters to college attendees away from home. These are more than gestures but are concrete ways of caring for and nurturing the bonds between us.

Love is manifest in the ways that we work together. Meetings spoke of the joy we feel in service to our meetings. We share stewardship of buildings, grounds, and cemeteries, and we welcome the gifts and active participation from newer attenders. One meeting reminded us that there is no sense of “keeping score” of how much each person does for the meeting, as each one offers what they can and are led to offer.

Love is manifest in our meetings through our inter-generational relationships. Our meetings spoke with one voice in our appreciation for all of our members and attendees across the life spectrum. We feel strongly that our meetings are more vibrant for the ability to recognize the unique gifts and talents of attendees, including those of children. Several meetings spoke of a revivification of their First Day Schools and curricula, involving the whole meeting in child care and First Day School activities to foster inter-generational relationships. First Day School curricula can include racism awareness, Earth care, Quaker worship,

“Living the Quaker Life,” and integrity. Meetings echoed one another in their feelings that “children are the life of our meeting,” and “the heart of our ministry.” “Nothing brightens meeting more than the sound of children’s voices.” Meanwhile, there is also great care and respect for the gifts of elder members of our meetings, and many, many meetings mentioned training and collaborative efforts with ARCH. Meetings actively engage with aging members and stand ready to help with the challenges that aging can bring.

Love is manifest in reaching unity. Our process of living in community and using Quaker process to make decisions manifests our love. One meeting reports that there is a feeling that “in love we can step back from our own personal visions and move forward in cooperation.” Meetings are making an effort to hear and listen to one another. The process of coming to unity over an extremely divisive issue builds trust and love. Some of our meetings faced challenges and crises in the past year, and have weathered those only by faith and love. One meeting reflects that, “The year wasn’t always easy, yet with faith in God and each other, we were able to persevere.” Another meeting, contemplating a difficult decision that they had to make together, writes, “We gave this decision much study and prayerful thought, letting ourselves be guided by faith in the process, love for one another and the meeting, and trust in the Spirit.” Meetings feel we are guided by the “belief that we can overcome life’s adversities with help from each other and from above.” However, “it is not the case that the trust and community we share is automatic; it arises from our willingness to stay involved and listen for Spirit.”

Love is manifest by reaching outward from our meetings. Our meetings welcome Friends traveling through from elsewhere, new attenders, seekers, and non-Friend peace activists sharing fellowship and witness. Friends report that special worship meetings for marriage and memorial meetings present attenders to those events with what is often their first experience of Quaker worship, and attenders share that they are moved by the silence and the vocal ministry.

## MINISTRY

One monthly meeting says that, led by Spirit, “ALL is ministry.” Our ministry happens both amongst Friends and in the larger world. “The Spirit is the ground water, which nourishes the fertile bed from which our various ministries grow. It runs beneath the surface, a continuing source of life to our community. What we do and what we believe comes from this Spirit.”

Our meetings for worship are marked by diverse ministry. Many meetings expressed a deep gratitude for worship, in all of its forms. We are profoundly fed by our worship together, approaching “worship with a spirit of openness and love, welcoming all who come to be enlivened by Divine Presence.” Some meetings remark that their meetings are generally marked by silent waiting worship, and that the silence can “speak more loudly than talking.” We report that there is a sense of unity to be found in the silence, and that meeting for worship can “hold us and allow each of us to be where we need to be.” We also appreciate vocal ministry in both unprogrammed and pastoral meetings, and report that the “quality of messages continues to deepen our centeredness.” Another meeting says that “vocal ministry that is Spirit-led can be a blessing for the meeting.”

Other ministry among Friends can include practical ministry, such as doing dishes, providing childcare, empowering members to be greeters for visitors, contributing to committee work within the meeting, and helping with First Day School curriculum, planning, and teaching. Friends confess that working on newsletters, making the meetinghouse handicapped-accessible, establishing clearness committees and other support committees for Friends, and participating in meetings for healing are all the work of ministry undertaken with faith and love. One meeting approved a travel minute and care committee for a Friend joining an FGC New Meetings Project. Another meeting offers support for a Young Adult Friends Group. Other Friends are deeply involved in NYYM committees and sessions, and carry concerns both to and from the Yearly Meeting. Some meetings financially support Quaker organizations and international missions, collaborate with Friends from surrounding meetings, and participate in Powell House and local retreats. One meeting hosted a “Quaker Conversations” series to discuss Friends’

testimonies, faith, and ministry. Another organized a “spiritual journeys retreat” using art, movement, and role-playing.

In the larger community, we believe that “the way we carry ourselves outside of meeting is ministry.” “Taking something into the world” from the meetinghouse and reaching out to “help the real problems of other people in the world” are part of our faith and practice. We endeavor, by the Spirit’s leading, to make our witness and our lives our ministry. One meeting tries to respond on both a group and a personal level to Friends’ testimonies, but confesses that it is “the quiet persistence of individuals that affirms the spiritual presence in our meeting and wider community.”

Friends are deeply engaged in a variety of work, answering that of God where we find it. We are committed to regular peace vigils in many communities, and organized vigils against air strikes in Syria. One meeting worked with the larger community to open a homeless shelter. Other meetings are active in interfaith organizations and wider parish fellowships. We try to maintain a vibrant public presence in our communities, from public speaking about Quaker faith and history, to participation in community events such as music festivals, garden club activities, and historical society gatherings. One meeting led an outdoor worship service at a nearby state park. Other commitments include collection for food banks, distribution of food baskets, and gathering and distribution of clothing and furniture for those in need. Several meetings spoke of working together to help clear some of the damage remaining after Hurricane Sandy. Another meeting brought snacks to Habitat for Humanity volunteer builders. Friends have spent time visiting and entertaining at nursing homes. One meeting is committed to a monthly worship group at a continuing care facility.

Our meetinghouses are loci of ministry and places of welcome and hospitality. We have offered free movies on peace, justice, and environmental topics, workshops on aging and end-of-life issues, music-making and contra-dance, book discussions on spiritual topics, annual Quaker-themed fairs, a program on forgiveness, “Seeking the Spirit” sessions, and special holiday meals and worship services. We have opened our Meetinghouses to the public, and to other religious organizations. One

meeting hosts the Vietnam Veterans for Peace.

Finally, our ministry has included specific witnesses, including prison ministry, letter-writing on behalf of prisoners of conscience and in support of marriage equality, efforts in support of the NYYM Apology to Afro-Descendants, laboring to create a minute on gun violence, reaching out to a war tax objector who has served jail time, and making grants for attendees to participate in workshops of service organizations. In the face of great need in the world it remains our hope that “. . . faithfulness to a leading can blossom to serve all of community.”

## CONCLUSION

In answering this query, reports from our monthly meetings reflect a hope that our responses to concerns and individual and corporate leadings will “continue to evolve as we listen tenderly to Spirit.”

The monthly meetings who responded report a robust life of faith, love, and ministry in our communities. We feel connected to one another and to the wider community at this moment, and that connection leads to engagement in witnesses and ministries of all kinds. As Quakers we are trying to create a web of inter-relationship that carries our experience of Spirit-centered worship out into the world. One meeting concludes its report, “We are mindful of the value of nurturing faith, love, and ministry in all that we do and we remain committed to listening for and obeying the guidance of the Divine Light that lives in each of our hearts.” Another testifies, “We hope for renewed faith and energy; we pray to be good listeners; we hope to grow closer in the Light and with the help of the Spirit find direction.”

Although this year’s query did not directly address our meetings’ struggles and concerns, a significant number of meetings expressed concerns about the following:

- aging group/ shrinking numbers,
- small numbers resulting in the same Friends hold positions for many years,
- understanding why members and attenders leave the meeting,
- not enough engagement with the wider community,
- how to meet the physical and emotional needs of the larger

community,

- financially supporting meetinghouses and property,
- avoiding the risk of becoming “a political social club,”
- diminishing interest in peace and social concerns,
- wish to devote more time for sharing joys and concerns,
- improving outreach through websites and social media,
- desire to be more inclusive to all,
- lack of children for First Day School,
- ambivalence about Christian focus, and tension between Christo-centric and “liberal” Friends.

*Rebecca Schillenback, Convener*

### **Ministry Coordinating Committee**

Ministry Coordinating Committee (MCC) provides support for the Spiritual growth and care of our Yearly Meeting and oversees the work of the committees under its care. These include Advancement Committee, Committee on Conflict Transformation, Committee to Revise *Faith and Practice*, Committee on Sufferings, Worship at Yearly Meeting Sessions, State of the Society, Ministry and Pastoral Care, and the task groups on Ending Racism in NYYM, Spiritual Nurture, and the Intervisitation Group,(formerly the Traveling Friends Advisory Group).

MCC met at Fall and Spring Sessions and during Coordinating Committee weekend at Powell House in January. Our meetings were Spirit-led and sharing was often rich and deep. We welcomed visitors to our meetings and appreciated their presence and insight.

This year we approved the final version of the Apology to Afro-Descendants from the Task Group on Racism in NYYM and presented it on the floor of Yearly Meeting at Fall Sessions, where it was approved. At Coordinating Committee weekend we began looking at how we might guide Friends in next steps following the approval of the Apology. Some first steps were begun prior to Spring Sessions.

Ministry Coordinating Committee also approved the definition of Worship Groups for our *Faith and Practice* from the Committee to Revise *Faith and Practice* and brought it to the floor of the Yearly Meeting for a second reading. The definition

was approved at Spring Sessions and will become part of our book of discipline

This year we were enriched by reports from the Spiritual Nurture Working Group. We supported the State of the Society Committee to create a permanent set of queries that meetings can more easily use to track their Spiritual growth and reflect on their connections with each other. We approved changes to the Advancement Committee’s *Handbook* page and presented it to the Yearly Meeting for a first reading. We approved the continued service of Vonn New, Nat Corwin, and Carol Holmes on the Intervisitation Group (formerly the Traveling Friends Advisory Group) and approved Carolyn Emerson and Anne Pomeroy as new members. We continued to support the Committee to Record Margaret Webb in the Ministry. Finally, we began discerning how we might help Friends grow into the spiritual opportunities being opened to us through the Priorities Working Group. This discernment continues and will guide much of our work in the coming year.

In conclusion, MCC had a full, rich year. We often felt led by Spirit as we learned to listen to each other and the still small voice within.

*Irma Guthrie, Clerk*

### **Advancement Committee**

Over the last 12 months the Advancement Committee has moved forward with a number of initiatives and more are under consideration. Since our last report the committee has provided financial support to both monthly meetings and to individuals. The committee made several grants from Lockport-Brinkerhoff Funds to assist meetings with repair work and also a grant to a meeting to assist a member who is attending divinity school. The committee also supported a meeting that put together a program on eldership. We continue to discern and develop better-defined guidelines for the distribution of funds under the Committee’s care. Friends are reminded to familiarize themselves with the funds and to request assistance from the Advancement Committee after discernment at the monthly or regional meeting level.

A principal focus continues to be supporting and encouraging the ministries arising among us. In early June 2014, we will co-sponsor a Powell House weekend called “Walk Humbly, Serve Boldly: Prophetic Ministry Among Friends,” facilitated by Margery Post Abbott and Noah Baker Merrill.

In September of 2013 the committee sponsored a consultation on “Prophetic Ministry and Eldership.” Other opportunities for Friends to participate in the work of Advancement are under discernment, including a growing interest in “marketing” the Quaker message to the wider community.

Finally, and as in past years, we continue to seek new members who can share their Light and leadings in the work of outreach and advancement. Those who feel such a leading to pursue the kind of work outlined above are encouraged to speak to the committee clerk, or to the NYYM Nominating Committee.

*Mia Kissil Hewitt, clerk*

### **Committee on Conflict Transformation**

At Spring Sessions 2013, the *Handbook* page for the Committee on Conflict Transformation was accepted as revised. The reframed charge of the Committee is as follows:

The Committee on Conflict Transformation serves the monthly, quarterly and regional meetings and worship groups in New York Yearly Meeting; committees of the Yearly Meeting; and the Yearly Meeting itself when it convenes in sessions. Its objective is, when invited, to assist meetings in situations of disabling conflict and help facilitate the transformation of those situations into opportunities for spiritual growth, both for the individuals involved and for their meetings. This objective can be accomplished by timely intercession in response to a crisis, or by helping the engaging group to build skills in avoiding debilitating conflict. In addition, the Committee offers general education on the principles and tools of conflict transformation in order to strengthen the skills of monthly meetings.

During 2013, the Committee was invited to assist approximately a dozen monthly meetings and Yearly Meeting committees. The Committee’s consultations are strictly confidential and no information is shared with respect to the identity of the

meetings or the issue(s) at hand.

The Committee authored an article titled “When Conflicts Arise: Crisis or Invitation?” that appeared in the April 2014 issue of *Friends Journal*. It was widely read and commented upon in letters in subsequent issues, and it brought the work of the Committee to a broad and sympathetic audience.

The Committee presented two brief explanatory programs, at Purchase Quarter and Shrewsbury-Plainfield Half-Yearly Meeting. It offered two full-day workshops, at Northeastern Regional Meeting and New York Quarterly Meeting. It is noteworthy that every member of the Committee but one was involved in at least one of these workshops and presentations, and the Committee experienced a sense of cohesion and, in baseball terms, developed “a deep bench.” During the year two members asked to be relieved and one Friend joined.

The workshop at New York Quarter was professionally filmed and edited into seven free-standing “modules.” These films, funded by various Quaker bodies, were posted on the Committee web page and an effort was made to alert Friends to their existence. The films will also be posted on YouTube. Along with the *Friends Journal* article, the films allowed Friends from outside New York Yearly Meeting to become aware of the Committee’s work and its utility for meetings in other regions. As a result, the Committee was contacted by many meetings (including one in Australia) and invited to offer workshops at several Quaker bodies outside the Yearly Meeting, as well as at two consultations offered by the Friends World Committee on Consultation, in 2013 and 2014.

In January 2013, four members of the Committee attended a conflict transformation workshop at the Desmond Tutu Center in New York City, with the generous support of the Witness Activities Fund. Also that month, the Committee met with each Coordinating Committee during Coordinating Committee Weekend in Powell House, to convey its revised charge and ensure that the various committees of the Yearly Meeting were aware of the Committee’s willingness to be of assistance.

The Committee worked with the Yearly Meeting’s Communications Director to update its web page and populate it with various resources and information, including the films and

many of the handout materials from the workshops (including the Power Point presentation).

At Summer Sessions, the Committee offered a worship-sharing that was generally well received.

The Committee has been intentional about its obligations to the Yearly Meeting in husbanding the modest funds it has been allotted in the operating budget. The film was produced with funds that were generously contributed for that purpose by various monthly and quarterly meetings and by other Quaker entities, and did not draw upon operating funds. Those supporting contributions were deposited to a separate Film Fund. The Committee expended approximately \$1,400 against its operating budget of \$700 in presenting the various programs and workshops, but \$700 of this was recouped in the form of contributions from those attending the programs, so no budget overdraft was experienced. The Committee received a contribution from a Quaker organization outside the Yearly Meeting that had requested its assistance, and a decision was made that, in the future, such contributions would be requested from any non-New York Yearly Meeting organization, and deposited into the restricted Film Fund. The costs of future workshops would be taken from the Film Fund rather than the operating budget. In this way, it is hoped that the operating budget line for the Committee might not be drawn upon, at least for 2014.

*Peter Phillips, Clerk*

### **Meetings for Discernment Steering Committee**

Meetings for Discernment were held during Summer Sessions 2013 at Silver Bay and at Purchase Meeting in March 2014. Many friends helped to make them possible. Details are available in the minutes of Fall Sessions 2013 and Spring Sessions 2014; these details include the names of Friends appointed to and released from service on the Meetings for Discernment Steering Committee. Full reports on the Meetings for Discernment themselves are available on the New York Yearly Meeting website under "Committees."

The Steering Committee has focused its work since Spring Sessions on the preparation of the minute on the continuation

of the Meetings for Discernment that we bring to the body of the New York Yearly Meeting for approval, on the drafting of *Handbook* pages for the Meetings for Discernment and for the Meetings for Discernment Steering Committee, and on the formulation of the queries for Summer 2014.

*Lucinda Antrim, Clerk*

### **Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee**

The work of this committee has focused on the support of pastoral meetings in our Yearly Meeting. The committee supports the NEYM and NYYM pastors retreat in the fall as well as the pastors and their elders retreat in the spring. These retreats provide peer support and nurture for the pastors. The pastors and elders retreat has also focused on nurturing the relationship between pastors and ministry and counsel committees. The most recent retreat focused on shared responsibility for ministry in the meeting. We continue to look for ways to continue the support of the pastoral meetings.

The committee administers the Stevens Fund for financial support of superannuated ministers, Yearly Meeting workers, and their spouses.

The Intervisitation Group, previously known as the Traveling Friends Advisory Group, is re-envisioning its scope. The work has been impacted by not having a full complement of members. Additionally, one of the clerks moved out of the Yearly Meeting. We continue to seek members who are interested in the work.

We meet twice a year and as the work requires.

*Alice Houghtaling & Anne Pomeroy for the committee*

### **Committee to Revise Faith and Practice**

The Committee to Revise *Faith and Practice* met regularly during Summer, Fall, and Spring Sessions. Other Friends joined us at each of our meetings and we appreciated their input.

The committee has been looking for a new clerk ever since the current clerk became clerk of the Ministry Coordinating Committee following Summer Session 2013, but so far no one has been led to take on this position. This continues to be a challenge for the clerk. At Spring Sessions we also lost our recording clerk.

