

New York Yearly Meeting  
Witness Coordinating Committee

Present: Robin Alpern, Susanne Blackburn, Mary Eagleson (Clerk), Robert Kazmayer (Sunfire, Recording clerk), Diane Keefe, Jeannine Laverty, Jill McLellan, Judy Meikle, Rima Segal, Andy von Salis, Susan Wolf, Pamela Wood

4/11/2015

The Meeting Opened with Silent Worship

2015-04-01. Mary Eagleson requested committee members and attenders to get petitions to abolish nuclear weapons signed by members of the monthly meetings and returned to AFSC in NYC by April 20. She noted that a lot of NYYM Friends are already participating in the events of the Peace and Planet Mobilization, so endorsement of the campaign by NYYM would not be an empty gesture.

2015-04-02. Mary Eagleson noted that the names of Buffy Curtis and Jeannine Laverty will be sent to the nominating committee as potential at-large members of WCC.

2015-04-03. We appointed Susanne Blackburn and Robin Alpern to the naming committee, to report in July, with candidates for the positions of clerk, recording clerk and assistant clerk.

2015-04-04. WHITE PRIVELAGE CONFERENCE: WCC will take \$950 from Named Representative line to supplement \$1,500 from Black Concerns, \$500 from Indian Affairs and \$50 from EAQWER to make a total of \$3000 in anticipation of an NYYM becoming a member of the host team of the 2016 White Privilege Conference.

2015-04-05. INTEREST GROUP APPLICATIONS: We approved submitting the following to Sessions as committees who will offer workshops our committees at Summer Sessions:

- Indian Affairs Committee (asking for a spot on Wednesday)
- EAQWER
- Prisons Committee
- World Ministries Cuba Interest Group

Earthcare Working Group and other committees, if they are interested in offering a workshop, will need to submit a proposal by May 1; and Mary will approach other coordinating committees to request time for their sessions. Interest group slots will be assigned in order of receipt of application

2015-04-06. We approved taking \$1000 from Peace Concerns Line for RSWR's partners in Sierra Leone.

2015-04-07. We approved Naomi Paz Greenberg's request to be released from service from the Meetings for Discernment Steering Committee. Mary will email members of WCC asking if anyone wants to serve as Naomi's replacement.

2015-04-08. The following Witness Activities Grants were approved:

- Central Finger Lakes Meeting, \$780 in support of Heather Cook's attendance at a workshop offered by the Public Conversations Project on conflict transformation
- Chatham-Summit Meeting, \$2,400 in support of their summer AVP camp
- Old Chatham Meeting, \$150 for their ongoing film project
- Morningside Meeting, \$1000 for "Hope Lives for Lifers" — a ministry of Morningside Meeting for long-term and life-sentenced prisoners.
- Contingent upon the acceptance of the Peconic Bay Meeting, WCC will grant \$1000 to them for the development of their scholarship fund. [Peconic Bay accepted with gratitude.]
- Wilton Meeting, \$300 in support of Judy Meikle's attendance at a Pendle Hill conference on Ending Mass Incarceration and the New Jim Crow.

2015-04-09. We approved forwarding the following travel minute to the floor of the yearly meeting, anticipating that it will be approved by the Northeast Regional Meeting:

To the Leadership of the Parliament of the World's Religions -

We commend to you Friend Robert ("Sunfire") Kazmayer, who is a member of the Easton Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (a meeting within New York Yearly Meeting) and a member of New York Yearly Meeting's Earthcare Working Group.

Sunfire has shared with New York Yearly Meeting his leading to attend the 2015 Parliament of the World's Religions, October 15-19, 2015, in Salt Lake City, Utah. This leading has grown out of his conviction, expressed to us, that all of the world's spiritual leaders have a vital role in combating the hatred that is tearing the world apart. He has noted the call of the Parliament's leadership to "all faith communities to move against violence and hate," and that this call is in harmony with Quaker testimony since the start of our movement in the seventeenth century.

We look forward to hearing a report from him about the 2015 Parliament and trust that what he brings to us will help us work with other faith communities to achieve the world of peace that we seek.

2015-01-13. The minutes from this meeting were approved during the course of the meeting.