

Permanent Board Agenda

May 10, 2025

Framingham Friends Meeting

9:00 AM - 3:30 PM EDT

PB agenda items

- 8:30 AM Greetings and fellowship
- 9:00 AM Opening Worship
- Roll Call
- PB clerk's comments
- Friends Camp Endowment update
- For approval-Archives Committee revised MOU with UMass- SCUA
- Treasurer's report, Finance Committee report, and Budget recommendations
- Yearly Meeting Secretary's Report
 - Development proposal- next steps
 - Recommend funding sources and amounts
- Presiding Clerk's report and C&A Report
 - Nomination for approval- *Nominating Committee Clerk*
- Ministry and Counsel Clerk's and Meeting Accompaniment Clerk's reports
- Nominating Committee report and approvals
- Sessions Visioning Report and next steps
- Memorial Minutes- for Approval to be sent to Sessions
 - Donna McDaniel
 - Karen Cadbury



Sara Hubner <office@neym.org>

Fwd: A note to present and past Quarterly Meeting leaders--Why we gather as a people.

3 messages

Susan Davies, NEYM Permanent Board clerk <pbclerk@neym.org>
To: Sara Hubner <office@neym.org>

Thu, Apr 24, 2025 at 11:09 AM

Dear Friends,

I write the attached letter to you as Friends who are dedicated to your quarters, whether you are active now, or you have been in the past. I realize the list in the "To" box has surely left out many faithful and dedicated Friends so I encourage you to share this letter with your quarterly meeting contact lists.

This letter offers my reflections on quarterly meetings in the context of the Yearly Meeting's Sessions Visioning process this year, and the "Sessions Visioning Distillation Day" that took place on April 12 in Wellesley.

The spiritual and human connections sustained by our quarterly meetings are vital to the deepening and thriving of Friends, and Friends meetings in New England. I urge all Friends to recognize and celebrate that!

I also invite you to consider attending the upcoming May 10 Permanent Board meeting, either on-site at Framingham Friends Meeting, or via Zoom. A link to the PB meeting web page appears in the letter.

With thanks for your faithful service to your quarters, and to the faith and practice of Friends in New England,

Susan Davies, Permanent Board clerk
Vassalboro Friends Meeting
New England Yearly Meeting

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23

Upcoming PB Meeting dates:

September 28- Providence Friends Meeting

[October 17, (optional), Zoom, evening dialogue, for all PB Members]

December 14 location- Worcester Friends Meeting

[February 6, (optional), Zoom evening dialogue, for all PB Members]

March 1, (Monadnock Friends)

May 10, (Framingham Friends Meeting)

2025-4-24 Dear Quarterly Meeting Leaders.docx.pdf
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April 24, 2025

Dear NEYM Quarterly Meeting Leaders,

On April 12, I, and more than 50 other Friends, traveled to Wellesley Friends Meeting to attend the Distillation Day to consider results of the year-long Sessions Visioning process. Friends throughout New England engaged deeply together on Saturday, to hold important questions of *why we gather* each year in Annual Sessions, and how we are called to meet the future before us. I have long held an image of the mystical life-blood of the Spirit, circulating throughout our geography, to all parts of NEYM, in the institutional forms that unite us (worship groups, monthly meetings, quarterly meetings, and yearly meeting), as well as through the unifying mystery of our collective discipline to discern God's call to us as a people. The clarity of that call at the Yearly Meeting level depends on the faithfulness of each of us, within our home meetings, to speak about, and live into what Spirit is calling us to do, and to be. I lift this image up to you, our quarterly meeting leaders, in appreciation for the ways that you faithfully nourish the life-blood of the Spirit, as it flows through your spiritual community, towards the Yearly Meeting, and as the quarterly meetings, and monthly meetings, receive, season and return the life and energy and faithfulness of the Yearly Meeting back, to nourish our local roots.

The other image that has recurred to me in this tumultuous and uncertain time is the Chinese word for "crisis". The Chinese characters for "crisis" are often translated as "*danger and opportunity*". But a more nuanced understanding of the characters includes both "*danger*", as well as: "*a crucial point, when something begins to change,*" or "*a turning point*". I suspect that few people would argue that that is not where we find ourselves in 2025, here among Friends, and in our national culture.

The year-long Sessions Visioning process was carried out in response to the immediate practical "dangers" of an unsustainable Sessions model. The causes are many and include the pandemic "hang-over", changing demographics in NEYM, and larger economic realities affecting budget and finance. To me the Distillation Day on April 12 began to shine a light on the "opportunities", highlighting that yes, we are at "*a crucial point, when something begins to change*", AND- we are coming awake, we are deepening our wrestling with the crucial question of *why* we must gather, what we most long for, what is essential? Invoked again and again was the imperative of worship. We acknowledged that we are not at our best when we know we are longing for Kairos while we are preoccupied, and bullied by Chronos. We named the blessing and necessity of sinking deeply together, as a people, into the inexhaustible well of God's Grace and guidance, that transcends all earthly powers and principalities.

This is an important and ongoing conversation. The April 12 gathering did not yield a clear, practical sense of unity of direction for 2026. Our staff and Sessions Visioning volunteers have shepherded us faithfully to this point. The May 10th meeting of Permanent Board will carry the discernment forward, holding in tender care the practical concerns about how much “worldly lead time” is required for Sessions 2026 to take place. Thus, should we linger in our uncertainty, we may risk the closing of some doors. The DRAFT report of the Sessions Visioning Process will be available as an Advance Document for the May 10th Permanent Board meeting, to be held at the Framingham Friends Meeting, and on Zoom [May 10 Permanent Board Meeting](#). All are welcome to attend. When you receive the report, please reflect deeply on Nia Thomas’s distillation of the full process, including the April 12th sharing, and thoughtful reflections sent following the Wellesley gathering.

To continue the conversation, I would like to propose a mid-summer gathering of quarterly meeting leaders, date to be determined in coordination with already scheduled quarterly and yearly meeting activities. I welcome your sense of how our time together might best serve you and your quarters.

And looking towards Sessions 2025, Rebecca Leuchak, our Presiding Clerk has some thoughts about the ways hearing from quarters may serve us in the time we are in meeting for worship for the purpose of business. She asks you, as servant leaders, to please think about the ways that Spirit is present and moving within your quarterly meeting and what news you might share with Friends in a brief presentation at Sessions.

I invite, and encourage, you to share this letter with your quarterly meeting contact lists.

In faith,

Susan Davies

NEYM Permanent Board Clerk

Connecticut Valley Quarterly Meeting
of New England Yearly Meeting
connecticutqm@neym.org

March 17, 2025

Noah Merrill
Yearly Meeting Secretary
New England Yearly Meeting

Dear Noah,

I am writing to inform you that Litchfield Hills Monthly Meeting (LHMM) of the Connecticut Valley Quarterly Meeting has been discontinued. This action was taken at the request of Jeff Van Wagenen, the last member of LHMM, at the February 2, 2025 meeting of the Quarter. Liesa Stamm, of Hartford Friends Meeting, brought the request from Jeff to the Quarter in her capacity as a member of the NEYM Meeting Accompaniment Group.

We understand that the Quarter is responsible for confirming the conditions required to discontinue a meeting and those conditions are:

All members of the meeting have been given the opportunity to transfer their membership.

Jeff, the only remaining member, does not want to continue as a Friend.

The property and assets of the meeting have been transferred to the yearly meeting.

The remaining funds (\$3,153.69) in the LHMM bank account have been sent to the Treasurer of NEYM. LHMM owns no property.

The meeting records have been transferred to the quarterly meeting for appropriate disposition.

Jeff gave Liesa a box containing the meeting's records. Bank statements and membership records have been removed from the box of meeting records and have been discarded. What remains is minutes and other records of the meeting including such things as the guest books that were used in the meeting space. These materials cover the life of LHMM from about the mid-1960s to early into the current century. These materials were deposited with the Yearly Meeting Archives at UMass Amherst as part of the CVQM collection on March 17.

Jeff also gave Liesa seven boxes of books. We received the help of Peter Blood in reviewing these books. Peter took a stack of books for his online inwardlight.org project. Other books were set aside for review by other Friends. The bulk of the books were determined to be only suitable for discard or donation to a used book sale because the books were either moldy or non-Quaker or out of date.

Those present at our Quarterly meeting shared memories of their connections with LHMM in decades past. It's hard to see the meeting disappear. We held a moment of silence for a meeting that has served its purpose and must now be released.

In Gratitude,
David Ahlfeld, Clerk, CVQM

Cc:

Rebecca Leuchak, Presiding Clerk, NEYM, clerk@neym.org

Susan Davies, Permanent Board Clerk, pbclerk@neym.org

Sara Hubner, NEYM office manager, office@neym.org

Liesa Stamm, Meeting Accompaniment Group, liesastamm1@gmail.com

Jeff Van Wagenen, 1516 Straits Turnpike, Middlebury CT 06762

April 2019 Noah's prayerful preparation for his visit to Ireland Yearly Meeting was much valued. In his lecture, he challenged us to go back to the teaching of George Fox, and to have faith to follow the leadings of the Spirit. We are glad Noah had the opportunity to visit Ballitore, the burial place of John Scott - E.H. Bewley Ireland T.M. Clerk

FWC Section Meeting
Lake Doniphan, MO 2019, 23rd day 3rd mo
Darkest Francis in NEJM,

Noah has been faithful among us. He has received prayers for us. He has taught in and has helped build our Travelling Ministry Corps. Most faithfully he has remained open to the promptings of the Spirit. Thank you dear Friends for all your efforts in the corporate support of individual ministry. ~~Bernard Sanders~~ Eppler Clerk FWC Americas

Dear Friends,

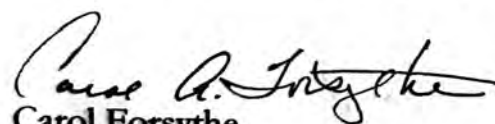
Noah Merrill is a member of Putney Friends Meeting whose spiritual wisdom is cherished. We recognize the gift of ministry given through him. We are grounding his service through nurture and oversight. Noah's work is the work of the Meeting.

Noah's faith has served as an instrument of Love in times of trouble. He seeks to live in and be open to the Life and Power of God. We witness this.

Under the guidance of the Spirit and with the prayers of Friends, may his service among you be faithful.

With Noah, we send our loving greetings.

Signed on behalf of Putney Friends Meeting,



Carol Forsythe,

Presiding Clerk

Putney Friends Meeting

New England Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Joyfully reaffirmed at Northwest Quarter 3 Dec. 2016
on behalf of Senior Moyallan Camp 2019:
Judith Poole (clerk) Jonathan Poole (assistant clerk)

Minute approved Sixth Month 10, 2016

Dear Friends,

The time we spent with Noah on the evening of October 8, as well as at, and after Meeting for Worship the next day was very special. We thank you for encouraging him to share his gifts of ministry with us. We gained a better appreciation for the work of Yearly Meeting and the gifts and strengths of our own meeting as well.

On the Light, Greg Pall, co-clerk, South Starksboro Friends Meeting

10/14/16

Thank you for being part of
Young Adult Friends Midwinter 2025.
Thank you for connecting the writings of
early Friends with our contemporary
experiences, and deepening our
understanding of covenant community.

- Collee Williams

Dear friends of Putney Friends Meeting, March 20-23, 2025

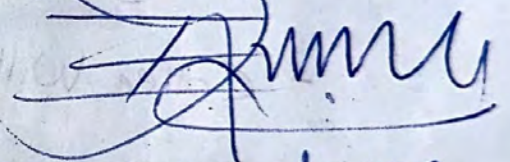
What a joy is it to have Noah with us, serving
FACC Section Meeting 2025 with faithfulness and love.
His steadfast presence brought a stability and
spiritual depth to our gathering that is
appreciated and deeply felt.

We are blessed
Lavonia French
FACC Section of the Americas, clerk

Querido Noah

Estoy agradecido por su visita y quiero
expresar que Dios lo guarde y cuide en
su vida, siga predicando la palabra de Dios
y la palabra de se haga carne en ti
hoy, mañana y siempre.

Tu amigo Elisao M.Q.V.
Con Cristo, somos mas que vencedores



Para el hermano:

Noah Merrill. Miembro del Comité Ejecutivo del CMCA.

El Alto, La Paz, Bolivia.

17 de abril de 2025

A horas 20:00, p.m. del 17 de abril de 2025, la Junta Mensual 16 de Julio, de la Junta Anual: Iglesia Evangélica Unión Boliviana Amigos, durante el desarrollo del Culto de Bienvenida a la Junta de Pascua 2025, que se realizó en la sala del templo, el hermano Noah Merrill nos compartió acerca una enseñanza del tratamiento de la miel de abeja, donde para obtener una miel de calidad era necesario hacer varios trabajos y esperar los resultados para que al final se tenga una miel de calidad. Ésta narrativa fue relacionada con la historia de los dos discípulos de Jesús camino a Emmaús, escrita en Lucas 24:13 – 35.

Donde el desconocido para ellos (Cristo resucitado) hizo el trabajo de aclarar los eventos que tenían que cumplirse hasta que los discípulos le reconocieron.

Lo que nos compartió el hermano Noah, fue interesante y despertó el interés de los oyentes, dejando como resultado la necesidad de buscar profundidad en esta reflexión.


También fue de profunda reflexión acerca de los "muros de separación" que presentó el domingo 20 en el "Culto de Santidad", llamado así en el programa realizado en la Junta Mensual 16 de Julio. En la cita bíblica de Efesios 2:14 – 16, se refirió a que la humanidad hemos construido diferentes muros de separación; en lo político, social y religiosa; que frente a éstos muros es necesario hacer puentes de conexión especialmente con amigos de diferentes formas de adoración y distintas maneras de expresar la fe en Dios para que seamos creyentes verdaderos.

Asimismo; la pascua que se celebra no debería ser recordada sólo cada año, sino que, deberíamos tener en constante recordatorio éste suceso histórico que nos cambió nuestra relación con Dios (1 Corintios 5:7 – 8).

Deseamos los asistentes a ésta Junta; que el señor Jesucristo siga usando la vida del hermano Noah para transmitir aliento, consejo y enseñanza bajo la dirección del Espíritu Santo de Dios.

Sinceramente:

Gualberto Torrez Q.


Ptr. Gualberto Torrez Quispe
PRESIDENTE
DIRECTORIO NACIONAL
IGL. EV. UNIÓN BOLIVIANA "AMIGOS"



To: Permanent Board

From: Susan Davies, Permanent Board Clerk

Date: May 3, 2025

RE: Notice of PB Clerk's appointment of a working group to develop a memorandum of understanding for management of the Salem Quarter Fund

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Background

Permanent Board affirmed, at the March 1, 2025 PB meeting, the PB Clerk's plan to appoint a working group to agree on procedures for the continued availability of Salem Quarter (SQM) Funds to support ministry and witness of Salem Quarter Friends, and others by mutual agreement. This is in fulfillment of Permanent Board's responsibility to ensure that valued administrative functions of the Salem Quarter continue while the Quarter is on hiatus. The Legacy Gift Committee ably discerned worthy recipients of grants, and the Treasurer of the Salem Quarter, John Robinson, managed, and disbursed funds until June 2024 when the period of sabbatical requested by SQM ended. Resumption of availability of the SQM Fund in support of ministry and witness now requires revisions and updates to the Memorandum of Understanding that was established in 2022.

Action:

I have asked the following Friends, and they have all agreed, to serve on a working group to develop a new Memorandum of Understanding to resume availability and disbursement of funds from the Salem Quarter Fund:

- Mary Link, Clerk of the Legacy Gift Committee
- Morgan Wilson, past clerk of the Salem Quarter Funds Committee
- John Robinson, Treasurer of the Salem Quarter.



Sara Hubner <office@neym.org>

Recorded Ministers in the Yearly Meeting

8 messages

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

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]

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

-2-

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

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

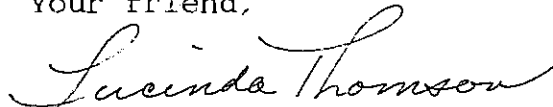
Marilyn Neyer, Clerk
Committee on Ministry and Counsel
New England Yearly Meeting
15 High Street
Cambridge, Mass. 02138

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 603.868.6508

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

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

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.

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

5. The report from the treasurer gave a checkbook balance of \$556.98 as of Third Month 31, and a Memill Fund balance of \$1,353.41, dated Fourth Month 30 1999. The outgoing treasurer suggests we investigate finding a new place to deposit the Memill 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 receiveing 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 Quaker's 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 Stuenkel, clerk

Ev
Bible
script
child
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leader
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best

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

“It is never too late to begin repair.”

Sherri Clemons, Tribal Heritage Director, Wyandotte Nation

17 April 2025

Dear Friends,

Thank you again for your financial and spiritual support as we undertook this journey. It was deeply rewarding and challenging and, to mix metaphors, contained the seeds for renewing relationships between Friends in New England and the Indigenous Peoples of the Quapaw, Ottawa, Peoria, Miami, Modoc, Eastern Shawnee, Wyandotte, Seneca-Cayuga, Iowa, Sac & Fox, Kickapoo, Absentee Shawnee, and Citizen Potawatomi Nations.

A formal report on our travels and some reflections on things we heard and saw follows.



Our trip began with a flight from Tampa, where we are wintering with our daughter Louisa and her family, to Dallas/Fort Worth Airport (DFW) on Wednesday, March 5th. From there we drove north to Edmond, OK, approximately 200 miles, where we stayed with relatives, Dian and Jim Sill. Their hospitality, interest in this work, and their deep, practical faith were a good place to begin a journey full of unknowns.

[In order to be respectful of Tribal sovereignty, we sent letters to the Tribal Historic Preservation Officers for each of the thirteen Nations we were intending to visit, describing our plan and assuring them of our intention to do everything respectfully. Only two Tribes replied. We were able to follow up with one but not the other. About 5 days after we returned from our trip, we received a phone call from an elder of the Iowa Tribe. She had only recently received our letter. We were delighted that she had reached out and look forward to communicating further with her.]

From Edmond we took three day trips: to the land of the Iowa Nation, the Sac & Fox Nation, and to the First Americans Museum in Oklahoma City.

Our day in the Iowa Nation, about 25 miles from Edmond, was like several more that would follow. We had imprecise information about the location of the short-lived day school that was established with financial assistance from NEYM. Taking the now “ghost town” of Fallis as our chief reference point, we headed north and east to a fork in a dirt road (where E 0870 Rd intersects S 3300 Rd) that was as close as we were likely to get to the site of the school. As became our pattern, we got out and walked around a little and then settled into worship in what seemed like the “right” place. In a simple ‘ceremony,” encouraged by a Wabanaki friend and teacher, our silent prayers were followed by offerings of tobacco and water. Our hope is that we could join with our “ancestors” and the ancestors of the children who attended the school in prayers for hope and healing. Time will tell.



[Part of our preparation in the weeks leading up to our trip was to read sections of Modoc, Sac & Fox, and Quapaw student attendance lists that that Gordon and Suzanna Schell had collected at the

Oklahoma Historical Society in February 2024. It was our way of remembering the central question in the boarding school research, “what have you done with the children”? of making the whole thing less abstract.]

Our destination on Friday the 7th was more specific, the Cultural Center of the Sac & Fox Nation in Stroud, Oklahoma, some 50 miles north and east of Edmond. The Cultural Center is a relatively new building in a cluster of offices and health facilities. A circular gathering and display area is surrounded by various offices and meeting rooms. The “museum” was mostly inaccessible since the space was being used as a classroom for a ribbon shirt-making workshop.

After an awkward beginning, we settled into what ended up being an hourlong conversation with the Center’s receptionist and guide. He had a lot to tell us about his own life and his experience as a Native person of Kickapoo, Meskwaki, and Ojibwa heritage. He shared very little about the boarding schools, having warned us that it was not something Indian People like to talk about with White people. He did tell us that his grandmother and 2 of her sisters were sent to Carlisle Indian Industrial School and that only his grandmother returned. The fate of the others remains unknown. “The damage has been done, and can’t be undone,” he told us. He also pointed us to the spot where the Sac & Fox Agency Boarding School was located less than a mile away.

Now the site of the Tribe’s water tower, we spent some time praying there and then went on to the the Sac & Fox Cemetery 5 minutes down the road. Two things stood out. Among the numerous graves structured in a conventional (to us) manner were a number that consisted of a low mound, perhaps two feet tall at the center, covered with small stones. We do not know the history or significance of this, but they were a reminder that we were on someone else’s terrain. We also found graves inscribed with many of the family names of students we had seen listed on school attendance records. What really caught our attention were the graves of two of students whose names we had read just a week or so before. (They died as adults)

We spent Saturday touring the very impressive First Americans Museum in Oklahoma City and packing up for the next stage of our trip.

Early Sunday morning we left Edmond for Hominy and the Hominy Friends Meeting, about 110 miles northeast. Suzanna and Gordon had met the Hominy pastor, David Nagle, and Mary and Gordon had corresponded with him. David invited us to join them for worship and their monthly potluck lunch afterwards. The service was, as expected, very evangelical compared to many NEYM Meetings. Several of the hymns were familiar including the George Fox Song many New England kids sing in First Day School and JYM. The Meeting was established at the request of Osage elders in 1904; the congregation is largely Osage. Most unusual was the singing of “Happy Birthday” and the final hymn, and the recitation of the Lord’s Prayer in the Osage language.

Lunch and conversation with several members of the Meeting was very enjoyable. Later that afternoon we drove through Skiatook, site of the Skiatook/Hillside School, and arrived in Miami in time for dinner.



We drove north on Monday morning to see the territory of the Quapaw Nation and the superfund site that was the now-abandoned towns of Picher, Treece, Douthat, and Cardin.

The Quapaw were among the first tribes to be removed to Indian Territory in the 1830s. We were welcomed to the Quapaw Tribal Museum that featured a large timeline and a climate-controlled room where they displayed a variety of cultural items and photographs. The guide did not seem aware of Quakers' role in the Agency school there and it did not seem our place to correct her. From there we went looking for the site of the Quapaw Agency Boarding School and the Tribe's cemetery. We did not have precise information and were not able to locate them. We did visit the Tribe's powwow grounds (pictured here) where they have been gathering for every July for 150 years. Besides the permanent seating and drum arbor, there were twenty or thirty family arbors arranged around the main circle. Simple structures with open sides they provide shade (we were warned that it could easily reach 108° in the Summer) and a place for families to gather during the festivities.

