

Permanent Board
23 September 2017
Burlington Monthly Meeting

Christopher McCandless and Charles Simpson (Burlington Monthly Meeting Co-Clerk) welcomed Friends to Burlington Monthly Meeting.

17-56 Opening Worship. Friends gathered in worship with members of the Ministry and Counsel Committee, experiencing beautiful but warm weather shortly after the fall equinox.

Joint Session with Ministry & Counsel

17-57 Roll Call:

Present: Sarah Gant, Clerk; Becky Steele, recording Clerk; Travis Belcher, Deana Chase, Susan Davies, Jeremiah Dickinson, Darcy Drayton, Christopher Gant, Ben Guaraldi, Christopher McCandless, Jean McCandless, Gina Nortonsmith, Anna Radocchia, Sara Smith, Phil Stone, Bill Walkauskas, Donn Weinholtz

Ex Officio: Noah Merrill (YM Secretary), Jackie Stillwell (Former Presiding Clerk), Shearman Taber (Treasurer), Fritz Weiss (Presiding Clerk)

Regrets: Kimberly Allen, Hannah Zwirner Forsythe, Galen Hamann, Ian Harrington, Leanna Kantt, Rebecca Leuchak, Carole Rein, Elizabeth Reuthe (YM Secretary Supervisor), Elias Sanchez-Eppler (Clerk, Finance Committee), Rosemary Zimmerman, Mary Zwirner

Absent: Tom Jackson, Elizabeth Szatkowski

Members of Ministry and Counsel included M&C Clerk Honor Woodrow and Recording Clerk, Brian Drayton; Marian Baker, Beth Collea, Cliff Harrison, Jnana Hodson, Janet Hough, Callid Keefe-Perry, Meg Klepack, Hugh MacArthur, Jay O'Hara, Cornelia Parkes, LVM Shelton, J.J. Smith, Paul Spence, Sarah Spencer, Susan Vargo, Fritz Weiss, Carl Williams

Guests: Charles Simpson (Co-Clerk Burlington Monthly Meeting), Ken Stockbridge (Presiding Clerk, Baltimore Yearly Meeting), Kathleen Wooten

17-58 Presiding Clerk Report: Expanding on his written report, the Clerk announced the theme for Sessions 2018, based on a quote from Penn's *Fruits of Solitude*: "It is as great Presumption to send our Passions upon God's Errands, as it is to palliate them with God's Name." The Presiding Clerk noted that we act with fear and trembling, bold in God's service. Centering around a quote from William Penn also gives Friends a chance to pay attention to our past (and ongoing) involvement in colonization.

The Presiding Clerk invited Friends to take time to stop and celebrate. He has been reading Wendell Berry's volume of sabbath poems, *This Day*, realizing that the gate into the forest is narrow, so to enter it we must lay our burdens down.

Joyful news -- New England Friends are engaging with the larger church. The Clerk met with the Maine Council of Churches and heard how important Friends have been to its efforts. Also, a representative to Sessions from the Massachusetts Council of Churches told the clerk that he found us to be exciting and alive in the Spirit of Christ.

17-59 YM Secretary Report: In the immediate aftermath of the white supremacy march in Charlottesville, the Secretary felt clear he needed to be in the streets, saying "no." He prepared a letter from NEYM acknowledging how Charlottesville was a mirror to us all. He joined other clergy to be a visible presence at a Boston march called to protest the hatred in Charlottesville. The clergy used a smartphone app called "Signal" to stay in touch, naming their group "Emmanuel" (God with Us). That name was beautiful to the Secretary, because it captured the intimacy of God being present at the march. The Secretary affirmed the leadership of people of color who were leading the march. He saw his job not to tell the story, but to be present and witnessing. The Secretary extended a hope and an invitation for us to stay present to Emmanuel as we carry forth our work, in recognition of the divine in each other, and also to feel a presence among us greater than the sum of our egos.

The Secretary also shared reflections on his written report: We are in the midst of a time of renewal for Friends. He sees stirrings of life and hope, people stepping more fully into service and ministry. This is an existential generation for Friends. The decisions we make now will make a difference in whether there will be a thriving, relevant, living Society of Friends twenty years from now. For the Quaker movement to grow and thrive, we must enliven existing meetings and start new ones. The Secretary encouraged Friends not to let fears of scarcity, or fears of “evangelical fervor,” stop us from growing new opportunities for folks to know about and come to Friends.

The Secretary also noted that we have vital work to do to encouraging and supporting those who are acting on our behalf in the world. Gifts of ministry are given not for the aggrandizement of individual Friends but are necessary for us as a whole. We must engage our tradition and see how it moves forth in fresh ways. Ours is a living faith that we can carry more faithfully in the world. The Secretary encouraged us to step more fully into boldness and into leadership, working together.

Finally, the Secretary noted our greatest challenge is what we’re called to believe: that there is light of God in everyone, even white supremacists. That’s hard. Friends must be visible in demonstrating love not just to those who look and think like us, but also those who are not like us.

17-60 Ad Hoc PB/M&C Travel Minutes Working Group. Janet Hough presented the work of the group, which also includes Carl Williams, Christopher McCandless and Karen Sanchez-Eppler.

Friends expressed appreciation for the group’s hard work. Accepting the report with gratitude, Friends **approved** laying down the working group, and also **approved** the following minute:

1. **Responsibilities of Permanent Board:**
 - Permanent Board is responsible for endorsing travel minutes on behalf of New England Yearly Meeting for travel outside the yearly meeting, when clear to do so. (Endorsement is not automatic.)
 - After endorsing a travel minute, the clerk of Permanent Board returns the signed travel minute to the traveler. Travelers should report back

after completion of their travel (for a specific visit/event) or annually (for open-ended or ongoing travel). Written reports should be sent to Permanent Board, copied to Ministry and Counsel, and should include impressions and learnings from their travels, along with copies of any endorsements made by the meetings they visited. (This reporting is in addition to reports Friends make to their monthly and quarterly meeting.) Although written reports are generally sufficient, in addition, a person may feel called to request time on the agenda to report in person to Permanent Board or Ministry and Counsel, or the clerk of Permanent Board or Ministry and Counsel may request an in-person report.

