



Sara Hubner <office@neym.org>

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## Recorded Ministers in the Yearly Meeting

8 messages

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**NEYM Presiding Clerk** <clerk@neym.org>

Wed, Apr 9, 2025 at 11:23 AM

To: Noah Merrill <ymsec@neym.org>, Carl Williams <mc-clerk@neym.org>, Susan Davies <pbclerk@neym.org>, Sara Hubner <office@neym.org>

Good morning dear Friends -

Is there an easy way to access the official minutes for each of the fourteen recorded ministers within NEYM?

My understanding is that the full list is:

Brian Drayton (Dover)  
Marian Baker (Dover)  
Carol Marshburn (Falmouth)  
Janice Beatie (Falmouth)  
James Douglas (Falmouth)  
Ralph Greene (Falmouth)  
Edwin Hinshaw (Falmouth)  
Martha Hinshaw Sheldon (Falmouth)  
Leslie Manning (Falmouth)  
Noah Merrill (Northwest Quarter)  
Erik Edwards (Sandwich)  
Kevin Lee (Sandwich)  
Frederick Clause (Sandwich)  
Marnie Miller-Gutsell (Southeast)

Is there anyone missing from this list?

Thanks -

Rebecca

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**Sara Hubner** <office@neym.org>

Wed, Apr 9, 2025 at 11:46 AM

To: NEYM Presiding Clerk <clerk@neym.org>

Cc: Noah Merrill <ymsec@neym.org>, Carl Williams <mc-clerk@neym.org>, Susan Davies <pbclerk@neym.org>

If memory serves, Jan Hoffman tried to get the recording minutes many years ago. But the quarters that recorded them should have the minutes.

I think Brian Drayton was recorded by Salem Quarter.  
Frederick "Clause" is incorrect--it's Frederick *Chase*

I will see if I can find any minutes in Jan's files.

Faithfully,

Sara Hubner  
NEYM Office Manager  
508-754-6760  
[Sign up for our monthly newsletter!](#)

[Quoted text hidden]

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MINUTES  
SALEM QUARTER BOARD  
SEPTEMBER 18, 1983

The meeting opened with a moment of silence at 1:10 p.m. at Beacon Hill Friends House. Present were Theodora Waring (clerk), David Haines, Mildred Roberts, Celt Grant, Judith Duncan, Carolyn Stone, Jim Warram, Paul Staples, and Tim Johnson.

The minutes of the June 24th Quarter Board Meeting were read by outgoing Recording Clerk, Paul Staples. The Board approved the minutes with a minute of appreciation to Paul for his patience over the past two years.

Mildred Roberts read her summary of the reports of the Visiting Committees to the Monthly Meetings. This report will be edited by Carolyn Stone who will add a list of the names of the clerks of the Monthly Meetings, their phone numbers, the time of worship, and an invitation to others to visit meetings in the Quarter. The Recording Clerk will then reproduce the report and send it to the Monthly Meeting Clerks and the members of the Salem Quarter Board. Board members will read the report to their Monthly Meetings for Business.

Jim Warram made a suggestion that the Quarter Board take on as a project making a pamphlet which would include pictures of the meeting houses for the various meetings in the Quarter along with directions to the Meeting, the name and phone number of the clerk, and the time for Meeting for Worship. There was enthusiasm for this idea as a way to encourage intervisitation.

Celt Grant, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report. After expenditures of \$500 to New England Yearly Meeting Equalization Fund, and \$600 to Alternative House, and \$9 for travel expenses, the Board has a balance of \$4765.36 as of today.

The Board approved having the Recording Secretary send out two mailings between meetings. The first would be the minutes which would arrive soon after the last meeting, containing the date of the next meeting. Second, a reminder postcard would be sent shortly before each meeting. The Board hopes that this notification will assist Board members in planning to attend meetings.

Celt Grant will contact Beacon Hill Friends House regarding co-sponsoring, with Salem Quarter Board, a talk by Christopher Stern, hopefully in January or February 1984. The Quarter Board will underwrite expenses of travel and publicity.