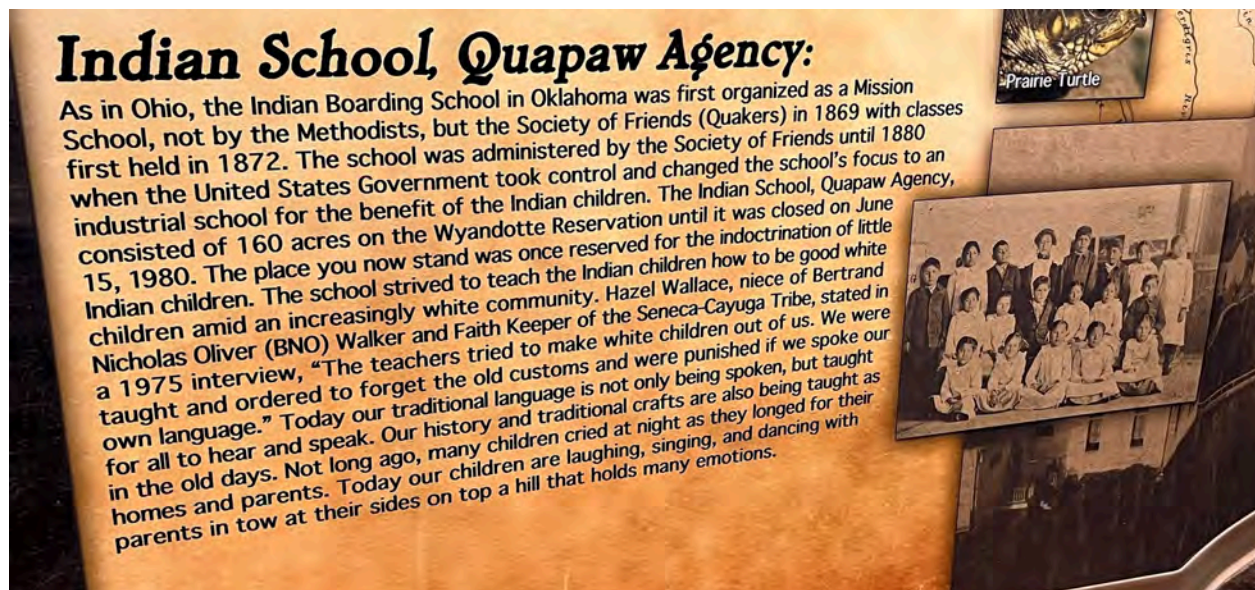


Before heading for the Miami powwow grounds, we took the time to drive north on US 69 through the “ghost” towns of Picher, Cardin, Douthat, and Treece (KS). The focus of an early 20th century lead and zinc ‘rush’, unrestricted mining, and mountains of highly toxic mine waste, these towns tell a story very much like that of the Osage People. Highly valuable mineral resources were discovered, mining companies rushed to secure leases and plunged into underground mining. Unscrupulous “guardians” and public officials cheated the Quapaw People out of their land and the enormous wealth being created. A brief period of extravagant prosperity was followed by fraud and exploitation that left the Quapaw with little but enormous piles of “chat”, mine tailings full of toxic heavy metals that leached into the ground water and rendered the towns unsafe for human occupation. So heavily polluted, the EPA declared the towns beyond reclamation and ordered the residents to leave. Unwilling to surrender any of their land, for the last three decades the Quapaw Nation has been engaged in efforts to do what the federal government would not, reclaim the land for agriculture.

After that side trip, we headed west to see the Miami Nation's powwow grounds hoping to locate their cemetery and the site of the Miami day school that was operated by Friends from 1876 to 1893. A short visit to the powwow pavillion and an offering of prayers, tobacco, and water was all we were able to do. Most of the Miami had been removed to Oklahoma from ancestral lands in the Ohio River Valley.

Wyandotte, occupying the southern half of Ottawa County, was our destination Tuesday. The town is the location of Tribal government of the Wyandotte Nation (moved from the upper Great Lakes region). It was the site of the Seneca School, also known as the Seneca, Shawnee and Wyandotte Indian School, and is now the location of the Tribe's Cultural Center.

The Seneca School was established by Quakers in 1871, became a government industrial boarding school in 1880, and continued to operate for the next one hundred years. The land was returned to the Tribe in 1980. A timeline of the Tribe's long history covers the wall that circles a central meeting area. The section below describes the school and how some members of the Tribe remembered it.



Staff at the Cultural Center were very welcoming and kept checking in with us as we walked through the exhibits, asking if we had any questions. Anxious after our earlier awkward encounter at the Sac & Fox Center, I tentatively raised the question of the boarding schools and in particular asked if they were collecting lists of students from the Seneca School. Beci Wright, the Tribe's Cultural Researcher, said they were indeed collecting lists and was very interested in what Suzanna and Gordon had collected in March 2024. We moved to her office and I was able to transfer a number of scanned index cards listing students and basic information about them. A lengthy conversation followed about the work they were doing and ways we might be helpful. At one point, Beci turned and pulled two letters off a stack. One was Rebecca Leuchak's letter as Clerk introducing the Yearly Meeting's report to the Dept. of the Interior. The other was the letter we had sent in February. "Now this makes sense," she said. Outreach by letter was important, 'showing up' let Beci know we were serious.

Wednesday (the 12th), we met with Syd Colombe (Modoc), Tribal Cultural Preservation Officer for the Modoc Nation, and Rachael Blackstone (Cherokee), the Tribe's curatorial and research associate. Gordon has been in contact with Syd since March 2024, has shared student lists from the National Archives repository at the Oklahoma Historical Society, and tried to help sort out the lineage of a young Modoc girl adopted by a missionary family. Our meeting with them was the one confirmed appointment of the trip.

Syd and Rachael greeted us warmly and showed us around their archives and several exhibits of Modoc cultural objects that had been donated, loaned, or, in a few cases, purchased on EBay. In all, we spent about 4 hours with them including a tour of the nineteenth century Meetinghouse still standing (seen below) and a slow, reflective walk through the Tribal cemetery next door. Syd pointed out the graves of her family and of one of the only young men to survive the 1873 massacre and removal.

They also pointed out a new grave, one that had not been there when Suzanna and Gordon visited in March 2024. It was the burial site of a teenage Modoc boy who had died while attending Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania. It was noteworthy since Gordon had come across correspondence between the Indian Agent and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs in which the Commissioner expressed sympathy but declined to arrange for the return of the boy's body to his family, citing their past practice. We were glad to see that had finally been corrected. (We have not included photographs of grave markers or the names of children out of respect.)



Our conversations with Syd and Rachael were wide-ranging including family histories, the complexities of language reclamation, research sources and contacts, differing opinions about the repatriation of human remains, contacts (and politics) between the Modoc in Oklahoma and those who remain in Oregon, and the story of Frank Modoc. He was recorded as a Friends Minister and died in Maine while trying to advance his education at the Oak Grove Seminary in Vassalboro. We parted with promises of our return and the intention to find ways that NEYM can support the restorative work that they are doing. On our way back out, we passed one of the five herds of bison the Tribe has been raising.

Our last three days, based in Shawnee, were a little anticlimactic after the rich encounters we had with Wyandotte and Modoc Nations. Thursday we spent visiting a series of cemeteries and overgrown fields looking for the sites of schools and missions established with the support of New England Friends for the Absentee Shawnee (photo on right) and Citizen Potawatomi.



The Absentee Shawnee, led by Big Jim, were a particularly conservative band, resistant to the religion, education, and agricultural practices being urged on them by the missionaries and Agents. It is not clear how John Mardock convinced them to send their children to the school that was eventually built there.

The Citizen Potawatomi were eager for the education offered. They had accepted the bargain of US citizenship and allotment in exchange for relinquishing their land and treaty claims but were deeply disappointed when the government failed to protect them from the schemes and predation of land-hungry white settlers. They moved to Indian Territory in frustration but have since developed numerous services and enterprises that have made them the largest employer and a significant economic presence in the area. Their large cultural center in Shawnee tells the story of the Potawatomi People and their diverse attempts to make durable arrangements that would preserve the Nation's sovereignty and culture.

The Shawnee Meetinghouse built by Friends in the early 1880s is located just south of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Center. We were able to see the worship space looking through the windows.

We cannot say for certain that we found any of sites we were looking for, but we got as close as we could and offered prayers, tobacco, and water as we remembered the children who had gone to those schools.

We attended worship at the Kickapoo Friends Center in McLoud on our last morning in Oklahoma. The mission and school there were established by Elizabeth Test, a Friend from Indiana, with funding from NEYM. The house she built still stands and is used as the residence for the longstanding pastors there, Brad and Christine Wood. We wrote to them in February but had not received a reply so we were unsure of our welcome. After some initial hesitation, Brad welcomed us and showed us to the church where a congregation of about 18 gathered for worship.



There was a lot of singing. We recognized a few of the songs and did our best with the others. Christine Wood's enthusiastic and ornamented piano playing reminded us of Jan Hoffman's occasional turns at the piano. The service included many of the elements and forms Gordon remembered from his youth - responsive readings, readings from the Bible, a sermon. The brief period of open worship midway through the service seemed deep and centered. Several spoke about recent struggles and hopes. Afterward, cordial greetings were exchanged between attenders.

Brad's sermon was based on John 3.16. (See below) Apparently many of the area churches had agreed to observe the date March 16 (3/16) by suspending their normal homiletic plans to preach on the text.

Most of the attenders left promptly after the benediction. We had been forewarned that the Kickapoo were a very private people. We had further conversation with Brad who shared with us a slide show on the history of the Center and then took us to see the older church building, now a multipurpose space, the large arbor where they can hold outdoor services and meals, and the well-equipped kitchen in an adjoining building.

From there we headed south to Fort Worth and our flight home the next day.

[John 3.16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." KJV]



This was a wonderful trip full of new landscapes and provocative experiences. Three reflections have continued to challenge us.

1) The schools established and operated by Quakers under Grant's 'peace policy' were important proving grounds for the elements of an assimilationist education. Links between students and their families, cultures, Tribes, and land were stretched or severed. Native languages were suppressed and

the physical reminders of home - mocassins, buckskins, blankets - were all thrown away or burned (or kept by teachers and missionaries as souvenirs of a 'dying' race). But these early schools were small and local and the privations involved paled in comparison to the harsh regimen of the large, off-reservation Indian industrial schools operated by the government or by other religious denominations on contract. The enduring influence of Friends is most clearly seen in their vigorous advocacy for the complete erasure of Tribal life and identities and the wide-scale theft of Native land.

It is essential for Quakers to account for their conduct of the schools if we are to humbly and candidly engage with the descendants of those who attended places like the Seneca School and the Sac & Fox Agency boarding school and make good faith offers of reparative action. But it not enough. We must understand and be accountable for our embrace of what today have been judged genocidal policies and our willingness to employ coercive practices despite our own history of "sufferings" at the hands of the State.

2) Indigenous People tell us that for them the path of healing and repair is long and difficult. Friends can help through an honest reckoning of our past and our role in assimilationist policies and practices and through sharing our resources: archival, financial, and spiritual. We can make this journey with them, but, as Alaskan Friends have reminded us, Native People are driving and we are in the backseat. Giving up our need for control and for recognition is the only way forward.

3) Talk of reparations is often reduced to writing checks and sounds like a transaction. Our experiences and the wisdom of Patti Krawec (author of "Beloved Kin") encouraged us to think about the importance of rooting reparative action in ongoing relationships. The course of repair between the Alaskan Friends Conference and Native Alaskans and between Quakers in Maine and their Penobscot and Passamaquoddy neighbors show how the work of repair is grounded in carefully nurtured, candid, respectful relationships.



Thank you again for your prayers and support. We feel privileged to have made this trip and hope fervently that it will help to begin to renew the relationship between the Friends of New England Yearly Meeting and the Quapaw, Ottawa, Peoria, Miami, Modoc, Eastern Shawnee, Wyandotte, Seneca-Cayuga, Iowa, Sac & Fox, Kickapoo, Absentee Shawnee, and Citizen Potawatomi Peoples. To further this process, we intend to return next year as way opens and would like to bring others with us.

We further hope that rediscovering the kinship that binds us will lead to candid, respectful, and mutual conversations and to healing and repair.



**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**

Names to be referred to Moses Brown Board Nominating Committee for consideration:

- Dr E Pierre Morenon (Providence MM) - for Moses Brown Trustee, (*to be discerned by Moses Brown Nominating Committee*) **Friends affirmed**
- Anna Hopkins Buller (Friends Camp director) - for Moses Brown Trustee, (*to be discerned by Moses Brown Nominating Committee*) **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

DRAFT 5/2/2025

Friends Camp Endowment Fund Policy

Approved by the Friends Camp Committee on May 3, 2025

Purpose & Use of Funds

- A. The Friends Camp Endowment Fund exists for the purpose of supporting Friends Camp, a ministry of New England Yearly Meeting of Friends (NEYM).
- B. The Endowment Fund will specifically support campership (scholarship) funding for Friends Camp and for no other purpose except as described in the next subsection. Camperships shall support campers with financial need attending camp, with need determined by the Camp Director.
- C. If at any point Endowment funds can no longer be used for camper scholarships, Endowment funds will be released to the general fund for use for the benefit of Friends Camp. If Endowment funds can no longer be used for any purpose relating to Friends Camp, all Endowment funds would be released to New England Yearly Meeting for the purpose of funding youth activities or programs. If Endowment funds cannot be used for that purpose, they will be released to the general fund for New England Yearly Meeting of Friends and used in accordance with Friends' Governing Principles.
- D. Term Limit: From the inception of the Endowment fund until its termination on June 1, 2055, Endowment funds shall be restricted as described in this document. After June 1, 2055, the Endowment fund will become a board (camp committee) designated fund for the same purposes above.

Gift Acceptance

- A. There shall be a minimum contribution of \$1,000 to the Endowment Fund.
- B. All gifts to the Endowment Fund shall be pooled together for the same purpose, and funds within the Endowment Fund shall not be further designated.
- C. Friends Camp will accept cash, cash equivalents, and securities.

Withdrawal

- A. Once per year, Friends Camp shall withdraw up to 5% of the current market value of total endowment assets for camperships. The percentage to be withdrawn shall be determined by the Friends Camp Committee in its sole discretion.

Investment Policy

- A. NEYM and the Friends Camp Committee have delegated decisions regarding investment of funds to the Friends Camp Finance Committee.

- B. For fund investing for the Endowment Fund, the Friends Camp Finance Committee shall prioritize affirming Friends' testimonies, professional long-term investment management, preservation of principal, and prudent risk management. Friends' testimonies include simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality, and stewardship.
- C. At the inception of the fund, the Friends Camp Finance Committee has elected to invest funds with the NEYM Pooled Funds and adhere to the same investment policies as the Board of Managers of NEYM Pooled Funds.
- D. Friends Camp Finance Committee shall review investments, income and fund performance and recommend changes as needed. Reviews shall be at least once each calendar year.

Management of the Endowment Fund shall be in compliance with the requirements of Maine's Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act, 13 MRSA Sec. 5101, et. seq. as amended and updated from time to time.

Robb Spivey Minute of Appreciation

Shared by the Friends Camp Nominating Committee

Accepted by the Friends Camp Committee on May 3, 2025

The Friends Camp Committee wishes to recognize extraordinary service on the part of Friend Robb Spivey, who has served 9 years on the Camp Committee, most of which as the Camp Treasurer and all remaining years as an Assistant Treasurer. While he was reluctant to take on this role initially, he was soon deeply committed to the work. His commitment was evident in his seemingly limitless patience for updating camp accounting systems, developing a financial handbook, poring over transactions to make sure everything was in order, and educating Camp Committee members on Friends Camp's financial status. Robb's leadership helped Friends Camp weather a pandemic, develop a new Financial Handbook, increase staff compensation, increase availability of camperships, and work towards establishing an endowment fund. Robb has also offered his gifts as a land surveyor during his time on the Camp Committee.

Camp Committee members came to know Robb for clear reports, his depth of understanding of camp's financial position, and his sense of humor. Most significantly, perhaps, Robb helped the Friends Camp Committee look further into the years ahead; through his guidance, we have continued to plan for Friends Camp's future to make sure that camp is a source of community, joy, and belonging for campers for many years to come. We are very grateful for all of Robb's many contributions and hope that he will stay connected with the Friends Camp Community in the coming years.

Review of updated MOU with UMASS SCUA from the Archives Committee

Carol A Forsythe <carol.forsythe@comcast.net>

Mar 18, 2025,
11:26 AM

To: Susan Davies, Permanent Board Clerk, Carol, NEYM Secretary

Susan Davies,

This year the Archives Committee worked with Danielle Kovacs of the Special Collections and Archives (SCUA) at UMASS to update the Memorandum of Understanding which we put in place when the NEYM were placed with SCUA.

We would like to report on this update. It does not substantially change the understanding, but is updated based on our five years of experience.

We are currently waiting on the final review by the director at SCUA, but once that has occurred, I will send a report discussing the changes as well as the document itself.

A member of the committee will come to Permanent Board to present the report.

I am writing now to let you know of this work.

thank you,
Carol Forsythe

Report from NEYM Archives Committee on the 2025 update to the Memorandum of Understanding(MOU) with Special Collections and Archives (SCUA) UMass Amherst

Purpose: The Archives Committee is submitting this report to inform the Permanent Board of changes in our MOU with SCUA.

Background: The MOU was originally agreed in 201 and approved by the Permanent Board. The document was created with the intention that it would be regularly reviewed by both our committee and SCUA to ensure documentation of any changes to our operating agreement. Since the MOU was originally developed, both SCUA, the Archives Committee and our Outreach Archivists have seen the need to clarify some of the language to make clear our intent. The changes:

1. Updates Contact information with the name of the new Director at SCUA. Changed the contact information for NEYM to emails so there is continuity of contact with committee clerk or outreach clerk change. Part 3. A.
2. Section D, Privacy and Sensitivity Issues has been clarified regarding closure of submitted materials, examples of sensitive materials and types of access which can be designated at the time submission to SCUA.
3. Clearer description of on-going deposit process, Section E. This now defines a on-time deed of gift from each Meeting and an on-going transfer letter for subsequent deposits.

Action: **Request approval of the revised document.** This has been reviewed and approved by Aaron Rubinstein, Director of SCUA as well as Danielle Kovacs, Curator of Collections, as well as the Archives Committee.

Attachment : Drafted MoU SCUA and NEYM upd-3-2025 (attached). Also, on Google drive: Archives >Archives Committee Minutes and Annual Reports >2024-25 Archives Committee Minutes & Work. Changes remain highlighted in red in sections D and E.

Carol Forsythe, for the NEYM Archives Committee

Memorandum of Understanding relating to the Records of the New England Yearly Meeting of Friends (referred to in this document as “The Collection”)

Part 1.

The Department of Special Collections and University Archives of the UMass Amherst Libraries ("SCUA") and the New England Yearly Meeting of the Society of Friends and its constitutive bodies ("NEYM") bring different gifts to the relationship formalized with this document. SCUA brings knowledge and expertise in managing, maintaining, and providing access to archival collections and institutional records. NEYM brings knowledge of the history and organization of itself and more broadly Quakers, as well as contacts and communications systems with and among NEYM and the individuals that form the corporate body called NEYM. Both parties also bring a willingness to work together to ensure that records with enduring historical value continue to be created, collected, preserved, and made accessible.

This Memorandum of Understanding is intended to be a living document. Both parties understand and agree that changes in process and procedure may become necessary over time. This Memorandum of Understanding will serve as a place to record mutually agreed upon changes. At a minimum, both parties should review this document every year and they should both agree that it is working well. In the event that one or both feel that changes should be made, or new agreements and understandings recorded, they should collaborate to find a mutually agreeable process and procedure.

Part 2.

As stated in the Deed of Gift, SCUA and NEYM agree to work collaboratively to:

- A. Understand the content of The Collection, and resolve any ownership, copyright, and privacy issues that may arise during the cataloging of the collection, or once intellectual access to The Collection is given to the general public.
- B. Develop systems of communication to aid the future collection of records from Monthly and Quarterly Meetings and the Yearly Meeting. SCUA will provide the Archives Committee with an annual report each May, in time for the Archives Committee to prepare its report that is due to NEYM in June. The Archives Committee will update SCUA at least annually about committee goals and any concerns that may have arisen under this agreement.

Part 3.

This section contains the elaboration of policy and procedure mentioned in the Deed of Gift, which specifically refers the parties to the Memorandum of Understanding in four places. It is, however, not intended to limit either party to just those areas if both parties discover other areas that need mutual agreement.

Sections may be collaboratively added, subtracted, or edited as the need arises. "Contacts and organizational structures," for instance, is a new section that was not referenced in the Deed of Gift.

A. Contacts and organizational structures

As an aid to collaboration, both parties will keep the other updated about who to contact to get help or support. For NEYM, possible points of contact include: the NEYM Archivist (Outreacharchivist@neym.org), the Clerk of the Archives Committee (archives@neym.org), the NEYM Secretary (Noah Merrill, secretary@neym.org), and the NEYM Office Manager (Sara Hubner). All appropriate contact information is to be kept updated by NEYM. For SCUA, possible points of contact include: the Head of Special Collections and University Archives (Aaron Rubinstein) and the Curator of Collections (Danielle Kovacs). SCUA will keep contact information up to date.

B. Ownership Issues

1. NEYM, and in future, the donating constitutive body, agrees to convey to SCUA all legal title to The Collection as an unrestricted gift, except as specified in the Deed of Gift and this Memorandum.

2. SCUA agrees that in the event that it shall decide not to retain any materials within The Collection, all such materials shall be returned to the donor, upon request, at SCUA's expense.

C. Copyright Issues

1. NEYM, and in future, the donating constitutive body, agrees to share ownership of any and all copyrights in The Collection that they hold and grants SCUA a nonexclusive right to authorize all uses of these materials for non-commercial research, scholarly, or other educational purposes pursuant to a Creative Commons Attribution, NonCommercial license.

2. Some of the discretionary uses incidental to The Collection's inclusion in SCUA (including, but not limited to digitization, exhibition, display, and research access), may implicate copyrights. To the extent that such activities are not already permitted under statutory copyright exceptions such as fair use, NEYM or the donating constitutive body grants SCUA an irrevocable non-exclusive royalty-free worldwide perpetual license for all reasonable discretionary uses.

3. It is understood that NEYM, and in future, the donating constitutive body, can legally transfer only those rights which it owns; and that The Collection contains materials for which copyright is owned by other parties. In such cases, SCUA will direct researchers who wish to publish this material to request permission directly from the copyright holder. SCUA will also inform researchers in situations where copyright ownership cannot be ascertained.

4. Should NEYM, any of its constitutive bodies, or individuals who have signed release agreements for donated materials request, they may retain copyright for clearly designated portions of The Collection for a clearly specified duration.
5. To the extent that NEYM or the constitutive body holds copyright to the materials in the Collection, that copyright is shared with SCUA and either entity may grant permission to publish material.
6. Requests to publish from any materials in The Collection for which NEYM, any of its constitutive bodies, or individuals who have signed release agreements for donated materials elects to retain copyright, apart from those permitted under statutory copyright exceptions such as fair use, shall be forwarded to the NEYM Archives Committee for consideration.

