



# 2017 Minutes

of the Annual Sessions  
of the New England Yearly Meeting of Friends

**Three Hundred Fifty-Sixth Year**

**Castleton State College  
Castleton, Vermont  
August 5–10, 2017**



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**Saturday, August 5–Thursday, August 10 • Castleton (Vermont) University**

—Schedule—

	Saturday, August 5	Sunday, August 6	Monday, August 7	Tuesday, August 8	Wednesday, August 9	Thursday, August 10
6:30-7:00			6:30-7:00	<b>Early Morning Worship</b> (See YM News** for locations)		
6:45-8:45				6:45-8:45 <b>Breakfast</b> ( <i>Huden Dining Hall</i> )		
8:30-11:30	9:00 Registration begins* (Fine Arts Center Lobby) 9:30 Permanent Board (Stafford Auditorium) & Ministry & Counsel (Jeffords Auditorium)	8:15-9:00 Registration* (Fine Arts Center Lobby) 9:00-11:30 Worship (Pavilion) – All-Ages Worship – Bible Half Hour		8:30 Bible Half Hour with Marty Grundy ( <i>Fine Arts Center</i> ) transitioning worshipfully into...  9:00-11:30 Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business (Fine Arts Center)	8:30 Bible Half Hour transitioning worshipfully into... 9:00-11:00 Meeting for Worship for Business 11:00-11:30 Concluding Worship (all ages)	
11:15-1:45	11:15-1:30 Lunch ( <i>Huden Dining Hall</i> ) 2:30 Registration closes*	11:15-1:30 Lunch ( <i>Huden Dining Hall</i> ) 12:45 Orientation for first-time attendees (Jeffords Auditorium)		11:15-1:30 Lunch ( <i>Huden Dining Hall</i> )	11:30-1:00 Lunch and Room Key Return ( <i>Huden Dining Hall</i> )	
1:00-4:45	3:00 Shriners Parade on Main Street 4:30-6:00 Registration continues* (Fine Arts Center Lobby)	1:30-2:30 Plenary Speaker (Pavilion) followed by small group sharing in... 2:45-4:15 Anchor Groups (Leavenworth/Jeffords)	1:15-2:45 Anchor Groups (Leavenworth/Jeffords)	1:15-2:45 Anchor Groups (Leavenworth/Jeffords)	1:15-2:45 Anchor Groups (Leavenworth/Jeffords)	1:00-3:00 Permanent Board
4:45-6:45						Youth Programs  Childcare: Times to be posted Junior High YM, Junior YM, Young Friends, Young Adult Friends: See respective schedules for Orientation schedules & locations check YM News** or neym.org/sessions/youth
6:00-9:00	6:45 Opening Celebration (all ages) ( <i>Fine Arts Ctr</i> ) 7:30 Children & youth staff leave 8:00-9:00 Anchor Groups (Leavenworth)	6:15 Vespers Singing for all ages 7:00-9:00 Meeting for Worship for Business (Fine Arts Center)	6:15 Vespers Singing for all ages 7:00-9:00 Meeting for Worship for Business ( <i>Fine Arts Center</i> ) 8:30-10:30 Contradance (Pavilion)	6:15 Vespers Singing for all ages 7:00-9:00 Meeting for Worship for Business ( <i>Fine Arts Center</i> )	6:15 Vespers Singing for all ages 7:00-9:00 Coffee House all ages ( <i>Fine Arts Ctr</i> )	
9:00-11:00	8:30-10:00 Registration Continues* (Fine Arts Center Lobby)	9:00 Evening Opportunities (Leavenworth)	9:00 Evening Opportunities (Leavenworth)	9:00 Evening Opportunities (Leavenworth)		
*	<b>Registration Hours:</b> Registration times listed here are tentative. Fri, 5-7 p.m. & 8-10 p.m.; Sat, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., 4:30-6 p.m., 8:30-10 p.m.; Sun, 8:15-9 a.m., 12:15-1:15 p.m., 4:30-5:30 and 7-9 p.m.; Mon-Wed, 9:30-10:30 a.m., 4:30-5 pm.   For registration needs outside these hours, please contact the Registrar well in advance at registrar@neym.org or 978-494-6396 to make alternate arrangements.					
**	<b>Yearly Meeting News</b>   Published Saturday through Wednesday mornings at breakfast and on the web at neym.org/sessions, with information about events at Sessions. Deadlines for submissions: Sunday, Monday and Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. Drop off materials at the Info Desk, located in the Fine Arts Center Lobby. Announcements, notices and flyers not specifically related to Sessions will not be included in the YM news. Please check with the Info Desk for where to post these items.					

## 2017 Sessions Coordinators, Officers, Speakers & Yearly Meeting Staff

Access Needs Coordinator	Jana Noyes-Dakota
Accounts Manager	Frederick Martin*
Bible Half-Hour Speaker	Marty Grundy
Bookstore	Sara Burke & John Fuller
Children's Bookstore	Jean McCandless & Karen Sargent (managers), Christopher McCandless
Clerks	Fritz Weiss (presiding), Rachel Walker Cogbill & James Grace (recording), Jeremiah Dickinson & Katherine Fisher (reading)
Events Coordinator	Kathleen Wooten*
Events Coordinator Assistant	Kenneth Glover
Housing Coordinator	Leanna Kantt
Information Desk	Eric Edwards, Nancy Marstaller
Office Manager	Sara Hubner*
Pastoral Counselor	Kevin Lee
Registrar	Martha Hinshaw Sheldon
Religious Education Coordinator	Beth Colle*
Sessions Committee Clerk	Leslie Manning
Sessions Office Assistants	Jessica Sheldon, Honor Woodrow
Shuttle Coordinator	Barbara Dakota
Special Needs Assistant	Sasha Bugler
Treasurer	Shearman Taber
Volunteer Coordinator	Hannah Zwirner Forsythe
YM News Editor	Liz Yeats
Yearly Meeting Secretary	Noah Baker Merrill*

\* YM Staff

### Child Care

Coord: Chloë Grubbs-Saleem and  
Whitney Mikkelsen  
Rainer Humphries  
Avery Johnson  
Holly Lapp  
Youme Nguyen Ly  
Abigail Matchette  
Benigno Sánchez-Eppler  
Karen Sánchez-Eppler  
Phil Veatch  
Stefan Walker

### Junior Yearly Meeting

Coord: Betty Ann Lee  
Carol Baker  
David Baxter  
Brad Bussiere-Nichols  
Helen Carpenter  
Margy Carpenter  
Robin Carpenter  
Pamela Drouin  
Rebecca Edwards

June Goodband

Tyler Green  
Janet Hamilton  
Elizabeth Kantt  
Amy Lee-Vieira  
Jane Radoccia  
Laura Street  
Jay Vieira

### JYM Afternoon Choices

Steven Correia  
Hans-Dieter Gomes  
Tyler Green  
Theresa Oleksiw  
Cynthia Rankin

### Junior High Yearly Meeting

Coord: Gretchen Baker-Smith\*  
Anne Anderson  
Buddy Baker-Smith  
Stephen Ball  
Lilly Campbell  
Emily Edwards

John Humphries

Adam Kohrman  
Doug Lippincott  
Branwyn McDowell

### Young Friends

Coord NiaDwynwen Thomas\*  
Asst Coord: Helen Marie Staab  
Janet Ackerman  
Xinef Afriam  
Tom Antonik  
Nathan Broaddus  
Allon Dubler  
Rocky Malin  
Anna B. Radocchia  
Wendy Schlotterbeck

### Young Adult Friends

Coord: Hilary Burgin  
Asst Coord: Emi Link

## Minutes of the Annual Sessions

### Saturday evening

**2017-1** Following opening worship, Fritz Weiss (Hanover), presiding clerk, welcomed us to the 357th annual gathering of New England Yearly Meeting of Friends (NEYM) at Castleton University in Castleton, Vermont. He introduced our theme “Living into Transformation,” referencing Romans 12:2: *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good, and acceptable and perfect.*

**2017-2** Fritz Weiss introduced the other members of the clerks’ table: recording clerks Jim Grace (Beacon Hill) and Rachel Walker Cogbill (Plainfield), and reading clerks Katherine Fisher (Beacon Hill) and Jeremiah Dickinson (Wellesley).

**2017-3** The reading clerks called out the names of monthly meetings and worship groups by quarter, and we rejoiced as each group stood. We were excited to welcome many newcomers; at least 75 attenders are here for the first time.

Throughout the week the following visitors were introduced and welcomed:

Margaret Amudavi, Dean of Friends Theological College (Elgon Lugulu MM, Kenya)

Sasha Bugler (Baltimore YM)

Gideon Grace Gagne Guaraldi (new baby) (Beacon Hill)

George Lakey (Central Philadelphia M, Philadelphia YM)

Strong Oak Levebvre (Visioning B.E.A.R. Circle Intertribal Coalition, Inc.)

Toussaint Liberator (Stone of Hope)

Moses Murenga (Kakamega YM, Kenya)

Rachel Pia (New York YM)

Anne Pomeroy (New Paltz MM, New York YM)

Theo Talcott (Vermont)

Steven Woodall (Athens [GA] MM, Southern Appalachian YM)

Elizabeth Yeats (Friends Meeting of Austin [TX])

### Organizational Representatives

Jennifer Bing and Lucy Duncan (American Friends Service Committee)

Christine Ashley and Hannah Evans (Friends Committee on National Legislation)

Brent Bill and Marta Rusek (Friends General Conference)

Laura Everett and Daryl Lobban (Massachusetts Council of Churches)

Jacqueline Stillwell (Right Sharing of World Resources)

**2017-4** Honor Woodrow (Framingham) and Abigail Matchette (Burlington) led us in an intergenerational exercise. Through song and reflective statements, they helped us further explore the theme “Living Into Transformation.” We were exhorted to “leave what is heavy behind,” leaving behind what limits us. In the words of Romans 15:13, *“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”* We gathered into joint prayer for transformation this week.

**2017-5** We noted that through the week there are actually four concurrent yearly meetings: the Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM); Junior High Yearly Meeting (JHYM); Young Friends (YF); and the adult Yearly Meeting. We celebrated the presence of our youth programs attendees and staff as they left us to go to their own yearly meeting programs.

**2017-6** We closed with worship.

## Sunday evening

**2017-7** We were prayed into worship by Maggie Edmondson of Winthrop Center Friends Church.

**2017-8** We heard the epistle from Wilmington Yearly Meeting (Ohio), who shared their work considering a same-sex marriage minute. While acknowledging deep disagreements within the yearly meeting, they affirmed their love for one another, for their long-term relationships, and for the fellowship of their body. They asked “Is it, in fact, part of our witness that we continue to meet together despite our differences?” concluding, “We continue to walk in the Light that we have, and pray that more will be given.”

**2017-9** Phebe McCosker (Hanover), clerk of the Faith and Practice Revision Committee, presented two new draft documents for consideration: Membership, and Personal Spiritual Practices. The committee has also been continuing work on the drafts of Pastoral Care and Bereavement. The committee desires thoughtful corporate feedback on the two new drafts from local meetings in order to reflect better the Yearly Meeting as it is today, while leaving space for spiritual renewal and fresh insight. Meetings are asked to engage with these documents over the upcoming year. What needs to be clearer? What is missing? What, for instance, are some examples of spiritual practices you have found helpful? Is new language on dual membership in this new draft helpful? The Committee would also really appreciate feedback, especially from young adult Friends, on the section about supporting the youth of the meeting as they travel to adult membership. Does it help to look at the terms “membership” and “adult membership” rather than using “junior membership” and “membership”? Finally, is this material helping your meeting to hold and explore, in love, across theological diversities? Opportunities for feedback during Sessions are also provided.

Joining her on stage were other members of the committee: Douglas Armstrong (Monadnock), Marion Athearn (Westport), Susan Davies (Vassalboro), Margaret Edmondson (Winthrop), Eric Edwards (West Falmouth), Eleanor Godway (Hartford), Sue Reilly (Lewiston), and Greg Williams (Beacon Hill). Sara Hubner (Gonic) and Ken Haase (Beacon Hill) were not able to attend.

Marion Athearn introduced three excerpts from the membership draft and asked Friends to share with a neighbor which excerpt they found most difficult and why, as a way of exploring our comfort zones with different expressions of belief.

**2017-10** Leslie Manning (Durham), clerk of the Friends United Meeting (FUM) Committee, reported on her experience serving as a representative from New England to the Friends United Meeting General Board of North America and the Caribbean (NA/C). “We have witnessed to the power of love where there is fear. We have witnessed to the power of inclusion where there is fear.” It has been a labor of love to serve you in this way.

Rosemary Zimmermann (South Starksboro), recording clerk of the FUM General Board of NA/C, read the epistle from the 31st triennial of FUM, held this year in Kansas.

*“The times are severe, the need is great, and we must hasten we all agree. But whither shall we hasten? Two directions we must hasten, in order to plumb the depths and scale the heights of life. We must hasten unto God; and we must hasten into the world. But the first is a prime need; though the world be aflame from its own blindness and hate, and narrow ideals. We must first hasten unto God. Men and women whose heads have not rested in the bosom of God are not yet ready to be saviors<sup>1</sup> of the world.”<sup>2</sup>*

Greetings, Jambo, Saludos, Salaam.

We gathered at Friends University in Wichita, Kansas, for the thirty-first triennial of Friends United Meeting. Some 250 people were present, including representatives from 24 yearly meetings in 5 countries.

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<sup>1</sup> Kelly is not making a theological statement about the atonement, but is referring to our human tendency to out-run our guide, ungrounded in Christ.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas Kelly’s *The Eternal Promise*

We have been reflecting on passages from Thomas Kelly's *The Eternal Promise*, wherein he describes the call of Christians to minister to a distraught world. Distraught is a word that speaks to the condition of many, including many within our Society. But we are reminded that pain is condition of growth. We have struggled, but we have also grown.

"When you put a seed into the ground, it doesn't grow into a plant unless it dies first. And what you put in the ground is not the plant that will grow, but only a bare seed of wheat or whatever you are planting."<sup>3</sup>

Friends United Meeting states that its mission is to "to energize and equip Friends, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to gather people into fellowships where Jesus Christ is known, loved, and obeyed as Teacher and Lord." Sometimes these words can seem vague, but over the course of the past days, we have heard testimony as to the concrete ways that our broken faithfulness has borne fruit. We give thanks and glory to God that he has been able to use us in this way, and trust that it is only insofar as we dwell in the spirit of Christ that we can continue to serve.

"A branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit."<sup>4</sup>

FUM has always been committed to education, especially of those living under oppression. In the past triennium many of these efforts have continued to branch and grow. In Belize we have grown from a small project to an expanding center encompassing education, nonviolence work, and pastoral ministry. In Palestine, the Ramallah Friends School has constructed a middle school building, gained International Baccalaureate accreditation for all grades, and upon completion of a major building project, made significant steps towards financial sustainability.

We continue to evangelize, in particular testifying to the Love of Christ that transforms conflict into peace. This deep commitment to our Peace Testimony has led to growth in peacebuilding work in all countries where FUM Friends are present.

FUM's ministry has not all been outward but also inward. We see ourselves as tenders and shepherds of a decided and mature spiritual life among Friends.

"True decidedness is not of doctrine, but of life orientation. It is a commitment of life, thoroughly, wholly, in every department and without reserve, to the Inner Guide. It is not a tense and reluctant decidedness, an hysterical assertiveness. It is a joyful and quiet displacement of life from its old center in the self, and a glad and irrevocable replacement of the whole of life in a new and divine Center."<sup>5</sup>

To this end, we celebrate the growth and continued development of Friends Theological College: the near-completion of their lengthy accreditation process; the appointment of a Kenyan as principal; and the theological depth that FTC is bringing to Quaker education throughout East Africa.

In North America, which is a growing priority area for ministry, we have struggled at times to find our way. Sometimes the work we expected to achieve has not been the work we actually achieved. Perhaps the most hopeful movement to emerge has been the "Stoking the Fire" conferences, which have been a tinderbox for spiritual passion among North American Friends.

As we reflected on the current spiritual condition of Friends, youth and young adult Friends provided powerful ministry. These Friends reminded us that age does not determine how the Spirit moves. We are

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<sup>3</sup> I Corinthians 15:36-37

<sup>4</sup> John 15:4-5

<sup>5</sup> Thomas Kelly's *The Eternal Promise*



all complete and whole at this moment. We do not need to wait for the future to become fully ourselves; we are fully ourselves in Christ.

And also, our identity is a continuous working-out that we are all called to. For each of us, it is a refining; a pruning; a continuous deepening of our experience in God.

As we as individuals are continually evolving, so is our organization. We cannot let this moment pass without acknowledging our gratitude for the faithful service of Cliff Loesch, our presiding clerk, and Colin Saxton, our General Secretary, both of whom will be completing their service in those positions.

“I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn’t produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you.”<sup>6</sup>

Yours in Christ,  
Friends United Meeting

Kristina Keefe-Perry (Fresh Pond) offered reflections on attending her first FUM Triennial. She saw an organization that has outreach in what would historically be called missions, moving from a charity model to a model of accompaniment in ministry. When spiritual insights were expressed from the floor of the triennial, the clerk made room for further spirit-filled discernment. Friends from very different geographical, theological, and social positions made connections to each other across the divides. She found FUM is therefore a place to build bridges across diversity.

Leslie Manning concluded that FUM is a net that captures us all, across the span of Quaker diversity. She observed that the FUM board has minuted that it is no longer in unity with the sexual ethics part of the personnel policy from 1988, but no alternative has come forward from any of FUM’s constituent bodies.

When we seek to make real God’s love in this world, when we seek to decolonize, and uphold God’s love in a postcolonial world, when we seek to answer that of God in everyone—even those with whom we are in deep and painful disagreement—lives are transformed, including our own; communities are transformed, including our own; empires fall, including our own.

**2017-11** Carol Forsythe (Putney), clerk of the Archives and Historical Records Committee, presented the policy on historical records, processes, and forms needed for monthly meetings to donate records to the University of Massachusetts Department of Special Collections and University Archives (UMass SCUA). The committee eagerly encouraged monthly meeting contributions to the archives and urged monthly meetings to look at the website for how to do this. On the website, there are further advices, and other choices, including information about archiving oral material, options for material which includes copyright concerns, and an ability to determine the relative level of public access.

The clerk introduced members of the committee: Brian Quirk (Lawrence), Nancy Slator (Mt. Toby), Betsy Cazden (Providence), Eileen Crosby (Mt. Toby), and Donna McDaniel (Framingham). Thanks were given to Rachel Onuf, who was our consulting archivist, and Sara Hubner, who gave much office support.

We were also reminded of the wonderful exhibit that has been up for six months at the W.E.B. Du Bois library at UMass Amherst. The exhibit, “All that Dwell in the Light: 350 years of Quakers in New England” showcases the New England Yearly Meeting collection. SCUA will be hosting a conference in 2018 for Quaker historians.

**2017-12** Co-clerks of the Nominating Committee, Connie Kincaid-Brown (Hanover) and Penny Wright (Hanover), presented the preliminary slate of nominations which will be brought for approval later during these Sessions. Please see the committee reports and consider whether you might be led to volunteer your

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<sup>6</sup> John 15:1-4

services. Our committees are changing and morphing into something new. It can be scary or beautiful. Many opportunities to serve still abound.

Committee members who were present were introduced. Nominating Committee designates a member to serve as shepherd for each committee of the Yearly Meeting.

**2017-13** Friends appointed the following visitors to the sessions for youth through young adults:

0–4 years: Laura Sturgill (Worcester), Betsy Cazden (Providence)

Junior Yearly Meeting, K–1<sup>st</sup> grade: John Wilmerding (Putney), Frederick Martin (Beacon Hill)

Junior Yearly Meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup>–4<sup>th</sup> grade: Sara Smith (Concord), Sheila Garrett (Putney)

Junior Yearly Meeting, 5<sup>th</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> grade: Skip Schiel (Cambridge)

Junior High: Catherine Bock (Burlington), Gail Rogers (Cambridge)

Young Friends: Marion Baker (Weare)

Young Adult Friends: Debbie Humphries (Hartford), Jackie Stillwell (Monadnock)

**2017-14** We closed in worship.

## Monday morning

**2017-15** We heard the epistle from Intermountain Yearly Meeting. Their theme this year was “About Money: A Call to Integrity, Community, and Stewardship.” In worship sharing and plenary sessions, they challenged themselves to consider their values and spiritual orientation toward money and the economic system we live in. They are preparing to adopt a pay-as-led system for their yearly meeting, as they saw demonstrated by New England Yearly Meeting. In one session, Young Friends offered their responses to queries on the theme of identity. “Identity is about more than just gender,” said one Young Friend. “It’s about who and how you love. Love is at the root of it all.” The Yearly Meeting echoed these words at the end of their epistle: “Love is at the root of it all.”

**2017-16** The clerk asked for names of people who usually attend Sessions but are unable to attend this year, so that we may prepare and send cards of greeting to them. As we heard the names spoken, we sensed their spirit among us, called into our gathering.

**2017-17** Sarah Gant (Beacon Hill) reported on Permanent Board’s decision that, to act with integrity, the Yearly Meeting needed to increase staff salaries to meet the minimum standards of the regulations in the proposed federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), whether or not this was ultimately implemented by the government. Specifically, “we would increase the salaries of all non-exempt permanent full-time staff to the level at which they are exempt from the FLSA overtime reporting rule and we would offer proportional raises to our part-time and grant-funded staff—even if the FLSA rules were challenged in court.” This has had an impact on the Yearly Meeting budget. Personnel Committee, Finance Committee, Development Committee, and Permanent Board worked together in the discernment that we must pay our staff justly and develop paths forward to accomplish this, knowing that the financial implications on the budget can be frightening and uncomfortable.

**2017-18** Ben Guaraldi (Beacon Hill) reported for the ad-hoc Long-Term Financial Planning Committee (LTFPC). During Sessions 2015, Friends approved the purpose and priorities for the Yearly Meeting as a whole. The LTFPC then worked with the Coordinating and Advisory Committee (C&A) to support committees in revising the purposes, procedures, and compositions for each committee so that they are in line with the purpose and priorities of the Yearly Meeting as a whole. The expectation of the LTFPC committee is that long-term financial planning will become a part of the regular structures of the Yearly Meeting, such as Permanent Board and the Development, Finance, and Coordinating and Advisory committees. Future work may involve the development of programmatic funding goals, showing the relationship between funding and Yearly Meeting priorities (for example, what it would take to raise the next generation of youth ministers).

**2017-19** Speaking for the Development Committee, current clerk Sara Smith (Concord) and rising clerk Chris Gant (Beacon Hill) gave a brief summary of the success of fundraising over the last 4 years, also de-

tailed in their report in the Advance Documents. Individual gifts have exceeded goals each of the last four years. Sara thanked the Yearly Meeting for the opportunity to serve and shared her belief that giving money may also be perceived as sharing a gift of the heart with this yearly meeting. We thanked her for her service.

Going forward we need \$42,000 more than had been budgeted in order to meet the guidelines of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). The plan of the Development Committee is to meet this added amount through strengthening their efforts to elicit donations. Permanent Board members have promised to increase their own individual giving. There is also a challenge match of \$20,000 to match new or increased donations for this year. Friends are encouraged to consider giving monthly and/or to set up a bequest. Monthly meetings will continue to be contacted to see what they need from Yearly Meeting and how they can support Yearly Meeting's work. The ambitious goal is to have a balanced budget in two years.

**2017-20** Friends responded to the three presentations, one each from Permanent Board, the ad-hoc Long-term Financial Planning Committee (LTFPC), and the Development Committee.

One theme emerged around the authority of the Permanent Board. In answer to a question about why Permanent Board rather than Sessions made decisions which resulted in significant budget overages, we heard that the federal regulations would have gone into effect on December 1st (although ultimately this did not occur under the new administration). After this date NEYM would have been required to increase our overtime salary costs. The Sessions-approved policy for approving overages was followed. Permanent Board and Finance Committee were able to address this issue by virtue of frequent board and subcommittee meetings that allowed intense and deep work in this area. There was not enough time to process all the pieces before last year's Sessions. As recorded in minute 2016-30, Sessions was informed of the FLSA last year and that Permanent Board would need to respond to these regulations. Our Finance Committee clerk sees the process as an example of Yearly Meeting process at its best, and living into a challenge with joy. Permanent Board shared its goal to be transparent and accessible. We are all invited to come to meetings, held in many parts of New England, and to read the materials posted on the website.

Another theme emerged around money. We note a shift of our emphasis in fundraising largely from monthly meetings to increasing individual contributions. We want to keep our focus on "contribute as you are able," without pressure or discomfort. A Friend referred us to Luke 21:1-4: "Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. And he said, 'Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.'" Several Friends asked us to consider our resources of time and talent, as well as treasure.

Another theme was keeping connections strong: How do we keep rural and less wealthy meetings and individuals connected? How do we lift each other up in ministry? Could we invite participation in prayer with Permanent Board?

Even as we aired these questions, there was a strong sense in the room of wanting to pay our staff justly.

**2017-21** Elias Sanchez-Eppler (Northampton), clerk of the Finance Committee, gave a broad overview of the budget. He presented the recent history of surpluses and deficits. He discussed the effects of Legacy Grant money which has been used for our operating budget in recent years, and also the decision this year to pay our staff according to the Fair Labor Standards Act. He showed the projected budget from Finance Committee (which was developed in consultation with the Development Committee). Finance Committee proposes a deficit budget this year and next, but projects a surplus budget in 2019. He also showed how the planned budget would affect the Yearly Meeting reserve levels.

The Finance Committee clerk expressed the hope that we can focus on the joy of what we are doing and the ministries that we are supporting. He showed pie charts that demonstrated the distribution of the proposed budget by income source and by expense purpose for our ministries.

Friends were encouraged to bring questions to members of the Finance Committee, to attend information sessions, and to prepare to formally approve the budget later this week.

**2017-22** We closed in worship.

## Monday evening

**2017-23** Lisa Graustein of Beacon Hill Friends Meeting prayed us into worship.

**2017-24** We heard the epistle from Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM). As BYM considered the many ways they were “called not only to respond but to plan for action,” they felt “a sense of movement” in their time together. From their Growing Diverse Leadership initiative, to environmental issues, to organizational change, to passing a budget reflective of their values, they sought “to have the courage to step into the future” believing that “faith does not ask us to pass through a place where it will not guide us.”

**2017-25** Lisa Graustein (Beacon Hill) and Xinef Afriam reported for the Permanent Board ad-hoc Working Group on Challenging White Supremacy. The group was charged with seeing how the Yearly Meeting followed through with living into our minute 2016-64 on addressing white supremacy in ourselves, our culture, and our larger society.

Through a powerful digital slide show (also available on the NEYM website) the committee shared definitions, concepts, and some responses from individuals, monthly meetings, and quarterly meetings. There was a chance for paired discussion.

Xinef Afriam added a moving testimonial. He has felt held by this Yearly Meeting group and has a feeling of belonging, although he is one of only a few people of color. Using the analogy of a bowl as the container of Quaker faith, he asked us what our capacity is for holding people like him. He fell in love with the conviction there is that of God in all of us. If God is in someone, but we do not accept that one, are we thereby denying God? Our container is made from very old materials present at the time it was made. Will these materials hold all of us today? Can we alter it, or change the lining? Our work is not done until the bowl is made from materials which will hold all of us. We cannot ask not to be blamed for the sins of our ancestors at the same time as we ask to be praised for the good things they did. There are many next steps for us.

**2017-26** The clerk asked Friends to respond to the report from the Permanent Board ad-hoc Working Group on Challenging White Supremacy. What do we, our meetings, and the Yearly Meeting need to do to more deeply engage in this work? We were asked to discern how we might proceed as a yearly meeting.

We settled into moving worship, from which came a mixture of grief, anguish, and hope. We felt in the grip of the Spirit. The metaphor of the bowl echoed in our conversations repeatedly. The energy of this issue held us and would not let us continue with the rest of our agenda for the session as had been planned. We recognized that this was the business we were called to at this moment. Threshing sessions were scheduled to continue the conversation over the next two days, to see if further direction would emerge.

The clerk assured us that this conversation is not finished. If we feel that the only forum for this conversation is in meeting for business, we are limiting ourselves. He exhorted us to not run away from the conversation, and to remember that we are always with God. Rather than close worship, he asked us to rise in a continuing spirit of worship, holding this issue in our hearts as we go forth.

## Tuesday morning

**2017-27** We heard the epistle from Alaska Friends Conference. During their time together, they focused on deepening their spiritual community in order to sustain their climate witness over time. They have come to realize that their climate witness will involve a long-term struggle for cultural, social, and economic change. They described looking for one “Aha” project, but found themselves called to support individuals and meetings on many diverse paths. Paraphrasing Frederick Buechner, they observed that “Climate disruption ... is a place where the world’s great need and our great love intersect.”

**2017-28** Pastor Moses Murenga of Kakamega Yearly Meeting in Kenya greeted us. He encouraged us to hold on to our strong SPICES values and our Quaker faith, with the promise that we will get good results if we do so.

**2017-29** We had the opportunity to hear staff reflections on their work. Brief highlights follow. Written reports may be found in the Advance Documents.

Beth Collela, Religious Education and Outreach Coordinator, lifts up a growing edge in her ministry, a sense of being in the ministry incubation business. She urged us to name ministry, lift ministry up, and nurture it. She listens for and affirms gifts. The challenge in today's culture is individualism: we're trapped into thinking that we have to go it alone, when we can get support from each other. We can let go and depend on God. Her daily prayer is: show me how to live in the Kingdom of Love today. She invites us to join her.

Frederick Martin, Accounts Manager, noted that it might be interpreted as symbolic that he did not file a report in the Advance Documents; he was spending his time getting the numbers right. His ministry as Accounts Manager is to give other people useful truth to work with, as evidenced in the reports from Finance Committee and Development Committee. He draws satisfaction from seeing reports that talk about truthful and useful information, and from providing Friends better ways to access for themselves the information they need, so they can do better work.

Sara Hubner, Office Manager, seeks God in the details. She said that she wants to be transformed but she doesn't want to change. This job has challenged her in many ways: financially, creating office structures, learning new skills, and she has been changed. On days when the staff meets and start the day in worship, the question often asked is, How do you sense God is present in your work? She has learned that no matter whether she is feeling sad or angry or frustrated, or whether she is feeling elated, God is with her.

Anna Hopkins, Friends Camp Director, expressed gratitude for being welcomed into this place and this work. Right now there are 99 people at Friends Camp and they are in worship right now. The camp is sometimes a silly and fun place, but it is also a place for young people to practice creating a world that is in alignment with their beliefs. They now have a gender-inclusive bathroom for the first time. They had a staff member who observed Ramadan this year, and the ensuing conversations around faith were powerful. They had a pray-in at the office of Maine Senator Susan Collins. These are just some of the many significant moments in young people's lives. There are many ways to support the camp, such as supporting a child to attend camp, as Lawrence Monthly Meeting did this year and other meetings have done in the past.

Gretchen Baker-Smith, Junior Yearly Meeting/Junior High Yearly Meeting Coordinator, and supervisor of the Childcare program, brought us stories of 8th graders exiting from their last junior high retreats. The 8th graders treasure their boxes of notes from other participants and staff, read the notes out loud with utmost seriousness, and stash them away for years. The power is not in what is said in the notes, but in how the notes hold the memory of the students' transformation. For Gretchen, it's humbling to realize that her ministry is about showing up and being in relationship over time. It goes both ways, as those same youth have comforted her when she has been much in need. A profound truth about transformation is that for it to be real it has to be messy. There's an incredible give and take of love. Every year the crew of children changes, and the holy water of messiness is extraordinary, and transformations unfold.

Hilary Burgin, Young Adult Engagement Coordinator, reported on the central question of how to maintain and hold the most basic beliefs of Quaker spirituality and how to do it in a new way. She works with monthly meetings to help them welcome newcomers more effectively, and also supports the Young Adult Friends (YAF) community. In a YAF retreat, affinity groups discuss queries such as: What do you need to put down to be present here? What is on your heart? YAFs hold peer-led workshops on such topics as white supremacy and climate change. At Sessions, it can be hard for some YAFs to enter into Yearly Meeting business because of a lot of history and baggage in the agenda. This year they gathered the night before Sessions for a mini-retreat, where they checked in with each other and looked through some of the Advance Documents. YAFs are engaged in many of the activities and responsibilities of the Yearly Meeting at Sessions and sometimes feel separated from each other; they use their group times during Sessions to maintain their connections. She encouraged us to ask deep questions of each other no matter our ages, such as "What do we do during worship?" and "How are you being faithful?" She expressed gratitude for serving in this role.

**2017-30** Ruah Swennerfelt (Burlington), clerk of Earthcare Ministry, introduced the report from Earthcare Ministry, the Prophetic Climate Action Working Group (PCAWG) and others. She suggested that we start by "planting our feet solidly on the ground."

Katherine Fisher (Beacon Hill) reported on the climate consultation hosted by the Yearly Meeting. Some of the concrete things that Friends and Friends meetings in New England are doing to help lessen our contribution to climate change are doing energy audits, installing solar energy systems, and taking other actions. The Legacy Gift Fund has supported some of this work. Often, meeting-wide actions come from one person's leading. She presented suggestions for individuals, for monthly and quarterly meetings, and for Yearly Meeting.

For Individuals:

1. Pray deeper. Find the spiritual foundation for the climate work. Listen to Spirit. Form spiritual deepening groups to support one another.
2. Be bolder. Be prepared to take risks on behalf of Earth. Get out of our comfort zones.
3. Show up when the opportunity arises to make a difference.
4. Make space for the necessary grieving work to help us move through despair to empowerment.
5. Get involved with state and local government. Work together with climate change groups to leverage impact. Get involved with companies (e.g., power companies) that are key players.
6. Consider the implications of the Quaker value of simplicity in terms of its potential for impact on our production of greenhouse gases. Understand that deep, systemic changes are necessary, beyond the simplification of our individual lifestyles.
7. Get to know each other (because we are dispersed communities) in a way that matters (knowing each other's hopes/dreams/foibles) so we can connect. Doing this frees up such an enormous power and creates so many opportunities, breaks down artificial barriers, and brings wealth of resources in communities.

For Monthly, Quarterly, and NEYM:

1. Encourage all 90 of the meetings in NEYM to become actively engaged with climate change. As part of this, we need to develop better ways of communicating/connecting among all of the meetings so that we can share success (and failure) stories.
2. Measure the CO2 used at (or associated with) the Yearly Meeting—and at all of our Meetings.
3. Have closer interaction with Friends Committee on National Legislation to identify things to work on/write letters on. Have each Meeting organize a regular use of letter writing to promote climate-related legislation; perhaps a “letter writing First Day”?
4. Encourage green manufacturing /green services, since we can't reduce greenhouse gases fast enough without doing this. This may involve one or more green certification processes, as well as providing information about the amount of non-renewable energy used in producing individual goods and services.
5. Help families (as well as meetinghouses) reduce their carbon footprint.
6. Charter buses or shuttle from bus station to Sessions.

She reported on how we have been faithful this year to the 2016 climate minute:

- We have supported a Prophetic Climate Action Working Group.
- We held a Climate Consultation to hear of the work being done.
- We gathered for a weekend of discernment on how to move forward.
- NEYM Friends represented us at the Standing Rock Water Protection Action.
- We sponsored the Climate Pilgrimage in July.
- Many monthly meetings stepped up to the Minute and took concrete action during the year.

Jay O'Hara (West Falmouth) reported that the Prophetic Climate Action Working Group, which came together during last year's Sessions, is not a committee of the Yearly Meeting. They are a group of people who try to listen to what leadings are given them for action in climate witness.

God leads us in steps. It takes humility to realize that we do not need to know where we are led. We just need to take the next step. If the leading is true and powerful, more steps will follow, and the ground will shift. God moves first through individuals; the Holy Spirit moves through individual gifts and leadings.

Meg Klepack (West Falmouth) reported that PCAWG has felt love and prayers every step of the way. They have investigated what it means to prophesy. Prophecy is not telling the future. Prophecy breaks through routines, calling us to a deeper faithfulness and witness which is framed by our authentic Quaker existence. They met multiple times, first preparing the ground. They hosted meetings for grieving. They waited for direction. In their March meeting, they wondered if it would be their last meeting, but then way opened for action and new life arose as they found a way to witness to the transformation of God.

In July PCAWG set off on a 7-day, 60-mile pilgrimage between two coal-fired plants in New Hampshire, joined by many in a corporate witness. The walk prepared participants to give over their lives. Civil disobedience followed. Some blocked the train tracks so that coal could not be delivered to the plant. Those blocking the tracks were invited into the invitation of Jesus to give over their lives to whatever would happen on those tracks. The police never arrived, so they had abundant time on the tracks which they spent in Bible study, worship, and in finding community with each other. There were some rough edges, but they found that their true work in that place was discovering how to live into holy community.

Members of PCAWG believe they are discovering new vessels for God's work. They hope that their experience may inspire others. They asked all who were present: where do you find life, energy, and resonance?

We settled into worship, then engaged with these questions in pairs and small groups.

**2017-31** From the suggestions for further action given by Earthcare Ministry and the Climate Consultation, Friends approved the following:

1. We recognized that we have much work to do around climate change.
2. We reaffirmed last year's climate minute: 2016-67:

Friends at the New England Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions at Castleton, VT, August 6–11, 2016, have heard a Divine call to the witness of addressing climate change. We affirm the overwhelming scientific consensus that greenhouse gases released by human activity are causing climate change, that these changes threaten life on our planet as we know it, and that we have a responsibility to address the very real threats that will impact both rich and poor. Those on earth who have contributed least to this crisis are likely to suffer most from it.

This is not just one concern among many to be carried by only some among us. We all live on this planet and are all complicit in altering its climate. It is incumbent upon every Friend and every Friends Meeting to discover how God is leading us to do our part to reverse this great threat.

As in past times of crisis, the strength and love of our community life will make it possible for Friends to see to what they are called, and carry it out faithfully whatever the cost. We can engage with each other tenderly and hold each other lovingly accountable to move from fear into courage, in response to this crisis. This is the manner in which Friends have always responded to great moral challenges of their own time.

Recognizing that we, gathered here, are shaped and limited by our own economic and social positions, nevertheless the divine Witness challenges us, in compassion and in love for all children of God, and for the beautiful earth, to pray, wait, and act with a focus and fearlessness appropriate to the urgency of the times. Love requires it of us.

**2017-32** Sarah Gant (Beacon Hill), Permanent Board Clerk, spoke of the power and wonder of experiencing unconditional love, in her firstborn child and in New England Yearly Meeting.

She presented Permanent Board's nominations for next year's clerks' table:

Presiding Clerk: Fritz Weiss (Hanover)

Recording Clerk: Jim Grace (Beacon Hill)

Recording Clerk: Rosemary Zimmermann (South Starksboro)  
 Reading Clerk: Jeremiah Dickinson (Wellesley)  
 Reading Clerk: Katherine Fisher (Beacon Hill)

Friends approved. Rachel Walker Cogbill, exiting recording clerk, was thanked for her service.

NEYM Nominating Committee (in consultation with the Committee for Nurturing Friends Education at Moses Brown School, the Moses Brown Board Nominating Committee, and the Friends Coordinator of the Moses Brown Board) has over recent years discerned Friends to serve on committees at Moses Brown School and brought those names to NEYM Sessions for approval.

Because orientation to committees and Friends' service at Moses Brown School begin in June (before NEYM Sessions), Permanent Board reported to Sessions that Permanent Board will support the discernment and approval of Friends to the Committee for Nurturing Friends Education at Moses Brown School and the Board of the Moses Brown School. Permanent Board will approve these nominations at a meeting prior to June each year. The specific process is presented in the revised purposes and procedures for the Nurturing Friends Education committee and Moses Brown Board.

Sarah Gant reported on the Living Faith gatherings at Friends School of Portland in the fall and at Moses Brown School in the spring. Noting the success of these gatherings, Permanent Board approved two Living Faith gatherings for this next year: October 28, 2017, at the 224 Eco Space in Hartford, Connecticut, and April 14, 2018, in Maine. We appreciate the efforts of the organizing committee: Lisa Graustein, Hannah Zwirner Forsythe, Sarah Cushman, the NEYM Secretary, and the NEYM Events Coordinator. For some these gatherings are more accessible than Sessions. Newcomers are encouraged. Volunteers are needed. The organizing committee would be glad to have help.

Yearly Meeting has a Fund for Sufferings but it has not been used much recently. The Legacy Gift Committee requests that Permanent Board review and revive the fund. The Legacy Gift Committee is going to seed the Fund for Sufferings with \$25,000.

A Permanent Board working group will take on the charge of figuring out whether, and if so how, we would undertake reparations to the first nations of the land, such as supporting the Wôpanâak Language Reclamation Project. Participation is welcome.

As approved by Yearly Meeting Sessions last year (minute 2016-64), we committed to raise \$4,000 to contribute towards the Friends General Conference Institutional Assessment on Racism. In the same minute last year, we directed Permanent Board to use any extra money raised to support the work of interrupting white supremacy. We raised a total of \$5,500. Permanent Board allocated the additional \$1,500 for leadership throughout the Yearly Meeting to attend Beyond Diversity 101, and other activities that will forward our absolute commitment to breaking down our involvement in white supremacy.

Coordinating and Advisory Committee facilitated a triennial review of the committee purposes, procedures, and composition, as this Committee is charged. The revised purposes and procedures and compositions appear in the Unity Agenda. One outcome of this review is the recommendation from the Permanent Board to the Yearly Meeting gathered in Sessions that four committees be laid down, as follows.

**2017-33** At the committee's request, Permanent Board proposed laying down the Committee on Aging. Its function is being continued in Support Across Generations for Elders (SAGE) under the care of Ministry and Council. Friends approved.

**2017-34** At the committee's request, Permanent Board proposed laying down the Correspondence Committee. The committee responsibilities had included: reading the epistles, which is now done by the reading clerks; organizing correspondence with other yearly meetings, which is now done by staff and the Sessions Committee; and serving as the Epistle Committee during Sessions. Going forward, the Epistle Committee will be named each year by the Clerk of Sessions Committee and the Presiding Clerk. Friends approved.

**2017-35** At the committee's request, Permanent Board proposed having the Ecumenical Relations Committee become a committee under the care of Ministry and Counsel. Friends approved.

**2017-36** After wide consultation, Permanent Board proposed laying down the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. Friends approved. Permanent Board requested that C&A explore new forms and structures for



this work. Friends felt pain in letting go of this beloved and longstanding container for putting our faith into action, and expressed faith that the right structure will be found for this in the future.

**2017-37** We closed in worship.

## Tuesday evening

**2017-38** Greg Williams (Beacon Hill) and Toussaint Liberator, both representing Stone of Hope, prayed, sang and drummed us into worship along with Friends from an afternoon workshop, many of whom had not drummed before. The Spirit filled the hall, and Friends joined in singing “This little light of mine, I’m going to let it shine.”

**2017-39** We heard the epistle from Cuba Yearly Meeting. Gathered for their 90<sup>th</sup> year, they reported hearing a call to bear witness with passion and dedication to the work of the Lord. “[T]aking up again the universal priesthood of the first Quakers,” and with a concern for the condition of our planet and for the places where there is no hope and no joy, they exhort us to shine wherever our footsteps go, and to proceed with a spirit peaceable and mutual.

**2017-40** Keith Harvey, northeast regional director of the American Friends Service Committee, recognized the regional staff members present. How can we represent all the work that American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) has done for 100 years for peace and justice in the world? He read the AFSC mission, vision, and values statements:

### Mission:

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) is a Quaker organization that promotes lasting peace with justice, as a practical expression of faith in action. Drawing on continuing spiritual insights and working with people of many backgrounds, we nurture the seeds of change and respect for human life that transform social relations and systems.

### Vision:

AFSC envisions a world in which lasting peace with justice is achieved through active nonviolence and the transforming power of love. We work toward a world in which:

- All persons affirm the common good and recognize our mutual interdependence
- Societies steward resources equitably
- Caring, respectful economic development, including work with dignity, promotes wellbeing for all
- Communities and societies fractured by exclusion and marginalization are healed and transformed, embracing inclusion and equality
- Conflicts are resolved through restorative means and without force or coercion
- Governments and societal institutions are fair and accountable

### Values:

AFSC values are grounded in Quaker experience and universal truths that are upheld by many faiths and that honor the light of the divine in each person.

- We cherish the belief that there is that of God in each person, leading us to respect the worth, dignity, and equality of all.
- We regard no person as our enemy. While we often oppose specific actions and abuses of power, we seek to call forth the goodness and truth in each individual.
- We strive for integrity, simplicity, and practicality in our expressions and actions.
- We assert the transforming power of love and active nonviolence, as a challenge to injustice and violence and as a force for reconciliation.
- We work in partnership with people in communities around the world, respecting their wisdom about how to change their circumstances and offering our own insights with humility.
- We trust the power of the Spirit to guide the individual and collective search for truth and practical action.
- We accept our understandings of truth as incomplete and have faith that new perceptions of truth will continue to be revealed.