Despite these challenges, the committee continued to do good work. This past year we focused most of our attention on revising the sections on “Covenant Relationships” and “Growth and Reconciliation”. We will bring those proposed changes to Ministry Coordinating Committee at Summer Sessions in 2014.

After the first reading of the definition of Worship Groups at Spring Sessions 2013, Friends offered suggestions of possible improvements. Some of those were incorporated into the version that was brought to the floor and approved at Spring Sessions 2014. The definition of “Worship Groups” will be included in the next printing of our *Faith and Practice*.

We continued to look into how to address the issue of “electronic communications.” The ever-changing aspects of this field and growing use by Friends of the technology make it a challenging but needed area in which to provide Friends guidance. This work continues.

This coming year we will be revising the sections on Eldering and Elders to better reflect our current practices, possibly creating a section on Spiritual Healing, and updating the book to reflect the changes that we have made as a yearly meeting. We are inviting Friends with experience and expertise in the first two areas to help us in this work.

The committee worked well together this past year. Our meetings were long and sometimes challenging but we listened to each other well and often felt led by Spirit. On several occasions clarity came through after a period of discord and we sensed that we were being guided in our work.

*Irma Guthrie, Clerk*

### **Spiritual Nurture Working Group**

The work of the Spiritual Nurture Working Group this year has focused on developing, planning, and implementing a second gathering of NYYM/NEYM Friends who identify as elders. This gathering was supported in large part from a grant from the Shoemaker Foundation. As a broader understanding of eldership arises, we see a connection between active elders and deepening spiritual nurture. This retreat was a recommendation from participants of the first gathering of elders from NYYM and

NEYM. Participants’ service as elders ranged from little to a lot, yet all felt nurtured and supported in their work. A recommendation from the second gathering was to have a retreat focused on basics for elders. We will work on developing this idea.

At Fall Sessions we brought forth a proposal to have Spiritual Nurture Working group become a subcommittee under the Advancement Committee. Since Advancement Committee is actively working to support vital ministry in our Yearly Meeting, it was felt that combining the efforts could be beneficial. Friends considered the request, and after much discernment felt the nature of the work best fit a working group format.

The work of developing a regional spiritual formation program continued this year. We are close to having a model that fits the diverse needs and leadings of Friends in our yearly meeting.

Supporting one another on our spiritual journeys is an important aspect of spiritual nurture. This year this work has continued on an individual basis. Diverse schedules of key interested Friends made it difficult to schedule a retreat. We continue to carry the need for supporting one another in formal and informal ways.

Spiritual Nurture Working Group meets twice a year and as the work requires. All are encouraged and welcome to participate. Contact Lu Harper [luharper@gmail.com](mailto:luharper@gmail.com) or Anne Pomeroy [apomeroy10@gmail.com](mailto:apomeroy10@gmail.com) for further information.

*Lu Harper and Anne Pomeroy , co-clerks*

### **Committee on Sufferings**

*No report submitted.*

### **Committee on Worship at Yearly Meeting Sessions**

At Fall (Chatham-Summit) and Spring (Rochester) Sessions, the Worship at Yearly Meeting Sessions committee helped the Quarterly Meeting host committees by inviting additional Friends who have the spiritual gift of eldering. These Friends from the wider yearly meeting body were asked to sit on the facing chairs as well as sitting in the body during meeting for worship and meeting for worship with attention to business.

They prayerfully grounded and held the body in the Light, being radiators of God's Love.

At Summer Sessions (Silver Bay) 2013, the Worship at Yearly Meeting Sessions committee helped oversee the many activities under the care of the Ministry Coordinating Committee. At meeting for worship and meetings for worship with attention to business, the committee invited and coordinated Friends sitting on the facing chairs as elders. These Friends provided a prayerful presence and helped remind us that we are connected spiritually. The committee helped coordinate and lent support to the additional worship opportunities at Silver Bay, including Worship Sharing Groups, the Healing Center, hymn singing in the Chapel, meetings for worship at the Boathouse, Early Morning Coffee and Conversation, as well as Meetings for Worship for Racial Healing, Worship with Friends in the Spirit of Christ, and Worship with Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns. The committee contacted the Bible Study leader, Ruth Kinsey, and provided grounding and support for her and the body those four nights. Ruth and the committee worked together for the programmed portion of the closing worship on Saturday choosing hymns, providing eldering and moral support. The committee identified three Friends —John Edminster, Pierre Douyon, and Susan Wolf—to bring the message for Silver Bay's Monday–Wednesday vesper services in the Chapel.

We thank all the myriad Friends who served as worship sharing leaders, elders, healers, holders-of-the-space, speakers, and music makers.

The committee is currently working with the JYM clerks and other youth for the Community Worship opportunities at Summer Sessions 2014 in the boathouse.

*Ann Davidson, clerk*

## GENERAL SERVICES SECTION

### General Services Coordinating Committee

General Services Coordinating Committee relates to the committees and trustee boards that are part of the General Services Section. See the individual committee reports for their stories. Some committees can summarize their work easily in one report, while others act on issues that require frequent wide communication with each other and with committees of other sections. In particular, the accounting and budget functions of the Yearly Meeting are ongoing in the background. Two highlights this year are a fresh approach to the operating budget and increased attention to fundraising, with monthly meeting information sharing and with the annual appeal directly to individuals. The Yearly Meeting trustees are also sharing in ways that make their work more transparent. A combined audit of trustee and operating finances will be done when the Audit Committee completes their systematic search for a new auditing firm, as part of good business practice.

The Coordinating Committee meets four times yearly, at the three sessions of yearly meeting and at the Coordinating Weekend in January. In November our Clerking Task Group reported on its efforts to identify ways to help committees and their clerks function at their best. This effort included updating a *Guide for Committee Clerks*, which is available on the Yearly Meeting website and in printed form. The task group has been laid down, and the concern will continue to receive attention through the Accountability Queries and with the Nominating Committee's dedicated work. All committees are reminded that their minutes and other documents can be posted on the NYYM website by having their clerk send the document by email with instruction to Steven Davison, Communications Director.

At our spring meeting the coordinating committee discussed the question of how people can better afford to attend sessions and committee meetings. The Yearly Meeting helps with scholarships, work credit, or reduced rates, but an attender may also incur the expense of child or elder care at home, and lost wages.

With attention to these concerns locally, the monthly meeting might assist a member through special fundraising. The Yearly Meeting Equalization Fund has the non-profit restrictions of supporting travel and lodging, but not childcare or lost wages. Other ideas are welcome.

As coordinating committee clerk I am often in touch with the Yearly Meeting office at 15 Rutherford Place, which reinforces my deep appreciation of the staff and their effectiveness. I have made two visits, learning more about how their work is done, and how the volunteers and committees of the Yearly Meeting connect with them. Meeting with Associate Secretary Helen Garay Toppins during those visits and by email, I have helped review the office's Financial Systems Guidelines. With additional volunteer help, a revised version will soon be available in a format that will be easier to access and easier to keep up to date. I have also consulted with the directors of AFSC and YSOP, two of the organizations that share the office complex with NYYM. Together we have communicated with New York Quarterly Meeting trustees to seek a clearer understanding and definition of how the capital and operating costs of the building are shared among us. This work is ongoing.

An incidental duty for me this year has been to act as convening trustee of the Lindley Murray Fund. None of the other trustees were able to accept the clerking role. I have benefited, somewhat reluctantly, to learn more about the Fund and its grant award process. Our separate report gives details.

Jeffrey Aaron, in his new role as a Yearly Meeting trustee, has taken on the job of coordinating and interpreting the Yearly Meeting's several insurance policies. Contact him with insurance questions. In my first year as clerk of the coordinating committee, Jeffrey has assisted me by careful debriefings and by his ready availability to write or talk about questions that come up. As I review the records and stories of years past, I am grateful for his thorough and caring work. I hope to be as accessible and helpful to anyone who calls about General Services Section business.

*John Cooley, clerk*

## **Audit Committee**

The 2013 Audit Committee held its last meeting on August 14, 2013. The Audit of the 2012 Fiscal Year Treasurer Managed Accounts was reviewed and approved, and the goal of a timely audit of these accounts was accomplished. The Auditor was paid, and was notified that he would be asked to continue to audit the 2013 financial records. Insofar as two members were rotating off, and only one (Tim Johnson) was continuing, he was designated as the next Clerk. At that time, committee members had not known that another member (Laura Cisar) had been approved for the Committee at Summer Sessions, although this still left the committee one member short.

During the autumn of 2013, discussions were held under the auspices of the General Services Coordinating Committee, and it was agreed that NYYM would move toward a consolidated statement of Treasurer-Managed and Trustee Accounts, and toward a consolidated Audit of these Accounts, although it was recognized that this might require another year to achieve. Action items from the 2012 Audit, relating to small errors in previous financial records, and in the management of contingency funds, were resolved. Laura Cisar was named as representative from the Audit Committee to the General Services Coordinating Committee. Later in 2013, the Trustees also agreed to cover the expenses of a consolidated audit from their budget. The Treasurer of the Trustees (Mary Hannon Williams) joined the Audit Committee as a Liaison Member, at the suggestion of the General Services Coordinating Committee, following discussions at Coordinating Committee Weekend.

In December, 2013, the Audit Committee began a series of teleconferences directed at the solicitation of a new auditor for both Treasurer-Managed and Trustee-Managed Accounts, the prior auditor having faithfully served NYYM for more than 10 years. Sample auditor solicitations were sought from several other yearly meetings, and from the American Friends Service Committee, and were reviewed for suitability as models for the NYYM solicitation during December and January. During January and February, it was decided to follow a two-stage solicitation process (a Request for Information (RFI) followed by a Request for Proposal (RFP)), and an RFI was drafted, reviewed,

approved, and sent out to prospective bidders, with responses received by April 25, 2014. During this entire period teleconferences were held approximately every two weeks, and two meetings were held at the NYYM office. A draft RFP has been prepared and is being circulated for comment and for legal review. The audit of the 2013 financial records by the present auditor has been initiated. Accountability queries were completed and submitted to NYYM, and a draft section for a new *Financial Practices and Procedures Guide* was prepared and submitted.

During the remainder of the 2014 year, it is the intent of the Committee to complete the RFP submission and evaluation process, to select a new auditor, and to negotiate and execute a contract by autumn of the year. The new Auditor will audit both Trustee and Treasurer managed accounts beginning with the 2014 Fiscal Year. In addition, the Committee expects to review the 2013 Fiscal Year audits of both Trustee- and Treasurer-Managed Accounts, and to finalize its section of the *Financial Practices and Procedures Guide*.

*Tim Johnson, Clerk*

### **Communications Committee**

This past year, the Communications Committee has been active on several fronts.

Steven Davison has been working on overhauling the NYYM website and making it more user-friendly. Members of the committee and others have supported him in this work and helped to reduce our reliance on the old website pages that still exist. If you have encountered any problems with the website, please forward them to Steven or to myself. Remember that the website serves many groups: Friends active in NYYM, Friends in NYYM but not so active in Yearly Meeting work, and seekers. There was at one point during the year some serious discussion about migrating the website to different software, but the conclusion was that redesign would better address the known problems. Steven has also been working with various monthly meetings to improve their web presence, either as continuing clients of the NYYM website or by assisting them to migrate to other providers, such as FGC's monthly meeting web portal, Quaker Cloud. Steven has also vastly expanded the Resources

section of the website, providing links and information about many Friends books, pamphlets, and other writings.

On behalf of both Communications and Advancement, Robin Whitely explored information about how NYYM might better promote itself and Friends. We look to some follow-up on this in the coming year.

*Spark's* themed issues have continued to be popular, with some topics taking more than one issue to properly cover. Additionally, as new submissions continue to come in, we have regularly placed additional material on the website, given that *Spark* always has limited space. We welcome your ideas for new topics and encourage you to write articles. Send your topic ideas to Steven Davison or myself.

In the wake of Hurricane Sandy, NYYM began to focus on the possibilities of emergency outreach among meetings. Communications has been working with staff to make this possible. An emergency communications network is being created, and we are working on the plans to keep it up to date.

In December 2013, we produced a one-page *Annual Report* for the YM and this was distributed to all members. Recipients reported that they appreciated this summary of the YM's work, and we plan to do this every year. It is effective in-reach to bring us all closer together.

We are always interested in your ideas as to how we can better communicate amongst ourselves in the YM and to the outside world, and about what we should be communicating. Let us know what you think.

*Adam Segal-Isaacson, Clerk*

### **Development Committee**

The Development Committee has met several times this year, both in person and by conference call. Our goal is to help the members and attenders of NYYM monthly meetings to understand the mission and work of the Yearly Meeting, to recognize the need for financial support, and to raise the funds to address the gap in the fiscal year's budget. To date, we have raised approximately \$18,000 through mailings and personal solicitations, and we hope to raise a total of \$34,000. All members of the Development Committee have made generous financial

contributions to this fundraising effort, as have others in the Yearly Meeting.

We intend to engage in two additional appeals: one to members of NYYM, and one to attenders at monthly meetings. We will be asking monthly meeting clerks to forward our message through their email distribution lists. We believe it is essential for us to speak regularly about the needs of the Yearly Meeting, its critical role in supporting the spiritual lives of our monthly meetings and of individual Friends throughout our geographical region, and the case for financial support. We are also exploring the possibility of creating social events and other fund raising vehicles that would raise dollars and lift up the profile of the Yearly Meeting among members and attenders.

We have just now completed the implementation of an on-line donation option through the YM website. This has been a more complex process than one might imagine, but by the time you read this report, the system will be “live.” We look forward to the ways this electronic option will increase the ease with which members, attenders, and other Friends and friends can support the important work of the YM and its staff.

Our work has been challenging because of the geographical distance between members of the Development Committee and our busy schedules. Phones and computer technology have helped us in our work, and we have received the active and consistent support of our General Secretary. We are committed to supporting the Yearly Meeting and welcome everyone’s engagement in our fundraising efforts on behalf of an organization that is crucially important to all of us.

*Peter Baily, clerk*

### **Financial Services Committee**

*No report submitted.*

### **Committee on Expenditure of the H.H. Mosher Fund**

Last year, at our annual sessions at Silver Bay, we distributed \$3,637.26 in books and CDs. This included \$3,617.99 for gifts to 71 monthly meetings, worship groups, prison worship groups, and Friends institutions (mostly schools). We gave gift books to

11 individuals (staff, recorded ministers, presenters at NYYM, and first-time visitors to our Yearly Meeting from other yearly meetings).

Please visit the Book Table, located just inside the front door to the lobby during Summer Sessions at Silver Bay to replenish your monthly meeting’s libraries’ shelves with up to \$50 worth of free books. If your meeting is not sending a representative to YM Summer Sessions, please ask a neighboring meeting that is planning on sending a Friend to select books totaling \$50 for your meeting, as well. Everyone is invited to sign up for an hour or two to help us sell and distribute the books.

*Ruth Ralston, for the committee*

### **General Secretary’s Report**

In my advance reports, I usually cover a period from mid-May to mid-May, the time the reports are due for dissemination. Last year I was on sabbatical leave until mid-June, so I will be reporting on the eleven months after my return to active work. I have already reported to the Yearly Meeting body about my sabbatical leave, and that report can be found at [www.nyym.org/?q=Minutes\\_2013SummerSessions-GeneralSecretaryReport](http://www.nyym.org/?q=Minutes_2013SummerSessions-GeneralSecretaryReport).

I came away from my sabbatical leave having settled spiritually, and having learned a lot. It was a time of transformation, and much of my last year has involved integrating its lessons into my daily work. These lessons have been as varied as slowing the pace at which I work, seeing my role in the Yearly Meeting differently, altering how I prioritize my work, my attention to self-care, and holding this work more openly, more loosely. Applying these lessons has been a work in process, imperfectly done, but I hope with some integrity and some success.

I came back from my sabbatical clear in my leading that the main focus of my work needs to be helping Friends to deepen—in our practice, in our community, and in our worship. My supervisory committee has agreed with my sense in this, and has supported me in making this the first priority for my 2014 work plan. I see a happy confluence here between leadings for my service and the needs of the Yearly Meeting at this time.

Giving this area of my work greater priority has meant a shift, doing less in some areas than before. It has also meant I have needed to deepen in my own practice in order to live out what I believe we are all called to.

I have welcomed opportunities to lead monthly meetings in retreats focused on spiritual deepening, opening to deeper worship, and discernment in vocal ministry. And I have found that what I have felt led to offer has resonated well with the monthly meetings with which I have shared this. Frederick Beuchner said that one's vocation lies where one's great joy meets the world's great need. Doing this work has felt like that kind of fit. It is sacred work. It is such a privilege and a blessing to be with Friends as they seek greater spiritual depth and a fuller sense of our practice as Friends. And its impact can be profound. As the M&C of one meeting which entered into this work said, "before the retreat, our meeting didn't have a core, a center. Now we do."

It takes some time to schedule visits with meetings, and much more lead time to schedule a retreat. In the first few months back, I was mostly setting up opportunities for later in the year. Despite that, in the eleven months since my sabbatical I made nineteen visits to monthly meetings and worship groups, eight of which had me providing some level of program. The programs varied from 1-3 hour mini-workshops to full-weekend retreats.

At the same time, I returned from my sabbatical clear in my commitment to my own practice as a Friend, and maintaining a balance in my life that might sustain this work with integrity. Previously, I made myself available virtually all the time. I am now more intentional in guarding my time off as Sabbath time, time to renew my spirit so that I can do this work from a more centered place.