- PB sends a copy of the endorsed travel minute to the clerk of Ministry and Counsel for tracking and follow-up.

2. Responsibilities of Ministry & Counsel:

- Ministry and Counsel is responsible for tracking the endorsed travel minutes on behalf of NEYM. As part of this work, Ministry and Counsel will support monthly meetings in their care of each traveler, including, if helpful, naming someone to follow-up with and help shepherd each traveler.
- Ministry and Counsel “shepherding” may include holding the travelers and their ministries and concerns in the light, checking in with the persons holding the travel minute, and requesting and reading reports on the traveling ministry. Shepherds should remind traveling ministers to report annually and/or at the end of the concern both to Ministry and Counsel, and to Permanent Board. Where appropriate, they may check with the monthly meeting care/support committee and/or yearly meeting committee associated with the travel.
- Note: The shepherding outlined above is in addition to, *and supportive of*, the regular, primary care provided to Friends with travel minutes by their monthly meetings and care/support committees.

Permanent Board

Following lunch, members of Permanent Board reconvened as members of Ministry and Counsel went to their separate meeting.

17-61 Memorial Minutes Friends held in memory Friends Jean V. Blickensderfer, Joyce Kay Wilson and heard their memorial minutes, which are attached.

17-62 Minutes: Friends **approved** minutes from the PB meetings of August 5 and August 10, 2017.

17-63 PB Purposes, Procedures and Composition: To begin this new year of work together, the Clerk called our attention to the revised Purposes, Procedures and Composition of Permanent Board as approved at Sessions 2017.

17-64 Treasurer Report. The state of finances as we near the end of the fiscal year is uncertain. We should slightly exceed the \$142,000 budgeted for income. Individual contributions appear likely to meet the “stretch” goal of \$182,000. Monthly meeting contributions are down, and Finance Committee members are reaching out to meetings.

17-65 Friends Camp Budget (Revised). At the request of the Friends Camp Director, the YM Secretary presented a revised draft budget (which was approved by the Friends Camp Committee August 22, 2017. Friends **approved** the revised budget. The Friends Camp Director and YM Secretary, together with the treasurers for the camp and the yearly meeting, are working on streamlining the process for preparing camp budgets

17-66 Development. As we near the final week of the fiscal year, it appears we will meet the \$20,000 goal of new or increased giving, triggering a matching challenge gift. The committee will follow up with “Last Year But Not This Year (LYBNT)” donors to hit the stretch goal.

For the next fiscal year, the committee will work on creating a culture of pledging, for more predictability in income. It is sending e-mail solicitations to targeted groups of Friends, such as Permanent Board members and members of yearly meeting committees, as well as Young Friends. Chris Gant, the committee clerk, shared a heartening story of a Young Friend who responded to the appeal by quadrupling her contribution, saying, “this is my faith community.”

The committee held a fall retreat with Jennie Isbell Shinn, looking at the spirituality of fundraising. They worked on articulating a vision of what NEYM offers, inspiring giving.

The clerk reported that a small task force is working on outreach to monthly meetings. In addition, the YM Secretary, Development Committee clerk and Jennie Shinn attended a conference in Lancaster, PA sponsored by Everence, a Mennonite financial services firm. They examined issues and challenges surrounding money and considered other ways to encourage gifts, such as planned giving, or even NEYM credit cards.

The clerk concluded his report by saying, "If you don't ask you don't get." He asked Friends, "Are you moved to give?"

17-67 Ad hoc Challenging White Supremacy Working Group:

Susan Davies, clerk of the working group, reported on the group's work. She thanked members who worked on this issue last year, and was happy that others joined the group after 2017 Sessions. The clerk expressed her sense of unworthiness, realizing this is her "growing edge." Recognizing that we can't see without the help of others, she felt the urgency of the call of Ruby Sayles: "Are you with me, my people?" The clerk expressed how fully, humbly, desperately we need to answer that call and be present to each other.

The clerk acknowledged the need to remain mindful of the work of other Friends, including those on the Racial, Social and Economic Justice (RSEJ) Committee. She also reminded Friends that we all need to be part of this work and cannot leave it to others. The Presiding Clerk has released Lisa Graustein, with oversight, to convene RSEJ, CWS, and other groups for an October 14 gathering to further engage the racial justice work going forward throughout yearly meeting. Part of the task is to reach out to Friends of Color to learn from their experience, and to provide monthly meetings with tools, some of which are already developed, to do this work. The clerk noted that the work is tender, and not everyone comes to it from the same place.

17-68 Ad hoc Reparations Working Group: Permanent Board Clerk Sarah Gant reported on the complex nature of the group's task, exploring possible corporate action on issues including white supremacy and

reparations. The group must balance the need for education and soulful examination, while not losing track of possible concrete steps for action. There are many issues to parse out and untangle.

Leslie Manning has agreed to clerk the ad hoc working group. The plan is to identify committee members and bring a concrete charge, with actionable steps for Permanent Board's consideration at its November meeting.

17-69 Proposal: Quaker Network to End Mass Incarceration (QNEMI): Phil Stone reported that the group met at Sessions following a movie on mass incarceration. AFSC promised the help of a staff person, but is now facing budget difficulties. There was a very successful conference at Pendle Hill with Michelle Alexander. Phil referred Friends to his written report. A website has been set up for the Network at www.qnemi.org. Phil hopes that NEYM might provide institutional support for this effort. He has reached out to the RSEJ Committee, but has not heard back.

