

NEYM Permanent Board
16 January 2010 @ Storrs Meeting, Storrs, CT
Agenda

1. Opening worship (9:30am)
2. Roll call (10:00am)
3. Consideration of minutes of [November 21, 2009 PB Meeting](#).
Note: To follow the hyperlinks, you may be asked to enter the following—
username: *permanent* and password: *board*
4. C&A report (Linda Jenkins)
 - Extended worship report
5. Yearly Meeting Secretary Report (Jonathan Vogel-Borne)
 - Traveling ministries and pastoral care
6. Report of Personnel Committee (Judith Shea)
7. Finance Committee Report (Travis Belcher)
8. [Treasurer's report](#) (JV-B)
 - Financial report
9. [Priorities budget first draft](#)
 - March 6, 2010 “[Funding our Vision](#): Local Meeting Finances and NEYM Priorities Budget Day”
10. Report from Sessions Committee
 - Request from [Sessions Committee, minute 2010-1](#), regarding discernment on mid-year gathering (possibly April 9–11 or 16–18)
11. Report on MB incorporation (Edward Baker)
12. Other items
13. Locations for future PB Meetings
 - March 20, 2010 @ Hanover, NH
 - May 8, 2010 @ Friends Camp, ME
14. Closing worship

New England Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Permanent Board Minutes draft
November 21, 2009
Moses Brown School, Providence, RI

09-75 Opening Worship: We opened in waiting worship.

09-76 Roll Call: The Recording Clerk called the roll.

Present: Edward Baker, Holly Baldwin, David Baxter, Travis Belcher, Debbie Block, Susan Davies, Jeremiah Dickinson, Sarah B. Gant, Judy Goldberger, Andrew Grannell, Dorothy Grannell, Carolyn Hilles-Pilant, Jan Hoffman, John Humphries, Sandy Isaacs, Linda Jenkins, Mary L. Knowlton, Allan Kohrman, Rebecca Leuchak, Dwight Lopes, Christopher McCandless, Donald K. Mick, Marnie Miller-Gutsell, Karen Sanchez-Eppler, Suzanna Schell, Nat Shed, Patricia Shotwell, Philip Stone, Ruah Swennerfelt, William Upholt, Jane Van Landingham, Jonathan Vogel-Borne

Regrets: Tom Ash, Beth Gorton, Susan Reilly, Judith Shea, Sarah Spencer, Donn Weinholtz, Carl Williams

Guests: Kimberly Allen, Matt Glendenning, Habib Gorgi, Clifford Harrison, Ed Mair, Allan Sifferlen, Janice Sifferlen, Charles White, Elizabeth Zimmerman

09-77 Minutes of 8/6/2009 were **approved** with corrections.

09-78 Report on Moses Brown School incorporation: The Clerk reviewed the minute approved by Sessions (Minute 09-24) authorizing PB to complete the necessary tasks to implement the incorporation of Moses Brown School (MBS).

The clerk introduced Charles White (Providence), who has been retained to provide legal representation for NEYM during the incorporation process, to report on his work to this point.

Charlie began with a review of recommended changes to some key documents, growing out of his meetings with NEYM's Working Group on MBS incorporation and detailed in the memo (dated 10/25/09) provided to PB in advance. He shared his experience of a sense of openness and willingness on the part of MBS leadership to maintain and strengthen the Quaker influence on the school.

One member of the Working Group noted that a primary concern is incorporating language in the documents that will ensure NEYM participation in decision-making during unforeseen future challenges and major transitions at MBS.

One Friend urged PB and the Working Group to remember that the requirement for Quaker representation on the MBS Board of Overseers is "not less than one-third" of the membership, making one-third the minimum and not a fixed target.

Friends felt at ease with the recommendations presented. The Clerk reminded Friends that Charlie is negotiating with the attorney for the MBS Board, with input from the Working Group, to arrive at language that will meet the needs of both the School and the Yearly Meeting. Once the attorneys agree on their final version of the documents, those documents will have to be reviewed and approved by both the MBS Board and PB.

09-79 Membership of the Working Group on MBS Incorporation: At the 8/6/09 meeting, PB approved having the Clerk seek additional members for the Working Group who would begin participating immediately, with the anticipation of being formally approved at this meeting (Minute 09-65). The Clerk presented the names of four Friends who have been participating, or who have expressed their interest in participating, in the Working Group: Sam Baily (Amesbury), Debbie Block (Providence), Pamela Dahlberg (Providence), and Janice Sifferlen (Lawrence). **Friends approved** these new members of the Working Group on MBS Incorporation.

