

**Report of Ad Hoc Committee of New York Quarterly Meeting on the
Relationship between the Quarterly Meeting, Fifteenth Street Meeting and Friends Seminary
Fourth Month 19th, 2015**

Our committee was established by the Quarterly Meeting by Minute 2012.10.07 on 28th of Tenth Month 2012 on the recommendation of the Committee on Ministry and Counsel of the Quarter, to examine “the nature of the relationship between the Quarterly Meeting, Fifteenth Street Meeting and Friends Seminary” and to “envision and propose new or modified structures that will create a spirit-led, sustainable long term relationship among the above entities.” Our committee was structured in a manner designed to include new voices and encourage new approaches as we carry out this work. At the Quarterly Meeting held First Month 2015, the life of the committee was extended to Fourth Month 2015. Pursuant to our charge, this committee reports at each Quarterly Meeting. The full text of the minute establishing the committee and setting forth its charge, as well as the current committee roster, are included with this report.

On 10th of First Month 2015, the committee sponsored a session using “Open Space Technology.” In its meeting on Second Month, as stated in Minute 2015.02.03 “Friends were in unity on identifying areas of concern raised in the Open Space session” and decided to form two “working groups,” one to address “fundamental issues” such as essential principles, practices, and procedures to be included in the governing documents created as part of a process of separate incorporation of Friends Seminary, and a second to “develop practical alternatives that could respond to that vision.” The Minute named conveners of each working group and provided that “all Relationship Committee members are welcome to attend meetings of either group as led. Conveners may invite the worshipful presence of members of Quarterly Meeting Ministry and Counsel. Over the next months we hope that the progress of those groups will help shape our vision for the committee in reporting to the next Quarterly Meeting.”

At the following meeting held 4th day of Third Month, “Ann Kjellberg [a member of this committee appointed by, and serving as clerk of, NYQM Trustees] reported that Friends Seminary has asked to proceed with the Townhouse project in the summer of 2015 and that the Trustees are considering a minute from their finance sub-committee calling for separate incorporation ahead of authorizing construction.” (Minute 2015.03.02)

At that meeting, the committee minuted the following (2015.03.05)

Friends are in unity on adopting the March 2, 2015, minute (below) of the Fundamental Issues Working Group. We commit ourselves to supporting a vigorous process for creating the fair and equitable negotiating structure that it calls for and to recognizing Friends Seminary's need for tangible progress. It is in all parties' interest to pursue this in an expeditious manner. (One Friend stands aside.)

At its meeting on March 2, the [Fundamental Issues Working] Group reached unity on the following Minute:

1) We are in unity that New York Quarterly Meeting, having “inherited” Friends Seminary, and recognizing that it is a good school,

should continue to support it spiritually, and that a carefully designed Separate Incorporation is the way forward.

2) We believe that the present time is opportune, before planned development at Friends Seminary occurs, to resolve the questions relating to property and the relationship between New York Quarterly Meeting and the School.

3) We advocate that a fair and equitable negotiating structure be set up that can make the necessary compromises in order to accomplish this with concern for the long-term well-being of both New York Quarterly Meeting and Friends Seminary.

The committee also minuted (2015.03.06) “At our next meeting we will work on a negotiating structure to propose to the Quarterly Meeting in April.” By the time of that meeting, however, (8th of Fourth Month), Trustees and the Friends Seminary School Committee were intensively engaged in discussions to find way forward in creating formal legal and financial arrangements for the proposed project to proceed. Rather than attempting to form other negotiating structures, therefore, the committee instead approved the following minutes:

2015.04.03 Recognizing that Trustees and the Friends Seminary School Committee are working now on a proposal for property division and separate incorporation, we look forward to the results of that discernment, which is being informed by the work of this committee. Our committee and its working groups stand available to Trustees and the School Committee as they engage in that process. We propose in the meanwhile concentrating our work on formulating essential principles, practices, and procedures to bring to the Quarter as a necessary element of separate incorporation.

2015.04.04 As we develop our essential principles, practices, and procedures, we affirm that it is both a gift and an opportunity that a School and a Monthly Meeting join in worship in one place. We wish to help foster a loving, mutually supportive relationship between the school and the Society of Friends going forward.

The committee also reached unity on requesting the Quarter for an extension of the committee to Tenth Month 2015.

In Friendship, for the Committee,



Tom Rothschild, clerk
Ann Kjelberg, recording clerk

Minute establishing the ad hoc committee on the relationship between New York Quarterly Meeting, Fifteenth Street Meeting and Friends Seminary:

The ad hoc committee is charged with examining the nature of the relationship between the Quarterly Meeting, Fifteenth Street Meeting and Friends Seminary. The committee is to envision and propose new or modified structures that will create a spirit-led, sustainable long term relationship among the above entities. The committee will report to each Quarterly Meeting.

The ad hoc committee members will include two members named by Friends Seminary School Committee, two members named by the Committee on Ministry and Counsel, and one or two members named by each of the following: Trustees, Audit and Budget Committee, and 15th Street Meeting Property Committee. Each monthly meeting will nominate and appoint one or two members as well. The initial clerk will be one of the two members named by Ministry and Counsel. The committee will present interim reports at each Quarterly Meeting. The Quarterly Meeting will consider the continuation of the committee at the January 2014 Quarterly Meeting.

The committee may request funds as needed.

Committee Roster

<u>Name</u>	<u>Appointed By</u>
Tom Rothschild	Ministry & Counsel (Clerk)
Edward Elder	Ministry & Counsel
Corona Macheimer	Morningside
Katherine Alford	Morningside
Linda Hill Brainard	Trustees
Ann Kjellberg	Trustees (Recording Clerk)
Beth Bugdaycay	Audit & Budget
David Garrity	Audit & Budget
Margery Cornwell	15th St
Maureen Healy	15th St
Charles Brainard	15th St. Property
Vacant	15th St. Property
Matthew Annenberg	Friends Seminary
Carol Warner	Friends Seminary
Mary Doty	Brooklyn
Vacant	Brooklyn
No Appointment	Flushing
No Appointment	Flushing
No Appointment	Manhattan
No Appointment	Manhattan