Friends discussed the concept. Friends recognized that after Sessions laid down the Peace and Social Concerns Committee, C&A was tasked with exploring ways to support Friends' social witness, but there is not yet an organizational structure in place to handle requests such as this. Friends noted that this is not the first time NEYM has been asked to provide support for Friends' social witness and other Quaker concerns, especially in connection with organizations outside the yearly meeting structure. This is a worthy issue, but there are many factors to consider, such as the burden on staff and NEYM resources, as well as seasoning organizational concerns (such as why AFSC laid down its support).

Friends were united in desiring to explore further how to support Friends' social witness. Friends interested in helping to discern a way forward were invited to give their names to the Permanent Board Clerk.

17-70 Purposes, Procedures and Composition: Clerks Nominating Committee and YM Nominating Committee. Friends **approved** the Purposes, Procedures and Composition for the Clerks' Nominating Committee and the Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee, with the additional edit that the Nominating Committee is tasked with finding a support committee for the Presiding Clerk.

17-71 Internal Nominating Committee: Friends **approved** the following nominations:

- Delany Bennett as Clerk of the Personnel Committee (2020)
- Sarah Gant, Permanent Board Clerk (2019)
- Allen Kohrman to Internal Nominating (2020)
- Rachel Walker-Cogbill to the Clerk's Nominating Committee (class of 2019)

17-72 YM Nominating Committee: Friends **approved** the following nominations:

- Peter Colby (Framingham) to Sessions Committee-at large (2020)
- Melissa Foster (Framingham) to AFSC Corporation (2020)
- Sarah Gerould (Fresh Pond) to Earthcare Ministries of NEYM (2020)
- Elizabeth (Betsy) Kantt (Fresh Pond) to Permanent Board (2022)
- Rebecca Leuchak (Providence) to FCNL General Committee (2019)
- Fran Lightsom (West Falmouth) to Earthcare Ministries of NEYM (class of 2020)
- Peter Nutting (Vassalboro) to NEYM FGC Committee (2020)
- Charles Simpson (Burlington) to AFSC Corporation (2019)

17-73 Friends Camp Nominating Committee: Friends **approved** the nomination of Beno Chapman to the Friends Camp Committee (Class of 2020).

17-74 Announcements and Closing Worship

We closed with a period of open worship, grateful to be together in the work of this day.

Informational Reports

- Meeting Visits by Quarter (Draft)
- Friends Camp Summer Report 2017

Attachments:

Report: Presiding Clerk

Report: Secretary

Report: ad hoc Joint Permanent Board/Ministry and Counsel Travel Minutes
Working Group

Memorial Minute: Jean V. Blickensderfer

Memorial Minute: Joyce Kay Wilson

Sarah Gant

[Sarah Gant \(Jan 23, 2023 16:13 EST\)](#)

Sarah Gant

*Presiding Clerk report to Permanent Board and Ministry and Counsel
September 2017*

“All the paths of the Lord are steadfast Love and faithfulness” Psalm 25

Dear Friends

This summer, the yearly meeting committed to continue engaging in the spiritual witness addressing the changing climate; to continue challenging the culture of white power and privilege in our community; to support refugees and consider sanctuary; and to respond to the deep pain in the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. There is good news to report in each of these concerns.

The first impulse of the Friends carrying the concern for climate change was to commit to praying together every morning at 5:30 and every evening at 9:30. I have joined in this discipline. I feel real joy that Friends choose to prepare for the work God gives us by strengthening our spiritual discipline.

The Challenging White Supremacy working group has met and is committed to another year of deep listening encouraging this profound work of culture change in our community.

Lisa Graustein is offering a day of visioning, community building, and skill-development around our Yearly Meeting's work challenging white supremacy for yearly and quarterly meeting leadership and staff.

The NEYM-IP (Israeli/Palestinian) working group has started bringing the minute that was approved at Sessions to monthly meetings and the wider faith community.

I am aware of at least two meetings who have committed to working with other local faith communities to provide sanctuary for those threatened with deportation.

When Permanent Board met last year in September after sessions, it was our responsibility to find a way to carry the concerns from annual sessions forward. This year the public minutes on Immigrants, Refugees and Sanctuary and on the Israeli/Palestinian Conflict are still in final review and have not yet been sent out. Yet there are gathered bodies already working faithfully on these concerns. This is something to celebrate.

Since Sessions, Coordinating & Advisory Committee has met by phone three times and has had a very rich retreat. At the retreat, the committee considered how we wish to work together and the themes and priorities before us this year. My experience of the retreat was that C&A named its work clearly as supporting NEYM in continuing to turn towards God and laid the groundwork to do this work grounded in God's presence and supported by our love for each other.

One priority for C&A in the coming year is to facilitate a process of re-visioning and reviving the quarterly meeting structure. I hope to find Friends from M&C willing to travel to quarters and help with this conversation.

In our YM positions, Noah Merrill, Sarah Gant, Honor Woodrow and I released the Statement "In Such a Time as This" speaking to the events in Charlottesville VA and the planned free speech rally in Boston. NEYM also participated in releasing *A Joint Statement from Boston Area Religious Leaders on the Horrific Events in Charlottesville, Virginia*.

Noah and I have agreed that NEYM will endorse and co-sponsor a one-day retreat in November. The focus of the retreat is to gather a group of those who are engaged in faith-based climate action for a chance to deepen, to network, and to make, potentially, some working alliances (as next steps). Kristina Keefe-Perry is organizing this retreat in her role as Coordinator of "Creation Care Ministries" for The American Baptist Churches, in MA

Last week I met with Jane Fields, the Director of the Maine Council of Churches. We talked about faith based decision-making and conflict resolution and, in the conversation, I realized how influential Friends have been in the MCC and how much we are valued. Friends have had a long and significant relationship with the Maine Council. I look forward to M&C helping the ecumenical relations committee share some of the story of how we are part of the larger church in New England.