09-80 Report from Committee on Nurturing Friends Education at Moses Brown School: Elizabeth Zimmerman (Providence) reviewed the work of the Committee in the past year, along with the goals and mission of the Committee. She reported on her interactions with the Lower School's Quaker Life Committee and her participation in worship with students at the school. She also reported that a number of specific tasks have been taken up by NEYM volunteers not serving on the NEYM Committee. One such task was the creation of a website for the Committee: www.nurturingfriendsed.org.

The Committee brought forward a proposal to expand its membership by adding two ex-officio positions, one for the Clerk of the MBS Board of Overseers and one for either the Clerk of Permanent Board or the YM Presiding Clerk. As part of the PB task of moving this committee from an ad hoc basis to permanent status, the Clerk suggested that the Committee develop a proposed statement of Purposes and Procedures that would include this new membership structure, along with the goals and mission for the committee. This document should be brought to PB for approval at a later meeting. **Friends approved** this course of action.

09-81 Report from Coordinating and Advising Committee (C&A): YM Presiding Clerk Linda Jenkins reported on behalf of C&A. She reminded Friends that the expanded C&A committee, approved as part of the staffing restructure, consists of the Presiding Clerk, the Clerk of Permanent Board, the Clerk of Ministry and Counsel, and the Yearly Meeting Treasurer or Clerk of the Finance. The committee met twice this fall, and both meetings have included work to monitor and facilitate the development of the staff work plan.

One of the roles of the Committee within the new structure is to serve as the supervisory body for the YM Secretary, a role they are "feeling their way into." Edward Baker, Clerk of PB, has been named by the committee to serve as the YM Secretary's supervisor. He reported that he and the YM Secretary have initiated a practice of weekly phone reports and frequent face-to-face meetings.

Linda also shared about the experience of C&A members when they gathered recently at Cambridge Meeting and made time to meet with Cambridge Friends to discuss the relationship between the YM and MMs. The dialogue was "welcoming and honest," with some Friends expressing questions and concerns about the YM's role (or lack thereof) in the life of MMs. This experience highlights the need for intervisitation and outreach to MMs to improve their understanding of the work of the YM.

09-82 Report from the YM Secretary: Jonathan Vogel-Borne reflected on this fall's transition into his new position as YM Secretary. He spoke of the challenge of Jubilee ("What do you let go fallow?") and of the struggle Sessions Committee is having with how to implement Jubilee in planning for next August ("How much non-structure can we risk?"). He spoke of the focus on worship (M&C retreat and upcoming extended worship gatherings) growing out of last April's mid-year gathering and about the possibility of a public witness in June to mark the 350th anniversary of Mary Dyer's hanging in Boston.

He reviewed the Staff Work Plan, noting that the Priorities have provided a useful tool for checking in with staff members and keeping track of planned activities.

Jonathan will serve as treasurer for the FWCC triennial in 2012, and in that role he will be traveling in December to Nairobi, Kenya, for a planning meeting. Following a significant, hopeful turning point in the life of Friends United Meeting's General Board, he has also agreed to serve on a committee responsible for restructuring FUM.

09-83 Intervisitation: The YM Secretary reported that he is now doing less travel as part of losing the "Field" in his job title. This shift in his time commitments gives new urgency to the question of how to meet the pastoral needs of our local meetings, especially our small meetings. He encouraged PB members from larger meetings to visit smaller meetings regularly. The Clerk suggested mentioning our role on PB when we do visit, and two Friends spoke about the need for some more formal guidelines and talking points since one goal of this process is providing information about NEYM.

One Friend asked about reporting what she had learned in a recent visit to a smaller meeting in her Quarter – with whom should she share the concerns that emerged? Friends are encouraged to take such concerns to the Quarter, as well as share them with the YM Secretary.

09-84 Treasurer's Report: David Baxter, who is completing his service as YM Treasurer, presented the FY2009 Year-End financial report, highlighting the good news that total contributions from both individuals and MMs turned out to be almost exactly what was budgeted. Staff implemented a number of cost-saving measures (some of which, he suggested, would not be sustainable in the long-term), resulting in total expenses being below what was budgeted. Therefore, if we ignore the loss on investments (which we do not control), the YM had a net positive income for the fiscal year. Friends gratefully accepted this report.

The Treasurer noted that this year's budget priority process will begin in January, in consultation with the YM Secretary.

09-85 Report on YM Financial Support of FUM: The Treasurer reported on the status of the implementation of Sessions' minute (Minute 09-54) regarding financial support of FUM. Under the new policy (which will expire at the end of September 2010 unless extended) a MM can include a letter with its contribution, instructing the YM to withhold the portion that would go to FUM.

Before the end of FY2009, the Treasurer received one check with such a letter. The percentage of the YM budget allocated to FUM in FY2009 was 1.5%. The

amount of the contribution was \$42, so 63 cents were subtracted from the amount NEYM contributed to FUM at the end of the year.

