

**Draft Minutes
Permanent Board
Monadnock Meeting
March 1, 2025**

25-104 Roll Call

Susan Davies, PB clerk, noted attendance in the room and on zoom.

Bold is present in the room. Underline is present on Zoom.

Susan Davies (PB Clerk), Kathleen Wooten (*PB Recording Clerk, pro tem*), Travis Belcher, Thomas Brenner, Darcy Drayton, Martin Forsythe, Elizabeth Hansen, Carolynne Lamar Jordan, Meg Klepack, Frances Lightsom, Edward Mair, Allison Randall, Carole Rein, Martha Schwope, Liesa Stamm, Diane Weinholtz, Donn Weinholtz, Morgan Wilson, Mary Zwirner.

Ex-officio members

Marian Dalton (Treasurer), Scot Drysdale (Finance Clerk), Sarah Gant (Clerk, Meeting Accompaniment Group), **Rebecca Leuchak** (Presiding Clerk), **Noah Merrill** (YM Secretary), **Jackie Stillwell** (YM Secretary Supervisor, Clerk of Nominating Committee), Carl Williams (Clerk of Ministry and Counsel).

Regrets: Willa Taber

Visitors: James Giddings, Maille Wooten, Honor Woodrow

25-105 Comments regarding recent lawsuit re: Religious Freedom

Noah Merrill, YM Secretary, summarized the process and happenings up to this point in the history and current status of the recent lawsuit. He included mention of other denominations in the lawsuit, and the current legal status as he understands it.

YM clerk Rebecca Leuchak shared her process of prayer and holding of NEYM. This has been brought to C&A for further consultation and prayer. The concern and love for our community was a guiding Light. Support moving forward for our NE Meetings is ongoing and a priority. Abundant resources and communications with NEYM leadership have been shared widely. The clerk further shared her awareness of courage and hope in this time for Friends present. Gratitude for the NEYM minute regarding timely public statements was expressed.

25-106 December 14 minutes.

Friends **approved** the minutes from the December 14 2024 meeting.

25-107 The Condition of the Quarterly Meetings - Verbal Report, Permanent Board Clerk

The clerk informed the body regarding the recent meetings held to consider the work of the Quarterly Meetings. The clerk reminded Friends of the Permanent Board to be engaged with the Quarterly Meetings and their essential work in this time.

The clerk summarized the current condition of the Salem QM, and the need for her administrative recommendation regarding ongoing management needs of the Salem Quarter Fund. (Attached) She also noted that current NEYM Faith and Practice guidance pertaining to quarterly meetings (1985) specifies the Yearly Meeting's role in regards to quarterly meetings that are in need of support. Friends affirmed the direction of the clerk's recommendation for the Salem Quarterly Meeting.

25-107 Traveling in the Ministry updates, Marian Baker - Verbal Report

Marian Baker (Weare NH Meeting) shared an extensive verbal report of her travels in the past year. Highlights included:

- Women in East Africa
- QWTEAM (Quaker Women Traveling in East Africa Ministry)
- A letter and endorsement from QWTEAM
- Sharing that a QRC Africa group will be meeting/convened by Marian in early October 2025
- News of Marian's travel to Hartford Meeting's Sunday School
- Marian would love to be invited to visit other meetings.

Marian's report was accepted with gratitude for her ministry.

25-108 Gordon Bugbee & Mary Zwirner Travel Minute

Sarah Gant (Beacon Hill Meeting) presented a travel minute and background information on behalf of Gordon Bugbee and Mary Zwirner (attached). Friends approved endorsing their travel minute.

25-109 New Proposed Puente delegation

The members of the proposed spring 2025 Puente de Amigos delegation to Cuba are: Carolyn Stone (Wellesley FM) Richard Lindo (Framingham FM) Erik Philbrook (Wellesley FM) David Barabas (Wellesley FM). They will travel from 24 April 2025 - 4 May 2025. Friends approved this delegation.

25-110 Bodine-Rustin Fund Recommendations

The Legacy Gift Committee presented recommendations for the Bodine-Rustin Fund. Friends approved the recommendations.