The planning for Sessions 2019 has begun. The Sessions Committee has discerned a theme, quoting William Penn from "*The Fruits of Solitude*". The Speakers and Agenda subcommittee will be discerning whom to invite for the Bible Half Hours and for the Plenary. There may be a chance to talk about the initial thoughts about sessions in more detail at our Meeting on Saturday.

I also would like to draw attention to the retreat for the 9th grade students of The Moses Brown School that was held at Friends Camp. The Camp and The School are establishing a relationship with enormous potential. The week after the retreat the MBS's girl's field hockey team was witnessed singing "We will rise up like a phoenix from the fire" as they went to practice. I was told that MBS students are not known to sing spontaneously.

Fritz Weiss
Presiding Clerk

To: NEYM Permanent Board and Ministry & Counsel Committee
From: Noah Merrill, Yearly Meeting Secretary
Re: Report in preparation for September 2017 meetings

Dear Friends,

This month I'm experimenting with a more concise written report than I have offered in the last few years. I welcome your questions and suggestions on what you would find most helpful for me to include in these reports in advance of our meetings. In this report, I hope to give Friends a sense of how I see my priorities and focus of attention in the coming year.

In the coming year, I see the need to attend to:

- 1) Listening and watching for how I can support our faith communities' continuing response to challenging white supremacy and living faithfully in the context of climate disruption;
- 2) Strengthening our capacity to support local meetings, and to start new meetings, so that we might be more and more vibrant communities of deep hope and faithful living;
- 3) Connecting and encouraging those called to ministry and those who support them, as we reclaim and reimagine how we steward for gifts in ministry;
- 4) Making more available and accessible ways of transmitting our tradition, spiritual practices and wisdom—this would include fostering our capabilities for religious education and spiritual nurture;
- 5) Helping us transform our spiritual relationship with money and ministry, that we might—in the words of John Woolman—“turn all we possess into the channel of Universal Love,” so that we might realign our hearts from scarcity to abundance in support of the ministries of New England Friends;
- 6) Keep focused on nurturing both the *institutional* dimensions of our work and the *organic* dimensions, so that the organizational tools and capabilities we are continuing to develop might help to strengthen the wider ecology of the Quaker movement in New England and beyond.

To make this somewhat more concrete, in addition to my overall work of supervision, coordination and support for those who serve as staff and in volunteer service and my ongoing responsibilities, I intend to:

- Collaborate with the Presiding Clerk, Clerk of Ministry & Counsel, and quarterly meeting leadership to revitalize and reimagine our quarterly meetings, focusing on the functions needed to support meetings and ministers and help Friends and meetings to connect within their region;
- Steward (in partnership with many others) a process of articulating and consulting on a visioning document linking programmatic expenditures with the purpose and priorities approved by Annual Sessions, in order to bring forward (God willing) to share at Sessions 2018 a clear, concrete and

integrated vision for our institutional ministries for wider input and affirmation;

- Work with Coordinating & Advisory Committee and others to identify, uplift, and support new and emerging ways of fostering, connecting and sharing the public witness and advocacy of New England Friends;
- Continue to support strengthening our financial sustainability through work with the Ad Hoc Long Term Financial Planning Committee (LTFPC), the Finance Committee, and the Development Committee;
- Develop more effective and integrated channels of strengthening and stewarding relationships with local meetings, as well as gathering and sharing information and news to support the life of our meetings, so that there can be a better shared awareness of the whole landscape of travel, communication and relationship among and within local meetings;
- Travel in ministry, encouraging and connecting those called to ministry, building and strengthening relationships with local meeting leadership (including pastoral meetings), and listening for how the Life is at work across our region;
- Deepen our partnership with New York Yearly Meeting as we enter the second year of the Shoemaker Fund-supported project, “Fostering Vibrant Multigenerational Meetings”, including integrating and raising the visibility of this work so that it can more fully engage and benefit our meetings;
- Provide overall shepherding for a redesign of neym.org to better respond to the needs of Friends now, in addition to further strengthening and stabilizing our communications, coordination and information management capabilities overall.

With joy, I’m pleased this month to be welcoming Elizabeth Hacala as our new Events Coordinator, stepping into the role so well established by Kathleen Wooten, as Kathleen transitions into other shapes of ministry in our community. Elizabeth brings experience coordinating large-scale, multi-day events, and has previously served with the Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council, strengthening relationships between U.S.-based congregations and Unitarian churches and organizations internationally. She’s trained as a software engineer, and has experience with business, nonprofit, and civic work. I look forward to all she will bring to our support of the Quaker movement in the coming years, and to Friends getting to know her as she lends her energy, skills and gifts to our shared service.

In recent months, I have become increasingly clear that I need to be a better steward of my time and energy so that I can faithfully serve the Spirit and Friends, and to maintain my own grounding, health, and usefulness in this service. With the support of my new supervisor, Elizabeth Reuthe of Vassalboro (ME) Friends, I am increasingly working to prioritize, which will mean difficult choices. I ask for your prayers, compassion, and care as I endeavor to be faithful in listening, in acting, and in resting. With joy, I look forward to the coming year, and to sharing it with you.

**Report from ad hoc Travel Minutes working group
for joint meeting of Permanent Board and Ministry and Counsel, September 23, 2017**

*Members of working group: Carl Williams & Janet Hough, for Ministry and Counsel;
Karen Sanchez-Eppler & Christopher McCandless, for Permanent Board*

At a joint meeting of Permanent Board and Ministry and Counsel in September 2016, Friends approved the appointment of a working group of Friends from Ministry and Counsel and Permanent Board to think about the process of endorsements for Minutes of Travel Under Concern or In Ministry (Travel Minutes), and our joint responsibility for following up with those who carry these minutes.