Moving to new business, the Clerk read a request from Lynn Monthly Meeting and Lynn Meeting on Ministry and Counsel requesting that Brian Drayton be recorded as a minister by the Quarterly Meeting on Ministry and Counsel. The Quarter Board appointed a committee, consisting

Quarter Board Minutes  
9/18/83

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of Jim Warram and Betsy Muench, to speak to Brian Drayton and to Frances and Richard Gove for Lynn Monthly Meeting regarding this request. The committee will report to Quarterly Meeting in October to advise.

Theodora Waring passed out notices of the Wellesley Monthly Meeting 25th Anniversary Celebration and Quarterly Meeting. She requested that members distribute these notices at their Monthly Meetings.

The Clerk read a report from Brian Drayton regarding his attempt to visit Amesbury Monthly Meeting for Lynn Monthly Meeting. He has had difficulty making arrangements, partly because Dorothy Averill had had a heart attack. Brian will continue to try to arrange a visit.

The Board has received a request from the Waltham Battered Women's Support Committee for information regarding the types of projects which we can support with our funds. The Clerk will send them a copy of the guidelines for the Moses Paige Fund with a cover letter.

Lastly, the Clerk read a letter from Kay Toll regarding the proposed New England Yearly Meeting Permanent Board reorganization, raising the question of whether the Quarterly Meeting should specifically be represented. Theodora Waring will raise this question with Tom Ewell, NEYM Field Secretary.

The meeting closed with a moment of silence, proposing to meet next at Cambridge Meeting on December 11, 1983.

*Carolyn Stone*  
*Secretary/Clerk*

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NEXT QUARTER BOARD MEETING

Friends Meeting at Cambridge  
5 Longfellow Park  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

Meeting for Worship: 9:30 and 11:00  
Lunch: 12:00--served by the Meeting  
Quarter Board Meeting: 1:00.

Salem Quarterly Meeting  
October, 16, 1983

Salem Quarterly Meeting met for business after worship at Wellesley Monthly Meeting, Wellesley, Massachusetts on the occasion of the Wellesley Meeting's twenty-fifth anniversary. Theodora Waring, clerk of Quarterly Meeting opened the Meeting for Business with a greeting and read two queries from New England Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice. A moment of silence followed.

The minutes of the April 24, 1983 business meeting of Salem Quarterly Meeting were read and approved.

The Summary Report on Inter-visitation was read by the clerk. Those present were generally pleased with the visitation process and left it to Quarter Board to continue this process. In addition, the Meeting approved that Quarter Board design a pamphlet giving information about specific Meetings within the Quarter, such as pictures of the Meeting houses, time of worship, and a phone number. The Meeting left it to Quarter Board to decide the particulars of this pamphlet which will be used to further encourage inter-visitation. Louis and Margaret Randa volunteered to visit Cambridge Monthly Meeting for Wellesley, as Cambridge had not been visited.

The Quarterly Meeting approved proceeding with the second year of the three-year process of laying down Amesbury Monthly Meeting, it having ceased to function as a regular Monthly Meeting and to report regularly to Quarterly Meeting and New England Yearly Meeting.

The clerk read letters from Richard Gove, clerk, Lynn Monthly Meeting and from Margaret Chase, of that same Meeting, requesting that Brian Drayton be recorded as a minister, noting his work with the elderly, helpful messages in worship, and optimism regarding the future of Lynn Monthly Meeting. The clerk also noted that the committee, appointed in September by the Quarter Board to investigate this request, had reported in favor of the request. With this information the Quarterly Meeting approved recording Brian Drayton as a minister in Lynn Monthly Meeting.

Mary Zwirner, Clerk of Beacon Hill Monthly Meeting, presented a concern of many Friends, regarding sanctuary for refugees from Central America. Other Friends spoke of their Meetings' searching and/or action on this issue. In particular, Cambridge Monthly Meeting has held a Day of Dialog on this topic and a group of Friends is continuing to meet and search together. It was requested and approved that Helen Hardy, Marilyn Bradner, and Mary Zwirner report on their progress on sanctuary for Central American refugees at the April Quarterly Meeting.

In addition, in April Quarter Board will make a recommendation on the reactivation of Salem Quarterly Meeting Meeting on Ministry and Counsel.

No further business appearing further anniversary celebration to be made, the Meeting closed with a moment of silence at 12:50 p.m.