D. Privacy and Sensitivity Issues

1. NEYM reserves the right to restrict research access to any body of records within The Collection due to concerns over personal privacy, confidentiality, or any other points of sensitivity. It is understood by both parties that it may not be possible, in every case, for NEYM to make the request for closure prior to transfer of the records to SCUA. For the original donation, NEYM will make every effort to determine which, if any, materials require closure as soon as possible after the transfer. If any materials are designated for closure **or restriction**, this will be clearly communicated in writing to SCUA and the materials themselves will be clearly identified. **Examples of records that may contain private or sensitive information include: Vital Record forms, Current Meeting Address lists, Minutes of Pastoral Care Committees, and Minutes of Ministry and Counsel and of its subcommittees such as clearness and support committees. Additionally, photos and videos without consent forms.** The containers of any closed or restricted material, as well as any accompanying finding aids or inventories, will display a firm date after which the records can be made available to all researchers.
2. Any material the prospective donating body deems to be sensitive may be closed or restricted for a set period of time: either 20 years or 40 years from the **date the creation**. Materials deemed too sensitive ever to be made available to researchers should not be transferred to SCUA.
3. **Types of access to be designated at time of transferral to SCUA:**
 - a. **Closed for either 20 or 40 years. The final date of closure will be visible in the SCUA finding aid. If physical, the boxes will not be made available until the end of the closure. If the materials are digital they will be held on SCUA internal only servers until the end of closure.**

- b. Restricted to physical access only for either 20 or 40 years. These materials may ONLY be used at SCUA's reading rooms. If the material is digital it will be provided to the user only through University computers in the SCUA reading rooms.
- c. Open. These materials, whether physical or digital may be accessed at the SCUA reading rooms, or through digital copy. They are available to be accessed through the SCUA website.

3. Through the Clerk of the Archives Committee, NEYM or any of its constitutive bodies may request access to its own restricted materials during the period of closure; all other use shall be prohibited. The Clerk will notify SCUA via email of any decisions about granting access to restricted materials, cc-ing the Secretary of NEYM.

E. Ongoing Deposits

1. Future accruals to The Collection are expected and shall be deemed as falling under the terms of this agreement.

2. NEYM and SCUA will work to encourage the donation of future additions to The Collection, including records of NEYM, its Quarterly and Monthly Meetings, and other constitutive bodies.

3. Donations of physical records and digital records will be accepted by SCUA at any time. The first donation for a Meeting must be accompanied by a signed Deed of Gift. Subsequent gifts must be accompanied by a signed Transfer Letter. The Deed of Gift and Transfer Letter forms, the collecting policy for the Archives, and guidelines for donating materials are available on the Archives Committee web page: <https://neym.org/archives>.

e Archives Committee web page: <https://neym.org/archives>.

4. Donations of recordings of oral history interviews, personal statements such as Spiritual Journeys, presentations, photos, videos or performances should include copies of signed release forms, if at all possible. If releases were not obtained or are not available, the donor should indicate why, to the best of his or her knowledge (e.g.. the person recorded is now deceased). These release forms are also available on the Archives Committee web page: <https://neym.org/archives>.

NEYM
FY2024 Operating Budget vs Actuals Summary
October 2023 - September 2024

	Actual	Budget	Over / (Under) Budget	% of Budget
Income				
4010 Individual Contributions	\$ 206,708.78	\$ 223,000.00	\$ (16,291.22)	92.69%
4020 Monthly Meeting Contributions	\$ 344,668.47	\$ 342,000.00	\$ 2,668.47	100.78%
4030 Organizations Contributions	\$ 1,450.00		\$ 1,450.00	
4050 Interest and Dividend Income	\$ 7,172.35	\$ 12,000.00	\$ (4,827.65)	59.77%
4070 Books & Other Sales Income	\$ 8,677.41	\$ 10,500.00	\$ (1,822.59)	82.64%
4080 Retreat Program Fees	\$ 30,422.00	\$ 37,500.00	\$ (7,078.00)	81.13%
4085 Sessions Program Fees	\$ 161,365.50	\$ 249,475.00	\$ (88,109.50)	64.68%
4090 Change in Fair Market Value	\$ 72.07		\$ 72.07	
4099 Net Assets Released To/From *	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ (5,000.00)	0.00%
Total Income	\$ 760,536.58	\$ 879,475.00	\$ (118,938.42)	86.48%
Expenses				
5000 Staff	\$ 481,169.40	\$ 503,842.00	\$ (22,672.60)	95.50%
5100 General & Administration	\$ 102,604.06	\$ 87,449.00	\$ 15,155.06	117.33%
5300 Travel & Conferences	\$ 31,135.64	\$ 22,300.00	\$ 8,835.64	139.62%
6000 Programs	\$ 201,081.80	\$ 256,012.00	\$ (54,930.20)	78.54%
6140 Books & Other Sales Expense	\$ 6,743.75	\$ 8,000.00	\$ (1,256.25)	84.30%
Total Expenses	\$ 822,734.65	\$ 877,603.00	\$ (54,868.35)	93.75%
Net Operating Income	\$ (62,198.07)	\$ 1,872.00	\$ (64,070.07)	
Transfers In/Out				
9940 Other Income - Transfers from other funds *	\$ 5,000.00		\$ 5,000.00	
Net Other Income	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	
Net Income	\$ (57,198.07)	\$ 1,872.00	\$ (59,070.07)	

* For use of net assets, see 9940 Other Income, due to a change in bookkeeping practice.

Total income when including \$5,000 use of net assets is \$113,938.42 under budget.

% of budgeted total income when including \$5,000 use of net assets is 87.04%

NEYM
FY2024 Operating Budget vs Actuals Detail
October 2023 - September 2024

	Actual	Budget	Over / (Under) Budget	% of Budget
Income				
4010 Individual Contributions	206,708.78	223,000.00	(16,291.22)	92.69%
4020 Monthly Meeting Contributions	344,668.47	342,000.00	2,668.47	100.78%
4030 Organizations Contributions	1,450.00		1,450.00	
4050 Interest and Dividend Income	7,172.35	12,000.00	(4,827.65)	59.77%
4070 Books & Other Sales Income	8,677.41	10,500.00	(1,822.59)	82.64%
4080 Retreat Program Fees	30,422.00	37,500.00	(7,078.00)	81.13%
4085 Sessions Program Fees	161,365.50	249,475.00	(88,109.50)	64.68%
4090 Change in Fair Market Value	72.07		72.07	
4099 Net Assets Released To/From *		5,000.00	(5,000.00)	
Total Income	760,536.58	879,475.00	(118,938.42)	86.48%
Expenses				
5000 Staff				
5010 Salaries & Wages	360,924.10	380,988.00	(20,063.90)	94.73%
5020 Payroll Taxes	27,077.77	29,146.00	(2,068.23)	92.90%
5030 Benefits				
5033 Health Benefits	52,982.14	49,199.00	3,783.14	107.69%
5035 Retirements	36,435.95	38,099.00	(1,663.05)	95.63%
5040 Disability	983.41	1,100.00	(116.59)	89.40%
5045 Workers' Compensation	682.00	760.00	(78.00)	89.74%
5050 Spiritual Retreats	727.00	1,200.00	(473.00)	60.58%
5060 Staff Development	1,257.03	3,250.00	(1,992.97)	38.68%
5070 Sabbatical & Paid Leave	100.00	100.00	-	100.00%
Total 5030 Benefits	93,167.53	93,708.00	(540.47)	99.42%
Total 5000 Staff	481,169.40	503,842.00	(22,672.60)	95.50%
5100 General & Administration				
5110 Administration				
5120 Bank Expense	8,530.37	7,000.00	1,530.37	121.86%
5130 Contracted Services	28,655.71	18,000.00	10,655.71	159.20%
5135 Accounting Services		-	-	
5140 Legal Services	2,500.00	2,500.00	-	100.00%
5145 Infrastructure		-	-	
5150 Liability Insurance	6,835.49	5,250.00	1,585.49	130.20%
5160 Payroll Service	7,518.60	5,500.00	2,018.60	136.70%
5170 Recruiting Expense		-	-	
5180 Rent	9,350.00	9,350.00	-	100.00%
5190 Misc. Expense	467.93		467.93	
Total 5110 Administration	63,858.10	47,600.00	16,258.10	134.16%
5200 Office				
5220 Cleaning Services	300.00	299.00	1.00	100.33%
5230 Maint - Equip & Hardware	89.99	500.00	(410.01)	18.00%
5240 Postage	2,200.39	3,750.00	(1,549.61)	58.68%
5250 Office Equipment	237.55	1,500.00	(1,262.45)	15.84%

5260 Office Supplies	1,539.57	1,600.00	(60.43)	96.22%
5270 Printing & Copying	7,415.95	9,500.00	(2,084.05)	78.06%
5280 Software & Updates	23,017.05	19,000.00	4,017.05	121.14%
5290 Telephone	3,833.26	3,700.00	133.26	103.60%
5295 Misc. Office	112.20		112.20	
Total 5200 Office	<u>38,745.96</u>	<u>39,849.00</u>	<u>(1,103.04)</u>	<u>97.23%</u>
Total 5100 General & Administration	<u>102,604.06</u>	<u>87,449.00</u>	<u>15,155.06</u>	<u>117.33%</u>
5300 Travel & Conferences				
5310 Travel - Committee	1,536.36	1,400.00	136.36	109.74%
5320 Travel - Clerk	4,990.75	2,500.00	2,490.75	199.63%
5330 Travel - Programs	3,853.02	3,100.00	753.02	124.29%
5335 Travel - Representatives Travel	8,299.70	2,000.00	6,299.70	414.99%
5350 Travel - Staff	12,455.81	12,900.00	(444.19)	96.56%
5360 Travel - Ministries		400.00	(400.00)	0.00%
Total 5300 Travel & Conferences	<u>31,135.64</u>	<u>22,300.00</u>	<u>8,835.64</u>	<u>139.62%</u>
6000 Programs				
6110 Sessions Room & Board	127,106.70	169,442.00	(42,335.30)	75.01%
6112 Retreats - Room & Board				
6114 Room Rental	13,988.00	10,000.00	3,988.00	139.88%
6150 Food Expense	9,413.65	10,000.00	(586.35)	94.14%
Total 6112 Retreats - Room & Board	<u>23,401.65</u>	<u>20,000.00</u>	<u>3,401.65</u>	<u>117.01%</u>
6125 Program Expenses				
6105 Honoraria - Speakers/Wkshp Ldrs	16,796.92	24,000.00	(7,203.08)	69.99%
6107 Honoraria - Volunteer Leadership	11,250.00	15,000.00	(3,750.00)	75.00%
6115 Equipment Rental	7,708.79	6,500.00	1,208.79	118.60%
6121 Supplies and Other Expenses	8,068.30	9,000.00	(931.70)	89.65%
6165 Pre-Sessions Expense	1,409.44	1,500.00	(90.56)	93.96%
Total 6125 Program Expenses	<u>45,233.45</u>	<u>56,000.00</u>	<u>(10,766.55)</u>	<u>80.77%</u>
6130 Committee Expenses - General	2,100.00	6,350.00	(4,250.00)	33.07%
6134 Childcare		2,000.00	(2,000.00)	0.00%
Total 6130 Committee Expenses - General	<u>2,100.00</u>	<u>8,350.00</u>	<u>(6,250.00)</u>	<u>25.15%</u>
6160 Program Support				
6163 Friends Camp	3,240.00	2,220.00	1,020.00	145.95%
Total 6160 Program Support	<u>3,240.00</u>	<u>2,220.00</u>	<u>1,020.00</u>	<u>145.95%</u>
Total 6000 Programs	<u>201,081.80</u>	<u>256,012.00</u>	<u>(54,930.20)</u>	<u>78.54%</u>
6140 Books & Other Sales Expense				
6142 Books	3,568.64	8,000.00	(4,431.36)	44.61%
6147 Consignment Sales	3,175.11		3,175.11	
Total 6140 Books & Other Sales Expense	<u>6,743.75</u>	<u>8,000.00</u>	<u>(1,256.25)</u>	<u>84.30%</u>
Total Expenses	<u>822,734.65</u>	<u>877,603.00</u>	<u>(54,868.35)</u>	<u>93.75%</u>
Net Operating Income	<u>(62,198.07)</u>	<u>1,872.00</u>	<u>(64,070.07)</u>	
Transfers In/Out				
9940 Other Income - Transfers from other funds *	5,000.00		5,000.00	
Net Transfers In/Out	<u>5,000.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,000.00</u>	
Net Income	<u>(57,198.07)</u>	<u>1,872.00</u>	<u>(59,070.07)</u>	

* For use of net assets, see 9940 Other Income, due to a change in bookkeeping practice.

Total income when including \$5,000 use of net assets is \$113,938.42 under budget.

% of budgeted total income when including \$5,000 use of net assets is 87.04%

NEYM
Statement of Activities - All Funds
October 2023 - September 2024

	<u>Operating</u>	<u>Non-Operating</u>	<u>Total</u>
Income			
4010 Individual Contributions	206,708.78	40,717.28	247,426.06
4020 Monthly Meeting Contributions	344,668.47	13,945.06	358,613.53
4025 Unallocated Income	0.00	1,903.44	1,903.44
4030 Organizations Contributions	1,450.00	29,980.00	31,430.00
4050 Interest and Dividend Income	7,172.35	71,281.17	78,453.52
4070 Books & Other Sales Income	8,677.41	25.00	8,702.41
4077 Consulting Fee Contribution	0.00	2,207.50	2,207.50
4080 Retreat Program Fees	30,422.00	1,070.00	31,492.00
4085 Sessions Program Fees	161,365.50	0.00	161,365.50
4090 Change in Fair Market Value	72.07	259,567.09	259,639.16
4099 Net Assets Released To/From	0.00	0.00	-
Total Income	\$ 760,536.58	\$ 420,696.54	\$ 1,181,233.12
Expenses			
5000 Staff	481,169.40	49,542.38	530,711.78
5100 General & Administration	102,604.06	5,465.57	108,069.63
5300 Travel & Conferences	31,135.64	3,353.01	34,488.65
6000 Programs	201,081.80	5,140.28	206,222.08
6140 Books & Other Sales Expense	6,743.75	0.00	6,743.75
6200 Support of Other Organizations	0.00	97,396.96	97,396.96
Total Expenses	\$ 822,734.65	\$ 160,896.20	\$ 983,632.85
Net Operating Income	\$ (62,198.07)	\$ 259,798.34	\$ 197,600.27
Other Income			
Transfer support from reserves for Volunteer Leadership honoraria per PB Minute 21-43 May 2021	5,000.00		
Transfer from Quasi-Endowment to 3500 Undesignated Net Assets per PB		20,000.00	
De-designate remaining amount from \$30K originally designated to Nurturing Faithfulness program including net income of Exploring Spiritual Practices course		28,902.55	
Transfer from Quasi-Endowment to 3500 Undesignated Net Assets		88,114.49	
Witness & Ministry Fund support for extra staff hours during YM Secretary leave		7,000.00	
Transfer FY24 budgeted amount from 5140 Legal Services Expense (Operating) to Legal Services Revolving Fund		2,500.00	
Transfer FY24 budgeted amount from 5070 Sabbatical & Paid Leave Expense (Operating) to Sabbatical Revolving Fund		100.00	
Sessions Minute 2024-62.2 combined the purposes of Future Fund and W&M Fund, creating one fund titled Witness & Ministry Fund; available balance in Future Fund transferred to W&M Fund.		732.31	
9940 Other Income - Transfers from other funds	5,000.00	147,349.35	152,349.35
Total Other Income	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 147,349.35	\$ 152,349.35

Other Expenses

Transfer support from reserves for Volunteer Leadership honoraria per PB Minute 21-43 May 2021			5,000.00	
Transfer income from Quasi-Endowment to Operating 4050 Interest & Dividend Income			2,959.54	
Transfer from Quasi-Endowment to General Fund per PB			20,000.00	
Transfer from Quasi-Endowment to 3500 Undesignated Net Assets			88,114.49	
Sessions Minute 2024-62.2 combined the purposes of Future Fund and W&M Fund, creating one fund titled Witness & Ministry Fund; available balance in Future Fund transferred to W&M Fund.			732.31	
Witness & Ministry Fund support for extra staff hours during YM Secretary leave			7,000.00	
Transfer Equalization Fund Individual donations to 4010 Individual Contributions (Operating)			26,543.00	
Transfer Equalization Fund Monthly Meeting donations to 4020 Monthly Meeting Contributions (Operating)			10,695.00	
De-designate remaining amount from \$30K originally designated to Nurturing Faithfulness program including net income of Exploring Spiritual Practices course			28,902.55	
Transfer income from Endowment Fund to Operating 4050 Interest & Dividend Income			2,500.47	
Transfer income from West Falmouth Prep Mtg Fund to 4020 Monthly Meeting Contributions (Operating)			203.63	
9950 Other Expense - Transfer to other funds	0.00		192,650.99	
Total Other Expenses	\$ 0.00	\$ 192,650.99	\$ 192,650.99	
Net Other Income	\$ 5,000.00	\$ (45,301.64)	\$ (40,301.64)	
Net Income	\$ (57,198.07)	\$ 214,496.70	\$ 157,298.63	

NEYM
Statement of Financial Position
As of September 30, 2024

	As of Sep 30, 2024	As of Sep 30, 2023	Change	% Change
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Bank Accounts				
1000 Checking Accounts				
1010 Santander Checking	72,175.64	137,586.68	(65,411.04)	-47.54%
1015 Everence Fed Credit Union Checking	6,093.78	4,740.49	1,353.29	28.55%
1040 Petty Cash	40.00	2,862.00	(2,822.00)	-98.60%
Total 1000 Checking Accounts	78,309.42	145,189.17	(66,879.75)	-46.06%
1020 Money Market Accounts				
1028 Santander Money Market Savings	75,870.98		75,870.98	
1029 Everence Fed Credit Union SHARE Savings	609.45	608.09	1.36	0.22%
Total 1020 Money Market Accounts	76,480.43	608.09	75,872.34	12477.16%
Total 1050 Certificates of Deposits	-	-	-	
Total Bank Accounts	154,789.85	145,797.26	8,992.59	6.17%
Accounts Receivable				
Total Accounts Receivable	-	-	-	
Other Current Assets				
1075 Pooled Funds	1,812,116.54	1,660,663.94	151,452.60	9.12%
1100 Accrued Receivables	526.76	1,050.00	(523.24)	-49.83%
1110 Due to/from Friends Camp				
1112 Camp Disability	(1.07)	(1.17)	0.10	8.55%
1113 Camp Health Ins	1,005.65	689.51	316.14	45.85%
1114 Camp - Retirement	853.34	798.49	54.85	6.87%
Total 1110 Due to/from Friends Camp	1,857.92	1,486.83	371.09	24.96%
1150 Prepaid Expenses	6,272.22	6,897.22	(625.00)	-9.06%
1190 Misc due to/from	-	-	-	
1499 Undeposited Funds	-	-	-	
Total Other Current Assets	1,820,773.44	1,670,097.99	150,675.45	9.02%
Total Current Assets	1,975,563.29	1,815,895.25	159,668.04	8.79%
TOTAL ASSETS	1,975,563.29	1,815,895.25	159,668.04	8.79%

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY**Liabilities****Current Liabilities****Total Accounts Payable**

-	-	-	
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Credit Cards**2005 Credit Card Elan St Marys**

5,539.46	3,859.89	1,679.57	43.51%
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Total Credit Cards

5,539.46	3,859.89	1,679.57	43.51%
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Other Current Liabilities**2010 Accrued Liabilities**

76.60	76.60	-	0.00%
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2100 Payroll Liabilities

105.76		105.76	
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2110 Federal Taxes

(797.40)	-	(797.40)	
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2120 State Taxes

757.46	(39.94)	797.40	1996.49%
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2150 Health Insurance Premium

340.90	601.21	(260.31)	-43.30%
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2155 Sect 125 Employee Withholding

22.57	(721.82)	744.39	103.13%
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2160 403B Retirement

420.26	320.26	100.00	31.22%
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Total Other Current Liabilities

926.15	236.31	689.84	291.92%
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Total Current Liabilities

6,465.61	4,096.20	2,369.41	57.84%
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Total Liabilities

6,465.61	4,096.20	2,369.41	57.84%
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Equity**3500 Undesignated Unrestricted Net Assets**

80,005.15	(13,766.52)	93,771.67	681.16%
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Total 3600 Board Designated Funds

1,179,777.34	1,145,470.07	34,307.27	3.00%
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Total 3700 Revolving Accounts

75,092.91	119,675.99	(44,583.08)	-37.25%
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Total 3800 Permanently Restricted Funds

691,420.35	595,597.22	95,823.13	16.09%
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3900 Retained Earnings

-	-	-	
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Net Income

(57,198.07)	(35,177.71)	(22,020.36)	-62.60%
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Total Equity

1,969,097.68	1,811,799.05	157,298.63	8.68%
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TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

1,975,563.29	1,815,895.25	159,668.04	8.79%
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FY2024 Meeting Contributions

	General Fund	Equalization	Total
Connecticut Valley Quarterly Meeting			
Hartford Monthly Meeting	21,000.00		21,000.00
Mount Toby Monthly Meeting	33,875.00		33,875.00
New Haven Friends Meeting	8,715.00		8,715.00
Northampton Friends Meeting	9,227.00	567.00	9,794.00
Storrs Friends Meeting	4,000.00		4,000.00
Subtotal	76,817.00	567.00	77,384.00
Dover Quarterly Meeting			
Concord Monthly Meeting	8,241.50	361.00	8,602.50
Dover Monthly Meeting	8,150.00		8,150.00
Gonic Monthly Meeting	388.08		388.08
North Sandwich Friends Meeting		400.00	400.00
Weare Monthly Meeting	1,500.00	500.00	2,000.00
Subtotal	18,279.58	1,261.00	19,540.58
Falmouth Quarterly Meeting			
Brunswick Friends Meeting	1,100.00		1,100.00
Durham Monthly Meeting	6,300.00		6,300.00
Portland Friends Meeting	16,000.00		16,000.00
Southern Maine Friends Meeting	200.00	50.00	250.00
Windham Friends Meeting	150.00		150.00
Subtotal	23,750.00	50.00	23,800.00
Northwest Quarterly Meeting			
Bennington Monthly Meeting	1,700.00		1,700.00
Burlington Monthly Meeting	5,550.00	1,050.00	6,600.00
Hanover Friends Meeting	23,039.00		23,039.00
Middlebury Friends Meeting	3,800.00	400.00	4,200.00
Monadnock Quaker Meeting	6,100.00	300.00	6,400.00
Northeast Kingdom Quaker Meeting	500.00		500.00
Plainfield Monthly Meeting	1,000.00		1,000.00
Putney Friends Meeting	6,000.00		6,000.00
Quaker City Unity Friends Meeting	1,000.00		1,000.00
South Starksboro Monthly Meeting	350.00		350.00
Wilderness Friends Meeting	400.00		400.00
Subtotal	49,439.00	1,750.00	51,189.00
Salem Quarterly Meeting			
Amesbury Monthly Meeting	2,720.00		2,720.00
Beacon Hill Friends Meeting	11,500.00	1,357.00	12,857.00
Framingham Friends Meeting	10,000.00	800.00	10,800.00
Fresh Pond Monthly Meeting	9,080.00	2,260.00	11,340.00
Friends Meeting at Cambridge	44,872.00	1,000.00	45,872.00
Lawrence Monthly Meeting	400.00		400.00
North Shore Friends Meeting	3,000.00	100.00	3,100.00
Wellesley Monthly Meeting	23,492.26		23,492.26
Subtotal	105,064.26	5,517.00	110,581.26
Sandwich Quarterly Meeting			
Allen's Neck Monthly Meeting	2,710.00		2,710.00
East Sandwich Preparative Meeting	500.00		500.00
Martha's Vineyard Monthly Meeting	840.00		840.00
Mattapoisett Monthly Meeting	200.00		200.00
Nantucket Worship Group	600.00		600.00
Sandwich Monthly Meeting	1,100.00		1,100.00
Sandwich Quarterly Meeting		300.00	300.00
West Falmouth Preparative Meeting	5,303.63	200.00	5,503.63