Increasing travel and visitation, while at the same time preserving enough time at home to feel grounded in my life and the life of my monthly meeting, has not been an easy task. I am still finding my way into it, with some success and some room for improvement.

In addition to increasing the "field secretary" aspect of my work, I have also given a high priority to supporting those Friends who are similarly committed to our deepening in our

practice. I have spent a lot of time supporting Friends on the Advancement Committee, helping to support the committee in general and to plan and facilitate the fourth Advancement consultation. I have also been supportive of the members of the Spiritual Nurture Working Group and the Meetings for Discernment Steering Committee as they each address different aspects of this larger work. And I have been supportive of those Friends committed to revitalizing visitation in the yearly meeting.

We are at a pivotal time in the life of this yearly meeting. Change is upon us, partly due to the financial shift of 2008 onward and our response to it, but more so due to faithful leadings and efforts that go back many years. We have spent years preparing for this change. A lot of my work with the Yearly Meeting organization in the past year relates in one way or another to the changes we are moving through. I see these changes as critical for us, and my role in them to be supporting Friends in being faithful as an institution, as well as individually. Here are some of those movements of change which took larger blocks of my time and attention:

**Priorities Working Group:** It has been more than four years since the Yearly Meeting initiated a process for determining our priorities and vision as a whole body. The first two years involved designing a process with which Friends could unite. In the last two and a half years, the Priorities Working Group, those Friends tasked with implementing that process, have been listening to Friends across the Yearly Meeting and discerning how to respond to what we have heard. I have been a part of this work from its inception, and have continued to give significant time to it, participating in three weekend meetings and numerous conference calls over the last year. It has been heartening to labor with a group of hard-working Friends passionately committed to this crucial work.

**Development Committee:** This is the second year since we created a Development Committee to help us augment Covenant Donations as a way of supporting the work of the Yearly Meeting. Much of this work has been to build systems and structures from the ground up, and it has been very time consuming. I serve ex-officio on this committee, and have devoted a lot of time and energy to getting this work off the

ground. I am grateful for the many Friends who have given so generously to support the work we are led to do as a whole yearly meeting.

**Children and Youth Staff Position:** Since at least 2001, many Friends have expressed the clear need for a staff position addressing the needs of children and youth in our monthly meetings. I have initiated conversations with our Personnel, Youth, and Nurture Coordinating Committees, the Yearly Meeting Trustees, and other interested Friends as to how best to meet this need. Personnel and Youth committees are now poised to collaborate on a proposed job description, as we move from vision to implementation.

**Ongoing Responsibilities.** I also continue with ongoing responsibilities, such as serving as head of staff, collaborating with the yearly meeting clerk, and representing NYYM in the wider body of Friends, to name but a few.

**Staff Leadership:** I have greatly enjoyed working with our skilled and dedicated staff. We are working more as a team than at any time since I started here. Our morale is high, and our output is impressive, given our small numbers. We have started integrating the ARCH Coordinators into our staff meetings and retreats, allowing the three coordinators much needed support and a sense of being connected to the work of the yearly meeting. It has also been important to hear regularly from our ARCH coordinators about their work and the impressions from their travels as to how the Yearly Meeting is doing.

**Collaborating with our Clerk:** It has been a real pleasure to work with Jeff Hitchcock, our very able clerk. We have met regularly, discussing our sense of where the Yearly Meeting is, where it seems to be headed, and what is needed at this time. More recently, Lucinda Antrim, the Yearly Meeting assistant clerk, has joined us in those meetings.

**Representing NYYM in Wider Friends:** I continue to meet with the general secretaries of Baltimore YM, Philadelphia YM, and New England YM every other month, mostly by phone. It is invaluable to compare notes with them about the conditions of their yearly meetings and how Friends there are responding to changes and situations that often parallel our own. I also attend the annual Superintendents and Secretaries

Retreat, with leadership from yearly meetings across the continent and across the spectrum of Friends practice. I have continued on the FUM North American Ministries Committee, and at the Yearly Meeting's request, have agreed to serve on the FUM General Board for another three year stint.

I am still integrating the changes and leadings from my sabbatical into the focus and scope of my work. I am making progress in balancing the need to make this position sustainable while being faithful to my leadings and the broader expectations of the position. Without the opportunity of my sabbatical leave, these changes would not have happened. As I move through integrating my sabbatical experience, my understanding of just how important that time was continues to deepen, as does my gratitude for it.

*Christopher Sammond*

### **Nominating Committee**

The greatest joy of serving on NYYM Nominating Committee is naming gifts in those around us and matching gifts with opportunities to serve. We have been asked to find Friends who have not served before and particularly younger Friends. It is important to have a full complement of Nominating Committee members from each regional meeting so we can notice gifts of those in our areas. Members of Nominating Committee are appointed by their regional, quarterly, or half-yearly meeting. The suggested number of representatives for each region is based on the number of members in that region, one representative per 200 Friends or fraction thereof.

Nominating Committee keeps busy all year by contacting clerks of committees early in the calendar year. We then contact those who will rotate off committees at the end of Summer Sessions either for possible appointment to another term of service or thanking them for their current service. We find nominees for openings on committees or as officers by asking for ideas from current clerks of committees and monthly meeting and regional clerks. We inquire who has attended an interest group or committee meeting to get more information on a subject. We listen in worship for leadings that Friends

might be experiencing. AND we are happy to receive phone calls and emails, and to have conversations with Friends who might like to explore service, either for someone they know or for him or herself. We do this work all year long but particularly in the spring and early summer. We also try to reach out to the clerks of the monthly meetings in our regions to form a relationship that will lead to recognizing the gifts of local Friends. Each member of the Nominating Committee is charged with a list of committees or positions to fill, but we all share good ideas. When you are asked to serve, you will be contacted via phone, email or in person. Your contact information will appear in the *Yearbook*, so it is important that such info is current. All appointments and requests for release from service are made at Yearly Meeting Sessions. The bulk of them happen at Summer Sessions, with fewer at Fall and Spring Sessions. Most appointments are made by consent agendas. These are emailed out prior to Fall and Spring Sessions, and posted on the Inn porch midweek during Summer Sessions. If you are appointed and find you cannot serve a full term, asking for release allows the Nominating Committee to search for a replacement so the good work continues. If you have concerns or questions regarding names on a consent agenda, contact someone on the Nominating Committee.

There are many ways to find Nominating Committee members. In the *Yearbook*, the names are listed under Nominating Committee in the General Services section, with contact information in the alphabetical listing at the back. The committee meets at all Sessions, with emails and conference calls in between as needed. At Summer Sessions, we meet every morning at breakfast. A note can be posted on the message board for the co-clerks at Summer Sessions. Your region should have a list of Yearly Meeting appointees, including representatives to Nominating Committee. If no one is listed from your region, please consider making the step to volunteer your services and join us in the quest to match gifts with service.

*Jill McLellan & Deborah Wood, co-clerks*

## **Personnel Committee**

The Personnel Committee has enjoyed the consistent and helpful work of all its members this year. We have worked diligently to support the staff of the Yearly Meeting, reviewing their evaluations and ensuring that their benefits are appropriate and of a high quality. We have also continued our search for additional funding, through grant applications, to support the work of our Young Adult Field Secretary.

The committee is in the process of reviewing our policy in regard to sabbatical leave based on our experiences around the leave of our General Secretary. We continue to update other personnel policies as needed.

This year, we became aware of the need to clarify the respective roles of our committee and the Supervisory Committee for the General Secretary. We have had two joint meetings and have been able to better define the roles and responsibilities of the two committees.

*Barbara Menzel, Clerk*

## **Yearly Meeting Staff Reports**

### **Gabrielle Savory Bailey, Young Adult Field Secretary**

This work is a marathon, not a sprint. Not just for me, but for all of our Yearly Meeting. We are working together on something that is bigger than we are. How do we actively integrate, advocate for, and support people of all ages into the work and life of our monthly, regional, and yearly meetings? Now, after three years in this work, I see my role in this work differently. I am finally beginning to understand that I am not supposed to do all this work myself. While this may seem obvious, it has taken me a long time to understand this. For much of the past three years I felt that I had to be the motor, making things happen. This motor was getting pretty tired. I over-worked my hours in 2013, and I was beginning to feel like I was not up to the job. Then someone offered me a different perspective on my role. This was not as the motor, but as a spark plug.

I had to do a little research. *Wikipedia* says that a spark plug, “is a device for delivering electric current from an ignition system to the combustion chamber of a spark-ignition engine

to ignite the compressed fuel/air mixture by an electric spark, while containing combustion pressure within the engine.” And that, “In 1860 Étienne Lenoir used an electric spark plug in his gas engine, the first internal combustion piston engine. . . .”

Translation: It is not my job to motor through; it is my job to light the spark in a chamber that is ready to ignite, and do what I can to keep the combustible in the chamber. The invention and use of the spark plug in 1860 was a HUGE development for the internal combustion motor, a major innovation that changed our world. (Whether it was for better or for worse is up for debate.) It turned out to be a real splash maker in history.

So, that is where I have put my focus this last year. I have looked at where I see chambers of gas (sometimes they are a hidden surprise) that are ready to be lit, and I have simply shown up. For example, I noted that Young Adult Friends want to gather, but are hindered by four major factors: lack of time, lack of funds, lack of ability to travel long distances, and lack of childcare. So with the help of several Friends, I created a Young Adult Friends (YAF) mini-retreat model. These mini-retreats are designed to be one day, to move from region to region, drawing from a two-hour radius, be low cost (only a suggested donation of \$15-20), include food and child care, and have a focused topic with take-aways directly applicable to our daily lives. The program requires only the use of space from the host meeting.

The response to the one that was held by the time of this report was very positive. One participant said, “The YAF Mini Retreat was an all-around great, uplifting, and empowering experience. The ability to fit a retreat into one Saturday was perfect for my busy schedule.” Another said, “It was good to me to think about how much is on my plate, but also good to just know that we are not alone in our work or in our pursuit of a better world. My take away was to remember to be self-aware and centered.” By the time of publication of this report, two more mini-retreats will likely have happened, with another two scheduled for the fall. Several other meetings that also want to host an event have already contacted me.

Another way that I practiced this new spark plug perspective was that I planned a trip through Farmington-Scipio Region. Really, I just showed up, and asked people if they wanted a

visit. Over the course of this trip I was able to connect to YAF and families from five monthly meetings and worship groups. In one case I was invited to dinner at one family’s home. That simple invitation turned into a potluck for several families in the meeting. The discussion and fellowship that followed was fruitful. I realized that my role was to be a reason to gather. They were ready and eager for that reason, and it turned into a rich experience.

It has been shown to me over and over how this is true. I simply invited a few YAF to breakfast at a diner, and 17 people showed up (seven kids and ten adults)! We needed four tables! I simply offered the opportunity. One monthly meeting wanted to have more YAF, and a couple of them, out of just the few they had, starting inviting anyone under 40 to go to brunch at a nearby eatery once a month. Now they have dozens of YAF on their mailing list, and are faced with what to do with all the YAF they have attracted! All they did was wait in the lobby once a month and invite people to eat. Spark!

By mentioning things in my newsletter and on Facebook, people are finding opportunities that are opening doors for them. One YAF attender found out about Quaker Voluntary Service, applied, and was accepted for September. One family found out about a Powell House retreat that was a first, and very positive, experience there. Connections are being made! Sparks are flying! I have visited meetings who asked me to visit because they are “dying” and needed me to help them not die. But after our gathering, they were helping themselves. I have been witness to Young Adult Concerns Committee pulling together in business and in Nurture. By devoting one out of two online meetings a month simply to supporting each other spiritually, they are knowing each other better, and building momentum.

In September, I was invited to Indiana to be a co-facilitator for a workshop for Youth and Young Adult workers that Friends United Meeting sponsored. It was amazing. I was able to witness to enthusiasm and dedication of Friends across traditions, and yearly meetings. We learned a lot about each other. And that opportunity was also a time when fires were lit. Some of us from around the country are still in contact with each other.

I realize over and over that we are ready to do good work

together. We are desperate for it. NYYM is ready, and I am not the only spark plug, not by a long shot. What if we all sought out opportunities to be spark plugs? What if we showed up and lit fires? Sometimes it is a conversation, or a moment of worship. Sometimes it is simply all I can do to have the courage to show up, not for what result it might yield, but just because simply showing up is an act of faithfulness. I know that sometimes the spark doesn't light a fire, but that does not diminish the spark, and sometimes it takes repeated efforts for a fire to catch. The effect is often cumulative. Sometimes what has not worked in the past, catches brilliantly another time. Furthermore, I never know what about the things I do or say might catch. Often the things I do or say that are most impactful are not anticipated, and not planned. Most-times I never even know if it a fire caught, as the manifestation is often after the interaction. I never know what God will do, or how Spirit will show up. This is hard for me; I like predictable results and I have felt discouraged at times. I would appreciate prayers for my faithfulness as I continue to seek out these opportunities, and for patience when I want instant results.

I am ever grateful for this work, and blessed by the opportunities to stay in homes, visit meetings, share meals, share worship, and know so many Friends throughout NYYM. The support I feel is overwhelming, and the ways that God shows up are too numerous to count.

#### **Steven Davison, Communications Director**

This has been a breakthrough year for me as your Communications Director. Having seasoned the platforms for publishing our core publications and with the help of volunteers especially, I have found the time to refine those publications and to work on several long-term projects.

**Spark.** We published issues on the following themes since the last *Yearbook* was published: Patriotism II (in September 2013, an overflow from the Patriotism theme of May 2013), Keeping Faith: Answering that of God in All Creation (September, building on the theme for Summer Sessions 2013), Leadership (January 2014), Centering Down, and Outreach/Advancement (March and May respectively), both of which focus on

concerns we know matter to local meetings from the priorities identified by the Priorities Working Group from their extensive visitations.

**Spark forums.** We continue to publish theme-related *Spark* articles on the website using the website's forum module so that Friends can comment on them. So far, Friends have not availed themselves of this opportunity very much, so we hope you will consider doing so in the future. Note also that we always publish some articles from each issue in the web edition only, so be sure to see the web publication of *Spark*.

**Local meeting websites.** I helped several meetings upgrade their websites this year and I strongly encourage you to talk to me about how to improve the online presence of your own meeting. We believe that a decent website is the single most important outreach tool that a meeting can have. Ask for my guide to local meetings on how to approach improving your website. I would love to help.

**Quaker Resources section of the website.** I have built out the Resources section of the website (see the Resources tab of the menu bar) with literally hundreds of print and digital resources on more than fifty topics of Quaker interest. If you want to learn more about some aspect of Quakerism, you are likely to find what you're looking for on our website!

**Finding something on the website.** If you have trouble finding what you're looking for on the website, remember to try the search function in the upper right hand corner of any of our web pages. There's a lot of content on this site and we can't display everything prominently, so the fastest way to find something if you don't know where to look is often to use the Search. It works pretty well.

**Committees and the website.** Does your committee have an active web page? (Twenty-eight committees do not, and many others have virtually empty pages.) I have a document outlining the kinds of things you could be publishing there. Most valuable would be resources in your areas of concern (see Advancement, Conflict Transformation, Indian Affairs, Meetings for Discernment, and the Priorities Working Group, for examples). We also have published a resource *Guide for Committee Clerks* to help you clerks with your work, available as a download from the main Committees page.

**Movies online!** We published our first movies this year. Conflict Transformation Committee has filmed its workshop, *Conflict in Quaker Meetings: Crisis or Opportunity?*, and we have put these videos on our website. See the Conflict Transformation Committee's web page.

**Minutes, epistles, and reports, oh my!** Remember also that these documents of the Yearly Meeting appear online, as do the Yearly Meeting *Handbook, Faith & Practice*, and the last two issues of the *Yearbook*. We update both the Meetings and Committees sections of the *Yearbook* in real time, so the website is the best place to go for the latest information on our meetings and Yearly Meeting committees.

**Website redesign.** I am virtually finished redesigning the website and hope to roll the new site before year's end.

**Website tracking.** We have been tracking traffic to the site since August 1 of 2013 and have learned some interesting things. We have had over 56,000 visits to our site from August 1 to early June 2014, seventy-five percent of which were unique page views, meaning new people came to visit us. That's more than 200 visits a day! And the most visited page? The Doctrine of Discovery factsheet—proof that our press outreach worked and that having resources on your committee's page matters. Find A Meeting was the next most visited page—proof that being visible on the Internet matters.

**Social media—Facebook and Twitter.** The Yearly Meeting's Facebook page sees fairly frequent postings and we also use our Twitter account to get news out in a more timely fashion than our publication schedules for *Spark* and *InfoShare* can accommodate.

**Online sessions registration.** In collaboration with our online donation service, I developed online registration forms for Summer Sessions 2014 and we will have online registration for all Yearly Meeting Sessions going forward.

#### **Walter Naegle, Administrative Associate**

As in 2012-2013, the last year at the NYYM office also saw an overlap of my professional and personal lives. In addition to my usual duties at the office, Quaker meetings invited me to participate in screenings of *Brother Outsider*, the documen-

tary film about my late partner, NYYM member Bayard Rustin. August 28th 2013 was the 50th anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, a demonstration that Bayard orchestrated, and some meetings had observances of the event that included reminiscences from individuals who participated. A few weeks before the anniversary, President Obama announced that Bayard would receive a posthumous Presidential Medal of Freedom, and I was invited to the White House to receive the award. Since then I have spoken at Mary McDowell Friends School and at the "Acts of Conscience" event held at the Fifteenth Street Meetinghouse about Bayard's work and the Medal of Freedom ceremony. I enjoy these events because they provide an opportunity to talk about an LGBT Quaker of color whose work for social justice is still relevant. As a result, the conversation can be both historical and linked to present day issues.

