

**Permanent Board Meeting
Held over Zoom Video Conference
March 20, 2021**

21-17: Opening Worship

Friends opened with a period of worship.

21-18: Roll Call

The recording clerk called the roll.

Present: Leslie Manning, Clerk; Hannah Zwirner Forsythe, Recording Clerk; Travis Belcher, Peter Bishop, Deana Chase, Darcy Drayton, Martin Zwirner Forsythe, Chris Gant, Beth Hansen, Ian Harrington, Rebecca Leuchak, Ed Mair, Christopher McCandless, Jean McCandless, Gina Nortonsmith, Bob O'Connor, John Reuthe, Martha Schwope, Sara Smith, Elizabeth Szatkowski, Will Taber, Bill Walkauskas, Diane Weinholtz, Donn Weinholtz, Morgan Wilson, Kathleen Wooten, Tom Vargo, Mary Zwirner

Ex-Officio: Scot Drysdale (Finance Clerk); Noah Merrill (Secretary); Bruce Neumann (Presiding Clerk); Elizabeth Reuthe (Secretary's Supervisor)

Visitors: Polly Attwood, Melody Brazo, Marian Dalton, Jeremiah Dickinson, Sarah Gant, Janet Hough, Becky Jones, Anna Lindo, LouAnne McDonald, LVM Shelton, Jackie Stillwell, Nia Thomas, Diana White, Judy Williams, Honor Woodrow

Regrets: Bob Murray (Treasurer); Kim Allen, Fran Lightsom, Anna Raddochia, Carole Rein

21-19: Approval of January Minutes

The minutes from the Permanent Board's January meeting were distributed for review. Friends approved the January minutes.

21-20: Noticing Patterns

Members of the Noticing Patterns working group (NPWG), now a working group of the Permanent Board (PB), were present for our meeting. Polly Attwood, clerk of the NPWG, shared the shifting role of that group as part of PB taking the group under our care. Members of the group will continue to be present to help the Board to notice the patterns of faithfulness and oppression that run through our work, but instead of sharing their noticings during as discreet agenda items in the meeting they will be encouraging members of the Board to share those patterns as they appear. The practice of noticing patterns is part of growing into more compassionate conversation and relationships. We hope that each member of the Board will take on this work.

The NPWG will facilitate debriefing sessions after PB meetings to share patterns that their group noticed during our meetings.

21-21: Challenging White Supremacy Working Group

Judy Williams, a member of the Challenging White Supremacy working group (CWS), reviewed the group's written report which is appended. CWS was created in 2017 with the goal of furthering the work of interrupting white supremacy within our Yearly Meeting (YM), our Monthly Meetings (MM), and ourselves. Over the last four years the group has met with many Friends and meetings, held trainings and offered resources.

In 2019 representatives of CWS met with representatives from the Racial, Social, and Economic Justice committee, the Noticing Patterns of Oppression and Faithfulness working group, and Coordinating and Advisory to envision how these committees and working groups, in their current forms or in different forms, might best aid the YM, MMs, and individuals as we continue to grapple with the antiracism work to which we are committed. Coming out of that conversation CWS has discerned that their working group no longer serves the purpose for which it was created. Members of CWS remain committed to the work of antiracism and many will continue to participate in the YM's next steps in this journey.

CWS recommends writing a minute declaring NEYM's aspiration and intention to become an antiracist faith community. CWS suggests that once written and preliminarily approved this minute would be circulated throughout the YM. This would hopefully invite more Friends into antiracism work, encouraging meetings and individuals to evaluate and imagine the many different ways to best create the antiracist kingdom of God on earth that our YM desires.

Friends had a long conversation after the presentation of the proposed plan from CWS. In this conversation, as in all others, similar patterns of racism and white supremacy surfaced that also appear in our conversations outside the Quaker sphere. There is tension between the desire to be faithful and fear. Many white Friends fear change, fear the relinquishing of power, and fear the pain of acknowledging the harms that we have caused in the past. Our willingness to be vulnerable with each other in discussions of race and racism has increased in the past several years. Yet we still find Friends whose internal work has not yet brought them to a place where they understand the power of their words and the harm that comes from a lack of awareness of, or a denial of, their internal racism and white-centeredness. We deeply hope that everyone desires an antiracist, just, equitable, welcoming, and inclusive community. But many of us are also hurt by those who haven't taken on enough internal antiracism work to be able to converse in ways that are not harmful to our Black and brown Friends and their family members.