We now propose the following process for endorsements for Travel Minutes, and following up with those who carry them.

Responsibilities of Permanent Board

Permanent Board is responsible for endorsing Travel Minutes on behalf of New England Yearly Meeting, when clear to do so. (Endorsement is not automatic.) After endorsing a Travel Minute, the clerk of Permanent Board:

- Returns the signed Travel Minute to the traveler.
- Asks the traveler to report back after completion of their travel (for a specific visit/event) or annually (for open-ended or on-going travel). Written reports should be sent to Permanent Board, copied to Ministry and Counsel, and should include impressions and learnings from their travels, along with copies of any endorsements made by the Meetings they visited. (This reporting is in addition to reports Friends make to their MM and Quarterly Meeting.) Although written reports are generally sufficient, in addition, a person may feel called to request time on the agenda to report in person to Permanent Board or Ministry and Counsel, or the clerk of Permanent Board or Ministry and Counsel may request an in-person report.
- Sends a copy of the endorsed Travel Minute to the clerk of Ministry and Counsel for tracking and follow-up.

Responsibilities of Ministry & Counsel

Ministry and Counsel is responsible for tracking the endorsed Travel Minutes on behalf of New England Yearly Meeting. As part of this work, Ministry and Counsel will name someone to follow-up with and lightly shepherd each traveler. (We envision this work being carried by the nascent Ministry working group.) Travel Minute shepherds will:

- Hold the travelers and their ministries and concerns in prayer, in the Light
- Check with the person holding the Travel Minute. Request and read reports on travel. Remind travelers to report annually and/or at the end of the concern both to Ministry and Counsel, and to Permanent Board. Where appropriate, they may check with the Monthly Meeting care/support committee and/or yearly meeting committee associated with the travel (Puente, Climate Action Group, etc.)
- **Note:** The shepherding outlined above is in addition to the regular, primary care provided to Friends with Travel Minutes by their monthly meetings and care/support committees.

Ministry Working Group

We envision that through their attention to the travelers and their ministries and concerns, the Travel Minute shepherds and Ministry Working Group members will gain insight into how the particular ministries fit into the overall life of the yearly meeting. We see new ministries arising in these changing times. We see that some meetings are responding to the ministries that are rising, and we recognize

that not all meetings have experience with care and support committees. Meetings may need support, too. Meetings as well as individuals are facing new challenges, and gaining experience that can benefit others in the wider yearly meeting. If a meeting is not able to provide adequate support, the shepherd or the Ministry working group might offer to help the meeting find ways to develop the capacity to do so, and/or help the Traveler/Minister find support from outside their home meeting.

Some questions for the Ministry working group to consider: What life is there in recognizing, naming, and cultivating spiritual gifts, leadings, or concerns? What forms of ministry are recognized which have deep roots, and what new forms of ministry are arising from fresh seeds? What traditional forms of nurture and ongoing support still have life, and what new forms might be needed and arising? Having one's work recognized is important. Endorsement by the yearly meeting can amplify the work of Friends. Are there any we know of who do not have Travel Minutes who might benefit? Are there other forms of recognition that we should consider?

There are other forms of recognition of gifts and leadings within New England Yearly Meeting. Quarterly Meetings are responsible for minutes recording gifts in ministry, particularly sustained gifts in vocal ministry, and for minutes of denominational endorsement. Pastors are appointed and supervised by the monthly meeting they serve. Minutes of release are similarly under the care of individual meetings. What is the responsibility of the yearly meeting towards these?

Jean V. Blickensderfer

November 11, 1946 – June 16, 2017

Among Dover Friends, Jean was the flash of gold in the morning, a welcoming soul others naturally confided in, a faithful worker who eventually filled nearly every organizational position – from children’s teacher and treasurer, to co-clerk and finally presiding clerk.

Raised Unitarian-Universalist in Methuen, Massachusetts, she came to Friends in the early ‘80s after she and her first husband, Dean L. Davis, had settled in Eliot, Maine, and were seeking the right church for a family that included daughters Thaedra May and Sarah Joy. They were quickly entrenched among us.

Jean was twice widowed.

She married Dean the day after his graduation from the Maine Maritime Academy in 1967, and then managed their home during his long assignments at sea. During his interludes ashore, they built their own post-and-beam house on the banks of the Piscataqua River and could often be found boating, sometimes to visit other Quakers upstream, or on his motorcycle, which they rode to Meeting in good weather. He died in a freak automobile collision in 1992, an accident his wife and daughters survived unscathed.

In 1998 she married Del Blickensderfer and worked as his partner at Del’s Service Station until his passing of lupus in 2006.

Deeply grateful for the mentoring she received from seasoned Friends, Jean was a stickler for Quaker process and, over time, became the memory of the Meeting’s business itself. She sought to walk a line between holding her tongue and being direct, when needed. A witness to the movement of Christ in our midst, Jean’s infrequent vocal ministry could be powerful. Her skills as a professional typist assured the Meeting’s minutes were of archival quality and, combined with her business-school training, led to the Blue Books for committees and their clerks detailing their responsibilities. She was particularly fond of drawing on the *Advices and Queries* from London Yearly Meeting’s 1994 edition of *Quaker Faith and Practice* as guideposts for our own action. An avid knitter, she took comfort in seeing others do needlework during our business deliberations, their patience reflecting the work before us. In time, a midweek knitting circle became what she called a “wicked good” time of refreshment, nurture, and fellowship.

More pressing obligations had precluded her attending yearly meeting sessions, a “bucket list” item she resolved to achieve. All along, she warmly welcomed the wider world of Friends to Dover.