My primary responsibility in the office continues to be maintaining the NYYM database, consisting of members of NYYM, members and former members of our prison worship groups, administrative offices of other yearly meetings (both domestic and international), organizations associated with the work of Friends, and individuals and groups who have asked to be included in our mailings. These records are the basis for compiling registration lists for the various Yearly Meeting sessions (Spring, Summer, Fall), as well as Meetings for Discernment and other events. The mailing lists for *Spark* and The Sharing Fund appeals are also generated from this information, as well as the global e-mail list for those interested in NYYM news, *InfoShare*, and events. The database also includes lists of elected officials whom we may contact about issues of concern to our community.

Using the database, I work closely with monthly meeting recorders who notify us about new members, births, transfers, deaths, and who provide the statistics about their meeting that appear in each NYYM *Yearbook*. Twice a year each Recorder receives a printout of their meeting's members which they compare with their records for accuracy. I organize the announcements about our membership that appear in *Spark*.

I work with Helen Garay Toppins on NYYM finances, process-

ing payment vouchers, reviewing bank statements, preparing bank deposits, and sending out acknowledgments for contributions to the Sharing and Equalization Funds. This year the Development Committee organized a year-end fundraising mailing and the database was instrumental in choosing recipients and collating the response.

I assist in collecting photographs and illustrations for use in *Spark* and *InfoShare*, and work on both the Alphabetical and Committee sections of the *Yearbook*. I collect the Epistles, State of Society Reports, and memorial minutes that are made available at Summer Sessions.

Routine tasks include answering the telephone, reviewing/responding to email, opening mail, ordering office supplies and shipping out copies of *Faith and Practice* and *NYYM Yearbooks*.

### **Helen Garay Toppins, Associate Secretary**

As I inch towards serving New York Yearly Meeting for almost a quarter of a century, I am delighted to say that I love my job. In past reports I outlined my administrative tasks. (Those reports are available on our website.) We shifted to a new on-line donation and registration service prior to processing Summer Sessions' registrations. This made my job exceptionally busy. I continue to visit meetings and worship groups. I really enjoy getting out into the field and worshipping with Friends at their home meetings. I particularly enjoy the fellowship of small meetings and worship groups. Please invite me.

### **Aging Resources Consultation and Help (ARCH) staff**

As ARCH staff members, we have been very present to the day-to-day experiences of our work: facilitating care for those among us who are growing older, and differently-abled adults. And even while we do this, we find that we are also looking to the future: planning for the continuing care of our vibrant network of ARCH Visitors, and growing into a more integrated role as NYYM staff.

The ARCH Program is our network of trained volunteer Visitors in a very real way. And this network has continued to grow and flourish this year. Over 80 people have attended a weekend-long Visitor training retreat to date. Visitors take

on many roles other than simply "visiting." Some facilitate workshops or conversation groups in their meetings. Others help Friends complete their advanced directives paperwork. Some are resources for their meeting: connecting them with information about Medicaid, housing options, or other local senior services. Some provide spiritual support in bedside worship, clearness, or more informal listening and conversation. And still others pursue social justice for aging incarcerated people, provide ministry around grief and loss, or grow in the spirit of their own aging, being an example and a Friend to those around them. Many Visitors are finding that their training supports the work they are already engaged in among Friends and in the world.

As ARCH Coordinators, part of our work is to nurture and grow this network. In 2013 we facilitated two well-attended ARCH training weekends: one in Syracuse, NY and one in Ocean Grove, NJ. Both of these retreats were intensive experiences of learning, nurture, and growth for those who attended. Many found their relationships to their monthly meetings shifted or deepened after their training. Attendees were as diverse in age, geography, ethnicity, and economic means as our Yearly Meeting is. Another training weekend was held at Powell House in May 2014.

ARCH Visitors from the Great Lakes/Central NY area joined Barbara Spring at Ithaca Monthly Meeting on September 13. New York City's vibrant network of Visitors met for an evening of fellowship and reflection with Callie Janoff on December 4. Our network is enriched as groups of Visitors join one another to discuss their experiences, learn from one another, and grow in community. Both of these Visitor Enrichment gatherings show us the way forward: once the Visitor Training is over, our network needs tending and nurture to remain engaged and to flourish in their work with their local meeting communities. As we look ahead to the future of our program, this guides our imagination and planning.

We were deeply disappointed when we had to cancel a weekend retreat planned for caregivers at Powell House on November 4 due to lack of enrollment. But with those lemons we made some truly delicious lemonade. Those who care for the

particularly disabled, frail, or ill among us have a special class of need, because they are often giving of themselves in ways that stretch them to the limits of their capabilities. We realized how challenging it is to step out of that role to take off a whole weekend to care for yourself. So in March of 2014 we offered a one-day retreat in the New York Metro area and another in the Upper Hudson region. Both were well attended and sparked both tears and laughter as we shared our journeys, ate together, were treated to massages, relaxed, and worshiped. We were aided by Patricia Runkle of Chatham-Summit Monthly Meeting who led both groups in a creative collage project that facilitated reflection on our many blessings and challenges in the course of our life's journey. New York's gathering was facilitated by the entire community of city Visitors who provided respite, made and delivered the food, gathered supplies, shared rides, and helped to organize and make possible a truly restful day of opening, renewal, and F/friendship.

In 2013 and 2014, ARCH has been guided by two particular areas of concern: aging incarcerated people, and issues of housing in later life.

Barbara and Anita have been meeting with the Committee on Aging Concerns' subcommittee for aging incarcerated people, which includes multiple seasoned prison visitors, prison worship group facilitators, and AVP participants. They have also been asked to visit several prison worship groups. They are working closely with Larry White of Morningside Monthly Meeting as he grows closer to implementing his "Hope for Lifers" program with the assistance of AFSC. This work is important to counteract the long sentences and the erratic parole process. There is growing interest in the inside and outside worship group communities to share resources and we continue to seek way forward with this work.

Our work with housing is also slow going. Our initial goal was to develop a material resource to aid Friends as they consider "Where will I live as I grow older?" We are learning that while some information about the basic classes of housing, what they generally cost, and what they offer is in high demand, other more specific information about what is available locally and the details about actual options are slippery, subjective, and

confusing to navigate. At Spring Sessions 2014 we presented a workshop to participants to consider the query: "Where will I live as I grow older?" in a spirit of discernment. In this spirit we were able to sort through information relevant to our concerns or interests while compassionately listening to what arises in us given the sometimes overwhelming emotional content of this question. We would like to continue engaging with these housing questions, and are imagining a tool that might address both the material and spiritual concerns embedded in the questions we ask.

All three of us continue to offer workshops on particular topics to groups on retreat, in their local meeting, and at larger gatherings. Popular topics this year have included "Aging and the Quaker Testimony of Community," "Quaker Values and End of Life Decision-making," "Ministry at Life's End—Vigiling," and "The Power of Music." We continue to craft new workshops or learning opportunities for groups on request.

We also provide direct care and nurture for a number of Friends around the NYYM community. In addition to making referrals to local Visitors when aging related needs are identified, we also provide support ourselves when the need arises. We make personal visits to individuals and families all over our NYYM geographic area, correspond by email, and spend time on the phone with as many Friends as we can.

We make a regular contribution to our NYYM newspaper *Spark* in a column called "ARCH Ways." Please look for our upcoming events and offerings in *Spark* and *InfoShare*.

Our work continues due to the generous support of the Friends Foundation for the Aging, and the grant that they award to our program each year. As we look ahead to the year before us, and the year after that we continue to seek out how we can be of the best use to our Yearly Meeting. We see our work not as singling out the oldest among us and targeting those people for our services. Instead, our work is to identify those who become separated from their communities of care due to the circumstances of their aging, disability, or the strain of caregiving for another; and as much as we can, to reunite them with a loving community committed and well prepared to be in relationship with them. Our effort is not targeted at the old, but rather the

whole of the body. It is in this spirit of wholeness and with a vision of unity and integrity that we continue to undertake our work with you, and we thank you for undertaking your work with us.

*Callie Janoff, Anita Paul, and Barbara Spring*

### **Records Committee**

*No report submitted*

### **Sessions Committee**

Our Sessions Committee has had a busy year. The 2013 Summer Sessions were well attended and logistics went smoothly, while the 2013 Fall Sessions, hosted by All Friends, was the largest such gathering in quite a long time! At the 2014 Spring Sessions, everyone agreed that the Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting Host Committee took good care of the participants.

Our Committee Handbook remains under revision and our NYYM *Handbook* page had its first reading at Spring Sessions. Progress is not quick here, but while we are a very tactical committee we are also a reflective one and have learned to allow things to season.

Our Spring and Fall Sessions Subcommittee has been busy and we are delighted to report a renewed vigor and engagement with our youth at these meetings, which in the past had been sadly lacking. This is not for want of trying or good efforts, but our recent Host Committees have taken on the addition of a vital Youth Program to their work with an energy and joy that has been much appreciated by many young Friends. The subcommittee continues to improve its processes (see our online handbook, which has grown exponentially!), and works to confirm host regions as early as possible, as far into the future as possible.

At our 2014 winter meeting we chose this year's theme for Summer Sessions—*Moving into Action: Where is God Leading Us?* As at last year's meeting, the room was full and we often fell into worship as ideas, insights, and an agenda began to form. We learned from our experience last year to consider carefully all of the constituencies that we strive to serve. Again as last year,

there are significant changes to our week-at-a-glance schedule. We have allocated a good deal of time to review the work and recommendations of the Priorities Working Group and moved our meetings for worship with a concern for business to the afternoons, thus enabling those from Junior Yearly Meeting who have long expressed a desire to “know what goes on in there” to engage in the work of our Yearly Meeting. We have worked with Silver Bay Association to keep costs for our 2014 Summer Sessions the same as 2013 with minimal impact. Our plenary speaker is from within our own Yearly Meeting and promises to challenge and engage us. We have provided beautiful brochures to all monthly meetings to garner interest among Friends who do not typically attend our Summer Sessions. In addition, Silver Bay did a mailing to our YM mailing list (at no cost to us and with the approval of GSCC) to further publicize Summer Sessions and entice first time attenders.

In 2013, our Equalization Fund donations enabled us to assist all those who requested to attend our Spring / Fall Sessions and we were able to assist 64 people attend Summer Sessions at Silver Bay.

As this report is being written, email volume and calls increase among committee members and the YM office as our Summer Sessions approach. It is a time to remember our theme—*Where is God Leading Us?*—as we scramble with the details of this conference. It is a time not to get lost in all the planning but to remember that when we begin to engage in our work we allow ourselves to be led by the One who is love.

*Roseann Press, clerk*

### **Supervisory Committee for the General Secretary**

The SCGS has met regularly this year, in Manhattan, in northern New Jersey, and in Albany, both in person and by teleconference. The committee typically meets with the General Secretary for a period of time, and then in executive session without the General Secretary present. In addition, a designated member of the Committee is responsible for checking in with the General Secretary on a monthly basis for any updates that may be important.

The SCGS carries out a range of supervisory activities, providing guidance and support to the General Secretary and evaluating his performance. As part of the evaluation process, we ask the General Secretary for a self-evaluation. We invite monthly meeting and Yearly Meeting committee clerks to share observations about their interactions with the General Secretary throughout the year.

In the late fall, the committee reaches out formally to monthly meetings and to committee clerks for observations, affirmations, and concerns regarding the General Secretary's work, and then compiles and synthesizes those responses into a draft document that is shared with the General Secretary. The document is compared with the priorities and work plan that have been jointly developed by the committee and the General Secretary working in collaboration, and a final draft is written and approved. The SCGS keeps this document on file and shares it with the clerk of the Personnel Committee, who maintains the Yearly Meeting's personnel files.

The priorities and work plan for the new year grow from the past year's evaluation document, and from the stated priorities of the Yearly Meeting.

This year, the SCGS has been involved in discussions with the Personnel Committee regarding the distinctions between our roles and areas in which it may be appropriate for us to share the overlap in our work more fully.

*Spee Braun and Peter Baily, co-clerks*

### **Trustees, Lindley Murray Fund**

The Lindley Murray Fund trustees meet once each year. At our meeting February 4, 2014 we reviewed applications from eleven organizations and approved distribution of grants totaling 30,779. An additional grant, guaranteed as 7.5% of the Fund's annual income, is given to the New York Female Association for minority education stipends (\$2,372 this year).

All of the eleven requests this year were from organizations that had received grants the previous year, but not all previous applicants had reapplied. In at least one case this may have been due to missed communication. In all cases the award was

the same or higher than the previous year.

NYYM, in Fall Sessions, proposed special increases to Friends General Conference and Oakwood Friends School sufficient to make up, at least partially, for reductions in the donations portion of the 2014 NYYM operating budget. In response to their applications we awarded a grant to FGC of \$4,000 and to Oakwood \$6,000, reminding each that the increase from prior amounts was based on a one-year decision relating to the changes in the NYYM 2014 donation, and that these are not established levels for future years.

The organizations whose projects were awarded grants in the amounts shown are:

American Friends Service Committee	3,000
Alternatives to Violence Project-NY	1,779
Amerinda	2,000
Friends Committee on Nat'l Legislation	2,500
Friends General Conference	4,000
<i>Friends Journal</i>	3,000
Indian Affairs Committee	1,500
Long Island Council of Churches	2,000
Oakwood Friends School	6,000
Powell House	3,000
Youth Service Opportunities Program	2,000

There is no automatic extension or guarantee of a repeat award. Each grantee is expected to send an explanation of how the previous year's grant was used for the stated purpose when submitting a new request. Deadline for applying for awards in 2015 is December 31, 2014. Application letters may be addressed to the NYYM office, to be forwarded to the Trustees.

A recent historical account of the Lindley Murray Fund is found in last year's report (*Yearbook* 2013-2014, page 84). The purposes of the fund are summarized as: (1) to liberate Black people from slavery and give them, their descendants, and other Black persons suitable education; (2) to promote the civilization and instruction of the Indians of North America; (3) to purchase and distribute books tending to promote piety and virtue and the truth of Christianity; and (4) to assist and relieve the poor in any description and in any manner that may be judged proper.

*John H. Cooley, convener*

## **NYYM Trustees**

At Summer Sessions 2013, four New Trustees were appointed. During the interim, I assumed the role of Clerk/President pro tem and Mary Williams became the Treasurer pro tem. The appointments were formally approved at our first meeting in September, 2013.

I reported at Spring Sessions 2014 and a copy of my report is attached to those minutes, which are available on the Yearly Meeting website.

Since Spring Sessions the Trustees have met once more. We discussed the Corporation By-Laws and agreed that they need to be brought up to date. We approved that Frederick Dettmer and Peter Phillips will form a sub-committee to consult with others both on and off the Board and bring their recommendations to a future meeting.

We approved a standard Conflict of Interest form to be executed by the Trustees annually and completed forms will be filed in the Yearly Meeting office.

We also approved a form for Grantee Accountability that will be distributed starting this year and in future years.

Friends should be reminded that we now post a Trustee's Financial Report to the Yearly Meeting website quarterly and that the descriptions of Trusts are also posted there.

Following is an abbreviated version of our Year-End Report. The first section comprises funds distributed regularly twice yearly to designated beneficiaries. The second section comprises funds where the dividend is retained pending requests.

Please note that the trustees have a fund that is used for expenses related to managing the trusts. Meeting-owned funds are not included in this report because they are accounted for separately.