The YM is embarking on transformative work. Transformation is scary. We were reminded that we must surrender to that fear. We must acknowledge that the fear our white Friends have at the shifting ground underneath them, while real, is not comparable to the fear of our Black and brown Friends whose lives are endangered by the white supremacy that dictates so much of the world around us and so many of the behaviors within us. We seek to hold the individual truth

that many Friends are wary of antiracism work while upholding our corporate Truth that in order to truly value that of God in everyone we must do antiracism work.

We were reminded of the 2003 Minute on Racism that the YM approved and asked to consider whether the writing of another minute was necessary. We are cautioned not to write an aspirational minute that suggests that we are further along in this journey than we truly are. As we struggled with the proposal of writing another minute we found ourselves in a familiar pattern of concern about language and our differing understandings of the definitions of racism and antiracism. In this conversation we experienced a similar pattern of worrying about whether the work would be done properly; this pattern can keep us from trying to do the work at all.

We are being asked to commit ourselves to seek divine guidance to change ourselves so that we can transform the world. Our hearts must become antiracist in order for our communities to be antiracist. When we commit to antiracism work we are centering God, and the more we center God the more we find the courage and clarity to act in new ways.

Friends were not ready to approve the writing of a new minute expressing our desire to become an antiracist faith community. CWS was asked to meet again with the feedback from this meeting and return to the May meeting with proposed next steps. Scot Drysdale, Hannah Zwirner Forsythe, Martin Zwirner Forsythe, Tom Vargo, Morgan Wilson, and Kathleen Wooten will join CWS for this process.

21-22: Ministry & Spiritual Life Update

Jeremiah Dickinson, interim clerk of Ministry & Counsel, updated Friends on plans for the first Ministry and Spiritual Life gathering. This virtual gathering will occur on May 8th and all Friends with a concern for ministry in their meetings, communities, and the Yearly Meeting are invited to attend.

21-23: Nominating Report and Nominations

Jackie Stillwell, clerk of the Nominating Committee, reflected on the goal of that committee: to enliven the spirit in ourselves and our Yearly Meeting committees. The committee is reaching for a vision of nominating work that is about raising up gifts and mentoring and nurturing them. They ask: how are our committees serving our vision for our community and society, and how is spirit moving through all of this?

Jackie brought three nominations for approval:

Becky Steele (Portland) as American Friends Service Committee Representative, class of 2024

Tom Corindia (Hanover) to Finance Committee, class of 2021

Joe Garren (Middlebury) as Friends United Meeting Representative, class of 2024

Friends approved these nominations.

Jackie also informed the Permanent Board of the resignation of Dawn Tripp as representative for Friends United Meeting.

21-24: Clerk's Table Nomination

The Clerks' Table Nominating Committee brought the name of Adam Kohrman as Reading Clerk, Class of 2023.

Friends approved this nomination.

21-25: Secretary's report

Noah Merrill, YM Secretary, updated Friends on his work since the last Permanent Board meeting. Noah highlighted that there is lots of work going on to share, coordinate, and integrate the actions and discernment occurring throughout the Yearly Meeting. There is much activity going on in our monthly meetings and the staff and volunteer leaders are working hard to share this work and encourage meetings to integrate similar interests and concerns.

Noah updated Friends on conversations about the proposed stipends for volunteer leaders. A more detailed recommendation on the experiment will come to the May meeting for review.

21-26: Staff Appreciation

Members of the Permanent Board spent a period of time lifting up the many ways that the staff of NEYM have supported meetings and individuals throughout the pandemic. We are grateful for their hard work adapting existing structures and practices and creating new supports for the work of the Yearly Meeting (YM). Throughout the last year the staff have helped with logistics for meeting online, produced content-rich newsletters that have encouraged connections during our year of physical separation, facilitated regular support meetings for leaders throughout the YM, and provided consistent programming for YM youth.

In this time of uncertainty, loneliness, and grief we are so thankful for our faithful staff and their dedication to us all.

21-27: Memorial Minutes

Throughout the meeting we heard excerpts from the memorial minutes for Harry "Ted" Colwell III, David Llewellyn Davis, Annette Donovan, and Dody Waring. These memorial minutes will be forwarded to Sessions.

21-28: Closing Worship

Friends closed with a period of worship. We will meet again on May 15th via Zoom.