Other delights in her life were yoga, visiting with neighbors, shopping and dining with dear friends, walking the beach, doting on her Pomeranian Sumi, and especially being with her grandson Jonah. His living in Albuquerque, New Mexico, did not prevent her from accompanying much of his childhood and youth, from celebrating birthdays and holidays to attending his piano recitals to cheering him on in mountain bicycle races, whenever she could.

In all, her presence, generosity, and deep and lively spirit were a gift.

With loved ones at her bedside through the final days of her cancer, she passed at age 70, peace and grace abundant.

APPROVED by Dover Monthly Meeting July 16, 2017
Charles Cox, clerk

ENDORSED by Dover Quarterly Meeting July 31, 2017
at North Sandwich
Erik Claven, clerk

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Memorial Minute for Joyce Kay Wilson, 1948-2016

Wilderness Friends Meeting lost a dear member on October 7, 2016, when Joyce Kay Wilson passed away at her home after an extended illness. She was surrounded by her devoted family throughout.

Joyce was born July 31, 1948, in St. Louis Park, Minnesota, the daughter of Walter Anderson and Ethel Lindberg Anderson. She attended Wheaton College in Illinois, majoring in education. Her enthusiasm and skill as a downhill skier brought her to Stowe, Vermont, for the first time; and in 1970, she was hired (sight unseen) as a teacher in the Orange School District near Barre, Vermont. She and her college sweetheart, Lee, were married in September 1972, a marriage that lasted for the rest of her life.

Though Joyce had been involved in teaching children and later in adult education, she went on to become one of the first female Internal Revenue Service officers in Vermont and was employed as such for twenty-five years. For many of us, she put a thoughtful, gentle face on the IRS.

Joyce and Lee moved to North Shrewsbury from Starksboro, Vermont, thirty-nine years ago and came to love the town for its people and its natural highland beauty. She was active in the local community, volunteering to serve at the Shrewsbury Library and as treasurer of both the Cooperative at Pierce's Store, where she was also an original board member, and the Shrewsbury Outing Club. She also served the town as an auditor for six years.

Joyce was a deeply compassionate person, whose energy was invested in benevolent organizations both near and far. She was deeply committed to VAMOS (Vermont Associates for Mexican Opportunity and Support), which educates, feeds, and provides medical, dental, and psychological care for roughly 700 impoverished children and many of their mothers in Cuernavaca, Mexico. A visit there with one of her daughters was a dream she never forgot.

Locally, she participated in the Thresholds/Decisions Program for several years, going into the Marble Valley Correctional Facility in Rutland to reflect with prisoners who were nearing release about their past and present choices, and to help them in developing a workable plan for transitioning back into society. Some of them kept in touch with her long after they were released. She, in turn, found this work very meaningful, so that after the program at the prison ended, she volunteered at the Rutland Dismas House (a halfway community for convicts returning to society) to help to prepare a dinner once a month, participate in fundraising on the phone, and contribute in other ways.

Becoming acquainted with Kate and Art Brinton, who were among the founders of Wilderness Friends Meeting, had a significant influence on Joyce, and the meeting became her Quaker home. She took spiritual sustenance from the meeting, served as an anchor for it, and for a number of years served as clerk. She would faithfully show up for meeting for worship even when she would possibly be alone.

Joyce embraced and lived the Quaker testimonies of peace and simplicity, and she saw That of God in everyone. She believed that the core of Christianity, as she put it, "is compassion and seeing myself in other people. Quakers often quote George Fox, *'Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come; that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them. Then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one.'* I just try to live and respond to others with compassion. That's enough of a challenge for me. I have so many questions that I can't begin to promote a particular belief."

Most likely due to her deep connection to nature, Joyce seemed to have a sense of timing when we members needed a hike in the woods or a picnic in the hills. She seemed to know, correctly, that these outings would lift our spirits and bring us closer together. She was always kind, patient, and quick with a smile and word of encouragement for any and all. She led a life of genuine goodness and was a gift to

all who were lucky enough to have known her.

In the last months of her illness, our Meeting members met for silent worship with her, Lee, and their daughters in her hospital room and then in her and Lee's cheerful home, times that were uplifting, peaceful, and mutually fulfilling for all present.

She is survived by her husband, Lee; their three wonderful daughters, Hannah, Linnea, and Ingrid, their husbands; and two grandsons, Matteo and Linden, in whom she took particular delight. Her brother, James Anderson of Arden Hills, Minnesota, also survives her.