*Linda S. Houser, Clerk/President  
New York Yearly Meeting Trustees*

## *NYYM Trustees Financial Report*

<b>Regularly Distributed Funds</b>	<b>YE 2013 Value</b>	<b>2013 Distribution</b>
<b>NYYM Operating Budget</b>		
Cheeseman Memorial	\$17,438	\$713.76
Treasurer's	232,767	9,527.13
Helene E. Kenmore	27,647	1,131.60
Stamford-Greenwich	88,539	908.11
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$366,392</i>	<i>\$12,280.60</i>
<b>Advancement Committee Funds</b>		
Women's	\$10,463	428.26
Martin Leach	69,754	2,855.00
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$80,217</i>	<i>\$3,283.26</i>
<b>Indian Affairs</b> (sub-fund in Sharing Fund)		
Mae D. Barton	\$68,428	\$2,800.75
Levinus Painter Scholarship	7,893	323.04
Enzo Ferrante	12,011	491.61
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$88,332</i>	<i>\$3,615.41</i>
<b>Mosher Committee</b>		
Henry H. Mosher	\$91,377	\$3,740.06
<b>World Ministries</b> (sub-fund in Sharing Fund)		
Sutton-Haviland	\$3,488	\$142.76
Ellen L. Congdon	27,901	1,142.00
Ellen Collins Missionary	69,754	2,855.00
Loder Chapel	6,975	285.50
Mary F. Thomas	12,556	513.90
Dikran B. Donchian Mission	104,630	4,282.50
Agnes Lawrence	202,285	8,279.50
Ella J. Chapman	48,827	1,998.50
Smyrna Meeting	5,022	205.56
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$481,439</i>	<i>\$19,705.22</i>

<b>Fund</b>	<b>YE 2013 Value</b>	<b>2013 Distribution</b>
<b>Powell House</b>		
Ella L. Burdge	\$58,140	\$2,379.64
Emma Cheeseman Bruns	123,882	5,070.48
Maria W. Barton	90,122	3,688.66
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$272,143</b>	<b>\$11,138.78</b>
<b>Friends Historical Library</b>		
Irving B. Rymph	\$135,671	\$5,552.97
John B. Cox Memorial	23,730	971.29
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$159,401</b>	<b>\$6,524.26</b>
<b>Manasquan Monthly Meeting</b>		
Ella J. Burdge	\$58,140	\$2,379.64
<b>Oakwood Scholarship</b>		
Dikran B. Donchian	\$34,877	\$1,427.50
Educational	172,291	7,051.86
Simeon Loder	80,217	3,283.26
High Point	84,541	3,460.26
Henry Y. Ostrander	13,532	553.88
Lotta Merrill Scholarship	15,834	648.09
George H. Carpenter	160,363	6,563.65
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$561,655</b>	<b>\$22,988.50</b>
<b>Oakwood Administrative</b>		
Slocum Howland	\$69,754	\$2,855.00
Edward B. Underhill	3,488	142.76
Oakwood Endowment	69,754	2,855.00
Oakwood Biblical	5,580	228.40
John G. Lane	697,535	28,550.00
Grace & Freeman Shepherd	69,056	2,826.46
Ellen Collins	104,630	4,282.50
Loder-Clark	34,877	1,427.50
Skaneateles	27,901	1,142.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,082,574</b>	<b>\$44,309.62</b>
<b>Friends Foundation for the Aging</b>		
Margaret B. Dietrich	\$118,023	\$4,830.66

<b>Fund</b>	<b>YE 2013 Value</b>	<b>2013 Distribution</b>	
<b>Nine Partners Quarterly Meeting</b>			
Albert B. Merritt	\$6,487	\$265.51	
Highland Mills	6,208	254.09	
Milton Meeting	26,367	1,079.20	
Magill	2,646	108.28	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$41,708</b>	<b>\$1,707.08</b>	
<b>Total Regularly Distributed</b>		<b>\$3,401,400</b>	<b>\$136,503.07</b>
<b>DIVIDENDS HELD PENDING REQUESTS (Retained Income Funds)</b>			
<b>Fund</b>	<b>YE 2013 Value</b>	<b>2013 Distribution</b>	<b>Retained Income</b>
<b>Donor Restricted Requested by Named Approvers</b>			
Mahlon York	\$243,860	\$9,300.00	\$7,642.54
Stevens	148,011	6,150.00	13,543.26
Lockport	19,625	2,075.00	1,174.54
Brinkerhoff	17,020	2,075.00	775.25
Sufferings	22,930	0.00	10,364.68
<b>Total Named Approvers</b>	<b>\$442,445</b>	<b>\$19,600.00</b>	<b>\$33,500.27</b>
<b>Donor Restricted Approved by Trustees</b>			
Caleb Sutton	\$7,743	\$0.00	\$2,246.90
Nathaniel Smith	15,346	4,306.25	158.95
Jesse P. Haines	38,796	2,700.49	7,328.38
Sophia M. Beers	6,276	693.75	632.05
Morris Cemetery	14,315	0.00	18,028.84
Monkton Ridge	41,845	6,341.50	13,185.30
Underhill-Yorktown	24,202	0.00	3,091.28
John DeForest	0	2,153.55	0.00
<b>Total Trustee Approved</b>	<b>\$148,524</b>	<b>\$16,195.54</b>	<b>\$44,671.69</b>
<b>NYYM Independent Funds</b>			
Lindley Murray	\$803,109	\$32,164.10	\$33,274.28
Sharing Endowment	524,880	25,300.00	6,446.60
<b>Total NYYM Ind Funds</b>	<b>\$1,327,989</b>	<b>\$57,464.10</b>	<b>\$39,720.88</b>

<b>Fund</b>	<b>YE 2013 Value</b>	<b>2013 Distribution</b>	<b>Retained Income</b>
<b>Approved by Trustees with No Donor Restrictions</b>			
General Fund	\$14,040	\$0.00	\$5,340.08
Florence Stevens	139,819	0.00	15,239.30
<b>Total Unrestricted</b>	<b>\$153,860</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$20,579.38</b>
<b>Total Retained Income</b>	<b>\$2,072,817</b>	<b>\$93,259.64</b>	<b>\$138,472.23</b>
<b>TOTAL NYYM FUNDS</b>	<b>\$5,474,218</b>	<b>\$229,763</b>	

## NURTURE SECTION

### Nurture Coordinating Committee

Nurture Section and its committees have continued to work on supporting and nurturing Friends of all ages in our Yearly Meeting. With this goal in mind, we have scheduled a Nurture Weekend at Powell House in September. It will be led by John Scardina, Melinda Wenner Bradley, and Chris deRoller. What a joy to have Friends with these skills as a resource in our Yearly Meeting!

This year, programming for youth at Fall and Spring Sessions was well thought out, carefully planned, and served as a magnet for young Friends to get together. Special thanks to the host committees for doing the work involved in providing opportunities both for service and to attend committee meetings over these weekends. More adults attended these sessions than in recent years, probably mainly because their children insisted that those were the places to be.

JYM is working to have more transparency in their finances and to bring more Quaker content to Summer Sessions. The Resource Library, with its wealth of materials for religious education, will have a temporary home at Bulls Head-Oswego Meeting. Friends there will be reviewing what is available and how it can be made more readily accessible.

A Drug and Alcohol Task Group has been formed, clerked by Jen Perry. A number of Friends shared ideas and concerns during a discussion at Spring Sessions. Unfortunately, those who had agreed to serve were unable to attend, but strategies for dealing with the issues are becoming more clear.

The Chwele Task Group has received some funding for Friends to visit Chwele, although this probably won't happen until 2015. There is still hope that someone from Chwele will be attending the FUM Triennial this summer, and might be able to come to our Summer Sessions at Silver Bay.

The Nurture Section web page is in the process of being organized and updated.

*Deborah B. Wood, clerk*

## **Committee on Aging Concerns**

The primary task of our Committee is to provide oversight for the ARCH program, as it continues to serve the aging and disabled adults in our NYYM community. A detailed report on ARCH's good work this year is included in the staff reports following the Personnel Committee's report.

Our oversight includes approving all expenses related to the roughly \$60,000 grant from the Friends Foundation for the Aging. It also includes helping the staff plan both for the short term and, more importantly, for the long term. We are particularly concerned about succession issues since two of the three staff members are considering retirement in the next few years.

We are also considering ways to improve the way we manage and nurture a growing number of ARCH-trained volunteer Visitors who are providing such valuable service throughout New York Yearly Meeting.

Finally, we continue to address the challenge of objectively measuring and evaluating the impact of our activities in ways that are not too time-consuming and are truly helpful as we go forward.

Our Committee has been blessed to have very engaged members, including Hans-Jurgen Lehmann, who is a liaison with the Personnel Committee. His regular input and the various efforts by others have led to an increased integration of ARCH staff into the whole NYYM operation. We believe this has been satisfying and productive for all.

Committee members offer hands-on involvement by serving as elders at the ARCH workshops and retreats and wherever else we're needed, by promoting the ARCH program and resources in our monthly meetings and elsewhere in NYYM, and by participating in some of the work the staff is doing with (and concerning) incarcerated and formerly incarcerated F/friends.

We are very grateful for the three fine staff members (whom we call "Coordinators"), Callie Janoff, Anita Paul, and Barbara Spring, for the many Visitors we depend upon and learn from, for the generosity of the Friends Foundation for the Aging, and for all who appreciate and support the work we are doing.

We are also proud that the ARCH program is a model for other yearly meetings and that staff members are occasionally paid to travel beyond the NYYM to share what we are doing

*Dare Thompson , clerk*

## **Epistle Committee**

*No report submitted*

## **Friends General Conference representatives**

FGC is a national organization serving 15 unprogrammed yearly meetings, and 12 directly affiliated monthly meetings in the United States and Canada. In 2012, this Vision Statement was approved.

We envision a vital and growing Religious Society of Friends—a faith that deepens spiritually, welcomes newcomers, builds supportive and inclusive community, and provides loving service and witness in the world. Through Friends General Conference, we see Quakers led by the Spirit joining together in ministry to offer services that help Friends, meetings, and seekers explore, deepen, connect, serve and witness within the context of our living faith.

New York Yearly Meeting representatives attend Central Committee, the governing board of FGC. We meet each fall with about 145 representatives from the other affiliated yearly and monthly meetings for four days at a conference center near Baltimore. This long weekend of worship with a concern for business brings together all 15 spirit-led committees of FGC. As the work of FGC is done by these committees (several of which include NYYM reps as members), we receive reports, discern and season ways forward, and approve the budget. This year, General Secretary Barry Crossno (who visited NYYM Summer Sessions in 2012 and 2013) is calling us to provide newcomers with support and education as they seek to learn about the Religious Society of Friends. He says, "We need to do more than tell newcomers they will absorb Quakerism by osmosis." And as we in New York Yearly Meeting continue to seek our vitality by exploring, deepening, and naming our witness, we are walking side by side with Friends General Conference in growing into a strong Religious Society of Friends.

There isn't room to mention all of FGC's projects and programs; here is news of three:

The QuakerBooks website is being updated, which will allow Friends to browse the bookstore and make purchases more easily. QuakerBooks has made some of its most popular titles available as e-books—be sure to check them out.

Quaker Quest is an FGC program to help people who would like to learn more about Friends. This inreach/outreach program led or supported 45 events during 2013, including workshops and public sessions with several sessions right here in our own Yearly Meeting.

The Stewardship Services program assists Friends with Retirement Planning, Financial & Estate Planning, and Socially Responsible Investing. Workshops can be arranged for meetings or regional groups, coupled with free financial consultations for individuals. To provide these services, FGC has formed a partnership with Everance, a financial organization of the Mennonite Church, USA. Dozens of Friends across the country participated in this program in the last year.

Projects are kept moving by a relatively small staff of about 25 people and a large number of volunteer committee members and Friends who are led to working groups.

Here are the ways in which your FGC representatives are currently serving Central Committee:

Annie Bancroft—Committee on Nurturing Ministries (CNM) Deepening Subcommittee

Gretchen Haynes—Committee on Nurturing Ministries, Growing Subcommittee

William Seltzer—Finance Committee, Personnel Committee, FGC Rep to Friends Pension Plan

Karen Snare—Executive Committee, Long Range Conference Planning

Barbara von Salis—Long Range Conference Planning

Barbara Andrews—Long Range Conference Planning

Ernestine Buscemi—FGC Nominating Committee (Clerk), Advisory Committee, Executive Committee

Joyce Ketterer—Executive Committee, Nominating Committee

Richard Regan—Finance Committee, Long Range Conference Planning

Buffy Curtis—Central Committee, Nurturing Support

Please talk to any of these Friends about the work of Friends General Conference or go to [www.fgcquaker.org](http://www.fgcquaker.org) for more information.

We hope you can get a feel from these brief highlights, both of the work, and of how your New York Yearly Meeting Representatives carry the responsibility you and FGC have given us. We move forward together, helping to grow and strengthen our faith community we call the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) with Spirit as our Guide.

*Ernestine Buscemi and Karen Snare, co-clerks*

### **Friends United Meeting Representatives**

*No report submitted.*

### **Friends World Committee on Consultation (FWCC) Committee**

“The purpose of the Friends World Committee for Consultation is to encourage fellowship among all the branches of the Religious Society of Friends. The Quaker community circles the globe, spanning a rich diversity of regional cultures, beliefs, and styles of worship. FWCC, through its four section offices, runs programs in different regions, uniting Friends around the world through Spirit-led fellowship.”

This year the FWCC Section of the Americas had four regional gatherings, or consultations instead of the annual Section meeting. The unifying theme was “Let the Living Water Flow!” Gloria Thompson represented NYYM at the regional consultation in North Carolina. Sylke Jackson and Mike Clark attended the El Salvador gathering with over 100 participants from 18 different yearly meetings and groups of Friends in Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Nicaragua, plus Bolivia and the United States. Programmed devotionals were held at the beginning and end of each day, with Friends from different countries leading in prayer, music, Bible reading

and vocal messages as a way of grounding each plenary session. Unprogrammed worship was held on Saturday afternoon before dinner and Sunday morning right after breakfast. 50-75 people came and the vocal ministry was deep and frequent.

Two youth delegates will represent New York Yearly Meeting on the 2014 Quaker Youth Pilgrimage. The Youth Pilgrimage is jointly sponsored by the FWCC section of the Americas and the Europe and Middle East Section. The 2014 Youth Pilgrimage, “Cradles of Andean Quakerism,” will be from July 22 to August 21 in Peru and Bolivia.

The mix of pilgrims will be roughly nine from Perú and Bolivia, nine from other yearly meetings in the Section of the Americas, and nine from the Europe & Middle East Section. The 2016 Quaker Youth Pilgrimage should be in the Europe and Middle East section.

The North East Regional co-clerks, George Rubin and Gloria Thompson, have begun working to plan for a gathering within the Northeastern Region of FWCC Section of the Americas and will be formulating those plans with representatives from NYYM, New England YM, Philadelphia YM, and Eastern Canadian to decide on the specifics for this regional gathering (date, location, and host YM).

The next meeting of the of the FWCC-Section of the Americas will be March 12–15, 2015, in Mexico City. The theme will be “Friends Woven Together in God’s Love.”

An FWCC International Representatives’ Meeting will be held in Arequipa, Peru, from January 16-20, 2016. This world-wide FWCC gathering replaces the Triennial meetings of representatives and will be held every four years.

*Michael Clark, clerk*

### **Junior Yearly Meeting Committee**

The Junior Yearly Meeting Committee, (JYM Committee), organizes Junior Yearly Meeting, the program for Friends and friends of Friends under the age of 18 who attend Summer Sessions. Most of the day-to-day work at Summer Sessions (and the planning ahead time) is done by coordinators appointed by the committee and the 20-30 adults they recruit who volunteer to help.

In ways old and new the kids in JYM actively, playfully participated in NYYM 2013. Last summer, as they have done for decades, they helped organize and put on Fun(d) Fair and Café Night, events that raise money for the Sharing Fund and Powell House. The high school group was led by teenage clerks, who now routinely attend a clerking workshop in the winter and plan their session at the JYM planning weekend in the spring. The high school students started their morning in worship sharing groups with the adults. All of JYM ended their morning sessions in community worship with the adults.

New to JYM’s 2013 summer session was the scheduling of the Plenary speaker Freida J. Jacques, Clanmother of the Turtle Clan of the Onondaga Nation, on Monday morning, with the expectation that everyone, including JYM, would be gathered to hear her. This was spurred by rising leadings throughout NYYM to increase the involvement of JYM in the life and work of the Yearly Meeting. All but the two youngest groups attended.

In the JYM Committee meetings many issues are being discussed. There is ongoing dialogue and listening about the impact of alcohol and drug use on our community. We are working to respond to the request from Financial Services and Nurture Coordinating Committee to have a clear policy for volunteer financial requests and scholarships and to put a process and oversight in place to anticipate and account for expenditures. We talk about how to structure age groups and recruit volunteers.

Under it all, in less focus but insistent, is a growing sense that we, the larger we of Friends and friends of Friends, want to reimagine JYM.

*Aldona Januszkiewicz (co-clerk) &  
Emily Provance (recording clerk)*

### **Oakwood Friends School**

Oakwood Friends School’s year has been characterized by the optimism and energy that come from religiously, economically, and geographically diverse students, engaged and creative faculty members, and spirited community life guided by Friends principles.

Having successfully completed our ten-year, re-accreditation process last year, conducted by the New York State Association of Independent Schools, Oakwood was ready to re-focus this year on future planning. We implemented a “global studies program” that involves a particular track of history, economics, and international language courses, followed by a culminating independent project. We also began a program in Mandarin Chinese. Both of these initiatives speak to Oakwood’s commitment to educating students for the increasingly connected global society in which they will live in the years ahead. These programs also spring from our Quaker belief that our school community is enriched by welcoming diversity and striving to understand and embrace difference.

The Friends Committee, whose membership includes both students and faculty, was especially active in planning programs to help foster dialogue regarding Quaker testimonies within a diverse community. A group of faculty and students traveled again to New Orleans during spring break to help with the continued rebuilding process in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, and another group of students worked with a shelter for local women and children who have experienced incidents of domestic violence. Our sophomore class continued its tradition of participation in YSOP in New York City. An endowed lectureship focusing on social justice brought a distinguished Quaker activist to campus to speak about the imperative for civil disobedience. Two groups of students traveled to Model United Nations conferences, one in Montreal and one at Dartmouth College, to immerse themselves in simulated challenges of international diplomacy. Individual and small-group volunteer projects continued each week within the local Hudson Valley. And this winter, four of our students (including one from Rwanda) and two faculty members participated in the Quaker Youth Leadership Conference, held this year at Westtown School in Pennsylvania.

Looking ahead, Oakwood plans two renovation projects this summer, in Lane Auditorium and in the Main Building. Both will involve creating enhanced public spaces and classrooms for music, painting, drawing, and ceramics, more efficient heating systems, and renewed, energy efficient windows. These simple but aesthetically pleasing enhancements will affect the quality

of education and community life for every student and adult in the school. This work is made possible by generous friends of the school who designated capital donations for this purpose. Both renovations are part of Oakwood’s long-range campus master plan.

All of you who support Oakwood Friends School participate in our school’s endeavors, however far you may be from the campus. None of the school’s work could be done without those who have helped to sustain and nurture this institution over the years. Alumni, members of the Board of Managers, parents, faculty, staff, administrators, friends of the school and Friends in New York Yearly Meeting and beyond, all work together to make this school an exceptional place for young people to learn and to form the values that will guide them on the varied paths of their lives. This year, we have been reminded again of our Quaker heritage and its powerful resonance in the complex world around us.