This year the relevant percentage for the purpose of this calculation is 1.9%.

MMs wishing to make use of this policy should send a letter, signed by the Clerk, preferably with a copy of the minute approved at a Meeting for Business, documenting the MM's intention.

The Treasurer again noted his concern about this process, which gives to individuals and MMs the power to change the budget. One Friend reminded us that Sessions had also decided to establish a fund for FUM-specific contributions, allowing concerned Friends to "make up the difference" and so maintain the FUM contribution at the budgeted level. The Treasurer confirmed that the bookkeeper is working out the process for administering such a fund.

09-86 Minute of Gratitude: Friends expressed deep gratitude for the service of David Baxter as Interim Treasurer this past year. He even got a round of applause.

09-87 Finance Committee Report: Clerk of Finance Committee Travis Belcher reported that the Committee has nominated Ed Mair (Amesbury) to be YM Treasurer. **Friends approved** appointing Ed Mair as YM Treasurer, beginning May 1, 2010.

09-88 Granting Authority of the Treasurer to YM Secretary: **Friends approved** granting Jonathan Vogel-Borne, YM Secretary, the authority of the Treasurer, beginning today and continuing through April 30, 2010.

09-89 Report of Internal Nominating Committee: Dorothy Grannell presented the following nominations:

- Clerks Nominating Committee: Brian Drayton (Weare), class of 2013; Patricia Shotwell, class of 2013
- Internal Nominating Committee: Karen Sanchez-Eppler, class of 2013; Donald Mick, class of 2013
- Memorial Minutes: Allan Kohrman, class of 2013

Friends approved these recommendations.

Friends are encouraged to help the Committee identify appropriate people to fill the remaining open slots on Personnel Committee and YM Nominating Committee.

09-90 Report of YM Nominating Committee: Kimberly Allen (Durham), a member of the YM Nominating Committee, reported on behalf of the committee. The discussion of Jubilee and overlapping concerns of various committees (e.g. several youth-related committees) led the Committee to consider the possibility of "super committees" that would group similar committees together. Such committees would have fewer members than the combined membership of the current committees, but they might choose to set up working parties (of self-appointed members) that would seek to engage Friends from outside the committee in some aspect of the committee's work. The Nominating Committee intends to continue its discernment on this topic but brings forward the

suggestion at this time for seasoning, inviting input from PB and other Friends in the coming months.

Several Friends noted that this suggestion has a history, most recently arising out of the Procedural Review Committee's efforts. One Friend expressed the hope that this important work would move beyond development of an elegant diagram, but also wondered whether the proposed change would be addressing a cause or a symptom. Another Friend reminded us that the earlier work had been discontinued to await the outcome of the staffing restructure, and that now is an appropriate time to return to the question of committee structure.

09-91 Filling an Open Seat on MBS Board of Overseers: Elizabeth Zimmerman presented a letter from Donn Weinholtz, addressed to the PB Clerk, stating his need to resign from the MBS Board of Trustees. With this resignation, the number of Friends on the Board has dropped below the minimum one-third proportion at a time of significant transition. Another Quaker member of the Board was dependent on this Friend for transportation, so there is a critical need to appoint a new Friend to the Board from the same geographical area.

YM Nominating Committee has begun to develop a list of possible candidates. In the meantime, the name of a qualified and willing candidate has been brought forward. Normal process would involve bringing this nomination to Nominating Committee for approval and then to PB for approval before forwarding it to MBS Nominating Committee. Due to meeting schedules, such a process could not be completed until March 2010.

Recognizing the critical need, **Friends approved** setting aside the usual nominating process and forwarding the name of David Holdt (Hartford) as a qualified and willing candidate to the MBS Nominating Committee for consideration as an interim appointment to fill Donn Weinholtz's position for the remainder of this year.

09-92 Vision/Mission Statement: The Clerk reviewed PB Minute 09-66 from the 8/6/09 meeting, when PB released the three Friends who had labored faithfully with the task of drafting a vision/mission statement for the YM but also acknowledged the need to revisit this work. The Clerk asked Friends to take some time in silent worship to consider how this work might move forward or evolve.

During the lengthy discussion that followed a period of silence, one Friend suggested that we draw upon the example of Friends General Conference, which had approved a "Minute of Purpose" to guide their work.

Friends approved the following minute:

Responding to Sessions' expression of the need for further discernment on this question of a mission/vision statement, we believe there may be value in these words. Therefore, we will forward this statement (reprinted below) as a Minute of Purpose to the YM Committees and MMs, asking them to consider it during the coming year and to discern its usefulness for our lives together. We will then see where we are when we gather again in August, following some months of living into it.

The statement:

Witnessing to the power of God in our lives...Spirit-led to faithful action.

