

NYYM Witness Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

July 25, 2012

Present: Mary Eagleson, assistant clerk; Robin Alpern, EAQWER; Mary Pugh Clark, EAQWER; Sue Clark, EAQWER; Ann Schillinger, Indian Affairs; Greta Mickey, At-large; Robert Martin, Barrington Dunbar; Helen Toppins, Prisons and Black Concerns; Patricia Chernoff, Earthcare Working Group; Pat Beetle, visitor; Ellen Flanders, visitor; Naomi Paz Greenberg, COPW; Shirley Way, At-large; Karen Reixach, visitor; Judy Meikle, At-large; Jack Payden-Travers, National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund; Daniel Jenkins, visitor; Jonathan Collett, rep to FCNL; Charlotte Collett, visitor; Evelyn Kennenwood, EAQWER and Black Concerns; Diane Keefe, At-large; Pamela Wood, rep to AFSC.

1. Friends enjoyed a time of silent worship together.
2. Those present introduced ourselves and our affiliation to Witness Coordinating Committee, if any.
3. Mary Eagleson, serving as clerk today in Fred Dettmer's absence, reviewed the agenda, which was approved.
4. Mary Eagleson will draft the annual letter soliciting applications for grants from the Witness Activities Fund.
5. Nominations: Mary Eagleson will serve as clerk, as Fred has completed his term. Helen Garay Toppins will serve as financial clerk. (Vouchers for reimbursement should be sent to Helen.) Robin Mallison Alpern will serve as a recording clerk. Friends approved these nominations. We continue to seek an assistant clerk and another recording clerk.
6. The financial report on the Sharing Fund, given by Helen, reported every committee's expenses and balance in their account as of June 30, 2012. The operating budget figures are not included, but Helen reports there are still operating funds available. The report was accepted.
7. 2013 budget preparation: We approved leaving our operating budget allocations the same as in 2012, except for Indian Affairs and EAQWER. The Yearly Meeting needs to receive operating fund proposals by the end of this week. Helen and Mary will review the operating budget and bring back a proposal tomorrow.
8. Further nominations: We approved Judy Meikle as Death Penalty Resource Person; Naomi Paz Greenberg as Latin American Concerns Resource Person; Diane Keefe as FCNL representative. [The clerk learned later that WCC does not appoint representatives to FCNL; the Yearly Meeting does that. However, Diane Keefe was appointed by the Yearly Meeting and will continue to serve on WCC as one of our FCNL representatives.]

9. Responses to the accountability queries should be submitted by every committee and working group.

10. Mary reviewed the list of seven minute talks to be given tomorrow.

11. Friends discussed at length the question as to whether it is desirable to name a peace concerns coordinator, to begin a new peace concerns committee, to continue to do our peace work through all the committees under WCC, or other pathway. It was suggested we consider hiring someone to do networking functions. We will continue to consider this question.

12. Friends reflected on the committee's conference phone calls. Difficulties include lack of face to face relationships, ambient noise, the challenges of recognizing who is speaking and remembering who is on the call, and confusion and disruption when people join the call during silent worship. Advantages include less travel to meetings. We approve meeting occasionally by conference call.

13. Future meetings: The clerks will discern whether we need meetings in addition to the regularly scheduled face to face meetings.

14. We closed with a period of quiet worship.