*Peter F. Baily, Head of School*

*Libby Levinson Moroff ’54, President, Board of Managers*

### **Elsie K. Powell House, Inc.**

The Spirit is alive and well at Powell House. In 2013-2014 Powell House continued to provide youth and adult programming. In addition, space was provided for NYYM activities, such as a Pastors’ Retreat, JYM Planning, Advancement Weekend, and Coordinating Committee meetings; for seven monthly meeting retreats; and for seven Friends school retreats. The Powell House Youth Directors continued to be a resource for the planning of youth programming at Fall and Spring Sessions, in addition to taking Powell House programming on the road to monthly meetings that could not come to us. The penthouse suite in Pitt Hall was renovated and has become a place for longterm sojourners to stay. The current resident is a Lutheran minister who serves a church in Chatham. Financially, the year will end slightly in the black, buoyed by an above budget response to our Annual Giving Appeal. While we have lost the income from Old Chatham Monthly Meeting’s rental of our library for worship, we rejoice with them in the completion of their sunny new meeting house across the street.

Powell House's adult programs provided some old favorites with continuing relevance. Arthur Larrabee's Clerking Weekend included two young adult attendees, thereby preparing a new generation for Quaker leadership. The Creativity and Spirituality weekend for the second year filled both houses and has expanded to include quilting, fabric journaling, upholstery, knitting, crocheting, weaving, water coloring, sculpting, photography, and music making. Next year, baking will be added. New weekends included Couple's Enrichment, Phil Gulley, and Eldering in the 21st Century. The intergenerational Spring and Fall Work Weekends, Messiah Sing, and New Year's were full and lively. In all, 526 adults and 127 children attended Powell House programs, 95% from NYYM. 219 adults, 31 children, and one infant attended monthly meeting retreats.

Powell House's Youth Program brought in a new high in youth fees and served 256 individuals (kids, parents and young adults). Attendees came from twenty-four different monthly meetings in NYYM, as well as a handful of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting meetings and Friends Schools. To support the continued development of youth program graduates, the co-facilitator program brought those graduates back to help design and implement youth retreats in collaboration with the youth program directors. Since 2007, over twenty-five young adults have served as co-facilitators.

As always, the challenges of maintaining our buildings and property continue. Unanticipated repairs become necessary. This year two pipes burst in the Anna Curtis Center during a cold snap. The record snows of this past winter created additional snow removal costs. As responsible stewards of our assets, we must also be pro-active about maintenance, and have begun to consider the need to replace the Pitt Hall roof. The renovation of the Anna Curtis Center continues with plans to replace the kitchen cabinets.

The Powell House Committee continued its work of strategic planning and visioning for the future. This year, we started the work of developing a list of necessary long-term capital projects, thinking about succession planning, and continuing to address how best "to foster the spiritual growth of Friends and others and to strengthen the application of Friends' testimonies in the world.

*Elizabeth K. Powers, President of the Corporation*

**Statement of Financial Position  
As of March 31, 2014 and 2013**

	March 31, 2014 (unaudited)	March 31, 2013 (audited)
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts/Investments	\$ 1,040,312	\$ 937,755
Accounts Receivable	(22,155)	1,226
Other Current Assets	<u>771</u>	<u>384</u>
Total Current Assets	1,018,928	939,365
Fixed Assets	<u>981,464</u>	<u>982,274</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 2,000,392</b>	<b>\$ 1,921,639</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$ 5,739	\$ 3,181
Other Current Liabilities	<u>28,200</u>	<u>30,877</u>
Total Current Liabilities	33,939	34,058
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>33,939</b>	<b>34,058</b>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>1,966,453</b>	<b>1,887,581</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	<b>\$ 2,000,392</b>	<b>\$ 1,921,639</b>

**Statement of Activities  
For the years ending March 31, 2014 and 2013**

	March 31, 2014 (unaudited)	March 31, 2013 (audited)
<b>INCOME</b>		
Contributions	\$ 73,584	\$ 79,637
Guest fees	286,305	260,935
Investment income	37,725	85,661
New York Yearly Meeting	59,180	76,224
Rental income	3,320	7,200
Other revenue	<u>3,244</u>	<u>1,983</u>
<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$ 463,358</b>	<b>\$ 511,640</b>

	March 31, 2014 (unaudited)	March 31, 2013 (audited)
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Administration & Office Expenses	\$ 34,457	\$ 38,870
Adult & Youth Program Direct Costs	18,830	16,957
Annuities	730	730
Buildings & Grounds	79,568	65,889
Fundraising	3,367	2,117
Housekeeping & Food	39,732	29,010
Personnel	283,251	272,684
<b>Total Cash Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 459,935</b>	<b>\$ 426,257</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>\$ 34,688</b>
<b>Total Functional Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 459,935</b>	<b>\$ 460,945</b>
<b>NET ORDINARY INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 3,423</b>	<b>\$ 50,695</b>

### **Young Adult Concerns Committee**

*Young Adult Concerns Committee submitted the epistle written from their May 30, 2014 gathering in Alfred, New York, as their Advance Report.*

To Friends Everywhere,

On May 30, 2014–June 1, 2014, members of the Young Adult Concerns Committee of the New York Yearly Meeting of Friends gratefully gathered in Alfred, New York, supported by the hospitality of Alfred Monthly Meeting, who fed and housed us. We gathered with the intention of deepening in worship together, expanding our understandings of our individual Faith journeys and discerning our leadings as a committee. What occurred exceeded those goals. We envisioned the ways in which our committee is being led to serve the Yearly Meeting, even if it diverges from what is anticipated or expected of us. We aspire to nurture and connect Young Adult Friends (YAF) within the Yearly Meeting and beyond, but we are also called to nurture and support the Religious Society of Friends as a whole.

We foresee Young Adult Friends leading a worldwide Quaker movement that utilizes the tools, old and new, that our Faith

offers to enable Friends (and friends) to deepen in Spiritual inter-visitation, prayers, worship, discernment, clearness, stories, workshops, and Opportunities. We see ourselves acting as a foundation to nurture growth and Faithfulness within society (and our Religious Society) through our positive outlook of change. We can challenge ourselves to look deeply at our Faith (and our Faith community) and in turn challenge others to do the same. In recognizing this, we challenged ourselves to stop dwelling in obscure language and instead hold in the light the corners of our Faith community in which there is darkness. As we held these concerns, we endeavored to tenderly and faithfully listen and move forward with integrity.

What is a Quaker? What do Quakers believe? What is “worship”? What does it mean to be in Community? We realized, through a simple role-playing exercise, that we do not all know how to answer these questions, nor have most of us ever been encouraged to try. This was profound. How have some of us grown from children to adults within a religious society without ever taking the opportunity to learn what it is that we are, or rather what we are striving to be? This was frustrating at first: why did there seem to be so few opportunities to speak about our Faith with one other? However, it quickly became joyful and exciting to have a forum to express our experiences of the Divine and our Faith and to endeavor to live in a way that testifies to these experiences. We embraced this blessed invitation to go deep with each other, giving time to those things that are often overlooked or taken as self-evident. We continued with awareness of our jargon, taking time to define what we meant when we said things like “let’s settle.” Unsurprisingly, this meant something different to each of us. But all definitions fostered the experience that we all seek.

We are called to action. Our God is dynamic. We must respond to continuing revelation among us and support the new leadings of the Divine working among us. Our Faith is active. How can we live deeply into our Faith? We sense that it will require much more than what our current structures offer. This energizes us.

*Young Adult Concerns Committee*

## Young Friends in Residence Committee

*No report submitted.*

## Youth Committee

The charge of the youth committee is to

- facilitate communication and exchange of resources and information among youth, youth workers, and the committees and groups with a concern for youth within New York Yearly Meeting;
- support Spirit-led, intergenerational youth work in monthly meetings and worship groups, regional meetings, and Yearly Meeting;
- articulate to the Yearly Meeting as a whole the comprehensive needs and goals concerning youth.

Members of the youth committee supported and shared resources with the Fall and Spring Sessions host committees during their planning processes. Both gatherings had excellent, but very different, youth programs;

The committee was asked to review the first two sections of a NYYM youth programming manual written by Chris DeRoller, co-director of the Yearly Meeting's Powell House youth program:

1. A Framework for Quaker Youth Programming
2. Sessions Youth Program Manual

One monthly meeting began to use the "Framework" in their planning. It is available on the Powell House web site at [www.powellhouse.org/framework.pdf](http://www.powellhouse.org/framework.pdf).

The youth committee asked to be part of a discussion on a proposed youth field secretary position. The general secretary and young adult field secretary met with us as a result and we anticipate being included as that discussion progresses.

*Michael Clark, convener*

## WITNESS SECTION

### Witness Coordinating Committee

Witness Coordinating Committee (WCC) is responsible for the Sharing Fund, the proceeds of which are divided among committees in the Witness Section and the Witness Activities Fund (WAF). It assigns percentages of the income from the Sharing Fund to the various committees and the WAF, and makes contributions to Quaker organizations to which New York Yearly Meeting belongs. The Coordinating Committee is responsible for fundraising for the Sharing Fund, which activity in 2013 was limited to two appeal letters mailed to all members of the Yearly Meeting. A modest amount of the Sharing Fund is raised by activities at Summer Sessions, especially the Fun(d) Fair and Café Night, and several monthly meetings also make annual contributions to it.

Sharing Fund income comes both from contributions and from interest on its endowment, which was established by the bequests of Friends. Each year, the WCC sets a goal for the Sharing Fund income; in 2013 this goal was \$60,000. If contributions fall short of the goal, as they usually do, the difference is made up out of the endowment interest, so that committees may spend up to their allotted percentages of the goal.

In 2013, the percentages of the Sharing Fund allocated to the various committees, WAF, and other organizations were as follows:

AVP	9%
Barrington Dunbar Committee	24%
Black Concerns Committee	10%
Committee on Conscientious Objection to Paying for War	3%
European-Americans Working to End Racism	1%
Indian Affairs	18%
Prisons	10%
RSWR	6%
World Ministries	7%
Witness Activities Fund	12%

Sharing Fund income from contributions in 2013 was \$43,229, and endowment interest was \$22,700. The committees' expen-

ditures may be found in their respective advance reports. The Witness Activities Fund distributions were as follows.

**Witness Activities Fund Grants in 2013:**

- \$1000 For the Yearly Meeting’s Committee on Conflict Transformation to film the workshop on conflict transformation that was held at 15th Street Meeting. A copy of the DVD of this workshop was sent to Witness Coordinating Committee as a report.
- \$150 Old Chatham MM for its monthly film series, which draws as many as 40 viewers from the community.
- \$1,200 To Buffalo MM for continued support of a Congolese Quaker family now living in Buffalo.
- \$2,200 To the Chwele Task Group for travel to Chwele by two AVP facilitators was approved but not spent in 2013.

In addition to the Sharing Fund, in 2013 the WCC had a modest line in the operating budget, which it allocated as follows:

Sharing Fund appeals	\$2,400
National Religious Campaign against Torture	\$150
Quaker Earthcare Witness	\$150
NY Council of Churches	\$150
NJ Council of Churches	\$150
Friends Peace Teams	\$250
National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund	\$250
AFSC, New York office: (earmarked for the Healing and Transformative Justice Program)	\$250
FCNL	\$250
Travel by appointees to other Quaker organizations such as AFSC	\$500
Committee’s own travel expenses, etc.	\$500
Contingency	\$200

The Coordinating Committee is also responsible for seasoning minutes of social concern brought forward by its constituent committees or monthly or regional meetings, and, once unity is reached, for forwarding such minutes to the body for its discernment. In 2013, the committee considered minutes on gun violence, the use of drones in warfare, and divestment of funds held by the Yearly Meeting from holdings in fossil-fuel

companies. Versions of a gun-violence minute and a weaponized-drone minute were brought to the floor in July, but were not approved. The conversation on divestment continues and has not yet come to the floor.

2013 was the year for revision of the Yearly Meeting’s *Handbook*, and Witness Coordinating Committee and some of the committees in the Witness section undertook substantial revisions, which were brought to the floor of the Yearly Meeting for approval.

*Mary Eagleson, clerk*

**Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP), Inc.**

***AVP New York’s work in 2013***

AVP New York’s work grew in 2013. 196 full (18-28 hour) workshops were held in 2013, compared with 162 in 2012 and 178 in 2011.

We were active in fourteen prisons in 2013, down from fifteen in 2012, but we were able to offer 161 workshops in the remaining fourteen prisons (up from 136 in 2012). 197 inside (incarcerated) facilitators volunteered more than 16,648 hours and 87 outside (civilian) facilitators volunteered more than 8,864 hours to hold more than 4,218 in-session workshop hours. We receive many requests for AVP from incarcerated people and from prison administrators. We need outside volunteers so we can respond to these requests.

We also offered more workshops in community settings—29 full workshops with 278 participants and 20 mini workshops with 294 participants. These numbers include our youth and multigenerational workshops. We held six full workshops with ninety-one teens and 18 mini workshops in schools with 264 teens.

Our two Landing Strips—in NYC and in Rochester—meet twice monthly and monthly respectively and offer a welcoming hand to AVPers coming home from prison as well as to people in the community who are interested in AVP.

***Our Community Programs.***

We held 29 community workshops with 187 adults and 91

teens and trained 13 apprentice facilitators, including four youth.

In Rochester, we held two full workshops and one mini, Memorializing the Peacemakers, with twenty-five participants. Our strong Landing Strip builds community among facilitators who have returned home from prison and those who have not had that experience. Our teams are rich with varied life experience and stronger for it.

Our Mid-Hudson Area Council held two community workshops; some of the participants were from Occupy Wall Street.

We held two workshops at the Brooklyn Friends meeting-house, one at the 15th Street meetinghouse in Manhattan, and a special topic on manly awareness workshop in Parkchester in the Bronx.

In Buffalo, we held two full and one mini workshop. A full workshop was with the Buffalo Peacemakers Gang Intervention and Outreach team.

In Westchester Area Council, we held seven full workshops in community settings—two were held in Yonkers—one with adults and one with youth. One was a special topic workshop on anger.

In Ithaca, four workshops were held with 18 participants.

### ***Our School Programs.***

Sadly, our program with Walton Central Schools was dropped this year. The administration has chosen to try an anti-bullying program. We are so very grateful to Florence McNeil for building this program and holding forth over the past twenty plus years!! Each year, she has coordinated and held three full workshops with 8th-12th graders and simultaneous minis for all 5th, 6th, and 7th graders. In recent years, the administration asked for two minis with all 5th graders—at the beginning and again mid-way through the school year.

We held six full workshops with youth—five were associated with schools.

In Poughkeepsie, thirty-four high school students from the REAL Skills after school program at the Family Partnership Center took part in a Level 1 and four completed a training for facilitators.

In Buffalo, the Niagara Frontier Area Council held two full Level 1 workshops with St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute for young men and seven mini workshops with seventy-five tenth grade girls at Mount Mercy Academy, and one mini with Math, Science and Technology School seventh graders.

Westchester Area Council held a Level 1 workshop with Friends Academy high school students and ten three-hour mini sessions at five middle and high schools in Mount Vernon, reaching 155 students.

### ***Our Prison Programs.***

We held 161 full workshops (nine in Spanish and two bilingual) with 2,027 participants and two all-facilitator workshops. We trained 156 new apprentices inside the walls and 182 inside facilitators served on at least one team and another 15 provided workshop support at least once.

Our annual Forum Day was held at Sullivan this year and nine inside facilitators joined with ten outside facilitators from across the state and one outside participant. Inside facilitators planned the day and tried out some new exercises. Our Spring newsletter featured Sullivan facilitators.

Special-topic workshops in prison focused on re-entry, parenting from inside, anger, forgiveness, manly awareness, empathy, communication, trauma recovery, and compassionate communication.

### ***Our Work Outside of New York State.***

Several AVP/NY facilitators traveled to Philadelphia to take part in the several simultaneous workshops with students from two charter schools there.

### ***A Call for Facilitators and Support.***

We need more facilitators to grow AVP in New York State to allow us to reach more communities, schools, and prisons. Please consider taking the three levels of workshops to become an apprentice facilitator. For more information and other ways to support AVP, visit their website, [www.avpny.org](http://www.avpny.org), contact Shirley Way at [info@avpny.org](mailto:info@avpny.org), or write to AVP New York, PO Box 6851, Ithaca, NY 14851-6851; 800-909-8920.

**Our Gratitude.**

Many thanks to all who do this work and who make this work possible.