Carolyn R. Stone  
Recording Clerk

3-1-9

March 17, 1987

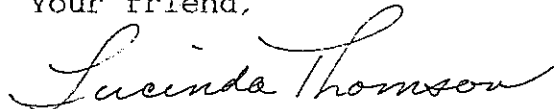
Marilyn Neyer, Clerk  
Committee on Ministry and Counsel  
New England Yearly Meeting  
15 High Street  
Cambridge, Mass. 02138

Dear Marilyn Neyer,

The following is a minute approved at Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting on Nov. 8, 1986.

Minute 3. We approved with great joy recording the gift in ministry of Carol Marshburn, pastor of Winthrop Meeting. Carol met with a committee appointed to consider her qualifications in this regard at the home of Ernest and Esther Weed. Molly Duplisea and Evie Hoffman were present. Chouteau Chapin, convenor of the meeting, was away at Pendle Hill. The committee reviewed Carol's background, her interest in ministry and a pastoral counseling career. The committee members joined in recommending Carol Marshburn as having a gift in the ministry and should so be recorded in the minutes of the Ministry and Counsel of Vassalboro Quarter and in the minutes of Quarterly Meeting this 11th month, 8th day of 1986 and that Winthrop Monthly Meeting and the Yearly Meeting be notified with a copy of the minute.

Your friend,



Lucinda Thomson  
Recording Clerk, Vassalboro Quarterly  
Meeting

P.O. Box 84

Newcastle ME 04553

# DOVER QUARTERLY MEETING

12 EAGLE NEST WAY  
MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03104  
TELEPHONE 603.668.6508

At Dover Quarterly Meeting, held on First-Day, Fifth Month 30, 1999, at North Sandwich Friends Meetinghouse.

"For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel:  
In returning and rest you shall be saved;  
in quietness and in trust shall be your strength ...  
Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you;  
therefore he will rise up to show mercy to you.  
For the LORD is a God of justice;  
blessed are those who wait for him."

— Isaiah 30:15 and 18 (New Revised Standard Version)

Business came to order at 12:40 p.m. after gathering in our customary open worship, Jnana Hodson, clerking. Present were five Friends from Concord, six from Dover, eight from North Sandwich, and four from Weare monthly meetings. There were no representatives from Exeter, Gonic, or West Epping..

+ + +

1. Minutes of the previous session were reviewed and approved.
2. State of Society Reports from the constituent Meetings were read, as was the report for the Quarter, which received several modifications and was then approved.
3. The Nominating Committee of Graham Chynoweth, Robert Christie, Marian Baker, and Jnana Hodson., brought forth their proposed officers for the Quarter, who were approved. clerk Virginia Towle, recording clerk Barbara Westneat Morris, treasurer Graham Chynoweth, and ministry and counsel clerk Marian Baker. They will assume office at the next session, Eighth Month 29 at Pittsfield Friends Meetinghouse. To facilitate the transferal of Quarterly Meeting financial accounts in an orderly manner, the following minute was directed:

A fellowship of Quaker Meetings in Concord, Dover, Epping, Henniker, North Sandwich, and Rochester, New Hampshire

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MINUTE: Friends unite in appointing Graham Peters Chynoweth of 110 Baptist Road, Canterbury, New Hampshire, to serve as Treasurer/Trustee of Dover Quarterly Meeting, replacing David Erikson, whose service is appreciated.

APPROVED, after the manner of our book of discipline, by members and attenders gathered in regular business session of Dover Quarterly Meeting held Fifth Month 30 at the Friends meetinghouse in North Sandwich, New Hampshire.

APPROVED.

Jnana Hodson, clerk

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4. A minute from Weare Monthly Meeting, recommending that Marian Baker be acknowledged as a minister among Friends, found favor and was endorsed with a great enthusiasm. The clerk will furnish a copy of this minute to the clerk of Weare Monthly Meeting to enter into its book of record, and the clerk will report this recording to the Yearly Meeting Committee on Ministry and Counsel.

