

New York Quarterly Meeting, Religious Society of Friends  
19th of Fourth Month 2015, 1:00 p.m.

**Meeting** at Fifteenth Street meetinghouse, 15 Rutherford Place, New York, New York

Present: Andy von Salis (B), Clerk; Ted Ehrhardt (B), Assistant Clerk.

Attendance: Brooklyn 14, Fifteenth Street 24, Flushing 1, Manhattan 1, Morningside 8, Staten Island 1, Meetings elsewhere 3, QM staff 1, Friends Seminary 18; total 71.

2015.04.01 Silence falls at 1:00 p.m., and Friends worship. From the silence, the Assistant Clerk rises to read the following passage from Francis Howgill, quoted in Edward Burrough, *The Memorable Works of a Son of Thunder*, 1672:

The Kingdom of Heaven did gather us and catch us all, as in a net, and his heavenly power at one time drew many hundreds to land. We came to know a place to stand in and what to wait in: and the Lord appeared daily to us, to our astonishment, amazement, and a great admiration, insomuch that we said one unto another with great joy of heart: “What, is the Kingdom of God come to be with men?” ... And from that day forward, our hearts were knit unto the Lord and one unto another in true and fervent love, in the covenant of Life with God; and that was a strong obligation or bond upon all our spirits, which united us one unto another.

2015.04.02 The Clerk welcomes Friends to our meeting and our purpose. The Agenda is presented and accepted.

2015.04.03 Ted Ehrhardt, as clerk of Brooklyn Monthly Meeting, reads and submits his revised report of its past three months' activities. Ian Hansen, clerk of Fifteenth Street Monthly Meeting, reads his report of the Meeting, including an introduction to all to attend an informational meeting tomorrow about its Property Committee's proposals for restroom renovation. Liz DiGiorgio of Flushing Monthly Meeting reads the report of its new co-clerks, John Choe and Ninon Rogers. The Assistant Clerk reads the quarterly report from the acting clerk of Manhattan Monthly Meeting, Gloria Thompson. Lee Rada, clerk of Morningside Monthly Meeting, reads its quarterly report. Mary Owen, clerk of Staten Island Executive Meeting, reads its report.

The reports are accepted.

2015.04.04 Tom Rothschild, clerk of our Ad Hoc Committee on the Relationship Between the Quarterly Meeting, Fifteenth Street Meeting and Friends Seminary, reads its quarterly report. It includes, among other things, a roster of its current membership. Friends express concerns regarding the diversity of the ad hoc committee's membership and regarding the quoted word “inherited” to describe the history of the relationship between the Seminary and the Meeting. The report is accepted.

2015.04.05 The nomination of Trustees is considered. Ann Kjellberg (15 – 2<sup>nd</sup> term), Katherine Alford (Mo – 1<sup>st</sup> term), and Lynn von Salis (B – partial term) are approved for service; there is not presently unity on an appointment of Margery Cornwell to serve as Trustee.

2015.04.06 The duly announced annual meeting of our Corporation is held, as follows.

At the annual meeting of the Corporation of New York Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends at New York, New York on April 19, 2015:

The president, Ann Kjellberg, calls the annual meeting to order at 2:18 p.m. and declares a quorum present. She submits the annual report of the Trustees. The current officers include: president, Ann Kjellberg; vice president, Bill Parrott; and treasurer, Diane Keefe. The annual report is received.

The president declares nominees for election as Trustees, having been approved today for service by the membership, to be deemed elected, as follows: Ann Kjellberg, for a second term to April 2018; Katherine Alford, for a first term to April 2018; and Lynn von Salis, for a partial term to April 2017.

The president declares the meeting adjourned at 2:24 p.m.; its minutes are approved.

2015.04.07 Ann Kjellberg, clerk of Trustees, reads her Summary of the Trustees' annual report and of their Epistle to us, and submits the full Report and Epistle, as previously posted on our website for Friends' perusal.