Westport Monthly Meeting	6,000.00		6,000.00
Yarmouth Preparative Meeting	1,000.00		1,000.00
Subtotal	18,253.63	500.00	18,753.63
Southeast Quarterly Meeting			
Providence Monthly Meeting	20,000.00	500.00	20,500.00
Westerly Monthly Meeting	3,000.00		3,000.00
Worcester Friends Meeting	6,620.00	500.00	7,120.00
Subtotal	29,620.00	1,000.00	30,620.00
Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting			
Acadia Monthly Meeting	1,300.00		1,300.00
Belfast Area Friends Meeting	200.00		200.00
Cobscook Monthly Meeting	800.00		800.00
Eggemoggin Reach Monthly Mtg	150.00	50.00	200.00
Farmington Monthly Meeting	600.00		600.00
Narramissic Valley Monthly Meeting	50.00		50.00
Orono Monthly Meeting	250.00		250.00
Vassalboro Friends Meeting	7,000.00		7,000.00
Winthrop Center Friends Church	2,400.00		2,400.00
Subtotal	12,750.00	50.00	12,800.00
Total All Quarters	333,973.47	10,695.00	344,668.47

NEYM FY2024 Continuing Projects

<i>Project</i>	<u>Stone of Hope</u>	<u>RSEJ Book Project 2017</u>	<u>Friends Foundation for Aging Grants (SAGE & ARCH)</u>	<u>Quakers Advocating Justice for Palestine</u>	<u>Quaker Outreach 2015 grant</u>	<u>Printing of Interim Faith & Practice</u>	<u>OBBF Youth Retreat Handbook</u>
<i>Project Balance beginning of year (from end of previous year)</i>	<u>918.00</u>	<u>250.62</u>	<u>2,244.18</u>	<u>867.88</u>	<u>4,022.96</u>	<u>1,423.60</u>	<u>1,527.50</u>
Income							
4010 Individual Contributions							
4030 Organizations Contributions			15,700.00				
4080 Retreat Program Fees			<u>1,070.00</u>				
Total Income			<u>16,770.00</u>				
Expense							
Total Expense	<u>918.00</u>		<u>16,816.03</u>				<u>1,527.50</u>
9940 Other Income - Transfers from other funds							
9950 Other Expense - Transfer to other funds							
Net of Income and Expense FY2024	<u>(918.00)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(46.03)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,527.50)</u>
Ending Balance (Sept 30, 2024)	<u>-</u>	<u>250.62</u>	<u>2,198.15</u>	<u>867.88</u>	<u>4,022.96</u>	<u>1,423.60</u>	<u>-</u>

NEYM FY2024 Continuing Projects

<i>Project</i>	Partners in Spirit Program	Shoemaker Fund Grant	Archives Transition Processing	Nurturing Faithfulness Program	Growing Edges Youth Programs Initiatives	Acting Secretaries 2024 (OBBF+Legacy)	Evaluation Consulting for FWCC Quaker Connect	Continuing Projects Totals
<i>Project Balance beginning of year (from end of previous year)</i>	1,044.94	14,678.31	2,495.00	27,159.89	820.10			57,452.98
Income								
4010 Individual Contributions					7,500.00			7,500.00
4030 Organizations Contributions						14,280.00		29,980.00
4080 Retreat Program Fees								1,070.00
Total Income					7,500.00	14,280.00	2,207.50	40,757.50
Expense								
Total Expense	1,044.94	7,155.89		1,325.00	7,034.15	21,280.00	2,207.50	59,309.01
9940 Other Income - Transfers from other funds				3,067.66		7,000.00		10,067.66
9950 Other Expense - Transfer to other funds				28,902.55				28,902.55
Net of Income and Expense FY2024	(1,044.94)	(7,155.89)	-	(27,159.89)	465.85	-	-	(37,386.40)
Ending Balance (Sept 30, 2024)	-	7,522.42	2,495.00	-	1,285.95	-	-	20,066.58

NEYM

FY2024 Committee Budgets vs Actuals

October 2023 - September 2024

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Remaining</u>
315 C&A	300.00	500.00	200.00
320 F&P Revision		1,050.00	1,050.00
325 FGC		100.00	100.00
328 Finance		100.00	100.00
330 FUM		100.00	100.00
335 FWCC		100.00	100.00
340 M&C		100.00	100.00
350 Puente	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00
355 RSE&J		1,500.00	1,500.00
360 Youth Ministries Committee		500.00	500.00
370 Earthcare Ministry Comm		100.00	100.00
390 Other Committees	300.00	700.00	400.00
TOTAL	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 6,350.00	\$ 4,250.00

Notes

390 "Other Committees" = Permanent Board & Nominating Committees. FY24's \$300 spent by Permanent Board.

This report excludes expense sub-account 6134 Childcare, budgeted for \$2000, visible in full budget-vs-actual report.

Board-Designated and Revolving Funds

	Balance Sep 30, 2023	Investment Income	Change in Fair Market Value	Other Income	Expenses	Net Change 10/1/23-9/30/24	Balance Sep 30, 2024
3600 Board Designated Funds							
3620 Faith & Practice Revision	60,434.93	2,259.56	8,234.20	25.00		10,518.76	70,953.69
3630 World Conference Travel	0.00					0.00	0.00
3650 Quasi-Endowment (Investments)	101,573.12	2,959.56	10,593.13		111,074.03	(97,521.34)	4,051.78
3681 NEYM Future Fund **	732.31				732.31	(732.31)	0.00
3682 NEYM Ministry Fund	982,729.71	40,335.13	146,987.07	1,791.96	67,072.00	122,042.16	1,104,771.87
Total 3600 Board Designated Funds	1,145,470.07	45,554.25	165,814.40	1,816.96	178,878.34	34,307.27	1,179,777.34
3700 Revolving Accounts							
3705 Archives	1,394.60				1,394.60	(1,394.60)	0.00
3706 Sabbatical	0.00			100.00		100.00	100.00
3707 Accounting Services	19,700.00					0.00	19,700.00
3708 Infrastructure	1,016.50					0.00	1,016.50
3709 Legal Services	508.45			2,500.00	1,419.78	1,080.22	1,588.67
3710 Equalization	0.00			37,238.00	37,238.00	0.00	0.00
3711 Equalization - Restricted	0.00					0.00	0.00
3712 FUM Intervisitation	1,259.15				1,259.15	(1,259.15)	0.00
3715 Peaceworker	1,784.36					0.00	1,784.36
3716 Bodine-Rustin Fund	4,911.86			301.41	4,161.86	(3,860.45)	1,051.41
3720 Prejudice & Poverty	0.00					0.00	0.00
3725 Puente de Amigos	10,397.11			8,563.28	10,425.98	(1,862.70)	8,534.41
3730 Sufferings - Restricted	0.00					0.00	0.00
3732 Sufferings - Unrestricted	18,158.62					0.00	18,158.62
3760 Young Friends Travel	3,092.36					0.00	3,092.36
3775 Continuing Projects	57,452.98			50,825.16	88,211.56	(37,386.40)	20,066.58
Total 3700 Revolving Accounts	119,675.99			99,527.85	144,110.93	(44,583.08)	75,092.91

* The current year Operating Net Income, shown on the Balance Sheet and the Statement of Activities, is transferred to Account 3500 at the start of the next fiscal year.

** Sessions Minute 2024-62.2 combined the purposes of the Future Fund and the Witness & Ministry Fund, creating one fund titled Witness & Ministry Fund; available balance in Future Fund transferred to W&M Fund.

Permanently Restricted Funds

Fund	Balance Sep 30, 2023	Unavailable (Invested) Oct 1, 2023	Remaining Available from FY2023	Investment and Other Income *	Expenses	Change in Fair Market Value	Unavailable (Invested) Sept 30, 2024	Remaining Available Sept 30, 2024	Balance Sep 30, 2024
3802 Endowment Fund	57,060.33	57,060.33	0.00	2,500.47	2,500.47	9,112.09	66,172.42	0.00	66,172.42
3804 Alice Needham	18,950.40	18,950.40	0.00	830.44	830.43	3,026.22	21,976.62	0.00	21,976.62
3806 Amy S. Hayden	62,641.49	62,641.49	0.00	2,745.04	2,745.04	10,003.33	72,644.82	0.00	72,644.82
3808 Anna M. Brown	41,550.42	41,550.42	0.00	3,724.24	3,724.24	6,635.26	48,185.68	0.00	48,185.68
3810 Freedmen's	151,981.73	149,981.73	2,000.00	6,572.42	8,572.41	23,950.85	173,932.58	0.00	173,932.58
3812 FUM Foreign Missions	51,071.01	51,071.01	0.00	2,238.00	2,238.01	8,155.62	59,226.63	0.00	59,226.63
3814 FUM Home & Foreign	7,101.85	7,101.85	0.00	311.22	311.21	1,134.10	8,235.95	0.00	8,235.95
3816 FUM Ramallah	64,576.92	64,576.92	0.00	2,829.85	2,829.85	10,312.40	74,889.32	0.00	74,889.32
3824 Mosher Book & Tract	87,349.09	82,196.39	5,152.70	3,601.96	0.00	13,126.09	95,322.48	8,754.66	104,077.14
3826 Phillips/Purinton/Hawkes	27,397.76	27,397.76	0.00	1,200.62	1,200.62	4,375.20	31,772.96	0.00	31,772.96
3828 Pittsfield/Varney	12,050.06	10,690.71	1,359.35	468.48	0.00	1,707.22	12,397.93	1,827.83	14,225.76
3830 Susan B. Kirby	9,219.43	9,219.43	0.00	404.00	404.01	1,472.27	10,691.70	0.00	10,691.70
3832 West Falmouth Prep Mtg	4,646.73	4,646.73	0.00	203.62	203.63	742.04	5,388.77	0.00	5,388.77
Total 3800 Permanently Restricted Funds	595,597.22	587,085.17	8,512.05	27,630.36	25,559.92	93,752.69	680,837.86	10,582.49	691,420.35

* Available amounts for FY2024 were each fund's investment income from the Pooled Funds plus any remaining Available from FY2023.

Investment Income (formerly called Interest & Dividends) was 4% of a 3-year average of the value of each fund, calculated on the Board of Managers' fiscal year ending March 31st.

Reinvestment of unused Available amounts stopped at the end of FY2020.

Anna M. Brown Fund income includes \$1903.44 from a returned check from FY23.

Operating Reserves¹

	Balance Sep 30, 2023	Investment Income	Change in Fair Market Value	Other Income	Expenses	Net Change	Balance Sep 30, 2024
Capital							
3500 Undesignated Unrestricted Net Assets	(13,766.52)	0.00	0.00	133,949.38	40,177.71	93,771.67	80,005.15
3900 Retained Earnings + Net Income	(35,177.71)	0.00	0.00	35,177.71	57,198.07	(22,020.36)	(57,198.07)
Total (9/30 = Undesignated Net Assets Oct 1 next FY)	(48,944.23)	0.00	0.00	169,127.09	97,375.78	71,751.31	22,807.08
3600 Board Designated Funds							
3650 Quasi-Endowment (Investments)	101,573.12	2,959.56	10,593.13		111,074.03	(97,521.34)	4,051.78
Total Operating Reserves	52,628.89	2,959.56	10,593.13	169,127.09	208,449.81	(25,770.03)	26,858.86
Total Expense Budget 2025							847,913.00
Total Operating Reserves as Percent of Expense Budget²							3.2%

Notes

1. Operating Reserves are composed of 3500 Undesignated Unrestricted Net Assets plus 3650 Quasi-Endowment.

2. Per Section 2.3.1 of the Financial Handbook, "It is the Finance Committee's policy to have an operating reserve equal to one quarter of the annual budget (3 months) at the beginning of each fiscal year." The reserve amount on Sept. 30, 2024 fell below this amount.

To: Permanent Board

From: Scot Drysdale, NEYM Finance Committee Clerk

Date: May 5, 2025

RE: FY 26 Budget Commentary

The proposed FY 26 budget is a work in progress. We expect to have a firmer budget before Sessions.

The first thing to note is that without knowing what form Sessions will take in summer of 2026 we cannot come up with good estimates of either its costs or its income. The budget spreadsheet has a rightmost yellow column entitled "FY2026 Rough Draft Sessions." These costs are hypothetical, projecting the continuation of costs and income that we have seen in recent years. However, the model that we have been using in recent years is the least likely outcome of the Sessions Visioning Process that NEYM has undertaken. We don't know at this time what model will replace it.

Fortunately, we do not need to know what model will replace the current Sessions model in order to know its effect on the budget. Sessions fees have been set to cover direct Sessions costs, plus a small part of the staff time that goes into planning and running sessions. Historically (including last year, but not the first in-person session after COVID) the amount of income above the direct sessions costs has been around \$30,000. Therefore the important figure in the yellow column is \$30,500, the amount that appears in the Net Operating Income line for that column. This can be viewed as a guideline. Whatever Sessions model is chosen should generate \$30,500 of income in excess of direct costs to cover a small part of the staff time devoted to Sessions. Finding a sustainable model for Sessions should relieve budget pressure in future years.

A second thing to note is that the bottom line of this budget is a \$7,123 deficit. This is what resulted from our best estimates of income and expenses.

Noah has consulted with Michael Wajda, a professional fundraiser who is a member of NEYM, to estimate the amount of contributions that we can expect to get with the fundraising efforts that staff and some volunteers intend to make. Footnotes 1 and 3 explain the reasoning behind these numbers. The plan is that in future years we will grow our income at a rate faster than our spending increases and thereby get to a surplus budget that will begin to restore our reserves to the level specified in our policy.

A lot of effort went into cutting costs. As noted in Footnote 7, some mutually agreed on reductions in wages or COLAs kept the increase in staff expenses lower than previous years. We are suggesting a cap on travel expenses. The Honoraria for Volunteer Leadership has dropped from \$15,000 to \$9,000, and will go to \$0 in a few years, after the volunteers who were offered this when they accepted their job rotate out of that job. Laying down these honoraria was approved at last sessions, but other methods of encouraging volunteer leadership may require additional spending.) As noted in

Footnote 12, we are asking Friends Camp to pay for their accreditation expense, which saves a few thousand dollars.

We also propose to add an administration fee of 0.6% on the income from the Pooled Funds that goes to NEYM (but not that that goes to monthly meetings or other investors in the funds). This would cover part of the time that Frederick Martin spends allocating this money to various endowed funds and accounting for it, and part of Sara Hubner's time spent supporting the Legacy Gift Committee.

We don't want to have a deficit, even one that is a small fraction of our overall spending (but a larger fraction of our current reserves). We would appreciate guidance on where else we might reduce our spending. Permanent Board provides Finance Committee with guidance on what our spending priorities should be. What might we do without?

We plan to listen to Permanent Board's feedback and adjust this budget before it is presented at Sessions.

New England Yearly Meeting
FY2026 Operating (Non-Camp) Budget - DRAFT 4
draft version of 5/1/2025

Category	Actuals	FY2024	Budgets	FY2024	FY2025	Δ FY25 to FY26	FY2026	Notes	FY2026 Sessions placeholder break-out
	FY2019	Actuals	FY19 Budget	Budget	Budget	Budgets	draft 3 Budget		
Income									See note 2
4010 Individual Contributions Total	210,194	206,708.78	212,000	223,000	228,000	11,000	239,000		27,000
4020 Monthly Meeting Contributions Total	333,257	344,668.47	373,000	342,000	345,000	17,250	362,250	3	9,000
4025 Unallocated Income				0	0	10,873	10,873	13	
4030 Organizations Contributions	1	1,450.00	0	0	0	500	500	14	
4050 Interest and Dividend Income	9,303	7,172.34	4,000	12,000	11,000	(5,288)	5,712	4	
4070 Books & Other Sales Income	20,077	\$ 8,677.41	16,000	10,500	10,500	(1,700)	8,800	5	8,500.00
4080 Retreat Program Fees	44,618	30,422.00	50,000	37,500	37,500	3,850	41,350	6	
4085 Sessions Program Fees	202,936	161,365.50	185,000	249,475	214,895	(13,895)	201,000	2	201,000
4090 Change in Fair Market Value	960	72.07	0	0	0	-	0		
4099 Net Assets Released To/From	660	0.00	8,500	5,000	0	-	0		
Total Income	822,005	\$ 760,536.58	848,500	879,475	846,895	22,590	\$ 869,485		\$ 245,500
Expenses									
Total 5000 Staff	379,198	\$ 481,169.40	363,915	503,842	516,314	1,444	\$ 517,758	7	
Total 5100 General & Administration	89,142	\$ 102,604.06	133,511	87,449	87,449	6,201	\$ 93,650		\$ 11,000
Total 5300 Travel & Conferences	32,007	\$ 31,135.64	36,000	22,300	22,300	700	\$ 23,000	9	\$ 2,000
Total 6000 Programs	243,348	\$ 201,081.80	259,020	256,012	213,850	21,350	\$ 235,200		\$ 195,000
Total 6140 Books & Other Sales Expense	17,447	\$ 6,743.75	14,500	8,000	8,000	(1,000)	\$ 7,000	5	\$ 7,000
Total 6200-6590 Support of Other Organizations	43,471	0	45,975	0	0	-	\$ 0		
Total 6600 Publications	3,522	0	4,000	0		-			
Total Expenses	808,137	822,735	856,921	877,603	847,913	28,695	\$ 876,608		\$ 215,000
Net Operating Income	13,868	(62,198)	-8,421	1,872	-1,018	(6,105)	(7,123)		30,500
Other Income									
9940 Other Income - Transfers from other funds	32,072.22	5,000							
Total Other Income	32,072.22	5,000							
Other Expenses									
9950 Other Expense - Transfer to other funds									
Total Other Expenses									
Net Other Income	32,072.22	5,000							
Net Income	45,940.46	(57,198)							

Notes:

- 4010 Individual Contributions** estimated goal based on development consultant work: 5% growth FY25-FY26.
Growth rate FY22-FY24 has been 9.4% per year. FY15-FY19 was 13.7%; within that, FY16-19 was 17.6%. FY15-FY24 was 5.6%, and FY2008-FY2024 was 6.5%
- Sessions** is largely unknown. We expected Sessions Visioning Day to provide a single option for the May PB meeting, but did not arrive at unity. So shape of the program is still unknown.
A new column to the right of the FY2026 Budget column breaks out "placeholder" Sessions numbers for easier analysis; the main FY2026 column still includes the Sessions numbers.
Fee waivers: Considering new line to represent lost income due to fee waivers for volunteers at Sessions. Not yet in use. Various ways to assign a value: As if they paid the Traditional Fee? The Low-Income Fee?
Discussion: In 2014-2019, the Sessions budget (Sessions fees, book sales, & pay-as-led/Equalization donations, less direct expenses not including staff time) had an average surplus of \$31,700 each year.
The model was that Sessions paid for part of the staff time needed to organize it, while unrestricted contributions covered the rest.
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- 5300 Travel:** Suggest a cap on travel expenses. Note that **2026 is a Triennial** year for FUM, usually meaning higher Representative Travel usage. YM can reduce number of official reps we appoint and fund.
- 6107 Honoraria for Volunteer Leadership** reduced following the minutes on its administration and laying down: continue offering payments until terms of current appointees end at EOY FY26.
- This budget draft reduces **6130 Committee Expenses**
- 6163 Friends Camp:** This line has recently reimbursed Camp's annual accreditation expense.
- Unallocated Income:** Propose an administrative fee of 0.6% on our investments in the Pooled Funds. An admin fee is common for nonprofits with investments.