Respectfully submitted by Wilderness Friends Meeting, Cuttingsville, Vermont

August 14, 2017

Ann Buffum, Clerk

Heard and approved for forwarding to NEYM by Northwest Quarter

September 10, 2017

Penelope Wright, Clerk

Meeting Visits Grouped by Quarter

Date of Visit	Account Name	Visitor: Last Name	Purpose of Visit	If "Other," Describe:
Quarterly Meeting Affiliation: - (1 record)				
2/4/17	Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting	Wooten	Worship	-
Quarterly Meeting Affiliation: Connecticut Valley Quarterly Meeting (9 records)				
6/18/17	New London Friends Meeting	Humphries	Worship	-
6/11/17	New Haven Friends Meeting	Merrill	Engaging local meeting w/ YM/QM Business	-
6/11/17	New Haven Friends Meeting	Martin	Engaging local meeting w/ YM/QM Business	-
3/22/17	New Haven Friends Meeting	O'Hara	Other	Bible study
3/21/17	New Haven Friends Meeting	O'Hara	Presentation/Visit Under Concern	-
3/20/17	New London Friends Meeting	O'Hara	Presentation/Visit Under Concern	-
6/5/16	New Haven Friends Meeting	Sazama	Engaging local meeting w/ YM/QM Business	-
3/13/16	New London Friends Meeting	Sazama	Engaging local meeting w/ YM/QM Business	Finance
2/21/16	Mount Toby Monthly Meeting	Sazama	Engaging local meeting w/ YM/QM Business; Other	Finance
Quarterly Meeting Affiliation: Dover Quarterly Meeting (5 records)				
8/20/17	Dover Monthly Meeting	O'Hara	Presentation/Visit Under Concern	-
2/5/17	North Sandwich Friends Meeting	Collea	Presentation/Visit Under Concern; Other	elder for Chris Wolff
12/11/16	Dover Monthly Meeting	Drayton	Pastoral Care; Worship	-
5/22/16	West Epping Preparative Meeting	Wooten	Other	Meeting celebration
2/13/16	Dover Monthly Meeting	Sazama	Pastoral Care; Worship	-
Quarterly Meeting Affiliation: Northwest Quarterly Meeting (5 records)				
1/8/17	Putney Friends Meeting	Drayton	Presentation/Visit Under Concern	-
8/14/16	South Starksboro Monthly Meeting	Baldwin	Worship; Other	workshop after meeting
5/8/16	Monadnock Quaker Meeting	Gorton	Worship	-
4/24/16	Kendal Worship Group	Gorton	Worship	-
11/12/15	Putney Friends Meeting	Merrill	Pastoral Care; Worship	-

Quarterly Meeting Affiliation: Rhode Island-Smithfield Quarterly Meeting (2 records)

6/11/17	Worcester Friends Meeting	Collea	Worship	-
4/16/17	Smithfield Monthly Meeting	Wooten	Worship	-

Quarterly Meeting Affiliation: Salem Quarterly Meeting (8 records)

6/4/17	Amesbury Monthly Meeting	Claggett-Borne	Worship; Other	Climate Pilgrimage announce
5/14/17	Framingham Friends Meeting	Collea	Other	Oversight & Support mtg
3/19/17	Beacon Hill Friends Meeting	Claggett-Borne	Worship	-
2/19/17	North Shore Friends Meeting	Claggett-Borne	Worship	-
1/29/17	Beacon Hill Friends Meeting	Drayton	Presentation/Visit Under Concern	-
1/29/17	Wellesley Monthly Meeting	Wooten	Worship	-
1/20/17	Framingham Friends Meeting	O'Hara	Other	Called meeting for Inauguration
1/1/17	Fresh Pond Monthly Meeting	Drayton	Worship	-

Quarterly Meeting Affiliation: Sandwich Quarterly Meeting (6 records)

6/30/17	Martha's Vineyard Monthly Meeting	O'Hara	Other	See below
1/18/17	Yarmouth Preparative Meeting	O'Hara	Presentation/Visit Under Concern	-
1/17/17	Martha's Vineyard Monthly Meeting	O'Hara	Presentation/Visit Under Concern	-
6/26/16	Allen's Neck Monthly Meeting	Collea	Worship	-
5/1/16	Dartmouth at Smith Neck Monthly Meeting	Baker	Worship	-
4/16/16	Allen's Neck Monthly Meeting	Merrill	Pastoral Care; Workshop/Training; Other	Pastoral Meetings gathering

Quarterly Meeting Affiliation: Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting (2 records)

5/21/17	Midcoast Monthly Meeting	Drayton	Worship	-
8/14/16	Midcoast Monthly Meeting	Wooten	Worship	-

Grand Totals (38 records)

Friends Camp
2017 Summer Report
September 12, 2017
Anna Hopkins, Camp Director

Camper Attendance

In the 2017 summer we had a 10% increase in enrollment since the prior summer, with almost every session being full and 393 total camper sessions (2 weeks = 1 session). Since some campers repeated sessions and some attended for only one week, we had a total of 407 different campers who experienced a session at Friends Camp. 234 of these camper identified as female, 169 as male. There were also several campers who reported that the dual system of gender identifiers in our camper application (male or female) did not work for them. Campers hailed from 20 states and 4 countries. 66% of our campers come from Maine and 33% from Massachusetts.

Right now we do not collect complete data on camper racial identity or religion, so it is challenging to report on these aspects of our campers' diversity. I would like to look for ways to collect this data in the future, and I am in an ongoing conversations with CampMinder (our online registration platform) about expanding their gender identity options.

Staffing

Our support staff was especially strong this year; a head cook, assistant cook, and three "Super People" ran the kitchen with great success and reliability. A new nurse, whose children also attended Friends Camp this summer, adjusted quickly to the demands of the job and even lived on camp for two weeks during Jones Session. Our steadfast maintenance director Jack Belyeu and assistant director Jeff Adelberg helped insure a smooth transition in directors.

24 counselors worked at Friends Camp, and it was a great delight to watch them grow as a unit and individually. There are many individuals who I would welcome back in leadership roles, and I would welcome any of our staff members back for another summer. Two counselors had additional responsibilities as Waterfront Director (Sebastian Hilton) and Meetinghouse Director (Maggie Nelson). Having experienced folks in these roles who weren't living in cabins with campers helped make our "response team" when something went wrong much stronger. It also meant that we could allocate extra help to cabins that really needed the extra supervision or support. Another benefit was that Seb and Maggie had available time to lead camping trips and improve art programming. Staff training this year was one day longer, allowing for a break mid-week and an opportunity to dive more deeply into a few topics (diversity/ equity, safety, etc.)

One challenge in hiring this year was that we had three staff members who identified as People of Color, which did not reflect our camper population. I hope to increase this number by finding more ways to be welcoming to staff members of color and new venues to recruit staff members from. We did have an alumna of Codman Academy on staff this summer, which was an asset in supporting our campers from Codman.