Keith Harvey talked about how Friends have a book of faith and practice. The AFSC is about putting faith into practice. The AFSC brings in other communities and builds relationships. We become part of communities because we invest in them and become partners.

For 100 years, the AFSC has been working for peace and on issues such as race and immigration, “speaking truth to power.” Their work is being part of a living sacrifice. Do not be conformed, but transformed. The prophet Jeremiah spoke in plain language and spoke truth to power, much like Friends, and because of his plain speaking he was thrown into a dry well and left to die.

Then the king commanded Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, “Take thirty men with you from here, and lift Jeremiah the prophet out of the cistern before he dies.” So Ebed-melech took the men with him and went to the house of the king, to a wardrobe in the storehouse, and took from there old rags and worn-out clothes, which he let down to Jeremiah in the cistern by ropes. Then Ebed-melech the Ethiopian said to Jeremiah, “Put the rags and clothes between your armpits and the ropes.” Jeremiah did so. Then they drew Jeremiah up with ropes and lifted him out of the cistern. (Jeremiah 38:10-13)

The pieces of the rope and cloth represent the community around him. Sometimes we think that power does not know the truth. But power knows the truth. It is when everyone else knows the truth that power has to change.

Keith Harvey expressed his wish that he had the time to talk about the American Friends Service Committee’s work with:

- Life over Debt
- IRCA-1986 Immigration and Control Act (employers’ I-9 forms), civil disobedience of the board protesting that, No Human Being Is Illegal.
- The publication *Speak Truth to Power* and the group who worked to write that document
- Bayard Rustin: a gay black Friend who spoke out for LGBT rights, and a civil rights organizer, major organizer of the March on Washington, confidant of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., executive committee member of the AFSC New York Metropolitan Region Office
- Bill Sutherland and his work in Africa, southern Africa, Kenya, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mali, Quaker International Affairs representative
- Our prison work, working against mass incarceration
- Our work in the Middle East
- Vietnam
- Iraq, Eyes Wide Open—the cost of war exhibit
- Our history and relationship with the civil rights movement, Dr. King, SCLC, the poor people’s campaign, Tony Henry
- Clarence Pickett, Steve Carey, Barbara Moffet, Corrine Johnson

He told the story of a grandmother who wore a necklace decorated with two wolves, one wolf big and healthy, and the other scrawny. When asked by her grandchildren about the wolves, she replied that the two wolves represented the struggle within ourselves. One wolf is the fear wolf, who is anger, envy, sorrow, resentment, and greed. The other wolf represents peace, love, hope, generosity, compassion, truth and faith. Both of them, the grandmother said, are fighting inside of you. “Which one will win?” the grandchildren wanted to know. “The one you feed,” replied the grandmother.

We need to feed the “love wolf.” AFSC is having some bumps because of finances, and it is painful. Some of their programs are going away, but many staff members are still here. We are asked to hold them in the light. Keith Harvey reported that for him personally, the fear wolf is very active right now. Some scary organizations seem to have direct links to some of the highest places in the land. Sometimes the fear wolf motivates you to feed the love wolf more.

**2017-41** Penny Wright, clerk of Northwest Quarterly Meeting (NWQM), brought forward Minute 16.169 of Hanover Friends Meeting to Yearly Meeting for consideration. NWQM approved this minute in June, then shared it with other monthly and quarterly meetings. It was also posted on the Yearly Meeting website. Based on this, Friends approved the following minute.

**2017-42** Friends gathered at New England Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions at Castleton, Vermont, August 6–10, 2017, approve the following:

As members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quaker), we believe that the human family is one family; that there is that of God in every member of this family; and that generosity of spirit toward all the members of the human family is of overriding importance.

As Quakers, we reaffirm our unconditional support for the wellbeing and protections of all threatened individuals in our community, including, especially at this troubled time, Muslims and undocumented immigrants.

We urge our government to reaffirm our country's founding values, especially freedom of religion; to affirm our welcome to peaceful refugees and immigrants; to reject bigotry and xenophobia; and to adopt laws and policies that respect the humanity and dignity of all people.

We call on our fellow community members to join us in defending human rights for all, working toward nonviolent religious and civic sanctuary that protects all who are vulnerable, and striving together for compassion, dignity and safety for everyone.

**2017-43** Based on recommendations from Northwest Quarter, we also approved the following:

We encourage each monthly meeting and quarterly meeting within NEYM to share minute 2017-42 with local faith communities and publish it in local papers, and to discern further how they are led in this issue.

We will forward this minute to the wider Quaker world.

We will look for ways to collaborate with other faith communities in addressing these issues, and ask that our Ecumenical Committee share this minute with the wider church.

**2017-44** Northwest Quarter also asked the Yearly Meeting to consider declaring ourselves a sanctuary denomination. We realize that this has many possibilities and implications, and that this is a large and complex issue, but we also recognize that many of our meetings are already exploring sanctuary. Their work could inform our future decision-making.

**2017-45** Skip Schiel, Ian Harrington, Jonathan Vogel-Borne, and Minga Claggett-Borne (all of Cambridge) presented a minute from Salem Quarterly Meeting on the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. Based on this minute, Friends approved the following:

**2017-46** Friends gathered at New England Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions at Castleton, Vermont, August 6–10, 2017, attest to the following:

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) testimony on peace, justice, and nonviolence is based in our experience of the divine in all of creation and within all persons. Thus, we are deeply troubled by the suffering and injustice caused by the Israeli/Palestinian conflict and we are concerned that our government perpetuates that violence by continuing to send billions of dollars of military aid to the region.

We call upon our nation to:

- Cease sending United States military aid and selling weapons to the entire Middle East.
- Continue diplomatic efforts with all parties and remain in dialogue even with those who have acted violently.
- Join the international court system and accept its jurisdiction.

We call upon all nations to:

- Work with the United Nations Security Council to end military aid and arms sales from all outside countries to all parties in this conflict.
- Support the United Nations efforts to bring justice, peace, security, and reconciliation to all parties in the conflict.
- Take measures to assure that international laws are applied universally.

We call upon all individuals and communities to:

- Support and learn from the many organizations that bring Israelis and Palestinians together for justice and peacemaking.
- Examine how anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, racism, and privilege affect our understanding of the conflict

We are deeply grateful to the Friends who have worked over many months in preparing and seasoning this minute.

We ask Friends to report back on what insights and conclusions they have in addressing this conflict.

**2017-47** We closed in worship.

### Wednesday morning

**2017-48** We heard the epistle from Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, who gathered with the theme “moving together with the spirit.” They are responding to a shared leading toward intervisitation among monthly meetings, and also challenging older Friends to listen to younger voices and reconsider some traditional practices. Benigno Sánchez-Eppler visited from FWCC, and urged them to resist the separating spirit and to mend separations among Friends. As they moved together during the week, they reminded each other, “Our differences will want us to fight for them, but our love will make no room for the violence.”

**2017-49** Rev. Daryl Lobban of the Massachusetts Council of Churches brought us greetings and told us of his own Quaker spiritual heritage. The founder of his denomination in the Church of God movement left Quakers because his meeting endorsed slavery.

**2017-50** The Yearly Meeting approved the Unity Agenda, which included the following:

<b>Decisions &amp; Actions Concerning ...</b>	<b>See page</b>
Accepting Staff Reports	30
Accepting Board, Committee & Representative Reports	36
Approving Yearly Meeting Committee Purposes, Procedures, and Composition	59
Approving Bank Resolutions	(below)
Accepting Memorial Minutes	74
Approving Clerks' Authorization to Make Edits & Corrections	(below)

Bank Resolutions Minute

We approved the following resolutions brought by the Finance Committee on August 9, 2017:

1. That Shearman Taber be appointed New England Yearly Meeting treasurer for the ensuing year or until a successor is appointed and qualified.
2. That Robb Spivey be appointed Friends Camp treasurer for the ensuing year or until a successor is appointed and qualified. The Friends Camp treasurer will work under the oversight of the NEYM treasurer and the Friends Camp director.
3. That Shearman Taber, Yearly Meeting treasurer, be authorized to open and close bank accounts in the name of New England Yearly Meeting as needed.
4. That Robb Spivey, Friends Camp treasurer, be authorized to open and close bank accounts in the name of Friends Camp as needed.
5. That Shearman Taber, NEYM treasurer; Ben Guaraldi, immediate past treasurer; Sarah Gant, Permanent Board clerk; and Noah Baker Merrill, Yearly Meeting secretary, be designated as alternate signers, individually, of all bank accounts of New England Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, except those checks for greater than \$5,000, which shall require the signatures of two signers from the list above.
6. That Anna Hopkins, Friends Camp director; Jeffery D. Adelberg, assistant director; Robb Spivey, Friends Camp treasurer; and a designated member of the Friends Camp Committee be authorized, individually, as signers of the Friends Camp bank accounts, except those checks for greater than \$5,000, which shall require the signatures of two signers from the list above.

Minute to Authorize Edits & Corrections

Friends authorize the presiding, recording and reading clerks to make and approve edits, clarifications and corrections to the minutes of NEYM Sessions 2017.

**2017-51** Elias Sanchez-Eppler (Northampton), clerk of Finance Committee, presented several items for approval.

**2017-52** Friends approved Shearman Taber to serve for another year as NEYM treasurer.

**2017-53** Friends approved the Friends Camp Budget.

**2017-54** Friends approved the “non-camp budget,” formerly known as the operating budget.

**2017-55** Shearman Taber (Beacon Hill), Treasurer, reported on our funds and fund balances. We have enough reserves to get us through 2018 and beyond, as long as we adhere reasonably to the budget. Otherwise, we may have to start making contingency plans next spring, though such plans may not be ready for Sessions 2018.

Shearman Taber reviewed the responsibilities of the Finance Committee and the Treasurer. He noted that a two-year budget projection is not a long-term financial plan, but can be helpful when other NEYM bodies prepare their own budgets.

He also noted the need for an assistant treasurer.

**2017-56** We heard reports from visitors to the youth programs.

Childcare—Betsy Cazden (Providence), Laura Sturgill (Worcester)

The Spiritual Lessons We Received from Our Youngest Friends

- We do like to read and listen to words.
- Sometimes we make noise but it's hard for other people to figure out what we're really trying to say.
- Moving my body in fun and silly ways helps me calm down and rest.
- We like having people talk to us in a soothing cheerful voice.
- We can get cranky when we're uncomfortable—or tired, or when things don't go the way we're used to.
- It's important to take deep breaths.
- Sometimes you just need to cry, and all someone else can do is just be there with you.
- Even the smallest blade of grass can be fascinating.

JYM Kindergarten and 1st grade—Frederick Martin (Beacon Hill)

I arrived to find the K-1 group attending their all-JYM morning meeting, where the 2–4 group was sharing the tie-dyed T-shirts they had made. I noticed some particular aspects of the way the program is set up because of my background as a teacher. As the K-1 group left, the adults did an unobtrusive number check: “six kids leaving the room,” one said to another as they marked the number on a clipboard. The K-1 room was cozy and well-prepared, with picture books, pillows, a first-aid kit, snacks, and displays of their craft projects. The room and staff seemed caring and friendly. When they arrived back at their room, they began drafting their epistle, led by one of the adults. The adults listened carefully to each child, and invited them all to share ideas for the epistle. The children's eyes lit up when they heard their own words read back to them by JYM staff.

JYM 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grades—Sheila Garrett (Putney), Sara Smith (Concord)

Our visit began at 8:15 a.m. on “Tired Tuesday.” JYM starts the day together with singing, reading an epistle, check-in and announcements. A story, *Enemy Pie*, was turned into a play. Worship was both deep and wiggly. When the groups split up, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grades did a few stretches and a brainstorm for their epistle.

The second activity was weaving a structure or sculpture. Four groups were formed, each having a big ball of yarn to wind around chairs and cardboard tubes. This required lots of sharing, trading off, and collaboration. There was a quiet absorption for about 30 minutes of using a mindful body as they ducked under and stepped over the growing web. There was leadership by older children helping younger. As their creation became a complex 3-D web they started adding tube creations. Soon a storm of snowy Styrofoam bits fell. One boy walked by with “frostbitten hands.” One creative child threw the yarn over the hanging light. Then everyone tried it—carefully! Then it was declared finished.

Outside they paired off with new partners for snacks. As we left for the playing field, we stopped to examine a pool of water by the path filled with frogs. At the field they cooperatively decided on a game. Monsters followed a museum guard but froze as she looked at them. Others worked carefully on a mandala.

We think our 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders have a lot to teach us about cooperation.

JYM 5th and 6th grades—Skip Schiel (FMC)

The group was highly interactive and playful, as expected, with much decision-making accomplished jointly. This might be good prep for Quaker process. Kids played with clay and then spoke about their work. Small groups met outside, ours choosing eventually to talk about being or *maybe* being Quaker, what this means, and how one might decide. I left after a round game but more were planned. One child opted out of the three activities I observed, I'm not sure why, and the adult leaders let her withdraw.

JHYM—Catherine Bock (Burlington), Gail Rogers (Cambridge)

We visited the Junior High School Yearly Meeting on Monday afternoon and found the group playing games and ukuleles, and relaxing together. Cell phones were checked at the door. One group was at the swimming pool and then collecting snacks to bring back. We noticed how happy the young people were, as

well as the staff. Their area has both indoor and outdoor spaces for gathering, and access to fields and facilities.

We heard that new junior high school participants were welcomed and quickly integrated into the group, whether they were Quaker or not.

Adults told us how remarkable this group of young people is this year, and also that they feel this way with all of the groups every year. Volunteer staff often return from year to year, a sign of joy and health in the program.

We heard about how a panel of adult Quakers, as well as Noah Merrill on another occasion, came to spend time with the group, and that the young people had shared with depth and insight in response to the topics and queries presented. The staff was inspired by the depth of their sharing about their own transformation journeys. We also heard a desire on the part of the youth to be seen and heard as full participants in the community with insights and active spiritual journeys rather than as immature beings not yet ready for prime time. Many religious traditions welcome youth to adult fellowship at 13 or 14 with rites of passage.

Upon inquiry, we learned that there are 23 junior-high-aged participants, with 10 volunteer staff total, and 5 staff with the young people at any given time. Gretchen Baker-Smith's leadership and support was strongly praised, as well as that of the volunteers.

It was our pleasure to visit with this group, and we are happy to be able to make this report.

#### Young Friends—Marian Baker (Weare)

To find out when to go, I asked a teen in the lunch line about their program. Abby from Portland encouraged me to come that afternoon. She welcomed me warmly when I arrived.

Emily Provance from New York Yearly Meeting led a sharing on barriers to inclusivity. One issue is Quakerese—do we explain Quakerly terms so that all, including newcomers, feel welcome?

Second is “spiritual” being equated with solemn, not joyful. They don't know that the majority of Friends in the world are singing, joyful Friends.

Third is ageism: The Young Friend who welcomed me thought I was very brave to reach out to a teen! They would like to be more a part of the Yearly Meeting, not isolated all the time.

Fourth was the barrier of social media versus paper and email.

Fifth was the cost of gatherings, but they reasoned that to include those with disabilities, we need more expensive facilities.

We have much to learn from our teenagers. I encourage each of us to reach out and greet teens as equal Friends.

#### Young Adult Friends (YAFs)—Debbie Humphries (Hartford), Jacqueline Stillwell (Monadnock)

The Young Adult Friends (YAFs) front-loaded their programming with a pre-Sessions retreat Friday evening at a local church. There they gathered, connected, and reviewed the agenda of our business sessions to prepare for our week together. They did not have their own business sessions.

By Tuesday afternoon, their time together was spent in long walks, affinity groups, and playing games. We enjoyed playing games with them, while eating cookies, apples, chips and salsa. Might we learn from them?

The YAFs carry deep concerns for the wellbeing of each member of their community, affirming the evolving awareness of personal identity, holding each other with tenderness and love.

The Young Adult Friends are here with us in our business sessions, our threshing sessions, our workshops, our committees, and our worship. We are one body.

We appreciated and resonated with something of the spirit and the joy from each age group. We of different ages have much in common.

**2017-57** The Clerk expressed his appreciation for the Legacy Gift Committee. The committee has granted funding for many ministry projects in the Yearly Meeting, such as the Stone of Hope ministry in the Boston area. The clerk noted that we had directly experienced the power of the Stone of Hope ministry on Tuesday evening. These ministries have affected many Friends throughout the Yearly Meeting. Friends are very grateful for the work of this committee.

**2017-58** Co-clerks of the nominating committee, Connie Kincaid-Brown (Hanover) and Penny Wright (Hanover), presented the slate of nominations. Friends approved.

The clerk noted that one change in the revised purposes and procedures approved in the Unity Agenda is that clerks of committees are now appointed by the Yearly Meeting instead of by the committee itself.

The Nominating Committee is placing less emphasis on filling a complete slate of committees to bring for approval at Sessions, and more emphasis on raising gifts and talents and matching them to committee work after prayerful discernment. Nominations that are not ready to be approved at Sessions can be brought to Permanent Board for approval.

**2017-59** We closed in worship.

## Thursday morning

**2017-60** We heard the epistle from Quaker Women in Public Ministry. They see themselves in a line of Quaker women in ministry, but lament that practices for supporting ministry have sometimes fallen into disuse. They invite Friends everywhere to work together to find new ways to support ministry and eldership.

**2017-61** We have deep appreciation for this year's Bible Half-Hours by Marty Grundy, and for our plenary by Ruby Sales. This ministry has spoken to our souls.

**2017-62** We heard from Debbie Humphries, clerk of Ministry and Counsel, about the state of the Religious Society. She read the following:

Ministry and Counsel has received state of society reports from monthly meetings. These are rich with vitality, deep honesty, and are a gift to read. We noticed the threads of the grounding experience of our corporate worship, our experiences of pastoral care and outreach, and our work on issues such as white supremacy and climate change. Meetings also shared their efforts at outreach as they strive to be more welcoming to families, young adults, and newcomers. All of the monthly and quarterly meeting state of society reports are now available. M&C is clear on three elements of our sense of the state of society of New England Yearly Meeting.

1. We are listening deeply to hear how we are led to embody the Spirit in our daily lives as individuals and worshipping communities.
2. We hunger for the power and vitality of the Spirit that guided previous generations of Quakers.
3. We want to be real allies to those who are seeking to overturn structures of oppression.

As a way of reflecting on the state of our society, we were asked to settle into silent worship, answering the following queries out of the silence.

1. When we gather in meeting for worship, are we open and expecting to be changed?
2. When the Light shows us places that need healing or transformation, how do we respond?
3. As we seek to identify the places in our communities and in the world where our actions and voices are needed, what is the good news we have to share?

A summary of these reflections was read back by Honor Woodrow, recording clerk of Ministry and Counsel:

Friends shared the following reflections, starting with the good news:

The good news is that our God hears us, and speaks to us, and guides us. This is our testimony that has always been to the whole world. We do not have to build the kingdom of God. It has already been built and exists. All we have to do is enter into it.



We were reminded that Moses never reached the promised land, but he kept on walking. The good news is that we keep on walking; we believe it is possible.

The good news is that we have a tradition of discernment, of challenging, and testing ourselves. The really good news is that it's True and accessible. It really is possible to be completely stress-free right here, right now.

We can share the good news about our work here this week on undoing white privilege.

We heard themes about the challenges of change and transformation from earlier in the week reflected in the sharing.

Each of these queries comes with a certain openness to conflict. To be changed I have to recognize that I have to be changed from something. To have a place that has to be healed or transformed there has got to be room to do that. This is risky business.

Across the Yearly Meeting there are a lot of us who are asleep, and sitting there conventionally, not in hope or expectation or irritation or in much intellectual activity. We're receiving some rest, and that's to be welcomed, but it isn't rest to the soul. I think most often the things that the Light shows us at those times is that it's time to wake up, and that does happen. And what joy it is that as busy and as sleepy and as distracted and as unfaithful as we tend to be, we are getting back into the habit of naming the problem without fear, and in a workmanlike manner, putting ourselves into the hand of the great workman.

We heard a song encouraging us to "Wake up."

When the divine light of God shows us places that need healing and transforming, I have found that if we are willing to go and just listen, willing to go and learn from others in whatever condition they are, that we will be amazed, we will be changed and transformed.

I am aware of how much work we have to do in our monthly meetings to hold one another in healing and in transformation. It's easier in some ways to do it with people we see once in a while. It's harder to do it with people we see all the time.

We closed in a period of silent worship.

**2017-63** We heard the Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas (FWCC-SA) report from Rachel Guaraldi (Beacon Hill), her infant son Gideon Guaraldi, and Judy Goldberger (Beacon Hill) clerk of FWCC-New England. An electronic slideshow was presented. We heard about FWCC's vital travel ministry, bilingual curriculum development, and outreach programs. Further details of their report are in the Advance Documents. Gideon added happy babbles when World Quaker Day was mentioned. The engagement of NEYM with FWCC is part of what makes a blessed community

**2017-64** Noah Merrill (Putney), Yearly Meeting secretary, reported. His written report is found in the Advance Documents.

He asked that we hold our Young Friends community in prayer. It has been a challenging time for them as they seek to address some issues that have come up among them this week. Resource people and others who have been working with them are also in need of prayer.

Consistent with minute 2015-57 of two years ago, the Yearly Meeting secretary and presiding clerk are authorized to issue time-sensitive public statements during the year on behalf of the Yearly Meeting. This year there were three:

1. November 3, 2016: "A Call to Prayer and Support for Standing Rock," [neym.org/public-statements/call-prayer-and-support-standing-rock](http://neym.org/public-statements/call-prayer-and-support-standing-rock)
2. November 10, 2016: "More Than Ever: A Post-Election Message" (actually a letter from the Yearly Meeting staff), [neym.org/public-statements/more-ever-post-election-message](http://neym.org/public-statements/more-ever-post-election-message)
3. January 31, 2017: "Welcoming the Stranger," a joint letter from Massachusetts Heads of Church on Refugee Resettlement, [neym.org/public-statements/welcoming-stranger](http://neym.org/public-statements/welcoming-stranger)

Noah Merrill passed around a beautiful ceramic bowl, made by a New England Friend, which was full of holes. The vessel that is the Religious Society of Friends is not a container to hold us. We are the container, formed by the Spirit to carry living water in the world. He invited us to allow institutional forms that no longer serve to fall away; to allow ourselves to be transformed; and to recognize that when transformation happens, more and more will be called to join with us. Come, let us go down to the Potter's house, and see the Potter working on the clay. Let us place ourselves in the Potter's hands, knowing that we are being transformed from one vessel, beautiful and flawed, into another that will serve better.

What must we do so that the ministry of Friends can grow and thrive here, now? Noah Merrill offered some reflections he hoped would be useful:

1. Meetings: How are we supporting our local meetings? Rufus Jones in 1944 said that it is in our local meetings where the vitality, potency and future of our society resides.
2. Ministry: We are nurturing vital gifts in ministry. How can we fully release in our local meetings the gifts that the Spirit is pouring out in abundance among us? It's time to harvest the fruit and to allow these ministries to thrive.
3. Money: How can we embrace putting money in its proper place? Does money control us, or do we use money to support ministry?
4. Movement: How can the tools we have be most fully used to liberate our movement? We are traveling and we don't know where we are going, but we are on a journey together and we are being accompanied on that journey.

Noah ended with an invitation to remember that none of our work makes sense without a commitment—now, and in each moment—to renew our openness to the presence, movement and guidance of the Holy Spirit, as we go down to the Potter's house, together.

**2017-65** We heard the report of Events Coordinator Kathleen Wooten. Our annual Sessions have been growing in the last two years, and have had more first-time attenders. Precise statistics on attendance will be included in a later report, to be distributed after Sessions. Some are following the events at Sessions through social media.

She expressed her deep appreciation to her partner in ministry Ken Glover (North Shore), Events Coordinator Assistant, for his faithful, joyous service.

All gifts are from God, and all those who serve are part of the Body of Christ. Please remember to give thanks for every part of that Body.

We were moved as she presented a slideshow of photos from our Sessions.

This year Kathleen Wooten concludes her service to us as Events Coordinator. The Yearly Meeting expressed its heartfelt love and gratitude for this service.

Leslie Manning (Durham), clerk of Sessions Committee, presented Kathleen Wooten with a suitably inscribed tee-shirt as a token of our deep appreciation of her service to the Yearly Meeting: "Mind that which is eternal, which gathers your hearts together up to the Lord, and lets you see that you are written in one another's heart." (George Fox)

With humor, Leslie also inducted Kathleen into the Order of the Quaker Fez, presenting her with a custom-made piece of that headgear, in deep appreciation for all her service to the Yearly Meeting as exemplified by one of her challenges: managing the logistics on our first day of Sessions each year at Castleton when the Shriners parade through the campus while we are gathering.

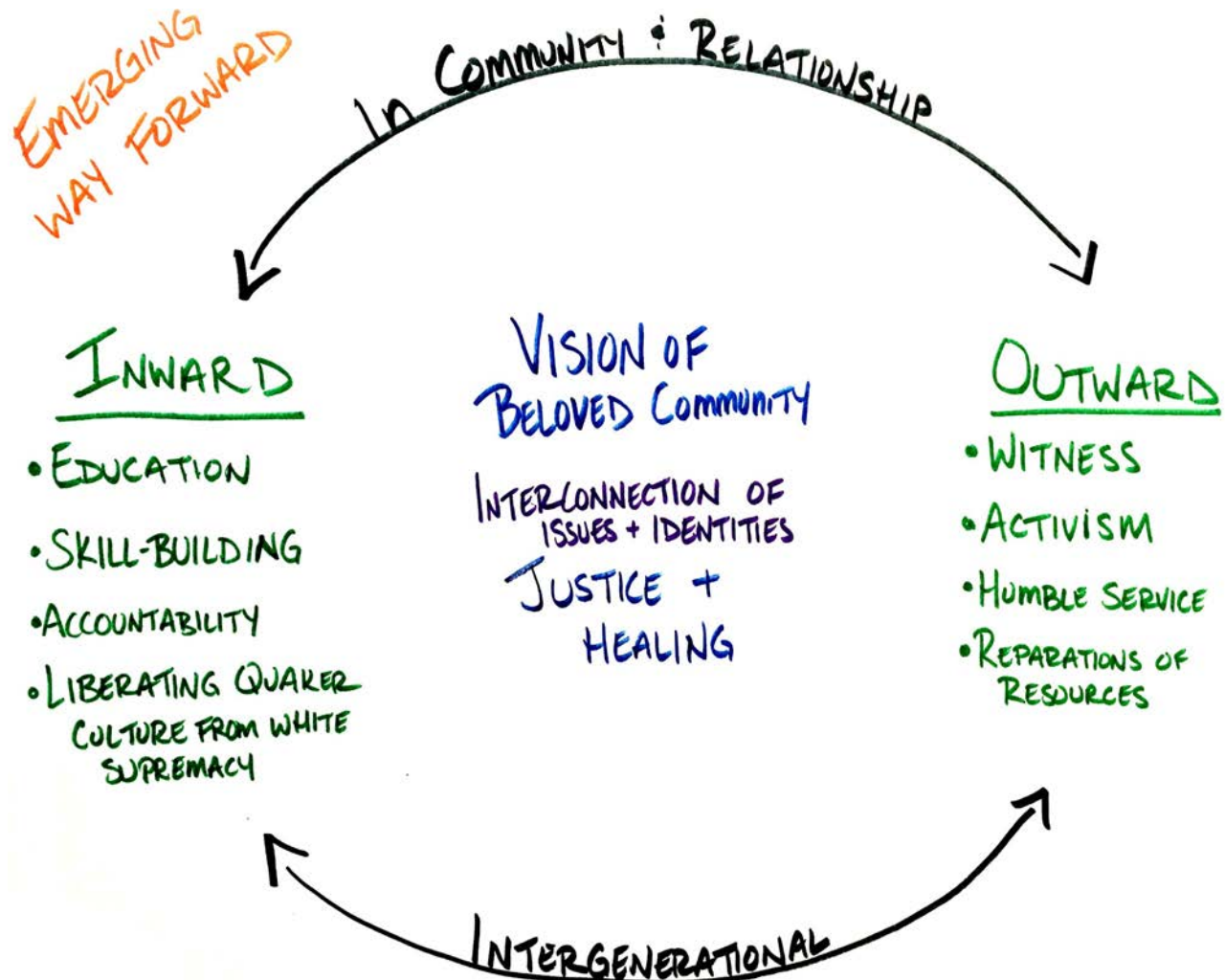
**2017-66** Friends approved our Epistle, with thanks to the Epistle Committee.

**2017-67** Earthcare Ministry clerk Ruah Swennerfelt offered the following statement as a follow-up from earlier in the Sessions:

The Earthcare Ministry Committee is not bringing back a request for NEYM to sign or endorse the Paris climate accord. It's become clear we're not ready at this time to consider that request. Instead we're offering the following, which requires no action today.

At Sessions this year we reaffirmed the 2016 Climate Minute, indicating that we will "pray, wait, and act with a focus and fearlessness appropriate to the urgency of the times." The Earthcare Ministry Committee believes that setting concrete goals to reduce our emissions in line with a maximum 1.5°C global temperature rise (the aspirational goal of the Paris climate accord) would be helpful for our next steps. The committee will coordinate collecting carbon emission data as a basis for proposing a percentage emissions reduction goal for the Yearly Meeting. That proposal will come back to Sessions in 2018 for consideration.

**2017-68** Lisa Graustein of the Permanent Board ad-hoc Working Group on Challenging White Supremacy reported back to the body on the widely attended threshing sessions held during Sessions, a continuation of the tenderness experienced at business meeting on this topic (see minutes 2017-25 and 2017-26). While no definitive suggestions for action emerged, there was a deep desire to focus on what we are working towards rather than what we are working against; to support the work we need to do in ourselves to liberate ourselves from white supremacy; and to remember that we need to work in community with each other, and with God. In this manner, we may work towards justice and healing in a beloved community. A diagram helped explain the flow of this work. The committee will continue its work to see what may come forward to Sessions next year.



**2017-69** In worship and song, the children and youth joined us.

**2017-70** We heard the epistles from the week, from Childcare through adult Sessions. The young adult Friends chose to be part of the adult Sessions this year, so did not draft a separate epistle of their own.

**2017-71** We closed in worship, purposing to meet on August 4–9, 2018, at Castleton University, Vermont, and hoping that we can gather again on October 28, 2017, at the Living Faith Gathering in Hartford, and in the spring of 2018 in Maine.

## Approved Budget

FY18 Approved Budget (continued next page)

Non-Camp Budget Proposal Summary Income	Actual Amounts			Budgeted Amounts			FY17 Budget with Approved Overages	Δ FY17 to FY18	FY18 Budget Proposal	Δ FY18 to FY19	FY19 Budget Proposal
	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY15	FY16	FY17					
Income											
4010 Individual Contributions	134,764	134,746	137,135	125,000	135,000	142,400	142,400	57,600	200,000	70,000	270,000
4020 Monthly Meeting Contributions	306,912	320,705	332,705	320,000	333,000	348,300	348,300	24,815	373,115	17,656	390,771
4030 Organizations Contributions	943	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4050 Interest and Dividend Income	3,719	2,572	9,499	11,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	-1,000	5,000	-1,000	4,000
4070 Books and other Items	17,094	14,282	14,802	15,500	18,000	15,500	15,500	500	16,000	-	16,000
4080 Retreat Program Fees	46,143	51,887	43,303	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	-	50,000	-	50,000
4085 Sessions Program Fees	208,553	185,007	178,864	190,000	210,000	210,000	210,000	-20,243	189,757	5,693	195,450
4090 Change in Fair Market Value	-	-	393	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4099 Net Assets Released To/From	18,391	25,000	20,000	25,000	20,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>736,519</b>	<b>734,200</b>	<b>736,701</b>	<b>736,500</b>	<b>772,000</b>	<b>772,200</b>	<b>772,200</b>	<b>61,672</b>	<b>833,872</b>	<b>92,348</b>	<b>926,220</b>

## FY18 Approved Budget (continued from page 27)

Non-Camp Budget Proposal Summary Expenses	Actual Amounts			Budgeted Amounts			FY17 Budget with Approved Overages	Δ FY17 to FY18	FY18 Budget Proposal	Δ FY18 to FY19	FY19 Budget Projec- tion
	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY15	FY16	FY17					
Expenses											
5000 Staff											
5010 Salaries & Wages	258,847	275,498	281,889	273,482	279,852	286,208	299,742	23,791	309,999	2,492	312,491
5020 Payroll Taxes	18,911	19,642	19,746	20,904	21,409	21,895	22,931	1,820	23,715	191	23,906
5030 Benefits	83,227	63,399	68,532	82,284	79,935	75,541	79,049	8,133	83,674	3,868	87,542
Total 5000 Staff	360,985	358,539	370,167	376,670	381,196	383,644	401,722	33,744	417,388	6,551	423,939
Total 5100 General & Administration	56,409	47,904	55,574	54,365	59,615	58,715	82,211	29,396	88,111	-	88,111
5300 Travel & Conferences	32,033	32,093	33,068	33,200	36,600	34,400	34,400	1,600	36,000	-	36,000
6000 Programs											
6110 Sessions Room & Board	150,142	152,148	167,926	160,000	170,000	170,000	170,000	5,100	175,100	5,253	180,353
6112 Retreats - Room & Board	37,191	44,054	34,760	30,000	34,000	38,000	38,000	-	38,000	-	38,000
6125 Program Expenses	22,588	26,199	26,262	26,400	27,700	28,900	28,900	300	29,200	100	29,300
6130 Committee Expenses	17,607	17,764	20,677	26,940	32,040	28,505	28,505	-2,305	26,200	-	26,200
6160 Program Support	-	-	-	-	-	4,020	4,020	-	4,020	4,020	4,020
Total 6000 Programs	227,528	240,165	249,625	243,340	263,740	269,425	269,425	3,095	272,520	5,353	277,873
6140 Books and Other	13,151	11,110	12,114	15,000	14,500	13,500	13,500	1,000	14,500	-	14,500
6200 Support of Other Organizations											
6310-6325 FGC, FUM & FWCC	40,270	40,351	38,429	41,449	39,199	39,225	39,225	-	39,225	-	39,225
6330 Friends' Organizations	2,250	2,250	2,250	2,250	2,250	2,350	2,350	-	2,350	-	2,350
6590 Ecumenical Organizations	4,400	4,400	4,033	4,400	4,400	4,400	4,400	-	4,400	-	4,400
Total 6200-6500 Support of Other Organizations	46,920	47,001	44,712	48,099	45,849	45,975	45,975	-	45,975	-	45,975
6600 Publications	14,254	14,972	10,803	9,600	7,500	13,000	13,000	-1,500	11,500	-	11,500
Total Expenses	751,280	751,784	776,063	780,274	809,000	818,659	860,233	67,335	885,994	11,904	897,898
Net Operating Income	-14,761	-17,584	-39,362	-43,774	-37,000	-46,459	-88,033	-5,663	-52,122	80,445	28,322
Excluding Legacy Gift Funds	-33,152	-42,584	-59,362	-68,774	-57,000	-46,459	-88,033	-5,663	-52,122	80,445	28,322

## FY18 Approved Friends Camp Budget

<b>Friends Camp Budget Proposal Summary Income Category</b>	<b>Actual Amounts FY16</b>	<b>Budgeted Amounts</b>		<b>Δ FY17 to FY18</b>	<b>FY18 Budget Proposal</b>
		<b>FY16</b>	<b>FY17</b>		
<b>Income</b>					
<b>4 Contributions</b>					
4012 Monthly, Quarterly & Yearly Meetings	10,473	11,368	9,220	-90	9,130
4013 Contributions & Gifts	22,593	15,540	16,000	6,000	22,000
4021 Camp Renewal & Replacement Fund	2,100	17,000	9,380	120	9,500
4022 Bathroom / Sink / Shower Renovations	17,462	-	16,040	-16,040	-
4110 Campership Donations	15,108	19,600	18,280	-	18,280
<b>Total 4 Contributed Income</b>	<b>67,736</b>	<b>63,508</b>	<b>68,920</b>	<b>-10,010</b>	<b>58,910</b>
<b>5 Rentals and Merchandise</b>					
5330 Confrance & Program Fees	19,991	17,890	18,400	100	18,500
5440 Merchandise Sales	5,723	5,400	6,000	550	6,550
<b>Total 5 Rentals and Merchandise</b>	<b>25,713</b>	<b>23,290</b>	<b>24,400</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>25,050</b>
<b>5184 Summer Program Fees</b>	<b>310,853</b>	<b>310,760</b>	<b>311,180</b>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>313,380</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>404,301</b>	<b>397,558</b>	<b>404,500</b>	<b>-7,160</b>	<b>397,340</b>

<b>Friends Camp Budget Proposal Summary Expenses Category</b>	<b>Actual Amounts FY16</b>	<b>Budgeted Amounts</b>		<b>Δ FY17 to FY18</b>	<b>FY18 Budget Proposal</b>
		<b>FY16</b>	<b>FY17</b>		
<b>Expenses</b>					
7200 Staff Expenses	204,777	199,148	186,367	11,218	197,585
8100 Program, Supplies & Accounting	43,635	44,540	51,535	3,965	55,500
8101 Youth Camperships Total	12,200	12,200	18,280	-18,280	-
8149 Fund Raising Mailings (Printing/ Postage)	4,144	1,200	1,600	2,400	4,000
8171 Food	50,625	49,334	51,150	3,150	54,300
8181 Buildings & Grounds Materials	8,289	14,500	14,500	-	14,500
8200 Occupancy - Utilities	8,052	8,450	8,900	150	9,050
8300 Travel & Conferences	18,292	17,197	17,500	3,600	21,100
8450 Depreciation & Amortization	19,435	17,964	18,258	1,742	20,000
<b>8470 Capital Fund Account</b>					
8471 General Projects (unrestricted)	22,420	22,420	9,380	120	9,500
8472 (Bird Bath Showers - restricted)	-	-	16,040	-16,040	-
<b>Total 8470 Capital Fund Account</b>	<b>22,420</b>	<b>22,420</b>	<b>25,420</b>	<b>-15,920</b>	<b>9,500</b>
<b>8500 Insurance</b>	<b>10,428</b>	<b>10,868</b>	<b>10,900</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>11,350</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>402,298</b>	<b>397,821</b>	<b>404,410</b>	<b>-7,525</b>	<b>396,885</b>

<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>2,004</b>	<b>-263</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>455</b>
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## Staff Reports

### Yearly Meeting Secretary

WHAT WE'VE KNOWN	WHERE WE'RE INVITED
Industrial, institutional, constructed, structural, institution-centric	Ecological, organic, relational, emergent, movement-centric
Tradition as historical and fixed	Tradition as living and dynamic
Asks: Where does it fit?	Asks: How is it connected?
Fixed and few ways to participate	Many flexible ways to participate
Asks about effect on institution	Asks about effect on wider ecology
Asks: What's the problem?	Asks: Where's the life?
Asks: What will sustain the institution?	Asks: What will help the movement grow and thrive?
Asks: What's our way?	Asks: What's needed now?
Involvement is rigid—in or out	Belonging is permeable—on spectrum
Measures health from institutional center	Measures health by growing edges
Privileges voices within the institutional structure	Privileges voices of those outside the institutional structure
Focuses on what we do	Focuses on why we do it
Faces inward	Faces outward
Sees itself as the movement	Sees itself as supporting the movement
Operates from concern for scarcity	Operates from trust in abundance
Accountability is internal to the institution	Accountability is external to the institution
Doing everything	Doing only what's most needed
Authority from position	Authority from trust, experience
Initiative: "Stop until we say go"	Initiative: "Go until we say stop"
Emphasizes role	Emphasizes relationship
Emphasizes ownership	Emphasizes participation
Exercises control	Encourages sharing
Emphasizes policy and process	Emphasizes gifts and leadership
Change happens through institutional decisions	Change happens through personal relationships
Change is planned, infrequent, and must address all issues before moving forward	Change is incremental, ongoing, and ubiquitous
Prioritizes structure	Prioritizes function
Organization as primary vehicle of action	Organization as one vehicle among many
Asks: How can we do it?	Asks: How can we help it happen?
One size fits all/one right way	Context-dependent/what's needed here?
Leadership: Asks, who is available and willing?	Leadership: Asks, what gifts and skills are needed for this work, and who demonstrates them?

FRIENDS  
JOURNAL

BY NOAH MERRILL



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### Events Coordinator

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Joy is a frighteningly difficult subject to speak about, and I did not choose it willingly. It came, and would not be put aside. —Elise Boulding

This has been a year of many blessings for me in my service among Friends in New England—in our Living Faith Gatherings, our Annual Sessions planning, and in more intimate gatherings. I have rarely experienced such a close-knit and supportive staff community as I have in this Yearly Meeting. The quiet encouragements from so many in our community I will treasure.

We do good, faithful work. I have also seen us get lost, and confused, and frustrated—but I have seen us remind each other time and time again of Whose we are, of how to center down into Love, and begin to listen again for a clear direction together. No matter how many times I experience this Holy Love in community, it is still always a surprise of pure Joy. My prayer for us, always, is that we remind each other of how to find that way home in challenging times.

It seems to me, in all of these places, that there is a strong invitation here. Yes, we are always invited to Love and Joy in our community—but this rising form of service among Friends in New England, of being in the world with each other, of being God's kingdom on earth, seems especially tangible now. Indeed, if we are to be a people of transformation, the circumstances seem to be ever present for this holy Work.

Soon my shape of service will change. In late August, I will complete my time in the position of Events Coordinator of New England Friends. This service emerged as a surprise to me—a ministry of beloved community in a time when I was just beginning to learn the ways of Friends. I have been graced with many lessons in the past four years in this evolving work. It has served as a path of travel, when that was a tender and emerging call. As this position released me into ministry, now I am released out of it. Knowing when it is time to leave is as valuable as knowing when to say “yes.”

I am excited for what new service has been rising for me—a ministry of connection. How we learn to tell our story in this time—clearly, simply, and as example of God's love for us all—is on my heart always. I am excited for what new service has been rising for me: travel in the ministry among Friends both in person and in digital spaces, in ecumenical relationships, and in being with each other in Gospel love. I look forward to hearing the stories of “a joy that will not be put aside” among Friends in New England, and sharing those stories widely.

You, the Friends of New England Yearly Meeting, have served as the hands of God for me in gentle direction, in pointing the way, and in loving but firm stops. I give thanks to the Divine Presence I have felt so strongly, and the example Friends in New England have provided. I look forward to seeing how Truth prospers among us together in the upcoming year!

In faith and service,  
—KATHLEEN WOOTEN

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### Friends Camp Director

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This has been a year of growth and stretching for Friends Camp. With a new director, a largely new committee, a new governance document, and the highest enrollment on record we feel the Spirit at work with us! We anticipate over 400 camper sessions in 2017, giving us the opportunity to serve more youth than ever before.

Campers and families report signing up for Friends Camp because it is “a safe haven” where they feel accepted in a challenging world; they want a chance to develop independence and they want to have fun. We have had especially high interest this year from young families and from families in the NEYM youth programs. Marketing, fundraising, and hiring are major winter projects for any non-profit

camp director. I see these activities not as a way to “sell” camp, but as a way to tell our story with integrity and spread hope in our communities. I have developed camp storytelling this year through an updated newsletter and online methods of communication, especially.

We continue our many campership programs, serving low-income families from Maine, children who have an incarcerated parent, teens from Codman Academy in Dorchester, and other families who require assistance. Almost half of the families who attend Friends Camp receive financial assistance to do so, and gifts from many in the NEYM community and beyond make this possible. This year I worked to further engage the alumni community of Friends

Camp with a special newsletter and a campership campaign.

Other areas of growth this year have included improving the physical infrastructure of Friends Camp and continuing to develop the organizational infrastructure of the Camp Committee. Improvements to our property this year have included updates to staff cabins extending their livable season, replacing the kitchen water heater through the assistance of a Legacy Grant, and purchasing a new convection oven. The Friends Camp Committee continues to grow into the new governance document, which establishes best practices for financial checks-and-balances and active sub-committees. Transitioning financially from the former director and treasurer to a new director and treasurer has required a significant investment of time this year.

I continue to seek ways for Friends Camp to serve the Yearly Meeting community in the “shoulder” seasons of spring and fall. This year for the first

time we will host the entire Moses Brown School 9th grade for a retreat in August. Art Camp, a program for adults begun in 2015, continues this September with four resident artists and a weekend retreat, open to the community, to explore art and faith.

Friends Camp is blessed with many wonderful staff members who work caring for our campers, feeding our community, and making sure that everything “behind the scenes” goes smoothly. We are also welcoming four Resident Friends to Friends Camp this summer, through a Legacy Gift. The staff this summer hails from four countries and many backgrounds. We are led to dive into dismantling the system of white supremacy and to ensure that community members from all faith backgrounds feel welcome at Friends Camp.

Respectfully submitted,

—ANNA HOPKINS

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### Junior Yearly Meeting/Junior High Yearly Meeting Coordinator

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In 20 years, what I will remember most about JHYM is that it was my sanctuary. —8th grader, April 2017

At the beginning of every retreat, I take a deep breath and declare to everyone in the circle that “the purpose of the retreat program is to create a spiritually grounded, joyous, and safe community where we can seek and find that of God in ourselves and in each other.” It is a continual wonder how often Grace attends and our intergenerational community does, indeed, create a place of sanctuary.