Leslie A Manning
Leslie A Manning (Jun 1, 2021 11:25 EDT)

Leslie Manning, clerk

6.1.21

Report to Permanent Board From the *Ad-hoc* Workgroup on Challenging White Supremacy

March 20, 2021 Permanent Board Meeting

Purpose, Background and Policy:

The Permanent Board *ad-hoc* workgroup on Challenging White Supremacy (CWS) was convened in 2017 with the charge of responding to the query from the Clerk of New England Yearly Meeting with regard to the 2016 NEYM Minute on White Supremacy: *“How will this faithful engagement with the work of interrupting white supremacy among the people called Quakers in NE continue?”* (Fritz Weiss, NEYM Presiding Clerk).

Review of workgroup activities: The focus of this workgroup from the outset has been to support, motivate and encourage New England Friends who identify as white, and their monthly meetings, to energetically progress on the road to becoming caring, just, and anti-racist individuals and a faith community that reflects that intent. From 2017 through 2019 CWS offered workshops from 2 to 6 hours in length, for meetings, Quarters and NEYM, on racial identity, implicit bias, how to see the signs and evidence of white supremacy-tainted thinking and behaviors, and how to transform these behaviors when we recognize them in ourselves.

In the late fall of 2019 clerks/representatives from CWS, RSEJ, Noticing Patterns, and Coordinating and Advisory met for a visioning exercise at Putney Friends Meeting. As we sought to discern our collaborative relationships to further the work of racial healing in NEYM, a metaphor arose of many peoples "climbing together to the mountaintop of social justice for all", with "climbers" positioned at many different elevations, having many different skill levels and degrees of motivation. In this metaphor the gathered group recognized CWS as the encourager: inviting, coaxing, and reassuring "beginners" to hit the trail, teaching about awareness, resiliency, and care of self and others, while climbing the mountain of internalized racism, racial dialogue, and racial justice.

Going Forward:

Since 2016, priorities and activities related to racial dialogue and racial healing in NEYM have evolved considerably. We recognize that this opening of awareness and initiative among many individuals is largely attributable to the shock of last summer's publicly witnessed murder of George Floyd by white law enforcement officers, and the concurrent murders of Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor. As a workgroup we note the ways in which other groups (RSEJ, Earthcare, Noticing Patterns, Israel-Palestine) have greatly advanced awareness of the insidious influences of Empire and racism. We see evidence of greater awareness of the trauma of marginalizing words and behaviors among individuals and monthly meetings. The emergence of "teachable spirits" shows up in the strong attendance (40 to 50) at the many workshops offered by the Noticing Patterns of Oppression and Faithfulness workgroup, and those of other anti-racism leaders in NEYM; the strong response to NEYM Apology to Native Americans; the proliferation of self-initiated study groups, book groups, and religious education programs in monthly meetings; and the centrality of the topics of noticing, apology, reparations, racial healing and deep self-examination in communications in and around NEYM. The enormity of the work is before us, but as a faith community we have largely gotten beyond quibbling about why, or how we should start.

Recommendation:

As CWS reflects on the Yearly Meeting that approved the “2016 White Supremacy Minute”, as compared to now, we find that the Yearly Meeting is in a much different place. Few now would disagree that this is a mountain that we all must climb, both alone, in the depths of our own hearts, and together as a faith community. All members of CWS have demonstrated a personal commitment and priority to continue the work of racial healing. Many of us are busily involved in that work in contexts other than CWS. But, that said, CWS has maintained an agnostic attitude about the future of *this* workgroup, and in fact, we have not been meeting regularly as a working group.

We find that the 2016 mission of the workgroup no longer fits our assessment of the needs and priorities of NEYM, nor our personal callings. Rather we recognize a benefit to focusing and structuring the Yearly Meeting’s current dedicated, but extemporaneous, responses to racial injustice, by developing a minute stating that Friends in NEYM intend and aspire for our Yearly Meeting to become an *Anti-Racist Faith Community*¹. As we shared reflections among ourselves, most of us on the workgroup were enlivened by the potential of such an idea to both unify our vision for what we aspire to be, as well as to inform the practical steps that will be required to get there. CWS was formed in response to a point in our evolution recognized by the “2016 White Supremacy Minute”. If NEYM declares its aspiration and intention to become an *Anti-Racist Faith Community*, then the work of envisioning the new forms and structures and Life to nurture and support that vision will build the path forward. Several us on the current CWS workgroup have expressed a willingness to explore the idea of a draft, similar to the process followed by the Apology to Native Americans, that was brought with the expectation of a year of seasoning in monthly meetings before bringing it for approval.