New England Yearly Meeting										
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draft version of 5/1/2025										
	Actuals	FY2023	FY2024	Budgets	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	Δ FY25 to FY26 Budgets	FY2026 draft 3 Budget	FY2026 Sessions placeholder break-out
Category	FY2019	Actuals	Actuals	FY19 Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget			
Income										
4010 Individual Contributions										See note 2
General Fund Contributions	188,088	171,080.76	179,020.78	191,000	204,225	198,000	201,000	11,000	212,000	1
Pay-As-Led /Equalization Contributions	22,106	25,928.00	27,688.00	21,000	26,000	25,000	27,000	-	27,000	2
4010 Individual Contributions Total	210,194	197,009	206,708.78	212,000	230,225	223,000	228,000	11,000	239,000	
4020 Monthly Meeting Contributions										
General Fund Contributions	317,286	340,040	333,973.47	350,000	350,000	333,000	336,000	17,250	353,250	
Equalization Contributions	15,971	8,628	10,695.00	23,000	23,000	9,000	9,000	-	9,000	
4020 Monthly Meeting Contributions Total	333,257	348,668	344,668.47	373,000	373,000	342,000	345,000	17,250	362,250	
4025 Unallocated Income		33,451			31,000	0	0	10,873	10,873	
4030 Organizations Contributions	1		1,450.00	0	0	0	0	500	500	
4050 Interest and Dividend Income	9,303	7,761	7,172.34	4,000	12,000	12,000	11,000	(5,288)	5,712	
4070 Books & Other Sales Income	20,077	11,638	8,677.41	16,000	17,000	10,500	10,500	(1,700)	8,800	
4077 Consulting Fee Contribution		900						-		
4080 Retreat Program Fees	44,618	25,712	30,422.00	50,000	47,000	37,500	37,500	3,850	41,350	
4085 Sessions Program Fees	202,936	158,157	161,365.50	185,000	227,400	249,475	214,895	(13,895)	201,000	
4090 Change in Fair Market Value	960	3,225	72.07	0	0	0	0	0	0	
4099 Net Assets Released To/From	660	0	0.00	8,500	30,000	5,000	0	-	0	
Total Income	822,005	786,521	\$ 760,536.58	848,500	967,625	879,475	846,885	22,590	\$ 869,485	\$ 245,500
Expenses										
5000 Staff										
5010 Salaries & Wages	284,515	351,739	360,924.10	267,426	378,053	380,988	389,236	(59,001)	330,235	
5037 Housing Allowance								60,000	60,000	
5020 Payroll Taxes	21,100	25,951	27,077.77	20,511	27,392	29,146	30,195	(4,472)	25,723	
5030 Benefits								-		
5033 Health Benefits	39,036	48,051	52,982.14	41,785	45,123	49,199	51,796	6,603	58,399	
5035 Retirements	30,106	34,830	36,435.95	26,743	35,806	38,099	38,924	500	39,424	
5040 Disability	1,402	1,116	983.41	1,800	1,100	1,100	1,013	44	1,057	
5045 Workers' Compensation	812	596	682.00	700	760	760	600	20	620	
5050 Spiritual Retreats			727.00	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	-	1,200	
5060 Staff Development	2,228	471	1,257.03	3,750	4,250	3,250	3,250	(2,250)	1,000	
5070 Sabbatical & Paid Leave			100.00			100	100	-	100	
Total 5030 Benefits	73,584	85,064	\$ 93,167.53	75,978	88,239	93,708	96,883	4,917	\$ 101,800	
Total 5000 Staff	379,198	462,754	\$ 481,169.40	363,915	493,684	503,842	516,314	1,444	\$ 517,758	
5100 General & Administration										
5110 Administration								-		
5120 Bank Expense	7,280	8,396	8,530.37	6,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	(250)	6,750	
5130 Contracted Services	18,702	25,403	28,655.71	60,396	22,000	18,000	18,000	4,500	22,500	
5135 Accounting Services	4,000			4,000	0	0	0	-	0	
5140 Legal Services	7,771	2,5								

6105 Honoraria - Speakers/Wkshp Ldrs	15,814	15,672	16,796.92	16,500	22,000	24,000	21,000	(500)	20,500		15,000
6107 Honoraria - Volunteer Leadership		11,250	11,250.00		15,000	15,000	15,000	(6,000)	9,000	10	
6115 Equipment Rental	5,412	6,637	7,708.79	6,000	6,000	6,500	6,500	(2,500)	4,000		4,000
6121 Supplies and Other Expenses	5,078	4,967	8,068.30	9,300	7,300	9,000	5,000	400	5,400		3,000
6165 Pre-Sessions Expense	1,406	1,525	1,409.44	1,000	1,000	1,500	1,500	-	1,500		1,500
Total 6125 Program Expenses	27,710	40,051	\$ 45,233.45	32,800	51,300	56,000	49,000	(8,600)	\$ 40,400		\$ 23,500
6130 Committee Expenses - General	5,838	1,632	2,100.00	11,700	6,350	6,350	4,400	(2,650)	1,750		
6134 Childcare	788	297		2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	(1,600)	400		
6137 Committee Day Expenses				500	0	0	0	-	0		
Total 6130 Committee Expenses - General	6,626	1,929	2,100.00	14,200	8,350	8,350	6,400	(4,250)	\$ 2,150	11	
6160 Program Support								-			
6163 Friends Camp	2,309	2,880	3,240.00	2,220	2,220	2,220	2,880	(2,880)	0	12	
6167 Religious Education & Outreach	300			1,800	0	0	0	-	0		
Total 6160 Program Support	2,609	2,880	\$ 3,240.00	4,020	2,220	2,220	2,880	(2,880)	\$ 0		
Total 6000 Programs	243,348	193,220	\$ 201,081.80	259,020	284,300	256,012	213,850	21,350	\$ 235,200		\$ 195,000
6140 Books & Other Sales Expense				0	0	0		-			
6142 Books	10,068	2,697	3,568.64	14,500	14,500	8,000	8,000	(4,400)	3,600		3,600
6145 Other Items for Sale	1,650	1,126		0	0	0	0	-	0		0
6147 Consignment Sales	5,730	6,220	3,175.11	0	0	0	0	3,400	3,400		3,400
Total 6140 Books & Other Sales Expense	17,447	10,043	\$ 6,743.75	14,500	14,500	8,000	8,000	(1,000)	\$ 7,000	5	\$ 7,000
6200 Support of Other Organizations								-			
6310 FGC	13,075	13,075	0	13,075	13,075	0	0	-	0		
6320 FUM	11,357	10,925	0	13,075	13,075	0	0	-	0		
6325 FWCC	13,075	13,075	0	13,075	13,075	0	0	-	0		
Total 6310-6325 "Umbrella orgs" FGC+FUM+FWCC				39,225	39,225	0		-			
6328 Ramallah Friends School	100	100		100	100	0	0	-	0		
6335 AFSC	300	300		300	300	0	0	-	0		
6340 FCNL	750	750		750	750	0	0	-	0		
6345 QEW	300	300		300	300	0	0	-	0		
6350 Friends Peace Teams	100	100		100	100	0	0	-	0		
6355 FWCC 3rd World Travel	500	500		500	500	0	0	-	0		
6360 QUNO	200	200		200	200	0	0	-	0		
6362 Quaker Voluntary Service	100	100		100	100	0	0	-	0		
Total 6330 Friends' Organizations	2,350	2,350	0	2,350	2,350	0	0	-	\$ 0		
6575 Other Organizations											
6590 Ecumenical Organizations											
6592 State Councils of Churches	3,214	2,982		4,000	4,000	0	0	-	0		
6594 Natl Council of Churches	150	150		150	150	0	0	-	0		
6596 NE Ecumenical Network	150	150		150	150	0	0	-	0		
6598 World Council of Churches	100	100		100	100	0	0	-	0		
Total 6590 Ecumenical Organizations	3,614	3,382	0	4,400	4,400	0	0	-	\$ 0		
Total 6200-6590 Support of Other Organizations	43,471	42,807	0	45,975	45,975	0	0	-	\$ 0		
6600 Publications											
6610 Yearly Meeting Minute Book				1,000	0	0		-	0		
6620 New England Friend (Sessions Issue)	3,522			3,000	0	0		-	0		
Total 6600 Publications	3,522		0	4,000	0	0		-			
Total Expenses	808,137	849,549	822,735	856,921	967,374	877,603	847,913	28,695	\$ 876,608		\$ 215,000
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9940 Other Income - Transfers from other funds	32,072.22	36,639	5,000								
Total Other Income	32,072.22	36,639	5,000								
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Net Other Income	32,072.22	27,850	5,000								
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Fee waiver line: New line meant to represent lost income due to fee waivers for volunteers at Sessions. Not yet in use. Various ways to assign a value: As if they paid the Traditional Fee? The Low-Income Fee?
Total direct Sessions expenses divided by all attendees? Or, total direct Sessions expenses plus staff cost of arranging Sessions, divided by all attendees? In 2024, there were 62 Sessions attendees in volunteer roles who received fee waivers. The total direct Sessions expenses divided by all attendees would be \$10 lower than the Low-Income Fee for Adult Full-Time in Dorm.
Discussion: In 2014-2019, the Sessions budget (Sessions fees, book sales, & pay-as-led/Equalization donations, less direct expenses not including staff time) had an average surplus of \$31,700 each year.
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Two paths...

**traditional
nonprofit**



**covenant
relationship**

Gathered in the Living Stream: Nourishing the Quaker Movement in New England

- Deepen relationships among Friends as part of a network of covenant communities—as a People of God
- Nurture a shared understanding of the vision and ministries to which God calls us as a Yearly Meeting
- Nourish local meetings and Friends through inviting broader participation in, and support of these ministries
- Increase annual fund giving by ~5% year, growing toward greater resilience to keep pace with rising costs and disruptions

Plans Going Forward

- Strengthen and continue current annual fund efforts
- Gather a group of Friends to work with Michael and Noah to visit meetings and invite conversations, contributions, and shared stewardship of our mission and ministries on behalf of Friends*
- Continue seasoning mission-focused fund concepts and planned/estate/legacy opportunities*

What will this take?

- In person training and preparation, with visits to begin before the end of FY 2025
- Completion of materials and media that compellingly illustrate and articulate the shared ministries of our Yearly Meeting
- An increase in staff capacity to coordinate and administer development activities and release energy for the Yearly Meeting Secretary to focus on visiting and relationships

What will this cost?

Setting aside the following funds for the next three years, to ensure our capacity to follow through on these plans

- Expanding Events Coordinator position from half-time to full-time: ~\$140,000 over 3 years
- Continuing the relationship with the Development Consultant: ~\$50,000 over 3 years*
- Associated costs for travel, communications, misc: ~\$25,000 over three years

Total: \$215,000*

Questions?



**Report from Rebecca Leuchak, Presiding Clerk of New England Yearly Meeting
to the Permanent Board of New England Yearly Meeting
May 10, 2025**

Friends, I have been praying for us these past months and in anticipation of our time together on Saturday. We are living in challenging times. So much around us has changed in a few short weeks. Paradoxically, while so much is happening and so fast for our country and for the world, yet now simultaneously so much is uncertain, transient, or in limbo. Friends across New England are deeply distressed, perhaps even overwhelmed, by the profound suffering and injustice that seem to grow with each passing day. While our deep longing for a better, kinder, loving, Spirit-filled world where all may thrive is so consuming, we may find little energy left to foster the necessary balancing of our event-fueled, reactive, and grieving selves with the more eternal trust and faith in the vision of Spirit's space and God's time.

In the midst of such confusion, where and how do we find ways to (re)establish that balance so that we have the stability of mind and heart to do the work that Spirit calls us to do? And how, if we do find clear grounding for our actions, do we do that with a true generosity of heart that the world is in such need of right now? Are we following the guidance of Friend Fox in these hard times, learning to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every person? Or are we succumbing to the culturally poisoned hunt for enemies – those we set up in opposition to ourselves – in the wider world and even within our own Friends communities?

I have seen much adversarial energy among us of late. This saddens me, yet I understand why this is so, given the stresses that we are all experiencing. I would urge us to resist the temptation to live in the pervasive culture of anger, blame, and vitriol that is so prevalent as a secular norm. What we need is to return to that which is essential and eternal, for in objectivizing and vilifying others we have strayed so very far from our testimonies. We need to restore the foundations of our Faith, to re-secure our spiritual base that is not focused on self-serving goals but is beyond self and fully obedient to the will of Spirit.

Let us be fully present and listening carefully, navigating tenderly with each other and with those we encounter in the wider world. Let us return to our source and affirm the eternal when all around us seems uncertain. May grace be our gift to offer. All of us gathered, in our own ways, are trying as best we know how to meet this moment. While there is much that tempts us to weariness, frustration and discouragement, we know that we have access to the Light. And that can help us to hold steady.

In our Quaker communities, our homes, and in our hearts may we find those streams of pure Spirit-led love and charity from which we can gain the strength to right so much that is wrong in our world. To remember that Friends have been and can be guided by Divine wisdom. So remind yourself and those around you that here we are together and, Friends, Spirit is with us! Through our service, our work together, we are moving towards God's active presence in the world. Let us grow the power of love, faith, mercy, hope. Let us together in our beloved community lift up the gifts of the Spirit. May we join the many others over more than three hundred years who have labored faithfully to build our beloved community. May we say "yes" to the Truth and Life that each of us is invited to embrace.

May we be the light in the darkness!

The thoughts above were written as much for me as they are to share with you. My main activities in the past several months have been several:

I continue to serve as clerk for the Coordinating and Advisory Committee, which has met several times since our last Permanent Board meeting. (See the Committee Report in the Advance Documents.) Currently I am planning for that committee's annual June retreat.

Our 365th NEYM Annual Sessions gathering with the theme "Streams in the Desert," is just three months away, this year moving to the University of Massachusetts, Amherst campus, and my work is accelerating in preparation.

In addition to working others in planning the scope and shape of this year's Sessions, I am holding some specific concerns which are evolving:

1. Preparing for Sessions, I am holding in my heart the full spectrum of Friends' experience and individuals' needs in these turbulent times. Our Sessions gathering will be an important time for sharing our reactions to current instabilities. But I also recognize that there must needs be a balance between the grieving and the affirmation of God's abiding love and care for the world and for all of us. Finding that balance together is not a static end goal, but rather a dynamic process of finding Spirit within us to sustain and encourage us to adapt to change and cultivate resilience. **My hope is that our time at Sessions will offer us the reminder that divine love can be experienced by each one of us and suffuses our assembled body and all of creation. That through love and the assurance of God's care and grace we will find strength.**
2. From the Sessions Visioning learnings and conversations with many individual Friends over the past several years, I have heard a yearning for deep spiritual communion and concerns about both the quality and quantity of corporate worship when we are together.

May I invite us to recognize the presence of Spirit across the whole of the Sessions programming? May I encourage us to attune our attention to Spirit in all that we do? May we arrive in Spirit, join in Sessions activities in Spirit, attend to business in Spirit, sing and dance and tell really bad jokes at Coffee House in Spirit, and partake of our meals in spiritual mindfulness. How marvelous when Spirit infuses all of our time together! That is something to be aware of and to cultivate actively! And an important practice to carry into the rest of our lives.

The quality question is a matter, I firmly feel, that we all hold responsibility for, and I call us all to greater self-discipline in the practice. May I suggest that the quality of what we do depends on the way that we arrive. I am not suggesting here that we plan in advance certain specific attitudes or actions to bring and enact. But offer that, in our time leading up to Sessions, we prepare for the discipline of listening to Spirit's leading. If we do that by carefully reading the advance documents, through our prayerful planning and packing, and in the journeying (in the sense of a holy pilgrimage) to arrive on campus, then when we are together the fertile soil allowing Spirit-led discernment to flourish will have been well established and may produce

amazing fruit. By coming together may we build ever richer soil for the discernment of right action. May we support each other in being patterns and examples in speaking truth to power. For doing God's work.

3. Corollary to the above is the concern I have heard from many Friends that agendas for the **meetings for worship for the purpose of business have felt too packed to allow for deep discernment. I am crafting those agendas this year in a more spacious way.** And while we are deeply grateful for all the work that our committees, working groups, and resource groups do, we will appreciate their reports in the advance documents for Sessions. Though I personally value the opportunity to hear in real time from those faithful Friends who do so much good work – to see them with us and hear their spoken words - there will be many fewer formal presentations of these groups from the stage this year.
4. **Reconsideration of the process for recording and approving minutes in our meetings for worship for the purpose of business is ongoing.** I am awaiting the approval of nominations for a recording clerk and a reading clerk, in order to work with the full clerks' table in discernment of a proposal for a way of doing this. One that lifts up the importance of the process as faithful to Spirit and also takes into consideration the realities of our gathering together and the capacity of those Friends whom we have asked to serve.
5. Over the past year, in the Yearly Meeting's evolving companionship and support of our quarterly meetings, we have rejoiced in these quarters' faithfulness of Spirit and example of new forms emerging and affirmations of new life in these challenging times. Salem Quarter's journey through a period of Sabbath and into a period now of creative vision for the future is one example of the overarching power of Spirit moving in our quarterly communities. There are many others. **I will be asking our quarters to share with us at Sessions some of their experience of living as a Friends community in Spirit. We have much to learn from each other!**
6. Once again this year we affirm the importance of community as have Friends for the 365 years that Quakers in New England have gathered for Annual Sessions. We also know that we are, as individuals and in our humanly constructed institutions, deeply flawed and mistake-prone beings. These are the conditions in which we may see our Sessions site, the campus of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, as an example of the complex realities of the world we all navigate. The objection raised about the site for Sessions 2025, based upon concern over the University's decisions on how to deal with a protest on the campus last year, merits serious consideration. Yet the situation may provide the opportunity for us to lean into working with the University to learn from missteps in a compassionate way. I will refer you to an excerpt from the letter that Phil Veatch, rising presiding clerk, and I sent out earlier this week to all Friends in New England: **"Let us take care to guard against the adversarial, separating energy that is sowing such pain in our wider society, and not allow it to undermine our long tradition of laboring together across differences."**

I remind you that plenary speaker at Sessions this year will be Gretchen Baker Smith of Westport Meeting, well known and loved by many in our Yearly Meeting. Our Bible-half-hour presenter will be

Kirenia Criado Pérez of the Iglesia de los Amigos in Havana, Cuba. Our bridge of love “Puente de Amigos” is an ever stronger connection. And we will again have an intergenerational musical plenary with Kim Moberg (Tlingit) who through storytelling and music will present an Anishinaabe prophecy of relevance for our times.

I hope to see you all at Sessions this August!

Continuing in Our Witness Concerning Religious Freedom

As Noah Merrill, Secretary of New England Yearly Meeting, and I shared at the March Permanent Board meeting, our Yearly Meeting partnered with Friends in Philadelphia, New York, and Baltimore Yearly Meetings to file a lawsuit challenging new governmental policy changes which would allow immigration enforcement in houses of worship. Since then we have received many messages of support and requests for more information. Most recently the Friends Journal project “Quaker Speak” interviewed me about the matter. This action taken by our Yearly Meeting offers us all an opportunity for reflection on how we are doing God’s work in the world.

Ex-officio Support of Committees and Working Groups

I continue to attend and support committees and working groups of the Yearly Meeting, including the Noticing Patterns Working Group, Right Relationship Resource Group, the Legacy Gift Fund, the Finance Committee, Spiritual Life Listening Group, and the Accompaniment Group.

All of the above brings me back to the appreciation of you and all in our New England faith community. For your faithful service to our community at the monthly, quarterly, and yearly meeting levels. For our time spent together in our regular meetings of the Permanent Board, the many opportunities throughout the year for gathering, and in our Annual attendance at Sessions. The vision we share and the seeds of change that we are nurturing, whether in our witness for social justice in this country where so much at risk, for our planet where change is accelerating, for our reimagined Sessions gathering, and our ongoing work of right relationship and working through conflict, these are all opportunities for Spirit to shine.

This is indeed the fertile ground of the Spirit in which we grow.

Coordinating and Advisory Report to the Permanent Board of New England Yearly Meeting of Friends in preparation for the Permanent Board Meeting on May 10, 2025

The Coordinating and Advisory Committee continues to meet on the first Tuesday of every month via Zoom. In addition, we gather for working retreats three times a year in fall, mid-winter and early summer. We will be holding our annual early summer retreat on June 3 to 5, 2025 and planning for that is in progress.

Current members of our committee are: Marian Dalton (NEYM treasurer), Susan Davies (clerk of the Permanent Board), Scott Drysdale (clerk of the Finance Committee), Sarah Gant (clerk of the Accompaniment Group), Rebecca Leuchak (clerk of the Coordinating and Advisory Committee and Yearly Meeting presiding clerk), Noah Merrill (Yearly Meeting Secretary), Jackie Stillwell (clerk of the Nominating Committee), Nia Thomas (Yearly Meeting Program Director), and Carl Williams (clerk of Ministry and Counsel). Both the rising presiding clerk of the Yearly Meeting, Phil Veatch, and the rising clerk of the Nominating Committee, Sadie Forsythe, have joined the Committee.

These committee members represent the breadth and width of our region and the monthly and quarterly meetings of our Yearly Meeting, and each of us holds aspects of the Yearly Meeting's activities as our specific area of service and attention. This diversity: regional, monthly meeting, and service role, affords us an aggregate and rich perspective on how Spirit is living among Friends in New England. And this range of perspective is engaged actively as we strive to fulfill the purpose of our committee to shepherd the work of the Yearly Meeting in alignment with the core purpose and the priorities articulated by the Yearly Meeting, and to advise and coordinate the various committees, quarterly meeting leadership, staff, and other initiatives within the Yearly Meeting.

We continue to support and coordinate the initiatives of the Yearly Meeting and the work of our many committees, working groups, and resource groups. The revisioning process for our Annual gathering and the planning for this summer's gathering in August, supporting the evolving structures and work of our Yearly Meeting's Ministry and Counsel, the progress in planning for Yearly Meeting development efforts, the convening and encouragement of quarterly meetings in periodic gatherings, the ongoing work of oversight of our Yearly Meeting finances and the building of a sound annual budget, our youth programs, support of the health and prospering of our monthly meetings, care for the process of nominations to Yearly Meeting service and concern for the adequate populating of the Nominating Committee in order for it to do its work. We are collaborating with and in the process of reviewing the purposes, procedures and charge of the Right Relationship Resource Group, Earth Care Witness, Puente de Amigos Committee, and the Noticing Patterns of Oppression and Faithfulness Working Group. What follows are a few brief updates on some of this work:

Yearly Meeting Support of Quarterly Meetings

C&A has supported the efforts of the Permanent Board Clerk, Susan Davies, and others to foster connection and community among the quarterly meeting leadership and the committee is encouraged by plans for a visioning process which Salem Quarter is initiating. Recent gatherings of clerks of quarters have been well attended and well received.

Sessions Visioning 2026 and Beyond

Following up on the Visioning Day members of C&A met to reflect on the day of helpful sharing, listening, and learning that came out of this highly consultative process. All agreed that this project in visioning achieved its

purpose of engagement, inclusion of different perspectives on possible plans to develop, and mutually beneficial dialogue.

The summary of what was learned, as well as a proposal for a plan for Sessions 2026 will be brought to Sessions this August. Committee members noted that historically Sessions was the only time of year Friends from across the Yearly Meeting got together. But that is no longer the case. We have now a rich menu of gatherings on offer throughout the calendar year and in locations across the Yearly Meeting. But we haven't quite internalized this shift and fully lived into the power of gathering to build and strengthen community. How can we help raise up the fullness of our now established Annual Cycle of Yearly Meeting Gatherings and Worship Opportunities? In addition, how do we factor in the potential and importance of Friends' reconnection through their Quarterly Meetings?

Support of Budget 2026 Planning and Evolving Development Initiatives

C&A is holding the Finance Committee and the clerk in care as they prepare to bring a proposed 2026 budget forward to Sessions. The task is notably challenging as we are in the process of revisioning Sessions which, as a major part of the budget, entails considerable financial implications. Concerns for the Yearly Meeting's financial health encourage creative thinking and C&A lends support to the work developing a fund-raising initiative that will be productive towards ensuring fiscal health.

Purposes, Procedures, and Charge Review Process

C&A supports a periodic cycle of reviewing the purposes, procedures and charge of the entities that do our work within the Yearly Meeting. Currently the Right Relationship Resource Group, Earth Care Witness, Puente de Amigos Committee, and the Noticing Patterns of Oppression and Faithfulness Working Group are in stages of collaborative review. We are blessed in our Yearly Meeting by the talents and energy of many Friends who serve on our committees, resource groups, and working groups.

Transition of Servant Leadership

C&A is caring for the transition of Friends serving in the roles of Yearly Meeting presiding clerk, clerk of Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee, and clerk of Ministry and Counsel so that responsibilities, knowledge transfer, and smooth onboarding is achieved. It is the practice of the Committee to have rising clerks shadow the current clerk and to invite them to join the Committee for one year prior to taking up their new role. The request for approval of a new clerk of Nominating Committee clerk will be presented to the Permanent Board on Saturday.

You will learn more about all of the above as topics of presentation/update/discernment during our time together on Saturday. We have in our Yearly Meeting, as in any complex organism, simultaneous, multifarious, ongoing areas of activity. Spirit is alive and synergistic in it all. Energy is moving in many directions. We are blessed by Spirit with the ongoing fullness of our challenges and the strength of the call to be faithful. The members of the Coordinating and Advisory Committee are keenly aware that in these unpredictable times, our moment so filled with uncertainty and change, it is important to hold to our center, to listen deeply to what Spirit is revealing to us.

Our purpose is to bring forth in our community the most propitious avenues for the Divine to work in and through us to bring about a better world.

Rebecca Leuchak (Providence (RI) Friends Meeting)
Clerk, Coordinating and Advisory Committee

**Proposed Nominating Committee Clerk
(First Reading)
from Rebecca Leuchak, Presiding Clerk and Susan Davies, Clerk of Permanent Board
for discernment at the May 10, 2025 meeting of the Permanent Board**

At the September 2024 Permanent Board meeting a revised Purposes, Procedures and Composition for the Nominating Committee was approved. One of the revisions is that the Presiding Clerk and the Permanent Board Clerk are responsible for nominating the clerk of the Nominating Committee. The Permanent Board has final approval of the nomination.