This year’s 11 retreats explored such topics as meeting for business, peaceful action, asking for what we need, hospitality, the word “light” in the George Fox song, difficulties as sources of transformation, and how “normal” is just a setting on a dryer. JHYM dove into building a more gender-inclusive community and continued experimenting with committee leadership. JYM thoughtfully explored being good friends to each other and good stewards of Woolman Hill’s beloved climbing trees. In both programs, young people talked about worries for the world and their efforts and challenges to act as Friends in school hallways, soccer fields, and neighborhoods.

JYM and JHYM attenders are beautiful human beings striving to live intentionally kind and thoughtful lives. Their levels of stress and anxiety cause me deep concern. Pastoral care of young peo-

ple, families and YAFs is a significant aspect of my work. Far more than I can give is needed. I am grateful to a small circle of clinically trained Friends who generously make themselves available for consultation, sometimes on a moment’s notice.

The number of children in our programs with individual needs continues to increase, requiring a higher number of staff for JYM retreats, especially. The core of our extraordinarily gifted and experienced youth staff is aging, and while we have gained a few fabulous new younger staffers this past year, we still need more.

Collaboration has been a source of much new energy! It has been a joy to work with the newly reformed Youth Ministries Committee (YMC). I am particularly excited for the committee’s upcoming discernment on increasing the spiritual nurture and support of teens and families whose connections to Friends are with their monthly meetings. The Yearly Meeting staff are a continual source of personal inspiration and fellowship. With the help of a Lyman Fund Grant, I am mentoring a Friend from Illinois who is eager to grow a middle-school retreat program in her yearly meeting. Harriet Heath’s online parenting groups have been a wonderful new resource for some of our retreat parents.

One of the greatest treasures of JYM and JHYM is the living, breathing fellowship of children, teens, adults, families and meetings in our ever-expanding circle. People of every age have wisdom and inspira-

tion that can swoon us into beauty and awe, make us laugh, expand our horizons, nudge us into thoughtful action, and point out that of God in our midst. Holding hands, we are regularly reminded of

the infinite ocean of love that binds us together and gives us courage to walk in the Light with hope. I am full of gratitude to be here.

—GRETCHEN BAKER-SMITH

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### Office Manager

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God of faithful surprises, open my eyes to see you in unexpected places. —*Weavings Journal*  
@Weavings on Twitter

I have it from a generally reliable source that God is in the details, but it's easy for me to get so wrapped up in the details as to lose sight of God. And details are what this job is made of—email addresses, phone numbers, committee members and clerks, office supplies, equipment purchases, events, website postings, meeting news, statistics, minutes, and so on.

Honestly, it all gets overwhelming sometimes.

Since Jeffrey Hipp resigned, I have taken on administration of the Yearly Meeting Salesforce database, including support for the Sessions registrar, housing coordinator, volunteer coordinator and other Sessions staff. Noah Merrill and I interviewed several consultants and selected one to update the online registration system for us and to help me navigate the arcane world of Salesforce.

I've also been working more closely with the Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee to keep our records in agreement, with the Archives & Historical Records Committee as they prepare the documents needed to submit new materials to the Yearly Meeting Archives, and with the Accounts Manager to ensure financial information in the database matches with his records.

Other changes in my job this year:

- Supporting staff using a Paychex website to record hours of work and time off
- Screening volunteers to work with children in our meetings and retreats

- Helping with registration for Living Faith gatherings
- Tracking local meeting responses to the challenges of climate change, white privilege, immigrant rights, and other issues
- Beginning to develop detailed documentation of the office tasks and database tasks that go into making Sessions happen
- Building database reports to support the work of the Development Committee

When I feel overwhelmed by all the things I have still to learn, it's helpful to look back over the progress made in learning new software, improving office procedures, and deepening connections with local meetings and Yearly Meeting committees, staff, and officers.

In the year ahead, I look forward to improving my database proficiency, continuing to document office and database tasks, making progress on revisions to our website to make it easier to navigate, continuing to improve office procedures, and connecting with local meetings.

Thank you for helping me keep our database information up to date.

Thank you for sharing your news with the office.

Thank you for making my job sometimes easier, sometimes challenging, but nevertheless rewarding.

A special thank you to my wonderful, supportive co-staffers and to the members of my support committee, who continue to be great listeners and wise advisors: Muriel Farrar, Irene Cruikshank, and Ginna Schonwald

—SARA HUBNER

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### Religious Education and Outreach Coordinator

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This is the 13th year I am privileged to serve NEYM and I am keenly aware how much the needs of the Yearly Meeting have changed. My ministry has evolved and expanded in response. Visiting local meetings and writing lessons and Faith & Play stories continue to be a joy. Problem-solving issues in First Day schools keeps the work real. Supporting

Quaker families as they raise children in an often un-Friendly world brings me near the heart of life in community. And, encouraging Friends to share the treasure they have found in Quakerism lets us tell each other our own Good News.

Permeating this traditional ongoing work are new themes; often, new modes of engagement are

required. In response to socio-political turbulence, Friends are eager for new skills and new readiness to live their faith in the world. New attention is demanded for multi-cultural inclusion and undoing racism. We have a new appreciation that by 2040, the US will be a majority minority nation. Bilingual and Spanish-language materials will be a necessity.

This year, I have seen Spirit prepare us and walk with us to meet these challenges—calling forth ministries, lifting up expertise and gifts, and drawing together collaborative partnerships that make new work possible. I am humbled and heartened by the new Life I am privileged to see. I work to nurture these ministries with support, technical assistance, and encouragement. Harriet Heath's online Quaker Parents' Discussion Series create a safe space where Friends can apply their hopes and values to parenting issues. Nancy Haines' leading to write a children's book on meeting for business, and its translation into Spanish, and Sarah Hunter's writing on welcoming families with an autistic child are two other examples.

Sometimes only a broader collaboration will serve. Then, I reach beyond NEYM to find Friends with the skills, gifts and experience needed. The reimagining of *Quaker Meeting and Me: A Children's*

*Guide to Quaker Meeting for Worship* was such a partnership. Liz Yeats (Friends Meeting of Austin) and I guided the project through the Quaker RE Collaborative (QREC). The new version of the book includes bilingual text and more inclusive illustrations. One edition is for Friends who practice programmed worship and one is for unprogrammed Friends. We have copies for every meeting in NEYM.

We have a lively collaboration with New York YM Friends around outreach and are exploring a new kind of e-newsletter. We will centralize the content collection and editing, but decentralize the dissemination so as to maximize the quality and richness of content and minimize the clerical tasks for NEYM.

Nurturing Worship, Faith and Faithfulness is a fresh collaboration between Marcelle Martin, Woolman Hill, and NEYM. This 9-month program will build the capacity of Friends to listen for the Divine, to respond faithfully, and to bring this nurturance of Quaker worship and lived faith back to their local meetings. We are reaching out especially to young adult Friends and Friends of Color to encourage their participation.

God is providing; Friends are stepping up!

—BETH COLLEA

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### Young Friends/ Young Adult Friends Coordinator

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The great crisis of the human spirit in our time is deciding what matters are worth our attention. No spirituality is adequate to our world unless it deals with this issue. But focused attention on the proper matters results only from decision and discipline. —Michael Warren, *Youth Gospel Liberation*

Decision and discipline—these are two difficult and counter-cultural practices I have been trying to cultivate in my work this year. It's been a time of stripping away or delegating some tasks, such as coordination of YAF retreats, in order to make space for new life.

To sum up this year is to name processes that are on-going. Most notably, as is true in the wider Yearly Meeting, Young Friends and YAFs are changing in the way participants come into our programs. As fewer youth are growing up in our meetings than were a generation ago, more retreat participants are coming via alternative routes such as Friends Camp. This year's campaign of "bring a new person and get a Young Friends Frisbee" has been quite successful in encouraging Young Friends to reach out to their

Quaker-curious peers. One consequence of this fruitful outreach is that more of our participants do not identify as "Quaker" (whereas "Quaker-ish," "questioning," or "seeking" are common). Our communities must now do the work of making explicit the practices and behavior expectations needed for thriving and inclusive Quaker spaces. We need to make the mental shift from "we act this way at retreats because we're all Quaker" to "we act this way at retreats because the purpose of this space is building community and spiritual deepening." This shift requires learning to inhabit our retreat spaces with well-articulated and open intentionality; it's a shift that can be embodied by each participant's actions.

Also ongoing are the challenges brought in by our uninvited guest—mainstream American culture. As seems to increase every year, our participants show up to retreats exhausted, having been pushed beyond their capacity at school and work. While their souls crave spiritual challenge and growth, their bodies and minds often need rest and refuge from the daily grind. I have not yet found how to run retreats that always provide both. Similarly,

some youth and volunteers feel led to leadership roles among Friends but to make space for “Quaker work” while living in the demanding world of high school and young adulthood means facing real consequences, and often these leadings are postponed. Relatedly, it is harder for some retreat participants to disconnect from their phones and devices while at our events. We continue to wrestle with how to make our spaces serve the purposes of the program while at the same time be understanding of how unforgiving our schools and workplaces can be of young people who take time away. Are Sabbath-keepers the risk-taking conscientious objectors of our time?

As I look back on the past retreat year, I am especially grateful to the Friends with whom I have collaborated, brainstormed, and grappled. Thanks are due to many, especially Hilary, Roy, Xinef, my Soul of Leadership cohort, and the beloved strangers I met in spaces outside of the “Quaker bubble” only to find that the struggle for justice and love is happening beyond our imagined borders.

As we live into a new year of changes big and small, my prayer is to inhale courage and exhale humility. God is with us in every breath.

—NIADWYNWEN THOMAS

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### Young Adult Engagement Coordinator

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Sometimes a job title can be a helpful descriptor of what someone does, and sometimes not. I suspect that my title as the NEYM Young Adult Engagement Coordinator doesn’t necessarily convey what I do with my time. Who counts as a Young Adult? Where is the engagement happening? Who and what is being coordinated?

The shortest version: I work to help Friends in New England welcome young adults to our faith community more effectively.

I believe we are called to be a part of deep spiritual journeys for whomever would benefit from time with Friends. This includes people who don’t know Quakers exist, newcomers at worship, sporadic or regular attenders of several years, and members for decades.

I have two roles in this work. First, I support the young adult Friends (YAF) community, a spiritual community for individuals 18 to 35 years old. YAFs host several retreats per year and field committees and working groups to enable this. Second, I work with monthly meetings to help them welcome newcomers more effectively. I’m interested in the BIG QUESTIONS (“How do we share our most genuine selves with one another? How do we meet someone wherever they are on their spiritual journey and travel with them?”) and the smaller details (“Where in town should we post this invitation to an event we are hosting?”).

In all of this, I keep coming back to the notion that we know only one thing about a person at worship: they came to worship. Instead of asking where a newcomer lives, or where they went to school, or what their job is, or if they grew up Quaker, I invite

you to connect with them about why they were drawn to worship. We can ask the person we’ve never met before “So, what brought you here today?” We can ask a member we’ve known for 30 years the same question. We may be surprised by our Friends’ responses.

As I move into my second year in this position, I hope to visit your meeting in order to support you in outreach and welcoming, wherever you are in your understanding of what this means. Perhaps the idea of outreach gives you a knee-jerk “I don’t want to proselytize.” Okay, let’s talk about that! And maybe you bring friends to worship and tell your coworkers about your faith tradition all the time—great! What are the next steps for you and your meeting in welcoming?

I see the ways meetings are welcoming and including newcomers and young adults already. Some meetings host potlucks or dinners for young adults so individuals can meet others in a similar life-stage as them and connect with their local spiritual community. Other meetings have a “Seeker’s Shelf” in the library to help newcomers know where to start with the literature available. What are you and your meeting doing already? I would love to hear.

I look forward to continuing to share the ways in which meetings are living into the call to welcome diversity in age, race, ethnicity, sexuality, gender expression, class, ability, spiritual journeys, and so much more.

Please be in touch with me at [hilary@neym.org](mailto:hilary@neym.org). I am eager to continue this work and ministry with NEYM.

—HILARY BURGIN

## Committee and Board Annual Reports

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### Permanent Board

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Since Sessions 2016, Permanent Board has met six times, including four full-day meetings, reading over 350 pages of advance documents and hearing 24 memorial minutes. The four regular standing committees of Permanent Board, together with our ad-hoc committees (such as Long-Term Financial Planning and Faith & Practice) and working groups (such as the Minutes Working Group and the Challenging White Supremacy Working Group) have labored throughout the year to bring their discernment to Permanent Board and, in some cases, to Sessions 2017.

Some of the business of Permanent Board, such as our triennial review of the Purposes, Procedures & Composition (P, P & C) of all NEYM committees, overseen by Coordinating & Advisory Committee, has involved literally hundreds of Friends in discernment. This is among the work of Permanent Board as it “acts with the authority of the Yearly Meeting between Sessions.” In addition to the named members of Permanent Board, it has been gratifying to see increasing numbers of visitors join in our worship and discernment as our gatherings have moved around New England, this year to West Hartford, Conn.; East Vassalboro, Me.; New Haven, Conn.; Amesbury, Mass., and of course Castleton, Vt. All Friends are invited—are welcome—to attend meetings of Permanent Board.

The Purposes, Procedures & Composition of each NEYM committee is available in the Advance Documents and will be considered in the Unity Agenda. The significant changes to the P, P & C—laying down the Committee on Aging, Correspondence Committee, and Peace and Social Concerns Committee, as well as moving the Ecumenical Relations Committee under Ministry & Counsel—will come to business at Sessions as separate agenda items.

Internally, Permanent Board has laid down its Minutes Working Group following the completion of its work. Since Sessions 2016, Permanent Board has created a Travel Minutes Working Group jointly with M&C and, in response to the White Supremacy Minute [2016-64], the Challenging White Supremacy Working Group. NEYM’s Legacy Gift Committee recently brought discernment to Permanent Board, requesting that working groups be established to consider revitalizing NEYM’s Fund for Sufferings and to consider making reparations to the First Na-

tions of New England. Permanent Board has taken on this work.

Perhaps the deepest worship of Permanent Board this year happened at our November meeting, when we considered the implications of the then-imminent Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and discerned that, as an organization acting with integrity, NEYM would meet the minimum standards of the federal guidelines whether they were challenged in court or not. Our February and May meetings were largely dedicated to understanding the financial implications of this act of integrity and, more important, to considering far more broadly our ministry and witness in the world. What is our ministry? Where is our ministry meant to grow? What must we do—each of us as individuals, as monthly meetings and as a yearly meeting—to support the growth of our ministry and witness in the world?

Other business which Permanent Board will bring to Sessions will include seeking feedback on the Living Faith Gatherings that happened at Portland Friends School in the fall and at Moses Brown School in the spring; outlining some changes in NEYM appointments to Moses Brown School; and nominations for the Clerks’ Table for Sessions 2018.

I not infrequently quip that what Permanent Board does is plumbing. We work throughout the year laying the structural pipes such that the living waters of our ministry can flow. It is challenging work requiring many, many hands and many hours. It is concrete work deeply grounded in our worship together. It is satisfying work when it removes barriers to the smooth flowing of communication, community and communion. It is gratifying work when it facilitates our ministry—what God calls us to—allowing it to shine forth.

—SARAH GANT, CLERK

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### Ad-Hoc Long-Term Financial Planning Committee

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The ad-hoc Long-Term Financial Planning Committee was formed by Permanent Board in response to a request by Sessions 2014 to analyze and make recommendations that would help ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the Yearly Meeting. The committee initially consisted of representatives from Coordinating and Advisory, Development, Finance, Ministry and Counsel, and Personnel. (Struc-

tural Review and Nominating Committee representatives have also taken part.)

Though our initial charge was ostensibly to help put the finances of the Yearly Meeting on a more solid footing, we quickly discovered that in order to properly assess the financial future of the Yearly Meeting, we needed to clarify the Yearly Meeting's mission, goals, and focus. To that end, in consultation with many people and committee reports reflecting decades of discernment, we brought a document titled "We Need a Plan," which provided background and context for an accompanying statement of purpose and a set of five priorities to guide the Yearly Meeting's work.

Purpose: New England Yearly Meeting of Friends connects the people of the Religious Society of Friends across the six New England states. New England Yearly Meeting supports and strengthens a vibrant and growing web of monthly meetings, quarterly meetings, and other Friends communities under our care, helping us do together what we cannot do alone. In all our work, we strive to obey the promptings of the Spirit to bring healing, wholeness, and transformation to ourselves and to the world.

Five key priorities:

- spiritual development and religious education
- outreach, welcome, inclusion, and witness
- relationship and communication
- leadership and administration
- stewardship, integrity, and accountability

The purpose and priorities were approved at Sessions 2015.

In the two years since, members of the LTFPC have been involved in aligning different organs of the Yearly Meeting to our purpose and priorities, including creating a monthly newsletter, inaugurating the Living Faith gatherings, guiding NEYM staff to prioritize monthly meeting communications, and assuring that C&A's triennial review of the purposes and procedures of Yearly Meeting committees would help committees align their work with our organization's overall purpose and priorities. Additionally, members of the LTFPC have participated in Finance Committee's move to include with each

proposed annual budget a preliminary budget for the following year, and have also supported the reorganization and refocusing of our development work as we embrace much more ambitious fundraising goals.

In the next year, we will discern how best to support the work as it goes forward in many places in the organization, but it will likely involve strategizing, shepherding, and listening around:

1. the development of programmatic funding goals; e.g. "What is needed to grow the next generation of youth ministries, and how much do we need to raise to do it?"—essentially a case for support for the institutional ministries of the Yearly Meeting;
2. the examination and presentation of financial scenarios for the near-future of the Yearly Meeting; and
3. a more concrete process of matching and aligning the priorities of the Yearly Meeting to our expenditures of time and treasure, including wide consultation.

We see this next phase as the culmination and integration of the work with which we have been charged.

We are grateful for the journey we have traveled together with divine guidance and excited to see where the path will take us in the year ahead.

—CHRIS GANT, OUTGOING CLERK, AND BEN GUARALDI, INCOMING CLERK

### Student Scholarship Granting Subcommittee

The Student Scholarship Grant Committee has again this year awarded \$30,000 to applicants as NEYM spends down the funds of the former student loan, now grant, program. The balance remaining in the fund after disbursement of awards this year will ensure a full round of awards for 2018 and a partial round for 2019. Information and the application will be posted on the NEYM website. The due date for next year will be May 15, 2018.

—REBECCA LEUCHAK, CLERK

### Archives and Historical Records

The Archives and Historical Records Committee has been focused this year on the work needed to

establish the ongoing relationship with the Special Collections and University Archives (SCUA) at the

W.E.B. Du Bois Library of the University of Massachusetts. We had before us several important tasks to ensure that the monthly meetings have a way to continue to donate important records to the Archives, as well as to establish the operating Memorandum of Understanding with SCUA.

The committee has met monthly throughout the year. With the invaluable support of our consulting archivist, Rachael Onuf, we have completed an extensive revision to the Collection Policy, which is approved. We are in the stages of final editing before that is made available on the NEYM web site. This will also be distributed to monthly meetings with the detailed information about how to submit their records to the Archive.

Working with Rachael, who has been our liaison with Rob Cox at SCUA, we have worked through the details of how meetings will continue to submit materials to SCUA. The principle work has been reviewing and reflecting on the best policy choices and language to reflect the copyright agreements for materials donated, as well as what meetings may do with gifts to ensure privacy rights.

The Collection Policy recognizes the expanded interest in different forms of historical records, such as the collection of meeting photographs, video or audiotapes of interviews or reflections. This has led us into considering more deeply issues of not only corporate copyright, but also individual copyright and privacy needs. This has led us in the work of providing a release form which can be used for individuals which will ensure that individuals interviewed are able to indicate their wishes regarding both copyright and accessibility to the material.

We end this year ready to provide monthly meetings with the ability to send their records to SCUA. We as a Committee still have work in front of us. Through our work this year, the basis of a Memorandum of Understanding has become much clearer, but that still remains to be documented. We have not yet prepared or considered the submission of records from quarterly meetings or the Yearly Meeting and its committees to SCUA. As noted last year, we still must determine the role for an NEYM archivist as we move forward. The support of the temporary archivist has been invaluable this year and will be equally important in the coming year. We must also address the future needs and structure for the Committee to support this ongoing work.

As we have worked on the mechanics of the incoming relationship with SCUA, Rob Cox and the team at SCUA have been delving into and exposing the richness of the Archives which they received in April of 2016. There is currently an exhibit on the Collection at the Library titled, "All that Dwell in the Light: 350 Years of Quakers in New England." Finding aids are online for at least 16 portions of the total collection and some early materials have been digitized and made available online. From Rob Cox December, 2016:

By way of update, I wanted to report that with our rough inventory now complete, we are moving into the phase of physical reorganization of the collection and beginning to refine the descriptions. A handful of full finding aids have been prepared for some of the smaller sub-collections (Samuel Austin, Moses Brown, the Howland Family, the Quaker History Collection—a.k.a. the autograph collection, the Peck-Sisson-White family, the Providence Abolition Society, Slade Family, Sarah Swift, and Willis White), and I'm hoping we'll be in position to do more soon. I could prepare an equivalent listing to Stattler, but have held off since a) Stattler is adequate for the time, and b) I'd rather issue something with greater detail than something that is merely equivalent. That's coming. Ultimately, I hope to have a separate finding aid for the NEYM Records in the strict sense—those generated and/or maintained directly by NEYM—and one for each monthly meeting, at least when there is enough material to warrant one.

Digitization is a priority and I am hoping we can begin with the bound manuscript volumes (most of the earlier content in the collection) early in 2017, with digitization of the "loose" manuscripts to follow as processing continues. We would, of course, be deeply grateful for help either in digitization or in obtaining replacement boxes and folders (some appear to be acidic and others are simply worn out), but as I hope I've said in the past, with or without assistance, we will press on. Support helps to speed the plough, but we'll be leaving a furrow regardless.

As clerk, it is a pleasure to work with such a hard-working committee who come to our monthly meetings prepared and with willingness to consider the sensitive issues regarding copyright and privacy. I am grateful to all the careful reading and attention to detail in language.

—CAROL FORSYTHE, CLERK



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### Board of Managers of Investments & Permanent Funds

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The Board of Managers of Investments and Permanent Funds is pleased to provide this abbreviated 2017 annual report to New England Yearly Meeting. For more details, see our complete report on the NEYM web site.

In FY2017, income distributed to constituents totaled approximately \$4.51 per 100 units after expenses. This was below the \$4.90/100 units forecast because interest rates remained lower than predicted in 2016. Because the Federal Reserve has stated its intention to raise rates, we project distributing \$5.50 per 100 units, net of expenses, in FY2018. Expenses during FY2017 amounted to \$81,925, or 0.75%, which is generally lower than comparable investment vehicles.

The projected FY2018 distribution is approximately 1.33% of the unit value as of Third Month 31, 2017. Distributions come from interest earned and stock dividends, but they represent only a small part of the Pooled Funds' total return. If needed, constituents can take advantage of capital gains by redeeming some units to supplement the cash distributions. The Treasurer or Members of the Board can explain this.

For FY2017, the NEYM Pooled Funds had a total return (income plus unit value appreciation) net of all expenses of 3.05%. A history of the performance of the Pooled Funds can be found at [neym.org/sites/default/files/2017%20Annual%20Report%20Unit%20Values.pdf](http://neym.org/sites/default/files/2017%20Annual%20Report%20Unit%20Values.pdf).

As of Third Month 31, 2017, the market value of the Pooled Funds was \$10,803,000 with 50 separate accounts. The market value of the Pooled Funds decreased by \$170,000 during the year due to a decrease in total units of about 92,000 through unit redemptions. Net subtractions from the funds excluding income reinvested totaled \$504,000.

The Board manages the portfolio primarily to produce and distribute income for constituents and to increase the level of income distributed at a rate equal to or greater than inflation over the long term. Secondly, the Board seeks to increase the value of the principal invested. The Board seeks to generate this income by investing in companies whose businesses are aligned with Quaker testimonies. The policies and procedures are described in the Board of Managers Investment Guidelines & Procedures page, online at: [neym.org/board-managers/investment-guidelines-procedures](http://neym.org/board-managers/investment-guidelines-procedures).

The Board remains committed to investing in community development. Currently, the Pooled Funds community investments amount to approximately 3% of the total portfolio.

The Board has ascertained that the Pooled Funds do not and have not held shares in the companies appearing on the 350.org list or that engage in fossil fuel production (extraction, refining, or processing). In 2015, it adopted new wording in the "Green Book" to clarify its policy. The Board of Managers continues to discern the appropriate screens to apply Friends testimonies to energy-related investments.

We offer a workshop on investing Quaker Funds at NEYM Sessions at 11:30 a.m. on Eighth Month 7, 2017; the location will be published in the Sessions daily news. Members of all participating organizations and any other interested members of NEYM are welcome. Treasurers are encouraged to invite members of their respective Finance Committees.

Contact me for deposit, withdrawal, and mailing information. Send questions or comments to the Board of Managers at [neympooledfunds@neym.org](mailto:neympooledfunds@neym.org), or call me at 978-897-5646.

—BRIAN CLARK, TREASURER

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### Coordinating and Advisory

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The Coordinating and Advisory Committee (C&A) "shepherds the work of the Yearly Meeting." One of the most important tasks of a shepherd is to watch. We have watched as Friends in New England have faithfully responded to these times with clarity and courage.

Through this year it has felt important to intentionally name the joy that attends Friends when we gather for business. "The joy of being together, lib-

erated from prejudice fear and loneliness, and the joy of being with God."<sup>7</sup>

This year C&A facilitated the triennial task of revising the purposes and procedures of the NEYM committees. The fruits of this work are included in the Unity Agenda in the Advance Documents. To do

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<sup>7</sup> William Taber, *The Mind of Christ*

this well, the committee recruited “shepherds” for each committee of NEYM to help facilitate the process. Our experience with our shepherd was that this provided an opportunity for questioning assumptions, examining history and thinking more deeply about the reason for and function of the committee.

When we invited the Yearly Meeting Peace and Social Concerns (YM P&SC) Committee to begin this process, there was no response. C&A initiated and supported a yearlong conversation with concerned Friends about supporting peace witness specifically, and witness generally, through the Yearly Meeting structure. This conversation was brought to the May Permanent Board Committee, leading to the recommendation that the YM P&SC committee be laid down so that a more effective form for supporting witness can be raised up. This will be some of C&A’s work in the coming year.

Our work this year also included accompanying and assisting the Friends Camp Committee grow into the new role and structure approved last year in the Good Governance proposal. We have supported the Development Committee in their work and, as Sara Smith became clear to step down as clerk after guiding this work for several years, helped the transition to a new clerk.

C&A is responsible for the supervision of the Yearly Meeting secretary, Noah Merrill. This year, Noah completed the Program in Leadership Development through Harvard Business School. We look forward to Noah bringing what he has learned back to enrich his work on behalf of New England Friends. Adjusting Noah’s workload to make this possible provided the opportunity for C&A and

Noah to further prioritize and delegate some of the many responsibilities the Secretary carries. Edward Baker, who served as Noah’s direct supervisor for the past two years, has had to step back from this job; C&A gives thanks for his faithful and generous service. Elizabeth Reuthe from Vassalboro Friends Meeting in Maine has embraced the opportunity to serve as the Supervisor of the Secretary.

C&A hosted several conference calls with leadership from the quarterly meetings. The committee has committed to initiating and supporting a process of re-imagining and revitalizing quarters through the coming year. C&A has named and carried a concern for the pastored meetings and the pastors in NEYM. This concern will continue into next year. We have met with the Faith and Practice Revision Committee, at their request, to consider how we might help the wider Yearly Meeting engage in their work and how we might better support this committee in completing the task before them.

One of the most important purposes of C&A is the mutual support and prayer for each other in our service to Friends in New England. This year the rising clerk of the Ministry and Counsel Committee has joined C&A as she transitions into her clerkship. Next year the clerk of the Nominating Committee will join C&A. Over the course of this year, one of the changes for which I am most grateful is the shift in the focus of C&A from resolving problems throughout NEYM to seeing our job as removing barriers to the movement of the Spirit among us. This is truly joyful work.

With Love,

—FRITZ WEISS, PRESIDING CLERK

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### Development Committee

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The Development Committee is pleased to report that we successfully met our goal for individual giving to NEYM for FY 2016 (last year’s budget). Donations by individuals totaled \$137,135 (\$2,135 more than our stretch goal of \$135,000). Thanks to all who gave so generously last year!

Those gifts were given by 342 households. Total giving increased from the previous year, but we have work to do to help improve the consistency of giving—the number of households who give every year. If everyone who has given in the past few years gave an annual gift, we would be in a very strong financial position to SUPPORT OF SHARED MINISTRIES!

On the subject of consistency: As of July 2017 100 households are GiveMonthly Sustainers; they’ve signed up for an automatic, recurring and budget-friendly gift each month. Monthly giving now accounts for 28% of individual and household giving annually, which is wonderful! We thank all of these Friends for their faithful and steady commitment to supporting our shared ministries, and encourage everyone to consider monthly giving.

Monthly giving helps with planning, reduces anxiety, and helps each of us give more than we otherwise could by fitting financial support of our wider faith community into our budgets in any amount. If this way of giving is right for your situa-

tion, you can sign up securely online at [neym.org/donate](http://neym.org/donate).

Together we are living into our newly articulated mission to support and strengthen the vibrant and growing web of monthly meetings, quarterly meetings and other Friends communities under our care, helping us do together what we cannot do alone.

As of this writing, together we've contributed and pledged \$70,500—just under 50% of our FY 2017 goal of \$142,400. This means we have roughly \$72,000 to go before the end of the fiscal year to reach our budgeted goal. While we know most of our annual giving historically happens near the end of the fiscal year between Annual Sessions and September 30, each year we rely on your faithful support, and the last months of the fiscal year can be an exercise in faith!

If you or your family have not yet contributed to New England Yearly Meeting since October 1, 2016 (this fiscal year), please consider giving generously before September 2017. We will have some exciting news to share at Sessions that we hope will be an encouragement.

At Sessions, look for a report on some of the many ways that our Yearly Meeting organization has been striving recently to support and strengthen the Quaker movement in New England, and ways in which our organization continues to become clearer, more focused, and more effective at fulfilling its mission. And then, please support your Yearly Meeting with a financial gift!

Consider some of the many ways NEYM has moved toward better fulfilling our purpose:

- inauguration of semi-annual day-long Living Faith gatherings
- strengthening our youth retreat programs and exploring new models of youth ministry
- launch of our monthly email newsletter, now one year on
- implementation of changes to the governance of Friends Camp and closer integration of the Camp with our other youth ministries and programs
- a whole range of growing-edge efforts toward outreach, welcome, and inclusion which are helping monthly meetings to thrive
- the vast amounts of passion, energy, and talent unleashed and supported by grants from the Legacy Gift fund (see their report)
- broad and deep review of how our committees and structures for service can more fully support the ministry of Friends

... and so many other achievements that demonstrate how New England Yearly Meeting of Friends as an organization is becoming more responsive to and supportive of the web of Quaker communities across our region.

This has been an important year of transition and capacity-building for the Development Committee as we have sought to strengthen the Yearly Meeting's ability to ensure financial support for the ministries of New England Friends. As part of the review of Purposes and Procedures of Committees, we've refocused the charge of the Development Committee to better do what's needed now, integrate more effectively with the staff and other groups, and embrace the Yearly Meeting's bold vision for the future. We look forward to strengthening relationships between local meetings and the Yearly Meeting through offering support for stewardship efforts at the local level, improving communication, and fostering conversations about how we nurture ministry in our Friends communities.

- During business meeting at Sessions, we will:
- Present a path for the coming year to clearly articulate our corporate ministries, plan for both their present and their future, and sustainably fund them
- Share details of an exciting new challenge grant fund that has been created by a group of committed New England Friends to help guide the Yearly Meeting toward financial stability and sustainability
- Share news of first steps toward an intentional planned giving program to help ensure the future of New England Friends
- Share some of the ways the Development Committee will be working in the coming year to offer education, encouragement and support to our local meetings around issues of financial sustainability, fundraising and stewardship
- Describe NEYM's courageous goals moving forward, and strategies to meet them together

We also welcome your participation in the ongoing process of developing a distinctly Quaker approach to fundraising in support of our shared ministries—an approach grounded in our faith and aligned with our values, one that fosters trust, abundance, joy and faithful stewardship.

We look forward to offering opportunities for this living conversation at Sessions and around New England in the coming year.

Thank you as always for your generous and faithful support of our shared ministries.

—SARA SMITH, OUTGOING CLERK, AND CHRIS GANT, RISING CLERK

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### Earthcare Ministry

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We welcomed three new members to the Earthcare Ministry committee after Sessions in 2016, and we were sad when, in the spring of 2017, one long-serving member felt the need to focus elsewhere. We have grown close over the year, even with our extensive use of the Zoom conference platform (paid for out of our 2017 budget), which allows us to be “face-to-face” though miles separate us. Our concern for CO2 emissions limits us to two real face-to-face opportunities a year—our retreats in West Falmouth, Mass., and at Sessions.

We used our 2016 budget to support Fred Small’s leadership at a well-attended afternoon choice at Sessions. His music ministry is an inspiration to us all. We also encouraged other afternoon choices and interest groups led by committee members on the issues of carbon sequestration, land management, toxic chemical problems, the “New Story,” and the Transition Movement. We also supported and encouraged Emily Wirzba of FCNL, who led an afternoon choice on working with legislators who are climate deniers. We helped with the creation of the climate minute which was presented and approved at Sessions.

We began exploring the multi-faith work of “decolonizing” faith, recognizing behaviors and attitudes inherent in Western European colonization, in order to move toward right relationship with indigenous peoples and all Earth’s beings. We have also learned from a committee member why a New Story about our being part of a creatively evolving universe is another vital response to a failing industrial civilization.

Two committee members co-led a deep and meaningful workshop at the fall Living Faith Gathering, listening to concerns about climate change and learning about what actions Friends have taken to mitigate it. At the spring Gathering, one committee member, along with Friends from Maine, led a workshop to help people grieve about climate change.

For 2017 Sessions we plan to offer only one afternoon choice, since in 2016 there were too many offerings to allow for adequate attendance at any offering. We were pleased when George Lakey of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting accepted our invitation to come to New England to share his wisdom. We hope that during his visit others will have many opportunities to visit with him.

The Earthcare Ministry Committee has now recruited about 25 monthly meeting liaisons, whose job is to share with NEYM work that their meetings are doing in care of Earth and to share back with their meetings the work of and encouragement from NEYM. Two members of the Committee have participated with the Prophetic Climate Action Working Group, sharing the work of that group and bringing back encouragement from our committee members.

Our May 2017 retreat focused on ways to acknowledge our despair and steps that help us cope and use anger in constructive ways. We shared our personal grief, listened to one another, struggled with each other, and were gently guided through the weekend by three of our members. Some of us saw the value in offering this work with monthly meetings.

—RUAH SWENNERFELT, CLERK

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### Faith and Practice Revision Committee

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The Faith and Practice Revision Committee has completed its 16th year of work. At our first meeting of the year, the committee organized the mailing to the meetings and worship groups of the Working Paper on Membership, which we had presented at Sessions 2016. Once again we are grateful to those meetings and individuals who engaged with the document and responded to our request for

feedback. Nineteen meetings and individuals sent written responses on the document to the committee. There were other meetings that we know held discussions on the topic but didn’t make a written report to the committee.

The committee continued its work on Membership, Pastoral Care, and Death, Dying and Bereavement. We also took up the topic of Personal Spiritu-

al Practices. In February, when we took up the work of developing the Working Paper on Membership into a draft, we reached out to NiaDwynwen Thomas, Young Friends/Young Adult Friends Coordinator, and Hilary Burgin, Young Adult Engagement Coordinator, for possible ways to engage with the young adult Friends in an effort to more fully acknowledge how the questions of membership are carried by this part of the Yearly Meeting. Several members of the committee were graciously invited to the mid-winter YAF retreat at Woolman Hill to listen in on their discussions on the topic and to have time, over lunch, to continue the conversation. Both Nia and Hilary have continued as resources of the committee on various aspects of membership in the YF and YAF community.

This year NEYM is bringing forward Friends' continuing concern of racism and the Yearly Meet-

ing. F&P realizes that the activity throughout the Yearly Meeting on this topic will give us an excellent avenue forward with this work. We have begun to gather materials and to read on the topic in preparation for writing on this next year.

At Sessions this year we are bringing forward a draft on Membership and a draft on Personal Spiritual Practices. We are offering a listening session during the workshop time slot to gather thoughts and concerns on the drafts.

We continue to be grateful for the privilege to spend time exploring, as broadly and as profoundly as we are able, for ways to express the spiritual life of our Yearly Meeting.

We continue in faith,

—PHEBE MCCOSKER, CLERK

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## Finance

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The Finance Committee has always been a hard-working committee, but this year I think we outdid ourselves. Every year we are asked to hold simultaneously, in deep prayer, the nitty-gritty details of financial documents and the ever-present but often elusive guidance of the Light. This year we pushed ourselves to look at even more numbers than usual, while at the same time being forced to look through those numbers at even bigger than usual questions of who we are as Friends in New England and what our vision is for the future. We also started a comprehensive review of our financial policies and documentation, something I am looking forward to carrying forward next year.

Last year, we added to our normal workload the joys of preparing an additional year's worth of financial plans and seasoning the Friends Camp budget. This year, we are presenting a two-year projection for the non-Camp budget. This marks real, continued progress in developing the Committees' ability to prepare long-term financial plans. I'm incredibly grateful to everyone on the Committee for all the extra work that made this possible. I'm especially grateful to the Friends Camp Committee and the Camp Director, Anna Hopkins, for their work to make it possible to share with the wider Yearly

Meeting their diligent stewardship of the Camp's community and resources. I hope the fuller picture of the Yearly Meeting's financial status and longer-term vision for the future this provides to Friends will help to clarify two things: 1) all the wonderful ways the Spirit is moving in our community and 2) how we hope to prepare the road for that movement of the Spirit.

Of the many things we have prayed over this year, the most significant was helping inform the Permanent Board's discernment of how we as Friends in New England might be called to more fully recognize financially the many gifts Yearly Meeting staff bring to our community. Permanent Board, its Personnel Sub-Committee, and the Finance Committee spent multiple meetings each on this issue. The incredibly exciting fruit of that discernment is described in more detail alongside the budget in these Advanced Documents, and will be a major component of the Clerk of Permanent Board's report at Sessions. Friends across the Yearly Meeting's committee structure did incredible work on this and I look forward to Friends' response to it at Sessions.

—ELIAS SÁNCHEZ-EPPLER, CLERK

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### Friends Camp

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Friends Camp Committee met four times this year, including during a work weekend at Friends Camp, which included the launch of a visioning process led by Jackie Stillwell and Elizabeth Reuthe. They generously offered their time to help us begin asking ourselves how we move into the future holding on to what is most valuable to campers and their families, and still be diligent as to how we raise up and hold with good and faithful attention the challenges presented by our ever-changing times.

We continue to grow into our governance guidelines that have given the committee a foundation and clarity to do the work asked of us. This has proven valuable, especially as we have welcomed new members to the committee, and assists well those who have served longer, offering an articulated structure not only for the roles and responsibilities of the committee as a whole, but also for tasks and direction asked of our subcommittees.

We have “passed the baton” with care and diligence of our faithful and dedicated treasurer, Betsy Muench, to new hands, working through the challenges of moving into a better consistency of accounting practices not only with a thoroughness of care and attention, but also with a graciousness and respect that impressed this humble not-so-numbers-oriented writer of this report.

This has been our first full year with our new director, Anna Hopkins, as our previous director, Nat Shed, eases back on his very valuable advisory role. The committee’s role in supporting our new director

has been very much a two-way exchange—her vitality, her clear love of Friends Camp and care for its legacy, while also opening up new possibilities and directions, has also energized the committee.

At our last meeting we had to revise our budget for the best of reasons; campership enrollment is presently at record levels and near capacity for most sessions.

Anna has also staffed several of the youth retreats, creating new connections and nurturing existing ones. In addition to the gift of having several registrations result immediately after those retreats she attended, she has been able to reflect back to the committee what needs and concerns may be present that we can attend to as we look to better integrate the gifts and resources of NEYM’s youth programs with those of Friends Camp.

We are blessed with the varied gifts, skills, experience, and most of all, faithful dedication of our committee members. We are deeply grateful for those who have stepped off after terms of service and we are stronger and wiser for their time with us. Even as we embrace and are enriched by our new committee members, we also actively serve as extra eyes and ears for the Friends Camp Nominating Committee, looking both within our Quaker communities but also beyond for those who might join us in this important ministry of service of sometimes challenging but ultimately joyful work.

Respectfully submitted,

—TOM ANTONIK, CLERK

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### Friends United Meeting

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It was 150 years ago that Sybil and Eli Jones responded to the discernment of this Yearly Meeting and left their home and farm in Maine to take up their work in establishing a school for girls in Ramallah, Palestine. Friends from New England continue to be actively engaged in the work and ministries of Friends United Meeting, serving on staff, participating on the Executive, Nominating and Triennial Planning Committees, faithfully representing the diverse community of New England Friends in the diverse family of FUM.

This will be a period of transition in the life of FUM: Joyce Ajlouny of the Ramallah Friends School takes up her work as General Secretary of the American Friends Service Committee, Colin Saxton will step down as General Secretary of FUM, and your

three Board representatives will be ending their service, with two new reps appointed and the search for a third underway. In addition to Eden Grace’s service as Director of Global Ministries, Kristna Evans of Durham Monthly Meeting has been hired as Managing Editor of Friends United Press.

And, the work of global partnership builds in Belize, Ramallah, Kenya and East Africa as well as here in North America. We are concluding a successful comprehensive fundraising campaign and strengthening our connections with Friends in other countries looking to affiliate themselves with Friends United Meeting.

We urge you to consider if you are called to serve, as a staff member, a Living Letter in travel, a

volunteer or in prayer support. For more, please visit [friendsunitedmeeting.org](http://friendsunitedmeeting.org).

The theme of our 2017 Triennial in Great Plains Yearly Meeting is “A Living Flame,” based on the book *The Eternal Promise* by Thomas Kelly, a series of essays written on the eve of World War II. Inspired by his faithfulness and the living witness of Friends worldwide, we seek to rekindle our spiritual

passion and ready ourselves to be the Children of Light in our communities and around the world.

FUM’s annual report can be found at [neym.org/fum-committee/news/2017-fum-annual-report](http://neym.org/fum-committee/news/2017-fum-annual-report)

Respectfully submitted,

—LESLIE MANNING, CLERK

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### Friends World Committee for Consultation—New England

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FWCC-NE encourages relationships among Friends in New England and around the world, deepening our faith, enlarging our understanding of what it means to be a Quaker and fostering our ability to listen to that of G-d in one another. We organize programs in New England and nurture Friends who travel in the wider Quaker world, helping them to share their witness upon their return.

We were blessed to have Margaret Ngoya Musalia (Vihiga YM) and Agneta Injairu (Malava YM) with us at Sessions 2016. They shared their testimonies at the USFW meeting, the FWCC-NE/Black Quaker Project interest group, in early morning worship, and in prayers at the plenary session. Margaret Amudavi, the Academic Dean of Friends Theological College in Kenya, will join us for this year’s Sessions.

New England Friends joined Friends worldwide in World Quaker Day activities on October 2. Program resources will be available for this fall’s World Quaker Day (October 1), “Gathering in Worship Around the Globe,” at [worldquakerday.org](http://worldquakerday.org). We distributed USB drives loaded with FWCC’s Quaker-Speak videos and other materials at Sessions and linked to them via the FWCC-NE website (<http://neym.org/fwcc-committee>).

Our official representatives at the Section of the Americas meeting in March were Judy Goldberger, Rachel Guaraldi, Mary Hopkins, Debbie Humphries, and Jonathan Vogel-Borne. Also attending were Beth Collea, Cynthia Ganung, Dorothy Grannell, Gideon Guaraldi, and Benigno Sanchez-Eppler. Benigno Sánchez-Eppler is presiding clerk and Dorothy Grannell, recording clerk of the Section. Betsy Cazden serves as clerk of FWCC World’s Central Coordinating Committee.

- Rich plenary messages were offered by Carl Magruder (Pacific YM), Kirenia Criado (Cuba YM), and Jonathan Vogel-Borne.
- We gathered to bless the seven Friends selected for the new Section Traveling Ministry

Corps, who include Debbie Humphries as well as Friends from New York, Northwest, and IN-ELA (Bolivia) Yearly Meetings. Any meeting may invite these Friends to come and share their leadings.

- We held in the Light yearly meetings that are suffering through or recovering from a division.
- Friends from the Northeast Region of the Section gathered to share and renew our connections.