25-111 Mosher Book and Tract Expenditure for Publications

The Yearly Meeting Secretary presented this item of business. Consistent with our approved policy, the Office Manager and Yearly Meeting Secretary are bringing to the Permanent Board three recommendations for funding from the Mosher Book & Tract Fund of New England Yearly Meeting. The three recommendations are:

1. A grant of up to \$500 to support the publication, printing, and distribution (to all local meetings of NEYM) of the address given by Lloyd Lee Wilson to Sessions 2024.
2. A grant of up to \$1,900 to Maggie Fiori (Portland, ME Friends Meeting) to support the purchase, possible printing, and distribution of copies of her art pamphlet "STOP and Listen", a tract exploring the experience and practice of Friends waiting worship.
3. A grant of \$5,500 to support the timely publishing and promotion of Brian Drayton's (Weare, NH Friends Meeting) forthcoming book, "The Gospel in the Anthropocene".

Friends approved these three recommendations.

Questions were raised regarding a reprinting of the 2014 Faith and Practice - the Yearly Meeting secretary will follow up with the office manager.

25-112 Update on NEYM Financial Status.

Marian Dalton (Brunswick), Yearly Meeting Treasurer, presented an overview of our current financial situation. See the budget subcommittee report for more information (attached). A budget first draft was *not* presented today to the Permanent Board for a first reading, as there are many unknowns still to be considered in the budget process.

25-113 Recommendation from the Board of Managers

Erik Philbrook, on behalf of the Board of Managers, brought the following request to the Permanent Board: The NEYM Board of Managers (BoM) and the YM Secretary are requesting that Permanent Board approve our YM Secretary's signing of a contract between the NEYM BoM and the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR), allowing the BoM to become a member of the organization. Friends Approved this Recommendation.

25-114 Yearly Meeting Secretary's Report (attached).

Noah Merrill, YM Secretary, reviewed the main parts of his written report. He noted the recent opportunities for contact as a Friend with many others in encouragement and witness. This engagement and witness has seemed like a countercurrent to the political state of the world at this moment. Noah reminded us of the small and concrete faithful acts we are invited to in this time.

In addition to his report, Noah shared very recent updates including a visit to UMass Amherst, as our 2025 sessions location.

Rebecca Luechak, Presiding Clerk, shared her reflections from her recent visit as to the suitability of the UMass space, and usage of the archives.

Phil Veatch, rising YM Clerk, shared his impressions from the recent visits. We were also reminded of the cost of sessions.

The YM secretary also shared the concerns from Northeast Kingdom Meeting (NEK) re: our use of the UMass Amherst campus in light of previous protests and the way they were handled by the university. Noah and Coordinating and Advisory are in communication with NEK regarding the issue. A local Amherst Friend spoke to how grateful she was that the Quakers of NEYM would lend their presence and Light to sessions in Amherst this summer. A Friend expressed gratitude for the tender holding of this concern, and suggested we might approach the UMass leadership with our concern, as witness, if required of us.

The YM secretary spoke to the budget of the Friends camp. Fiscal year 2024 documents have been submitted for PB review (Attached). No action is needed at this time, but we are encouraged to read the reports and contact Anna Buller, director of Friends camp, with questions.

25-115 Nominating Committee Clerk's Report

Jackie Stillwell, clerk of Nominating Committee, presented the following names for approval/affirmation

- Friends Camp Committee member – Ben Bingham 2027 - Friends approved
- Representative to AFSC – Peter Woodrow (Portland) 2027 - Friends approved
- Dr E Pierre Morenon (Providence MM) - Friends affirmed
- Anna Hopkins Buller (Friends Camp director) - Friends affirmed

25-116 Progress report on Development

The Yearly Meeting Secretary referred to his report (attached) regarding development updates.

25-117 Sessions 2025 update and Sessions Visioning

The Yearly Meeting Secretary referred to his report (attached) regarding Sessions updates.

25-118 Friends Camp financial status update

Anna Hopkins-Buller, Friends Camp director, submitted a written report (attached).

25-119 Presiding Clerk's Report/Coordinating and Advisory Reports

Rebecca Luechak, presiding clerk, presented her reports (attached). Her presentation included the following announcements: The theme for YM Sessions 2025: will be from Isaiah 43:19 - *"Streams in The Desert" Behold, I am about to do something new; even now it is coming. Do you not see it? Indeed, I will make a way in the wilderness and streams in the desert.* The Plenary speaker will be Gretchen Baker Smith (Westport MM), and Bible half hours will be presented by Kriena Criado Perez (Havana Cuba MM).

25-120 Memorial Minutes

The memorial minutes for Eden Grace, Rud Ham, Christopher McCandless, Jean McCandless, Rose Miller, and James Ramsey, here attached, were **approved** for sending on to Sessions 2025.

4:00 Closing worship