

New York Quarterly Meeting, Religious Society of Friends
18th of First Month 2015, 1:00 p.m.

Meeting at Brooklyn meetinghouse, 110 Schermerhorn Street, Brooklyn, New York

Present: Andy von Salis (B), Clerk; Beth Kelly (B), assistant clerk for the day.

Attendance: Brooklyn 23, Fifteenth St. 16, Flushing 0, Manhattan 2, Morningside 7, Staten Island 1, QM staff 1, Friends Seminary 5; total 55.

2015.01.01 Friends convene in worship starting at 1:00 p.m. From the silence, Beth Kelly reads the following passage by Patricia Loring from *Faith and Practice*, the book of discipline of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (2002), page 122:

The Quaker way of trying to invite and be open to divine guidance is to begin with a time of silence. This is not the "moment of silence" which is a mere nod in passing to the divine. Nor is it a time for organizing one's thoughts. This is a time for what has been called recollection: for an intentional return to the Center to give over one's own firm views, to place the outcome in the hands of God, to ask for a mind and heart as truly sensitive to and accepting of nuanced intimations of God's will as of overwhelming evidences of it. It is possible that someone designated or undesignated may offer vocal prayer for the joint undertaking. Spoken or not, it is understood that each person present will be holding the undertaking in the Light in his own way.

2015.01.02 The Clerk welcomes Friends and reviews our agenda. Friends approve the service of Beth Kelly of Brooklyn Monthly Meeting as Assistant Clerk for the day.

2015.01.03 Mary Owen, clerk of Staten Island Executive Meeting, reads her periodic report on her Meeting. David Britton of Morningside Monthly Meeting reads the report from Lee Rada, clerk of that Meeting. Gloria Thompson, acting clerk of Manhattan Monthly Meeting, reads her report on that Meeting. The Assistant Clerk reads the report by Cheshire Frager of Flushing Monthly Meeting on behalf of her Meeting. A report from Fifteenth Street Monthly Meeting, whose clerk is in Hong Kong, is unavailable today for technical reasons. The Assistant Clerk reads the report on Brooklyn Monthly Meeting by Ted Ehrhardt, clerk of that Meeting.

The reports are accepted.

2015.01.04 The Assistant Clerk reads a minute of our Committee on Ministry and Counsel from Tenth Month 2014, conveying Flushing Meeting's request for more intervisitation with them.

2015.01.05 Helen Mullin, clerk of our Relief Committee, reads its annual report. Financial results from calendar year 2014 are not yet audited. The report is accepted.

2015.01.06 David Garrity, clerk of our Audit and Budget Committee, reads his explanation of the proposed 2015 Budget as Friends review that proposed Budget itself. We address one misunderstanding by changing the budgeted amount for Ministry and Counsel to "5,000" from "500" and by conforming three subsequent lines to reflect that correction.

Friends consider the coordination among Friends Seminary, Fifteenth Street Meeting and its Property Committee, the Audit and Budget Committee, and Trustees, and re-commit ourselves

to coordinate initiatives including energy efficiency, environmental sustainability, and other matters.

Friends approve the Budget proposed for 2015 as amended today, subject to reconsideration by all appropriate Friends and committees, which are invited to submit requests to Audit and Budget for consideration and action.

2015.01.07 The Assistant Clerk reads the following passage from the *Journal* of George Fox:

When the Lord God and His Son Jesus Christ sent me forth into the world to preach His everlasting gospel and kingdom, I was glad that I was commanded to turn people to that inward Light, Spirit, and Grace, by which all might know their salvation and their way to God; even that Divine Spirit which would lead them into all truth, and which I infallibly knew would never deceive any.

But with and by this divine power and Spirit of God, and the Light of Jesus, I was to bring people off from all their own ways, to Christ, the new and living way; and from their churches, which men had made and gathered, to the Church in God, the general assembly written in heaven, of which Christ is the head. And I was to bring them off from the world's teachers, made by men, to learn of Christ, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, of whom the Father said, "This is my beloved Son, hear ye Him"; and off from all the world's worships, to know the Spirit of Truth in the inward parts, and to be led thereby; that in it they might worship the Father of spirits, who seeks such to worship Him. And I saw that they that worshipped not in the Spirit of Truth, knew not what they worshipped.