Our time together was a rich mixture of traditions, with deep listening and joyous praise in Spanish and English. This was a younger group of Friends than at previous Sections meetings, with many leaders from Latin American Young Adult Friends. FWCC-NE collaborated with Puente de Amigos to bring four Cuban Friends from the Section meeting to New England. Our representatives will also continue to share their experiences of this transformative gathering with monthly and quarterly meetings. We expect to hear their reports at Sessions. Part of FWCC-NE’s work is raising essential funds for the Section of the Americas, which has incurred a deep deficit to carry out its vital work. Read more at [www.fwccamericas.org](http://www.fwccamericas.org).

Our support for the diffusion of the Spanish adaptation of the Godly Play/Faith & Play program throughout the Americas bridges different traditions and brings us closer to Latin American Friends. Cuba Yearly Meeting held two weeks of curriculum training in April and May. At the Section Meeting, there was a workshop for Comité de los Amigos Latinoamericanos (Committee of Latin American Friends), Bible study, and a bilingual interest group.

FWCC-NE has embarked on our portion of NEYM’s work on racism, white supremacy, and the Doctrine of Discovery. Our work includes deepening our understanding of colonialism, decolonization, and language, and raises issues around militarism, materialism, and climate change

—JUDY GOLDBERGER, CLERK

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### Legacy Gift

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The Legacy Gift Committee completed our second year of grant-making from the NEYM Future Fund and awarded 20 grants totaling \$116,000. This year's grants supported a wide variety of Friends' witness and ministry, including meetinghouse projects, solar energy, travel to Cuba, and new ways of supporting ministry among Friends. For a complete list, please go to [neym.org/legacy-gift](http://neym.org/legacy-gift). At Sessions, grantees will have displays about their projects and we will offer two workshops in which grantees and members of the Committee will share their experiences.

As of September 30, 2016, the Committee had made first-year grants totaling \$116,000 from the NEYM Future Fund, out of the original \$350,000 used to establish the Fund. After making these expenditures and adding the increased market value and accumulated interest, we began our second year with a balance of \$387,506. It does seem like the loaves and fishes!

The Committee spent considerable time discerning how these additional funds might best serve the Yearly Meeting. Should we extend the Future Fund open grant process beyond the original three years, or does God have another purpose for which these funds are needed?

We have seen a growing need for two possible dedicated funding uses: 1) support of public witness, including civil disobedience, and 2) meetinghouse projects.

We have asked Permanent Board to reactivate the Fund for Suffering. We are in unity to allocate \$25,000 for this purpose. At its May 13, 2017 meet-

ing, Permanent Board agreed to take up this concern.

Over the past 2 years we have made 45 grants, and 14 (31%) of these were for meetinghouse projects, including solar or other energy efficiency projects.

We also spent time discerning how to administer grants from the Fund for Released Ministry, which was not available until this year. We note that Friends do not have broadly shared clarity about recorded ministry, released ministry, or the relationship between ministers and elders. We were in unity to change the name from Fund for Released Ministry to the Witness and Ministry Fund, to better capture the full breadth of ministry and witness that is arising in the Yearly Meeting. Permanent Board approved this change at their May 13th meeting.

A grant application has come to the Committee twice, asking that we make a payment as reparations to the Wôpanâak Language Reclamation Project. While we are clear that awarding reparations is beyond our charge from Sessions, we believe this is a serious issue that needs to be addressed by the Yearly Meeting. At our request, Permanent Board has agreed to establish a process for NEYM to consider our role in making reparations to the Native Peoples of New England, and will take up this work in the fall.

New England Friends are deeply engaged in faithful ministry in New England and around the world, and we are honored to have a small role in helping this work to flourish.

—SUZANNA SCHELL AND JEAN MCCANDLESS, CO-CLERKS

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### Ministry and Counsel

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We proclaim the power of the Eternal Comforter to bring freedom to the captives and comfort to the oppressed. We confess our complicity in the economic and political oppression in the world, and seek to open our hearts to hear the guidance of the Inner Teacher. We hold the reality of the ways the pressures of the world surround us, leaving us with lives over-full with good, important activities. We hold the queries from the Faith and Practice Revision Committee:

"To what divine promptings have we each responded? What promptings have we ignored? How can we help each other grow in obedience?" (From

"Queries for Ministry and Counsel," [neym.org/fp-revision/minute-exercise-and-queries-ministry-counsel](http://neym.org/fp-revision/minute-exercise-and-queries-ministry-counsel))

As Ministry and Counsel (M&C), our regular meetings begin and end with a period of open worship, where we hold in prayer the monthly and quarterly meetings of NEYM. We celebrate the vitality of the life of the Spirit we see in our monthly and quarterly meetings. This shared worship is an important touchstone for our work, reminding us to ground our discernment in worship. How do we encourage the life of the Spirit in the Quakers spread throughout New England who do not feel connected



or engaged in the Yearly Meeting more widely? What is our role in helping to nurture ministry wherever it arises among us?

Our November retreat used a video on white privilege, *Cracking the Code*, to explore our own privilege. We found the experience of personal reflection to be challenging, and we are grateful for the commitment of NEYM in continuing to move the work of examining our own embedded assumptions. We carry on John Woolman's work of listening for where the seeds of war are nurtured and fed in our own lives.

Some of the concrete actions we've taken this year through our three standing working groups include:

- Spiritual Nurture Resources working group: Reaching out to Friends who may not come to annual Sessions through special events. This year the Resources Working Group of M&C organized two Ministry and Counsel "Day Treats," hosted by Mt. Toby Meeting in Leverett, Massachusetts, and Winthrop Center Friends Church in Winthrop, Maine. These were day-long gatherings, where Friends from ministry and counsel committees of monthly meetings were invited to attend to share their work and concerns. The Friends who attended, coming from both the surrounding area and a wider geography, savored the deep worship and sharing, and we look forward to more of these gatherings in the future.
- Pastoral Care working group: We continue to work to build and live into a pastoral care plan for NEYM that will strengthen our ability to coordinate follow-up and communications when significant issues arise in monthly or quarterly meetings, the youth programs, or

among individuals. We are moving forward with creating opportunities for building pastoral care skills in monthly and quarterly meetings.

- Ministry working group: Discerning together with representatives from Permanent Board how best to carry our responsibility for care and nurture of those who are traveling in the ministry with travel minutes from the Yearly Meeting.
- Other activities: We have taken the Quaker representatives to the different state ecumenical councils under our care, and we have also taken the SAGE program under our care.

M&C is responsible for presenting a State of Society report at Sessions. As we did last year, we will be using queries to help to frame the State of Society report, and there will be time for worshipful sharing from the floor. We invite Friends to prepare for these queries by rereading your monthly meeting's State of Society report. We invite you to revisit the queries that we shared in our invitation to meetings for the State of Society report:

- What are we grateful for? What gifts of grace have we experienced in the life of our meeting community through the past year?
- Where could we, as a meeting, have been more open to learning, growing and serving each other in our meeting and the wider community?
- What unfed hungers do we feel in our community life?
- How is our meeting being led to do the work of the Spirit?

—DEBBIE HUMPHRIES, CLERK

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### Nominating Committee

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This report feels more like a report of the last five years rather than just this past year, as processes and requests long awaited seem to finally be coming to fruition.

After five long years of work by the Ad-Hoc Structural Review Committee, Long-Range Financial Planning, Permanent Board, Coordinating and Advisory, and each committee that we are responsible for peopling, Nominating Committee is beginning to have some answers to tough questions—not all of them easy to accept and others wonderfully releasing. As a result, before you this year you have proposals to lay down long-standing committees, to

merge others into other existing committees, to allow the Nominating Committee to appoint clerks to some committees in conjunction with the committee, and to explore the idea of allowing Witness committees to be self-appointing (other than the clerks).

It has been both wonderful and frustrating to see and participate in the Yearly Meeting's response to our minute 2012-4 to Permanent Board. While pleading for help to be able to do our charge well and be faithful to the Spirit's call, we had no idea where our request would take this body. As the Yearly Meeting took up responding to that minute, a

decision was made to do deep and difficult work which, while important, delayed any response to the Nominating Committee's immediate need for help and support. This year in particular it feels like that has changed.

Over the last couple of years a few monthly meetings have answered our call to appoint a representative to the Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee, which is a very good thing. While Internal Nominating of Permanent Board encounters the same problems that we do in finding the right candidates to serve, and as a result our at-large membership has dropped, our numbers have stayed consistent due to the presence of new meeting representatives and long-time representatives who serve us well.

This year committees have re-worked their Policies and Procedures, with the help and guidance of Permanent Board. This was not a case of making some minor changes, as we were in the habit of doing every 3 years, but a truly hard look at what the committee does, asking hard questions. Does the work of this committee still have life for the Yearly Meeting? Is this work best done by this particular committee? Are we comfortable letting go of long-standing traditions of having committees name their own clerks and having every individual on a committee be specifically named? Are we ready to trust others to find and name leadership in some cases? Are we ready to trust the Spirit to allow some of us to follow a leading to join certain committees?

The Nominating Committee has also engaged in this work and made a commitment to raising gifts and talents and matching them to committee work after prayerful discernment. We endeavor to no longer be caught in the position of "just filling slots," although we admit that sometimes our work can still feel like this.

As a committee we:

- have been coached by our Permanent Board shepherd to pare down our Policies and Procedures to a more concise document, and to keep other parts of our work as part of a handbook or manual
- have had the gift of a technologically savvy member working with the Yearly Meeting of-

fice to get more information onto the Nominating Committee web page so that this Body can more readily assist us in our work.

- have responded to our work on Climate Action by reducing our face-to-face meetings to two a year and our meetings at Sessions, meeting telephonically the remaining times.
- have been blessed with members with experience with both telephone and online meetings who have assisted those of us less comfortable with the process.
- are moving our style of meeting to one that more broadly encompasses the meeting styles and modalities of our generationally diverse body. We thank the Publications and Communication Committee for its "Advices and Queries for Electronic Meetings" that allowed us to approach this new way for working together with some sense of the Spirit in place. Maybe next year we will graduate to using Go-to-Meeting?

Where do we still need your help?

- We still need more meeting representatives. The only way to know better the gifts of Friends throughout the Yearly Meeting is to have representation from your home meeting.
- We need you to talk to each other about yearly, quarterly and monthly meeting service and about the gifts you see in one another. If someone ask, "Can I send your name to Nom Com?" consider saying, "Yes." Recognize that the person is sensing and raising up something in you and asking your permission to take that sense forward. Don't be afraid of what they are sensing and ask them to be more specific, if need be. Just as we all can be Ministers to one another, we can all be Elders calling out the ministries we sense in one other.
- Keep looking at the Yearly Meeting structure and allow our committee composition to change and evolve as the Spirit's work for us also changes and evolves.

In the Light of Love,

—CONSTANCE KINCAID-BROWN AND PENNY WRIGHT,  
CO-CLERKS

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### Committee for Nurturing Friends Education at Moses Brown School

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This has been a dynamic year for the committee. In the fall, in partnership with the Head of School and the Director of Friends Education, we hosted a team

from the Friends Council on Education as part of our reaccreditation process. We shared the work of NFEMB and discussed how we are engaged with the

Moses Brown Board and the school. Also in the fall, we approved a minute on photography and recording during worship and a minute on flags on campus at Moses Brown. We collected the formal minutes of the committee into a book that will be made available as a resource for the wider community.

In November we met with Gara Field, the Director of Global Education and Ethical Leadership at Moses Brown, and Elizabeth Grumbach and Erik Wilker, co-clerks of the All School Diversity Committee (ASDC). We agreed to create one shared common goal—likely around ethical leadership—as part of our goals for 2017–2018. We will continue to explore ways to create more shared dialogue among ASDC, NFEMB, and the Director of Global Education and Ethical Leadership. One piece of this work might be to bring in Friends who work and/or speak on social justice.

We spent considerable time in reflection and review of our Purposes, Procedures and Composition. We wanted to move into a deeper shared understanding of the committee history, its spirit and intent, and to discern more experiential ways to support that spirit and vision while also concretely detailing how the committee has functioned in practice. We worked to shift the language toward a tone that reflected the increasingly open and mutually supportive relationship between Moses Brown and NEYM. Particularly, the committee hopes to develop ways to encourage more explicit dialogue and involvement with NEYM. In the revised Purposes and Procedures, we sought to maintain most of the broader tenets of the original document, and to strengthen the sense of connection faculty and families feel to the Quaker identity of the school. The committee hopes not only to encourage outreach to prospective Quaker students and faculty, but also to bring non-Friends at Moses Brown to Quakerism through events such as the bi-annual conference on Friends Education, the Friends Tea, and the Living Faith Gathering, as well as continuing to support the work of the Director of Friends' Education. Working with NEYM, the Friends Coordinator for the Moses Brown Board and the Providence Friends Meeting Liaison, the committee worked to discern and detail a broader, inclusive, and more structured process for recommending Friends to serve on the Moses Brown Board and on the committee for NFEMB.

In the spring, we reviewed the membership renewal report from the Friends Council on Education and identified future goals out of that document. Many members of the committee felt the report was instructive, thorough, and affirming, paralleling our own findings in our discernment with constituencies

of Moses Brown faculty in all three divisions as well as students and staff. The committee discussed how to embed structural support for Friends Education and to help identify the structure of Friends Education across divisions, as it currently exists, in order to deepen and refine students' experience of Friends faith and practice, with one specific interest in using Friends in the broader community as resources. The committee will discuss this further with Galen Hamann when she returns in the fall. We also worked with Catherine Ford, the interim director of Friends Education, to host an intergenerational Friends Tea in May.

Respectfully submitted,

—DAWN TRIPP, CLERK

### Moses Brown School Report

The theme of this year's Sessions, *Living into Transformation*, aptly frames a year of spirit-led education at Moses Brown School. This has been a year of renewal, reflection and testing—one in which we reinforced core values and charted new paths forward for our work as a Friends school.

In completing the Friends Council on Education's decennial Membership Renewal Process, we hosted a visiting team in October, receiving their final report in February. The report noted successes and areas for growth relative to the school's mission, leadership, governance, program, community life and use of worship. The report also affirmed the school's plans for continuing revelation in the following areas: being careful stewards of the environment, better emphasizing our distinctive qualities as a Friends school, strengthening the experience of meeting for worship, and articulating social justice elements within our educational mission.

An historic moment for the school was the fall opening of our new Community and Performance Center, a building designed around our desire to be able to hold meetings for worship with our entire Upper School community (500 members who could not all fit in our 150-year-old auditorium). This new heart of the campus has already succeeded in increasing the unity and sense of community throughout our school, and it will serve students well for years to come.

Due in part to the carefully stewarded construction of the community center, MB became the first independent school in Rhode Island to be selected as a U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School. The award acknowledges MB's commitment to sustainability practices, specifically in the areas of facilities, health and environmental education.

MB also partnered this year with Brown University to organize the inaugural RI Ethics Bowl, a day-long event in which competing teams of students were asked to explore and articulate positions on 16 ethics cases. And we are partnering with Brown's Swearer Center for Public Service to develop a social entrepreneurship program (allowing our students to bring academic and business thinking to bear on global problems).

Attuned and responsive to the national climate, our teachers and administrators held peer-educational workshops and wrote nationally published articles on the need for civil discourse in academic and political affairs. Also, our All-School Diversity Committee sponsored community-signed letters of support for civic organizations targeted by hate speech (the Islamic Center of RI, the Provi-

dence Youth Movement, the Jewish Community Center and the Jewish Community Day School).

We also have begun planning our third Friends Education conference, which will be held October 13. The conference, "Discerning Truth in a Post-Fact World: A Friends Education Conference for Librarians and Educators," will center on the query, "What do Quaker pedagogy and practice have to offer those teaching and learning in our current environment?" We hope that educators in the NEYM community will join us.

We also enjoyed hosting NEYM's Living Faith Gathering in April and hope to find more such opportunities for relationship-building in the future.

—ERIK WILKER, DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE & STRATEGIC AFFAIRS

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### Puente de Amigos

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At last year's Sessions, Puente celebrated its 25th year with cake and an acknowledgement of Cynthia Ganung, Susan Furry, Benigno Sánchez-Eppler, and Betsy Cazden's stewardship. Odalys Hernandez Cruz, clerk of Cuba Yearly Meeting; her daughter, Melissa Velasquez; and Cándido Quelvys of the Miami Friends Church were in attendance and were honored for the parts they play in our Bridge of Friendship.

Benigno and Karen Sánchez-Eppler visited Cuba in January; Benigno taught a course on John Woolman at the Cuban Quaker Peace Institute and Karen reviewed Cuba Yearly Meeting's archives with an eye toward their preservation. Benigno writes that Cuban Friends continue to feel his teaching, along with participation in church activities, are a part of NEYM's contribution to the life of Puente. He expects to give a course on Robert Barclay in 2018.

This year we were led to involve more young people in Puente and way opened. Julian Grant (Hanover) actualized his leading to live among Friends in Havana for six months, to learn from them and to share his gifts with them. He's shared with us as well through insightful letters about his Cuban experience, which are posted on the NEYM website.

In January Mary Ann and Len Cadwallader visited Julian and witnessed the progress being made in turning a house into a church and hospitality center as well as the Havana church's outreach to its neighborhood. Julian taught the parents English while their children learned cooperative games downstairs. He shared his artistic talent in decorat-

ing the meeting room for special occasions and in creating a "Visitor's Guide." The room in which he stayed upstairs in the church is one of two that will become available for visitors after the renovations are completed. Julian spoke of his spiritual growth and his experience, and showed photos at Hanover's "Noche Cubana" event on May 13.

Len and Mary Ann also visited Young Friends from the Holguín and Vista Alegre churches to make preparations for the intergenerational trip in June from Amesbury, Dover and Storrs meetings. The Cuban Young Friends in Holguín and Vista Alegre had plenty of program ideas and enthusiasm for our delegation's visit. August Umholtz (Amesbury), Danny Provencal and Mary Provencal (Dover), and Rachel Corcoran-Adams (Storrs), in turn, have made plans to share their many gifts, some of which were developed in NEYM's youth programs. At this writing the young peoples' ideas include creating a choir and singing at both churches, teaching younger children, worship and other activities. Adult participants on the intergenerational delegation were Abigail Adams (Storrs), Maggie Fogarty (Dover), Lisa Umholtz and Martha McManamy (Amesbury).

We'll have the benefit of Julian and the intergenerational group's stories at Sessions 2017.

The sister-meeting network has been strengthened by the pairing of Holguín Church and Dover Monthly Meeting.

We were blessed in March by visits from Yanet Velasquez and Kenya Casanova to Wellesley and Kirenía Criado to Hanover. They were on their way to FWCC's Americas Section meeting. In May, Godly

Play workshops were conducted across Cuba and four more laptops were donated to Cuba Yearly Meeting.

We feel the Spirit moving in Puente's work this year as we see leadings become reality.

Puente de Amigos Committee works and prays for increased interaction between sister meetings as Cuba opens up to Americans and internet access eases. Our times demand that we preach and practice goodwill in the world.

—LEN & MARY ANN CADWALLADER, CO-CLERKS

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### Racial, Social and Economic Justice

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The world is in such distress. Fear can grip the strongest heart. How prophetically true today are the words of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoken in 1967: "We are now experiencing the coming to the surface of a triple prong sickness ... the sickness of racism, excessive materialism, and militarism ... the plague of western civilization." It is especially relevant if we also recognize the current state of the militarism of our police force.

This year the committee of Racial, Social and Economic Justice paid attention to the intersectionality of this "plague," not in a universal sense but rather how it intensifies for those most affected by systemic oppression, specifically people of color, the poor, LGBTQ, and/or immigrants. We continue to seek where we and NEYM as a whole are called to give life to transformation.

Our efforts in this regard included expanding our Black Lives Matter Vigil Panel Project, which bears witness to violence against people of color, to involve several monthly meetings. We wrote a minute asking Friends to prayerfully consider appropriate responses and support for the indigenous water protectors at Standing Rock, and called for a day of prayer and fasting. We led workshops at the Living Faith gatherings and at Sessions. We sponsored a Legacy Grant application in support of Policing Education & Active Civic Engagement. We formed a

working party for LGBTQ Concerns and distributed three Freedmen's Fund Scholarships to descendants of slaves. We put a lot of work into developing more fully the committee website ([neym.org/rsej](http://neym.org/rsej)) and produced a short video to introduce people to our work. We published and distributed our annual *Freedom & Justice Crier*. To every meeting in New England, we sent a copy of the book for young people, *Bayard Rustin: The Invisible Activist*. We funded a Prejudice and Poverty grant to the Abyssinian Meeting House in Portland, Maine. We are supporting and sending a liaison to the Challenging White Supremacy working group. Our work was organized through six committee meetings, five of them in person.

Returning to MLK, Jr.'s prescient message: "so what we must all see is that these are revolutionary times all over the globe, men are revolting against old systems of exploitation and out of the wombs of a frail world new systems of justice and equality are being born. ... [C]owardice asks the question, is it safe; expediency asks the question, is it politic; vanity asks the question, is it popular, but conscious asks the question, is it right?"

Where do we as Friends stand? What does Spirit call us to do?

—RACHEL CAREY-HARPER AND NUR SHOOP, CO-CLERKS

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### Sessions

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There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work." (1st Corinthians 12)

These words have been very present for our committee this year, as we reviewed our Purpose and Procedures and discerned what the purpose of Sessions itself is and how our annual gathering can strength-

en the local faith communities that make up our Yearly Meeting. We meet 4 or 5 times per year, reviewing and evaluating our most recent Sessions and planning for the next. We understand that a major part of our work is to make this event as welcoming and inclusive as possible, and to help smooth the rough edges of being together with over 600 others in a time of deep listening and stirring. How can we support each other in faithfulness, service and witness?

We welcome you back to Castleton with some new faces in established roles and with excitement

and anticipation for what G-d has in store for us. We look to each other for the essential volunteers who make our time together so rich in community. We say G-dspeed to our dear Events Coordinator and hope that another faithful F/friend is willing to serve. We anticipate and plan, and Spirit moves among us. We seek to be faithful to those movements and offer each of you a chance for renewal, discernment and transformation.

From the choice of a theme and speakers to the arrangements for the workshops, from the recruitment of shuttle drivers to the insights offered in the evaluations, it is a joyful work.

Namaste, friends. Bienvenue, Bienvenido, Shalom, Jambo!, Welcome.

Respectfully submitted,

—LESLIE MANNING, CLERK

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### Young Adult Friends

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Young adult Friends are individuals in the 18-to-35-ish age range. Young adult Friends (YAFs) have the opportunity to gather for several retreats per year and at NEYM Sessions. There are young adults actively engaged in our monthly meetings and yearly meetings who do not attend young adult Friends activities—so beware of lumping all young adults together!

This year participants of the retreats dug into themes of: “Building Community: Sharing Ourselves and Our Gifts,” “Finding Our Own Place: Being at home in our meeting, our community, and our world,” and “Rising to Meet Our Callings Across the Spectrum of Activism.” Activities during these retreats included conflict transformation and nonviolent communication, finding a sense of place in a changing world, and discernment for next steps in activism. Friends contribute to upkeep of this community through YAF committees and working

groups, and F/friends keep in touch with one another between retreats in F/friendship.

Some successes: At each of our retreats, between a quarter and a third of all participants had never attended a retreat before. It is always a joy to welcome newcomers. Meanwhile, many of the newcomers were from Maine, and some are involved in planning Maine-based young adult activities such as organizing YAF activities for the Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting gathering (September 2017). Other newcomers were current students at colleges and universities in the area, brought by F/friends or/and through their connection to local meetings.

We look forward to this upcoming year of retreats, spiritual deepening, closer relationships, and much more. Be in touch if you would like to learn more about young adult Friends! (Hilary Burgin, at [Hilary@neym.org](mailto:Hilary@neym.org), can direct you to someone on our committees.)

—GORDON PETERS, CLERK

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### Young Friends

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Young Friends enjoyed another year of our community in its many intermingling forms: beloved weekend retreats, quiet meetings for worship, frolicking at Friends Camp, regional Quaker Youth Groups, and other practices. We started out the year with some trepidation about our Ministry and Counsel Committee and our choice to switch back to a single clerk after having had two successful years of co-clerks.

During our first retreat, the water mysteriously stopped running. We found this oddly appropriate given the retreat’s theme of climate consciousness. Many of us helped fill up every container we could spare with water from a kind and generous neighbor who opened their doors and faucets to us. Not having running water served as an important reminder of what we were reflecting on at the retreat

and helped us understand just how critical and taken for granted basic resources like running water are in our culture.

Over the year we had many joys big and little. We played Frisbee with friends, barefoot in the grass still dewy in the late morning; We took walks up hills and down dales, enjoying the colors of the seasons, the smells of the trees and vegetation, and the views from the vantage points we hiked. Friends taught and joined in games of wit, speed, and laughter throughout the year, making the time go by much too fast every time we gathered together.

In November we discovered divides in our community as we struggled with the outside hate that had barged into our community and continued to rear its head in retreats and in other sacred spaces. Friends worked to make retreats a space where

we all could safely and without fear express our authentic selves. Some friends sent us inspirational messages to help guide us through these rough times.

February was a time for experimentation; we tried using stickers on our nametags to denote how comfortable we were talking about politics and with having a designated spot for using electronics when necessary. Both have been repeated despite some growing pains and we have continued discussing the role of phones and devices at retreats.

In March we again had an amazing time exploring gender and sexuality through sharing of personal experiences, a safer-sex talk, and a renewed focus on positive consent and using inclusive language.

At our final business meeting before Sessions, we worked to figure out what we really want Young

Friends to be. In pursuit of this, we decided to let go the responsibility of running the Coffee House, which had become an onerous task for those Young Friends involved, and formed a working group to continue the work of discerning our direction. As part of this work, we reflected on obstacles to making decisions that truly reflect the consensus of Young Friends, given that many of us who attend retreats are not at the annual NEYM Sessions and vice-versa. Compounding these issues of representation is that every year the makeup of Young Friends rotates as we move up grades. Just as we have learned the most about Quaker process and understand the community the best, we must sadly say “Good-bye.”

—ROY VEATCH, CLERK

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### Youth Ministries

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This has been a difficult year in the nation and in the world; our young people acutely share this pain and fear, but many have found comfort, community, resilience, inspiration, and even joy in the youth retreat programs of NEYM and in the Religious Education and other youth activities fostered by monthly meetings—read the staff reports of our youth ministers!

The work of the Youth Ministries Committee continues to entail support of NEYM’s vibrant retreat programs, but it now also stretches through and beyond them, charged with amplifying and connecting all the varied Quaker youth work in New England and helping that work to grow. This was the first full year in which the reconceived YMC had a clerk and membership, and it was in many ways still a year of beginnings, of putting materials in order and coming to understand the dimensions of our new charge.

Revising our Purposes and Procedures gave us a sense of the depth and breadth of that charge. “It is the committee’s intent,” we wrote, “that the youth work under our care enable young people to grow into adulthood with a full sense of belonging to both a local circle of Friends and the Yearly Meeting. We ensure that the programs we support offer a foundation of Quaker faith and experience, fostering an active spiritual life. The purpose of the Youth Ministries Committee is to support programs and practices that empower the young people of NEYM to live with grounded integrity, and that help them speak to the condition of the world.”

Doing this broader work in a way that does not simply add to the responsibilities of NEYM’s youth staff remains a challenge. We have begun to survey Quaker families in order to understand both the obstacles to retreat participation and the other kinds of programming that children and their parents crave. New local structures and activities that bring together young people from nearby meetings, and youth involvement in the April Living Faith gathering are examples of the ways this broader conception of NEYM youth ministry is beginning to take root.

The revision and approval of NEYM’s Child Safety Policy and the process of making both the policy and best practice resources widely available is a basic responsibility long wrestled with and now largely accomplished. The publication of the bilingual *Quaker Meeting and Me* with multicultural illustrations, continued Godly Play/Faith and Play teacher training, and the new videos featuring Quaker themes on public access television, exemplify the growth happening in education and outreach ministry at the monthly meeting level. We know, however, that there is still much to do to live into our new charge.

YMC’s membership includes NEYM’s two youth program coordinators and the Religious Education and Outreach Coordinator; therefore, committee work draws heavily on staff time. Ensuring that the committee is a support, not a further burden, to our wonderful staff is among our challenges. This is a working committee that expects members to carry tasks between our monthly gatherings, and we

would be grateful for a few more active members who are excited to think with us about how best to support and facilitate activities that nurture the spiritual lives of our children and families.

We close with blessings and deep gratitude for Kimberly Walker-Gonçalves and the loving and

wondrous ways that she nurtured NEYM's childcare at Sessions for more than a decade. Thank you, Kimberly

—KAREN SÁNCHEZ-EPPLER, CLERK



## Representatives to Other Friends Organizations

### American Friends Service Committee

The AFSC has just celebrated its 100th birthday in Philadelphia at the same time as the Corporation and Board were meeting for business. A new General Secretary has been chosen to begin in September 2017: Joyce Ajlouny, formerly with Ramallah Friends School in Palestine. The Northeast Regional Committee was given the dreadful task of recommending the closing and diminishing of programs in the region by September 2017 due to lack of funds. Programs all over the country have been forced to

close. Some administration positions have also been cut. The Central Office is encouraging two programs: Waging Peace and Sanctuary Everywhere. There has been a push to join programs that are doing similar work across the country and to increase collaboration with other organizations that do common work. The Board is promising to be more transparent and to consult with staff on major issues in the future.

—SUBMITTED BY ANNE NASH

### Friends Committee on National Legislation

Once again, New England Yearly Meeting's participation in Friends Committee on National Legislation was substantial. Diane Randall (Hartford) continued serving as FCNL's Executive Secretary and Barbara Monahan (New Haven) continued as Associate Executive Secretary for Development. Diane's annual report to the yearly meetings on FCNL activities is included elsewhere in the Sessions Advanced Documents. This report focuses on the specific FCNL activities of other NEYM members.

Susanna Thomas (Storrs), Jonah McKenna Moss (Beacon Hill), Ian Harrington (Cambridge), Robert Schultz (Hanover), Omar Hajajreh (Hanover) and Donn Weinholtz (Hartford) all served as NEYM representatives on FCNL's General Committee and attended the annual meeting in Washington, D.C., in November. Also, Ian served on the Field Committee, Robert on the Forward Planning Committee, and Donn on the Development Committee.

At-Large members on the FCNL General Committee included Jennie Isbell Shinn (Mt. Toby), Jim

Matlack (Midcoast), Matt Southworth (Hartford), Mark Kharas (Cambridge), Becky Steele and Doug McCown (Portland), and Scot Drysdale (Hanover). Jennie Isbell Shinn served on the Development Committee and remained as the consultant for the first year of the Forward Planning process. Mark Kharas also served on the Forward Planning Committee and as a member of the FCNL Education Fund Board. Scot Drysdale served on the Finance Committee, and Matt Southworth served on the Nominating Committee. Becky Steele again served as the FCNL Education Fund Board's treasurer, and Doug McCown served on the Development Committee.

We were saddened by the death of Ed Snyder (Acadia), Emeritus FCNL Executive Director. Ed's remarkable life was celebrated at the 2016 General Committee Meeting. He remains an inspiration to us all.

—SUBMITTED BY DONN WEINHOLTZ

### Friends Committee on National Legislation 2016 Report to Yearly Meetings

*Please note: This report has been edited due to space constraints. For the full text, please see [neym.org/news/fcnl-2017-report-yearly-meetings](http://neym.org/news/fcnl-2017-report-yearly-meetings)*

Since the early days of the Religious Society, God has led Friends to take action in the world. FCNL has been bringing the concerns, experiences, and testimonies of Friends to bear on policy decisions in the nation's capital for nearly 75 years.

The 2016 election manifested deep political and social divisions in our country, revealing stark dif-

ferences in voters' hopes for the future. FCNL's grounding as a Quaker lobby and our presence on Capitol Hill as a nonpartisan voice for peace and justice are needed now more than ever. Friends remain the bedrock of FCNL's strong network, standing together in a nearly 370-year-old faith-based movement living its faith through action.

**Spirit-led Action:** Just two days after the election, FCNL gathered to worship, lobby and conduct the organization's business at our Annual Meeting.

FCNL's General Committee approved legislative priorities to guide our advocacy in the 115th Congress. These legislative priorities, available online at [fcnl.org/priorities](http://fcnl.org/priorities), were the result of discernment that included input from hundreds of Quaker meetings and churches across the country, discernment by FCNL's Policy Committee, and consideration by the General Committee. We renewed our commitment to use the persistent, powerful, and prophetic voice that sustains our work.

The divisions in the American electorate make our lobbying tougher than ever and we are under no illusions about the challenges ahead. The threats are real. Our relationships on Capitol Hill with both Republicans and Democrats, and the relationships that the FCNL network have established, will take on new significance and will become even more critical in the months ahead. We encourage all Friends to join us in advocacy: [fcnl.org/advocacy](http://fcnl.org/advocacy).

We will continue to be truth-tellers in the halls of power. We will uphold and move forward the priorities that our General Committee set for us in November. We will affirm the many ways that people may be called to act for change, while remaining focused on our mission to work within our democratic system to influence national legislation.

**Capital Campaign:** As FCNL nears 75 years of faithful witness, we are building a sustainable future through a five-year, \$15 million capital campaign to strengthen the foundation of FCNL's lobbying and educational programs. The success of the campaign, however, rests on far more than meeting a specific financial goal. The most important impact is the degree to which the campaign empowers FCNL to fulfill its mission and engage as many people as possible in our work. By the time the campaign ends on June 30, 2017, FCNL will have hosted 35 campaign events in 23 states and D.C. We have a broad base of support in this campaign from our community of supporters who are helping to ensure the future of Quaker advocacy.

**Love Thy Neighbor:** As our country struggles with deep divisions, it is even more urgent to highlight the value we place in one another. We invite Friends to help shift the narrative and spread a message of love by joining the #LoveThyNeighbor campaign: [fcnl.org/lovetthyneighbor](http://fcnl.org/lovetthyneighbor).

We are grateful to the 25 yearly meetings that have appointed members to serve on FCNL's General Committee. Thank you for sharing the nurturing gifts of these wise and committed Friends. With their guidance, we seek to remain open to where God's spirit leads us. Please hold us in the Light this year as we continue to work for the world we seek.

**Our Impact—March 2017:** Many U.S. programs and policies that advance peace and justice are under threat today. FCNL leads work to protect the gains of the past decades, mitigate the most damaging proposals under consideration, and promote civil dialogue across political differences.

**Strengthening and Growing our Advocacy Community:** Using decades of experience in relationship-focused advocacy, we train and empower people looking to influence and change U.S. policies. This work brings concerns for peace and justice to an increasing number of congressional offices. Advocacy Teams are thriving in more than 40 communities, and we continue to launch new groups to build durable connections with members of Congress and persuade them to support key legislation. Last year, the number of FCNL members lobbying in person grew by 50 percent. We expect to exceed this growth in 2017.

**Immigration:** FCNL is building bipartisan support in Congress for compassionate immigration policies. FCNL staff chair the Interfaith Immigration Coalition, leading lobbying among the faith community to ensure offices hear these voices strongly. We work closely with Republican and Democratic senators to advance the bipartisan BRIDGE Act to protect young immigrants. The 18 young adults in our Advocacy Corps are organizing in their communities, building the groundwork needed to effect real and lasting policy change. In addition to bringing more than 180 people in to lobby in their local congressional offices, members of the Advocacy Corps are working to shape media discourse, cultivating a local network of advocates, and developing issue expertise to lend additional credibility to their advocacy.

**Peacebuilding:** The Administration's aggressive foreign policy stances and efforts to increase military spending threaten decades-long efforts to prevent violence. FCNL is working to counteract this trend and partnering with lawmakers to advance peacebuilding initiatives. Decision-makers are reading the report of the bipartisan Experts Committee on Preventing Mass Violence which we convened last year, which recommends concrete steps to expand U.S. leadership in preventing mass atrocities. Senators of both parties are working with us to ask hard questions of the administration and introduce legislation to support U.S. genocide- and atrocities-prevention efforts.

**Religious Freedom:** While the President's executive order effectively banning travel from seven Muslim-majority countries has brought attention to religious freedom issues, for nearly two years FCNL has been raising concerns in Congress about this

type of discrimination. We worked closely with Rep. Don Beyer (VA) last year and this to introduce legislation prohibiting the U.S. from denying admission based on religion. Our professional lobbyists and a coalition of more than 100 organizations are building relationships and cultivating lawmakers in efforts to end religious discrimination as a policy of the U.S. government.

**Economic Justice:** Congress could lay the groundwork this year to transform the government's role in ensuring access to basic necessities for everyone in the U.S. FCNL is part of a national mobilization to emphasize the detrimental effects of repealing the Affordable Care Act without a comparable replacement. In March 2017, when health care and funding for programs such as Medicaid and SNAP (food stamps) will be before Congress, our Spring Lobby Weekend will bring more than 400 college students to Washington to lobby.

**Pentagon Spending:** The Pentagon already consumes nearly \$600 billion in government spending, a sum equal to what the next seven countries combined spend on defense. Now, President Trump

is asking Congress for one of the largest increases in Pentagon spending in our country's history. FCNL lobbyists are leaders in focusing attention on Pentagon spending in congressional offices, working directly with staff and through key coalitions. Our Advocacy Teams across the country are meeting with members of Congress to raise the moral choices we make as a nation when we increase Pentagon spending at the expense of programs that keep people from falling into poverty and promote peace and diplomacy around the world.

**Climate Change:** Our moral call for action on climate change has opened a space in Washington for lawmakers to acknowledge the danger of inaction and discuss solutions. In the 114th Session of Congress, 17 Republicans cosponsored a resolution that FCNL developed with former Rep. Chris Gibson (NY) calling on Congress to act on climate change. We are building support for similar legislation in 2017. Lawmakers are increasingly interested in joining the bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus, which brings members together across party lines

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### Friends Peace Teams

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Our peace work has intensified, and we have new leadership. For the African Great Lakes Initiative, David Bucura is our new coordinator. For Peacebuilding in Las Americas, Monica Maher is our new coordinator. Tom Martin and Nancy Shippen continue as co-clerks. We are grateful to all those who support our work.

The FPT Council has begun an examination our infrastructure and established a Governance Committee with a goal of transparency and accountability.

We held our annual meeting at Wellesley Monthly Meeting, followed by our PeaceQuest conference celebrating FPT's peace work.

Asia West Pacific Initiative works in Indonesia, the Philippines, Korea, and Nepal. Our peace work follows the calling of our volunteers supporting nonviolence, peace, trauma healing, conflict transformation, and social justice advocacy. The Power of

Goodness, illustrated by young artists, is now available. Visit [fpt-awp.org](http://fpt-awp.org)

Peacebuilding en las Américas provides peacebuilding and trauma healing in Colombia, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras with at-risk youth, teachers, war survivors, former and active gang members, prison personnel, indigenous communities and grassroots leaders. Visit the website: [pla.friendspeaceteams.org/](http://pla.friendspeaceteams.org/).

The African Great Lakes Initiative works in Burundi, Rwanda, Kenya, and Democratic Republic of Congo providing Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities, Friends Women's Association's clinic in Burundi, the Alternatives to Violence Project, and other work. Please visit [friendspeaceteams.org/initiatives/african-great-lakes-initiative-agli/](http://friendspeaceteams.org/initiatives/african-great-lakes-initiative-agli/)

Visit [FriendsPeaceTeams.org](http://FriendsPeaceTeams.org).

—NANCY SHIPPEN (NANCYSHIPPEN@COMCAST.NET),  
REPRESENTATIVE

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### Quaker Earthcare Witness

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The badge, "Standing Rock is Everywhere," introduced at our spring meeting in Atlanta, encapsulates our past year. Our delegation to the North Dakota site found solidarity with those assembled, as

corporate arrogance, environmental and racial insensitivity, militarized "security," and disrespect for law were all confronted in one spot, while the same forces spread across the whole country.

Finding spiritual unity across traditions was the face of our peace and justice efforts as QEW enters its 30th year. We greatly appreciate the activities generated in NEYM that both complement and inspire us to resist further degradation of the planet as we transition to new patterns of relationship. Both direct action and written expression are noticed and built upon. Breathing new life into and accepting Friends' Christian heritage is an ongoing challenge for QEW. Going from salvation and redemption to regeneration of all the subsets within one Whole is one way of reframing the QEW witness. It can be a truly Gospel message.

Our new Publications Coordinator, Hayley Hathaway from Rindge, N.H., is now in charge of BeFriending Creation, our website and Facebook page, trifold for discussion, etc. Her work is inspiring us and she looks forward to being part of the NEYM community. The committee overseeing this Publishers of Truth mission is clerked by a Friend in Belize and it is amazing to see them function on a Skype meeting. QEW is continually trying to find a balance with face-to-face and electronic meetings.

Finding new ways to participate seems to be part of evolving new sources of hope.

At the UN our Working Group is collaborating on a July side-event that will focus on food sovereignty and regenerative agriculture with the 2015–2024 Decade for People of African Descent ([www.resilience.org/stories/2017-02-16/relocalization-among-the-most-marginalized-in-an-america-first-world/](http://www.resilience.org/stories/2017-02-16/relocalization-among-the-most-marginalized-in-an-america-first-world/)). This type of advocacy attempts to sensitively complement QUNO'S work.

Finally, we will next meet at Pendle Hill in October before shifting to the west coast in fall 2018. Along with our Earth Center at FGC we welcome opportunities to meet face-to-face. We invite your participation and critique of our efforts to stimulate thought and action.

If you cannot meet with us, consider enabling someone else to go. It is one of the many ways to support QEW.

We welcomed Christopher Haines as an additional NEYM rep.

—ROD ZWIRNER, REPRESENTATIVE

## Revised Purposes, Procedures & Composition for Yearly Meeting Committees

### The Permanent Board

#### **Purpose:**

The Permanent Board acts with the authority of the Yearly Meeting between Annual Sessions. It implements decisions and policy made by Sessions. It acts upon matters where, in the opinion of the Board, a decision cannot await Sessions. It seasons issues which come to its attention, presenting recommendations to Sessions if appropriate. On the recommendation of the Coordinating & Advisory Committee, it considers the work of Yearly Meeting committees.

Among its specific responsibilities (as described in the 1985 NEYM Faith and Practice, pp. 229-230):

- The Board inspects and perfects, when necessary, titles to lands and other estates belonging to the Yearly Meeting or any constituent body.
- It attends to the appropriation of charitable legacies and donations.
- It reviews and approves operating policies.
- It recommends to Sessions the appointment of managerial-level staff.
- It forwards to Sessions nominations for the Yearly Meeting presiding clerk, recording clerks and reading clerks
- It appoints: clerk and at-large members of the Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee; clerk of Friends Camp Committee; clerk and 50% of the Friends Camp Nominating Committee; Yearly Meeting appointments to Committee for Nurturing Friends Education at Moses Brown School (MBS) and Yearly Meeting representatives to MBS board; supervisor of the Yearly Meeting secretary; clerk and all members of the Permanent Board's Personnel Committee.
- It extends such advice and assistance to persons suffering for their testimonies as their cases may require and may petition the government or persons in authority on behalf of such sufferers.
- It considers appeals forwarded to it by the quarterly meetings.
- It hears and forwards for publication memorials of deceased members transmitted to it by quarterly meetings.
- A Friend with a concern to be carried beyond the Yearly Meeting shall present a travel minute approved by their monthly meeting and endorsed by

their quarterly meeting. If the Permanent Board unites with the concern, it may endorse the travel minute.

- Consistent with Yearly Meeting policies, it may authorize budget expenditures beyond those approved in the annual budget.
- It is accountable to and reports each year to Annual Sessions.

#### **Procedures:**

The Permanent Board publishes its minutes and reports of key news from its meetings. It ensures its agenda materials will be widely available, and encourages the participation of Friends from throughout New England. All Friends are invited to attend its meetings.

The Permanent Board may create and appoint subcommittees or ad-hoc working groups to carry out its various responsibilities. As of 2017 these subcommittees include: Clerks Nominating, Internal Nominating, Personnel, and Friends Camp Nominating.

The Board normally meets six times a year, including immediately prior to and following Annual Sessions. Special meetings may be called by the clerk and shall be called upon the request of ten members. Ten days' notice of special meetings must be given in writing to all members, and the business to come before the special meeting must be stated in the call. At least one third of the total number of members is required for the transaction of business. While mindful of the importance of in person discernment, members may attend through communications technology at the discretion of the clerk.

#### **Composition:**

- The Yearly Meeting appoints the Permanent Board, consisting of not more than 50 members with each quarterly meeting represented. One fifth of the Board is appointed each year to serve for a term of five years, renewable once with the approval of the Yearly Meeting. Any member of Permanent Board, including a member in their second term, may be appointed clerk. If appointment as clerk requires the Friend to serve beyond their second term, then their term will end upon conclusion of their service as clerk.
- The Clerk of the Permanent Board is approved by the Permanent Board at the recommendation of

the Permanent Board's Internal Nominating Committee. The clerk serves a three year term.