Submitted by Susan Davies,

Clerk of *ad hoc* Challenging White Supremacy workgroup:

Fran Brokaw, Susan Davies, Jeremiah Dickinson, Anita Mendes, Carole Rein, Will Taber, Diana White, Judy Anne Williams, Mary Zwirner

¹ For an example see <https://www.bym-rsf.org/publications/mop/antiracism.html>

**Report to Permanent Board
From the Presiding Clerk
March 20, 2021**

While it is many months away yet, Sessions is very much on my mind. While I am much encouraged by the rollout of vaccines, and dropping infection numbers, I expect that we will agree in August that the time is not right for a 500-600 person gathering at Castleton. I do expect that many groups of Friends will feel comfortable gathering in groups of 5-10 or more, and may participate together in various Session events.

The various Sessions planning teams, as described in a recommendation to the last PB meeting, have begun to meet regularly. I am wrestling with how much time to devote to business – a fuzzy calculus with factors including what is the work we need to do together, how much time are Friends willing to spend on Zoom this summer, and what's the ideal relationship of time for Business and time for other parts of Sessions, including informal gatherings? I expect we will spend more time in BM than we did last year, but not as much as during an in-person gathering. I will be meeting next week with the events coordinator and tech lead for a first discussion about how we will work with some number of groups who are together, logging in as one window on Zoom.

The theme is ***A Time for Healing; How are You Called?*** Jay O'Hara has agreed to be our Bible Half-hour speaker. As of this writing we do not have a confirmed Plenary speaker, but hope to be able to announce one soon. With apologies for not being more deliberate in this process, I will say that there were some communication issues with two people we had previously discerned, which delayed the process.

Noah and I meet regularly with the resource teams for both the Letter of Apology and the Call to Urgent, Loving Action. We note that this is a new model for how we ensure that Sessions decisions are followed up on. I expect that the Resource Group for Letter of Apology will bring a report to Sessions of how meetings have engaged with this work, which will inform our consideration and possible approval of the Letter of Apology. I also expect the Resource Group for the Call to Action will report, on how MM's have engaged with this call, and with the work it encourages.

Our relationship with FUM will most certainly be a part of our Business this August. I have received a number of Minutes from Monthly Meetings, showing a variety of perspectives. They can be reviewed at the Continuing Discernment page at neym.org [MM minutes](#) These minutes will be part of our deliberation.

Hoping to refresh Friends understanding of some basic Quaker practice in advance of this expected discussion, I asked a few Friends to prepare some materials that Monthly Meetings could engage with. The group produced guides for two discussion sessions, one on "Identity" which utilizes a specific approach to listening, and one on "Unity." My hope is that those Friends who have engaged with these discussions will bring a deeper appreciation for Quaker practice "into the room" at business meetings. A packet of materials was sent out to all MM contacts last month, and is posted on the website at [Fostering Conversations](#)

Coordinating and Advisory committee has continued our of review of Purpose and Procedure documents for the various committees, work which was put on hold last year as we (both C&A and the wider body of Friends in NE) wrestled with the impact of the pandemic. While a number of committees continue with little need for revision of P&P, C&A has had a shepherding role in major re-thinking of others. Friends have already approved a new model for Ministry and Counsel. In addition, the clerks of YM Nominating, Clerk's nominating, and Internal Nominating have been meeting regularly, with the Quaker Practice and leadership facilitator, to consider merging these functions. There is general acceptance of the concept, but the group is continuing to consider how the merged group would function.

Bruce Neumann

A MEMORIAL MINUTE for HARRY “TED” COLWELL III
(November 3, 1922 – November 28, 2019)

The Middlebury Friends Meeting community celebrates the life of Harry “Ted” Colwell, a member of the Meeting since 1982, after he and his wife, Olive, took up permanent residence in East Middlebury and transferred their membership from Scarsdale Friends Meeting in New York. Ted and Olive became dedicated supporters of Middlebury Friends Meeting, and warmly embraced members and attenders, serving on Meeting committees and often opening their home to all for special Christmas celebrations. Ted also represented Middlebury Friends as a member of the Middlebury Area Clergy Association and the Addison County Clergy Association. He offered strong support for such local organizations as Addison County Home Health and Hospice; Ilsley Library; Small Holders group; and Friends of the Arts.