*Shirley Way, Office Coordinator*

*Alternatives to Violence Project, Inc. (AVP-NY)  
Financial Report, 2013*

**INCOME**

Direct public support	
Contributions—individual	\$16,745.13
Contributions—churches/meetings	
Landing Strip contributions	3,000.00
Contributions—churches/meetings—other	<u>5,000.00</u>
<i>Total contributions-Churches/Meetings</i>	<i>8,000.00</i>
Area Councils revenue	1,025.00
<b><i>Total direct public support</i></b>	<b><i>25,770.13</i></b>
Indirect public support	
Contributions—NYYM	
Sharing Fund	3,722.05
Lindley Murray	<u>1,450.00</u>
<i>Total contributions—NYYM</i>	<i>5,172.05</i>
<b><i>Total indirect public support</i></b>	<b><i>5,172.05</i></b>
Program service revenue	
Manual sales	2,161.38
Annual meeting fees	1,230.00
Dividends & interest-securities	<u>14,946.56</u>
<i>Total program service revenue</i>	<i>18,337.94</i>
<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$ 49,280.12</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>	
Program services	
Certificates & TP cards	\$ 1,078.00
Annual meeting expenses	1,110.00
Landing Strip	0.00
Landing Strip—NYC	1,007.01
Landing Strip—Rochester	404.43

Manuals	100.00
Newsletter	1,216.13
Scholarships	486.00
Volunteer expenses	105.00
Workshop expenses	208.28
Payments to affiliates	0.00
Fundraising expenses	1,023.90
Promotional materials	<u>632.00</u>
<i>Total program services</i>	<i>\$ 7,370.75</i>
Management & general expenses	
Payroll expenses	
Salary & wage expenses	\$ 12,190.03
Social Security expenses	755.78
Medicare expenses	176.75
State unemployment expenses	94.89
Fed unemployment expenses	76.09
Payroll expenses – other	<u>20.55</u>
<i>Total payroll expenses</i>	<i>13,314.09</i>
Payroll taxes	128.25
Payroll service fees	284.14
Health insurance	8,145.95
Investment fees	50.00
Supplies	253.79
Telephone & telecommunications	1,314.08
Web site	300.00
Printing & copying	350.00
Postage	515.31
Postmaster	78.00
Bank Service Charges	- 0.01
Rent	1,550.00
Travel & meetings expenses	7.00
Insurance—Liability	611.04
Insurance—Workman’s Comp	246.00
New York State Disability Insurance	60.00
Other expenses	200.00
Filing fees—NY State	<u>60.00</u>
<i>Total management &amp; general expenses</i>	<i>27,467.64</i>

<b>Total expense</b>	<b>\$ 34,838.39</b>
<b>Net ordinary income</b>	<b>\$ 14,441.73</b>
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>	
Other income	
Unrealized gain/loss	10,647.67
<i>Total other income</i>	10,647.67
<b>Net other income</b>	<b>10,647.67</b>
<b>Net income</b>	<b>25,089.40</b>

**American Friends Service Committee  
New York Metropolitan Regional Office**

*No report submitted.*

**Barrington Dunbar Fund for Black Development**

The Barrington Dunbar Fund for Black Development (BDF) is a participant in the Sharing Fund of New York Yearly Meeting, from which it receives most of its financial support. The committee has utilized Sharing Fund dollars to address the needs of Blacks and Latinos by providing scholarships for disadvantaged students, assisting in community-development projects aimed at helping those impacted by poverty and racism, and by providing re-entry assistance for formerly incarcerated individuals.

We supported:

**Breathing Space, 89 Dryer Road, Hurleyville, NY** – A healing community, located in the Catskill Mountains, designed to create a safe place for people returning home from prison. Breathing Space establishes entrepreneurial green businesses for returning citizens. The organization has strong ties to the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP), and the Religious Society of Friends. For more information visit [www.breathingspaceny.org](http://www.breathingspaceny.org).

**Center for NuLeadership on Urban Solutions**, 510 Gates Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. The Center focuses on criminal justice policy and advocacy. It was founded by formerly incarcerated professionals. The Barrington Dunbar Fund provided

support for their Healing & Wellness retreat for teens on probation. For more information visit [www.centerformleadership.org](http://www.centerformleadership.org).

**College & Community Fellowship**, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY. This organization supports higher education for formerly incarcerated women. For more information visit [www.collegeandcommunity.org](http://www.collegeandcommunity.org)

**Judicial Process Commission**, 1921 Norton Street, Rochester, NY. The Barrington Dunbar Fund supported its Faith Community Re-entry Mentoring Project. For more information visit [www.rocjpc.org](http://www.rocjpc.org)

**Milk not Jails** – Tries to provide economic alternatives to the prison industry in upstate rural areas by establishing dairy distribution co-operatives. They want to build a regional economy that depends on bringing city residents local healthy food, not locking them up. We supported their training program for formerly incarcerated individuals. For more information visit [www.milknotjails.wordpress.com](http://www.milknotjails.wordpress.com)

**Quaker school scholarships** – The Committee is concerned about racial diversity in Quaker schools. We continue to support Black and Latino disadvantaged students attending Quaker institutions. We awarded funds for this purpose to Brooklyn Friends School, Friends Seminary, Oakwood Friends, and Westbury Friends School

**R.E.A.L. Skills Network**, 29 North Hamilton Street, Poughkeepsie, NY. Programs help students that have had difficulty navigating the paths of traditional social, educational, and judicial systems to understand and obtain mainstream skill competency levels and social values that would empower them to interact in their community, school, or job setting more successfully. They teach mediation, communications, and alternative to violence skills. For more information visit [www.realskillsnetwork.org](http://www.realskillsnetwork.org).

The Barrington Dunbar Fund for Black Development asked each monthly meeting in NYYM to submit grant recommendations. Responses allowed us to expand our work throughout NYYM.

*Naceo Giles, clerk*

## **Black Concerns Committee**

The Black Concerns Committee experienced some challenges this past year. Committee members were not able to do all of the necessary work for a timely launch of our public event series, “Standing on Their Shoulders.” There were valid reasons. Some members experienced family challenges, others were overextended, and still others were involved in important witness work in their own communities. The dilemma prompted some serious internal committee review. We probed how to spread the work among all committee members and not just a few. The process made us stronger.

We established a subcommittee to take our public event series under its care. Our series will kick off in September at 15th Meeting in New York City. Our speaker will be Muriel Tillinghast who coordinated civil rights groups in Mississippi during Freedom Summer.

In October we will host BrooklynQuake, which will include a visit to an Underground Railroad Stop and a tour of the In Pursuit of Freedom exhibit. This exhibit acknowledges the unsung heroes of the Brooklyn anti-slavery movement.

We continue to provide support to Friends attending anti-racism training, workshops, and conferences.

*Helen Garay Toppins, clerk*

## **Bolivian Quaker Education Fund**

The Bolivian Quaker Education Fund had a bitter-sweet year as the organization solidly continued its range of activities in Bolivia while holding Newton Garver in the light. Newton passed away in the late winter of this year leaving a legacy of active response to need, careful thought and planning, and strong organizational management skills. Many statements of sadness at his death and gratefulness for his life were sent to BQEF and Newton’s family from Bolivia and around the U.S. Both in a personal way and through BQEF, Newton touched many lives!

The Board has set up structures and systems to cover most of the areas that Newton had taken on, and though running at a somewhat low-key level, the organization is doing well. There

are close to 50 scholars receiving scholarships to attend university, the student residence in Sorata serves children from the area who are attending high school, AVP sessions continue to be offered to scholarship recipients, and numerous visitors and volunteers are assisted as part of our emphasis on inter-visitation. Major challenges are invariably related to the need for ongoing fundraising, and obtaining visas for Bolivian apprentice teachers to come to the US, which we would like to develop into a major component of BQEF work. The board is grateful for a large body of supporters of the programs; all scholars except for two who were selected relatively recently to join the list of scholarship recipients are sponsored by either individuals or meetings.

Our big project for the summer is to organize a trip for one of the past scholarship recipients to visit Friends and meetings in Great Britain and Ireland. This Bolivian Friend will also be representing the Bolivian group of AVP (Alternatives to Violence) facilitators at the AVP International gathering in near Dublin. A substantial number of Friends from the North who have visited Bolivia on study tours are from Great Britain, and the AVP gathering was seen as an opportunity to extend the visit and spread the word about BQEF more widely among British and Irish Friends.

We continue to be grateful for the terrific work of our US Coordinator Vickey Kaiser, who ably brings coherence to the numerous facets of the organization and its work. We are also grateful for the committed and steady work of the Bolivian staff who see on a daily basis the value of this work, and how education touches lives in ways that open up doors and opportunities.

*Jens Braun, NYYM Representative to BQEF*

## **Committee on Conscientious Objection to Paying for War**

*No report submitted.*

## **Earthcare Working Group**

The Earthcare Working Group did not meet or hold any conference calls as in prior years when we were planning for the theme

of Earthcare for NYYM. We had a table at Summer Sessions where current and important literature was on display. We continued to host the NYYM Earthcare Google Group, which is an on-line communication network in which members share concerns to stimulate participation in public demonstrations and group letter writing advocacy. Members of the group were engaged in their monthly meeting communities on issues that concerned them, usually in collaboration with environmental organizations.

In October we sponsored our NYYM representative, Patricia Chernoff, to the Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) Annual Meeting in Chicago. The program theme was Climate Change.

Patricia is one of the QEW representatives to the United Nations, where the focus has been Climate Change and Sustainability. She is also a member of the UN Working Group for QEW. Representatives are funded by the Sharing Fund, which contributed \$360 for our 2013 activities. In addition, many of our members often make contributions by not claiming out-of-pocket expenses for travel and publicity. Friends who wish to join the NYYM Google Group should contact either of the co-clerks named below. Fred Doneit is planning to leave his co-clerk position this year. In 2014, Pamela Boyce Simms joined Patricia Chernoff as co-clerk of EWG.

*Patricia Chernoff & Pamela Boyce Simms, clerk*

### **European American Quakers Working to End Racism Working Group**

EAQWER, a small but active working group of white anti-racist Friends, spent its third year under the care of Witness Coordinating Committee engaged in education regarding Ministry Coordinating Committee's proposed minute of Apology to Afro-Descendants, which was approved at NYYM Fall Sessions, 2013. In support of the Task Group on Racism's work on the Apology, we compiled an information guide addressing the history of this Apology, its creation and seasoning, and addressed the commonly asked questions: "Do we apologize, acknowledge or regret? Why apologize? To whom do we apologize? Who apologizes?" These background materials were then made available at Fall Sessions to help prepare hearts and minds. Following

NYYM's embracing of the Apology, our focus is now on the final sentence of that document, ". . . what we as Quakers are called to do to bring about justice and reconciliation in our beloved community."

At Summer Sessions we had a display table with books on race relations and white privilege, engaged with the seventh and eighth graders about the Apology, and had an interest group on the Apology. Two members of our working group presented a program for Montclair Monthly Meeting titled, "Why Apologize?" We also responded to Otisville Prison Worship Group's letter of concerns about the Apology. We continue to have representatives at Witness Coordinating Committee and liaisons to Indian Affairs, the Task Group on Racism, and Black Concerns Committee, the last minuting their support of us at their Summer Sessions meeting.

In expanding our focus to include race relations with Native Americans, we donated \$100 to the Two Row Wampum Renewal Campaign and have reached out to two Quaker participants to do a presentation for our group. We continue to educate ourselves on issues of racism related to the Native American community.

In furthering our education on racial issues we completed reading *Occupying Privilege* and began Cornel West's *Race Matters*. We set aside time during our three annual weekend meetings to address how white privilege continues to affect us. We have been considering how to grow our group.

The treasurer's report from 2013 stated the following expenditures from our total budget of \$600.

Two Row Wampum Campaign Donation	\$100.00
Seven used copies of the book, Race Matters	27.55
Printing of Apology Materials for Fall Sessions	24.62
Reimbursement of travel expenses	<u>58.00</u>
Total expenses	\$210.17

We are considering how we might support NYYM's interest in being a partner with FGC as it undertakes hosting the 2016 White Privilege Conference in Philadelphia. This annual conference is open to everyone and is widely acclaimed by Friends who have attended in the past.

Our laboring is bearing fruit. We welcome how our activities have become catalysts for anti-racist change. Striving to disman-

tle the divisions of our racial history, we serve as allies to others outside our group. We seek ways to further racial healing.

*Evelyn Kennenwood for the Working Group*

## **Friends Committee on National Legislation representatives**

### ***2013–2014 Program Report to Yearly Meetings***

Since the early days of the Religious Society of Friends, God's spirit has led Friends to take action in the world. For more than 70 years, FCNL has carried on this witness of the Spirit through action on Capitol Hill. Governed by a General Committee of 184 Friends that includes representatives of 25 yearly meetings and seven Quaker organizations around the country, FCNL seeks to bring the concerns, experiences, and testimonies of Friends to bear on policy decisions in the nation's capital.

#### ***Driven by faith.***

At FCNL's Annual Meeting in November 2013, the General Committee approved a new statement of legislative policy entitled *The World We Seek*. Revised every ten years, the new document was the product of an 18-month process of prayerful discernment involving more than 240 Friends meetings and churches. The statement sets forth FCNL's broad objectives for public policy and is the foundational document for FCNL's legislative priorities, which are set every two years. Meetings and churches have been invited to participate in setting the new legislative priorities, which will be approved at Annual Meeting this November, just after the congressional elections.

#### ***Grounded in policy.***

In 2013 FCNL welcomed a record 271 people to our Annual Meeting. During Quaker Lobby Day prior to the start of Annual Meeting, 200 people visited 140 congressional offices to urge Congress to invest in our communities and impose budget discipline on the Pentagon. In the last year alone, Friends in FCNL have made more than 300 personal visits to lobby congressional offices in Washington and in their local districts. Our national FCNL network has also sent 126,000 issue-related messages to Congress,

and in the first two months of 2014, Friends in FCNL published 60 letters to the editor in newspapers around the country.

#### ***Focused on the future.***

A record number of young adults attended FCNL's Annual Meeting, providing energy, innovation, and leadership for the future of Quaker advocacy. As I write this report, FCNL is preparing to host Spring Lobby Weekend, at which more than 150 high school and college students from around the country will learn, through skill building and policy seminars, about Quakers and government, public policy advocacy, and how Congress works. This year our young adults will be lobbying Congress for repeal of the Authorization for the Use of Military Force. By creating opportunities for young people to engage in peace and social justice policy during the formative years of their lives, FCNL is ensuring that Friends' values will help shape public policy for years to come.

We are thankful for the meetings and churches, yearly meetings and individuals who provide FCNL with sustained and vital support. We are convinced by our faith and experience to continue building the peaceful, just, equitable, and sustainable global community we seek. Above all, we seek to remain open to where God's spirit leads us.

We seek a world free of war and the threat of war

We seek a society with equity and justice for all

We seek a community where every person's potential may be fulfilled

We seek an earth restored

FCNL's staff and volunteers work with a nationwide network of thousands of people to advocate for social and economic justice, peace, care for the earth, and good government. The following is a list of some of the issues that have been the focus of our work in 2013-2014:

#### **Words into Action in Central African Republic:**

FCNL played a behind-the-scenes leadership role in connecting on-the-ground relief groups and conflict prevention experts with members of Congress and the administration. FCNL coordinated and drafted a policy document signed by nine colleague

organizations urging a comprehensive U.S. government strategy to address the violence in the Central African Republic. The document was used by FCNL staff, who worked closely with the administration to help form the White House response to this ongoing crisis.

**Campaign Finance:** Last month, the 18 faith communities of the Faith and Democracy Working Group, including Quakers, sent a letter to Congress urging support for a Constitutional amendment to repair the damage done by the Citizens United case. FCNL co-convoked the group that last fall finished brief reports on three topical areas where money in politics has skewed or prevented congressional debate on issues of importance to faith groups. The selected topics were climate change, gun violence, and private prisons.

**Hope for Averting War:** FCNL's persistent and strategic lobbying on Capitol Hill has helped keep the door open for diplomacy with Iran. The historic first-step nuclear deal with Iran is significant movement toward a final agreement to prevent a nuclear-armed Iran. FCNL lobbyists in Washington have worked closely with administration officials and congressional offices to support negotiations with Iran. Grassroots advocates have been in regular contact with members of Congress to support these steps toward peace and security in the Middle East. We believe that these new diplomatic talks are the best opportunity in more than 30 years to end the cycle of confrontation between our countries.

**Advocating for Rebalanced Federal Budget Priorities:** The FCNL community worked very hard on the \$850 billion reduction in Pentagon spending over 10 years that Congress approved. Yet the military budget is still far too bloated at a time when funds for necessary domestic programs are dwindling. We continue to press assertively for better budget priorities that serve human and community needs.

**A New Approach to Climate Disruption:** FCNL is partnering with faith, citizen, diversity, and youth communities on the local, state, and national level to ask elected representatives to acknowledge the reality and impact of climate disruption as a moral issue. FCNL advances the shared concern for and commitment to Creation and lifts the voices of people of faith,

young people and people from communities directly affected by climate disruption. Through this lens of a shared future, the initiative strives to minimize partisanship and create political space for meaningful legislative solutions.

**Repeal of the Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF):** We have the best opportunity in more than 12 years to roll back the law that has kept our country in an endless war since 2001. Passed immediately after the 9/11 attacks, the AUMF has been used to justify not only the war in Afghanistan but also everything from indefinite detentions at Guantanamo Bay, to a growing number of drone attacks, to widespread warrantless wiretapping. This year we are working hard to repeal the AUMF in the House through intensive Hill lobbying and a focused mobilization around the country.

*DeAnne Butterfield, Clerk  
FCNL General Committee*

### **Friends Peace Teams representatives**

*No report submitted.*

### **Indian Affairs Committee**

This past year was an exciting one. At Summer Sessions, the Indian Affairs Committee helped host the plenary speaker, Whatwehi:net (Frieda Jacques), Clanmother of the Turtle Clan of the Onondaga Nation of Haudenosaunee. She gave a deeply moving presentation, opening with The Words That Are Spoken Before All Else, or The Thanksgiving Address. She called upon us to renew the spirit of the Two-Row Wampum treaty: that Haudenosaunee and European settlers live side by side, respecting one another's cultures, in peace with one another and with Mother Earth. We were asked to see the Doctrine of Discovery as an ungodly and violent deception that is in need of repudiation. Frieda Jacques spent time with our youth and participated in our Interest Group. It was a memorable week.