- Ex officio members of the Permanent Board include: the Yearly Meeting Presiding Clerk, Yearly Meeting Secretary, Yearly Meeting Treasurer, clerk of Finance Committee, clerk of Development Committee, the clerk of the Personnel Committee, the immediate past Yearly Meeting Presiding Clerk, and the Supervisor to the Yearly Meeting Secretary.

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### Coordinating and Advisory Committee

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#### **Purpose:**

The Coordinating and Advisory Committee (C&A) shepherds the work of the Yearly Meeting in alignment with the core purpose and the priorities articulated by the Yearly Meeting, and works to advise and coordinate the many committees of the Yearly Meeting. The Committee nurtures and supports Friends serving in leadership roles on behalf of the Yearly Meeting, quarterly meetings and monthly meetings. C&A is responsible for supervising and evaluating the work of the Yearly Meeting secretary. The work of the Committee may require confidentiality as it discerns with tenderness how to proceed with an issue.

#### **Procedures:**

- The committee meets monthly throughout the year, either in person or by phone.
- The committee supports current and emerging clerks of quarterly meetings, monthly meetings, and Yearly Meeting committees (including ad-hoc committees and subcommittees of the Permanent Board) with regular programs such as conference calls, workshops, retreats and prayerful guidance in tender situations.
- The Committee refers some matters to other bodies for review, discernment and action.
- C&A strives to prevent duplication of effort and facilitate efficiency and effectiveness in the work of the Yearly Meeting.
- Every three years, the committee coordinates a review of purposes and procedures for all Yearly Meeting committees prior to their approval by Sessions.
- The committee delegates day-to-day supervision of the Yearly Meeting Secretary to the supervisor of the Yearly Meeting secretary, who ensures completion of the annual performance review of the Secretary.
- The Presiding Clerk may invite other committee clerks or knowledgeable Friends to participate as

needed to support the committee's discernment; otherwise, given the sometimes sensitive and confidential nature of C&A's work, its meetings are not open.

- The Presiding Clerk reports regularly on the activities of the committee to Permanent Board and Ministry and Counsel, and annually to Sessions.

#### **Composition:**

- The committee is made up (ex officio) of the Yearly Meeting Presiding Clerk, the Yearly Meeting secretary, the Supervisor of the Yearly Meeting Secretary, the Yearly Meeting Treasurer, and the clerks of Finance Committee, Ministry & Counsel Committee, Nominating Committee, and Permanent Board.
- The committee is clerked by the Yearly Meeting presiding clerk.

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### Nominating Committee

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#### **Purpose:**

The Nominating Committee nominates persons to serve on the those committees and boards of the Yearly Meeting that the Yearly Meeting has directed the Committee to form. It endeavors to discern the gifts and leadings of the Spirit given to individual Friends, and to call those gifts into fulfillment of God's work through committee service.

#### **Procedures:**

While the Committee always strives to bring a full slate for approval by Annual Sessions, it is more important to faithfully find the right Friend with the right gifts for each position. Therefore, it will sometimes happen that the Committee does not have a full slate to present at Annual Sessions. In such cases, additional names may be brought to Permanent Board meetings for consideration and approval between Sessions.

The Committee meets during Annual Sessions to finalize the slate of nominations. There are two face-to-face meetings during the year. The Committee also meets via conference call 4–6 times a year to discuss the gifts and potential nomination of Friends.

Each year the Committee considers the stated gifts needed for most Yearly Meeting committees; in particular, the Committee focuses on replacing those members whose terms will end at the next Annual Sessions. The Committee also looks ahead for potential needs. When a Friend resigns from a committee or there seems to be a need for additional members, the Committee will focus their attention on these areas. For many committees of the

Yearly Meeting, Nominating Committee is responsible for proposing the clerk of the committee.

We strive to use a modified “Strawberry Creek” method of discerning names for particular service, allowing names to rise out of waiting worship.

A “shepherd” from Nominating is appointed for each committee of the Yearly Meeting. The shepherd should be familiar with the purposes, procedures and composition of the committee they are shepherding. The shepherd is responsible for engaging with that committee and that committee’s clerk with the intention of learning about the particular needs of the committee(s) and bringing that information back to Nominating for consideration. Committees are invited to collaborate with the shepherd to suggest individuals who might be nominated for that committee. In practice, some committees may be self-recruiting or may be composed of a network of Friends who share a concern.

The Committee seeks to hold its conversations tenderly, guarding the reputation of individuals. Names that arise during committee discussion will not be included in the minutes.

NC may become aware of situations where a committee is struggling. The responsibility of NC is to promptly inform Coordinating & Advisory of the situation.

Yearly Meeting committee terms are 3 years, except for Permanent Board, Finance Committee and Board of Managers of Investments and Permanent Funds, which are 5 years. Each appointment may be renewed for a second term with mutual agreement of the committee, Nominating Committee, and Yearly Meeting.

### **Composition:**

To assure that we are a strong and continuously functioning committee, we have two types of membership.

- Up to 12 at-large members are named by Permanent Board for 3-year, staggered terms, renewable one time.
- Monthly meetings are invited to appoint representatives for 3-year terms, renewable as often as the monthly meeting desires. Committee members are expected to actively engage in the work of the committee.
- If there are insufficient representatives appointed by monthly meetings, the Committee will ask the Internal Nominating subcommittee of Permanent Board or the Coordinating and Advisory Committee to assist in recruitment to ensure that the Committee represents a broad range of monthly and quarterly meetings.

- Linkages: The clerk of Nominating Committee serves ex-officio on Coordinating and Advisory.
- The clerk of Nominating is named by the Internal Nominating subcommittee of Permanent Board in consultation with the Nominating Committee.

Desired member gifts and skills:

- Time throughout the year for listening in encounters with Friends for spiritual gifts of service
- Diplomacy in inviting Friends to serve on a committee or in a position
- Knowledge of the purposes of Yearly Meeting committees, and the gifts and skills needed in order to help those committees function at their best
- Knowledge of Friends and their gifts at the local and regional area
- Organizational skills, including the ability to follow-up with contacting potential committee members
- Reliability in attendance at meetings

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### **Finance Committee**

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#### **Purposes:**

*For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. (Matthew 6:21)*

The Yearly Meeting Finance Committee stewards the financial resources at all levels of the Yearly Meeting. This involves care for the intake and expenditure of money through the development of an annual budget, the establishment of policies for the faithful and transparent carrying out of that care, and the communication of this to the wider body of New England Yearly Meeting. The Finance Committee serves as a resource for monthly and quarterly meetings and other groups under the care of the Yearly Meeting, providing consultation, education, and resources to treasurers and others to assist in the effective stewardship of monthly, quarterly, and (in consultation with the Yearly Meeting secretary and/or Permanent Board) Yearly Meeting financial and property resources, including those of Friends Camp.

#### **Procedures:**

- The Committee provides oversight, advice, and support to the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer as well as any others who may be responsible for sub-accounts within the Yearly Meeting operating funds.
- The Committee reviews and recommends updates to the job descriptions of the Yearly Meeting Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer.

- The Committee annually nominates persons to serve as Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer for the Yearly Meeting; the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer are formally appointed by Yearly Meeting at Sessions. The Treasurer serves for a minimum of two years.
  - The Committee generally meets every other month, including several times at Annual Sessions. Meeting times and places are determined by the Clerk in consultation with the Committee.
  - The Committee may designate subcommittees to organize and perform certain tasks, the results to be brought before the full committee for action. The current subcommittees are Budget, Education, and Policy. Finance Committee members generally serve on one subcommittee.
  - Early in the calendar year, the Committee begins development of a draft budget for the ensuing fiscal year. This is done in consultation with the Treasurer, Yearly Meeting Secretary, and others. The Yearly Meeting Secretary is responsible for estimating expenses for the Yearly Meeting staff and office, Youth Retreat Programs, and Annual Sessions. The Committee consults with the ad-hoc Long-Term Financial Planning Committee toward achieving the goal of multi-year budgeting.
  - The Committee solicits specific input from the Development Committee regarding the estimated capacity within the Yearly Meeting community for contributions and from the Yearly Meeting Secretary regarding estimated expenses and revenue for Annual Sessions in developing the draft budget.
  - The Committee solicits budget requests from all Yearly Meeting committees to support the work of those committees.
  - Prior to mid-March, the Committee reviews the Friends Camp budget to see that it is balanced, conforms to generally accepted accounting practices, and reflects realistic and sound fiscal management. Questions or concerns are referred back to the Friends Camp committee for consideration, clarification, and refinement.
  - The Yearly Meeting budget and the Friends Camp budget are presented by the Committee to Permanent Board at its May meeting for information and feedback.
  - The Committee presents the final Yearly Meeting budget as well as the Friends Camp budget to Annual Sessions for final approval. Between Annual Sessions, budget updates and any necessary requests for action are presented to the Permanent Board.
  - The Committee prepares a minute annually for Sessions authorizing designated individuals to sign checks, open and close accounts, and otherwise manage the financial “housekeeping” of the Yearly Meeting.
  - The Committee conducts workshops on various financial topics and fields specific questions from monthly meeting officers on managing monthly meeting finances.
  - The Committee will from time to time review Yearly Meeting policies in financial matters and make recommendations to Permanent Board for continuation, discontinuation, or adjustment of those policies.
  - The Committee maintains a handbook documenting the policies and procedures of Yearly Meeting financial matters, regularly reviewing and updating it as needed.
- Composition:**
- Finance Committee consists of:
- Up to 15 members appointed by the Yearly Meeting for 5-year terms. These members may be re-appointed for a second consecutive 5-year term.
    - Committee members do not necessarily need any prior experience with accounting or financial management, but should be comfortable (or interested in learning how to become comfortable) looking at, talking about, and praying over both specific numbers as well as broader policy matters concerning the finances of the Yearly Meeting. Committee members should be able to notice and be willing to ask tough questions when numbers don’t seem to make sense or add up. All members are expected to relate financial matters to Divine guidance and Quaker principles.
    - Additionally, while no single member is expected to bring all of the following to the Committee’s work, the Committee as a whole will, ideally, possess at least two informed perspectives on the following topic areas: (a) each area of work done by the Yearly Meeting as an organization, (b) Yearly Meeting governance procedures, and (c) common principles of financial management. The Committee also needs one or more members possessing the necessary skill and energy to (a) use charts, spreadsheets, and financial management software, and (b) draft policy proposals when it becomes clear our policies or procedures should be changed.
  - The Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Yearly Meeting Secretary
  - The Finance Committee names an internal nominating committee with the responsibility for naming the Clerk, Recording Clerk, Treasurer and As-



sistant Treasurer. Finance Committee and the Yearly Meeting at Annual Sessions or at Permanent Board approve these appointments. The Clerk of Finance Committee serves ex-officio on the Coordinating and Advisory Committee and on Permanent Board.

As reflected in the Purposes and Procedures above, the Finance Committee collaborates and has linkages with Permanent Board, Development Committee, Sessions Committee, the ad-hoc Long-Term Financial Planning Committee, the Yearly Meeting Secretary, the Board of Managers of Permanent Funds, and the Friends Camp Committee.

### Development Committee

**NOTE:** While this revised Purpose, Procedures and Composition reflects in spirit the needs for the Yearly Meeting's Development work going forward, since the finalization of this proposed revision there have been changes in plans for the function and scope of this Committee's work in the coming year that will require Friends providing specific skills and gifts for a shorter term of service.

Because of this, Nominating Committee is not being asked to bring forward new nominations for Development Committee at this time.

The Development Committee expects, in consultation with Coordinating and Advisory Committee, to bring a modified version of this charge to Permanent Board in the fall which more accurately reflects current needs and practice for number of committee members and length of appointment.

#### **Purpose:**

The purpose of Development Committee is to create and sustain a culture of individual and monthly meeting financial giving to NEYM by all members and friends of the organization to support the mission and the ministries of NEYM. Development Committee articulates and publishes the non-financial and financial goals of the Yearly Meeting and oversees communications regarding the Yearly Meeting's work and achievements throughout the year.

#### **Procedure:**

- Develop a fundraising/development plan in consultation with Permanent Board, Finance Committee, Long-Term Financial Planning Committee, and staff
- Collaborate with Finance Committee, the ad-hoc Long-Term Financial Planning Committee, and

Sessions Committee to set and achieve fundraising goals

- Cultivate a level of both monthly meeting and individual giving that is steady, persistent and reliable from year to year to meet the needs of NEYM
- Articulate clear and compelling messages regarding the work of NEYM, reminding members of our organizational goals and accomplishments, always accentuating the value of an organization "helping us to do together what we cannot do alone"
- Deliver an Annual Report to the Yearly Meeting highlighting the accomplishments of the NEYM organization
- Create programs to educate members of all ages and all means about philanthropy and support for causes that matter
- Identify and steward major donors, involving the Yearly Meeting Secretary, Presiding Clerk, Clerk of Permanent Board, Treasurer and others, as needed, for solicitations
- Involve relevant staff members for projects as needed, with approval and guidance from the Yearly Meeting Secretary
- Meet at least six times a year, either electronically (by phone or computer) or in person; such meetings may include a weekend retreat

#### **Composition:**

- Development Committee works with Nominating Committee to identify people with the following characteristics:
  - Awareness of and passion for the ministries of New England Yearly Meeting
  - Experience in fundraising, or a desire to learn more about fundraising
  - Ability to talk comfortably about money, and the YM's need for financial support
  - Demonstrated skills in the following areas which are especially helpful for Development Committee: strong, clear communication skills (both oral and written), presentation skills, graphic design, comfort interpreting financial information, data analysis, social media use
  - Spiritual grounding
  - Strong interpersonal skills and ability to work in a group using Quaker process, based on experience in other NEYM or monthly meeting committee service
  - Confidentiality and discretion regarding NEYM's donor base
- The Yearly Meeting Secretary and Treasurer serve ex officio
- The ideal size for this committee is 8 to 10 members (including ex officio members). Additionally,

other people may participate on an ad-hoc basis for specific projects.

- Committee members are expected to serve a term of 3 years, and may be reappointed for a second term by consent of the Committee.
- Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee, in consultation with the committee members, names the clerk of Development Committee. This nomination is approved by the Yearly Meeting.
- The clerk serves a minimum of 3 years, to a maximum of 6 years.
- The Development Committee coordinates with and has linkages to the Permanent Board, Finance Committee, Sessions Committee, and the ad-hoc Long Term Financial Planning Committee.

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### Board of Managers of Investments and Permanent Funds

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#### **Purpose:**

The Board of Managers of Investments and Permanent Funds is responsible for the management and investment, consonant with Friends principles, of Yearly Meeting funds and funds entrusted to it by meetings, schools, and other Friends organizations in New England for the purpose of maintaining a source of continuing income and protection and growth of capital.

#### **Procedures:**

The Board uses the services of a professional investment advisor, and a sound bank as custodian for protection and safekeeping of the assets. It meets annually with representatives of its constituents to relate their needs to the investment strategy of the Board during NEYM Annual Sessions, held the first week in August. The Board also meets on the 2nd Wednesday of February, May, September, and November, and at other times when needed. All meetings are open.

#### **Composition:**

The Board of Managers consists of:

- Ten members named by Nominating Committee and appointed by the Yearly Meeting in staggered, 5-year terms
- The Yearly Meeting Secretary, NEYM Treasurer, and clerk of NEYM Finance Committee
- The Clerk, Recording Clerk and Board of Managers Treasurer are appointed by the Board from among its members and approved by the Yearly Meeting
- The Board of Managers collaborates with and maintains linkages with Finance Committee and the Yearly Meeting Secretary

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### Sessions Committee

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#### **Purpose:**

The Sessions Committee is responsible for planning the program and related activities of the Annual Sessions of New England Yearly Meeting (NEYM). Within this scope, the Presiding Clerk has special care of the business sessions.

The purpose of NEYM Annual Sessions is to conduct the business of the Yearly Meeting, to worship together, to deepen the fellowship and service among Friends in New England and strengthen the bonds of our beloved community. Members of the committee work with other committees and with staff to promote participation in Annual Sessions and make the event welcoming and inclusive.

The committee works closely with and provides guidance and support to the professional staff of NEYM who work under the direction of the Yearly Meeting Secretary. The Yearly Meeting Secretary has ultimate responsibility for and oversight of implementation, logistics, financial management, liability, legal and safety concerns for Annual Sessions.

#### **Procedures:**

The committee usually meets three or four times during the 12-month period between Annual Sessions to evaluate the previous year and to plan the overall schedule and program for the forthcoming year's event.

The committee may form subcommittees and working groups charged with planning specific elements of the program, working closely with NEYM staff who are under the supervision of the Yearly Meeting Secretary.

As of 2017, current working groups include: (1) Speakers and Program and (2) Workshops and Opportunities. When in the judgment of Annual Sessions or Permanent Board a new site is deemed necessary, the committee will participate in and inform the site-selection process.

The budget for Annual Sessions is prepared by the Yearly Meeting Secretary and Treasurer, and reviewed for input by Sessions Committee. It is incorporated in the annual budget process for the NEYM Operating Division under the care of the Finance Committee.

The clerk of Sessions Committee, presiding clerk, Events Coordinator and Yearly Meeting secretary meet regularly to ensure effective communication, planning, coordination and implementation of all aspects of Sessions.

**Composition:**

The Committee includes:

- The Presiding Clerk, reading clerks and recording clerks of the Yearly Meeting. The Presiding Clerk clerks the Speakers and Program subcommittee, which includes the rest of the clerks' table and is responsible for discerning the theme and inviting speakers to Sessions
- Five at-large members nominated by Nominating Committee and approved by Annual Sessions, including the Sessions Committee clerk, who will be nominated by Nominating Committee and approved by Sessions or the Permanent Board
- A liaison from each of the following NEYM standing committees and constituent groups: Ministry and Counsel, Youth Ministries, Permanent Board, and Young Adult Friends
- In preparing for Annual Sessions, the Clerk of Sessions Committee, Yearly Meeting Presiding Clerk, Events Coordinator, and Yearly Meeting Secretary will consult and coordinate with people serving in key roles related to specific areas of work for Sessions. As of 2017, these include:
  - General Bookstore Manager
  - Children & Family Bookstore Manager
  - Access Needs Coordinator
  - JYM Coordinator
  - JHYM Coordinator (NEYM staff role)
  - Young Friends Coordinator (NEYM staff role)
  - Young Adult Friends Coordinator (NEYM staff role)
  - Childcare Coordinator
  - Accounts Manager (NEYM staff role)
  - Office Manager (NEYM staff role)
  - Events Coordinator (NEYM staff role)
  - Registrar
  - Housing Coordinator
  - Volunteer Coordinator
  - Anchor Group Coordinator
  - Pastoral Care Response Team Coordinator
  - Plenary & Display Coordinator
  - Audio/Video Coordinator
  - Family Neighborhood Coordinator (NEYM staff role)
- The Events Coordinator serves as the primary liaison between the NEYM Staff and the Sessions Committee. NEYM staff with significant responsibilities for Annual Sessions will be represented at Sessions Committee meetings, and will plan their participation in the Committee's work in consultation with the clerk of Sessions Committee, Yearly Meeting Secretary, and Presiding Clerk.

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**Archives & Historical  
Records Committee**


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*Note on the status of this Purpose, Procedures and Composition: The Archives & Historical Records Committee is singularly focused on completing the transfer of the NEYM Archives to UMass Amherst, and hopes to further clarify their purposes, procedures and composition in the coming year once there is more clarity about the specific needs of the Archives and archival support for local meetings. This work will also include working with the Yearly Meeting Secretary to clarify the needs of the Archives and Friends for the ongoing work of an Archivist.*

**Currently Approved Purpose & Procedures (2014):***Purpose:*

The Archives and Historical Records Committee is responsible for the Archivist's care of records, correspondence, and other manuscript material entrusted to it by the Yearly Meeting and quarterly, monthly and preparative meetings, Yearly Meeting committees, New England Friends institutions, and individual members of the Yearly Meeting. The committee advises meetings on the care of their records and encourages both meetings and committees to deposit copies of these records in the Yearly Meeting archives on a regular basis. This is an aspect of our testimony of stewardship. Recognizing that Friends' faith is a non-creedal one, and that the expression of that faith is embodied in the records of our actions, the Committee promotes the study of Quaker history to the end that Friends may find guidance in their past for their witness in the present. It encourages meetings to utilize the resources of the archives in answering their financial, property, biographical, or other questions historical in nature.

*Procedures:*

The committee appoints and supervises an archivist. By agreement, the repository for the records is the W.E.B. Du Bois Library at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, 154 Hicks Way, Amherst, MA.

**Composition (new):**

- The Committee currently includes a group of Friends approved by the Yearly Meeting for skills and perspectives relevant to the transition of the NEYM Archives to UMass Amherst, as well as a consulting archivist, and is supported by the NEYM Office Manager.

- The clerk of the committee is presently appointed by the committee, in consultation with Coordinating & Advisory Committee. The Yearly Meeting Secretary is responsible for overseeing the work of the consulting archivist contracted to support the transition.

### Ministry and Counsel Committee

#### **Purpose:**

The Ministry & Counsel Committee of New England Yearly Meeting works closely with the Presiding Clerk, the Yearly Meeting Secretary and the Permanent Board to care for the spiritual condition and nourish the religious life of Friends and Friends meetings in New England.

The Committee seeks to be responsive to and to engage with the concerns and leadings of monthly meetings, quarterly meetings, and Annual Sessions. It is tasked with fostering spiritual growth, strengthening the religious life of Friends and Friends meetings, and serving as a resource on religious education, worship and ministry. The committee sponsors retreats, workshops or other opportunities for Friends in New England focused on topics of concern to Friends and Friends meetings.

The Ministry and Counsel Committee provides support for monthly meetings in their provision of pastoral care and their support of ministry.

The Ministry and Counsel Committee supports monthly and quarterly meetings in maintaining contact with and supporting New England Friends serving in the ministry, including especially those with travel minutes, those recorded as ministers and released Friends, and pastors.

The Ministry and Counsel Committee receives State of Society reports from monthly and quarterly meetings, prepares the State of Society report for the Yearly Meeting and presents this report to the Yearly Meeting.

During Annual Sessions of Yearly Meeting, the Ministry and Counsel Committee is responsible for care of the worship that is the foundation for our time together. It coordinates with Sessions Committee to provide pastoral care to attendees as needed.

#### **Procedures:**

The Ministry & Counsel Committee usually meets five times a year, including full-day meetings in February, May and September in various locations in New England, with a weekend retreat in November, and a half-day on the first Saturday of August at the beginning of Annual Sessions.

Committee meetings are an opportunity for the committee to check on the progress of ongoing

work, to hold the Religious Society of Friends in New England in prayer, and to assess what is presently needed to support spiritual growth and strengthen the religious life of Friends and Friends meetings.

To guide its work, the Committee uses regular communication with local meetings, quarterly meeting leadership, and insight from traveling Friends, with particular attention to those traveling in the ministry. Along with insights from yearly meeting leadership and staff, and the annual State of Society reports from monthly and quarterly meetings.

The concern for the spiritual condition and religious life of Friends in New England is held broadly. The Ministry and Counsel Committee seeks to connect with other committees, quarterly and monthly meetings, and other groups of Friends in New England where the active concern for ministry and religious life is expressed, "helping us do together what we cannot do alone."

To carry out its work, the committee may charge smaller working groups to focus on specific areas of detailed work. These groups may be created, changed or laid down in order to respond to the current work before the Committee.

As of January 2017, three working groups focus on (1) pastoral care, (2) supporting Friends serving in ministry, and (3) creating resources for Friends and meetings on necessary topics, skills and issues relating to spiritual nurture.

The Ministry and Counsel Committee cares for and has oversight of the Ecumenical Relations Committee which is composed of those Friends serving as representatives of the Yearly Meeting on the state ecumenical councils.

The Ministry and Counsel Committee cares for and has oversight of the Support Across Generations for Elders (SAGE) program.

The internal nominating committee of the Ministry and Counsel Committee appoints representatives to Sessions Committee and the ad-hoc Long Term Financial Planning Committee. Ministry and Counsel ensures that there is a liaison to Youth Ministry Committee and the Legacy Gift Committee.

The clerk of the Ministry and Counsel Committee prepares an annual report about the work of the committee throughout the year to be presented to the Yearly Meeting.

#### **Composition:**

The Ministry and Counsel Committee consists of:

- Friends appointed by monthly meetings for 3-year terms. Members appointed by monthly meetings

are expected to fully commit to the work of the committee

- Between 7 and 12 members named by the Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee and appointed by the Yearly Meeting for 3-year terms, renewable one time
- The Religious Education and Outreach Coordinator, Yearly Meeting secretary and NEYM presiding clerk, serving ex-officio
- In addition, recorded ministers and pastors in NEYM, invited to share their insights and perspective and serve as resources for the committee and participate its work as they are able
- A clerk and recording clerk, named by the internal nominating committee of the Ministry and Counsel Committee and approved by the Committee and the Yearly Meeting. The clerk serves ex-officio on Coordinating and Advisory Committee.

As reflected in the Procedures above, M&C coordinates and maintains linkages with Coordinating and Advisory Committee, Permanent Board, Youth Ministries Committee, the ad-hoc Long Term Financial Planning Committee, the Legacy Gift Committee, and Sessions Committee.

### Youth Ministries Committee

#### **Purpose:**

The Youth Ministries Committee serves to support the work of nurturing the faith life, spiritual growth, and leadership of children and youth of New England Yearly Meeting. The committee sees children as fully spiritual beings and advocates for this perspective within the Yearly Meeting. The committee works to ensure the vitality, health, safety, and relevance of the youth programs offered by the organization of NEYM, as well as youth ministries offered within and across the web of local meetings in our region. This work happens in the context of both family and community, in same-age and in multi-generational groups.

It is the Committee's intent that the youth work under its care enable young people to grow into adulthood with a full sense of belonging to both a local circle of Friends and the Yearly Meeting as a whole. We ensure that the programs we support offer a foundation of Quaker faith and experience, fostering an active spiritual life. The purpose of the Youth Ministries Committee is to support programs and practices that empower the young people of NEYM to live with grounded integrity and that help them speak to the condition of the world.

#### **Procedures:**

- The Committee acts as stewards to discern needs for youth programming, all the while listening for fresh inspiration within and beyond NEYM.
- The Committee supports local meetings and NEYM youth ministry staff and volunteers in the implementation of such programming.
- The Committee consults on the right ordering of administrative aspects of NEYM youth programs: health, safety and welfare of children; policy and procedures; and ethical and legal issues.
- The Committee ensures that NEYM programs are a partnership between youth workers, parents, and our wider spiritual community. The Committee advocates for the needs of NEYM youth, families, and youth workers. The Committee ensures that programming is vital and relevant to current needs.
- The Committee is responsible for conducting an annual review of NEYM's Child Safety Policy and its implementation.
- The Committee supports the staff in their youth ministries work. The Yearly Meeting Secretary supervises the youth program staff. Youth staff attend Committee meetings to communicate the reality and needs of youth work in NEYM.
- The Committee meets monthly, virtually or in person, as the needs of the Committee dictate. The committee reports annually to Sessions on the health of the programs, status of the Child Safety Policy, and other issues in our care.
- For local meetings, the Committee offers resources, collaboration, and guidance for the health and welfare of children; policy and procedures; ethical and legal issues; program design and curriculum; outreach and networking.

#### **Composition:**

- Committee membership should reflect the diversity within the Yearly Meeting. Gifts that we seek for the Committee include skills in pastoral care for children and families, skills in youth programs and youth work, including program evaluation and planning. Committee membership should include people with familiarity with the NEYM retreat programs.
- Members are named for 3-year terms, two people in each class, for a total of six named members. Members are named by the at-large Nominating Committee.
- The youth ministry staff—Religious Education and Outreach Coordinator, Junior Yearly Meeting/Junior High Yearly Meeting Coordinator, Young Friends/Young Adult Friends Coordinator, and the Friends Camp Director—are ex-officio

members of this committee. The advisors for each youth ministries staff position are invited to participate ex-officio in Youth Ministry Committee (YMC) meetings. Because of the high level of staff participation in the work of this committee, YMC needs to remain mindful of the risks of over-burdening staff.

- The Yearly Meeting Presiding Clerk serves ex-officio.
- One member of the committee serves as a liaison to Permanent Board and one member serves as a liaison to Ministry & Counsel.
- Yearly Meeting Nominating committee, in consultation with the committee members, names the clerk of YMC. This nomination is approved by the Yearly Meeting.
- The YMC coordinates with and has linkages to Ministry and Counsel and to Permanent Board.

### Legacy Gift Committee

#### **Purpose:**

The purpose of the Legacy Gift Funds is to support the ministries of New England Yearly Meeting Friends, both within and beyond our region.

“Guided by our living testimonies, we seek to strengthen our Witness through the funding of public and released ministry, beginning with attention to Racism and Climate Change. We seek to nurture our beloved community through the support of education, outreach, released ministry and meeting-house projects. The Legacy Funds will provide potent seeds to help Friends answer God’s call in our time and to strengthen the new life that is rising up in our Yearly Meeting” (NEYM Minute 2015-27). The Legacy Gift Committee may fund requests in support of other leadings of Friends that originate out of a great variety of Spirit-led concerns. Some requests come from meetings, while others may be new or ongoing leadings of individual Friends, under the care of their meetings.

#### **Procedures:**

The Committee meets regularly throughout the year

#### *The Funds*

##### NEYM Witness and Ministry Fund

Income from this fund will be awarded annually to support witness and ministry in NEYM until 2024. The designation will then be revisited to discern if it is still serving a vital purpose, or if the funds should be put to another use. Change in this designation or time-table requires approval at Annual Sessions (See Minute 2014-62).

##### NEYM Future Fund

Grants from this fund are awarded twice a year until all funds have been expended.

#### *Eligibility*

“Grants ... from both funds will be awarded to support the ministries of NEYM, both within and beyond New England, and will be made to committees of NEYM, its constituent monthly or quarterly meetings; to bodies of NEYM (e.g., NEYM staff, Young Friends, Young Adult Friends); as well as to individual members of NEYM monthly meetings under the direct care and oversight of one of the aforementioned committees, meetings or bodies of NEYM (e.g., for the release of a Friend to carry out work in the ministries of NEYM)” (NEYM Minute 2014-62). Grants may also be made to New England Quaker organizations, such as Woolman Hill, AFSC, etc.

#### *Application Process*

The application is available on the NEYM website. Applications must be typed and emailed to [Legacy@neym.org](mailto:Legacy@neym.org) along with a letter of support from the monthly or quarterly meeting, NEYM Committee, or other New England Quaker organization that will have care of the proposed ministry or project. Application deadlines will be November 1st and March 1st.

#### *Grant Decisions*

Grant decisions will be made by the Legacy Gift Committee through prayerful discernment, based on a letter of support, an application letter, site visits whenever possible, and/or extensive phone conversations with the applicant(s). The Legacy Gift Committee strives to make the grant process effective and transparent. To this end, the Committee publishes a list of all grants awarded during each grant funding cycle, and asks that committees, groups and individuals that receive grants agree to allow information about their funded projects to be included in reports and outreach materials of New England Yearly Meeting. The Committee works with grantees receiving funding during the year to ensure that they report about their projects at Annual Sessions through participation in a committee workshop, creating a project display board, and through discussions with Friends.

#### *Disbursement*

When the Committee has completed its work determining grant awards, the Committee will communicate this information and an accompanying grant agreement promptly to the NEYM Treasurer, Accounts Manager, and the Secretary. The grant agreement and a check will then be sent to the individual, meeting, or organization at the address listed on the application.

*Reports*

The Legacy Gift Committee is expected to report each year to Annual Sessions during a meeting for business.

Grant recipients will be required to submit annual reports on the progress of funded projects for the duration of the project, and a final report when the project is completed. Any changes to funded projects that result in a major change in the budget require approval of the meeting or committee with oversight and the Legacy Gift Committee.

*Annual Workshop*

The Legacy Gift Committee sponsors or co-sponsors an annual workshop on a topic related to fiscal responsibility, stewardship, and accountability.

**Composition:**

- The committee consists of at least nine members, named by the NEYM Nominating Committee and approved by the Yearly Meeting. Members serve for renewable, staggered 3-year terms.
- The Yearly Meeting Presiding Clerk, Permanent Board clerk, and Treasurer serve as ex-officio members.
- One member of the Committee serves as a liaison to the Ministry and Counsel Committee.
- The Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee, in consultation with committee members, names the clerk of Legacy Gift Committee. This nomination is approved by the Yearly Meeting.
- The Committee coordinates with and has linkages with Permanent Board, Finance Committee, and Ministry and Counsel Committee
- Members of the Legacy Gift Committee should include Friends who:
  - bring experience in grant writing and awarding
  - are able to commit to the time expectations of the Committees' work
  - can actively reach out to applicants, and whenever possible meet them in person
  - will respond to applicants in a fair, timely, and supportive manner
  - are able to help the group make decisions about competing priorities
  - share a bold vision of the possibilities of what these funds could support

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**Publications and  
Communications Committee**

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*Note on the status of this Purpose, Procedure and Composition: Publications and Communications Committee is participating in an ongoing review of*

*NEYM Communications work (including staff, committee and consultant participation), the outcome of which will shape recommendations about the most useful shape of the Committee for the future. Because of this ongoing process, the Committee's formal purpose, procedures, and composition will remain unchanged until next year, when it is expected to be substantially revised in keeping with the previous clerk's note below:*

*Excerpt from the report of a previous outgoing clerk (2016):*

As this year winds down, we are considering new ways forward for our committee. What might a new structure for the committee look like? How might we raise up the gifts of Friends in the Yearly Meeting and provide increased support for committees and meetings who may need it? How can we more fully embrace our role as Publishers of Truth? The coming years will be an important time of discernment for Publications and Communications Committee. Prayers, support, and new ideas are welcome. I look forward to seeing what new structures, resources, and messages emerge from this work.

*For the time being (until further clarity is reached regarding the committee's work), Nominating Committee is not being asked to appoint Friends to serve on this committee.*

**Current approved Purposes, Procedures, Composition (2014):***Purpose:*

The Publications and Communications Committee (PubCom) has care for the "public face" that NEYM shows the world on the internet and in print. The committee offers advice and support to staff, Sessions, and Yearly Meeting committees on technical aspects of communications and publication. It supports the Communications Director in his/her role as manager of the web site ([www.neym.org](http://www.neym.org); publisher of the minutes, directory, and the *New England Friend*; and manager of data and communications for the Yearly Meeting. The committee develops policies relating to the use of electronic communication and the management of Yearly Meeting data. Publications and Communications Committee is responsible for the Mosher Book & Tract Fund that provides funding for publishing and distributing books and tracts promoting the principles of Quaker faith and practice. It may undertake publication and distribution projects. It is also responsible for deciding whether to maintain NEYM's

membership in Quakers Uniting in Publications (QUIP), and if so, providing a representative.

#### *Procedures:*

The Committee meets four times a year or as needed. The Committee is accountable to NEYM through its annual report and the published materials that it oversees. The Committee will, from time to time, distribute books or other materials without charge to meetings in NEYM. On occasion, it helps financially with printing, reprinting, or distributing existing material to meetings. If a committee of NEYM wants help with or discernment about publication, PubCom can offer counsel and/or technical, logistical, production and distribution support. This committee should maintain a general record of the various publications and media produced within NEYM. The Committee will make an annual report of its work to the Yearly Meeting

#### **Composition (new):**

- The Publications and Communications Committee is made up of nine Friends appointed by the Nominating Committee of NEYM and approved by the Yearly Meeting in three panels with three-year terms.
- The Yearly Meeting Office Manager serves as an ex-officio member of the committee.
- The clerk of the Committee is selected by the Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee in consultation with the Publications and Communications Committee.

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#### Puente de Amigos Committee

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#### **Purpose:**

Puente de Amigos (Bridge of Friends) Committee fosters a spiritual relationship, based on mutual respect and equality, between New England Yearly Meeting (NEYM) and Cuba Yearly Meeting (CYM) to which both meetings have been corporately called. Since 1991 the relationship with Cuba Yearly Meeting has been an important part of the religious life of New England Yearly Meeting, and the Committee works to support the continuation of this ministry.

#### **Procedures:**

The full Committee meets for business approximately 2–4 times during the year, including meetings at Annual Yearly Meeting Sessions. Puente de Amigos has an Executive Committee that makes needed decisions between committee meetings. There are also ad-hoc Orientation and Discernment

Committees formed to work with New England Friends interested in representing NEYM in Cuba who can bring recommendations to the full Committee, as there is a rigorous discernment process for those seeking a religious visa.

The Puente de Amigos Committee builds relationships with Cuban Quakers by arranging exchanges of religious visitors between the two yearly meetings and encouraging connection through pairings of Cuban and New England monthly meetings called “sister meetings.”

The committee arranges for delegates from Cuba Yearly Meeting to attend NEYM Annual Sessions and to visit local meetings and participate in other Friends activities. It provides Spanish interpretation at NEYM Annual Sessions and hosts a “Puente table” at meals for those interested in meeting the visitors from Cuba Yearly Meeting. When possible, the committee also invites Cuban Friends who are in the United States on other business to visit New England. This is supported by relationships with other Friends’ organizations that are interested in knowing Cuban Friends, such as the New England Friends United Meeting (FUM) Committee, the Miami Friends Church, and the Friends World Committee for Consultation–New England (FWCC-NE). The committee works to maintain relationships with these organizations as well.

Intervisitation pushes us to seek discernment and to learn from others. When gathered together with Cuban Friends—our Brothers and Sisters—members of the Committee wrestle with emotional topics such as the balance between truth-telling and confidentiality and the implications of material wealth on relationships with beloved Friends who have fewer economic resources. Members of the Committee participate in programmed and unprogrammed worship, which may include singing, Bible reading, and vocal prayer, as we invite God’s presence to guide us.

The Committee is explicitly authorized by the Yearly Meeting to raise funds to cover costs involved in religious visitation between the two yearly meetings and for material assistance such as medicine, eyeglasses, and other needs identified by Cuban Friends. The Committee is not authorized to act on behalf of the Yearly Meeting to make any commitments which may have legal ramifications, such as an application for a travel license or a representation of Yearly Meeting commitments in support of a Cuban traveler’s visa application. In such cases the Committee is responsible for understanding the situation and providing advice and recommendations to the Permanent Board or the Presiding Clerk, who are responsible for making such commitments.



**Composition:**

- Puente de los Amigos Committee has nine members serving staggered 3-year terms. Members may serve a second consecutive term. It has been the stated practice to have anyone who has served six years in a row to take at least one year off.
- Clerks are appointed for a 3-year term. The clerk's term on the committee may be extended to permit them to serve the full 3 years.
- The Committee establishes and works with an executive committee of past clerks and emeritus members who can make decisions, at the clerk's request, between Puente Committee meetings. The decisions are then brought to the next Puente meeting.
- Because of the special skills needed by clerks of Puente (Spanish, familiarity with the law and procedures involved in sending representatives of NEYM to Cuba) it's advisable for the clerk to have been involved with the work of the Committee before they are named. This has led to grooming a rising clerk from within the Committee. The committee will work cooperatively with the Nominating Committee to name an individual to serve as the rising clerk.
- The Committee collaborates with the Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee in finding members for the Committee. Sometimes there are Friends who are willing to stay on the Committee and/or have asked us to be on the Committee who we recommend to be nominated.
- The Committee collaborates and has linkages with Permanent Board and with the FWCC-NE and FUM committees.

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**Earthcare Ministry Committee**


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*Current Purpose (for reference): The Earthcare Ministry Committee urges New England Yearly Meeting and its monthly meetings, quarterly meetings, committees, and staff to actions based on awareness that destruction of Earth's fragile ecosystems is diametrically opposed to Quaker beliefs and values, and that the Religious Society of Friends must take a spirit-led, active stand against these trends and practices, inseparable from our other activities.*

(The Earth Care Ministries Committee will review the Purposes and Procedures next year, informed by the conversation concerning how NEYM can best support faithful witness which will occur at Sessions in 2017.)

**Composition:**

- The Earthcare Ministry Committee (EMC) seeks Friends who carry the concern for Earth and who

want to act faithfully in reaching out to NEYM Friends to encourage the understanding that caring for creation is a spiritual concern. Friends often approach committee members with a desire to participate as a member of the committee.

- EMC has 15 members serving staggered, 3-year terms. The Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee in consultation with EMC brings names to the Yearly Meeting for approval
- Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee, in consultation with the Committee members, names the clerk of EMC. This nomination is approved by the Yearly Meeting.
- There are no term limits. Often the commitment and passion to the work doesn't have its own term limits.

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**Racial, Social, and  
Economic Justice Committee**


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*Current purpose (for reference): The committee serves to bring a spiritual approach to educating New England Friends about issues of racial, social, and economic justice. This includes concerns of prejudice (thought) and discrimination (behavior) because of race, disability, gender, sexual, or religious orientation, etc. We help individuals and monthly meetings gain awareness and take action and listen to Friends who feel they have experienced inequity or bigotry. The committee disburses money from several funds: a. The Freedmen's Fund to students in historically Black southern higher education centers who are preparing for careers in education; b. The Prejudice & Poverty Contributory Fund for organizations addresses racial, social or economic justice.*

(The Racial, Social, and Economic Justice Committee will review the purposes and procedures next year, informed by the conversation concerning how NEYM can best support faithful witness which is occurring at Sessions in 2017. )

**Composition:**

- Members of the Racial Social and Economic Justice (RSEJ) Committee serve a 3-year term; the Committee consists of up to 8 members evenly distributed across terms.
- Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee, in consultation with the Committee members, names the clerk of the RSEJ Committee. This nomination is approved by the Yearly Meeting.
- The NEYM Nominating Committee, in consultation with the RSEJ Committee, brings names for the RSEJ Committee to the Yearly Meeting for approval.

### Committee for Nurturing Friends Education at Moses Brown School

#### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this Committee is to strengthen the Friends faith and practice of Moses Brown School. The work of this Committee shall be concerned with nurturing the spiritual base of the school, fostering strong relationships between New England Yearly Meeting and Moses Brown, and helping the school explore and deepen its Quaker values and best practices in Friends education. The Committee will consider concrete ways that it can support and share developments in Friends education at Moses Brown. The Committee will support the school's work to identify children of Quaker families and encourage them to apply. The Committee will support the school's efforts to ensure that current Moses Brown families, faculty, and staff who are drawn to the Quaker aspect of the school are given opportunities to deepen their connections to Friends faith and practice. The Committee will support the Head of School in stewarding Moses Brown's membership renewal process for the Friends Council on Education. The committee will work with the Providence Monthly Meeting Liaison and the Friends Coordinator of the Moses Brown Board to steward the process for nominating Quaker members to the Nurturing Friends Education committee, for approval by NEYM Permanent Board; and will take a lead role in creating and vetting a list of Friends for potential service on the Moses Brown Board, and presenting that pool of potential members to the Permanent Board for approval. (Authority for formally appointing Friends to the Moses Brown Board rests with the Board itself.)

#### **Procedure:**

- The committee will be the joint responsibility of the Moses Brown School and New England Yearly Meeting. There will be no fewer than five meetings scheduled during the year and, ideally, an additional meeting designated for the purpose of nominating Quaker members to the Nurturing Friends Education committee, and creating and vetting a list of Friends for potential service on the Moses Brown Board. Meetings of the Nurturing Friends Education committee shall normally be open meetings, with the schedule approved at the beginning of each yearly cycle.
- Both the clerk of the Committee and the school will provide brief written summaries of the group's annual work. These reports will be submitted to both the Moses Brown School Board and the Permanent Board of New England Yearly Meeting, to

be included in advanced materials for Annual Sessions.

- The Head of School and the clerk of Nurturing Friends will share the Membership Renewal Process self-study and final report with the NEYM Permanent Board.

#### **Composition:**

- The Committee will maintain an equal number of members appointed by New England Yearly Meeting and Moses Brown School, respectively. The committee will have at least 12 regularly appointed members and 2 ex-officio members. At least 6 members will be appointed by NEYM, and one ex-officio position will be filled by either the clerk of NEYM or the clerk of Permanent Board. At least six members appointed by the Moses Brown Board will include the Head of School and the Director of Friends Education. In addition, the clerk of the Moses Brown School Board will be an ex-officio member. Moses Brown members on the Nurturing Friends Education committee will be nominated by the Moses Brown nominating committee and approved by the Moses Brown Board.
- Friends on the Nurturing Friends Education committee will be nominated by the Nurturing Friends Education committee, working with the Providence Friends Meeting Liaison and the Friends Coordinator.
- The Nurturing Friends Education committee will also invite recommendations from other NEYM committees, including the NEYM Nominating Committee.
- Nominations will be made in coordination with the timeline of the Moses Brown School Board nominating process and submitted to NEYM Permanent Board for approval. To facilitate effective communication and coordination, there shall be a member of the Nurturing Friends Education committee who also serves on the Moses Brown nominating committee as a liaison between the two committees. Terms that are not designated by position will be for 3 years, with one reappointment before a committee member should step down for at least one year. These terms will rotate so there will be a "class" of appointees for each year. The clerk of the Nurturing Friends Education committee is nominated by the Committee, in consultation with the liaison from Providence Monthly Meeting and the Friends Coordinator, and approved by the Permanent Board.