This message announces the good news concerning the nomination of a new clerk for the Nominating Committee that we are bringing for approval to the May 10 Permanent Board meeting. We are putting forward Friend Sadie Forsythe, a member of Putney Friends Meeting and attender at Mt. Tobey Meeting. Her term serving as clerk would be until 2028.

The process for approving nominations by Permanent Board is to send First Readings in a written report a week or so in advance of the Permanent Board meeting. Any concerns, questions or affirmations should be communicated immediately to the Presiding Clerk at clerk@neym.org

The following is a **First Reading**. It will come to the Permanent Board meeting on 10 May for Second Reading and hopefully approval. Please send any concerns (or affirmations) as soon as possible to Presiding Clerk, clerk@neym.org. The clerk will follow-up with a nominee to share concerns without naming who brought them forward. The focus will be on the concerns and how they may be addressed. Depending on the outcome of this exchange, the nominee will either be brought forward for second reading at Permanent Board meeting on May 10, or withdrawn from the nomination. Depending on the situation, there may be a brief mention of the concerns and response.

Proposed Nominating Committee Clerk – Sadie Forsythe, Putney (attending Mt Toby), 2028

Sadie has many years of experience as a Friend in New England as well as in other yearly meetings. She has served in multiple Friends organizations both professionally and as a committee volunteer. She clerked the American Friends Service Committee's Nominating Committee while serving on their Board and Executive Committee. Sadie has deep listening skills, is spiritually grounded, organized, and frequently called on to serve as an elder. She is not shy about embracing difficult situations. Professionally she works as a psychotherapist. Sadie looks forward to supporting Friends in NEYM as we all discern how we are called to show up in this challenging moment in human history.

Description of Service for this position and the hoped for gifts and skills for the Friend serving in this role:

Nominating Committee Clerk:

Description of service:

- *The Nominating Clerk facilitates the delegation of the work, creating or dissolving sub-groups, and appoints Nominating Committee members to convene and/or clerk sub-groups. In doing so, the Clerk and Committee will pay attention to continuity of good process, practice, and institutional memory; care for relationships with nominees; and the specific gifts and experiences needed for the work a sub-group might be charged to undertake.*
- *The Nominating Clerk clerks meetings of the full Nominating Committee, occurring seasonally or as needed, as well as Nominating coordination meetings (with the conveners or clerks of the nominating sub-groups, as well as the Program Director or other YM staff) occurring about every six weeks or as needed.*
- *The Nominating Clerk serves ex-officio as a member of Coordinating and Advisory Committee*

Gifts and skills hoped for in the Friend serving in this role:

- *Thoughtful listener and identifier of gifts and leadings*
- *Spiritually well-grounded presence*
- *Systems thinker and detail oriented*
- *Organized with clear boundaries*
- *Present with difficult situations; embraces conflict with openness*
- *See complete Nominating Committee PP&C [here](#).*

NEYM Nominating Committee Report to Permanent Board

5 May 2025

The Nominating Committee will bring most names to sessions in August 2025. However, there are two openings for the Clerk's Table that need to be filled as soon as possible. Two Friends are currently discerning if they are led to serve. The potential Recording Clerk would begin immediately. The potential Reading Clerk would not be able to begin until September 2025 after sessions. We hope to bring the names of these Friends forward on Saturday, 10 May. We are also seeking an interim Reading Clerk for this year only. Although we would like to share these names in this report, discernment takes time, and we strive to be faithful always.

Following is a name sent by the Nurturing Friends Education Committee for consideration by Permanent Board. This Friend feels called to serve as a Moses Brown trustee.

Nurturing Friends Education – One of the responsibilities of the Nurturing Friends Education Committee is to forward names for potential trustees to Permanent Board for affirmation. Those names then go to the Moses Brown Board Nominating Committee for consideration, and if chosen, to the whole Moses Brown Board for final approval. The full description is [here](#).

Gifts and Skills hoped for in the Friend serving in this role:

Relevant governance experience, experience with education, connection with Quaker schools, strong Quaker background and active Quaker involvement. Believer in education who brings an orientation toward philanthropy and/or skills in budget oversight; an ability to be an ambassador for Friends education; a cooperative spirit; a deep understanding of Friends business process; a willingness to learn and grow; an ability to offer perspective and counsel on governance matters.

Bill Monroe retired after a 31-year career as a librarian at Brown University Library, following prior positions at Temple, Columbia, and New York Universities, culminating over forty years in academic librarianship. Holding an MA in Library and Information Science from Drexel and a PhD in Medieval History from Columbia University, his scholarly expertise extends to the Program in Medieval Studies and the History Department at Brown. Bill maintains an affiliation with Brown, particularly through the Office of the Chaplain, supporting Quaker and Quaker-interested individuals. A strong advocate for lifelong learning and liberal arts education, he previously served a three-year term on the Council of the Medieval Academy of America. A long-time member of Providence Friends Meeting, he is also the parent of two MB alumni and the partner of current NEYM Presiding Clerk.

Thank you for your prayers and support. Please let us know if you or someone you know might like to be serving the yearly meeting in some new way.

Faithfully,
Jacqueline Stillwell
Clerk, NEYM Nominating Committee
(603)933-2608 or nomclerk@neym.org

Nominating Committee members: Sara Smith (Concord), Beth Hansen (Westerly), Chris Gant (Beacon Hill), Tim Lamm (Worcester), Martha Schwopo (Wellesley), Leslie Manning (Durham)

Subject: Sessions Visioning Report

May 2, 2025

Dear Friends,

In early 2024 when the Sessions Visioning Working Group began meeting, the hope was to design a process for re-envisioning New England Yearly Meeting's Annual Sessions in a way that would not simply help address practical challenges faced by the Yearly Meeting. A broader hope was to engage and connect many Friends across our region, including those not currently active in Annual Sessions. We aimed to foster meaningful dialogue that would bring clarity about possible short-term experimental changes to Sessions. But more than this, we also hoped to dream together and to build up our shared sense of how we are led to nurture our relationships with one another and with Spirit. As the plan for this process described, *"The goal is not to use market research to "fix" the current model to please more potential attenders, but rather to step into broader imagining and discernment about how Annual Sessions relates to the wider work of the Yearly Meeting now."*

Today, I write to thank so many of you for being a part of this process, as we have indeed been blessed to see these hopes come to fruition. Accompanying this letter you will find the Sessions Visioning report, which is also available at neym.org/sessions-visioning. If you are the point person for a Listening Group, please share this with Friends who participated.

As you read the report, you may find it helpful to recall another initial intention of this process when it was approved at Sessions last summer, *"Although unlikely to end up with Friends all agreeing on every aspect of Sessions, we are hoping that we will grow towards unity so that incremental decisions can be made. Key metaphor: We're not trying to create "MapQuest" step-by-step directions to a specific location, we're trying to increase the number of Friends who are looking at the same map and navigating towards the same general direction."*

At the [Permanent Board meeting on May 10](#), there will be time to reflect on this process and the learning that has happened. In addition, next steps for those charged by the Yearly Meeting with planning Sessions 2026, informed by this process, will be discussed in more detail. All interested Friends are welcome to

attend that meeting which will be held at Framingham (MA) Meeting and on Zoom. Further updates and reflections will additionally be part of the meeting for business agenda at Sessions this August 1-6th, at the University of Massachusetts Amherst as well as via Zoom. I do hope many of you are able to be with us then.

And finally, because this process has joyfully affirmed the energy among Friends for conversation about the life of our local meetings, our shared purposes and Friends, and how the activities around the Yearly Meeting can best foster thriving within Quaker meetings, I hope many of you might consider attending our annual [Meeting for Listening](#) held on Saturday, June 21st.

Again, thank you for bringing your presence, honesty, curiosity, creativity, and prayers into this wide-ranging and ambitious process.

With gratitude and hope for the journey ahead,

NiaDwynwen Thomas, Program Director (Nia@neym.org)

Report on Sessions Visioning

May 2025

Submitted by Nia Thomas, Program Director (nia@neym.org)

Background

As Quakers from across New England gathered for our Annual Sessions last August (2024), Friends approved embarking on a year-long consultation and discernment process to re-envision our Annual Sessions, the largest and longest gathering for Friends in our region. Through informed dialogue, reflection, and worshipful discernment we hope to re-align, revitalize, and “right size” Sessions to reflect current needs and resources. We don’t approach this merely as an opportunity to improve an event. Instead, this is a conversation about how our Yearly Meeting’s practice of corporate discernment, our relationships with other Quakers, and use of limited resources can most meaningfully contribute to the spiritual thriving of Friends across New England.

The report below is a summary of the dialogue, distillation, and discernment that has taken place among Friends in recent months.

About the role of Listening Group notes

Discernment requires that we invite God into the place where we are now—including our current perceptions, our honest feelings, our truest intentions, and our best thinking. Taking the time to engage with each other in dialogue and gather rich information allows us to offer all of this up in discernment. In this way, dialogue and informational analysis are not replacements for corporate discernment but powerful aids to it.

It is for this reason that in early 2024 the Sessions Visioning Working Group designed a discernment process that involved ample dialogue among Friends and why qualitative analysis methods were used in developing the brief visual summary of takeaways from the Listening Group notes, which you will find below.

Listening Group notes and summary

Over the course of the winter, Friends were invited to gather in Listening Groups (such as with their local meeting or quarter) to reflect on background information related to Sessions and to explore reflection prompts and alternative models.

Following these conversations, point people from each Listening Group submitted notes and general information about who participated in their conversation. The NEYM Office Manager compiled the notes, assigning a reference number to each paragraph or bullet point.

A “Data Analysis Team” comprised of three Friends with qualitative data analysis experience (Merrill Kohlhofer of North Shore, Liesa Stamm of Hartford, and Nia Thomas of Northampton) independently coded the data for themes and illustrative quotes. From there, the visual summary found at the end of this document was created.

Interested in a deeper understanding of the conversations held across our region? The compilation of all notes received from Listening Groups, listed in the order in which they were received, is available at neym.org/sessions-visioning. Please note, the summary only includes notes received by April 1st, although notes received after that date are included in the compilation document.

About Visioning and Distillation Day

On April 12, 2025, fifty-two Friends came together from the eight quarters of the Yearly Meeting, gathering at Wellesley Meeting for a Visioning and Distillation Day (also referred to as “Visioning Day” for short). Not all listening groups were able to send someone to attend and a couple of registrants were kept away due to an unexpected snow storm. Still, for most listening groups there was someone who was able to be part of the gathering.

Discernment, sharing, exploration, and reflection took many forms during the day. Friends engaged in structured activities and shared with one another during small group conversation reflecting on takeaways from the listening group conversations, possible models for Sessions, and related “big picture” questions these topics invite. Periods of the day in the morning and afternoon were spent in full group worship sharing. The following is a summary of that reflection.

Summary of worshipful reflections from Visioning Day

Morning Reflection

The foundation of New England Yearly Meeting is strengthened by attending deeply to the relationships between local and quarterly meetings. Strengthening these interconnections can better prepare us for our shared work at Sessions.

One tension explored was the tension in broadly participatory and extended discernment processes. How do we pay attention to the resonance of God's call to us, even if it is found in a "minority opinion"?

One significant tension we observed among Friends is the perceived divide between the business, social, and worship aspects of Sessions. Yet all are essential, and a healthy balance nourishes our life together. Out of shared worship and fellowship emerge the grounded choices and Spirit-led actions of our business.

Another core tension is the limitation of time. If we aim to make Sessions more accessible by shortening the length, do we risk losing the depth of discernment that requires spaciousness—to settle, listen, wrestle, and come to unity? The quality of our corporate discernment is often closely tied to the time we give it. However, this time need not be confined solely to Sessions themselves. Deeper preparation — through committee work, advance reporting, personal reflection, and discernment within monthly and quarterly meetings—can allow us to arrive more ready, in a spirit of disciplined, gathered centering.

This leads us to ask: what truly needs to happen during Yearly Meeting Sessions? Might we reimagine the structure, timing, and components of Sessions so that we honor all necessary functions while also allowing for more intentional and sacred space?

Underlying all these questions is a deeper inquiry: What does it mean to be a Yearly Meeting? The purpose of coming together is not merely to enjoy familiar company or complete business, but to gather in the presence of the Divine—to be broken open by God, shaped together as a people of God.

A powerful image emerged repeatedly: New England Friends on a pilgrimage. The journey we are on as we come to Sessions is collective. It is a time-honored path which involves deep spiritual preparation prior to arrival into the gathered community. We must hold close to this pilgrimage vision. As one Friend asked: Do we come together as “just people” (individuals)—or as *a people* of God, called together? It is through shared pilgrimage that Friends find our way into discipleship.

As we reflected on the time we spend together at Sessions and in other Yearly Meeting activities, several voices emphasized the need for smaller gatherings, smaller group opportunities, and relationship-building spaces to help cultivate intimacy and trust. These interpersonal connections are difficult to build in large Meetings for Business but are essential for meaningful corporate discernment. Smaller group interactions help us deepen understanding and shared purpose.

Amid all these reflections, one unifying theme was the essential importance of gathering as a body. Drawing on Barclay, one Friend offered the image of many candles gathered together—their shared light far greater than that of a single flame. This shared experience of being part of something greater than ourselves allows us to carry that gathered light back into our monthly meetings and daily lives.

A vision was shared of all ages woven together as one body—not with younger Friends sidelined so older Friends can do “the work,” but each person seen as whole, vital, and beloved. Our work must reflect that vision of unity and interdependence.

Our life together as Friends in NEYM is not about simply completing business. It is about uniting as the people of God, seeking together what it means to live into our shared faith, and being corporately and individually open to the leadings of the Spirit.

Afternoon Reflection

We were given the image of Sessions as a trustworthy ship. It has carried Friends forward for years. While we’ve experienced favorable conditions and financial sustainability in the past, we now have hit doldrums. What adjustments do we make?

Sessions is a vessel we are committed to making use of, but we recognize that designing its best form given current challenges will likely require flexibility, curiosity, and willingness to experiment and learn as we go. It will also require faith that all we do is held by Spirit. There is a hope for this experimental approach to not only be applied to the form of Sessions but also to other activities of the Yearly Meeting. Sessions is part of a bigger whole.

For some, a primary aim of experimenting with the shape of Sessions is to increase participation. What changes will eliminate the barriers we can and to welcome more Friends into the spiritual richness available?

A meaningful aspect of the richness we find as we gather as a Yearly Meeting is the spiritual intimacy we find when we are able to see and love each other deeply. How much time does this take? In addition to time, our ability to relate in this way may depend on other factors like who we are, what we contribute, and how we prepare.

Some Friends are ready to experimentally try a shortened Sessions schedule over a long weekend in 2026. While there was sadness at the prospect of truncating the duration of Sessions, Friends named a hope that experimenting with this model could increase attendance and accessibility as well as save money for both individuals and the Yearly Meeting. Many hope this option could be considered within dynamic conjunction with midyear gatherings and year-round opportunities for discernment.

For other Friends, shortening Sessions does not feel like the right path. Some hold a strong conviction that keeping a longer Sessions uniquely and essentially fulfills our need for deep, patient discernment and worship. Would it be better to keep the length but to “strip down” other resource-intensive aspects such as by limiting the housing provided by the Yearly Meeting? Have we made assumptions that have closed us off to this possibility? As the time we had set aside to be together elapsed on Visioning Day, we did not find sense of the meeting. We welcomed God to be with us in what felt like a messy place.

While holding these questions about the form of Sessions, we observed that Annual Sessions is already inadequate to fully complete both the business before the Yearly

Meeting as well as to cultivate the depth of relationship we are called to as fellow pilgrims on a shared path. It is clear that any successful reimagined Sessions plan must concurrently depend on robust year-round gatherings and the activation, inclusion, and investment of a broad body of Friends throughout the whole year. Some important, valued activities or aspects we have come to expect at Sessions may be fulfilled in other ways. There are many creative ideas among Friends about how we could continue to grow in this direction.

In discerning a revised Sessions form, it is critical that Sessions planners attend to how our time together can help us live into our deepest purposes. At Visioning Day, Friends named several vital aims: fostering spiritual intimacy; engaging in deep corporate discernment; cultivating loving fellowship; and experiencing the presence and guidance of God together, being open to transformation through ongoing revelation. Friends also lifted up the importance of enrichment, education, and meaningful connection for children and young Friends—indeed, for Friends of all ages and experiences. We seek to witness one another's light, to discern and strengthen ministries and callings, and to practice sustainable stewardship of our resources—financial, human, spiritual, and environmental. Underpinning all of this is a shared commitment to the inclusion of diverse Friends, honoring the range of needs and resources present in our community.

A brief visual summary

Sessions Visioning 2025: Takeaways from Listening Group Notes

Complete notes available at neym.org/sessions-visioning





Listening Groups

Amesbury	Junior Yearly Meeting	Providence
Beacon Hill	Junior High	Putney
Bennington	Lawrence with Evangelical Friends	Sandwich Monthly Meeting
Burlington	Monadnock	Storrs
Discernment Day Participants	Mount Toby	Vassalboro Quarter
Dover Quarter	North Shore	Wellesley
Falmouth Quarter	Northampton (#1)	Westerly
Framingham	Northampton (#2)	Westport
Fresh Pond with Three Rivers	Northwest Quarter	Winthrop Center
Cambridge	Parents (#1)	Worcester
Hanover	Parents (#2)	Young adult Friends Midwinter
Hartford	Portland	Young Friends

How many Listening Groups were there?

36 groups total*

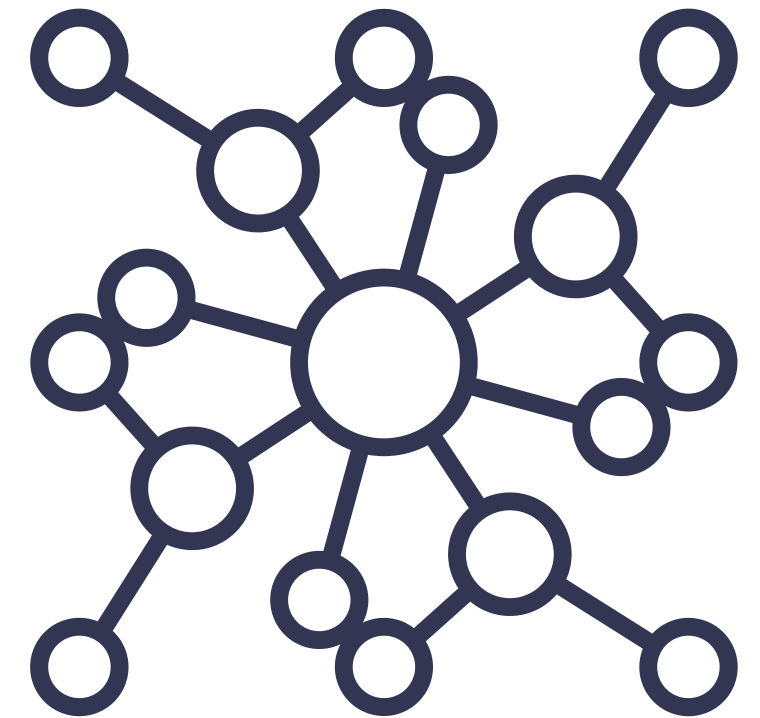
- There were groups in all 8 quarters
- Most groups were local meetings
- Some groups were quarters or pairs of local meetings
- Some groups were life-stage based: Elementary age youth (JYM), middle school age youth (JHYM), high school age youth (Young Friends), young adults (ages 18-35), and Friends currently parenting children and teens
- * this total reflects all groups that submitted notes by the April 1st deadline



How many Friends participated?

449 Friends*

- Group size varied from 4 (not including facilitator and notetaker) to 27.
- The average group size was 12.5
- All groups included people who had attended Sessions in the last three years
- Between 25-33%** of groups included people who have never attended Sessions
- 87% percent of groups included people who have participated in or volunteered for youth programs at Sessions
- At least 87% of groups included people who have attended FGC or other Yearly Meetings



*Each Listening Group point person was asked to share their best estimate of the number of participants and this number reflects the total of these estimates. Some estimates include facilitators, elders, notetakers, and invited “conversation partners” and some do not. A small number of Friends participated in more than one group.

**Demographic data was reported by each group’s point person. Some questions allowed the responses “yes”, “no”, or “don’t know”. Percent ranges are provided where some responses included “don’t know” answers.

What ages were Listening Group participants?

**14-19%* of groups
included youth
(up to age 18)**

**42-46%* of
groups included
younger adults
(ages 19-39)**

**92% of groups
included adults
ages 40-65**

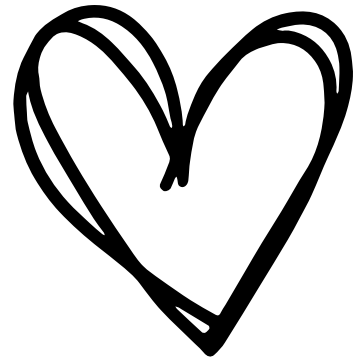
97% of groups
included Friends
over the age of 65**

**56% of groups
included Friends
currently parenting
children or teens**

*Reminder: Demographic data was reported by each group's point person. Some questions allowed the responses "yes", "no", or "don't know". Percent ranges are provided where some responses included "don't know" answers.

**The one group reporting no participant over 65 was not including the facilitator and notetaker in their reporting.

Some form of Annual Sessions has great value for many Friends. There are many aspects of Sessions Friends cherish.



In particular...



- **Connecting meaningfully with other Friends**
- **Connecting to a diversity of Friends' experiences and learning from each other's journeys**
- **Contact between local meetings**
- **Feeling part of something bigger**
- **Small group experiences in various forms including around witness/social action**

- **Worship & other spiritual nourishment (such as Bible Half Hours, plenary)**
- **Multigenerational connections including in joyful ways (such as singing)**
- **Programming specifically for youth and families**
- **Shared meals**
- **Being together while separate from our daily lives**



Potential changes brought up different feelings for Friends.

Many Friends who attended Sessions regularly shared:

- Precious memories
- Transformational experiences
- Lasting Friendships
- A yearning to return to a “golden” era
- Feelings of loss at the prospect of change

....at the same time, many Friends shared acknowledgement (and even hope and excitement) regarding the need for change in light of challenges as well as a sense that Sessions had become “too much”

Friends have had differing experiences with....

Being a newcomer at Sessions

Some first time attenders had warm, wonderful, and even life-changing experiences...

...others felt overwhelmed, under-welcomed, or put off by various aspects of Sessions

Hybrid or online discernment

Some Friends find the accessibility that online participation provides as not only convenient and cost effective but essential to our ability to inclusively connect as Yearly Meeting...

...others find it unengaging, limiting, and unsatisfactory for community building and discernment.