Ted was raised in a Presbyterian household, served in the US Air Force during WWII, and earned a BA in Philosophy in 1946 from Dartmouth College. For a short time, he considered a career in the ministry and enrolled in Princeton Theological Seminary. Ultimately, he decided to pursue a career in banking and joined Chase National Bank in 1947, from which he retired as Division Executive of Aerospace in 1981. His time at Chase took him around the world on many occasions.

Ted came to Quakerism through his love for philosophy and wide reading. The works by Rufus Jones, Henry Cadbury, D. Elton Trueblood, and other major Quaker writers brought him to the concept of “continuing revelation” and he found the Quaker leading to go inward in search of one’s own spiritual truth a very compelling path. Always deeply dedicated to ethics and the pursuit of leading an ethical life, he sought to set high standards for himself and lead by example. He would always start the day with a spiritual reading, often from the Bible, and always found time for prayer throughout his life. Dorothy Day, Thomas Merton, and Thomas Kelly inspired Ted to embrace a life of service to others and follow the example of Jesus of Nazareth as a model for how to live our lives in the here and now. In his later years, Ted began to study Buddhism and found its teachings an inspiring extension of his Quaker faith. His dedication to peace, justice, and environment stewardship is aptly reflected in his motto: “Small is Beautiful; Less is More; Moderation in All Things.” Ted is fondly remembered as a great companion and loyal friend.

Ted was predeceased by his wife, Olive, and his son-in-law, Jack Bouffard. He is survived by his two daughters, Sally of Minneapolis, MN, and Linda of Middlebury, VT, and his son, Win, who continues Ted’s active involvement in Middlebury Friends Meeting. He also leaves seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

approved Middlebury Friends Meeting April 19, 2020
Northwest Quarterly Meeting December 6, 2020

David Llewellyn Davis – A Remembrance

“Two Constants of this World”

The constant murmur of spirit deep inside our being
That of God in each of us.
Change, the other constant
oh, yes
Movement day in day out,
Hour by hour
Minute to minute

Events, wonderful and horrific tumble over us
Like shells and pebbles in wash of restless water.

The attentive ear will give pause
Seek a quiet space where it is
Delve within, listen to the still, small voice
Receive strength, solace,
Yes, peace.

Taken from his book, “Ready to be Surprised”

Dave Davis would not want us to begin a memoir of his life by listing his many contributions and achievements. He was not that kind of man. Our local paper, the Bucksport Enterprise, described Dave as “the poet who dwelled and flourished by the river;” the Narramissic River, in Orland, Maine to be precise. He was a gentle man, a humble man, who observed and appreciated all that life brought his way. Dave’s collection of poems is titled “Ready to be Surprised.” In his poem “Wishing,” Dave wrote “Tears come to my eyes when I count all blessings. No more will I wish my life away.” His book is full of poems about his family activities with his wife, children, grandchildren and friends. Poems like “Belly Hockey,” “One More Swing,” “Late Winter Snowfall,” and “Whence Hoo Hoo” describe a man in love with his family. He was also a man with a hint of mischief in his eyes, a ready smile and a contagious laugh.

The accomplishments of a person who has been married for 70 years is never about just one person. Ginny, Dave’s wife and active partner, was beside him and supported him as he participated in many career and community activities. Dave wore many hats: mill worker, manager of the Community Development Department of the Cooperative Extension at the University of Maine, and greenhouse business manager. He participated in the local Grange, the Masons, the local Methodist Church, the Orland Historical Society and the Bucksport Bay Area Chamber of Commerce. He and Ginny were also

instrumental in starting the Narramissic Valley Friends Meeting in Orland which has continued to meet since the 1970's. Anyone who knew Dave would agree he lived his beliefs.

Dave was not a person to give unsolicited advice. The closest he comes is a poem in his book "Ready to be Surprised" titled "A Living Marker."

On this solstice night
A winter's moon shines full
Upon majestic, white pine
Reminding us all:
Stand firm, stand tall.
Faith, tenderness and love will
Weather all seasons.

We believe that Dave is still "Ready to be Surprised."

Dave Davis, 11/25/1926 – 4/3/2020

New Haven Friends Meeting
Memorial Minutes for Annette F. Donovan and Elise Knapp

Approved Sept. 20, 2020

Annette F. Donovan

Annette F. Donovan was a beloved member of New Haven Friends Meeting. She died peacefully on April 28, 2015 at Branford Hospice in Branford, CT. She was 94.