Yearly Meeting provides a voice and a center for Quakers in New England, upholding monthly and quarterly meetings through support, resources and connections so that Friends can do God's work.

New England Friends come together in worship and fellowship from a rich diversity of theological perspectives and both unprogrammed and pastoral traditions. We are called to listen deeply to the Inward Guide and to each other as we seek to be a gathered faith community.

Witnessing to the power of God in our lives, we envision a vibrant and growing Quaker presence in the world, Spirit-led to faithful action.

09-93 Travel Minutes:

The YM Presiding Clerk informed PB that the travel minutes which Benigno Sanchez-Eppler (Northampton) and Brian Drayton (Weare) carried with them during their travel among Friends in Peru and Bolivia have been received with endorsements from leaders of the yearly meetings in those countries. The travel minutes for these Friends had been approved by their respective Quarterly Meetings, but time constraints prevented consideration by PB prior to the trip. The Presiding Clerk had therefore provided a letter of introduction. She suggested that one or both of these Friends might be invited to report on their journey at a future PB meeting.

We heard a travel minute presented by Vassalboro Quarter for Ann Dodd Collins (Winthrop). Ann has served faithfully as Clerk of the YM's FUM Committee and as a member of the Working Party on the FUM personnel policy. She attended two FUM triennials as a representative of NEYM. According to the travel minute, Ann's "leading now is to travel among Friends ... in order to know and to be known," as she continues to carry a concern for the work of FUM. **Friends approved** endorsing this travel minute.

09-94 Personnel Committee Report: The Clerk reported that the Personnel Committee has begun revising the policy manual to reflect the new staffing structure approved by Sessions.

09-95 Closing Worship: We closed in waiting worship, planning to meet again on Saturday, January 16, 2010, at Storrs MM at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

John Humphries
Recording Clerk

Edward Baker
Clerk

12:22 PM
01/13/10
Cash Basis

New England Yearly Meeting

Operating Actual Income and Expense vs. Budget Summary

October through December 2009

	Oct - Dec 09	Budget	% of Budget
Income			
4010 · Individual Contributions	21,904.87	130,000.00	16.85%
4020 · Monthly Meeting Contributions	25,211.25	300,000.00	8.4%
4030 · Organizations Contributions	0.00	2,200.00	0.0%
4050 · Interest and Dividend Income	4,509.25	10,000.00	45.09%
4070 · Books and other Items	770.14	27,500.00	2.8%
4080 · Retreat Program Fees	7,823.00	47,000.00	16.65%
4085 · Sessions Program Fees	1,455.00	171,500.00	0.85%
4090 · Change in Fair Value	11,720.75		
Total Income	73,394.26	688,200.00	10.67%
Expense			
5000 · Staff	70,731.62	270,021.00	26.2%
5075 · Undistributed Credit Card Charge	3,530.67		
5100 · General & Administration	9,398.73	57,995.00	16.21%
5300 · Travel & Conferences	4,784.30	25,650.00	18.65%
6000 · Programs	10,364.75	258,575.00	4.01%
6140 · Books and Other	134.49	25,500.00	0.53%
6200 · Benevolence	0.00	39,009.00	0.0%
6600 · Publications	673.00	11,450.00	5.88%
Total Expense	99,617.56	688,200.00	14.48%
Net Income	(26,223.30)	0.00	

New England Yearly Meeting

Income & Expense Prev Year Comparison Detail

October through December 2009

	Oct - Dec 09	Oct - Dec 08	% Change
Income			
4010 · Individual Contributions	21,904.87	51,333.02	(57.33%)
4020 · Monthly Meeting Contributions	25,211.25	59,178.68	(57.4%)
4050 · Interest and Dividend Income	4,509.25	2,870.00	57.12%
4070 · Books and other Items	770.14	298.60	157.92%
4080 · Retreat Program Fees	7,823.00	5,826.00	34.28%
4085 · Sessions Program Fees	1,455.00	0.00	100.0%
4090 · Change in Fair Value	11,720.75	(11,816.76)	
Total Income	73,394.26	107,689.54	(31.85%)
Expense			
5000 · Staff	70,731.62	70,212.66	0.74%
5075 · Undistributed Credit Card Charge	3,530.67	0.00	100.0%
5100 · General & Administration	9,398.73	18,111.80	(48.11%)
5300 · Travel & Conferences	4,784.30	3,291.29	45.36%
6000 · Programs	10,364.75	7,664.17	35.24%
6140 · Books and Other	134.49	0.00	100.0%
6600 · Publications	673.00	4,178.14	(83.89%)
Total Expense	99,617.56	103,458.06	(3.71%)
Net Income	(26,223.30)	4,231.48	