Reflecting on the momentousness of the occasion, Friends observed that this was the first time within memory of those present that an individual spiritual gift has been recognized in this manner within Dover Quarter. Friends spoke of the dimensions of gratitude and encouragement implicit in this ancient practice, once so much a part of the work of Quarterly Meeting, and the role of maintaining vigilance in calling forth the abilities of those within our society while also sustaining the Life within the Meetings themselves. We recognized that the recording of a minister in good for the Meeting as well as the minister, and although not all Friends are comfortable with this custom, it is cause for rejoicing. We have always had the faith that God pours gifts on our people as needed, if we are faithful to accept them. The acknowledgement of gifts in the ministry, which in one form or another goes far back in Friends' history, is a way to come to practical grips with the presence of a gift in the community. It brings the minister in whom the gift is embodied into "discipline," for the right stewardship and nurture of this gift.

Friends also spoke lovingly of Marian's service in Kenya, Cuba, and Guatemala, as well as here in New England.

A proposal to bring this action before the upcoming Yearly Meeting session, as part of the Quarterly Meetings concerns agenda, found favor.

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MINUTE: At Dover Quarterly Meeting held Fifth Month 30 at North Sandwich, New Hampshire, Friends united in recording Marian Baker of Weare Monthly Meeting as a minister among Friends. She has shown abundant evidence of a sustained gift in Gospel ministry both in her home Meeting as well as in her wide-ranging travels.

APPROVED.

Jnana Hodson, clerk

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5. The report from the treasurer gave a checkbook balance of \$556.98 as of Third Month 31, and a Merrill Fund balance of \$1,353.41, dated Fourth Month 30 1999. The outgoing treasurer suggests we investigate finding a new place to deposit the Merrill Fund account, for better return on our money while maintaining our Quaker principles. This will be investigated.
6. As her term as our representative to the New Hampshire Council of Churches comes to a close, Betsy Cazden spoke warmly of that group's efforts to oppose the expansion of organized gambling in the state – and of the vociferous opposition it is receiving from the gaming interests.

Hearing of the council's motion to have a chaplain to serve the state's women prisoners, Quarterly Meeting APPROVED allocating \$50 to that service.

We were also informed of an attempt by the state to limit the charitable status of a summer church camp in Swanzey. New England Yearly Meeting has taken a stand on behalf of the camp, and the Quarterly Meeting clerk was directed to sign a letter of concern on behalf of the Quarter.



7. Friend Betsy also spoke of progress toward the Friends World Committee on Consultation Triennial planned for next year, and of assistance still needed as that date approaches. A suggestion that our Quarterly Meeting session during that time become an open house for hospitality, rather than a session for the conduct of business, found favor.
8. Friends were informed of the availability of singer, storyteller, and workshop facilitator Ben Tousley of Beacon Hill Meeting for activities in local meetings. Dover Monthly Meeting is planning a weekend of presentations in Ninth Month, and he has also visited among Concord Friends in his work.
9. Graham Cheynoweth suggested that the Quarter have a permanent mailing address. He will look into this possibility and report at the next session.
10. Gratitude was voiced for the care of the children during this session. Their boats carved from Ivory soap were displayed, with an explanation of the oneness of all who are aboard any boat – when one end rocks, so does the other, and so it is with society itself.
11. Because of the lateness of the hour, the day's announced Bible study, beginning with reflections presented by Charlotte Fardelmann, outgoing clerk of the Yearly Meeting's Ministry and Counsel Committee, was regretfully laid over. She had intended to working from 1 Kings 19:12 and 1 Kings 17:10-24, examining the nature of listening to individual leadings and the importance of supporting one another in these leadings, as the widow and her son did in feeding and housing Elijah. Without their leap of faith, his work would have perished. We hope to pursue this at an upcoming session.

The business of the day drew to a close shortly before three, purposing to meet again Ninth Month 29, the fifth First-Day of that month, at Pittsfield Friends Meetinghouse.

Jnana Hodson  
Outgoing Clerk

Jan - technically this isn't yet "public" - it's a committee report to the Quarterly M+C, and won't be acted on til July. However, thought you'd find paragraphs 2 + 3 interesting for their insights on recording. 3.1.14

**Report of the Rhode Island-Smithfield Quarterly Meeting Committee  
to evaluate Marnie Miller-Gutsell for  
recording as having a gift in the ministry**

This committee, appointed by Quarterly Meeting Ministry and Counsel according to the procedure outlined in New England Yearly Meeting *Faith and Practice*, has met three times, once at length with Marnie Miller-Gutsell. Because the practice of recording gifts in ministry has not been used recently in our quarterly meeting, we have considered the purpose and function of that practice as well as the particular fitness of the candidate proposed.