New on staff this year, through the support of a Legacy Grant, was a Resident Fellow each session. These Friends brought different talents to our sessions and each shaped the Fellowship in different and unique ways. Highlights included much singing with Jones Fellow Roxanne Rapaport, a "pray-in" at Senator Collins office with Fox Fellow Jay O'Hara, and more. I hope to continue this program on an as-led basis, not requiring a Fellow every session but continuing the position when the opportunity arises.

Program & Evaluations

The summer program this year was creative and, as always, inspired by the ideas of counselors. We experienced an alien invasion (they came in Peace.... And Integrity and community and equality), hosted a dog wedding, and engaged in lots of silliness. There were also the peaceful moments of worship in Vespers, song, around the campfire, Meeting for Worship, and more. We introduced a few new camp songs into the repertoire this summer!

We continue to adapt the Jones Session programming to be appropriate for campers ages 7-12, including an earlier bedtime, more snacks, and age-appropriate activities. A priority for next year is to ensure that Meeting for Worship and Meeting for Business are working well for this age group.

Our online parent evaluations (about 40% family response rate) indicated the following responses to:

“Do you plan to send your child to Friends Camp next year?”

Response Type	Number of Responses	Percent of Responses
Yes!	84	75%
Maybe	18	16%
No- they are too old	8	7%
No- we have other plans	1	1%
No- we were not satisfied	1	1%

Some parents and campers offered the following suggestions or comments:

- I was really, really impressed with the staff!
- Thank you for offering such a sweet, old-fashioned camp. Your counselors are amazing and set a tone of kindness (and fun) for the camp and all the kids.
- He loved his cabin mates and counselor as well. Whatever magic you use for designating cabin groups, it really suited him. Thank you also for very kindly steering him away from trying to leave camp early—you listened to his concerns, but staying was absolutely what he needed to do. We cannot thank you enough.
- I would have liked to see more Instagram photos during the session.
- Regarding affordability, one reason I sent my son to Friends Camp was not just that it was affordable to me but that it's affordable to others. I appreciate that you're conscious of that by not only being affordable but offering a self-selecting sliding scale.
- I liked that an adult Friend [Fellow] was available to share spiritual experiences. My daughter really liked that there were other adopted children there, as well as the diversity of the camp. Plus, she felt she could “be herself” without negative judgments.

American Camp Association Accreditation & State of Maine Licensing Visit

In June we hosted two volunteer visitors from the American Camp Association for their first return visit since we were first accredited in 2014. The visit was very successful; the only suggestion they made for improvement was to keep a maintenance log for our kiln. This visit took a considerable amount of pre-work before the summer to ensure we met standards and had appropriate documentation for the several hundred standards included in the review. Our next visit from the ACA will be in 2022.

We also received a surprise visit from a Health Inspector from the State of Maine who inspected the camp (but not the kitchen). She was very thorough, and we passed with just a few suggestions for improvement. The primary suggestion was better storage of grill fuel at waterfront.

Safety

We were blessed to experience a largely safe camp summer with no major crises. There were several minor health situations that required a trip to the clinic or the ER, but no occasions to call an ambulance. We made several changes to increase safety at camp this summer including the following: adding additional flashing SLOW signs for the road crossing, installing two AEDs (automated external defibrillators), and staff trainings from outside experts in mandated reporting and trauma-informed care.

Physical Property

I am very pleased with the current physical state of camp. Excellent support staff and a reliable maintenance director have led our property to be in good shape. Projects over the last year have included a new hot-water heater for the kitchen, a new kitchen sink, two new convection ovens, doors in the camper shower area, a kayak rack at waterfront, 4 new picnic tables, new storage solutions in the meetinghouse, and insulation/finishing in two staff cabins.

Of course, there are many ongoing maintenance projects and additional projects we would like to have happen at camp. The lake cottage (Westview) needs a new roof and possibly a new well. One of the Buildings & Grounds committee's goals for the upcoming year is building a **multi-purpose storage building** for merchandise, program materials, and lost & found which would also include a small outdoor stage. Another, slightly larger goal project, is to **insulate the ceiling of Big Bird Dining Hall** to reduce heat during summer meals and also quiet rainfall. This project would also have an aesthetic appeal after the installation of a ceiling. Another project, looking further forward, would be the **replacing paint in the Meetinghouse and doing other needed internal maintenance** in the Meetinghouse.

Spring & Fall Retreats

This fall, Friends Camp is hosting or has hosted 3 weddings, guests for the Common Ground Fair, the Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting (including a Young Adult Friend gathering), an Art Camp retreat, and a 3 day retreat from the Moses Brown School 9th grade. At the time of writing this report the visit from Moses Brown was complete; we hope for a continuing relationship and many repeat years of this event! It was a joy to host their class and lead them in come camp activities. This group of 105 students and about 10 teachers required additional staff support but also could be a solid source of revenue for camp going forward.

Development

The campership campaign in May was very successful, especially with the online involvement of younger alumni. We more than doubled the expected income from the campership campaign. I often feel the spirit at work with campership gifts; just this I had a camper family call concerned that they could not afford to pay for camp this year and *the same day* a first-time donor call out of the blue and offer to pay a camper's tuition.

I instituted a new campaign this summer. Rather than appealing current camper families in May (when their camp tuition fees are also due), I send a post-session campaign. This campaign involved multiple ways to participate—financially, or for campers to return a “thank you” slip to a favorite counselor. So far this appeal has been very successful in engaging first-time donor camper families.

Parting Thoughts

At the conclusion of my first year as Friends Camp Director, I feel gratitude for all those who have supported, guided, and trusted me in this work. I look forward to continuing to learn and grow in this role and feel blessed with the privilege of stewarding our camp. Friends Camp rocks!

Respectfully submitted,
Anna









PBMinutes2017_09_23

Final Audit Report

2023-01-23

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Status:	Signed
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