Statement of Activities FY09 and Budget FY10

Income	OCT '08 – SEP '09	FY09 BUDGET	FY10 BUDGET
4010 · Individual Contributions	130,385.61	130,000.00	130,000.00
4020 · Monthly Meeting Contributions	286,307.89	285,000.00	300,000.00
4030 · Organizations Contributions	2,577.25	2,200.00	2,200.00
4050 · Interest and Dividend Income	7,977.79	12,000.00	10,000.00
4070 · Books and other Items	16,027.87	27,500.00	27,500.00
4080 · Retreat Program Fees	37,901.00	47,000.00	47,000.00
4085 · Sessions Program Fees	173,177.31	171,500.00	171,500.00
Total Income	654,354.72	675,200.00	688,200.00
Expense			
5000 · Staff	258,633.25	266,521.00	270,021.00
5100 · General & Administration	53,138.12	65,995.00	57,995.00
5300 · Travel & Conferences	20,554.69	27,650.00	25,650.00
6000 · Programs	222,840.13	256,675.00	258,575.00
6140 · Books and Other	14,251.53	25,500.00	25,500.00
6200 · Benevolence	30,312.44	31,350.00	39,009.00
6600 · Publications	18,468.99	18,450.00	11,450.00
Total Expense	618,199.15	692,141.00	688,200.00
Non-Operating Activities			
4090 · Change in Fair Value	(34,301.33)		
4000 · Reconciliation Discrepancies	(3,000.00)		
Net Income	(1,145.76)	(16,941.00)	0.00

Proposed Fiscal Year 2011 Priorities Budget, 1-13-2010

—Developed by Jonathan Vogel-Borne & Jerry Sazama with input from the Coordinating & Advisory Committee

Assumptions: 1) Fund benefits/salary increases and restore benevolences 2) Take a conservative view of changes in income

Changes in Expenses:	Estimated Change from FY 2010 Budget	Priority Levels	Changes in Income:	Estimated Change from FY 2010 Budget
1.1 Health Care Premiums			2.1 Contributions from:	
10% (estimated) increase in health care costs (required)	\$5,000	0	Monthly Meetings	\$6,000
100% employee, 80% family members (Personnel Cttee) §	\$5,500	1	Individuals	(\$5,000)
1.2 Staff			2.2 Interest and dividend income	\$1,000
1.8% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) (Personnel Cttee) §	\$3,680	1	2.3 Increase fee for retreats and Sessions	\$3,000
Increase YM Secretary salary package (Personnel Cttee) §	\$19,357	2	Total Changes in Income:	\$5,000
Office help part-time (one day/week)	\$7,000	5		
1.3 Increase in administrative expenses				
Publications (NE Friend online, new Minute Book strategy)	\$0		Projected Gap in Income by Priority Level:	
Office (needed equipment & software purchases)	\$4,000	1	Level 0: Flat budget, increased health care costs (required)	\$0
Travel (full-cars, fewer conferences)	\$0		Level 1: Level 0 + COLA +100% health + admin expenses	(\$13,180)
1.4 Restore benevolences (FWCC, FGC, FUM) to FY2008 levels	\$16,746	3	Level 2: Level 1 + Increase YM Secretary salary package	(\$32,537)
5% increase of benevolences beyond 2008 levels	\$2,400	4	Level 3: Level 2 + Benevolences	(\$49,283)
1.5 Increase budget reserves §§	\$0		Level 4: Level 3 +5% Benevolences	(\$51,683)
Total Change in Expenses, all priority levels:	\$63,683		Level 5: All Priorities	(\$58,683)

Priority Levels by Description

Level 0: Flat budget	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Increased health care cost	Increased health care cost	Increased health care cost	Increased health care cost	Increased health care cost	Increased health care cost
	1.8% COLA	1.8% COLA	1.8% COLA	1.8% COLA	1.8% COLA
	100% employee health	100% employee health	100% employee health	100% employee health	100% employee health
	Increase admin expenses	Increase admin expenses	Increase admin expenses	Increase admin expenses	Increase admin expenses
		YM Secretary salary	YM Secretary salary	YM Secretary salary	YM Secretary salary
			Restore Benevolences	Restore Benevolences	Restore Benevolences
				5% Benevolences	5% Benevolences
					Office help part-time

§ 1/4/2010 Personnel Cttee: "All staff: We recommend paying 100% of the premium for health insurance for the individual staff member, keeping dependents and spouses at the 80%

• "We recommend COLA increases of _____ for all staff as called for in the Personnel Policy Manual."

Most recent data—The Boston area Consumer Price Index (CPI) over the 12 month period ending November 2009 was 1.8%. Final data will be based on January 2009 CPI.

• Yearly Meeting Secretary: If this position were vacant today we believe we would need to budget \$60,000 to \$70,000 to fill the opening.