We are united that there are many gifts of ministry among us. We are to recognize and support all of them, though most Friends gifts will not be formally recorded. We feel that, sometimes, it is appropriate to acknowledge a special gift in a way that empowers a person to live out that gift. We have come to see at least two ways in which public recognition of a gift can foster its proper use. First, the recognition by one's community of faith will help the person recognized feel the necessary confidence in the presence and value of the gift. Second, recognition by the community creates a bond of accountability with the community: the gift, and its exercise, become in part the responsibilities of the community recognizing it. Both of these resemble the empowering and the tie of responsibility a meeting gives in naming Friends as clerks or other officers.

Recording of gifts in ministry, so seen, is not a setting of persons apart from and above the community, but forming a bond with the community for support of ministry. One qualification for recording should be that the person sees it as a bond and support for service, rather than a setting apart. We feel that gifts that merit recording may take different forms. Marnie Miller-Gutsell's is a very public ministry, but there may well be others called to a quieter ministry within the Society of Friends. We have come to feel that, used properly and in this spirit, recording of gifts in ministry might not be the rarity it has been in recent times among us.

We affirm Friends testimony that recording is a recognition of a gift seen, not based on theological study or employment in the pastorate. Being recorded as having a gift may cause one to be accepted outside Friends as having a special role as a minister. We see it as appropriate that it support a person's work in that way.

May 11, 2000

We appreciate Smithfield Monthly Meeting's careful work in proposing the recording of Marnie Miller-Gutsell's gift in ministry, and in particular in addressing the considerations named above. Our own meeting with her was also most helpful in articulating the value of recording such gifts. We are convinced that Marnie's life is one of spirit-led service.

Based on both Smithfield Meeting's work and our on observation, we feel satisfied that Marnie Miller-Gutsell is qualified for recording as having a gift of ministry. We are so recommending to Ministry and Counsel of the Rhode Island-Smithfield Quarterly Meeting, asking it to bring the matter to the business session in Providence on Seventh month 16th, 2000. We ask that all Friends consider this matter before that date, and that all meetings and their Meetings on Ministry and Counsel be represented at the Seventh month sessions. In preparation, we particularly encourage Friends to study the recent issue of *The New England Friend* devoted to the recording of gifts in ministry.

Edward Baker  
Susan Kay  
Richard Ristow  
Barbara Sullivan

**Minute to record Eric Edwards as a Recorded Minister  
of Sandwich Quarterly Meeting.  
July 26, 2003**

Friends approved, with one standing aside, going forward with recording the ministry of Eric Edwards, and it was requested and approved that the minute of Quarterly Meeting Ministry and Counsel of 6/28/03 on the recommendation to the Quarterly Meeting be appended to this minute, and with the clear understanding that the original recommendation for recorded ministry of Eric Edwards was recommended by West Falmouth Preparative Meeting (only). West Falmouth Preparative Meeting is within Sandwich Monthly Meeting.

Further, it was noted that this process has been a difficult, lengthy and "blessed" process. And Friends anticipate the conversation will continue concerning the practice of recording ministers in Sandwich Quarterly Meeting.

Friends further approved adding the following conclusion (offered by Patricia Sittig): The paradox is (after all these months of discussion) that two things are true for us. We approve of Eric Edwards to be a recorded minister from West Falmouth Preparative Meeting. The other is that this whole procedure has brought us to deeply question the process of recording ministers in and of itself. We are grateful for the spiritual tension this has brought, and know that continuing revelation can bring us to these important doubts about our spiritual practice. We look forward to continuing these loving conversations with each other.