The centrality of corporate discernment:

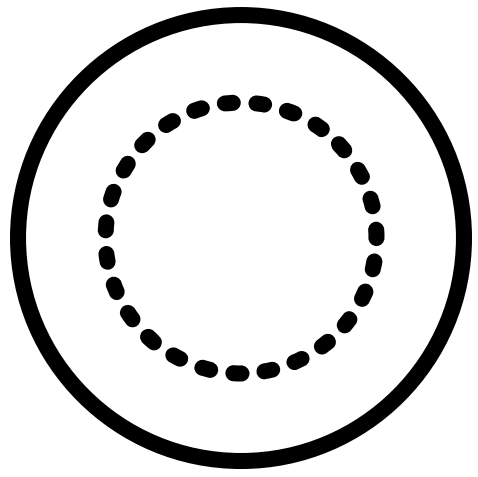
Two different perspectives among Friends



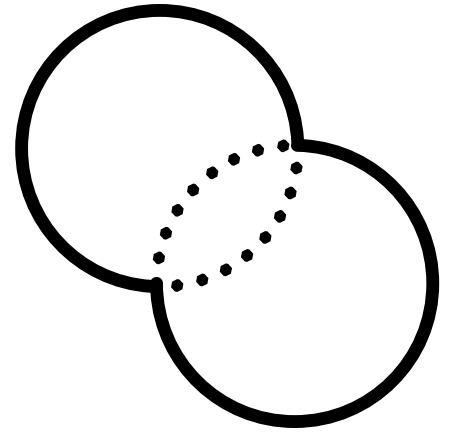
Some Friends clearly see meeting with attention to business as the central purpose of Sessions, as it has been historically



Other Friends see meeting with attention to business as an activity that happens be part of Sessions



Differing perspectives on Meeting for Business (continued)



“Tension exist between Business Meeting remaining central or if Business Meeting should be done outside of Sessions”

“If we sheer off the Meeting for Business into a separate event, we eliminate some of the strongest inducements for participation. We set it apart, perhaps implying that business is not for everyone. And this approach might be a way to avoid rather than address conflict. Peaceable conflict resolution should be Friends’ greatest strength.”

“Separate the business meeting from what Sessions means for most people.”

“Use the youth programs as a guide for how to run Yearly Meeting programs for all of us: focus on joy and love, connecting with others, processing our experiences, brief/focused business, and worship”

“Is there a way to expand how we approach discernment so that it is beyond business meetings? Small conversation circles like this are more connective and accessible than business meeting, especially if you are new to most of the agenda items.”

“For some, a desire to free up space by having less business meeting. For others, a concern about delegating more business to Permanent Board, which could ‘flatten’ the voices participating.”

“Motivation for Sessions attendance is to be with other Quakers and meet people. It is about community building, not Business Meeting.”

“Meeting for Business can provide an important understanding of Quaker process and the questions facing our Society.”

There is widely held desire to change things about our approach to corporate discernment.

Key Suggestions:

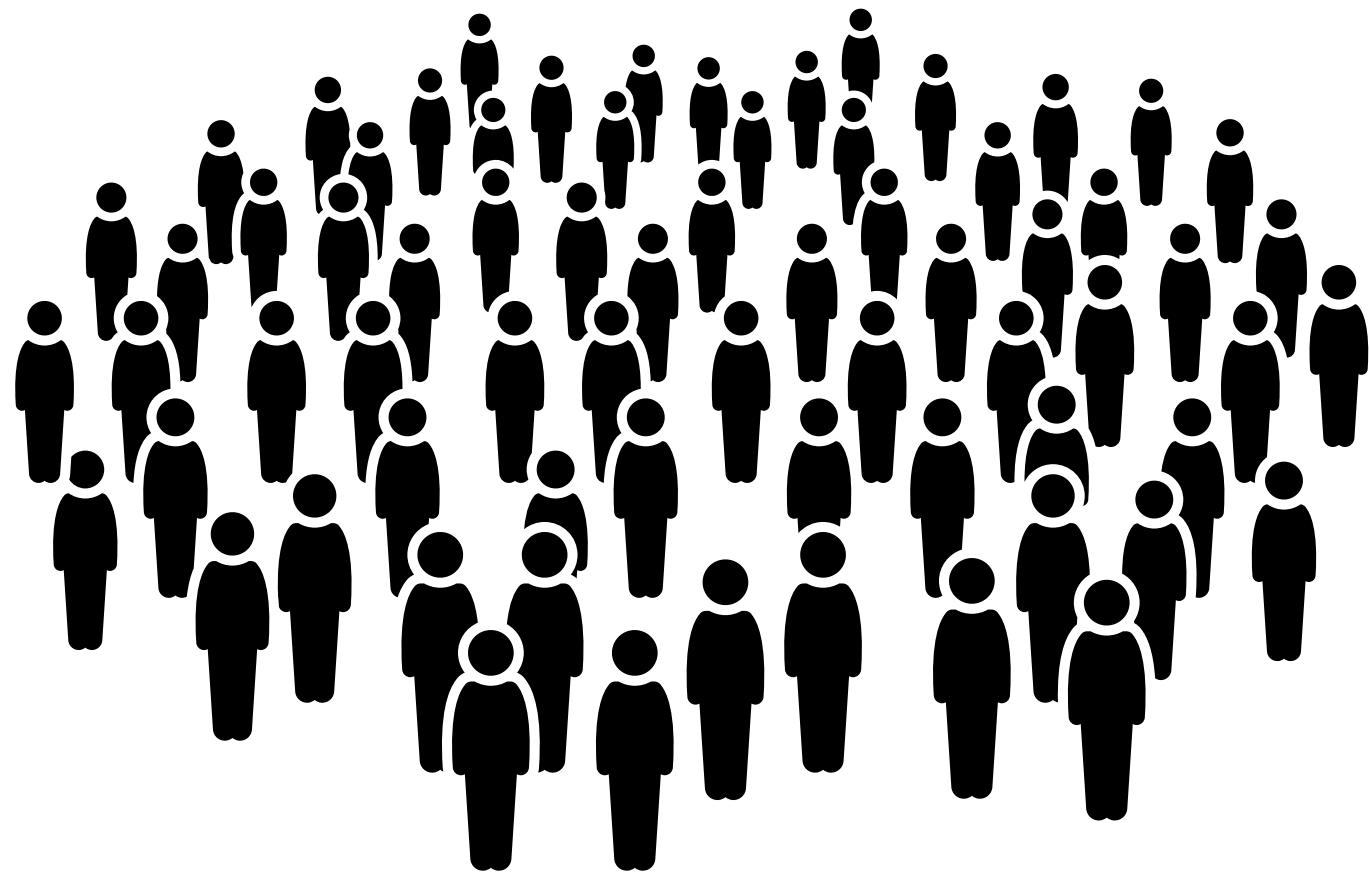
Friends want less time on business during Sessions and fewer agenda items during the business allowing for more spacious discernment

Different ideas were presented about how to make this shift. Season all agenda items via quarters? Give more business to Permanent Board? Revitalize the old meeting representatives model? Gather midyear? More business online? Let committees make more decisions?

Across groups, Quarterly Meeting was mentioned 84 times.

A throughline across the various suggestions was a desire for a smaller group (or groups) to take on more business on behalf of the whole in order to free up space at Sessions.

It is important to Friends that this smaller group(s) has a living connection to (and from) local meetings.



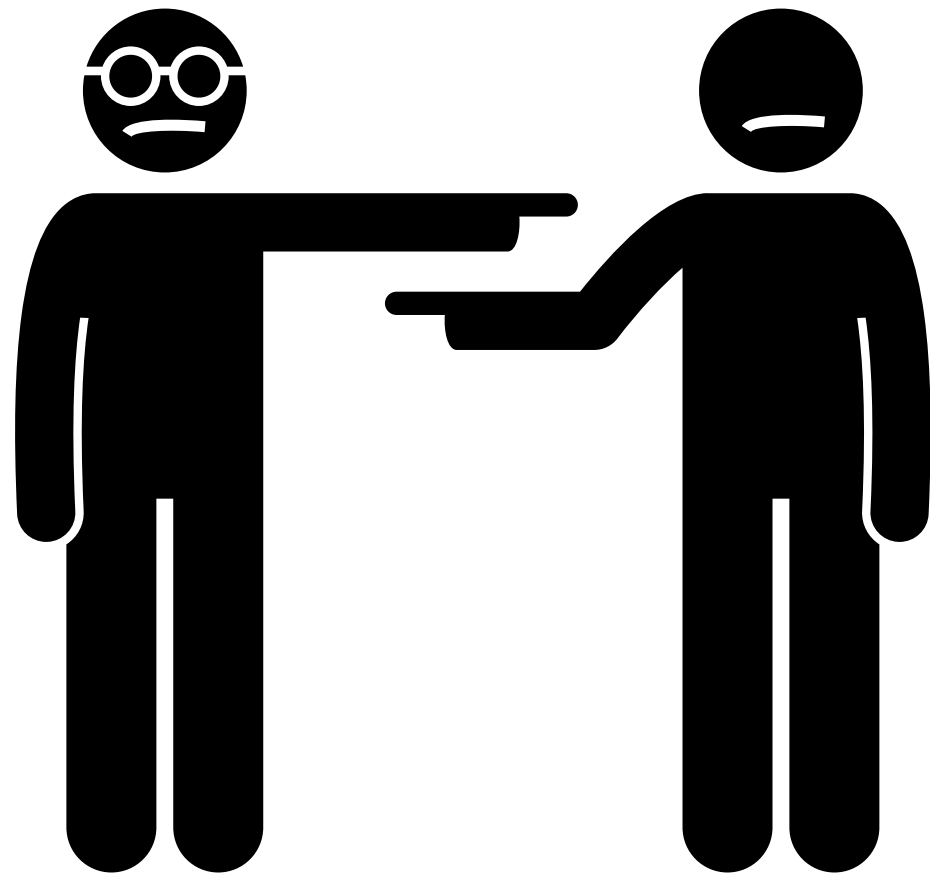
Many groups discussed the issue of attendance.

- Attendance at Sessions is limited by work schedules/busyness/other commitments; cost (even with pay as led), distance (in part because of the time this adds to attendance)
- There's widespread desire to increase attendance—it was named as key to financial sustainability and overall health
- Many Friends who have never attended Sessions felt that the commitment required to attend was too high and also that the “why” regarding why they should attend was not clear
- It was noted that not only is more broadcast communication about Sessions needed but also that there is a need for more personal outreach. In particular, the role of individuals and local meetings in encouraging and supporting first time attendance is needed



Most common concerns with the current model of Sessions:

- “Too much” (trying to do too many things, competing purposes, hectic)
- Too expensive (“sticker shock” even with Pay as Led)
- Too far (when its not located near you)
- Too long (for those with limited time off or limited energy for big gatherings)
- Overwhelming (especially for some newcomers and introverts)
- Hard to “sell” or explain to newer Friends
- Overall, Friends discussed the desire to “simplify” Sessions but didn’t consistently agree on how



Many Friends felt it would be great if more people would...

- Be willing to camp out or go without “creature comforts” during Sessions in order to lower the cost
- Give more money to the Yearly Meeting
- Volunteer at and before Sessions

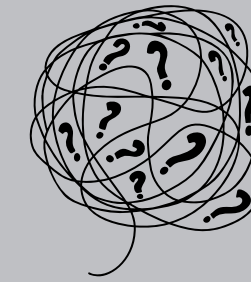
Other things that stood out in reading group notes:



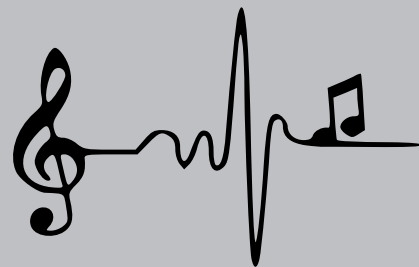
For a number of Friends, the background information about Sessions and NEYM was surprising



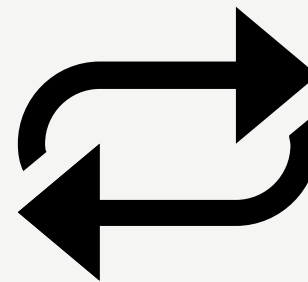
For a number of Friends, their understanding of Sessions and NEYM structures and activities was outdated



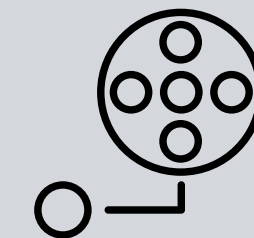
For a number of Friends, the form and function of Permanent Board is unclear



The tone of the responses was very different across groups. We are not all in the same place as we consider changes.



Although there were many different ideas shared, we do feel we reached the “saturation point”, the point at which key themes kept repeating



In a few regards, Portland Meeting was an outlier. While many groups stressed the importance of worship, the Portland group was distinct in that they found unity to move towards a fully volunteer led event, very stripped down and making worship central.



Most disliked option: Online only Sessions

- Many Friends shared that in-person connections are primary to their experience of Sessions
- Many Friends find physically gathering especially important for youth and families, informal connection-making, and shared meals
- Many Friends also disliked the idea of only having youth and families meet in-person which limits multigenerational relationship building
- A number of Friends also found the “every other year” option included too many uncertainties and would strain youth relationships

Most supported alternative model: Make Sessions shorter



- For many groups, they felt making Sessions a long-weekend would lower costs and increase availability of participants and volunteers
- For long-time attenders, many felt this option would require the least change
- Some saw this option as pairing well with midyear gatherings, including increasing attendance at quarterly meetings
- Many expressed a hope that the shorter time spent together would be focused on connection-making and spiritual nourishment
- The biggest concerns/questions with this option are:
 - Will it provide enough time for youth to bond?
 - What will we do with the business that doesn't get done?



The second most affirmed alternative: Limited Housing

Friends liked that....

By choosing a location many Friends could commute to the overall cost of Sessions would decrease

They liked the options this would give individuals and the possibility for some Friends to still have a residential experience

But Friends also worried about...

All the details brought up questions. Who would get housing? What location is “central” and affordable? Would we still have shared meals? How would this change fees to individuals? How would this impact youth programs?

Many Friends discussed the Sessions location:

Many Friends see both the cost of renting facilities and travel distance to Sessions as significant barriers to participation at Sessions. They think that a shorter distance would allow working people to attend part-time and therefore increase attendance and that a cheaper venue is key to decreased cost.



That being said, Friends had many differing ideas about what the ideal location for Sessions would be including: a camp ground, Boston, a Friends School (such as Moses Brown), the Great Meetinghouse (in Newport, RI), a cruise ship, a high school, a new facility we build.

Friends also discussed their hopes for the ways Friends gather throughout the year:

**For connection,
worship, and
learning:**

**For discernment,
decision-making,
and service:**

**Within regions
and Quarters:**

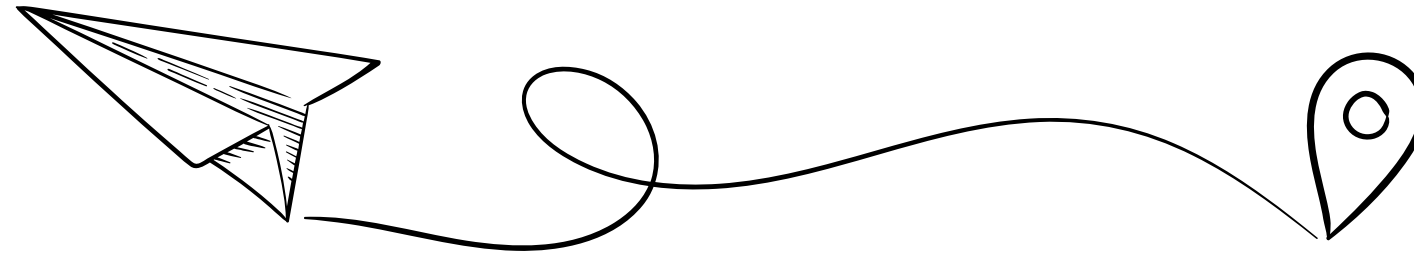
**Many Friends expressed
appreciation for shorter NEYM
gatherings with a focus on
fellowship, connection,
worship, learning, and witness**

**Many Friends wondered how
simplifying Sessions would
impact mid-year discernment.**

**Some Friends discussed the
impact of midyear Yearly
Meeting events on midyear
gatherings offered by
quarters.**

**According to Friends, these are the indicators we
are on the right track in re-envisioning Sessions**

Increased attendance	Increased sustainability	Spiritual health	Relational health
More newcomers & diversity	Financial sustainability	Truth prospering at Sessions	Collaboration between local meetings
More young people	Enough volunteers for key roles	Increased ability to hold both grief and joy	Deepening trust, engagement, communication
More families	Working within staff capacity	Patience with our mistakes	A sense of moving forward together with God



Emerging themes and directions:

- Let's consider trying a shorter Sessions, over a long weekend and paired with care for year-round connection
- Let's explore how to foster opportunities for togetherness and shared meals as we approach housing options
- Sessions should have a strong emphasis on spiritual formation and small groups
- We need to shorten the total hours of business meetings at Sessions; allow more spacious discernment on fewer and more substantive matters
- Other business, especially organizational/administrative business, can be conducted by another body--with particular attention to the connection of this discernment to local meetings
- Pay attention to the health of quarters; they are essential for relationship and seasoning business
- Pay attention to the particular needs of youth and families for high-quality time together--and with other Friends
- Any change will be imperfect and require learning along the way

Memorial Minute
Karen Sheila Levy Cadbury
June 1945 - March 2024

Friends at Midcoast Monthly Meeting in Damariscotta, Maine give thanks for the many ways Karen Cadbury served the Meeting. She worked on the Finance Committee and the Pastoral Care Committee; she taught First Day School and served as co-clerk; she was the spark that created and secured grant funding for the Meeting's innovative Outreach and Peace project. Karen was energetic and bright - her only sibling, Melaine, described her as "a trooper".

Karen Sheila Levy Cadbury was born in 1945 in Baltimore but spent her early years in Texas, her father's home state. Karen would refer to her father's Jewish background saying she was raised "never to hate". In her teens the family moved to Baltimore, her mother's home area. When Karen was sixteen her mother died. Karen became "like a mother" to Melaine and carried on. She finished high school and enrolled at the University of Maryland. Soon she met David Frederick Cadbury, a student at the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA). They became a devoted, hard-working couple, sharing a love for birding, ocean sailing, and art for 49 years. David's family was from a Quaker background; Karen would say that her transition to Quakerism was natural. David and Karen moved to Philadelphia and joined Central Philadelphia Meeting, participating there for two decades.


Melaine spoke of a time Karen took her to a civil rights demonstration in Baltimore, saying Karen was "always thinking about people's rights and different cultures." Gradually Karen built a career working for organizations that supported these rights and cultures. She worked in the development office for the University of Pennsylvania and at the university's Museum, where she developed programs that brought Museum exhibits and experts to Philadelphia public school classrooms. She served as staff for the Policy and Legislation Committee of the Peace Committee of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, constantly encouraging Friends to contact their U.S. Senators and Representatives about important federal legislation. She developed considerable expertise on what was happening in Israel and the Middle East, an interest she continued throughout her life. Meanwhile their two children, Benjamin and Rachel, were born.

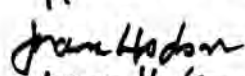
A Friend said of Karen and David: "David and Karen together were an inspiring model of supporting and living with each other through all of life's challenges." When David had a heart attack at age 45, they decided to move to Maine where David's family had summered in the past. Karen got a job with College of the Atlantic and soon set up Cadbury Consultants, continuing her work for non-profits.

A Friend spoke of how hard Karen worked at her job but also reached out with caring to people around her. Another Friend said "Karen was one to bounce back. I was in awe of her anchored trust that the best will prevail. Even in her last days, Karen was imagining ways to share and connect people." Karen lived out Quaker testimonies in her many work endeavors and brought her professional organizing and finance skills to Friends' Meetings and organizations.

Karen had a way with words whether listening or communicating. If there was a misunderstanding among Friends she would make personal phone calls and write letters to offer an ear or loving support. As she was transitioning from a demanding career load, she joined a writers' group and began to write a mystery.

Said a member of Midcoast Meeting, "I will miss her way with words that made Quakerism live for me in a special way. She was a brilliant woman who gave so much to the Meeting."

APPROVED 9/15/24 
GUY MARSDEN CLERK MIDCOAST FRIENDS

Approved Nov. 2, 2024

Jane Hodson
clerk of the day

Andrea Cousins, Memorial Minute February 2025

Andrea Cousins moved to Leverett in 1990, and a year later, at age My, somehow found her way alone to the Mount Toby Meeting for reasons she could never recall. She liked the silence. For the next thirty-three years until her death in January 2024, she was a steady and steadying presence, sitting in her customary seat in the south-east corner, and, on occasion, blessing the meeting with succinct, thoughtful messages that expressed her characteristic honesty and humor, and sometimes just the inspiration she found among the wildlife of her garden.

Andrea was the oldest child of Norman Cousins, the eminent writer and international peace advocate. Her mother, Ellen, a force in herself, stayed home, where she grew, and promoted, organic vegetables, while mainly supporting her husband in his important work. This division of labor later gave Andrea mixed feelings about the institution of marriage.

Andrea and her three younger sisters grew up in New Canaan, Connecticut. Her father and mother were both of Russian Jewish heritage. Their household was so completely secular that during most of her childhood Andrea was unaware of any Jewish background. She happily attended a progressive and preppy Connecticut private school until, in her teens, she was reluctantly transplanted to a public school to be more in accordance with her father's political views.

Her younger sisters were important to Andrea throughout her life. Sarah moved to Israel, became an Orthodox Jew, and the mother of six children. Candis lived in California, married and had a son, and is, like Andrea, a psychotherapist, confirming their especially close bond. To Andrea's enduring sadness, Amy developed schizophrenia, and died from its complications at age forty-three.

When Andrea entered Sarah Lawrence College, she was happy to find that many of the most interesting women there also had Jewish backgrounds, and she was able to embrace that part of herself while never accepting any particular theological belief. Later, she would explain her wish to be part of the Quaker community without becoming a formal member of it, as part of her lifelong disinclination to be defined by a faith.

When Andrea was invited by the meeting to describe her "Spiritual Journey," she discovered from the enthusiastic overflow attendance, and to her great happiness, just how much she was loved. She had thought of herself as an outsider. It was entirely characteristic of Andrea's intellectual rigor - "opinionated," according to her own description - that she was unable to fully accept the talk's title. She said she did not know what "spiritual" meant, and that "journey" suggested a spurious coherence. She settled for "Life Story."

Andrea's early adult life coincided with the era's civil rights activism and the African independence movement. She was a member of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee, and was close to Tom Hayden, a founder of the SOS. She also traveled to Guinea in West Africa, but did not feel she had found her own place in the world. Partly to overcome a

lasting grief from the break-up with a longstanding boyfriend, Andrea went to Algeria to undertake doctoral research in Social Anthropology for a Harvard degree. But this did not prove to be her vocation, and shortly after moving to Leverett she went into psychoanalysis, first as a patient and then as a practicing therapist, with a clinical doctorate. She discovered that this was what she was always meant to do. She practiced psychotherapy and psychoanalysis with great satisfaction, continuing even after she was diagnosed with lung cancer. Many people benefitted from Andrea's care, and she felt entirely fulfilled in her work. She said that as she gained experience as a therapist she became quieter and quieter.