David Garrity, clerk of our Audit and Budget Committee, reads its Minute 5 of April 15, 2015, and requests the Quarterly Meeting to approve proceeding in Summer 2015 with the 2013 plan to renovate the bathrooms in the Fifteenth Street meetinghouse lobby. Different views of the plan and alternatives, and different interpretations of the timeliness issue and the proper purviews of our respective Quarterly Meeting and Monthly Meeting committees, are heard.

2015.04.08 Returning from a short break, the Assistant Clerk reads the following interpretation of Psalm 90 from "A Poet's Bible," translated by David Rosenberg:

Lord, you are our home  
In all time  
From before the mountains rose  
Or even the sun  
From before the universe  
To after the universe  
You are Lord forever  
And we are home in your flowing

Friends take stock of our faithfulness to right Quakerly order, and consider when and how we might best be led forward on this renovation issue.

2015.04.09 Elizabeth Enloe, co-clerk of the Friends Seminary School Committee, introduces its report, which is submitted with a Fact Sheet, as these were recently posted to our website. She and her co-clerk Matthew Annenberg, with the participation of others from the Seminary community, read the report and point out its references to the Fact Sheet. The report asks us to agree to consolidate property lots, so as to enable the Seminary to use not more than 20,000 square feet of development rights ("air rights") for its currently proposed multi-year Redevelopment project. Friends Seminary has expressed its support for a separate incorporation of the Seminary, but urges that that process not delay the Redevelopment, which the School Committee is clear is now badly needed and within the Seminary's means to build.

A Trustee assures Friends that Trustees are open to considering the Redevelopment proposal, but adds that some of the doubts about its prudence, which are among those points stated in Trustees' Epistle to us, likely remain.

2015.04.10 Friends shift their attention to other matters on the agenda.

The following dates are proposed, discussed and approved for the scheduling of our quarterly meetings for business:

- Saturday, July 18, 2015, at Friends Cemetery or, in case of rain, Brooklyn meetinghouse
- Sunday, October 25, 2015, at Morningside Meeting
- Sunday, January 24, 2016, at Brooklyn meetinghouse
- Sunday, April 17, 2016, at Fifteenth Street meetinghouse

2015.04.11 The annual report of Friends In The City, Inc. is read by its clerk, Steven Monroe Smith. Friends accept the report.

2015.04.12 Friends return to the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Relationship Between the Quarterly Meeting, Fifteenth Street Meeting and Friends Seminary (Minute 4), in order to consider whether to extend the Committee's mandate to work until our October 2015 meeting. After some discussion of its ad hoc nature, its breadth of charge, and its membership, the Committee's request to continue is approved.

2015.04.13 At his request, Ben Frisch is released from service as a Trustee.

2015.04.14 Upon the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, the following are appointed to service as indicated:

Clerk of Quarterly Meeting	Andy von Salis (B)	fourth term	to 2016
Assistant Clerk	Ted Ehrhardt (B)	fourth term	to 2016
Audit and Budget Committee	Martha Hyde (B)	first term	to 2018
Brooklyn Friends School Trustees	Catherine Ramey (15)	second term	to 2018
Cemetery Committee	Linnea Capps (B)	first term	to 2018
Committee for Downtown Meeting	Barbara Kuesell (B)	second term	to 2018
Educational Fund Committee	Michael Phillips (B)	second term	to 2018
Educational Fund Committee	Tony Shitemi (Nairobi Int'l)	second term	to 2018
Friends In The City, Inc.	Frederica Azania Clare (15)	first term	to 2018
Gay Pride Parade Coordinators	Ernie Buscemi (Mo)	first term	to 2018
Great Lakes (Africa) Educ. Com'te	Margery Cornwell (15)	sixth term	to 2018
Great Lakes (Africa) Educ. Com'te	Corona Machermer (Valley)	fourth term	to 2018
Ministry and Counsel Committee	Charlotte Ehrman (Mo)	third term	to 2017
Ministry and Counsel Committee	Dave Britton (Mo)	third term	to 2017
Ministry and Counsel Committee	Julie Finch (15)	second term	to 2017
Nominating Committee	Charles Sirey (15)	partial term	to 2016
Nominating Committee	John Slater (Mo)	first term	to 2017
Nominating Committee	Antonia Smith (15)	first term	to 2017