*Approved at Sandwich Quarterly Meeting on  
July 26, 2003. Cynthia Tardif, Clerk*

## Minutes supporting Noah Merrill's ministry

6. We heard a report and recommendation from the Northwest Quarterly Meeting *ad hoc* Committee, formed on our behalf to respond to the request of Putney Friends Meeting as to whether the Quarter might affirm the gifts of ministry laid upon Noah Merrill of Putney Meeting. Penny Wright, who clerked this committee, introduced the report.... We heard the report:

In 2019, Northwest Quarter of NEYM received a minute from Putney Meeting requesting affirmation of the vocal ministry gifts laid upon their member, Noah Merrill. The Clerk of NWQ, Carl Williams, brought the request to the Interim Committee for guidance in how to proceed. After consulting NEYM's Faith and Practice, the Interim Committee advised that an examining committee be appointed to ascertain Noah's "fitness" for this recognition. The members of NWQ appointed to that committee were: Nancy Middleton (Putney), Christopher McCandless (Burlington), Joe Garren (Middlebury), Jackie Stillwell (Monadnock), and Penny Wright (Hanover) served as clerk. Brian Drayton (Souhegan, Dover Quarter) and Leslie Manning (Durham, Falmouth Quarter) served as advisors and prayerful presences. This process was reviewed at NWQ Meeting December 2019.

Being scattered across New England, we met by conference call. Our first meeting was spent coming to understand our purpose and process as none of us had participated in such an endeavor before. We closed that meeting with joyful anticipation of our agenda for our next meeting.

At our second meeting we addressed recognized ministry in general and heard of Putney Meeting's and Noah's process thus far. We referred again to the 1985 Faith & Practice of NEYM (p. 246) for deeper understanding of recognized/recorded ministry. We found the following counsel:

"It should be borne in mind that such recognition in ministry not only is an expression of approval of one who is locally helpful but also is an affirmation of the Friend's ability to interpret the Society of Friends to the wider community."

Before our third meeting, we invited Noah to join us and share his journey to being named as having been given the gift of vocal ministry. Each of us was deeply moved by his faithfulness to this calling and his submission to the guidance of his Oversight Committee.

We approached our third meeting filled with appreciation and joy of having been entrusted with this task. We were united in our agreement that Noah Merrill is indeed fit to be recognized by NWQ as being endowed with vocal ministry.

Subsequent to our discernment we were apprised of a new undertaking on the part of NEYM. The Working Group on Support of Ministry and Spiritual Life has been gathered. In the report they presented to Permanent Board in October, the working group posed a challenge to themselves – if they were to be successful in their work, what might thriving ministers, elders and the spiritual life of local meetings look like? We believe that our work in discerning Putney's request to recognize the ministry given to Noah Merrill and Putney Meeting is one example of the work.

We recommend that NWQ record in its minutes that Noah Merrill be recognized as one serving in a vocal ministry both locally and beyond. We are confident that his monthly meeting, Putney, is committed to nurturing and guiding the gift they too, have been given.

Grateful for this opportunity, we are Joe Garren, Christopher McCandless, Nancy Middleton, Jackie Stillwell and Penny Wright with the prayerful assistance of Brian Drayton and Leslie Manning.

7. Northwest Quarterly Meeting joyfully approved the following minute:

**Noah Merrill is recognized as serving in vocal ministry both locally and beyond. We are also grateful for the ministry of his presence and his written word.**

8. We are confident that his monthly meeting, Putney, is committed to nurturing and guiding the gift they too, have been given. Recording a ministry is naming the gifts and accepting responsibility to help carry it. Northwest Quarter as well as Putney carries this responsibility. We ask Putney to give bi-annual reports to the Quarter on this ministry.

9. We gratefully accepted the report, thanking its members for their work and laying down the ad hoc examining committee. Putney also expressed appreciation for the work of the Northwest Quarter.

Approved Northwest Quarterly Meeting of New England Yearly Meeting December 6, 2020

2/5/66

The monthly meeting on Ministry and Counsel  
of North Fairfield being satisfied that Ralph  
Greene has a sustained gift in the Ministry  
wishes the Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting  
to consider having him recorded as a Minister.  
Leona Stevens, clerk

From the minutes of Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting of  
Friends, held at Winthrop Center, Maine, April 30, 1966:

This meeting unites with the Meetings on Ministry  
and Counsel of North Fairfield Monthly Meeting and of  
Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting in recognizing the gift in  
the ministry of Ralph Dana Greene, and in recording him  
as a minister in the Society of Friends.

By direction and on behalf of Vassalboro  
Quarterly Meeting of Friends,

*Ralph E. Cook*  
Ralph E. Cook, clerk

copies to: Eva Otis, clerk, North Fairfield Monthly Meeting  
David W. Douglas, clerk, Yearly Mtg. on Ministry  
and Counsel