We would like to move our YM Secretary into this range, at the very least, as quickly as possible.

A minimum number we came to in our discernment is \$62,500. We are open to further discernment on this topic.

§§ From the NEYM Treasurer's Manual: "It is the Finance Committee's policy to begin each fiscal year with working capital on hand equal to 25% of the year's expected expenses."

FY2010 total operations budget (minus the in/out of \$218,595 at the annual Sessions) = \$450,530 | 25% of the total FY2010 operations budget = \$112,633

9/30/2009 working capital = \$149,064 or 33% of the total operations budget (from the 9/20/2009 Balance Sheet on page 52 of the 2009 Minute Book)

Funding our Vision: Local Meeting Finances and NEYM Priorities Budget Day

March 6, 2010 — Amesbury (MA) Meetinghouse, 9:00am–3:30pm

A consultation for monthly & quarterly meeting finance committees, treasurers, and clerks

Arrival and Refreshments (9:00 – 9:30am)

Morning Session (9:30 – 11:45am)

Presentation and Discussion on Local Meeting Finances

Possible topics to be considered:

- Fundraising
- The Budget Cycle and Process for Discernment
- Endowment Policies, Receipt and Use
- Contributions to Yearly Meeting
- Contributions to Outside Organizations
- The Budget Pie: Allocation of income to various types of expenses
- Bookkeeping Procedures, Outside Review of Books, Style of Reports, Software
- Earmarking and the Corporate Discernment Process

Worship and Brown Bag Lunch (11:45am – 1:00pm)

Afternoon Session (1:00 – 3:30pm)

Input from Local Meetings on a Draft of a Yearly Meeting Priorities Budget

According to the new structural changes from the NEYM Annual Sessions the Yearly Meeting Secretary drafts a priorities budget for the coming fiscal year, listing possible changes in expenditures by a preliminary ordering of priorities. The Coordinating & Advisory Committee, Permanent Board, Finance Committee, NEYM committee clerks, and local meeting treasurers then review the draft priorities budget. Finally, the Finance Committee presents the formal budget proposal to Sessions in August.

Discussion of Monthly Meeting Contributions to the Yearly Meeting

The purpose is to obtain input from the monthly meeting treasurers on:

- Possibilities of monthly meeting increasing their annual contributions to yearly meeting in order to further support the yearly meeting's activities.
- Treasurers estimate the amount of their monthly meetings donation to yearly meeting so as to facilitate the Finance Committee's submission of a yearly meeting budget to Sessions.

**New England Yearly Meeting
Sessions Committee Meeting**
Worcester Friends Meeting House
January 2, 2010
10am to 3:30pm

Minutes

Present: Gretchen Baker-Smith; Neil Blanchard; Margaret Cooley (recording); Kristna Evans; Cliff Harrison; Mary Gilbert, Linda Jenkins; Kevin Lee; Betty Ann Lee; Rebecca Leuchak; Christopher McCandless; Jean McCandless (clerk); Sandy Moyer; Carolyn Stone; Lynn Taber; Jonathan Vogel-Borne; Lise Wagner.

Regrets: Kim Allen; Kara Price Bachand; Ginny Bainbridge; Marian Baker; Beth Bussiere-Nichols; Elizabeth Poynton; Elias Sanchez-Eppler; Karen Sargent; Laurel Swan; Diane Weinholtz; Mike Wood

We began in worship at 10:15 am.

We reviewed the minutes from our October 31, 2009 meeting which had already been approved during that meeting.

2010-1 Mid-Year Gathering: Cliff Harrison, on behalf the Mid-Year Gathering Working Group, presented a Mid-Year Sessions Proposal (report attached). The Working Group recognizes the value of additional opportunities for fellowship, worship and discernment, and the potential for increased flexibility for considering business before August Sessions.

Friends expressed concerns about how to include youth given the limitations of the Portland site used last year, and the integration of youth in general. One Friend spoke to the possibility of combining the Mid-Year Gathering with the April Committee Day, which would give an opportunity for the Nominating Committee's proposal to cluster Yearly Meeting committees into larger groupings of related committees.

Sessions Committee is not clear to proceed with Mid-Year Gathering under its care this year. We are not clear that it is this body's decision to approve such a gathering at this time. We recognize that Permanent Board is meeting in two weeks and might want to consider the Mid-Year Gathering and ask Friends called to this work to carry it forward. We see much value in the Mid Year Gathering and the potential for such gatherings to be under the care of this committee in the future. We also recognize the value of quarterly meetings holding extended worship gatherings throughout the year and encourage wider participation in those gatherings.

2010-2 Working Groups: We heard a brief overview from each of the five working groups that met since the 10/31/2009 Sessions meeting and submitted reports for committee

consideration. These included: Discernment; Great Meeting House; Rest and Recreation; Small Groups; and Workshops (reports attached).