Many remember Annette sitting with her husband Ted and a full row of 9 children in Connecticut Hall on the Yale Campus where we met until we moved to our present location on East Grand Ave. in New Haven, CT. Annette always took an interest in everyone who attended Meeting regularly, and she called or wrote thoughtful notes to people who she hadn't seen for awhile. She loved poetry, and was known for sharing quotes from poems in meeting for worship, and she participated in a regular poetry group at Elim Park in Cheshire, CT, where she lived in her final years. She also loved watercolor painting, and made hand-painted cards for her thoughtful notes while at Elim Park. She and Ted had strong Quaker beliefs and were leaders in all aspects of New Haven Friends Meeting.

She is survived by her children, Mark of Kalamazoo, MI, Ann (Cote) of Bethany, Emily (Patton) of Wilton, IA, Rachel of Glastonbury, Naomi of Green Lane, PA, Greta of Barto, PA, Deborah (Orris) of Colchester, and Christopher of Burlington. (Martha of Kensington just died in the summer of 2020.) She is also survived by a sister Rosemary (Horrigan) of Cheshire, CT as well as 19 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. Annette, a daughter of the late Mabel (Roberts) and Bernard Fitch, was born in Hamden, CT on March 10, 1921 and was predeceased by her husband Theodore W. Donovan in 2001. A Memorial Service was held on Saturday May 23, 2015 at New Haven Friends Meeting, 223 East Grand Avenue, New Haven, CT.

Elise Knapp

Elise Knapp was a beloved member of New Haven Friends Meeting. She died on October 21, 2018 at age 94 at her home in New Haven, CT. A memorial service was held at our meetinghouse May 11, 2019. Friends remember Elise as someone who took an interest in all attenders and loved keeping in touch with people. She is fondly remembered for making soup for meeting attenders who were recovering from illnesses, and she also volunteered regularly at Hospice. She loved poetry and enjoyed sharing poems and discussing literature. When she was in her 80's she wrote a memoir about the house her grandfather built in Sagaponack, Long Island. She worked with Meeting member Linda Miller for 10 years to complete this project, which was a real gift to her family. It is illustrated by Linda.

Elise Trowbridge Ford Knapp was born in Honolulu, HI, July 1, 1924 to the late Brig. Gen. William Wallace Ford and Alice Trowbridge Harris Ford. Following her father's many army postings, she had attended schools in seven states by the time she entered Duke University in 1940. She married Robert Phineas Knapp, Jr. of Manchester, CT at Fort Sill, OK in 1943 and moved to New York after the war, where Elise became the first married student at Barnard College. She graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa in 1949. After living fifteen years in Port Washington, NY, the family moved to Redding, CT, where Elise remained active in community affairs. She earned a Master's from Western Connecticut State University in

Danbury, CT in 1971 and a PhD in English from Columbia University in 1975. She went on to teach and head the English Department at WCSU for over 20 years. She was a life-long lover of English Literature. Predeceased by her husband in 2000, Elise is the mother of David M. Knapp (Pan), Michal Brownell (Bart), Robert P. Knapp III (Eun Soo) and Frederic H. Knapp (Donald). Elise is survived by 12 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Memorial Minute for Dody Waring (10/18/20)

Dody (Theodora) Elkinton Waring died peacefully on August 23, 2020, aged 93, at the home of her daughter in Brunswick, Maine. A member of Putney Friends Meeting in Vermont since 2015, she was a longtime and beloved member of Wellesley Friends Meeting, going back to its very beginning. Dody and her husband, Tom, were among the Friends who began worshipping at Tenacre School in 1957, and then became members of the newly formed monthly meeting when it was founded in 1958.

Over the decades, Dody contributed to Wellesley Meeting in numerous ways. She served many times on Ministry and Counsel, was on Hospitality, Nominating, and RE Committees, and also was our Recording Clerk. She rarely failed to attend Meeting for Business, expressing her ideas with passion and thoughtful attention to Quaker testimonies. Dody was among the first to give a warm welcome to newcomers and her ministry was heartfelt and memorable, often containing quotes from the *Bible*.

