

Report of Brooklyn Monthly Meeting to New York Quarterly Meeting, 14th of Seventh Month, 2012

In addition to meeting every First Day at our usual time, 11:00am, since the beginning of Sixth Month, we have been meeting at 9:00am as well. So far, this new meeting (for which child care is provided) is drawing about a dozen people each week. The late-morning Meeting for Worship is usually very well attended, with almost always more than one hundred people in the room as it comes to a close. Our meeting on Third Day at 6:30pm also continues weekly, bringing to us a number of curious yet eager individuals who may not be comfortable at this time with "going to church on Sunday" but who find this quiet opportunity for reflection at the end of a busy day to be appealing. We met for Worship with a Concern for Business on Sixth of Fifth Month, Third of Sixth Month, and First of Seventh Month.

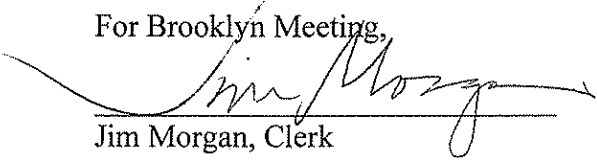
The major event of the past quarter, in the Clerk's opinion, came at Fifth Month Meeting for Business when we approved a minute supporting Occupy Wall Street. During the prior quarter, Friends actively considered the question monthly; each time Peace & Social Action Committee went back and revised their proposed minute, believing that in the process the Meeting was coming to a deeper and clearer awareness of the significance of this action. Finally, in Fifth Month, the following minute was approved:

Quakers maintain a tradition of commitment to social justice and a concern about social and economic inequalities. We, the Brooklyn Monthly meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, affirm the spirit of egalitarian, nonpartisan, participatory democracy that animates the "occupy" movement. We add our voice to theirs in calling attention to the pervasive inequalities in our society, including vast disparities in income, wealth and power. The commitment to nonviolence and to a consensus-based democratic process is consistent with our own testimonies, including integrity, equality, and nonviolence.

Believing in the sacredness of all voices, we call upon governmental and private entities to support the expression of all views by ensuring the availability of venues where all people can exercise their freedoms of speech and peaceable assembly.

During this quarter we have continued, on First Day of First Week to gather early for hymn-singing; of Second Week, to offer study and consideration of sacred texts; of Third Week, to pursue Quaker studies (including during Sixth Month, a very well attended presentation and worship-sharing on our spiritual beliefs); and of Fourth Week, to serve Community Dinner, now in its twenty-sixth year.

For Brooklyn Meeting,


Jim Morgan, Clerk