--- lunch break ---

2010-3 Great Meeting House Visit: After extensive and prayerful discussion, **we are clear not to make a Great Meeting House visit an entire community event as part of Sessions 2010.**

We ask the Great Meeting House Working Group to invite the Junior High Yearly Meeting, Young Friend and Young Adult Friend communities to consider a visit to the Great Meeting House as a field trip at August 2010 Sessions, and to report back to Sessions Committee about their interest level. Based on that feedback, we will then discuss more possibilities for an optional excursion as part of the Sessions schedule.

2010-4 Workshops: Friends are clear for August 2010, to lay down the traditional workshop format. Friends approve in general the Working Group's recommendation (see attached report), understanding that the specifics are still to be discerned. We recognize that for this year that means Yearly Meeting committees will not have workshops as a venue for sharing their work. We ask Sessions Committee to develop another method for committees to do outreach during the Sessions 2010 gathering.

2010-5 Building Community: A Friend expresses hearing a deep sense of yearning for our community to come together as one worshipping body. **We are clear to dedicate at least part of Sunday to be a chance for our full gathering to build community in worship, play and fellowship. Friends hope to sing, to play game, to move our bodies, to get to know one another at a level that allows us to truly listen, and not feel rushed. A group of interested Sessions Committee members will form a new working group to further develop these ideas.**

The remaining initial Working Group reports will be presented and reviewed at the March Sessions Committee meeting.

We closed in song at 3:30pm.

Margaret Cooley, recording clerk
Jean McCandless, clerk

NEW ENGLAND YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

The Religious Society of Friends in New England

Witnessing to the power of God in our lives...Spirit led to faithful action

To: Clerks of Yearly Meeting Committees and Clerks of Monthly Meetings
Re: A Mission Statement for the Yearly Meeting

Greetings Friends,

At sessions in 2008 we asked Permanent Board to consider and work on a mission/vision statement for the Yearly Meeting as part of our "year of discernment." During sessions in 2009 we heard a report from the ad hoc committee of Permanent Board which worked on this and they presented the mission statement that had been approved by Permanent Board to be brought to sessions.

Many were pleased with the wording presented, some offered a few small but useful suggested changes, but there was also some resistance to adopting these words as a statement of mission for the Yearly Meeting. We did not reach unity on the issue and the minute approved suggested more work be done. We did not return to that work during sessions and so Permanent Board took up the topic as an item of business at its November meeting. The minute we approved at that time is as follows:

Responding to Sessions' expression of the need for further discernment on this question of a mission/vision statement, we believe there may be value in these words. Therefore, we will forward this statement (reprinted below) as a Minute of Purpose to the YM Committees and Monthly Meetings, asking them to consider it during the coming year and to discern its usefulness for our lives together. We will then see where we are when we gather again in August following some months of living into it.

The statement:

Witnessing to the power of God in our lives...Spirit-led to faithful action.

Yearly Meeting provides a voice and a center for Quakers in New England, upholding monthly and quarterly meetings through support, resources and connections so that Friends can do God's work.

New England Friends come together in worship and fellowship from a rich diversity of theological perspectives and both unprogrammed and pastoral traditions. We are called to listen deeply to the Inward Guide and to each other as we seek to be a gathered faith community.

Witnessing to the power of God in our lives, we envision a vibrant and growing Quaker presence in the world, Spirit-led to faithful action.

This letter then Friends, is that follow-up. We ask that you consider this statement of mission, gauging its usefulness to your work, and let us see where we are led at sessions in 2010.

In peace,



Edward Baker
Clerk of Permanent Board

Report of Ministry in Kenya 2009 — Nov 1-15, 2009

Marian Baker, Weare (NH) Monthly Meeting

Since 2002, I have been traveling to Kenya in ministry each year under a travel minute that is from Weare Monthly meeting, and endorsed by Dover QM and NEYM. My support committee from the yearly meeting consists of Brian Drayton, Ann Armstrong, and Jonathan Vogel Borne. The concern that lies behind the travel is to support those in ministry in East Africa, especially women and youth.

This year in addition, USFW Kenya had asked me to help visit some of the older women who are writing up the history of Friends women in Kenya. When traveling I have often used my travel minute to help educate others about traditional Quaker practices regarding traveling ministers. A travel minute does four things, it introduces the traveler, describes any special callings or concerns under which they travel, states whether the concern is supported by the local meeting, and sends greetings from our meetings here to those there. In response, each meeting or place I visit is given an opportunity to sign the minute, to explain what the traveler has done during the visit, and to send greetings or any messages back to the sending body. This year I visited Friends women from ten of the 17 yearly meetings in Kenya. Here are some excerpts from the 11 pages of endorsements!