It is considered in silence.

2015.01.08 The following Friends are nominated for service by our Nominating Committee:

Cemetery Committee	Janet Soderberg (15)	partial term	to 2017
Brooklyn Friends School Trustees	Ben Homer (Downingtown PA)	partial term	to 2016
Ministry & Counsel Committee	Beth Kelly (B)	partial term	to 2016

The nominations are approved.

The Nominating Committee recommends the release of Benjamin Warnke from service as our Trustee. The recommendation is approved.

2015.01.09 An interim report from the Friends Seminary Committee on the status and progress of the Seminary's redevelopment plan for its Sixteenth Street properties is read by its co-clerk, Matthew Annenberg. The report is accepted.

2015.01.10 A brief report of our Trustees on the project to redevelop the Sixteenth Street properties of Friends Seminary is read by the Trustees' clerk, Ann Kjellberg. The report is accepted.

2015.01.11 The periodic report of our ad hoc Committee on the Relationship between the Quarterly Meeting, Fifteenth Street Meeting and Friends Seminary is read by its clerk, Tom Rothschild. The request for up to \$500 in additional funds for the Open Space Technology event on January 10, 2015, is approved.

2015.01.12 Returning from a break, the Assistant Clerk reads the following queries

propounded by Parker Palmer, in his weekly column for the New Year 2015, as set forth in Krista Tippett's "OnBeing" blog at www.OnBeing.org:

- How can I let go of my need for fixed answers in favor of aliveness?
- What is my next challenge in daring to be human?
- How can I open myself to the beauty of nature and human nature?
- Who or what do I need to learn to love next? And next? And next?
- What is the new creation that wants to be born in and through me?

It is briefly considered in our worship.

2015.01.13 Testimony to the ad hoc Committee's value and work, and to the value and work of the Open Space Technology event, are heard, as are yearnings for new ideas, new Friends and perhaps new structures to carry us forward from here.

We are in unity to extend the Committee's charge for at least one quarter until our April meeting, and specifically charge the Committee to suggest to us new ways in which the Quarterly Meeting's energy and new voices can be engaged.

Meanwhile, Friends are invited to request a copy of the Open Space Technology notes from TomR [at] TNRmediate.com .

2015.01.14 The report of the ad hoc Rosehill Relationship Committee that we established last July is read and accepted.

2015.01.15 Jonathan Fluck of Brooklyn Meeting's Peace and Social Action Committee reads its minute, as follows:

The Peace and Social Action Committee of Brooklyn Monthly Meeting proposes that NYQM adopt the following minute:

NYQM urges the finance subcommittee of the Board of Trustees to divest from fossil fuel industries by moving the Quarter's assets into the Friends Fiduciary Fossil-Free Fund. We urge that this be undertaken as quickly as is feasible and prudent according to the discretion of the subcommittee.

Questions are addressed and some information is offered. The proposal is approved.

2015.01.16 After some reflective silent worship, the Meeting adjourns at approximately 4:15 p.m.

/ s /

Andrew Mead von Salis,
Clerk

2/22/2015

Attachments:

- Regular reports from the following:
Brooklyn Monthly Meeting

- Flushing Monthly Meeting
- Manhattan Monthly Meeting
- Morningside Monthly Meeting
- Staten Island Executive Meeting
- Annual report of the Relief Committee
- Proposed Budget for 2015 as presented by the Audit and Budget Committee
- Report of the Nominating Committee
- Interim report from the Friends Seminary Committee
- Interim report of the Trustees
- Periodic report of the ad hoc Committee on the Relationship between the Quarterly Meeting, Fifteenth Street Meeting and Friends Seminary
- Report of the ad hoc Rosehill Relationship Committee
- Minute of Brooklyn Meeting's Peace and Social Action Committee on fossil-free assets
- attendance sheets