

New York Quarterly Meeting Trustees Report to the July, 2011 Quarterly Meeting

Dear Friends;

Trustees bring the following nominations to Trustees for your approval:

Michael Schlegel, Second Term to 2014

Kirk Smothers, Second Term to 2014

Lucy Sikes, Second Term to 2014

Trustees are pleased to report to you on our continuing work in setting rents or user fees for the Quaker and other groups that use our buildings, fees based on the their share of the costs of keeping up the buildings.

Our work is based on Advice #10 of New York Yearly Faith and Practice: "Friends are advised to observe integrity in their living and inspect frequently the state of their temporal affairs. In their dealings with everyone they should endeavor to maintain a truly Christian character, ever bearing in mind the Golden Rule, 'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.'"

As we have reported in the past, user fees have been calculated and are in place for AFSC, YSOP and NYYM in Manhattan and for New York City Explorers in Brooklyn. When this has resulted in a difficult increase in fees, we have worked with the group to raise them gradually.

We are now beginning work on the process of setting fees for Friends Seminary based on similar methods and calculations to those we used for the other groups. Our first task has been to determine what spaces the school is using. This is a complicated project, involving the three landmark buildings, shared use as well as whole use, and a daunting number of spaces. An ad hoc group with members from Trustees, 15th Street Meeting, 15th Street Property Committee, QM Audit & Budget Committee and representatives from Friends Seminary has been working with our General Manager to determine how space is used in these buildings. In order to do this they had to calculate square feet based on architectural plans and time use based on calendars and records of the school and the Quarterly Meeting. This Space Use Study is now available on the Quarterly Meeting Website or can be picked up in the Quarterly Meeting Office. If Friends wish, Trustees will arrange an open meeting to discuss it and answer questions.

The next step will be to calculate the percentage of the total cost of the buildings that Friends Seminary and the Quarterly Meeting use based on the space each uses and to determine the fee that Friends Seminary will pay in order to cover its share of that cost.

In order to prevent misunderstandings, such as those we experienced with the renovation of the Seeger Center, Trustees and the Friends Seminary Committee have agreed to share their capital budget decisions annually and have set up a liaison group that meets regularly to communicate information

about capital projects as well as other common concerns. This group has met twice and will meet again in September.

In the words of “Faith and Practice”, Friends Seminary and New York Quarterly Meeting are reminded that “Meetings should be conducted in the spirit of wisdom, forbearance and love”.

For the Trustees

Mary Rusnak, Clerk