- Marian, a sister and Friend is a welcome Guest in Africa. We thank God for her gift and the love she offers by way of being with people and pray for her as she continues to travel in ministry. Gladys Kangahi, Clerk FWCC- Africa Section
- I enjoyed sharing the history of Friends women with Marian, a former teacher in our girls school. Leah Lungaho, Former USFW Kenya Clerk, from Central YM
- We were blessed to have Sister Marian sharing with us today. She encouraged USFW to stand firm and discharge church duties as Christians. Come again when God plans. Joseph Eudovo, Asst. Clerk, Vokoli YM
- At our worship meeting today she blessed the meeting with speaking the native languages of Kenya. May God bless her. Javon Mirembe, Presiding Clerk, Mukuju Village Mtg.
- Rural Service Program staff were happy to receive her and pray together. She also joined my family and spent a night singing and praying. We love her gift in singing in Swahili and Luhiya. We shared ugali and sweet potatoes together. God bless her work in Gods ministries. Mary Juma, Deputy Coordinator, Rural Service Program, Kaimosi –
- Marian visited our school and home and prayed for the children. When we don't see her, we miss her, a dear friend, encourager, and prayer partner. We encourage you to join her next year for the USFW Triennial. Leonida Mugofwa, Salt and Light Academy, Vihiga YM
- It was a blessing to have Marian in our home. We thank God for the gifts He has put in Marian. We shared with Bible verses, prayer, and songs. On behalf of our YM, thanks for all those who have supported her travels. May God continue to bless NEYM. Zelika Galava, Presiding Clerk, Kaimosi YM
- Baker spent the day with my family, a great pleasure. I appreciate payers that kept me going. I lost my husband of many years last December. Bless you all my Friends. Rachel Sabwa, Former Clerk of USFW Kenya, and from Chavakali YM
- Members have appreciated her visit and encouraging message from John 15:14- Let all Christians love one another, pray, assist, and show good time management. Ketsiah Indangasi, Budaywa Quarterly Mtg. USFW (Vokoli YM)
- Arrangements were made and Marian visited two village meetings and two monthly meetings on one day. She gave a thrilling message that touched many souls- based on unity Love. We invite her to come again and stay longer. Bless her journey back to USA. Stay in peace. Mercelline Mirembe, Presiding Clerk, Budaywa Quarterly Mtg. of Vokoli YM

- This is a special year for us to Kenya to receive Marian, a minister of God, a great prayer partner and a supporter of AIDS orphans. Our stay together has been of great help. It's our prayer that God will help Marian to grow stronger and keep working. Agneta Injairu, Khalanda widows and orphans project, (Malava YM)
- We are grateful that Friend Marian Baker has visited us and send our greetings to you in NEYM through her. Ann Riggs, Principal, Friends Theological College, Kaimosi
- We appreciate her service to our people in Kenya. We love her gifts of simplicity and kindness. As a pastor in our USFW Kenya, I would say she is always with us in prayer and peace making in Kenya. On behalf of USFW mothers we pray and wish her safe journey back home. Norah Musundi, Pastor USFW Kenya and East Africa YM North (Kitale) YM
- We give thanks to God for Marian and her meeting who made it possible for her to come to us. She is a blessing. I appreciated her fellowship with my son Philip. Her prayers bring life in our bodies and spirits. May the Almighty keep her and order her steps. Priscilla Makhino, Servant of God and Travelling Minister, Elgon East YM
- It was a blessing to have our sister Marian at our USFW Kenya Prayer Meeting. She's a woman who has given her life to serving God by visiting and encouraging other women who are in the same ministry. She has visited and blessed the sick, widows, widowers, orphans, needy, students and encouraged all. We in Kenya are doing the same ministry and the challenges and needs are great. We think of you and pray with you always. We wish you God's blessings at Christmas and the New Years. Yours in the Light, Dorothy Selebwa, Clerk USFW Kenya and from Kakamega YM
- We greet you in the name of Jesus Christ. We are happy to inform you that we had a good fellowship with Marian in our town village meeting in Eldoret. Thank you as you receive her back home. God bless you all. Finora Wanjala, clerk Eldoret Town village meeting (Lugari YM)
- We appreciate the coming of Marian who fellowshiped with my family, prayer meeting and Sunday service. She gave a word of encouragement to women and youth. We look forward to have her visit us more and go round our rural yearly Meeting of Lugari and meet more women and share a word of encouragement. Get our greetings through Baker. Thanks, Margaret Lusimba, Presiding Clerk, Lugari YM USFW

Thanks to you all for your support over these years. I am also willing to visit among meetings in New England Yearly Meeting to share more about Kenyan Friends.

Marian Baker
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