Immediately after Summer Sessions, several people from our committee joined with others in the Yearly Meeting to support the Two-Row Wampum Renewal Campaign's historic

enactment: two rows of paddlers, one Native and the other allies, journeying down the Hudson River from Albany to New York City. Liseli Haines and Buffy Curtis paddled the entire journey, and found spiritual uplift, discovery, and renewal. Others provided ground support by cooking, purchasing food, giving massages, and helping in other ways. The event culminated with the arrival of the paddlers and the Lakota Unity Riders coming together on the waterfront. Many were there to welcome them. After addresses by a representative of the Dutch government and Native elders, some of the group hurried to the United Nations to present to the Indigenous Peoples' Forum. Supporters walked across Manhattan to gather outside the United Nations building on the East River. Paddlers and other guests were hosted by the American Indian Community House, Brooklyn Meeting, and Brooklyn Friends School, with potluck dinners, overnight hospitality, and social events. Everyone came away inspired and filled with the Spirit.

We have continued our work of supporting Native American initiatives. We have been awarded a grant from the Lindley Murray Fund that will help make possible a new youth mentoring program created by the American Indian Community House (AICH) in Manhattan. Youth from reservations throughout the United States will be involved in classes, leadership training, and other initiatives that will assist them in becoming leaders in their home communities. The program will culminate with a week-long summer program in New York City. Students will be hosted by AICH and will attend seminars, museums, cultural events, and other programs. We are excited that we can help support this new initiative.

We continue to support the Akwesasne Task Force on the Environment, Kanatsiohareke (Mohawk Community and Learning Center), and the Akwesasne Freedom School. Last year, we awarded our first stipends to students attending that school, and so touched the lives of many families. One of the interesting things we learned was how Mohawk children receive their names. In this matrilineal society, a mother will follow her mother and her mother's clan. The Mohawk people have three clans: Turtle, Bear, and Wolf. Each clan has their own set of names that are specific to the clan, so whenever a mother

chooses her child's name, she would choose from the names available in her clan. Once a name is given, no one else in the entire world can have that name until the person so named goes on to the sky world. The mother and/or father usually pick a name that best suits their wishes or how they feel the child will be after they are born. The name is formally given by the clan mothers, and then recognized by the entire community during either Harvest Ceremony or Midwinter Ceremony.

This year we will be supporting a new effort: The Abenaki Language Preservation Project. Classes are given during a summer language-immersion program, and it is this program we will be supporting. We have made our first outreach to the Lenape-Ramapough Nation in northern New Jersey, and this may open new opportunities for us.

There is a new spirit stirring in the committee. The Two-Row Wampum activities and events seem to be an ideal place for Friends and Native American peoples to work together side-by-side. A strong example of this is the Two-Row Wampum Teach-In organized by Brooklyn Friends and Brooklyn Friends School. There will be presentations by Native elders and others, including some of our committee members. Both Native peoples and allies are united in opposing fracking and other assaults on Mother Earth. We hope to bring Friends to a closer spiritual connection with our Native neighbors. There is anticipation of perhaps bringing other Yearly Meeting committees, such as Earthcare Working Group and younger friends together in this effort.

We plan to continue to increase the awareness of the Doctrine of Discovery and its pernicious effects. This Doctrine is represented in our jurisprudence and in life around us on a daily basis. We hope to examine the role of the boarding schools and other such efforts (such as forced adoptions and forced placement in foster care) that were used to perpetrate cultural genocide on Native peoples in North America and elsewhere. We especially want to explore Friends' connections to those boarding schools, and perhaps find a way to express our deep regrets for those events and for any participation by Friends. There is much work for us to do, and much wisdom for us to learn.

### **Indian Affairs Committee Financial Report 2013**

#### Operating Budget

Administrative Expenses: \$ 72.39

#### Sharing Fund

Stipends: \$5,350.00

Marjorie Sexton Scholarship: \$1,500.00

Support for Native American Initiatives: \$6,450.00

Support for Friends Groups: \$1,500.00

Travel to support committee witness: \$ 57.25

Support for program at Silver Bay: \$ 500.00

Lindley Murray Fund \$1,500.00

Awarded to the Akwesasne Task Force on the Environment for their Maple Syrup Project

*Susan Wolf & Emily Boardman, co-clerks*

### **Latin American Concerns**

The subject of Latin American Concerns is huge, far greater than any one person can faithfully encompass.

Free Trade Agreements, immigration laws, official language laws, the various military interventions by the US and other countries in South and Central America, Haiti, Cuba, and other Caribbean countries, Canada as it concerns French-Speaking Canadians inside and outside Quebec, as well as the US itself which can be considered a Latin American country—all of these aspects only begin to outline the scope of these concerns.

While I am not an expert in any of these subjects, I continue to care about the people whose lives are affected and disrupted by these and related concerns.

I traveled to Colombia in 2013 for an international conference on War Tax Resistance and Peace Tax Campaigns.

I receive updates on Haiti from Mark Schuller, who worshiped with Flushing Meeting when he lived in New York and has been traveling to Haiti and writing about Haiti for a number of years. I pass these updates along to the Peace and Social Concerns Committee of Morningside Meeting, which carries a continuing concern for the people of Haiti.

I would be happy to share these updates with anyone who is interested in receiving them.

I also welcome requests for information, programs and collaboration by NYYM Friends and committees, where our concerns overlap.

*Naomi Paz Greenberg, resource person*

### **National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund & Peace Tax Foundation**

*No report submitted.*

### **National Religious Campaign against Torture**

The National Religious Campaign Against Torture—launched during a conference of religious leaders in 2006 with the goal of bringing an end to torture in “US policy, practices and culture”—succeeded during the past year in having op-eds written by more than 80 faith community leaders published in all 50 states. In addition, NRCAT:

- made available a “Lobby against Torture” tool kit to provide resources for members to use when lobbying legislators,
- participated in the January vigil and demonstrations in Washington DC calling for the closure of Guantanamo;
- maintained a website with up-to-date information on news and events relating to efforts to end torture in this country;
- co-sponsored a gathering of faith leaders, long-term solitary confinement survivors, and members of survivors’ families to “spotlight” the suffering and long-term damage caused by this form of mental cruelty;
- alerted members of the need for urgent action, such as the June 26th call-in day to oppose plans for the Thomson Correctional Center, which would subject prisoners to extreme, long term isolation; and
- created a tool kit of resources, suggestions and supportive materials for faith communities to use during Torture Awareness Month.

This is my first year as NYYM’s representative to NRCAT. Working with NRCAT and with Upper Hudson Peace Action,

we'll utilize the Torture Awareness Month tool kit for a June presentation and workshop at Congregation Berith Shalom in Troy. I'm meeting, with the Action and Program Committee of the Capital Area Council of Churches to encourage them to organize a NRCAT presentation and workshop in Albany.

June has been designated Torture Awareness Month, but our awareness of and efforts to end torture must not end when we flip the page on the calendar. I welcome inquiries from any of NYYM's member meetings interested in learning more about our country's torture policies, practices, and culture and exploring ways of becoming involved in the struggle to bring them to an end.

*Submitted by Paul Rehm*

### **New Jersey Council of Churches**

*No report submitted.*

### **New York State Council of Churches**

*No report submitted.*

### **Prisons Committee**

#### ***The Light behind the Walls***

Our Quaker prison worship groups are stations of peace in the midst of what can be a very tense environment. Our time behind the walls is rich and varied. We engage in personal check-ins, silent and programmed worship, fellowship, Friendly discussions, Bible study, and Quakerism 101. Below is a sampling of some of our prison worship group activities.

**Auburn Prison Preparative Meeting** tells us that faith is shown with regular attendance at meeting and a belief that they can overcome life's adversities with help from each other and from above. They welcome visitors from inside and outside the walls and had a very enlightening ARCH program one snowy evening. They have covered a wide range of topics, including what it means to be a Quaker, overcoming anger and resentment, forgiveness, the issues of parole reform, aging prison-

ers, and voting rights, as well as the Apology to Afro-Descendants. The Auburn Prison Meeting was officially recognized by Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting in 1974 and is celebrating its 40th anniversary.

**Cayuga Prison Worship Group** describes itself as a smaller group because some members were transferred to other facilities or were released. They wish them God speed. The worship group spent valuable time reading *A Light to Live By*, by Rex Ambler. He quotes the journals of George Fox and others to find out how the early Quakers sought and found the Light. Since the writing of early Quakers can be confusing, they were enlightened by Ambler's translations into modern language. They also read *The Buddha Walks into a Bar* by Lodro Rinzler.

**The Green Haven Prison Preparative Meeting** spent time last year discussing *Faith and Practice* from the point of view of "Sharing Each Other's Truth." They considered how *Faith and Practice* speaks, or does not speak, to our condition.

The theme for the **Sing Sing Prison Quaker Worship Group's** Quarterly Meeting was "If my life were a testimony, what would it be?" Throughout the day participants shared how they first met the testimonies of simplicity and integrity and what those testimonies mean in their lives today. The luncheon discussion centered on the NYYM Apology to Afro-Descendants.

**The Otisville Prison Worship Group** meets every Saturday afternoon. Once or twice a year they hold Days of Reflection. These are special times when Quakers from near and far join with the worship group for small group discussions, a luncheon, and fellowship. Last year there was a harp concert, which was enjoyed by all.

**The Woodbourne Prison Worship Group** tells us that they continued to endure and to embrace both the good and the challenges of whatever the worship group faces. The worship group meets every Sunday afternoon and they describe themselves as being solid in faith. They lost a few members due to transfers and other circumstances, but they continue to push on and welcome other participants to worship with them. They begin with a check-in, followed by a reading, followed by silent worship.

There are more than 200 men on our prison worship group

list. Please come and visit a worship group. It is difficult to visit. There are numerous forms to fill out. But it is so worth it. Even a one-time visit can be of tremendous importance to those who are incarcerated. Please share how Spirit is moving in your life! We need Friends who are willing to visit those in Prison Hospital, those who have been transferred away from their worship groups and thus are isolated, and Friends who are willing to be spiritual advisors. The Prisons Committee needs you! Contact [office@nyym.org](mailto:office@nyym.org) if you would like to get involved in prison ministry.

New York Yearly Meeting charges the Prison Committee with carrying out the witness of Friends concerning criminal justice. To that end the committee has been discerning way forward on taking action regarding the imprisonment of minors, the lack of higher education in prison, and the conditions of solitary confinement. We are co-sponsoring a Quakers United against Mass Incarceration Conference, to be held at Pendle Hill in Wallingford, PA in December of 2015. We have established a conference planning committee. In addition to conference planning, the committee will serve as a clearing house to establish a network of Quakers who are involved in prison ministry, death row visitation, anti-death penalty activism, and criminal justice issues. If you would like to participate in any way please let us know.

*Angel Ramos, for the Prisons Committee*

### **Right Sharing of World Resources**

Beginning in January, 2012, RSWR moved from a January-December fiscal year to a July-June fiscal year. The transitional year, from January, 2012 through June, 2013 was thus 18 months long. In that period, RSWR made grants to 48 women's income-generating projects, serving 1034 women. In turn, these women then impact their families and their communities overall, which means that our funded grants have touched the lives of at least ten times these 1,000 women, or close to 10,000.

RSWR hired a new general secretary, Betty Tonsing, in April, 2012. Sarah Northrop was named as the Project Director in July 2012; and Todd Knight as Development Director in August 2012. The website, [www.rswr.org](http://www.rswr.org), received a major upgrading,

and it continues to be a lively site that changes regularly.

The total income was \$662,719, and total expenditures were \$586,561. The second figure does not include grants approved by the board that could not be sent until the new NGO's in India had filed with their government to obtain permission to receive foreign money, a process that can take months. This fact skews the percentages spent on program (71%), fundraising (15%), and administrative (14%) costs; however, the board is clear that it wishes to spend more on program this year (2013-2014) and it has allocated the funds to do so.

Of the total income, \$66,536 was contributed by yearly meetings. New York Yearly Meeting contributed \$3,655 in 2012 and \$500 in the first half of 2013, to make a total of \$4,155 over the 18-month period.

In October, the board approved a series of goals that will form the basis for a new strategic plan. It is expected that this plan will be ready at some point in 2014 and will guide development of the program in a number of new areas. Stay tuned!

*Mary Eagleson, RSWR resource person*

### **Rural and Migrant Ministry**

After I was asked to be NYYM representative to Rural and Migrant Ministries (RMM), I was asked to join the RMM board. In that capacity over the past year, I have attended two RMM overnight gatherings, two Western NY Council meetings of their board, and one Western NY fund raiser. In a week I will attend another overnight at the site of their ongoing hands-on work in Western NY and I look forward to learning more from that. My experience to date of RMM is as follows:

Unfortunately, Spring Sessions of this year was the only time I was able to be physically present in my liaison role at a Witness Coordinating Committee meeting.

RMM has welcomed me warmly as a representative of Quakers and I have tried to fill that role adequately. There is interest especially in making contact with Powell House and with AVP and I have attempted to facilitate that. They have had workshops that encourage a process very much like Quaker decision making at its best.

The programs in which RMM invests the most resources and which seem to me to be the most significant are for and with youth who are for the most part rural or are the children of immigrant farmworkers. These include a summer camp near Poughkeepsie, a Youth Empowerment initiative, and two very intensive hands-on programs to develop youth leadership. One is Youth Arts Group in the Poughkeepsie area and the other is Youth Economic Group in Liberty.

Less effective in my opinion are efforts to make different faith communities aware of the situation of farmworkers. There is a Farmworker Justice program with an annual lobbying day in Albany. The Rural Women's Conference in Binghamton, which I attended with a farmworker from a dairy farm in my neighborhood, drew a very diverse group of women to spend two days together getting to know and appreciate each other and attending interesting workshops.

Rural and Migrant Ministries, like many worthwhile organizations, including NYYM, with which I currently have contact, seems to be stretched very thin in terms of funding and volunteer resources.

A continued connection between Rural and Migrant Ministries and New York Yearly Meeting seems to me to have the potential to benefit both organizations. I will try to fulfill the liaison role for a while longer.

*Jane Simkin, Representative*

### **William Penn House**

*No report submitted*

### **Committee on World Ministries**

The World Ministries Committee approved five grants in November 2013 and eight funding requests in the spring of 2014. Two of the approved grants are new to this committee and came to us as a result of the budget discussion at Fall Sessions (i.e. those to FUM and FWCC). They are wonderful projects and we were pleased to have the opportunity to communicate with them and utilize WMC funds to contribute to these projects.

If you know of a project that would be appropriate for World Ministries funding, please encourage grant submission at any time.

*Susan Weisfeld, clerk*

<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Schenectady MM	Famine relief, distributed by Friends in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe	\$1,500
BQEF - Newton Garver Scholarship Fund	Scholarships for two students for one year each	1,500
African Great Lakes Initiative - FPT	Facilitator training in Rwanda for HROC (Healing and Rebuilding our Communities)	2,000
Orchard Park FM	Book service project for Blossom Gardens Friends School, Hamisi, Kenya	1,000
YSOP (Youth Service Opportunities Program)	For the Fellows Program	3,500
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$ 9,500</b>
<b>Approved grants - Jan. 2014:</b>		
BQEF	Computer for office in La Paz, Bolivia	600
Orchard Park FM	School uniform shirts + shipping for 60 children attending Blossom Garden Friends School	1,250
Friends Peace Teams - Asia West Pacific	Four scholarships for preschool teachers who use AVP in their school & parenting education	1,206
FWCC, Section of Americas	Publication in English and Spanish of Quaker materials designed for seekers	2,500

<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Friends United Meeting	Partial salary for Zaddock Malesi, Education Secretary FUM-Africa, for local educator training and peace education implementation	2,500
Friends Peace Teams in Las Americas	AVP workshops in El Salvador with women who have lost loved ones to violence	1,490
Happy Grove HS, Jamaica, West Indies	Books and materials to partially rebuild a school library destroyed by Hurricane Sandy	5,000
FWCC-Asia Pacific	Aid to Philippine Friends for post-typhoon relief and recovery	5,000
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$ 19,546</b>
<b>TOTAL Fall 2013 to Jan 2014 approved WMC Grants</b>		<b>\$ 29,046</b>

### **Liaison Committee**

The Liaison Committee consists of the Yearly Meeting clerk, assistant clerk, and the clerks of the four coordinating committees. The general secretary customarily participates as well. It is the committee's practice to meet in expanded form during Summer Sessions Monday through Friday mornings with the addition of the Yearly Meeting recording clerks, the Yearly Meeting reading clerks, and a representative from Junior Yearly Meeting. The Liaison Committee is responsible for planning Coordinating Committee weekend, usually held in late January at Powell House.

The committee serves in an advisory capacity to the Yearly Meeting and Yearly Meeting clerk as needed. The committee continues its practice of meeting regularly each month by conference call, with occasional called meetings. The committee considers rising business within the Yearly Meeting and recommends items for the agenda of Yearly Meeting business

sessions. The committee also discusses matters of concern to the Yearly Meeting that do not fall clearly within the scope of any coordinating committee, or that encompass the responsibilities of more than one committee.

Some matters considered by the Liaison Committee this year are substance abuse at Spring, Summer, and Fall Sessions, the Yearly Meeting budget and financial accountability, intervisitation, the health and functioning of various Yearly Meeting committees, and how the Yearly Meeting makes decisions between business sessions. In addition, the committee has served as a sounding board for specific concerns of coordinating committee clerks.

*Jeffrey L. Hitchcock*