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### Friends United Meeting Committee

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**Purpose:**

The purpose of this committee is to maintain and nurture the relationship between NEYM and Friends United Meeting (FUM) and to provide support for Yearly Meeting representatives to the FUM General Board and for the work of FUM. It meets as needed.

**Composition:**

- The FUM Committee consists of the NEYM representatives to the General Board of FUM and all Triennial representatives, all of whom are named by the Nominating Committee of NEYM. It can also consist of the leadership of the United Society of Friends Women–New England (USFWI/NEYM) as they so choose.
- The Presiding Clerk and the Yearly Meeting Secretary are ex-officio members.
- The committee coordinates with and has linkages to USFWI.
- The clerk is selected by the Committee in consultation with the Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee.

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### Friends World Committee for Consultation–New England

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**Purpose:**

Friends World Committee for Consultation–New England (FWCC–NE) encourages fellowship among all the branches of the Religious Society of Friends, connecting Friends, crossing cultures, and changing lives. FWCC–NE brings Friends of varying traditions and cultural experiences together in worship, communication and consultation, to express our common heritage and our Quaker message to the world. The FWCC–NE Committee represents NEYM in the work of the international Friends World Committee for Consultation, and promotes and interprets

FWCC's work within the Yearly Meeting. FWCC–NE facilitates visits within New England of Friends from other parts of the world, including cooperating with Puente de Amigos.

The international FWCC is a consultative body made up of yearly meetings and other Quaker bodies across the globe, and represents Friends' concerns at the United Nations, with offices in New York (administered by American Friends Service Committee) and Geneva. The international FWCC also consults with affiliated programs such as Friends Peace Teams, Right Sharing of World Resources, and Friends Committee on Scouting.

**Procedures:**

FWCC–NE meets during Yearly Meeting Sessions and several times during the year, in person or by conference call. The committee designates six of its members to represent NEYM at meetings of FWCC Section of the Americas. Some of these representatives also serve on Section committees. The committee recommends delegates to represent NEYM at periodic worldwide and sectional FWCC meetings.

**Composition:**

- The FWCC–NE committee has 12 members who serve staggered 3-year terms and are named by the Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee and approved by the Yearly Meeting.
- The committee will co-opt Friends in New England who are also serving in the larger FWCC–NE committee or who have specific skills and gifts the committee requires.
- The Yearly Meeting Secretary serves ex-officio on the committee.
- Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee, in consultation with the committee members, names the clerk of the FWCC–NE Committee. This nomination is approved by the Yearly Meeting.
- The FWCC–NE Committee coordinates with and has linkages to the Puente de Amigos Committee.

## Memorial Minutes

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Frederick D. (Fritz) Bell  
August 16, 1932 – April 3, 2015

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Fritz Bell was born into a family with strong Quaker traditions, spanning several generations before and after him. When he was bullied at the prestigious secondary boarding school to which his parents had sent him, he told them he would not go back for the sophomore year. Where, they asked, did he propose to go? He immediately said Westtown, the excellent Quaker boarding school outside Philadelphia. There's no question that his three years there were key to the development of the man we all came to know and love. He kept in contact with classmates and teachers from Westtown for the rest of his life. His husband, William Fregosi, accompanied him to his 50th class reunion, and assisted him to host a major gathering of classmates in New Hampshire several years later. The couple also visited a number of his former teachers several times in their various retirement facilities.

During his years at Earlham College, Fritz spent two of his summers near the Arctic Circle at a Quaker work project in Finland, building schools, and roads to those schools, for children in Lapland. Education and the arts became his career, teaching drama and directing plays, first at schools in Las Vegas and southern California, finally in Glassboro, New Jersey. When he heard that Westtown was going to build a new theater, he volunteered his services in the planning, becoming a major influence on the excellent seating plan, sight lines, and technical installation of the new facility.

Fritz arrived on the scene here in New Hampshire in 1972, having left conventional academia with its politics and what he experienced as endless, largely unproductive meetings. He found in Raymond the kind of property he had been seeking to convert into an educational conference and retreat center focused on the arts in education. At Walnut Hill he offered a wide variety of workshops on effective teaching, multiple intelligences, and brain-based education, receiving the Gordon Lawrence Award for the constructive use of psychological type based on the Meyers-Briggs Personality Type Indicator. In the early 1980s he brought Lesley University's Masters of Creative Arts in Learning degree to Walnut Hill as an off-campus site for the University, an association that continues to this day.

Throughout his life, he mentored innumerable teachers, friends, relatives and anyone who sought his advice. And he founded the New Hampshire Coalition of Lesbians and Gay Men to support the emerging Gay Liberation movement. He began attending West Epping Preparative Meeting and in 1973 became the meeting clerk, an office he filled until his death in April 2015. After he met his future husband in 1997, the West Epping meetinghouse was one of the first locations special to him in the area to which he brought Will. William began to join Fritz there on the first and third Sundays of the month. It didn't take Will long to appreciate his immense kindness, genius as a teacher, and his generosity: even though he never had great amounts of money, Fritz contributed toward Westtown tuition for a nephew and later for a great niece whose parents needed help to send them there. He became a valued mentor to a small army of students, relatives, teachers, friends—to anyone who sought his advice or assistance.

In 2016, the exquisitely simple mid-19th century West Epping meetinghouse was superbly restored in Fritz's honor by Brad Birkenfeld, son of Fritz's Westtown classmate, Ron Birkenfeld. Fritz had assisted Brad extensively during extraordinary circumstances following his performing a service to the nation.

The dedicatory plaque to Fritz says it well, concluding with, "His life shone with the most enduring legacy, Love."

WEST EPPING PREPARATIVE MEETING

ENDORSED BY DOVER QUARTERLY MEETING, APRIL 30, 2017

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Pieter Byhouwer  
May 29, 1931 – December 22, 2013

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W. Pieter Byhouwer brought his gift of ministry to Smithfield Friends Meeting twice in his lifetime, first when he served as our pastor from 1987 to 1990 and then when he returned to our community many years later.

With a sharp mind and gentle nature, his calm spirit guided us through difficult times and continues to inspire us today.

Pieter was born in 1931 in Rotterdam, and in his youth lived through World War II and the Nazi occupation of Netherlands. The strength of his faith and belief in the goodness of all people is all the more remarkable. Pieter was truly a man of unquestionable faith. In a Workshop in Nonviolence Institute 1979 newsletter, Pieter was quoted as saying “The Holy Spirit will help me find a way.” This was the guiding concept in his life.

Pieter earned a degree in journalism from the University of Missouri, and then later earned his Master of Divinity from Earlham School of Religion. Pieter was a substance-abuse counselor, retiring in 2008. Pieter had been a member of Hopewell (Indiana) Monthly Meeting. Glenda and Pieter met for the first time at a Western Yearly Meeting. They married on May 31, 1987, and then moved together to Woonsocket, Rhode Island, when Pieter was hired to be the minister for Smithfield Friends Meeting later that year.

Pieter’s tenure as Smithfield’s pastor came at a difficult time for the meeting, when many members’ relationships to Christianity were changing and the identity of the meeting was moving towards Liberal Quakerism. Pieter’s Christ-centered sermons soon became contentious. It was a painful process for the meeting and it is a tribute to all involved that Pieter and Glenda were able to return to Smithfield in the late 1990s and become active and beloved members.

Pieter adored Glenda and loved spending time with his family and pets. In addition to his beloved Glenda, Pieter leaves three sons, Paul, John, and David, and two daughters, Nan, and Sarah. He is also survived by former wife Barbara Moore.

Since he was a young man, Pieter loved drawing, singing, dancing, reading, writing poetry, taking walks, and running. He was a published poet and talented artist. Most of all, Pieter treasured spending time with his family. He had seemingly unending patience and loved unconditionally. His love of knowledge and of God, his kindness and empathy for all, his sense of duty to be of service to others, and his sense of humor were traits that demonstrated his spirit.

Courtly and scholarly, Pieter believed in the innate integrity of humanity. It’s rare to meet someone whose humility and kindness makes those around them better people, but that was Pieter. After serving as pastor, he came back to Smithfield at a time when his gentleness was sorely needed. As he faced health challenges, he inspired us all to understand what it truly meant to see that of God in everyone. He taught us the value of patience, and his calm spirit guided us through difficult times and even continues to inspire us today.

Pieter lived his faith. His work, including his ministry, was always aligned to his belief in finding the goodness in people, identifying their needs, and helping them. Pieter had a prison ministry and worked with people with drug dependencies. He dedicated his life, without reservation, to people who really needed unconditional love.

He always knew the right words when he talked with people. Pieter had a gift for conflict resolution and was blessed to perceive decency in everyone. As he saw the good in people, he knew things could always be worked out. When Pieter said, “It will be okay,” he meant it. When an incarcerated man told him that he thought of himself as evil, Pieter replied “We look for that of God in all people and sometimes it just takes a while for that to come out.” Pieter did not believe that bad things defined people. When Pieter had a personal ministry working to help homeless people make money by collecting recyclable cans in the Chicago Loop, he was once robbed. Of course he did not let that deter him; he just started with less cash the next time.

While he truly loved God, Pieter also was very human. He could be cranky and headstrong. He did not suffer fools gladly, but still always found the best in everyone. He could be adamant, and would take a stand and stay there. Passionate about what he believed, Pieter brought an intellectual spirit to everything he did. He could easily quote a Bible passage or a perfectly chosen literary work, or break into a hymn that was flawlessly appropriate for any given situation.

Pieter died peacefully on Sunday, December 22, 2013. This kind and loving man has shown us what it could mean to truly lead a Quaker life. We were all blessed to have known him. His amazing spirit will remain with everyone he touched, especially those at Smithfield Meeting, forever.

*A Personal Paraphrase of the Lord’s Prayer, by Pieter Byhouwer  
From Illinois Yearly Meeting’s Among Friends, Fall 1976*

*Dear Spirit who touches our lives  
so deeply, may we hold the  
sense of your presence  
as a treasure in our hearts.*

*May our world be liberated and  
transformed as we respond to  
your love  
in the ordinary conduct of life  
as well in meditation and celebration.  
Help us to simplify our lives,  
so that we may truly accept our  
bread as a gift from you.  
Nurture us with your strength, day by day.*

*Let us be aware about how you care for  
us even when we let you down,  
and help us in turn to love  
those who seem to let us  
down.*

*Let us not use your  
gifts to free our own  
pride,  
but free us from  
selfishness and from  
despair.*

*For you hold us,  
and you nourish us,  
and you revel your wholeness in  
us all the time.*

This poem by Pieter was also published in the book *Quaker Artists* by Gary Sandman in 1992 and 2015.

SMITHFIELD MONTHLY MEETING, APPROVED 9 OCTOBER 2016

RHODE ISLAND-SMITHFIELD QUARTERLY MEETING, APPROVED 16 OCTOBER 2016

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June Alice Correia  
October 18, 1958 – May 14, 2016

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Some people have a gift for expressing in words how to live one's faith. Others just do it, and in their doing they speak volumes. June Correia was one of the latter.

June grew up in Russells Mills, South Dartmouth, Massachusetts. She met her husband, Steven, while in high school, and they were married in 1979 in New Bedford's Seaman's Bethel. Steve and June began attending New Bedford Meeting when their oldest daughter, Larissa, was a newborn in 1985. Steve became clerk and was committed to keeping the meeting open, though June was waiting for more children to enrich the First Day School.

After their daughter Aliza was born in 1988, June began searching the area for an unprogrammed meeting with a First Day School program and chose Westport. Steve, wanting to worship with his family, soon joined them. In 1993 they transferred their membership to Westport Monthly Meeting. The 3rd bench on the north wall of our meetinghouse has been, and continues to be, where the Correia family worships with us.

June quickly became an integral member of our community despite working full time as a bank teller while raising two children. Her faithful attendance at monthly meeting for business, potlucks, cleanup days, and our annual book sale's bake table, were all outward displays of her deep commitment to our spiritual

community. Over the years she served on almost every committee, including Nominating, Ministry and Counsel, Religious Education, and Finance. A gentle and patient First Day Schoolteacher, she touched a generation of children who loved her dearly for her playfulness, humility, and kindness. She served on Finance Committee and for over a decade was one of our Trustees—an appropriate title for our recognition of her sensibilities, monetary skills, and commitment to the life in the Spirit. She participated in the life of Sandwich Quarter and was a faithful attender at NEYM Sessions, where she is remembered for her gentle heart and her grounded and prepared presence at business meeting.

June loved her family. Her daughters Larissa and Aliza were the joyful focus of her life. Schoolwork was their first priority, but she also urged them to engage in outside activities, musical groups, and sports teams. Their lives were full to overflowing. She encouraged laughter and silliness, while also nurturing a life of intentionality, discipline, and faithfulness to the testimonies of Friends. She believed that thoughts turn into words, words turn into actions, and actions turn into habits. After being diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease at the age of 37, June raised her daughters to be not only thoughtful and loving adults, but also competent and independent people who could do their own laundry, live within a budget, and face adversities with patience and inner strength. Her primary concern was that her daughters be okay, with or without her.

June savored the simple things in life like warm cookies, chocolate frappes, Disney movies, a perfect cup of tea, and a well-done manicure. Beauty could be found in organized closets as well as in nature. Her clothing and personal appearance were a way of celebrating life. She loved traditions. Most of the ones that we have at Westport Meeting were started or actively perpetuated by June, including our Easter-egg hunt and the giving of small, wrapped gifts to every child on Christmas Eve. She found meaning in angels and frequently gave representations of them as gifts to her family and friends. *Angels We Have Heard on High*, sung with playful, twinkling eyes, will always be "June's song." She loved music, and throughout most of her life sang with heartfelt joy. When what turned out to be Multiple System Atrophy took her voice, she was comforted by Steve's banjo and ukulele playing.

With grit and grace, June lived with the cumulative effects of her disease for over 20 years. She rarely complained or dwelt on the question of "Why me?" The last few years of her life were spent at Brandon Woods Nursing Home, where she and her family created an extraordinary community of residents and healthcare workers through their daily displays of kindness, compassion, and honesty. As a way to keep connected, a small group of women from the meeting and community visited with her monthly. They became known as the Knitting Group, but more than any hand-work, what was created were friendships and love. June's smile, twinkling eyes, courage, and fierce determination to live each day with heart and hope touched everyone.

Over the course of many years, June created a large, beautiful cross-stitch of the Shaker Tree of Life. She stitched through business meetings, committee meetings, and family nights watching television. She worked on it, sometimes undoing mistakes, other times adjusting the finished design to incorporate small errors, with care, heart, and seemingly endless patience. She lived her life with that same extraordinary determination and grace, continuing to channel love to everyone around her until the day of her death at the age of 57. Her ministry was in the way she lived each day, reminding each of us to pay attention to the essence of life, to savor the sweetness, and to walk in the Light with courage, trust, and love.

WESTPORT MONTHLY MEETING, APPROVED APRIL 9, 2017

SANDWICH QUARTERLY MEETING, APPROVED APRIL 23, 2017

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Evelyn Wellington Danforth  
March 26, 1939 – August 15, 2014

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Who could resist Lyn's warm smile and sparkling eyes. Who would not be in awe of her positive and cheerful spirit as she accepted one challenge after another with her physical self. Lyn brought acceptance, humor, and grace coupled with deep caring wherever she was. Radiance and resilience are good words to describe her.

Born in Boston, Lyn grew up in Weston on her family's farm, Gateways. She was the oldest of four. Her family was Unitarian. As a child she often accompanied her maternal grandmother, with whom she was close, to Kings Chapel on Sundays.

Her degree in Early Childhood Education from Bennett College reinforced her love of providing children with an environment of respect and joyful activity in nursery schools where she worked and which she founded.

Lyn's love of nature in all seasons was deeply important to her and she treasured being in the family house in the Adirondacks.

Lyn married Bill Haskell, a science journalist, at 19 and they had two children: Anne and Benjamin. Early in their married life, after Anne was born, they traveled by freighter to New Zealand and continued to journey for a year and a half, living in New Zealand, Australia, and parts of Southeast Asia, continuing on to England, and ending in Canada. Later they lived in D.C. and on farms in Connecticut and Central Pennsylvania. Lyn loved the farm life, but also acknowledged that it was a difficult way to live.

When her marriage ended in 1984, Lyn moved to Nantucket, where she lived for 17 years running a small bed-and-breakfast, "Danforth House," in a home on Main Street originally owned by her parents. She worked for an educational search firm and as a reporter and photographer for the local paper. She supported the work of two historians, Robert Leach and Peter Gow, who wrote *Quaker Nantucket: The Religious Community Behind the Whaling Empire*.

It was in Nantucket that Lyn was introduced to Quakers. It felt right to her from the beginning and she experienced "an electric current running between us." Later she became clerk of the Nantucket meeting and recording clerk of her quarter.

In 2001 Lyn returned to the Boston area, spending a year as director of Beacon Hill Friends House and then moving back to the family home in Weston, sharing it with her brother Nick. For ten years she was a caretaker of seniors.

After her move to Weston, she began to attend Wellesley Friends Meeting and transferred her membership from Nantucket in 2004.

Lyn then moved to Jamaica Plain and later bought a house in Roslindale, where she lived with Anne. Lyn radiated Quaker love in many ways within the Roslindale community. She continued to attend Wellesley Friends Meeting and was an active and much-loved member. She served on the library committee and was a centerpiece of the Ministry for Racial Justice and Equality (MORE) as long as she was able.

Of the Society of Friends Lyn said, "I felt I have a huge new family. I am so attracted to the simplicity, respect for each other despite differences, and the beauty that comes out when people worship together."

After four years of debilitating heart and visual problems, accompanied so faithfully by Anne, Benjamin and her siblings Nick, Julie, and Nina, and friends, Lyn died peacefully surrounded by her loved ones.

Two memorial meetings were held in her honor both at Wellesley Friends Meeting and at Kings Chapel in Boston.

WELLESLEY FRIENDS MEETING, APPROVED NOVEMBER 13, 2016

SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING, APPROVED APRIL 23, 2017

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Sylvia Colmore de Murias  
July 29, 1937 – April 20, 2015

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Sylvia Colmore de Murias will be remembered fondly for her independence, generosity, creativity, and humor. Sylvia leaves a hole in her artist groups, among her long-time friends, her meeting community, and of course, her family.

Sylvia Colmore was born in 1937, the eldest of three children. Her path and personality developed very differently from her brother Blayne and sister Perry, yet they all loved each other deeply. She spent her childhood in North Carolina and her adolescence in the Philippines, where her father worked for Proctor and Gamble.

Places always had an impact. She balked at her southern upbringing; she spent the rest of her life escaping its narrowness and judgmental propriety. The Philippines offered the freedom her adolescent self craved. Sylvia's adult life was informed by her zest for life and her wanting to test cultural boundaries. Her summers as a child at the family home on Fire Island gave her a lifelong love of the beach. Later in life she shared this childhood joy with others each summer at Manomet Beach, south of Plymouth. Her son Garrett and his family, often accompanied by other invited friends, also began to spend time at Manomet where they created countless summer memories of craft projects, beachcombing, and nighttime campfires.



Mother of two children, Perrine and Garrett, Sylvia found her happiest role being a grandparent to Gwendolyn and Cameron. She delighted in them and hoped to always stimulate their creativity with art materials, “making” sessions, and trips to Snow Farm Art Center with Gwen.

“Artist” is probably the most apt description of Sylvia’s direction and motivation and state of mind. It was how she saw herself. Sylvia’s own art was varied and experimental. Photography, jewelry in metal and glass, transfer printing, collage, and drawing were her strongest interests. She displayed at open studios, attended workshops and classes, and worked at her own home studio and other workshop spaces. Her many journals included sketches, quotes, and observations. Sylvia’s love of art found expression at Friends Meeting at Cambridge’s Exhibits Committee, which she enjoyed.

Sylvia had different jobs at different times of her life, the longest being her last job as an administrative secretary at Massachusetts Law Reform Institute. She never retired, she pointed out, because her departure at age 72 was a layoff! She formed long-lasting bonds with people she worked with.

She always chafed at what she saw as a lack of respect for women, for minorities, and for workers who were not deemed “professionals.” She was forever loyal to her women’s group formed in the ‘70s that has continued to meet ever since.

Sylvia was a magpie, picking up things that caught her eye, and her penchant as an accumulator was abetted by living in a large house. One expression of her caring was keeping her friends and family in mind as she combed the beach or a resale shop. Her family and friends often received unsolicited items Sylvia thought they might like.

At Friends Meeting at Cambridge worship, Sylvia had a usual seat in the front facing those entering. She always kept a journal handy where she would jot down things during meeting or during the adult forum that she wanted to remember. These habits were noted at her memorial meeting, attended by so many from across the spectrum of time and activities of her life. As we shared about Sylvia’s endearing, sometimes frustrating, always lively characteristics, we knew that such a strong and loving spirit would live on in the people and places she touched.

Sylvia Colmore de Murias died April 20, 2015, from cancer.

FRIENDS MEETING AT CAMBRIDGE, APPROVED NOVEMBER 13, 2016

SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING, APPROVED APRIL 23, 2017

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Ann de Nevers  
April 14, 1921 – October 18, 2014

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Anna Mary de Nevers was a quintessential Quaker. Compassionate and caring, she spent her life looking for that of God in everyone she encountered. An active member of Smithfield Monthly Meeting of Friends, Ann also helped found the Friends Meeting in Fort Myers, Florida. Ann gave generously of herself, and worked tirelessly to improve her community.

She was active in New England Yearly Meeting’s Peace and Social Concerns Committee and had a lifelong interest in the work of the American Friends Service Committee. She organized the library at Smithfield Friends and would always have a recommendation on a good book to read. She was curious, well-read, and extremely intelligent. She would have long conversation with Friends after meeting on Sundays; topics would range from current events to intricate interpretations of biblical passages.

Ann always wanted the best for everyone at Smithfield and took her duties on Ministry and Counsel very seriously. She attended meetings until only a few weeks before she died peacefully at home surrounded by her family in Slatersville, Rhode Island, on October 18, 2014.

Ann was born in 1921 in Tyrone, Pennsylvania. She was the daughter of James Anthony Yinger and Grace Isabelle Peck. She was the wife of Bertrand E. de Nevers, who died in 1992. Ann lived with her daughter Danielle Wiens and her husband Richard. She loved spending time with her three grandsons, Geoffrey, Edouard, and Gregory, Gregory’s wife, Nancy Wiens, and her great-grandson, Tristan T. Wiens. She also leaves behind a sister, Mrs. Charles Prevost of San Jose, California, as well as a niece and two nephews.

Ann was an integral part of Woonsocket and the surrounding area. She served for a period of ten years as Director of Woonsocket Family and Child Services. During this time she developed a Homemaker staff of 30 trained individuals, making it possible for families to stay in their own homes during prolonged illness. She later served as Director of the Sophia Little Home in Providence, a home for unmarried, pregnant youth. Ann

brought about innovative change to the Home and its residents through a broadening and caring atmosphere fashioned by modern social work philosophy.

Ann moved on to become the Dean of Students at Woonsocket High School in 1965, where she served until 1984. It was during her time in the Woonsocket school system that Ann began to touch the lives of some of us at Smithfield Meeting. As Dean of Students, Ann had a talent for recognizing young people's talents and helping people find their confidence. In fact, her gentle guidance of one Smithfield Friend during her teenage years moved the young woman to volunteer, which ultimately led to her lifelong career as a nurse.

Ann also continued her education, and after further studies and credentialing opened a private psychotherapy practice, where she worked for a period of 20 years. After her tenure in Woonsocket, Ann and her husband moved to Fort Myers, Florida, where she helped start Fort Meyers Monthly Meeting. She was active there until she returned home to Rhode Island to live with her family and rejoined Smithfield Friends.

She was very close to her daughter Danielle. Their boundless love for each other was always evident. Together they would often host lovely teas with a beautifully set table, flowers, and delicious food.

These gatherings were like salons, with wonderful conversations about important topics, and they also hosted a lively book club, reverently discussing all type of literature with their friends.

This remarkable woman wrote novels, and was working on a historical fiction when she passed. She went to Europe during World War II with a relief organization and she traveled to the Middle East, including Palestine, in the 1980s. Ann truly had her own sense of propriety; she embodied the word elegant and she had the awareness to see beyond how people saw themselves. Ann was sweet and old fashioned. She wore stylish hats and looked like the "Breck girl." She came to meeting beautifully dressed in suits that were tailored to fit her.

Ann was grounded as a Quaker. She knew the tenets of her faith and taught us by her example. Ann had a clear vision of what was real and honest. She spoke the truth. She was capable of being offended and she might take issue with something, but was never mean-spirited. She lent a grace and dignity to our meeting. She did many things quietly, including taking care of members of our meeting when they were in need. She had a strong sense of self. She was inviolate and very proper, but always had a twinkle in her eye. Ann was led by her curiosity and she encouraged us to be inquisitive too.

Ann was an amazing woman of faith and a very important part of Smithfield Friends Meeting and the larger Quaker communities in New England and Florida. She touched countless lives with her dignity and grace, and continues to be deeply missed by all. When she passed, Fort Myers Friends asked that this poem that be read at her memorial service. It was read out of the silence shortly after Ann passed at Ft. Myers meeting for worship by a Friend who was a member of Smithfield Meeting.

### *High Flight*

*by John Gillespie Magee, Jr.*

*Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth,  
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;  
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth  
Of sun-split clouds,—and done a hundred things  
You have not dreamed of—Wheeled and soared and swung  
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there  
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung  
My eager craft through footless halls of air...  
Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue  
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace  
Where never lark or even eagle flew—  
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod  
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,  
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.*

Fort Myers Monthly Meeting loved Ann for all the same reasons Smithfield Friends did. They sent this message to be read at her memorial service:

Ann was one of the founding members of Fort Myers Friends Meeting. Over the years, Ann served our meeting with humility and grace in many capacities, including as clerk of the meeting, clerk of Ministry and Counsel and Education Committees. She kept us alert to the messages from Friends Committee for National Legislation and the American Service Committee. We are grateful for the wisdom and leadership she brought to us. She was a quiet, unassuming model of the best of Quaker service. This past First Day's Meeting for Worship was filled with recollections and tributes to Ann, who gently touched the lives of so many of us. Her friendship and love compelled us to speak of her kindness, gentleness, and generosity. We fondly recollected the many times Ann gathered us together in her home for a wonderful meal, "properly and graciously served," followed by an evening or afternoon of fellowship, laughter, and sharing our thoughts on issues of importance to Quakers. Ann never hesitated to put herself forward to help someone in need, even bringing people in trouble into her home for shelter and sustenance. An avid reader, Ann was a ready source for suggestions of books to read or to add to our library. She was always thoughtful and patient. We are deeply grateful that God led Ann to what would become Ft. Myers Meeting. Though she left us in 2007 to return home to Rhode Island, it is amazing how many times her name and something Ann said or did is still mentioned among us. We will miss her gentle way, her loving smile, and her Quaker manner of being.

Smithfield Friends will be forever grateful for Ann's return to our meeting. She led us by her gracious example through some difficult times. Like her loving family, we were all blessed to have the gift of Ann de Nevers and we will cherish it forever.

SMITHFIELD MONTHLY MEETING, APPROVED 9 OCTOBER 2016

RHODE ISLAND-SMITHFIELD QUARTERLY MEETING, APPROVED 16 OCTOBER 2016

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Katherine R. Frazer  
May 8, 1923 – January 28, 2016

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Katherine R. Frazer, 92, of Saxtons River, Vermont, a long-time member of Putney Friends Meeting, died on January 28, 2016. Kay was born May 8, 1923, in Hazlet, New Jersey, daughter of Angelo and Madeline R. (Young) Webster. She had academic credentials in nursing and divinity, and graduated from Methodist Teaching Hospital and Temple University in Philadelphia. In 1954 she married Grant Frazer. In 1960 his teaching career brought them to Saxtons River, where she had what she considered the good fortune to live for the rest of her life.

At this time Kay and Grant became active in Putney Friends Meeting, contributing richly to its spiritual life and social outreach. At that time the location of the MEETING was fluid and held at various locations, including Friend's homes. Kay and Grant welcomed Friends on numerous occasions to their home for worship, business, and committee meetings, Friendly Eights, Quaker women's luncheons, and other social events.

Kay's interest in social concerns and justice led her down many pathways. In 1965, seeing a need in the community for seniors and shut-ins to have a social outlet, she formed "Club 39," whose Christmas parties became a much-anticipated community event. Working in the area's hospital and a physician's office, she recognized the need for better home nursing care, and was instrumental in the formation of the Visiting Nurse Association. Later, she played a role in the formation of Our Place Drop-In Center, which provides services for people with limited resources in Bellows Falls, Vermont, and volunteered at Park Place, a center for numerous community services in Bellows Falls, until her 90th year. In the 1980s Kay participated in forming one of the first restorative justice programs in the state of Vermont and served on a restorative justice panel in Springfield for many years. This served as a model for the restorative justice system to take root and spread throughout the state, with 20 restorative justice centers now active.

Another important concern to Kay was Quaker adult education. She and her close friend Hattie Reeves-Forsythe convened the Putney Friends Meeting adult education committee for many years, imparting their life experience and wisdom in Quaker faith and practice to new members and seekers.

Sensing a need in the meeting, Kay was instrumental in initiating a "healing circle" that promoted healing through focused Friends worship. The healing circle of members and attenders met for a number of years, providing comfort to those in distress.

Kay served the meeting in many ways, from recording clerk to fellowship on various committees. Her baked desserts were favorites at meeting potlucks and her recipes are still shared among Putney Friends.

During meeting for worship, Kay's vocal testimony was always powerfully Spirit-led and long remembered. Her voice and presence among us will be missed. We hold Kay's life as a pattern for creating social outreach and justice in our community.

She is survived by a son, Dr. James E. Frazer, and his wife Sharon, of Mishawaka, Indiana; a daughter, Susan R. Frazer-Stebbins of Saxtons River; five grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

PUTNEY MONTHLY MEETING, APPROVED JUNE 19, 2016

NORTHWEST QUARTERLY MEETING, APPROVED SEPTEMBER 10, 2016

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Herbert Raymond Hillman Jr.  
October 25, 1926 – September 1, 2014

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Herb Hillman was born in 1926 and raised in Wilkinsburg, near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Upon finishing high school he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was assigned to a V-12 officer training unit, initially at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Later he was transferred to Swarthmore College, where he first encountered Friends.

WW II ended before his unit saw action, and Herb decided to finish his bachelor's degree at Swarthmore. He graduated with honors in biology, subsequently enrolling in a graduate program in physiology at Cornell. After some time at Cornell, a year spent in Glasgow as a Cornell-Glasgow fellow, and time off to travel in Europe, Herb tired of academia and left Cornell before completing his degree.

In 1950 he married Bernice ("Bunny") Shiffer, whom he had met at Cornell, and together they opened an antiquarian bookstore in Greenwich Village which they named Pangloss. Later when Herb was asked why he had named the store after Dr. Pangloss, the inveterate optimist in Voltaire's *Candide*, he replied "One has to be a convinced optimist to go into the antiquarian book business. Bookselling has many rewards—but none of them financial." In 1957 they relocated the bookstore to Harvard Square. Pangloss specialized in academic and rare books, serving Harvard, MIT, and other area universities as well as some overseas clients. In 1983 Pangloss moved to Mt. Auburn Street and in 1993 Herb sold the business and retired.

Herb and Bunny joined Cambridge Friends meeting in 1962, shortly after coming to live in Cambridge. Their eldest daughter, Margot, was then two years old. Their son Jonathan ("Mickey") joined the family that same year on his second birthday, followed by a daughter, Andrea, in the spring of 1964. Bunny died after a long illness in 1983. Three years later Herb married Elinor ("Nellie") Goodwin, adding her daughter, Jennifer Goodwin, to the family.

In 1964 Herb and Bunny purchased land in West Rumney, New Hampshire, at the base of the White Mountains, and this became a home away from their home in Cambridge for the whole family. They grew all their vegetables in a large garden on the property and engaged in a wide variety of activities. Herb was an avid outdoorsman who hiked up almost all of the 4,000-plus-foot mountains in N.H., often with the children in tow. The family went canoeing and skiing. Herb was an expert skier, a sport which he continued into his early 80s.

Herb believed in the power of love and the Light within each one of us. He felt nourished by the silent worship at Cambridge Friends meeting. He was also drawn to the Quaker process of decision-making. He was a good negotiator and had the ability to listen even to the opinions of those with whom he strongly disagreed. During a period on the late '60s when there were demonstrations at Harvard, Herb would encourage dialogue between opposing parties in his store.

He was very active throughout the '60s at FMC and in the local community. He served on the First Day School Committee and taught in the First Day School. He joined the Peace and Social Concerns Committee and facilitated three gatherings at the meeting on race relations. He was appointed by FMC to the Board of the Cambridge Interfaith Housing Corporation, which developed integrated middle-income housing in Cambridge. He was very involved in the schools his children attended: Cambridge Friends School, the Peabody School, and the Pilot School (an experimental open high school associated with the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School). During this period also, he and Bunny opened their home to young people resisting the draft and to refugee families from Indonesia and Greece.

In later years at FMC, Herb served at different times on the Nominating, Trustees, Grants, and Library committees.

After his retirement Herb, with his wife Nellie, participated for many years in the Harvard Institute for Learning in Retirement (HILR), a volunteer mutual educational program for older citizens. A lifelong learner, Herb took numerous classes at HILR which he greatly enjoyed. Under the auspices of HILR, too, he founded a play-readers group and performed memorably with Nellie in several Shakespeare plays. Herb had a strong interest in theater dating back to his days in Glasgow, where he did theater work. He was also a lover of movies and had an extensive film library.

As his health declined, Herb was lovingly cared for by Nellie. He passed away peacefully on September 1, 2014. At the memorial service held at FMC to celebrate his life, his daughter Margot characterized her father as one who “took the road less traveled by.” His son Mickey recalled that Herb had taught him to “drink from his own well.” Another attender described Herb as fearless. Herb was a person of strong conviction and integrity, who worked to align his actions with his beliefs. He had a deep connection with the land and a sense of responsibility as its steward to use it well and make it available to others. He would allow people to camp on his place in N.H. as long as they did not abuse the privilege. He trusted the employees at his bookstore and they in turn respected him. (They all had keys to the bookstore, but no one ever stole from him.) He faced many challenges in his life with grace and fortitude. Even as he contended in his later years with the gradual advance of dementia, he retained qualities of openness, gentleness, and caring, a sense of humor, and a lively wit, which had characterized him throughout his life.

We at FMC are inspired by the example of Herb’s life and grateful for the gift of his presence among us.

FRIENDS MEETING AT CAMBRIDGE, APPROVED MARCH 26, 2017

SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING, APPROVED APRIL 23, 2017

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Elizabeth Letitia Jones  
July 25, 1916 – May 6, 2015

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Betty Jones, much-loved and always-present member of Worcester Friends Meeting, peacefully passed in the company of friends and family at the Briarwood Retirement Community in Worcester, Massachusetts, on May 6, 2015. Betty was born on July 25, 1916, in Somerville, Massachusetts, to Walter Bailey Jones and Letitia Mary Day Jones, who married at Durham (Maine) Monthly Meeting. The family has deep Quaker roots that extend well past Quaker scholar and activist Rufus Jones to Mayflower Pilgrim Isaac Allerton. When they settled in Worcester, the family included Betty and her older brothers, Elliot Day Jones and Frank Kenwood Jones, and they became very active members of Worcester Monthly Meeting, a pastoral meeting belonging to the Gurneyite Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England. Betty joined at age 9 and fondly remembered learning about the silence and the small still voice from her First Day School teacher.

An accomplished musician, Betty graduated with highest honors from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. She then taught music and English at Casenovia College, where she also conducted two choirs and an orchestra, and served as the school’s Dean of Women. Because of the Great Depression and impending war she returned to Worcester, where she began a career at the Norton Company as an executive secretary; her last position there was executive secretary to the president. She directed the Norton Caroleers each Christmas and later edited the retiree newsletter.

A love of music permeated Betty’s life. Although she loved organ music, she left a position as organist for the Chestnut Street Congregational Church in Worcester when a Worcester Friend asked her to play for Worcester Monthly Meeting (on Oxford Street). For many years, Betty played the piano before meeting for worship at Worcester-Pleasant Street Meeting. She was an active member of the Worcester Chorus for 73 years and sang with them in tours to 15 countries. She served on the board of Music Worcester and was a life member of the Worcester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. She was also active in several other Worcester organizations, including the Business and Professional Women, Forbush Bird Club, and the Outdoor Sports Club.

Being an active member of the quarter, first Smithfield Quarter and then Rhode Island-Smithfield, was important to Betty. She was an active member of the quarter when the Rhode Island and the Smithfield quarterly meetings were combined into a single quarterly meeting in 1945. It was difficult for Betty to curtail her attendance at the quarterly meetings due to her advancing age. She was also a mainstay for New England Yearly Meeting, attending Annual Sessions until her last years when she was unable to walk the distances

between buildings. Betty served on many NEYM committees: Permanent Board, Executive Council, Nominating Committee, Equalization Fund, and Peace and Social Concerns, which she clerked.

Betty served as clerk of Worcester Meeting from 1967–1977. This was a tumultuous period for the meeting, during which the meeting moved from Oxford Street to Pleasant Street and from programmed to unprogrammed worship. Throughout her life, Betty Jones contributed her insights to the Ministry and Counsel committee at Worcester Friends Meeting, and she often served on the Peace and Social Concerns and the Practical committees.

Meeting for worship and the monthly business meetings were rarely missed by Betty Jones. She sipped her black coffee during meeting for worship with attention to business, and she served the meeting well as a reliable historian. Betty faithfully produced the Worcester Friends newsletter for several decades. We could count on her presence at all Worcester Friends' events. She quietly welcomed us with a sparkling smile and a twinkle in her eyes. She enjoyed knowing about the children's activities and accomplishments, and the First Day School children took pride in speaking loudly enough for Betty Jones to hear them when they spoke their names at the rise of meeting. Although Betty never married, her delight with children was a bright light in the Worcester Friends Meeting.

During her declining years, several Worcester Friends worshiped once a week with her at the Briarwood Retirement Community. Visiting Betty Jones at Briarwood was rather like spending time with a favorite aunt. She always maintained her dignity, taking pride in her appearance. Betty dressed fashionably and often wore a charm bracelet that reflected her love of Maine, where she vacationed for 73 years at the Linekin Bay Resort in Boothbay Harbor and enjoyed sailing into her eighties. A lover of the natural world, she enjoyed the small garden outside her Briarwood apartment. Betty took delight in animals. She was often accompanied by three small, furry, toy kittens with shiny black button eyes that resided in the basket of her Rollator walker. Betty's apartment was comfortably cluttered with newspapers and Quaker reading materials.

On the few occasions when Betty Jones was missing at worship on First Day, there was a mighty absence. She once spoke of seeing angels gathered around the ceiling of the meeting room. Her vision of those angels and her spirit continue to bless the Worcester Friends Meeting.

WORCESTER FRIENDS MEETING, APPROVED JUNE 18, 2017

RHODE ISLAND-SMITHFIELD QUARTERLY MEETING, APPROVED JUNE 25, 2017

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Alfred Leo (Al) Norton  
1935 – 2016

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Alfred Leo (Al) Norton (81), a member of Portland Friends Meeting, passed away peacefully on Sunday, September 4, 2016, at Brentwood Health Care Center in Yarmouth, Maine. He had lived his last year first at St. Joseph's Manor Nursing Home in Portland, and then at Brentwood. During this time Al frequently enjoyed visits from Friends, friends, and family members as he wrestled with, and often rose above, the hardships of his deteriorating health.

Al was born on April 16, 1935, to Ernest Norton and Elsie (York) Norton in Arlington, Massachusetts, where he and his younger sister Judith Ann grew up. As a child, Al loved music, playing the piano and trying other instruments. He attended Arlington High School and later earned an undergraduate degree from Boston Architectural Center (now Boston Architectural College). He would also attend the Graduate School of Social Psychology at Harvard and, later, the Bangor Theological Seminary, where he greatly enjoyed his studies and earned a Masters in Divinity.

He loved to read and learn, and to engage just about anyone in discussions about politics, philosophy or religion.

Al married Joan Doherty in 1958 and moved to Columbus, Georgia, where he served for two years as a helicopter mechanic in the Army. Al's and Joan's first child, Ann, was born there. The three then moved to Boston, where Al worked as an architect, and the family grew with the births of three more children—Garret, Sean, and Martha. Living just outside of Boston, the family enjoyed camping trips to Andover, Massachusetts; Parrisboro, Nova Scotia; Prince Edward Island; and the Maine coast.

After a while, politically progressive Al and Joan joined the "back to the land" movement by moving the family to Freeport, Maine. There they bought an 18th-century farmhouse, planted a garden, and tended to a host of animals, including goats, a pony, two horses, chickens, a turkey, and three pigs. Al worked as an architect in Portland during the weekdays and tended to the house and farming on weekends and evenings.

Tragically, so much changed in 1974, when Al suffered a stroke at age 39, leaving him hemiplegic and thus unable to work as an architect or at home. No longer could he do such favorite activities as farming, photography, playing musical instruments, and birding. His doctors said he would never walk again, but fortunately they were wrong. Al learned to walk with the aid of a brace and cane. He forever stopped his long habit of heavy smoking, which he was convinced had led to the stroke. Over the years, Al's efforts to live as independently as he could were truly heroic. For years he managed to drive himself in his own car, going as far as Canada. After he could no longer drive, his insistence on moving himself from wheelchair to passenger seat in a car and later back to wheelchair were acts at which many of us marveled.

Changes in life kept coming. Al and Joan divorced after a marriage of two decades. His time as a lapsed Catholic ended when he began attending Quaker services. After several years of living in Connecticut and then in various towns in Maine, Al met and married his second wife, Dorothy Zug, also a Friend. They lived for several years in a geodesic dome in Rindge, New Hampshire, before moving to Wayne, Maine, where their marriage ended in divorce as well.

Thereafter, Al's health problems worsened, and his family convinced him to move from rural Wayne to Portland, where he lived in Franklin Towers, enjoying what he called his "million-dollar view" and the bustle of the city. He was often seen steering his motorized wheelchair on the streets and sidewalks, taking in much of the city and engaging its residents. He was a member of the Portland Art Museum and a season-ticket holder to the Portland Symphony and Portland Pops. He also was a proud member of Veterans for Peace in Portland.

Throughout his life, Al loved to read and learn. In his last months, for example, he was taking in Martin Buber and Paul Tillich. He was as likely to engage a street person as a professor, a beleaguered resident of a facility as a staff member. His generosity of spirit often lifted those of us around him. The thanks that he freely gave to all who helped him made helping him easy.

Al initially attended such meetings as Midcoast Meeting in Damariscotta, Maine, and Middletown Meeting in Middletown, Connecticut. Later, he became a member of meetings in Worcester, Massachusetts; Durham, Maine; and Pondtown Monthly Meeting in Winthrop, Maine, where he was a member for 11 years. In 2006, Al had his membership transferred from Pondtown to Portland Friends Meeting.

He participated in several ways at Portland Friends, including first as a member of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee and later as a member of the Pastoral Care Committee. Those of us who served with him were touched by his spritely sense of humor, his care for others, and his passion for various political causes. Much in need of care himself, it was striking how much he expressed his concern for others. A number of us formed a Circle of Friends who took turns bringing Al to meeting for worship most Sundays, where amid the chairs we reserved a space for Al to park his wheelchair. Occasionally, the Spirit would speak through him in worship—more than once as he read from his father's writings during his service in the Army in World War I. Each of us thoroughly enjoyed the wide-ranging discussions we had with Al as we drove him to and from meeting and helped him in and out of the meetinghouse. He also faithfully attended New England Yearly Meeting Sessions each summer, and regularly attended the joint meeting of Maritime Meeting (of Canada's Maritime Provinces) and New England Yearly Meeting, held during Canadian Thanksgiving weekend in early October.

Portland Friends held a service celebrating Al's life on October 29, 2016. Many family members and friends came and remembered Al, often with humor and always with love. We have missed and shall miss him. His family is honoring his wish to have his ashes buried in Parrsboro, Nova Scotia, his ancestral home and favorite place on earth. May he rest in Peace.

PORTLAND FRIENDS MEETING, APPROVED MARCH 5, 2017

FALMOUTH QUARTERLY MEETING, APPROVED MAY 6, 2017

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Alice Rathbun  
January 19, 1780 – September 9, 1845

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*This memorial minute was recently returned to Smithfield Monthly Meeting by New York Yearly Meeting. Because we don't know whether it was ever read at Annual Sessions, we are including it here, with its original punctuation and spelling.*

Testimony of Smithfield Monthly Meeting, New England, concerning our beloved friend, Alice Rathbun, deceased.

When those are removed from us whose examples are worthy of imitation, whose lives have been instructive and who have given full evidence that they have been followers and servants of Christ, it seems right, for the encouragement and benefit of the living, to preserve some memorial of them, that survivors may be incited to tread in their footsteps, and follow them in the way of salvation.