Nominating Committee	Naomi Paz Greenberg (Mo)	co-opted	continuing
Relief Committee	Nancy Hadley Jaffe (15)	first term	to 2018
Relief Committee	Mark LaRiviere (15)	third term	to 2018
Relief Committee	Nancy Adelman (15)	third term	to 2018

(Regarding Trustees, see Minutes 5 and 18)

Concern is voiced that our small Meetings, and particularly Manhattan Meeting, be better represented on our committees. Manhattan Meeting is asked to appoint a member to service on our Nominating Committee.

2015.04.15 David Garrity reports on the Audit of our 2014 books, submitting and commenting on an accompanying Memorandum offered on behalf of the Audit and Budget Committee. The Audit is accepted.

2015.04.16 Naomi Paz Greenberg reads the annual report of the Nominating Committee. The report is accepted.

2015.04.17 The Assistant Clerk reads the memorandum report of the Nominating Committee to the Meeting regarding our Conflict of Interest Policy, the status and terms of which may be in question. The necessity of an appropriate conflict of interest policy is explained on the floor. Friends agree to consider the policy again at a subsequent meeting.

2015.04.18 We return to the undecided matter of Margery Cornwell's appointment as a Trustee (Minute 5). The Clerk notes that 45 Friends and attenders remain in attendance at 6:30 p.m. Friends speak of trust, mistrust, frustration and community, as well as painful sadness at our failings. After reflective pauses and ministry, we lay over further discernment as to the nomination.

2015.04.19 We return to our incompleeted consideration of the two actions requested by the Friends Seminary School Committee (Minute 9). While the hour is late and our spirit may flag, we recognize that not to discern a way forward is to preclude the option of proceeding this year with even an initial phase of Friends Seminary's Redevelopment. The co-clerks of the Committee summarize their reasons why the rationales for disapproval are adequately assuaged in its report. Some Friends agree and others do not.

Returning from another short break, we consider further a separate incorporation of Friends Seminary as a precondition to approving a redevelopment. We unite in urging Trustees and the Friends Seminary School Committee to work further together in a redoubled effort to find a way forward with any or all of these separate incorporation and redevelopment issues. While we do not today approve the requested property lot combination or air rights transfer, we decide to authorize our Trustees to approve either or both those requests if and when they become clear to do so. We request Trustees and the Committee to report to us as soon as they achieve results, but no later than our July meeting, on their efforts, their progress and any new decisions taken. Christine Japely, Elizabeth Enloe and Carol Jackson are recorded as standing aside from the decision not to grant the Friends Seminary School Committee's two requests today.

2015.04.20 Announcements of our Meeting's upcoming activities are made.

2015.04.21 We rest as a community, in gratitude and in humility, for a few closing minutes of silent worship. The meeting adjourns at 8:15 p.m.

Andrew Mead von Salis,  
*Clerk*

*5/25/2015*

Attachments:

- agenda
- Regular reports from the following:
  - Brooklyn Monthly Meeting
  - Fifteenth Street Monthly Meeting
  - Flushing Monthly Meeting
  - Manhattan Monthly Meeting
  - Morningside Monthly Meeting
  - Staten Island Executive Meeting
- Report with request from the ad hoc Committee on the Relationship between the Quarterly Meeting, Fifteenth Street Meeting and Friends Seminary
- Roster of appointments and current nominations from the Nominating Committee
- Annual report of the Trustees
- Epistle to the Meeting from the Trustees
- Minute of the Audit and Budget Committee regarding a renovation
- Interim report including requests, with fact sheet, from the Friends Seminary Committee
- Annual report of Friends In The City, Inc.
- Audit of the Quarterly Meeting for 2014
- Annual report of the Nominating Committee
- attendance sheets