Already in her eighties when she moved to Brattleboro, Dody quickly became integral to the life of Putney Meeting. She served on the Fellowship Committee, the Adult Religious Education Committee, as well as on a few clearness committees. Dody spoke often in Meeting and her simple messages touched many members and attenders. Her vocal ministry touched on both thanksgiving and supplication. She spoke of friends here and abroad. As part of her ministry she shared both the hardships and joys in her life.

Dody was active in New England Yearly Meeting, attending Sessions as long as she was able, and serving on Yearly Meeting Ministry and Counsel, Moses Brown Board, and Correspondence Committees. In addition, she gave workshops and was a worship-sharing leader several times. After moving to Brattleboro, VT in 2012, she transferred her membership to Putney Friends Meeting, where she quickly became a treasured Friend.

Dody was born Theodora Elkinton to an old Quaker family in Germantown, Pennsylvania, a community in north Philadelphia. With the exception of one year, she attended Germantown Friends School as her mother and grandmother had before her. In 1938 her parents were doing Quaker work in Berlin so Dody and her older brother spent her seventh grade year in the Netherlands at a school specifically for German-Jewish children who had been unable to attend school at home during those years due to Nazi anti-Semitic regulations. This experience left an indelible mark on her and the rest of her family. Dody spent summers during her teen years at Quaker work camps.

Dody attended Smith College for two years, and in 1946 married Tom Waring, who was also from a Quaker family in Germantown. In their first summer together, the newlyweds joined a work crew and boarded a ship to Finland, where they built houses and distributed relief supplies to Finnish families who had been displaced by the Russian invasion during the war.

Back in the United States, Dody focused on raising their five children, serving meals daily for seven (or more, with frequent guests!) with aplomb. After living in Denver and Doylestown, PA, they settled in Cambridge, MA and Tom became the Headmaster of the newly-founded Cambridge Friends School. Dody created and ran the library at CFS, where her love of children's books and gift for reading aloud shone. During this time she finished college, graduating from Simmons with a B.A. in 1971, and then an MEd. from Lesley in 1972.

Dody and Tom bought land next to Barvel Pond in NH (near Squam Lake) and spent many weekends and summers building cabins and enjoying rustic wilderness life. Dody continued to go there into her eighties. She delighted in the natural world throughout her life.

Dody described herself as not a particularly devout child, taking her Quakerism for granted. But when visiting her daughter at Earlham College in 1972, she had a profound spiritual experience, what she called a "baptism of the holy spirit." She felt that she now had a personal relationship with God. This influenced her to go to Divinity School, though she knew she could never leave Quakerism nor did she want to have a church of her own. She says she changed from nominal to serious Quakerism. She received a M.Div. at Harvard Divinity School, and a Doctorate in Ministry at Boston University.

After getting divorced in 1979 and once her children were grown, the next part of Dody's adult life was full of accomplishments. She worked, traveled, and found ways to serve, as her parents had done before her. Later she moved to Newton, MA.

She worked as a hospital chaplain at New England Baptist Hospital in Boston for fifteen years, until her retirement in 1993. During this time, she served for three consecutive terms as the first woman elected President of the National Association of Hospital Chaplains. After her retirement she continued to conduct marriages, funerals and baptisms, allowing her to offer guidance and love for many people with no religious connections. Dody had a warm and outgoing nature, loved to laugh, and with older family members or Friends she continued to use the plain language ("thee" and "thy").

Dody was a life-long learner and traveled widely after her retirement, usually combining travel with service. Examples of her trips were a Biblical Archeological Dig in Israel, Habitat for

Humanity building projects in Georgia and Alaska, and a medical mission to Ecuador, which gave her a chance to visit Machu Picchu, Peru, a life-long dream. For many years, Dody was also a faithful participant in Boston's "Walk for Hunger", raising money and walking miles in support of impoverished people. She was high-spirited and energetic, befriended people and told her stories wherever she went. She valued her friendships and maintained connections through letters and visits.

At age seventy-six she wrote her memoir, *A Sacred Trust*, chronicling the long history of Quaker service and faith in her family since 1816. In her eighties, as an active and involved mother and grandmother, she was a terrific role model and beloved in her family. She is survived by her children, Christopher, Kitty, Nat, Abigail, and Lydia, seventeen grandchildren, and forty-two great-grandchildren.

Her favorite quotation was from the *Bible*, Psalms 91: 1-2

"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, who abides in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust'."

approved Putney Friends Meeting October 18, 2020

Northwest Quarterly Meeting December 6, 2020

2021-3-20 PB Minutes

Final Audit Report

2021-06-01

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