Our beloved friend Alice Rathbun, the subject of this brief memoir was the daughter of William and Mercy Peckham and was born in South Kingston 1st mo 19th 1780. Of her early life, we are not possessed of many particulars to introduce into this notice. In the year 1801 she was united in marriage to our friend Rowland Rathbun and removed to reside with her husband within the limits of this Monthly Meeting.

She was naturally of quick and ardent feelings, which in mercy were brought under the restraining, regulating, and sanctifying power of Divine Grace, by which she was gradually reduced into a state of obedience to her heavenly Master, and made willing to submit to the requirements that he saw meet to lay upon her. And in his wisdom he was pleased to dispense to her a gift in the ministry; and she yielded to the Divine Will so as to open her mouth in public about the thirtieth year of her age. As she continued faithful to her Lord and Master, her gift was enlarged and her communications being evidently in that life and authority which produce edification, she was acknowledged as a Minister of the Gospel by her friends in the year 1814. In advocating the cause of our Redeemer, she was remarkably favored to do it in a way that was calculated to interest and win souls to him. Her manner was peculiarly dignified and persuasive and the love which filled her heart and freely flowed to others produced its effect upon those that were witnesses of it, inducing them to feel and to appreciate the loveliness of the Truth, and creating in them through the Divine blessing desires to be found walking in it.

In the social circle she was attractive, and her society was much sought especially by the young, to whom she readily adapted herself and who found in her a kind and sympathetic friend, one that could enter into their feelings and interest, while she instructed them; and not a few can testify of the satisfaction and edification they have derived from the endearing intercourse they have been privileged to enjoy with her.

She was faithful in her maintenance of all the testimonies of Truth, which we are called upon as a people to bear; and, when in the discharge of her duty, she was required to labor with those who had departed therefrom, the sweetness, tenderness, and restoring love, with which she approached them, the meekness and the wisdom which she displayed were truly edifying and worthy of imitation.

She was much concerned that the young might be trained in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and as a wife and mother, she was an example of faithfulness, affection, and vigilance.

In the year 1837, at the solicitation of their friends, she, with her husband, took charge of our Yearly Meeting Boarding School at Providence, as Superintendents. It was with much diffidence and hesitancy, that she entered upon this service; but she was favored to discharge the varied and important duties that devolved upon her in this station to the satisfaction of her friends.

She several times with the full approval of her friends paid religious visits within the limits of our own Yearly Meeting. In 1816 she received a certificate to visit friends in Gospel love in some parts of New York Yearly Meeting; and in 1820 to visit friends within the Yearly Meeting of Ohio, and some within the limits of Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York Yearly Meetings. All these services she was favored to accomplish to the peace of her own mind, and to the comfort and edification of those whom she visited, as is fully testified by the various minutes made on her behalf by the meetings she attended.

In her ministry, our beloved friend was engaged to set forth the necessity of holiness of life, of meekness and humble walking with God; to urge upon all the duty of faithfully following the good Shepherd whithersoever he is pleased to lead us; yet she fully felt and preached that it is not from works of righteousness that we can attain to salvation; that we are unprofitable servants, and that we know remission of sins alone through the propitiatory offering of our Lord Jesus Christ on Calvary's mount and through faith and repentance come to receive acceptance in Him, the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world.

For several years before her decease her health had been very delicate, and she travelled but little beyond the limits of her own Quarterly Meeting, although she was generally able to attend meetings at and near home, being very diligent in the discharge of this important duty. In the 6th mo 1845 she attended our Yearly Meeting; and while her tender spirit was deeply grieved with the course pursued by some whom she had long loved, in their yielding to a spirit of disaffection which caused them to become alienated, and to separate from the body of Friends; and while she was engaged most persuasively to entreat them to open their eyes to the error of their ways, yet when she found this unavailing, she was firm in testifying against them as having



departed from the Truth, and united fully with her friends in the support of right order in the Church. In the 7th mo of this year she received a minute from her Monthly Meeting to visit in Gospel love the Quarterly Meetings of Dover, Vassalboro, and Fairfield and some meetings within their limits. It was during this visit and while engaged in the work of her Lord and Master, that it pleased Him to remove her as we reverently trust, from his church militant to his church triumphant. Her last sickness was of but short duration, and with apparently but little physical suffering.

We conclude this brief memoir with an extract from the minutes of this Monthly Meeting made 12th mo 1845. "Our beloved friend, Rowland Rathbun returned to this meeting the minute granted our dear friend Alice Rathbun in the 7th mo last, informing that she had been favored to attend the Quarterly Meetings of Dover and Falmouth, and a number of meetings constituting the same, and also one meeting within the limits of Fairfield Quarterly Meeting, and while thus ardently engaged in endeavoring to accomplish in the love of the Gospel the service then in prospect, was taken unwell and increasingly so at the house of our friend Samuel Taylor of Belgrade; where after a short illness, she closed her useful life on the 9th of the 9th month 1845. Thus has it pleased Divine Providence to remove from works to rewards one who has long been a faithful laborer in the Lord's vineyard, a pillar in the Church greatly beloved and esteemed by us. And it seems right for us at this time to minute this memorial concerning her "for the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance."

Signed by direction and on behalf of Smithfield Monthly Meeting of Friends held 29th of 4th mo 1847.

JOHN OSBORNE, CLERK

LYDIA R. KELLY, CLERK

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Joyce Rawitscher  
January 8, 1940 – November 7, 2016

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Joyce Rawitscher was a much-loved and cherished member of Storrs Friends Meeting, serving as clerk of Peace and Social Concerns Committee and its later incarnation, Witness Support Committee, for many years. She is remembered for her deep and sincere commitment to peace and social justice causes and her thoughtfulness toward others within the meeting, within our local community, and in the larger groups with which she was associated.

Joyce was born on January 8, 1940, in Orleans, New York. She attended Syracuse University as an undergraduate, received her Master's degree from the School of Social Work at the University of Chicago, and her Ph.D. in Social Welfare from Fordham University. As a professional clinical social worker for many years, Joyce brought her natural gifts of listening and kindness to the clients whom she served.

In addition to her professional and family responsibilities, Joyce had a strong and enduring commitment to social action. She often told the story of how her sense of injustice was triggered when, as a young student, she learned about the Holocaust in Nazi Germany. She was appalled that such a thing could happen and began asking the adults around her how they could let such a situation arise. In her heart, she vowed that she would do all she could to prevent such a thing from happening again. She wanted to be able to answer her own children's question—What did you do to stop injustice, Mom?—by being a model of effective activism.

As a young wife and mother, Joyce participated in many social actions related to the Vietnam War and other causes that were at the forefront of the news during the 1960s and '70s. At that time, she was married to a Congregational minister, and she was very involved in the life of the parish and the activist work being undertaken there. She also cared for her two children, David and Annie, and modeled for them a sense of adventure and a caring for others.

After divorcing her first husband, Joyce came to Storrs Friends Meeting in the early 1990s.

She soon became active in the Connecticut Program of the American Friends Service Committee, serving on the board for many years. In 2008, when she left the AFSC, she was honored by the group at their annual event for her dedication, diligence, and leadership.

In 2002, she experienced a leading to travel to Israel and Palestine. During this visit, she became acutely aware of the dire plight of the Palestinian people and the role of the U.S. government in their suffering. She continued to carry a deep and heartfelt concern for the Middle East, and in 2009 she founded the Israel/Palestine Peace, Education and Action Group of Eastern Connecticut. For the past 7 years, she was instrumental in helping this group bring together people of differing points of view regarding Middle East issues for dialogue and education. Joyce brought her concern for the Middle East to New England Yearly Meeting Ses-

sions for several years by offering workshops and interest groups along with other Friends around New England. She also sold Palestinian olive oil and soap wherever she went to help raise money for Ramallah Friends School.

In 2009, Joyce married George Rawitscher, with whom she shared many of her social justice concerns. Together, they brought an abiding commitment for peace and helped Friends at Storrs Friends Meeting remain informed about a variety of issues. Joyce participated in numerous workshops, marches, vigils, and actions related to the causes she cared about, including climate change and the rights of LGBTQ persons. She was a constant presence at Willimantic's Third Thursdays, tabling for AFSC, Israel/Palestine issues, and more. Most recently, Joyce was named as one of the two representatives from New England to the board of directors of the United Nations Association of the USA.

Joyce was extremely well-read and well-informed about so many topics. Her bookshelves were filled with books on the history of the Israel-Palestine conflict, on the role the Quakers in Europe played to prevent the ascent of Nazism, on the persecution of Muslims in America, on the psychological trauma that wars and destruction inflicted on people. Still, she continued to nurture her immediate family, her stepchildren from her 2nd and 3rd marriages, and especially her many grandchildren. In short, her big heart was of unlimited size.

Joyce will be remembered for her unflagging work and strong passion for a better, more peaceful world. She continues to be a role model for many of us even after her death, as she never gave in to despair or hopelessness. Her thoughtfulness to individuals as well as her dedication to the global community were virtues to emulate.

Joyce died on November 7, 2016, from pancreatic cancer.

STORRS FRIENDS MEETING

CONNECTICUT VALLEY QUARTERLY MEETING

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E. Kirk Roberts  
(1922 – January 20, 2015)  
Janet Roberts  
(January 30, 2016)

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Middlebury (VT) Friends Meeting notes with sadness the passing of E. Kirk Roberts on January 20, 2015, and Janet Johnson Roberts on January 30, 2016. Kirk grew up in the Moorestown (New Jersey) Monthly Meeting and Jan in the Rich Square (Indiana) Monthly Meeting. They met at Earlham College, from which they both graduated in 1949. After Kirk earned a Ph.D. in chemistry at Harvard University, he and Jan moved in 1952 to Middlebury, Vermont, where Kirk taught chemistry, sometimes as chair of his department, at Middlebury College. While in Middlebury, Jan worked at the Counseling Service of Addison County where she created a residential home for women with developmental challenges, as part of the state's move to mainstream and integrate developmentally delayed people in the community. Upon retirement in 1983, Kirk and Jan moved to Palo Alto, California.

Soon after their arrival in Middlebury, in 1953 Jan and Kirk invited interested students and community members to worship in the manner of Friends in their home and, at times, on campus. They met fairly regularly until 1965, when the group stopped meeting. In 1969, as Kirk and Jan prepared to leave for a sabbatical year, another Quaker couple arrived on campus. They responded to requests from students, disturbed by the escalation of the Vietnam War, to restart the worship group. Placed under the care of Burlington Monthly Meeting, this preparative meeting, started by the Robertses in 1953, eventually grew into the full-fledged Middlebury Friends Meeting in 1976.

Although Kirk and Jan left Middlebury in 1983, their New England Quaker legacy remains strong in the form of Middlebury Friends Meeting, which continues to provide a spiritual home for Middlebury Quakers, college students, and other seekers who worship there.

MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING, APPROVED 18 SEPTEMBER 2016

NORTHWEST QUARTERLY MEETING, APPROVED 4 DECEMBER 2016.

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Mildred Roberts  
July 15, 1921 – September 29, 2015

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Mildred Dankel Roberts died peacefully on September 29, 2015, at the age of 94. Mildred was the wife of the late Gordon Thomas Roberts and the mother of Eve Roberts Wanless, Gordon Jr., and John Roberts, all of whom belong to Friends Meeting at Cambridge. A Memorial Meeting for Worship to celebrate her life was held at Friends Meeting at Cambridge on 21 November 2015.

Mildred was born and raised in rural Pennsylvania, and graduated from Reading (Pennsylvania) High School and Temple University. Trained as a dental hygienist, she briefly taught dental health in elementary schools in Philadelphia. She was raised primarily in the Reformed Church and Lutheran Church. When she and Gordon moved to Concord, Massachusetts, in 1949, they were active in the First Parish Church (Unitarian, later Unitarian-Universalist). However, during a brief sojourn in Maryland, they realized that the simple manner of worship and the essential theological commitments of the Society of Friends literally spoke best to their condition. The entire family joined the Friends Meeting in Sandy Spring, Maryland. After returning to Concord in 1962, they transferred their membership in 1963 to Friends Meeting at Cambridge.

Mildred became an active participant in the Cambridge Meeting. She served on the First Day School Committee from 1964 to 1966 and on Ministry and Counsel from 1966 to 1968. She taught the 7th and 8th graders and high schoolers in the First Day School and participated in planning the May Fair (an annual FDS event). She took a prominent role in issues relating to race relations in the 1960s and early 1970s. She served on a committee on race relations and another on community relations and was a panelist in an FMC forum on prejudice. She and her husband Gordon enjoyed the fellowship at Cambridge Meeting and the leadership of George and Florence Selleck and later of Elmer and Lois Brown. Both were also active in the Salem Quarterly Meeting and the New England Yearly Meeting.

Always a serious spiritual seeker, Mildred read extensively in Quaker literature, including George Fox, John Woolman, Rufus Jones, and Elton Trueblood, and especially *A Testament of Devotion* by Thomas Kelly, which was one of her favorites. She also appreciated the writings of mystics, among them Evelyn Underhill and Underhill's mentor, Baron Friedrich von Hügel. She read the Bible in its entirety several times. She was a lifelong bibliophile, a lover and collector of old books, and a passionate reader whose secular tastes varied from Goethe to Jung to Emerson.

For almost ten years after Gordon's death in 1977, Mildred worked as a Psychiatric Counselor at Emerson Hospital. After retirement, she served as a volunteer to the elderly and the community, notably leading the Octogenarian Group at the Concord Council on Aging.

In her later years, despite the constraints of health and mobility, Mildred continued to attend meeting for worship at Cambridge whenever she could, frequently enriching us with her vocal ministry. In 1999 she offered a forum, "Bringing It Together at 77," and in 2005 she helped to facilitate a growing-older group, "Living Spiritually Well As Long As You Can."

Those of us who visited and worshiped with Mildred in her own home as she became more frail were privileged to share these precious times with her and to benefit from her wisdom.

Mildred died in her beloved home in Concord, the 1767 Samuel Jones House on Main Street which she and Gordon had purchased in 1949 and lovingly restored. They treasured its 19th-century historical connections to minor Transcendentalists Ellery Channing and Franklin Sanborn and indirectly to Margaret Fuller, Thoreau, and Emerson.

Mildred unquestionably believed that there is that of God in every person. She lived her life in the virtue of that belief. She believed that God is revealed in Love and saw non-theism more as a question of how one defined the Spirit rather than as a crisis of faith. Especially toward the end of her life, she experienced each day appreciative of the wonder of nature and the precious support of human kindness.

She felt at home within Friends, enlightened by Friends' values and their Christian tradition.

*Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that liveth is born of God, and knoweth God*  
(I John 4:7)

FRIENDS MEETING AT CAMBRIDGE, APPROVED MARCH 26, 2017

SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING, APPROVED APRIL 23, 2017

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Glenn Smith  
December 30, 2014

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Glenn Smith was one of the Smiths who made Smithfield Friends special. The Smith family has been part of our meeting since the 18th century. Glenn had fond memories of Quaker youth meetings and his activities at Smithfield when he was young. When Glenn came to Smithfield Meeting, he brought his intellectual curiosity and wry humor as he actively participated in meetings.

We had many lively discussions and appreciated Glenn's quick wit and kindness. Glenn could have a huge impact without a lot of fuss; he could change the mood of the meeting with just a few words. Glenn often helped continue a thoughtful discussion of the worship messages downstairs at coffee.

Glenn was born in Woonsocket, and his parents, the late Lauriston and Ruth, were also active members of Smithfield Friends. Glenn passed away Tuesday, December 30, 2014, at his home in West Warwick, Rhode Island. He was the beloved husband of Homa, and they had just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on December 21, 2014.

Glenn was a good husband and an excellent father to his own children and to his children's friends, too. He was gentle and open-minded. He was very liberal but listened to Fox News just to hear other opinions. The only time Homa ever saw Glenn angry was when they were stuck in Russia on a trip home from Iran and their hotel refused to feed his kids.

Glenn was a man of character; he was always smiling, had a clever sense humor, and was always forgiving. With a kind spirit and intellectual curiosity, Glenn was unassuming and unpretentious, with appreciation for other people. He often talked with people about differing opinions with an air for searching for understanding.

Glenn led an amazing life. Glenn was drafted, but because of his Quaker faith he worked as a medic. He was a University of Rhode Island graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Agriculture. He was a kind, giving, and generous man, which was apparent through his many works, including being in the first group of Peace Corps volunteers after it was established. He served in Iran from 1962–64, where he met his beloved Homa. Glenn had many interesting stories of experiences in the Peace Corps, including how he rode all the way from Iran to England on a motor bike. He volunteered for Habitat for Humanity, and was an inspector for the USDA until his retirement in 1998.

Glenn stayed connected to his Quaker roots his whole life. Even when they lived in New York, Glenn found a meeting and he would bring his parents and grandmother there when they visited. He liked the unprogrammed meetings in Smithtown, New York, and the programmed meeting at Smithfield in Rhode Island. He gave both types of meetings his thoughtful attention and prayerful consideration.

Glenn was an avid outdoorsman who loved nature, hiking, and kayaking, but most of all digging for quahog clams. He rooted for the Patriots and the URI Rams and greatly enjoyed Caribbean cruises. He and Homa, along with their children, enjoyed many vacations at their home at Lake Willoughby, Vermont.

Besides his wife he leaves his adored children, daughter Farah and son Lee, and Lee's wife Jennifer. He also leaves his much-loved sisters, Carolyn and her husband Eugene Leroy, and Eleanor and her husband Donald Grant. He is deeply missed by his cherished family and his Friends at Smithfield Meeting.

SMITHFIELD MONTHLY MEETING, APPROVED 24 APRIL 2016

RHODE ISLAND-SMITHFIELD QUARTERLY MEETING, APPROVED 19 JUNE 2016

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Lois Thompson Smith  
April 2, 1935 – April 3, 2015

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Lois Thompson Smith, born April 2, 1935, was the daughter of Dr. Leonard and Ruth Thompson. She was the youngest of three siblings, having an older brother, Arthur, and an older sister, Clara Thompson Gresham. They grew up in San Pedro, California, an ethnically diverse (Italians, Yugoslavs, Mexicans, and Norwegians) town on the bluffs of the Pacific Ocean. Her family enjoyed an idyllic, rather rural life there, so that Lois had a pet goat, Minnie, and when she grew older, a horse, Starlight. Her father, who frequently took her sailing to Catalina Island, was a physician, one of the few practicing in the area, since most of the doctors were serving in the armed forces during the Second World War. He was known for his generosity in extending needed care to people who were economically hard-pressed. They, in turn, would provide him with seafood from their

catches. Her mother was a Quaker who had been educated at the George School in Pennsylvania and was a great admirer of the theologian Dr. Howard Thurman.

During Lois' childhood, her family took in an artist, Winifred Balch, and Clara believes that her presence and her work had a tremendous influence upon Lois. Clara thought that another "formative" experience was a summer job at a beach museum, where Lois taught school children about fish and sea life. Later, Lois would teach art in public schools on the west coast as well as the east. Like her mother, Lois learned to play the piano when she was very young and she continued to play even when she had Alzheimer's.

A 1953 graduate of San Pedro High School, she had a lead in the senior play and was a member of the "Knights," an honor society. From there she went to Occidental College, from which she was graduated with a B.A. in History in 1957. She was an active alumna throughout her life, a member of the Occidental College Women's Club, headed by her sister Clara. While she was at Occidental she was greatly affected by an inspiring art teacher, Mr. Swift, who taught watercolor and contributed to her lifelong dedication to art. After college, she worked at a UCLA museum before moving to New York City to attend Columbia University, where she earned a Master's Degree in Fine Arts. Thereafter, she traveled widely in Europe, India, and the Middle East.

In the early 1960s, she applied to be in the Peace Corps. Her future husband, Charles Frank Smith Jr., had been asked by the Kennedy White House to be the Academic Director of the Peace Corps Training Camp in Puerto Rico, postponing his doctoral studies at Harvard for a year. Lois and Charles met in Puerto Rico and, as a result, Lois decided not to enter the Peace Corps but, after a brief sojourn in California, moved to Cambridge instead. They married in Boston in 1964. Mixed-race marriages were still illegal in some states at that time, and Charles and Lois' decision to make a life together was a considerable act of courage. They both felt that their shared witness against racism was an important aspect of their marriage.

In the early years of their marriage Lois worked at the Fogg Art Museum, acting as an assistant to curators. Later Lois worked as secretary for George Cabot Lodge, Dean of the Harvard Business School; Dean Lodge was so pleased with her work that he continued to employ her even after his retirement.

After their two children, Carolyn and Charles III, were born in the mid-60s, Lois began attending Wellesley Friends Meeting (WFM), where both the children attended the First Day School. She expressed her values through her participation in the NAACP and in her objection to the Vietnam War. During her last years at WFM she was the meeting's representative for Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). Throughout her adult life, she proved to be a prolific artist. She sculpted as well as painted, and every wall in their home is graced with her work.

Lois wrote and illustrated a children's book, *Carrie and Carl Play*, which was inspired by her own children and her granddaughter, Asia. When Lois' children were small there were no books that showed multiracial families. Lois felt that it was very important to create a children's book that showed a loving family of different races, so that children like hers could see themselves and their parents reflected in the stories they read. Finishing this project and, perhaps even more challenging, getting it published by the Candlewick Press in 2007 was a great accomplishment.

You can find this lovely volume in the WFM library.

In 2013 Lois, who had begun to suffer from dementia, moved to California. She lived with her daughter, Carolyn, and her granddaughter, Asia, was closer to her son "Carl," and enjoyed her childhood surroundings. Throughout these years, Carolyn described her as strong, dignified, and in great spirits—always managing a big smile, being affectionate to her extended family, and always remembering names and faces of family members. She continued going for walks and playing the piano daily. She passed away peacefully on April 3, 2015, the day after her milestone 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration.

During her memorial service at WFM, one of the speakers noted that Lois, who was quite anxious about public speaking, still persevered in giving announcements about FCNL, though her voice shook, demonstrating her commitment and concern. After her memorial service, a family friend reminisced about Lois, noting how she had participated in the NAACP and was quite at ease, despite being in a minority during the meetings, a fact that impressed him greatly. So, even towards the very end of her life, Lois lived out her Quaker values.

WELLESLEY MONTHLY MEETING, APPROVED APRIL 14, 2016

SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING, APPROVED OCTOBER 23, 2016

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Ann Richardson Stokes  
June 9, 1931 – November 20, 2016

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Ann Richardson Stokes, 85, died at her home in West Chesterfield, New Hampshire, on November 20, 2016.

Ann was born in Moorestown, New Jersey, on June 9, 1931, the daughter of Dr. S. Emlen and Lydia (Babbott) Stokes. A lifelong Quaker, she grew up in Moorestown Friends Meeting, where she graduated from Moorestown Friends School and then attended Goddard College in Plainfield, Vermont. She had great affection and loyalty to Moorestown Friends School and later served as a trustee of Goddard.

In 1959, she acquired land and built a home on Welcome Hill in West Chesterfield, New Hampshire, where her life and outreach centered for the remainder of her life. Ann and some of her women friends designed and built the first studio for women artists on her property, creating Welcome Hill Studios. The story of its creation was told in her book *A Studio of One's Own* (1985). She found many ways to support performing and visual artists. Many friends remember listening to a performance by Odetta at her 50th birthday party. She acquired nearby land and preserved it for public use; a hiking trail through the land is named for Ann. The natural beauty of her surroundings in New Hampshire and Vermont, as well as the Adirondack retreat where she had spent time with her family since childhood, always inspired her.

Ann transferred her membership in the 1970s to Putney (Vermont) Friends Meeting. She supported Putney Friends Meeting generously as it built its meetinghouse, and was instrumental in helping to add more space and benches to the meetinghouse years later as the meeting grew. Ann also was instrumental in starting a second, early, meeting for worship that thrives to this day.

Ann lived her values and spoke her mind plainly. She was active in many political and social movements, and brought expression of those values to the meeting for discernment. She was a major influence on Putney Friends in the discernment of approval of same-sex marriages under the care of the meeting. She recalled with pride being arrested and briefly imprisoned with other Quakers in connection with a protest at the Seabrook Nuclear Power Station in New Hampshire in 1977. Her letters to newspapers, always handwritten, were pointed and often poetic in their impact. In these and other writings, she demonstrated a clarity of vision and expression.

Ann could be a very private person and could also live large. She proclaimed her lesbian identity with power, joy, pride, and grace. She was a generous and outspoken supporter of many feminist and LGBTQ causes. She was a hit in a 2006 production at Sandglass Theater in Putney, Vermont, titled *Gay and Grey*, featuring the reminiscences of older gay men and lesbians.

It can be said that Ann saw the Creator in creation, both in the act of creating her paintings, poetry, and prose writing, and in the natural world and its inhabitants that she was surrounded by in her mountaintop home.

She was predeceased by her brother, Samuel E. Stokes, and by sisters Sally Venerable and Lydia Willits. She is survived by two nephews and two nieces.

A memorial service is planned for Saturday, May 20, 2017, at 10:30 a.m., at The Putney School, 418 Houghton Brook Road, Putney, Vermont. Donations in her memory may be made to Welcome Hill Studios, Box 84, West Chesterfield, New Hampshire.

PUTNEY MONTHLY MEETING, APPROVED 19 FEBRUARY 2017

NORTHWEST QUARTERLY MEETING, APPROVED MARCH 5, 2017

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Ruth Whitson Stokes  
November 15, 1927 – February 16, 2015

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Ruth Whitson Stokes was born on November 15, 1927, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She was born into a Quaker family, the middle of three sisters. Her father, T. Barclay Whitson, came from an extended family who had been Quakers since the time of George Fox. Her mother, Elizabeth Pennell Whitson, was also a Quaker, although her parents had been churchgoers. Elizabeth was Welsh, and Ruth was very proud of her “half Welsh” blood.

Ruth grew up in Moylan, Pennsylvania, attending first Media Friends School near her home, and then Westtown School for the last three years of high school. She had a happy childhood, though it was marked by tragedy when her older sister, Margaret, who was attending Wellesley at the time, died in 1942 in the Coco-

nut Grove fire in Boston. The family was devastated by Margaret's death and Ruth remained especially close to Anna, her remaining sister, for the rest of Anna's life.

Ruth attended Wellesley College, where she majored in geography. The year before her graduation in 1949, she married Joseph Stokes III (Joe), a medical student in his final year at Harvard Medical School. Their parents, who were lifelong friends, had somehow arranged a meeting between the two, and Joe said "it was love at first sight." An excellent student, Ruth managed to take her final exams just before the birth of her first child, Peter. A few weeks after his birth, she walked with her graduating class carrying Peter, who was wearing a tiny cap and gown Ruth's classmates had made for him.

After marriage the family moved, first to Baltimore, Maryland, where Joe was an intern and resident, and then back to the Boston area, where Megan and Joseph Barclay were born. When Ruth was growing up her family had used plain language with one another and other Quakers. However, after Ruth and Joe's three children were born, they decided not to use plain language because they felt it excluded others who were not Quakers. Nevertheless, throughout their lives, Ruth and her sister Anna always said "thee" to one another.

In 1953 Ruth transferred her membership to Friends Meeting at Cambridge (FMC), where she served as the clerk of the Pope Fund for many years. Joe and Ruth were also among the founders of Wellesley Friends Meeting, and Ruth was one of a handful of intrepid visionaries who were instrumental in founding Cambridge Friends School (CFS) in 1961.

The family moved to Hawaii for two years in 1961, in connection with Joe's research on a heart study conducted with Hawaiian and Japanese men. Ruth had intended to work at CFS since its beginning, but the move to Hawaii had prevented the fulfillment of that leading. When they returned to the mainland in 1963, Joe accepted a position at the University of California, which would have delayed still further Ruth's desire to work at CFS. Partly as a consequence of these differences, the couple divorced in 1963 and Ruth moved to Cambridge with the three children.

For a half century, in many roles, Ruth nurtured the CFS community and stewarded its resources so as to ensure that the school would thrive spiritually and financially. She served the school and its children as a founder, parent, Head of Admissions, Assistant Head of School, Trustee, Clerk of the Board of Trustees, and more. She was a much-loved member of the staff, and one colleague said of her, "I will always remember Ruth for her ability to focus on each individual in the moment, and allowing that person's Light to shine a bit brighter." A former CFS student remembers Ruth as "the embodiment of what the school strove for: to challenge each student to grow that which was unique and wonderful in each of them and then to reach out and recognize and challenge others similarly."

Most wonderfully, Ruth and Joe were reunited in 1979 and the period of their reuniting was a particularly happy one for both of them. After nine years of living together, they finally remarried in 1988 when Joe became terminally ill with cancer. They said that they felt that they were always married, thus there was no great need to get remarried, but they did and it was a joyous occasion.

At the age of 85, Ruth left Cambridge and moved to Kendal at Hanover, New Hampshire. She had many friends who had also moved to Kendal and she made wonderful new friends there as well. As had happened throughout her life, they became devoted to her. In late 2014, after she had been diagnosed with cancer, she spoke by phone with Peter Sommer, the head of Cambridge Friends School. Rather than dwelling on her illness, she asked him to tell her "what wonderful things are going on at my beloved CFS." She died on February 16, 2015. Her family had been with her the week before her death, and her daughter was with her at the end. "She was so brave," her daughter Megan said, "marching up to that last door, never complaining."

Ruth loved international travel and would travel the world to see her friends. People were extraordinarily loyal to her and she to them. She was interested in foods of different cultures and once taught an international cooking class at Cambridge Friends School. She treasured her friends as if they were family. A master at friendship, she was the kind of guest who everyone wants to host. It's rare to experience a person who is such a pure channel for joy and for connection. She was eternally curious, with a great sense of humor and warmth of spirit, always seeing the good in people, and especially gifted at giving enthusiastic moral support to the young.

A final vignette of Ruth and the influence she radiated comes from a conversation between Peter Sommer, Andy Towl, and Ruth over dinner at Ruth's house. At the close of the evening Ruth leaned over to Peter and said, "Please drive Andy home. He'll want to walk and he's more stubborn than I am. Tell him that you're only giving him a ride as a favor to Ruth." As Peter walked him to the car, Andy said, "Well, if Ruth insists! I would do anything for her." Many of Ruth's friends would echo that sentiment.

In addition to her children (Peter, Megan, and Joseph Barclay), Ruth leaves a stepson from Joe's second marriage, Jay Stokes and his family; four grandchildren, Hannah and Adam Holt, Emlyn Stokes, and Gwyneth Stokes Riebl, and two great grandchildren, Kira and Jonah Riebl.

FRIENDS MEETING AT CAMBRIDGE, APPROVED NOVEMBER 9, 2015

SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING, APPROVED APRIL 23, 2017

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**Eunice Estes Strobel**  
November 11, 1917 – May 4, 2017

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Eunice Estes Strobel was truly the heart of Smithfield Friends Meeting. She lived an inspirational Quaker life, connecting us to our inner spiritual selves and to the wider world with gentle leading and quiet example. A wonderful minister of the Word, Eunice was a woman of faith, and I Corinthians 13 was her constant guide: "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."

Eunice guided us with humility and showed us what it meant to be Quaker. She exemplified eldering at its best. She always eldered in private, with patience that was meant not to embarrass, but to build people up instead of tear them down. She understood the need to take time and breathe, to let a leading mature and be nurtured by the community. She was modest and unassuming, and when she spoke we all needed to listen. She was slow to anger, embraced the positive, and had admirable self-discipline. She cared deeply about others and was always very encouraging, but it often took considerable nudging to get Eunice to say something positive about herself.

She taught us Quaker process and that worship begins when the first person sits. She always helped center the meeting. Eunice preferred unprogrammed worship, but was flexible and open at our programmed meetings. She encouraged us to be part of the Quarterly and Yearly Meeting, guiding us to be part of something larger than ourselves. Eunice herself was very active in New England Yearly Meeting, serving on Nominating and Friends United Meeting committees, and as an adult leader in Junior Yearly Meeting.

Despite her humility, Eunice had strength in her convictions. Her beliefs were strongly held, and she was always willing to grow and change. Eunice could "speak truth to power," but her disagreements were always respectful. When she thought someone needed to change or do something different, she would guide them with love. She was naturally welcoming to all people and used her "radical hospitality" to be sure others were comfortable and being heard. She was our unofficial greeter, making sure everyone who connected with our meeting was welcomed and felt comfortable, whether they were a new pastor or a visitor from the community.

When she was born in November 1917, Eunice already had strong Quaker roots. Her parents, Joseph and Hattie Estes, were members of Swansea Monthly Meeting, and her grandmother had served as clerk of that meeting. When her family, which later included her brother Earl, moved to Woonsocket, they began attending Smithfield Meeting. Eunice attended the Lincoln School, a Quaker boarding school for girls.

While she lived at the Lincoln School she attended Providence Monthly Meeting. Eunice and her family also attended Yearly Meeting. After high school, Eunice began studies at Pembroke College, the women's college at Brown University. She majored in economics and lived at home, taking several buses to get to and from Providence each day.

After college Eunice began working, and met her husband Kenneth at a theater group. After their marriage, Ken also became a much-loved member of Smithfield Meeting. Eunice worked as a statistician until her son, Kenneth, was born. She stayed at home with her son until he was four, when she returned to school to receive a Master's degree in Education. She started teaching elementary school in Burrillville and went on to teach for 24 years until her retirement at age 65. And even in retirement, she continued to substitute and volunteer for ten years.

Eunice was active in Ladies Aid, which functioned as a fundraising organization for the meeting. She began the Smithfield Mother's Day tradition of bringing carnations to meeting, inspiring us to honor all the women who have impacted our lives. In fact, on this Mother's Day, just days after Eunice passed, every woman who attended meeting brought carnations to honor her.

Eunice has served Smithfield Meeting in many official and unofficial ways. She was assistant clerk (now called recording clerk), and then served as clerk in the 1980s. She served on the Christian Education Committee and taught First Day School. She was active in the Pulpit Supply Committee, persuading seminary students from other religions to join us to preach. She also served on the Finance Committee and on Ministry



and Council Committee. With her background, it was natural that Eunice cared deeply about the meeting's finances. She felt great pride when Smithfield secured a grant to refresh the meetinghouse exterior, not just because the building would look nice, but because she was frugal, too.

At 79, Eunice was led to give her time and effort to an isolated Native American community, the MOWA band of the Choctaw nation in Alabama. Joyce Hollingsworth of the MOWA Choctaw Friends Center said that Eunice was a "wonderful example to us as she continues to serve God. Her work and activities here were only overshadowed by her witness of love and compassion for all she came in contact with."

Eunice loved to joke and share time talking with people. A Red Sox super-fan, the only time Eunice could not talk was during a game. She was a voracious reader and kept a little black book with a list of everything she read. She loved mysteries and enjoyed sudoku. She loved the apartment her family built for her to keep her close, and wanted nothing more at the end of her life than to return there.

Eunice passed away on May 4, 2016, at 98 years of age. She leaves her beloved son and daughter-in-law, Ken and Cindy, her grandson Kenneth, her granddaughter Cathryn and her husband Adam, and her great grandchildren Leah and Lucas. Eunice also leaves her niece Lea Sutton and nephew James Estes. She will be deeply missed by her family and many friends, and especially by all of us at Smithfield Monthly Meeting of Friends. This inspirational woman of faith and spirituality touched our lives.

*And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. (I Corinthians 13:13)*

SMITHFIELD MONTHLY MEETING, APPROVED 25 SEPTEMBER 2016

RHODE ISLAND-SMITHFIELD QUARTERLY MEETING, APPROVED 16 OCTOBER 2016

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**William Boyce Upholt**  
September 14, 1943 – July 30, 2016

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Bill Upholt was a quiet, always thoughtful, and much-respected member of Hartford Monthly Meeting who made a difference in the world through his Quaker faith; his commitment to promoting improvement and change through a range of social causes and organizations, with a particular passion for the environment and earth sustainability; and through his research in biochemistry and his teaching. Bill initiated his professional knowledge and activities at Pomona College, from which he graduated in 1965 with a B.A. in chemistry, followed by a Ph.D. in chemistry from the California Institute of Technology in 1971. In 1975, after two post-doctoral fellowships at the University of Amsterdam and at the Carnegie Institution of Washington in Baltimore, Maryland, Bill took the position of Research Associate in the Department of Pediatrics and Biochemistry at the University of Chicago. In Chicago he met and in 1980 married Mary Lee Morrison. Bill and Mary Lee have two children, Gretchen Morrison Upholt of Brooklyn, New York, and Boyce Morrison Upholt of Cleveland, Mississippi.

In 1985 Bill and his family relocated to West Hartford, Connecticut, where he assumed a research position in Reconstructive Sciences in the School of Dental Medicine at the University of Connecticut Health Center. Over the years Bill was the recipient of many professional honors, and also held administrative and teaching duties at the Health Center, from which he retired as a Professor Emeritus a few years prior to his death.

Bill's spiritual home was with the Religious Society of Friends, which he served in many capacities at the monthly and quarterly meeting levels and with the New England Yearly Meeting of Friends. At his death, he was serving as clerk of Hartford Meeting. He was active with the Friends Committee on National Legislation, representing New England Yearly Meeting for a number of years, and most recently serving with Mary Lee as Visiting Friends for Friends Committee on National Legislation. He was also active for many years with New England and national Friends' organizations devoted to Earthcare Witness. Bill served New England Yearly Meeting as reading clerk of Sessions and on a number of committees: Internal Nominating, Personnel, Earthcare Ministry, Permanent Board, and Executive Council. He also served as clerk of the Sessions and Student Loan committees. In all of his work he was valued as diligent, careful, and thoughtful.

Many of Bill's volunteer activities involved organizations devoted to environmental justice and sustainability. These included the Inter-Religious Eco-justice Network and co-clerking the City of Hartford's Advisory Commission on the Environment (ACOTE). Bill's inspiration for this organization led to the ACOTE Environmental Summit and the Summit Report that continues to guide the work of the Commission. He helped to guide the planning of two citywide Earth Day events and served on the City's Clean Energy Task Force. His

passion for the environment led to his and Mary Lee's arrest at the White House in 2011 in Washington D.C., protesting the Keystone Pipeline.

And Bill loved to travel. He and Mary Lee traveled extensively with Gretchen and Boyce during their growing-up years, with Bill finding unusual and particularly out-of-the-way destinations. This spirit is reflected in his children's life journeys, with Gretchen's work as a Peace Corps volunteer in Ukraine and Boyce's as a mathematics teacher on an Indian Reservation. Bill and Mary Lee continued to travel both nationally and internationally after the children were grown, often combining visits with family and friends with attendance at peace and justice/peace education conferences. Bill also was an avid cyclist, including bicycling for many years to his work at the UConn Health Center. He and Mary Lee made several long-distance bike trips, both in the U.S. and Europe. And they hiked many trails together through the years.

The mindful way in which Bill and Mary Lee lived, ranging from their decision to move to Hartford to how they invested, the causes they supported, and how they used the resources of the earth, will remain an inspiration long into the future. Bill was a life-changing influence on many of the lives he touched. In the words of Wendell Berry, one of Bill's favorite writers,

*The soil is the source and destination of all. It is the healer and restorer and resurrector, by which disease passes into health, age into youth, death into life. Without proper care for it we can have no community, because without proper care for it we can have no life.*

HARTFORD MONTHLY MEETING, APPROVED 11 DECEMBER 2016

CONNECTICUT VALLEY QUARTERLY MEETING, APPROVED 5 FEBRUARY 2017

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Alexander Vanderburgh Jr.  
August 12, 1928 – November 2, 2014

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Our beloved member Alexander Vanderburgh Jr., 86, passed away peacefully on Sunday November 2, 2014, at the Loomis House in Holyoke, Massachusetts. Alex and Edie (his predeceased wife of 60 years) leave behind three loving children: daughter Ann S. Vanderburgh of Easthampton Massachusetts, daughter Faith V. Gately of Evanston, Illinois, and son Alexander Vanderburgh of Denver, Colorado, and two grandchildren, Cecil and Isaac.

Born in Brewster, New York, on August 12, 1928, Alex was the son of Dr. Alexander Vanderburgh and Mrs. Ruth Ferguson Vanderburgh. In his youth Alex attended the Choir School of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City and graduated from Brewster High School in 1945. Alex went on to graduate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1949. Working in the electrical engineering field at the beginning of the computer era, Alex was involved in Project Whirlwind, the first digital computer capable of displaying real-time text and video. Fascinated by math and physics, Alex was an avid reader of science and astronomy throughout his life.

In part because he became frustrated with working for large corporations, after a substantial career as an electrical engineer Alex undertook a second career as a professor at the Wentworth Institute in Boston Massachusetts and was a pioneer in "experiential learning" at the college level. He loved designing all kinds of gadgets to illustrate various principles of physics, and left behind an impressive collection of those teaching tools. In his early retirement years he continued teaching as a math and physics tutor at local schools.

Alex invariably dressed in a plain but formal manner at meeting and kept a very full and very well-groomed beard throughout his time as a Quaker. While we only occasionally teased him about it, his "look" reminded many of us of the archetypal Quaker men from picture-book histories of the 1800s.

A second thing we only rarely teased him about was the number of committees Alex served on and the extended years he served on many of them. He was a member of the Aging Committees of both New England Yearly Meeting (NEYM) and Friends Meeting at Cambridge (FMC) for more than 15 years. Committed to issues of community equity and social justice, he served on the Peace and Social Concerns Committee of FMC for more than 25 years and at NEYM he served on a similar committee for more than 10 years. He was an active and long-serving trustee of the New England Friends Home, Cambridge Friends School, and the Meeting School. Alex was also one of the principal organizers of FMC's annual Good Friday Vigil for 15-plus years. He served on too many other committees to name. Another very special contribution made by Alex was teaching First Day School at FMC for more than 20 years.

For five years, just before moving to western Massachusetts, Alex served as the clerk of Trustees at Friends Meeting at Cambridge. We remember that time as “well-ordered,” even though significant personnel issues and a very difficult property dispute with a neighbor and several physical plant emergencies occurred during that time. Alex was a reserved and quiet man, perhaps even a bit shy, but he was also a very capable and steady leader.

While we only occasionally teased him about it, Alex was also a handy guy with tools and he took to himself the very busy unpaid job of “FMC property handyman” during the time he was clerk of Trustees.

Throughout his years of service Alex was invariably quiet-spoken and clear when he did speak. None of us at Friends Meeting at Cambridge can remember any time when Alex acted in a manner that seemed self-serving or angry. We can remember the intentional welcoming he practiced with newcomers and the care he put into being kind to all of us, all of the time. We can remember numbers of times when Alex’s quietly stated conviction about something important led us to a better place.

Despite encroaching dementia in his last few years, Alex retained a great sense of humor, an upbeat, easygoing outlook, and an eternal curiosity about and love for the natural world. In his final years he was blessed with the loving and frequent presence of his daughter Ann and with caregivers who responded to his basic loving nature way beyond the call of duty. With their help, Alex was able to enjoy many fun-filled adventures in his final years. We are thankful for the gracious manner of passing he was given.

Alex Vanderburgh was a long-serving, faithful, and effective servant to Friends Meeting at Cambridge, to three different educational institutions, and to the Quaker community throughout New England. He was a well-loved father and husband. We will miss Alex deeply and remember him fondly and we celebrate his life as a wonderful example of a life well lived.

FRIENDS MEETING AT CAMBRIDGE, APPROVED OCTOBER 11, 2015

SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING, APPROVED APRIL 23, 2017

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John Clinton Watts  
February 15, 1949 – July 30, 2016

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John Watts, his wife Linda Patterson, and their two children, Henry (Andrew) and Grace Watterson, were active and much-loved participants in the life of Wellesley Friends Meeting from 1987 until 2012, when they moved to Fearington Village in Pittsboro, North Carolina.

John was born in Bridgeport, Texas, where he lived until he was three. He moved with his mother and sister to Denver, Colorado, until attending the University of California at Berkeley. The Vietnam War interrupted his education and he became a conscientious objector to the draft, doing his service at the University of Oklahoma Hospital. After a six-month bicycle trip from Minnesota to California, he moved to Boston, Massachusetts, where he completed his degree and met his wife, Linda. He joined the staff of Fidelity Investments, where he worked as a software engineer for over 27 years. There he was appreciated by both his superiors and his co-workers who, at his memorial, paid tribute to his mentorship as well as his steadiness, good humor, and friendship.

In the Boston area, John acted and sang with community theaters, and was pleased to play one of the leads in his favorite show, *The Fantasticks*. He was a serious stamp collector, keenly interested in science, history, politics and social justice. He and Linda took the lead in WFM’s participation in the annual Pride Day march in Boston. He also had an abiding love of cats.

At WFM he took on some of the most demanding volunteer jobs, including serving for many years as editor of the newsletter. He applied his computer expertise to creating an up-to-date database for the directory. He and Linda were loyal members of a small spiritual growth group.

After a job-related move to North Carolina, John and his family made several trips back to visit with friends and attend meeting for worship with us.

John retired from Fidelity in 2015 and was diagnosed with cancer about nine months later. When it became clear that he was not responding to treatment, he accepted his situation with courage and grace. With the loving support of Linda and his children, and help from hospice, he spent his last days at home, as he had wanted.

WELLESLEY MONTHLY MEETING, APPROVED DECEMBER 11, 2016

SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING, APPROVED APRIL 23, 2017

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Joan Wayne  
June 25, 1921 – September 7, 2016

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Joan Wayne, a cherished member of Wellesley Friends Meeting, passed away in September of 2016 at the age of 95. She entered our lives when she heard about Wellesley Friends Meeting (WFM) through a chance conversation struck up at a local restaurant. Pastoral care rides to her physicians soon became weekly trips to meeting. Though loyal to England, she ended up transferring her membership to WFM from Lewes Sussex Meeting in England in 2006.

Joan had innumerable qualities that endeared her to those in her life. She was always open to new experiences and people and carried with her an optimistic outlook on things. This optimism gave her an appealing youthful energy that everyone who knew her cherished. She also carried with her a lifelong concern for peace in the world, as a result of her experience in wartime England. She was an active member of the Peace and Social Concerns committee at WFM.

Of all the qualities that we remember about Joan, the most central to our experience with her was her love of her grandson, Ben. It motivated her to move to her daughter's home in Wayland from England, and defined her time in the United States. She often expressed her great love of her grandson through her gift of poetry (she was a published poet), as exemplified here:

*Life Revisited (1999)*

*Amid the crowds in the arrivals hall  
You stood with him enfolded in your arms  
My new-born grandson Ben, so soft and small  
While in my heart there sounded joyful psalms.*

*I marveled at the tiny hands and feet,  
The perfect nails, the petal-textured skin,  
And with a gentle kiss I bent to greet  
This miracle, this shining boy—my kin.*

*Through fifteen weeks I watched him grow, and soon  
He smiled. Huge eyes of deepest ocean blue  
Gazed into mine, and up at sky and clouds and moon.  
And hands reached out exploring toys—and faces too.*

*Through you dear child I see and know once more  
The world anew and wondrous as of yore.*

Joan's presence in our lives was a precious gift. We all carry with us our own wonderful memories of her and are blessed by her spirit.

WELLESLEY FRIENDS MEETING, APPROVED DECEMBER 11, 2016

SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING, APPROVED APRIL 23, 2017

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Beatrice "Bee" Wehmeyer  
January 8, 1921 – August 5, 2016

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Bee was a much-honored, much-loved member of our Quaker meeting and of New England Yearly Meeting, enriching both the meeting and surrounding communities in southern Maine with her wealth of experience and loving, supportive perspective.

Beatrice Smith was born in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1921. She attended Cornell University and graduated as a Registered Nurse with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing in 1942, one of the first RNs to graduate with a B.S. degree in Nursing in the country. She married Robert Wehmeyer that same year and she and Bob raised their three children, living in various places in New England as well as in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and Littleton, Colorado. She and Bob were active and involved in Quaker meetings through most of their married life, joining the Religious Society of Friends in 1951.

When Bee and Bob finally settled in Maine, they joined Portland Friends Meeting. There being no Quaker meeting in Maine south of Portland, in 1980 the Wehmeyers and John and Mary Woodman formed the Waterboro Worship Group closer to their homes. In 1982, the worship group was approved by Falmouth Quarterly Meeting as a full-fledged Friends meeting. John Woodman was the first presiding clerk, followed by Bee, who served as presiding clerk of Waterboro Friends Meeting for eleven years.

Bee was a vital, active Quaker. She spoke up clearly and fearlessly for the things she believed in, and was a strong advocate for peace initiatives, including nuclear non-proliferation/disarmament and civil rights, both in Maine and in the wider world. She was active within New England Yearly Meeting, especially in the Yearly Meeting's Peace and Social Concerns Committee, and in the United Society of Friends Women. She was also interested in the work of the Friends World Committee for Consultation, traveling to Guilford, North Carolina, and to Kenya for two FWCC triennials.

Beyond her Quaker involvements, Bee kept up her long-time interest in health and nursing activities. She always worked at least part-time as a nurse, both as a private-duty and as a hospice nurse, there being no hospice care in York County before that. She advocated for quality health care for the elderly and the poor, very conscious of the fact that there were too many people who couldn't drive the many miles into Portland or Augusta for adequate health care. She and Bob helped establish the Sacopee Valley Health Center and served on its board of directors, creating a crucial facility that continues to serve 20,000 people living in southwestern Maine today. Bee also served as a Rural Elderly Caseworker and as the volunteer coordinator for the Friendly Visitor Program, and served on the board of directors and committees for the Southern Maine Area Agency on Aging, as well as volunteering for the Ombudsman Program with the Maine Commission on Aging.

The memories of Bee from current members of the Meeting are best expressed in their own words.

Nancy Massanari: Bee was both a mentor and a dear friend. She helped me with clerking—first recording and later as presiding clerk of the meeting, sometimes by example and sometimes with actual answers to questions. I was amazed at the care with which she spoke to Bob, especially after his diagnosis of Alzheimer's and as his condition progressed. She always treated him with dignity and love, which is how she treated everyone.

Rick Kaye-Scheiss: I just cut back the Dutchman's Pipe vines that Bee gave to Pat and me (30 years ago?). This always reminds me of her. As Bob and Bee gave a cutting to us from their farm in Kezar Falls, she said, "Take as much as you want if you dare!" It thrives and has now taken over our deck railings and down along the backyard fence reaching toward the marsh. I also remember when Philip Berrigan was in jail here in Maine for standing up to the warmongers at the beginning of the First Gulf War. Bee said, "The wrong ones are in jail again."

Dee Meggison: Bee was a true "friend" in every way. My parents, John and Mary Woodman, enjoyed her support, cooperation, and friendship during the early years of the meeting. Dave and I always admired Bee's energy, varied interests, and quiet ways of responding to concerns. She was a true "elder" of the meeting, always open to helping or counseling anyone in need. She was also willing to lighten anyone's cares with tales of her adventures both here and abroad with her husband, Bob, who was always the source of a good story and took such delight in telling them! We miss them both!

Deb Georgitis: If you are lucky, very lucky in life, you will know a person who becomes your mentor. Bee Wehmeyer was that person to me. Serving as recording clerk throughout the years she was clerk of Waterboro Friends Meeting, I came to know and appreciate her involvement in the Quaker world. She told me of her travels with FWCC, the last being to Kenya with her husband, Bob. At not quite 5 feet in height, she spoke with admiration of those strong African women balancing water urns and food baskets on their heads, towering above her. She and Bob immersed themselves in a culture so very different from their quiet Maine home and returned home to share their experiences with members of the meeting as well as others in their community.

Bee taught me about Quaker speech, using First Day, Second Month, and so forth on all minutes and correspondence. She extolled the simplistic life and found solace in the natural world. I can recall when she stated she had taken her last backpacking trip into the mountains with friends—she was 66 years old!

The later years of Bee's life were spent in caregiving for her beloved husband. She placed him in permanent Alzheimer's care a few weeks after I lost my 15-year-old son, and we mourned our tremendous losses together.

Bee entered a senior care center near Portland after Bob died. She transferred her membership back to the Portland Friends Meeting, although she was no longer able to be as involved in meeting activities as she had been with the Waterboro Friends Meeting.

She also surrendered her driver's license at the same time, telling me she didn't want her sons to have to make those decisions for her. However, selling her car, a Honda Civic, was difficult for her, as she had purchased it herself and had taken meticulous care of it over the years. I decided to buy it from her and drove it in good weather for four years, finally donating it to NPR. Several months later, I saw the car in a parking lot and spoke to the young man who now owned it. He said the car had changed his life, as he could now drive to the methadone clinic in Portland instead of relying on others for transportation. I'm sure Bee was smiling as she learned of the car's newest owner.

Bee embraced every day with an openness to whatever it would bring. She gave of herself whenever she could and, when she needed assistance, she was not afraid to ask of those around her. She was an inspiration to the very end of her life and I am proud to remember her as a true friend.

SOUTHERN MAINE FRIENDS MEETING, APPROVED 2 APRIL 2017

FALMOUTH QUARTERLY MEETING, APPROVED 6 MAY 2017

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Sally Wriggins  
1922 – November 10, 2014

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We at Hanover Monthly Meeting knew Sally Hovey Wriggins and Howard Wriggins in their later years, after they'd moved to Kendal in January of 1996. We shared then in Sally Wriggins' excitement upon the publication of a new edition of *Xuanzang: A Buddhist Pilgrim on the Silk Road*, a book she'd written in her late 50s. She continued writing and published a memoir, *Asia on My Mind* (AMM) in 2008. Sally lost her beloved Howard, who had been so worried about losing her to cancer, the same year. Despite her dementia she spoke of Howard every day until her death on November 10, 2014, at age 92.

Before we knew Sally, she'd raised their three children—Dinny Cundy, Chris Wiggins, and Jenny Wriggins—and orchestrated with grace the many moves required of a wife of a foreign service officer and academic. During this time she was busy networking and collecting information about Xuanzang, a Chinese monk who journeyed from China to India and back in the 600s in his pursuit of primary Buddhist texts. She exemplified the wisdom that “there's a time for every purpose” by her loving support of her husband and children when they needed her, while not forsaking her passion to write and be known as a writer. She says of herself when her youngest left for college, “I was free to pursue a career, and I did so.” (AMM, 75)

Sally's interest in Quakerism goes back to her days at Haverford College—the first female graduate under a special program—and her marriage into a Quaker family from Germantown. When she lived in the Washington, D.C. area, she helped in the founding of Sandy Spring School by writing articles for *Friends Journal* and was on the board of Sidwell Friends School when they chose Bob Smith as headmaster. She also helped found Bullshead Meeting in upstate New York. She became a member of Hanover Friends Meeting when she and Howard came to Kendal at Hanover.

At her memorial service, Sally's children spoke of her uncomplicated enthusiasm, her curiosity, and love of music and nature. They noted her persistence in completing the Xuanzang book without speaking Chinese or Hindi and in spite of early rejections and the editing required before its publication. In her memoir, written while she was at Kendal, she quoted a poem about the diminishments of old age that ended with the lines:

*“But leave, O leave, exempt from plunder,  
My sense of humor, curiosity and wonder.”* (AMM, 261)

Indeed, the twinkle in her eye, her pursuit of Xuanzang, and her love of nature attest to these values. Sally persisted, as well, in coming to our meeting regularly until she was bedridden. She lit up around people there with whom she shared an interest in Asia.

It was the natural world that nurtured Sally and her Quaker faith. She grew up hiking and camping in the shadow of Mount Rainier. In reading her memoir the mind's eye is drawn to her descriptions of the gardens she supervised in Sri Lanka. During her retirement, Sally spent many summers among her children, six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren at Little Cranberry Island in Maine.

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Her caregiver at Kendal spoke of Sally's love of nature: of how she would take walks and breathe in the smell of the trees and grass, watch the birds at her birdfeeder, get up at night and look out at the moon. Sally's whole life speaks to her love of nature and her belief in" the garden as a place of analogies; of seeds sprouting, plants growing and flowering, slowly dying and becoming part of the earth again." (AMM, 97)

HANOVER FRIENDS MEETING, APPROVED JANUARY 8, 2017

NORTHWEST QUARTERLY MEETING, APPROVED MARCH 5, 2017

## Approved Nominating Slate

Note: This is the Nominating Slate approved by Sessions. The completed slate of committees will be published in the 2018 Directory for New England Yearly Meeting, and any changes or additions since Sessions will appear then.

### Permanent Board (50)

#### 2018

Davies, Susan (Vassalboro)  
 Dickinson, Jeremiah (Wellesley)  
*Gant, Sarah, clerk* (Beacon Hill)  
 Kantt, Leanna (Fresh Pond)  
 McCandless, Jean (Burlington)  
 Steele, Rebecca (Portland)  
 Wienholtz, Don (Hartford)

#### 2019

Chase, Deana (Westport)  
 Gant, Christopher (Beacon Hill)  
 Harrington, Ian (Cambridge)  
 Walkauskas, William (New Haven)  
 Stone, Phillip (Worcester)

#### 2020

Belcher, Travis (Mon)  
 Guaraldi, Benjamin (Beacon Hill)  
 Hamman, Galen (Cambridge)  
 Jackson, Tom (Dover)  
 Radocchia, Anna (Lawrence)  
 Rein, Carole (North Shore)  
 Zimmermann, Rosemary (S. Starksboro)

#### 2021

Allen, Kimberly (Durham)  
 Leuchak, Rebecca (Providence)  
 McCandless, Christopher (Burlington)  
 Zwirner, May (Beacon Hill)

#### 2022

Drayton, Darcy (Weare)  
 Forsythe, Hannah (Beacon Hill)  
 Nortonsmith, Gina (Northampton)  
 Smith, Sara (Concord)  
 Szatkowski, Elizabeth (Portland)

### Archives and Historical Records (9)

#### 2018

McDaniel, Donna (Framingham)

#### 2019

Slator, Nancy (Mt Toby)  
 Cazden, Betsy (Providence)  
 Doyle, Tom (Mt Toby)

#### 2020

Crosby, Eileen (Mt Toby)  
*Forsythe, Carol, clerk* (Putney)  
 Quirk, Brian (Lawrence)

### Board of Managers of Investments & Permanent Funds (10)

#### 2018

Clark, Brian (Framingham)  
 Mair, Edward (Amesbury)

#### 2019

Pang, Andrew (Wellesley)  
 Tierney, Joe (Cambridge)

#### 2020

McKnight, Jeanne (Wellesley)  
 Spivey, Rowan (Brunswick)

#### 2021

Chicos, Roberta (Cambridge)  
 Spivey, Robb (Brunswick)

#### 2022

Hackman, Matthew (Providence)  
 Malin, Kathy (Smith), clerk



**Development (9)****2018**

Reuthe, John (Vassalboro)  
 Quoos, Thayer (New Haven)  
 Weinholtz, Donn (Hartford)

**2019**

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**2020**

Bennett, Dulany (Hanover)  
*Gant, Chris (Beacon Hill), clerk*

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**Earthcare Ministry (15)****2018**

Blanchard, Neil (Framingham)  
 Cox, Louis (Burlington)  
*MacKenzie, Rebecca (Quaker City), co-clerk*  
 Swennerfelt, Ruah (Burlington)  
 Zwirner, Rodman (Monadnock)

**2019**

*Bennett, Mary (Worcester), co-clerk*  
 Coehlo, Mary (Cambridge)  
 Haines, Christopher (Fresh Pond)  
 Klinkman, Paul (Providence)  
 Salmon, Shara (Belfast)  
 Warner, Ben (Cambridge)

**2020**

Holcombe, William (Sandwich)  
 Stoner, Kim (New Haven)

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**Faith and Practice Revision (16)**

Armstrong, Douglas (Amesbury)  
 Athearn, Marion (Westport)  
 Davies, Susan (Vassalboro)

Edmondson, Maggie (Winthrop)  
 Edwards, Eric (West Falmouth)  
 Godway, Eleanor (Hartford)

McCosker, Phebe (Hanover)  
 Reilly, Susan (Lewiston)

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**Finance (18)****2018**

Forsythe, Hannah (Beacon Hill)  
 Murray, Bob (Beacon Hill)  
 Neumann, Emily (Cambridge)  
 Savery, Carol (Hartford)  
 Stern, Roland (Wellesley)

**2019**

Sazama, Jerry (Storrs)

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**2020**

Cleven, Erik (Weare)  
 Gentile, Ralph (Law)  
 Sanchez-Eppler, Elias (Nham), clerk

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**Friends General Conference Committee (15)****2018**

Eppchez (Northampton)  
 Shelton, LVM (Plainfield)

**2019**

Rush, David (Cambridge)

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**Friends United Meeting Committee (12 Triennial Reps; 9 appointed)****Representatives to 2017 Triennial; Committee Term 2019**

Baker, Marian (Weare)  
 Haines, David (Wellesley)  
 Keefe-Perry, Kristina (Fresh Pond)

Haase, Ken (Beacon Hill)  
 Stillwell, Jackie\* (Monadnock)

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Vargo, Tom (Northampton)  
 Weiss, Fritz (Hanover)  
 Zimmerman, Rosemary (So. Starksboro)

**General Board Representatives (3)**

Jennings-Hess, Will (Beacon Hill)

Martin, Frederick (Cambridge)

Keefe-Perry, Kristina (Fresh Pond)

**Friends World Committee for Consultation–New England (12)****2018**

Goldberger, Judy, *co-clerk* (Beacon Hill)  
 Green, Katie (Worcester)  
 Humphries, Debbie (Hartford)  
 Jorgenson, Christel (Cambridge)

**2019**

Leuchak, Rebecca (Providence)  
 Weaver, Hal (Wellesley)

**2020****Legacy Gift (9)****2018**

Mair, Ed (Amesbury)

**2019**

Bowman, Jennifer (Mt Toby)  
 Jensen, Craig (Monadnock)  
 Wilson, Morgan (Framingham)

**2020**

Schell, Suzanna (Beacon Hill), *co-clerk*  
 McCandless, Jean (Burl), *co-clerk*  
 Susan Rockwood (Midcoast)

**Ministry and Counsel At-Large (12)****2018**

Brokaw, Fran (Hanover)  
 Clement, Daphne (Durham)  
 Randall, Allison (Keene)  
 Sazama, Gerald (Storrs)

**2019**

Olsen, Kathy (Sandwich)  
 Parkes, Cornelia (Cambridge)  
 Spencer, Sarah (Beacon Hill)  
 Williams, Carl (Plainfield)

**2020**

Woodrow, Honor (Framingham), *clerk*

**Publications and Communications (9)****2018****2019**

Barker, Mark, *clerk* (Concord)  
 Jackson, Tom (Dover)

**2020****Puente de Amigos (9)****2018**

Adams, Abigail (Storrs)  
 Lopez, Felice (Framingham)  
 Smith, Jennifer (Concord)

**2019**

Cadwallader, Len (Hanover), *co-clerk*  
 Cadwallader, Mary Ann (Hanover), *co-clerk*  
 Fogarty, Margaret (Dover)

**2020**

Kinsky, Deena (Mattapoisett)  
 McManamy, Martha (Amesbury)  
 Turcotte, Ron (Durham)

**Racial, Social and Economic Justice (12)****2018**

Carey-Harper, Rachel (Barnstable)  
 Shoop, Nur, *co-clerk* (Dover)  
 Varner, James (Orono)

**2019**

Dicranian, Diane (Winthrop Ctr)  
 Walton, Sarah (Vassalboro)

**2020****Sessions Committee (Nominating appointments)****2018****2019**

Manning, Leslie (Durham), *clerk*  
 Rein, Carole (North Shore)  
 Schwope, Martha (Wellesley)  
 Vargo, Susan (Northampton)

**2020**

Haines, Christopher (Fresh Pond)

**Youth Ministries (9)****2018**

Stone, Carolyn (Well)  
 Woodrow, Honor (FR)

**2019**

Lippincott, Doug (Framingham)  
*Sanchez-Eppler, Karen (Northampton), clerk*

**2020****Representatives to Other Friends Organizations****American Friends Service Committee Corp (5)****2018**

Bennett, Dulany (Hanover)

**2019**

Nash, Anne (Wellesley)

**2020**

Rhodewalt, Scott

**Friends Committee on National Legislation (6)****2018**

Harrington, Ian (Cambridge)

**2019**

Schultz, Bob (Hanover)

**2020**

Cazden, Betsy (Providence)  
 Whinfield, Steve (New Haven)

**Friends Peace Teams Project (1)**

Shippen, Nancy (Fresh Pond)

**Quaker Earthcare Witness (1)**

Haines, Christopher (Fresh Pond)

**William Penn House (1)**

Jennings-Hess, Will (Beacon Hill)

## Epistles

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### General Epistle of New England Yearly Meeting

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*“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to discern what God’s will is—his good, pleasing, and perfect will.” —Romans 12:2*

#### **Dear Friends everywhere,**

We who gathered for the 357th Sessions of New England Yearly Meeting at Castleton, Vermont, August 5–10, 2017, have joyful news to share with you, of ways the Spirit has been moving among us and of possibilities for personal and social transformation that were opened to us this week.

Many of us arrived at Sessions burdened by grief, fear, and worry about the multiple crises that are threatening the world, and we were happy to find that this year’s theme, “Living into Transformation,” spoke to our troubled condition. Through our plenary session and Bible Half-Hours, workshops, interest groups, and other programs, we were helped to understand more clearly why the promised coming of God’s blessed community of peace and justice on Earth calls for nothing less than a radical makeover of our racist, classist, economically unjust, and violence-driven culture.

Although the ethnic, racial, and economic diversity among New England Friends is not as great as in many other yearly meetings, we are still a microcosm of the larger culture, and we struggle with many of the same internal tensions and conflicts that can hinder the Spirit from acting through us. Many of us come from privileged backgrounds of which we are largely unconscious, making it difficult to see how others among us are being harmed by the workings of the same dominant culture that benefits us.

Transformation of the dominant culture thus requires embarking on our personal transformation and learning to continually question our basic assumptions, imagine new possibilities, and model new values. But the renewal of our minds means more than being inspired by messages that people presented to us at Yearly Meeting, which may leave us sitting on the fence, unable or unwilling to commit ourselves to action because we have not yet undergone the necessary inward transformation.

There are many barriers to transformation—feelings of despair and helplessness, social pressures, unwillingness to venture outside of our comfort zones, and plain old middle-class comfort—that need to be overcome. This can occur only when we allow the Spirit to break open our hearts, illuminate our shortcomings, and galvanize us into life-changing action.

Our good news is that we have in fact witnessed many instances of such movement of the Spirit within our Yearly Meeting over the past year, all emerging from deep waiting worship and corporate discernment of God’s will. Some Friends felt the Spirit leading them to put their bodies on the line in radical climate action. Some moved ahead with key decisions relating to peace, economic justice, and ecological integrity that had been under corporate discernment for years, waiting for unity and clarity among Friends coming from very different points of view. Way has opened for others to significantly realign organizational structures and policies with the Yearly Meeting’s mission as it is currently understood.

Movement of the spirit within our Yearly Meeting also has been seen in recent gains in attendance, improvements in our financial health, the emergence of dedicated leadership, and the development of programs that reach out to and nurture our monthly meetings. Spiritual discernment has been evident when in many discussions the primary question was not whether the Yearly Meeting could afford to take a certain step but whether in the Light of the Spirit it was the right thing to do.

Our Bible Half-Hour speaker, Marty Grundy, noted the parallel between the transformation we have seen within our Yearly Meeting and the process of healing and reconciliation followed in 12-step recovery programs. After admitting our utter helplessness and turning our will over to a higher power, we form or seek out supportive communities in which more experienced seekers illuminate the path ahead and provide a steady hand to those who falter.

We are most afraid of being known for what we are. Letting go of that fear allows our hearts to be broken open, for alienation to be healed, for damaged relationships to be restored, for conventional notions to be displaced by divine wisdom, and for our convictions to be translated into action.

Finding strength in our common humanity was the essential aim of the early Jesus movement. The vision of Jesus challenged prevailing social rules based on control, domination, and competition that resulted in

great inequality and injustice. It offered new models for relationships based on sharing and cooperation. This was the vision that animated the social witness of early Friends, which in turn inspired many of the social and economic experiments of the past three centuries.

Our plenary speaker, Ruby Sales, focused on one of today's most serious barriers to a just and peaceful society—the persistence of white supremacy, a spiritual malformation that evolved from old social structures, empires determined to maintain their power, wealth, and dominance. It has encouraged privileged whites to stay in a womb-like ignorance, where they maintain the illusion of safety and comfort while racial tensions continue to worsen. Both oppressors and oppressed are indoctrinated with the false belief that these patterns and structures are natural, inevitable, and unalterable. There is little hope for changing the system of domination directly, given the tools that the powers have at their disposal. Thus we begin the great transformation from within.

Climate change is another crisis, also rooted in spiritual malformation, that resists anything more than token regulation because of its deep roots in empire and the culture of dominance over people and planet. However, possibilities for change may be greatest when the Empire seems strongest, yet fatally weakened by internal contradictions and disconnection from reality.

There are no shortcuts to healing and redemption. One Friend at this year's Sessions, Xinef Afriam, offered this thought-provoking parable: he compared the struggle for personal and societal transformation to the radical changes that take place when a caterpillar becomes a butterfly. A major crisis occurs whenever any organism reaches the point where it cannot continue in its present state; it must either transform into something else or collapse and die. The caterpillar's structure dissolves inside its chrysalis, but some "imaginal" cells remain. They pass on a kind of blueprint for a new structure and orchestrate its miraculous unfolding.

Friends are called to be the imaginal cells in a similar process of social metamorphosis, as the present social order is becoming increasingly unstable and self-destructive. We carry a vision to the world of other possibilities for the future than those of collapse and death. We bring hope to the millions of people rejecting the idolatries and absurdities of empire and yearning for new ways of living together based on mutual caring and sharing.

It is in this sense that, in a quote shared by one Friend, "Imagination is sometimes more real than reality, and reality is less real than it seems." Transformation can be both messy and threatening, and only our love for the Light of Truth can take us past the point of feeling, as another Friend put it frankly, "I want to be transformed, but I don't want to change."

Many of us were blessed by experiences of life-giving personal and community transformation. We embark on the renewing of our minds and return to our home meetings and communities with lighter hearts, better prepared to engage the powers with a greater sense of urgency and hope.

In the Light,

New England Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

FRITZ WEISS, PRESIDING CLERK

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### Young Friends Epistle

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#### **Dear Friends Everywhere,**

44 Young Friends, high-school aged, gathered for the New England Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions from August 5–10, 2017, at Castleton University to build community and explore our faith and practice of Quakerism, who we are as a group, and where we stand in the wider Yearly Meeting. We kicked off the week with a name game where Friends went around in a circle and shared their favorite invisible thing. As the week progressed we continued to explore invisible ideas such as transformation, white supremacy, inclusion, grief, and joy.

Friends gathered at the opening worship under a breezy outdoor pavilion and listened to, among other speakers, a beloved Resource Person (RP), Xinef Afriam, as he shared a story of transition, fear, and resilience with a metaphor about the caterpillar's transition to a butterfly. Like the imaginal cells which hold the blueprints for the butterfly but are perceived as threats and are defeated until they are strong and many enough, friends felt reminded that we hold the blueprints for the future we want, though we will face challenges in our effort to make them real.

Plenary speaker Ruby Sales visited Friends to inform us of how systemic racism denies people of color many of their basic needs. She shared her own experiences, describing white supremacy as a “spiritual malformation,” and explained how many of the terms used by the populace make it difficult to see these problems that plague society. Ruby also urged us to focus on rebuilding the system, instead of denouncing easily accused targets. Reactions were mixed. Friends reported feeling empowered, frustrated, angry, sad, comforted, enlightened, hopeful, helpless, and inspired. Later, Friends were invited to a smaller follow-up session to discuss these topics further.

We enjoyed multiple programs shared with the young adult Friends (YAFs, aged 18–35) exploring the theme of transformation. The first revolved around transformation in community. An especially effective forum we used to discuss was the “Angel of Curiosity.” Groups of three were formed, one member acting as speaker sharing frustrations with barriers they faced in the context of their community, another as listener, and the third as the Angel. The role of the Angel was to be a deep listener who helped us arrive more completely at our full truth by asking open-ended questions and being curious. The second program was centered around systemic transformation led by some Friends Committee for National Legislation (FCNL) staff. Participants were asked to think about how their Quaker experiences can aid them in activism and work outside of the Yearly Meeting. Another program examined the ways in which the Quaker community does not always model the inclusion that we seek and we explored what true inclusion would look like. The guest speaker, Emily Provance, helped us to think specifically about the ways Quaker communities can sometimes wedge divides between old and young groups making Yearly Meeting feel less accessible to people because of their age. Our shared workshops with YAFs were a good model seeking the goal of inclusion, in addition to being relevant to our continuous conversation about transformation, as many graduating friends begin to think about Quaker communities past high school.

In another program, led by RP Hel Staab, we explored transformation in both personal and social settings. Young Friends drew images or words of their grief, or what they wanted their grief to turn into, onto puzzle pieces and then combined their pieces to create four completely different wholes. The theme stood out in this activity as many drew images of their grief transformed.

Young Friends visited the adult business meeting for discussion on white supremacy, and the meeting’s past decision to make a significant attempt to eliminate white supremacist systems. Young Friends Resource Person Xinef Afriam discussed his own experience with joining the Yearly Meeting. He then provided an analogy which described the system of the Yearly Meeting as a container which was primarily capable of holding white Friends. He continued, explaining our need to replace this outdated container with one which can hold all people equally. Later in the week, many Young Friends and YAFs reconvened to continue the conversation, making plans to spark conversations and initiate specific action at their monthly meetings and bring these to the Yearly Meeting. These younger groups felt hopeful and focused in their mission to pull their weight in our larger community’s effort to address internalized racism.

Just as reflection is central to our practice, so too is rejoicing. Throughout the week, Young Friends participated in many activities such as Capture the Flag, a lake trip, singing, an intergenerational contradance, screen printing, glitter-globe creating, and other various shenanigans. As has happened in most Annual Sessions, Young Friends also became immersed in our own Quaker processes. During our business meetings, some friends on the “Theme Team” shared their current plans regarding the themes for our retreats during the school year, Nom Com (Nominating Committee) shared their pending slate for the next year’s M&C (Ministry and Council), and the group discussed how we want our community to be and exist.

A community’s strength can become clear through trial. After two central commitments of our program were broken, our community has been called to reflect on what it means to set boundaries and stick by them in terms of our commitment to each other, youth relationships with adults, and our place in the wider community. There was a wide range of responses. Some folks were vocal in calling for change and other voices expressed the importance of our commitments and the safety of the community. We began to discern what shouldering accountability might look like when treasured members of our community overstep our shared boundaries. Many Friends saw this moment as an opportunity for growth and reflection on how we ask for accountability or look for restoration and rebuilding of trust. Friends agreed that our love for each other must be the core of any decisions we make moving forward. Young Friends emerged from another business meeting with a strong commitment to further explore the shape of the community and its forms of leadership through a reimagined M&C retreat.

We parted feeling tired, but hopeful for our future as a community. We will continue to hold each other with love and care as our community transforms. Just as the Yearly Meeting is seeking to become a container

that can better hold everyone, Young Friends are also committed to improving our container with love and compassion for each other.

With Love,

YOUNG FRIENDS OF NEW ENGLAND YEARLY MEETING

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### Junior High Yearly Meeting Epistle

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#### **Dear Friends around the world,**

We are the Junior High Yearly Meeting of New England Yearly Meeting gathered at Castleton University in Castleton, VT, from August 5–10 2017.

Our theme this year was Living into Transformation. Opening worship featured a story about a caterpillar changing into a butterfly. The speaker talked about how the caterpillar's resistance to change was similar to society's resistance to change. Later, Noah Merrill talked to us about a personal experience that led him to a spiritual transformation and how we may use events in our lives to accept spiritual transformation. Afterward, we took time to share our own experiences with spiritual transformation. We were able to take these stories to a deeper level in our small groups by answering queries. We also listened to individual stories from a panel of four Friends about spiritual leadings, which then sparked many more conversations within our small groups. On Tuesday, a former JHYM staffer named Eppchez came and presented us with a one-person show about environmental issues. Over the course of the week we in JHYM were invited to explore transformation in many different ways.

We had very full week and were offered different activities to grow our community. Members of JHYM got acquainted and reacquainted with each other with ice-breaker games like "The Big Wind Blows" and "That's Me." We were offered other activities like Capture the Flag, painting "Affirmation Rocks," and a pool party. The Affirmation Rocks we painted had compliments on them and were hidden around the campus for other people to find. On Tuesday, JHYM went to our annual trip to Bomoseen State Park where we held our traditional regatta, a competition where we make and race rafts. We used watercolor to meditate on the obstacles in our lives. Sadly, the 8th graders were sent off with our annual 8<sup>th</sup>-grade circle; they will start Young Friends next year. As acts and audience, JHYM members participated in Coffee House, our showcase of NEYM individuality. Painting tee-shirts was an enjoyable way to wrap up the week and say goodbye to new and dear Friends.

We are sad that NEYM is over for the 2017 year and we cannot wait for next year's new 6th graders.

Thank you,

EVERYONE IN THE JHYM COMMUNITY

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### Junior Yearly Meeting (5–6) Epistle

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#### **Greetings to Friends Everywhere,**

Fifteen fifth and sixth graders met from August 5–10 at Castleton University in Castleton, Vermont, USA as part of the New England Yearly Meeting of Friends.

We enjoyed lots of things at Castleton University: riding bikes, using scooters in the skate park, swimming in the pool, going to Yearly Meeting Children's Bookstore and, best of all, the soft-serve ice-cream machine.

We shared some activities with adults and kids from different groups. These activities included intergenerational worship, playing Capture the Flag, contra dancing, drumming and going to Coffeehouse. Coffeehouse is like a pot-luck variety show with snacks.

At intergenerational worship we heard about our theme of Transformation and sang songs like "We are rising up like a phoenix from the fire."

In Junior Yearly Meeting, we continued the theme of transformation as we tie-dyed and decorated white tee shirts. Some of the purple came out and colored all the shirts, so you could see how we are connected even though we are all different.

We also transformed raw grains and beans into beautiful mandala and made ice cream from coconut milk. We worked in pairs to build bridges out of paper and tape.

Friends who had travelled to Cuba told us about it and taught us songs in Spanish. It made some of us want to go to Cuba and meet Friends there.

We did some quieter activities like small group check-ins, drawing what we felt in our bodies, vespers and clay meditation. We liked singing with all the grade groups and being with friends during free time and afternoon choices.

Even though we are all different, we all experienced being part of a loving and accepting community.

In love and light,

YOUR FRIENDS FROM THE JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING OF NEW ENGLAND YEARLY MEETING, 5TH AND 6TH GRADE GROUP.

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### Junior Yearly Meeting (2, 3 and 4)

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#### ***Dear Friends,***

We are New England Yearly Meeting second, third, and fourth graders gathered at Castleton State University in Vermont August 5th through 10th, 2017. There are 21 of us. Our theme is transformation. We did many activities around our theme. We transformed milk, sugar, and many more ingredients into delicious ice cream. We transformed beans, rice, and lentils into mandala art. We transformed pipe cleaners into sculptures that describe ourselves. We listed transformations we know about, like trees into houses. We transformed yarn into a giant web, and it looked like a spider web. We transformed our handprints into a beautiful mural. We transformed kids into words! We made the words Peace on Earth. We did many sports like capture the flag, kickball, and JYM ball. By the end of the week, our group had transformed into a community of friends.

Peace from New England Yearly Meeting,

THE SECOND, THIRD, AND FOURTH GRADE JYM GROUP

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### Junior Yearly Meeting (K-1)

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#### ***Dear Friends everywhere,***

Hello! There were nine of us that gathered this week as the Kindergarten/First Grade group of New England Yearly Meeting. We are wondering if you are having a good time at your yearly meetings.

We've been finding and painting rocks, making new friends and singing songs. We made puzzle people that can fit together. We have fun toys like Connects and some sports toys and gear. We made play-dough creations and let them dry. Some of us caught frogs in puddles in the evenings and saw them around campus while others played with toy owls.

Sometimes we played charades or hopscotch. We even drew a map of the town on the sidewalk for our matchbox cars (twice, because it rained!). We gathered objects in the woods on a scavenger hunt and transformed them into a fairy house and beautiful painted rocks for people to keep.

In the light,

JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING KINDERGARTEN & FIRST GRADE GROUP, NEW ENGLAND YEARLY MEETING

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### Childcare Epistle

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The youngest Friends of New England Yearly Meeting had a wonderful time at this year's Sessions. Living into Transformation is a theme that is present in every moment of children. The Childcare staff were initially met with the challenge of transforming a college suite into a safe and nurturing childcare environment. Children's light and joy filled the rooms throughout the week. Every emotion was present—some of them had never been in daycare or preschool before. Fear and doubt became laughter and new friends. The babies and toddlers enjoyed transforming towers into a crash of blocks on the ground; diapers were changed again and again; children enjoyed creating butterflies and paper airplanes, turning soap into bubbles, combining water, borax, and glue to make slime; and alternating a play structure between a train and a firetruck. To the delight and slight discomfort of the children we observed three frogs living in a puddle next to our outside play space. The song *Old Shoes, New Shoes* was introduced as a way to become familiar with our friend's names and their shoes, and quickly became a favorite. Thank you to all of the support we received from NEYM staff, Castleton staff, and from the families.



In light, Sincerely,

THE CHILDREN OF CHILDCARE, NEW ENGLAND YEARLY MEETING

### Epístola de Los Amigos Cuáqueros en Cuba

Gibara 19 de febrero del 2017

#### **Hermanas y hermanos unidos en la vida suprema:**

La Junta Anual de los Amigos (Cuáqueros) en Cuba, reúne a sus representantes en el año 90 de su celebración, con la mirada puesta en el mensaje del Señor:

La cosecha es abundante y los trabajadores pocos: por eso, rueguen al dueño que mande trabajadores a su cosecha. ¡En marcha! Lucas 10:2

Es bueno decirles que los tiempos en nuestra asamblea se han realizado en sesiones de orden y regulación de los asuntos dirigidos al servicio del señor. En la adoración, los integrantes, recibimos instrucción y mensajes que nos llaman a orientar a testificar con pasión y entrega a la obra del Señor.

Estas ideas se fundamentan en retomar el sacerdocio universal de los primeros cuáqueros, ¡Id a cualquier lugar y llevar la gloria del altísimo a las naciones!

Aun con nuestras diferencias, el Poder eterno de Dios obra, así sentimos de manera asombrosa, cómo escuchamos la voz, muchos integrantes de nuestra asamblea responden ¡HEME AQUÍ!

Escuchamos nombres: Moisés, Samuel, Pablo, Pedro, los discípulos de Jesús importantes, si, pero... ¿qué puedes decir tú?

Vivimos tiempos en que el planeta Tierra se debilita, todos estamos en esta superficie, unos al norte, otros al sur, pero somos la especie humana creada, crecida y transformada por el amor del Padre de todos. Desde nuestras comunidades, busquemos la bendita presencia, sólo esta podrá conducirnos a responder a las necesidades que padecemos.

En nuestra asamblea las voces unidas proclaman: ¡llévanos donde los seres humanos necesitan tu palabra, necesitan tus deseos de vivir, donde falta la esperanza, donde falta la alegría, simplemente por no saber de Ti.

Los amigos y amigas cubanos, sentimos el gozo de compartir con los hermanos Julián Grant de la Junta Anual de Nueva Inglaterra, John Huyler de Inter-mountains Yearly Meeting y Estuardo César Nufio Vargas de la Junta Anual de Guatemala, quien durante la asamblea fue el predicador de la palabra de Dios. ¿Cómo respondemos a la voz de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo?

DEJARLO TODO Y TENER LA PROTECCIÓN DEL SEÑOR DIOS DEL AMOR, A ÉL SEA LA GLORIA.

Amigas y amigos cuáqueros en Isaías 6:8 dice el Señor: “Después oí la voz del Señor que decía: ¿a quién enviaré y quién irá por nosotros?

Es preciso irradiar hasta donde lleguen nuestros pasos por lo tanto, procedamos con espíritu apacible y mutuo.

Escuchemos hoy la voz de una mujer cuáquera, Caroline Fox (1841):

“CUMPLE CON LA LUZ QUE TIENES...Y MÁS TE SERÁ OTORGADO”

En la Luz ,

JUNTA ANNUAL DE LOS AMIGOS CUÁQUEROS EN CUBA

Gibara February 19, 2016

#### **Sisters and brothers united in the life supreme:**

The Yearly Meeting of Friends (Quakers) in Cuba gathers its representatives in its 90th year, with our gaze fixed on the message of the Lord:

The harvest is abundant and the laborers are few. Therefore pray to the master to send out laborers into his harvest. Onward! Luke 10:2

It is good to tell you that the time spent in our gathering has been in orderly, regulated sessions about matters directed to the service of the Lord. In our worship our members received instruction and messages which call us to bear witness with passion and dedication to the work of the Lord.

These ideas are based in taking up again the universal priesthood of the first Quakers: Go to every place and carry the glory of the Most High to the nations!

Even with our differences, the Eternal Power of God is working, and so we feel in a surprising way how we hear that voice, and many of the members of our assembly answer, HERE AM I!

We hear names: Moses, Samuel, Paul, Peter, the other important disciples of Jesus, yes, but... What canst thou say?

We are living in times in which the planet Earth is deteriorating, we are all on that planet's surface, some to the north and others to the south, but we are created as the human species, developed and transformed by the love of the Father for everyone. From our communities we seek the blessed presence; only that can lead us to respond to the necessities we suffer.

In our gathering united voices proclaim: Take us to where human beings need your word, need your desire for life, where there is no hope, where there is no joy, simply because there is no knowledge of You.

Cuban Friends feel the joy of sharing with our brothers Julian Grant of New England Yearly Meeting, John Huyler of Intermountain Yearly Meeting, and Estuardo César Nufio Vargas of Guatemala Yearly Meeting who was the preacher of the word of God during our assembly. How do we respond to the voice of our Lord Jesus Christ?

LEAVE EVERYTHING ELSE AND HOLD TO THE PROTECTION OF THE LORD GOD OF LOVE, TO HIM BE THE GLORY.

Quaker Friends, in Isaiah 6:8 the Lord says: "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"

We must shine wherever our footsteps go, and so let us proceed with a spirit peaceable and mutual.

We hear today the voice of a Quaker woman, Caroline Fox (1841):

"LIVE UP TO THE LIGHT THOU HAST . . . AND MORE WILL BE GRANTED THEE."

In the Light,

CUBA YEARLY MEETING (QUAKERS)

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## NEYM 2017–18 Dates to Save!

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### November 2017

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Nov 10–12	Ministry & Counsel
Nov 17–19	JYM Retreat Young Friends Retreat
Nov 18	Permanent Board

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### December 2017

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Dec 1–3	JHYM Retreat
Dec 28–31	Young Friends Retreat

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### January 2018

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Jan 12–14	JHYM Retreat
Jan 13	Sessions Committee
Jan 26–28	JYM Retreat

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### February 2018

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Feb 10	Ministry & Counsel
Feb 16–18	Young Friends Retreat
Feb 17	Permanent Board

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### March 2018

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Mar 2–4	JHYM Retreat
Mar 23–25	Young Friends Retreat
Mar 24	Sessions Committee

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### April 2018

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Apr 14	Living Faith Gathering
Apr 26–29	Pastoral Meetings Retreat
Apr 27–29	JHYM Retreat Young Friends Retreat

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### May 2018

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May 12	Permanent Board
May 18–20	JYM Retreat
May 19	Ministry & Counsel

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### June 2018

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Jun 15–17	8th Grade Retreat
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### August 2018

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Aug 4–9	NEYM Annual Sessions
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# New England Yearly Meeting of Friends

901 Pleasant Street, Worcester, MA 01602-1908  
voice: 508-754-6760 • fax: 877-257-2834 • web site: [www.neym.org](http://www.neym.org)

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---

## **Accounts Manager**

Frederick Martin  
508-754-6760  
[accountsmanager@neym.org](mailto:accountsmanager@neym.org)

---

## **Friends Camp Director**

Anna Hopkins  
207-445-2361  
[director@friendscamp.org](mailto:director@friendscamp.org)  
[www.friendscamp.org](http://www.friendscamp.org)

---

## **Office Manager**

Sara Hubner  
508-754-6760  
[office@neym.org](mailto:office@neym.org)

---

## **Junior YM/Junior High YM Coordinator**

Gretchen Baker-Smith  
508-997-0940  
[jym@neym.org](mailto:jym@neym.org)

---

## **Ministry & Counsel Clerk**

Debbie Humphries  
860-236-5175  
[mc-clerk@neym.org](mailto:mc-clerk@neym.org)

---

## **Permanent Board Clerk**

Sarah Gant  
617-543-6985  
[pbclerk@neym.org](mailto:pbclerk@neym.org)

---

## **Presiding Clerk**

Frederick (Fritz) Weiss  
774-415-0719  
[clerk@neym.org](mailto:clerk@neym.org)

---

## **Religious Education & Outreach Coordinator**

Beth Collea  
781-784-3471  
[recoord@neym.org](mailto:recoord@neym.org)

---

## **Events Coordinator**

Elizabeth Hacala  
740-478-2537  
[events@neym.org](mailto:events@neym.org)

---

## **Treasurer**

Shearman Taber  
617-965-7042  
[treasurer@neym.org](mailto:treasurer@neym.org)

---

## **Yearly Meeting Secretary**

Noah Baker Merrill  
617-615-6396  
[ymsec@neym.org](mailto:ymsec@neym.org)

---

## **Young Friends/Young Adult Friends Coordinator**

NiaDwynwen Thomas  
978-886-7179  
[yf.yafcoord@neym.org](mailto:yf.yafcoord@neym.org)

---

## **Young Adult Engagement Coordinator**

Hilary Burgin  
978-760-0116  
[hilary@neym.org](mailto:hilary@neym.org)