The qualities that made Andrea a natural psychotherapist also benefited the Mount Toby meeting. Apart from her contributions to the Meeting for Worship, Andrea served on the Hospitality, Nominating and Care and Counsel committees, and was a member of a number of "Friendly B's" groups, smaller gatherings that examined inner life and its relationships with the outer world in intimacy and depth. Andrea's welcoming presence, and the honesty, insight and wit she brought, was a central compelling force in these long-lived groups.

Andrea had a talent for friendship but sometimes expressed regret that a partnership in something like a marriage had not been for her. Love, however, did not elude her, and she found great satisfaction in a long relationship with a like-minded man that she chose to treasure by holding it privately to herself.

When Andrea was diagnosed with lung cancer, she immediately knew that it was serious. She decided to continue working and attending meeting as before. When she finally became house-bound, she still enjoyed the conversation and the poetry she had always loved, even when, in the last months, she was drifting in and out of sleep. Her close friend from Meeting, Ken Hoffman, in particular, did much to ease the way of her final months, and after her death, Pam Tinto did much to mindfully close Andrea's beloved Leverett home and distribute her belongings among her friends. Andrea is buried in the Mount Toby Meeting burial ground.

Andrea leaves behind her younger sisters Candis and Sarah, and many nieces and nephews, and their children. Also, her best friend, Ann Bookman, and many other friends, including, locally, John Bollard and Margaret Lloyd, and Olivia Bernard, and a community of Friends from the Meeting that had been such an important part of her life.

Approved by Mount Toby March 9, 2025

Accepted by Connecticut Valley Quarterly Meeting on May 4, 2025

Hartford Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Memorial Minute for Elizabeth Kincaid-Ehlers

1933 - 2024

GIRLS DON'T DO THAT

That refrain clanged
with menace over my youth.

—

"Girls don't do that." Well
I did. And was not sorry, am not sorry, only
pissed that "NO" was everywhere.

Wearing bluejeans? Taking
physics? Wanting to study
rocks? Girls did that.

So there.

(Excerpt from Elizabeth Kincaid-Ehler's poem "Girls Don't Do That")

Elizabeth was a complex and complicated person as reflected in the diverse range of her academic and professional accomplishments and interests. Even for those who knew her well, she remained a bit of an enigma, but had a strong voice, unassuming presence and clear, often boldly worded convictions. In many ways her life experiences are captured in her poems, described by her publisher as "a rich variety of moods ranging from despair to hope, resignation to determination, fury to love. And always there is that wry (and sometimes rueful) wit at play"

Elizabeth was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan where she spent her early years. She later attended the University of Michigan. While there, she received a Hopwood Award in poetry. She left the University during her junior year to marry William Howe Rueckert and moved with him to Troy, NY. She returned to Ann Arbor to complete her B.A. the following year. While raising her four sons and following her husband's career moves, she also managed to earn an M.A. from the University of Illinois and a Ph.D. from the University of Rochester.

Following the end of her marriage in 1979, Elizabeth moved to Connecticut as a visiting-writer-in residence at Trinity College and decided to settle in the Hartford area. Here she continued a variety of teaching assignments that had initially begun at the University of Illinois, Rochester Institute of Technology, the University of Rochester, and Eastman School of Music. After her writing residency at Trinity College, Elizabeth taught part-time at the University of Connecticut and as a visiting writer in several Connecticut public school systems. At one school, a 5th grader interviewed her for the school newsletter and although she had been introduced as Dr. Kincaid-Ehlers, in her published interview, she was called "Dr. Kinky Waller." In Elizabeth's words, her irrepressible alter ego had finally been named and she thereafter wrote many poems under that name

In the mid-nineteen eighties, Elizabeth followed another one of her many callings and retrained as a psychotherapist. She maintained an office at the Hartford Family Institute where she continued to assist

her clients well into her eighties. She was a religious skeptic who questioned the existence of a Christian God while also being a skillful practitioner of Gestalt Therapy which embraced and incorporated deep spiritual components.

Throughout her life Elizabeth was an accomplished writer, who, according to family legend, began making poems when she was three, engaging her mother as amanuensis. She occasionally sent her poems out into the world and eventually published three books of collected poems with Antrim House Books. In addition, her poetry, literary and psychological essays appeared in numerous collections, academic journals and books. Elizabeth read her poems at the inaugural Sunken Garden Poetry Festival at the Hill-Stead Museum and gave countless other poetry readings over many years. She enjoyed her regular meetings with a long-time group of poets who both sustained each other's work and gave each other a hard time. She received numerous awards for her writing including the North Country Poetry Prize and a Pushcart Prize.

In addition, Elizabeth was a talented musician who played the piano and dulcimer and had a particular fondness for bluegrass music and opera. She hiked, skied, and loved to travel, making two cross country driving trips as well as visits to Alaska, Europe, New Mexico, and Hawaii. She lived in Italy (traveling across the Atlantic alone at age 22 on a cargo ship), England, Canada and throughout the United States. But the one place that mattered most to her was the Thousand Islands in the St. Lawrence River where she had a house on Stave Island to which she returned every summer until she could no longer get in and out of the boat.

Elizabeth's introduction to Quakers was in England while participating in a peace march in London during the 1970S. She first attended a Quaker Meeting, Hampstead Meeting, around this time. Sometime later, while at Cambridge University for a year-long post-doctoral assignment in poetry, she attended Cambridge Friends Meeting at Jesus Lane, where she became a member. After she found Hartford Meeting in 1990, the Meeting became a place of great comfort and fulfillment for her. Over many years, she regularly occupied the same rear spot along the western wall of the Meetinghouse, and at times could be overheard offering her opinions or sharing a running commentary about the messages and announcements of various Friends. She participated in the Meeting's book club and provided a great service by proof-reading the Meeting's newsletter for a number of years. This was a task for which she was well-suited as she had a keen eye for punctuation, word selection and formatting. She valued her participation in several Creative Listening groups, the most recent on Zoom.

Elizabeth was a fighter who survived polio as a child and then cancer twice as an adult. She transformed her anguish at the latter into her third book of published poems titled "How Do / Hate Thee?" While she did not suffer fools lightly, her acerbic wit and occasionally sardonic comments belied deep compassion and a burning desire to see peace and justice prevail. Even as a child, she was moved by issues of social justice and felt called to activism. She became a lifelong advocate for the environment, civil rights, women's rights, and peace, participating in many protests, sometimes as an individual by simply holding a sign on a street corner and sometimes as part of a group.

The advent of COVID was a reminder to Elizabeth that her world was shrinking and she uneasily reconciled herself to her new reality, limited not only by the pandemic but increasingly by her mobility restrictions. Her presence with us in worship, although generally quiet, is much missed.

Respectfully submitted,
Ed Paquette and Liesa Stamm

Approved by Hartford Monthly Meeting, June 16, 2024

Accepted by Connecticut Valley Quarterly Meeting on May 4, 2025

Memorial Minute for Donna McDaniel

(October 28, 1934 – July 9, 2024)

Donna Lee Bowen McDaniel was born in Chicago, IL in October 1934 and lived her childhood in Jamestown, RI, from where she took a ferry to high school in Newport each school day. She graduated magna cum laude from Tufts University with a major in History and then went on to Boston University where she earned a Masters in Education in Guidance and Counseling.

As a young adult, she worked with the US Department of Defense schools in Germany and Japan where she developed her life-long love of travel and immersed herself in other cultures. Returning to the US, she raised her two sons and pursued her love of writing as a journalist with the *Middlesex News* and the local *Southborough Villager* newspapers.

In the late 1980s, while accompanying her younger son in support of his own spiritual exploration, she found a home among Friends at Framingham Meeting. She soon became active on numerous committees at the meeting and eventually became an important link to the wider Quaker world when Friends General Conference invited her, along with Vanessa Julye, to write a book on Quakers and their relationship with African Americans. *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship: Quakers, African Americans, and the Myth of Racial Justice* was published by FGC in 2009 and remains an important reference, not only for Friends with our complicated history, but also as a window into the tortured history of race relations in the US.

Donna was a Renaissance woman: a journalist, teacher, counselor, musician, active participant in two choirs, international traveler with one of them, leader of musical ventures at Christmas and other events at our meeting as well as being a loving and proud mother and grandmother to her sons and grandchildren.

Beyond her many accomplishments, Donna had a large and generous heart. She approached life with a deep passion and intellectual curiosity. When she felt called, she would anchor herself in her deep commitment to justice. She was honored in 2013 as an "Unsung Heroine" by the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women, both as the first woman on the Select Board in Southborough and for her devotion to that community.

Donna was justly proud of the research she and Vanessa Julye did in writing *Fit for Freedom*. Quakers had long rested on the laurels of some members who were early leaders in the abolitionist movement; however, long ignored was the way we nonetheless continued to reflect the prevailing white supremacy of the time and were not open to fully embracing African Americans as members of our meetings or educational institutions. *Fit for Freedom* has opened our eyes to our historical complicity. Donna's eyes were similarly opened in the process and she would admit that she emerged a changed person because of her intimate exposure to this painful history. The legacy of this book continues to resonate today as Quakers explore ways to be more honest and open about our continued complicity in white supremacy culture.

Donna's openness and transparency were what made her so loved in our meeting; her smile would brighten a room. She embraced the meeting as her second home and, in turn, we embraced her as she shared her life and struggles with us. It was hard not to feel a sense of reflected pride in her accomplishments because she allowed us to feel part of them. As life brought on changes that required her to leave her home in Southborough and move closer to her son and family in Boston, we missed her generous heart and grieved at the losses she faced.

Donna led with her heart and the love and pride she felt for her sons and their families were a constant in her life. At her memorial meeting in August 2024, there were many expressions of appreciation for her accomplishments. Most moving, however, were the expressions of love that were felt for her, a love that will be her most enduring legacy.

Framingham Friends Meeting

March 2025

Approved by Framingham Friends Meeting at a regularly scheduled Meeting for Worship with Concern for Business, March 16, 2025



Richard H. B. Lindo, Presiding Clerk

Memorial Minute for Sarah Spencer

Sarah Howe Spencer, beloved elder and Friend, died on September 29, 2023, her 74th birthday.

Sarah grew up in Cleveland, Ohio. In her youth she danced ballet. She continued with dancing, doing Morris Dance and partner dancing as an adult. Even in high school, her classmates noted her lively wit and commitment to social justice. After college she moved to Boston and met Shearman Taber. The young couple connected through common interests in dance and sailing. Sarah and Shearman raised two children, David and Jeanette, and later, Sarah had the joy of a granddaughter, Ramona. While her children were in elementary school, Sarah took courses in computer software engineering, an expertise she shared in her service to Quakers.

Sarah lived with visual impairments due to a genetic condition that from a young age gradually reduced her field of vision. She managed her personal and working life in a manner in which most people did not become aware of her impairment, and for which she rarely asked for accommodation.

Throughout her childhood Sarah attended services in the Episcopal Church, where she found the formal services with the "smells and bells" and theology unsatisfactory. Shearman introduced her to Quakerism, where she found a spiritual home and a lifelong community. Sarah developed a deep knowledge of Quakerism through her extensive readings and discussions with Friends from our various traditions. Her love for Friends was most clearly expressed through her wit and intellect, which she mobilized to provide care and support for her community.

Sarah had a concern for helping Friends increase their knowledge of Quakerism and its history, and making connections both within their meetings and throughout the Society. As part of her work with Beacon Hill Friends House, Sarah edited and published a long-running series of pamphlets highlighting contemporary Quaker voices. Sarah also coordinated the Quaker Studies Program, which was a joint program with Salem Quarterly Meeting. She was an early explorer of online Quaker learning programs through Quaker Studies.

While raising her children, she began teaching in First Day School, which eventually led her to become the coordinator of NEYM's Junior High Youth Group. She told a story of sleeping across the exit door at Woolman Hill during junior high retreats to keep the kids from encountering the local wildlife in the dark. Guiding the young teenagers in learning and using Quaker principles and practices gave her much joy and satisfaction.

Sarah's service to the Yearly Meeting was broad and deep with terms on various committees in many different roles. Her deepening understanding of the Spirit led her to participate in the School of the Spirit and serve on Ministry and Counsel for monthly, quarterly, and yearly meetings. In her later years, she was widely known as an elder, a role that she cherished.

While on Ministry and Counsel, she was asked to edit the memorial minutes being read at Yearly Meeting Sessions. This led her to develop guidelines for writing memorial minutes. One of the challenges Sarah bequeathed to the authors of this minute was her understanding that a memorial minute was an account of a spiritual life and not a recounting of secular milestones.

She and Allison Randall developed and led “Daytreats” for local Meetings’ Ministry and Counsel, Worship and Ministry, and Pastoral Care Committees. These “Daytreats” were an opportunity for Friends serving on those committees in their local Meetings to talk about the joys and challenges of serving in those roles. They brought their wisdom and care for service to those times, enriching Sessions for those who participated and made connections to others serving in similar roles in their Meetings.

When she and Shearman moved to Northampton, Sarah was tapped immediately to serve on Worship and Ministry. She brought her deep knowledge of Friends and her wisdom to all the roles she filled. She had a slightly snarky sense of humor, which she often deployed when things got too serious. She could be forthright in sharing concerns, a quality which was not always appreciated, though her honesty and straightforward approach often kept discussions on course.

While on Worship and Ministry at Northampton, Sarah helped start Midweek Meeting, serving as a shepherd. This meeting has continued to develop into a wonderful community since moving to Zoom during the pandemic, with participants from Oregon to Philadelphia and even Great Britain. Her eldership and presence in that community is deeply missed, as is her wisdom and humor.

Sarah loved spending time with her family, particularly cooking and laughing together. Being with her through joys and challenges always felt like home for all of us—a feeling we may never experience in quite the same way again.

Northampton Friends Meeting
February 9, 2025

Accepted by Connecticut Valley Quarterly Meeting on May 4, 2025



Sara Hubner <office@neym.org>

Fwd: A note to present and past Quarterly Meeting leaders--Why we gather as a people.

3 messages

Susan Davies, NEYM Permanent Board clerk <pbclerk@neym.org>
To: Sara Hubner <office@neym.org>

Thu, Apr 24, 2025 at 11:09 AM

Thank you!

Susan Davies, Permanent Board clerk
Vassalboro Friends Meeting
New England Yearly Meeting

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
Galatians 5:22-23*

Upcoming PB Meeting dates:

September 28- Providence Friends Meeting
[October 17, (optional), Zoom, evening dialogue, for all PB Members]
December 14 location- Worcester Friends Meeting
[February 6, (optional), Zoom evening dialogue, for all PB Members]
March 1, (Monadnock Friends)
May 10, (Framingham Friends Meeting)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Susan Davies, NEYM Permanent Board clerk <pbclerk@neym.org>

Date: Thu, Apr 24, 2025 at 10:58 AM

Subject: A note to present and past Quarterly Meeting leaders--Why we gather as a people.

To: <connecticutvalley@neym.org>, <doverqm@neym.org>, <falmouth@neym.org>, <northwest@neym.org>, <sqm@bhfh.org>, <sandwichqm@neym.org>, <southeast@neym.org>, <vassalboroqm@neym.org>, David Ahlfeld <davidahlfeld55@gmail.com>, Beth Hansen <dancingneedle@gmail.com>, Sandy Hargy <pingohargy@hotmail.com>, Janet Hough <janet.hough5@gmail.com>, kristina keefe-perry <stina.perry@gmail.com>, Wendy Schlotterbeck <wendy.schlotterbeck@gmail.com>, Fritz Weiss <rossvall.weiss@gmail.com>, John Wojtowicz <JSTW219@gmail.com>, Kathryn Olsen <aquakerbaker@gmail.com>, Alison Levie <alison.levie@gmail.com>, Kathleen Wooten <quakerkathleen@gmail.com>, Ellen Neelands m <ebneelands@gmail.com>, David Coletta <david@colettas.org>, Lee M. Hamilton <lhamilton@capecod.net>, Mark Rains <mainerains@gmail.com>, Holly Weidner <weidnerholly@gmail.com>, Mary Hopkins <mhopkins@theworld.com>, Cynthia Harkleroad <charkle@midmaine.com>, Katie Bond <kbond192@gmail.com>, Kenneth <glovernow@aol.com>, Jeremiah Dickinson <dacha@comcast.net>
Cc: <coordinating@neym.org>

Dear Friends,

I write the attached letter to you as Friends who are dedicated to your quarters, whether you are active now, or you have been in the past. I realize the list in the "To" box has surely left out many faithful and dedicated Friends so I encourage you to share this letter with your quarterly meeting contact lists.

This letter offers my reflections on quarterly meetings in the context of the Yearly Meeting's Sessions Visioning process this year, and the "Sessions Visioning Distillation Day" that took place on April 12 in Wellesley.

The spiritual and human connections sustained by our quarterly meetings are vital to the deepening and thriving of Friends, and Friends meetings in New England. I urge all Friends to recognize and celebrate that!

I also invite you to consider attending the upcoming May 10 Permanent Board meeting, either on-site at Framingham Friends Meeting, or via Zoom. A link to the PB meeting web page appears in the letter.

With thanks for your faithful service to your quarters, and to the faith and practice of Friends in New England,

Susan Davies

Susan Davies, Permanent Board clerk
Vassalboro Friends Meeting
New England Yearly Meeting

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2025-4-24 Dear Quarterly Meeting Leaders.docx.pdf
92K

From: **Julia Forsythe** <juliabforsythe@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Apr 1, 2025 at 8:34 PM

Subject: Minute from Noah Merrill's Support and Accountability Committee

To: Susan Davies <spdbbh@gmail.com> Susan Davies, Permanent Board Clerk

Dear Susan

At the request of Leslie Manning, past Permanent Board clerk, our committee was asked to forward information about Noah Merrill's travel outside of Yearly Meeting.

I'm sending the following minute from Noah's Support and Accountability Committee of Putney Friends Meeting, Monday night meeting (March 30, 2025) in the spirit of communication and clarity. I'm entirely sure that the you and Rebecca and others have already also approved acceptance of this invitation from FWCC and Bolivian Friends, but in the interest of honoring Lesley's request for transparency, here is our minute.

On the last day of the third month of 2025, the support and accountability committee for the ministry expressed through Noah Merrill met to consider an invitation from Bolivia Central Yearly Meeting for Noah to attend their holy week celebration recognizing 50 years as a yearly meeting independent of missionary oversight. Noah would accompany the FWCC Section of the Americas Secretary, Evan Welkin, spending time in both urban and rural districts (quarterly meetings.)

Noah expects that his role on this trip would include eldership for Evan, vocal ministry as led, and encouragement of Bolivian Friends who are feeling a call to public ministry themselves. It is the sense of this committee that Noah's presence with Bolivian Friends would be a use of his gifts in good order and would be valuable in sharing New England Yearly Meeting's love and care for fellow Friends across physical and cultural differences.

-approved by the committee April1, 2025

Very best to you in all you do.

Love, Julie Forsythe

April 2019 Noah's prayerful preparation for his visit to Ireland Yearly Meeting was much valued. In his lecture, he challenged us to go back to the teaching of George Fox, and to have faith to follow the leadings of the Spirit. We are glad Noah had the opportunity to visit Ballitore, the burial place of John Scott - E.H. Bewley Ireland T.M. Clerk

FWC Section Meeting
Lake Doniphan, MO 2019, 23rd day 3rd mo
Darkest Francis in NEJM,
Noah has been faithful among us. He has received prayers for us. He has taught in and has helped build our Travelling Ministry Corps. Most faithfully he has remained open to the promptings of the Spirit. Thank you dear Friends for all your efforts in the corporate support of individual ministry. ~~Bernard Sanders~~ Eppler Clerk
FWC Americas

Dear Friends,

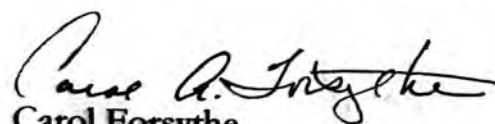
Noah Merrill is a member of Putney Friends Meeting whose spiritual wisdom is cherished. We recognize the gift of ministry given through him. We are grounding his service through nurture and oversight. Noah's work is the work of the Meeting.

Noah's faith has served as an instrument of Love in times of trouble. He seeks to live in and be open to the Life and Power of God. We witness this.

Under the guidance of the Spirit and with the prayers of Friends, may his service among you be faithful.

With Noah, we send our loving greetings.

Signed on behalf of Putney Friends Meeting,



Carol Forsythe,

Presiding Clerk

Putney Friends Meeting

New England Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
on behalf of Senior Moyallon Camp 2019:
Judith Poole (clerk) Jonathan Poole (assistant clerk)

Joyfully reaffirmed at Northwest Quarter 3 Dec. 2016
Envelope M1111
Minute approved Sixth Month 10, 2016

Dear Friends,

The time we spent with Noah on the evening of October 8, as well as at, and after Meeting for Worship the next day was very special. We thank you for encouraging him to share his gift of ministry with us. We gained a better appreciation for the work of Yearly Meeting and the gifts and strengths of our own meeting as well.

On the Light, Greg Pall, co-clerk, South Starksboro Friends Meeting

10/14/16

Thank you for being part of
Young Adult Friends Midwinter 2025.
Thank you for connecting the writings of
early Friends with our contemporary
experiences, and deepening our
understanding of covenant community.

- Collee Williams

Dear friends of Putney Friends Meeting, March 20-23, 2025

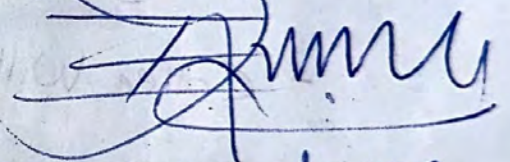
What a joy is it to have Noah with us, serving
FACC Section Meeting 2025 with faithfulness and love.
His steadfast presence brought a stability and
spiritual depth to our gathering that is
appreciated and deeply felt.

We are blessed
Lavonia French
FACC Section of the Americas, clerk

Querido Noah

Estoy agradecido por su visita y quiero
expresar que Dios lo guarde y cuide en
su vida, siga predicando la palabra de Dios
y la palabra de se haga carne en ti
hoy, mañana y siempre.

Tu amigo Elisao M.Q.V.
Con Cristo, somos mas que vencedores



Para el hermano:

Noah Merrill. Miembro del Comité Ejecutivo del CMCA.

El Alto, La Paz, Bolivia.

17 de abril de 2025

A horas 20:00, p.m. del 17 de abril de 2025, la Junta Mensual 16 de Julio, de la Junta Anual: Iglesia Evangélica Unión Boliviana Amigos, durante el desarrollo del Culto de Bienvenida a la Junta de Pascua 2025, que se realizó en la sala del templo, el hermano Noah Merrill nos compartió acerca una enseñanza del tratamiento de la miel de abeja, donde para obtener una miel de calidad era necesario hacer varios trabajos y esperar los resultados para que al final se tenga una miel de calidad. Ésta narrativa fue relacionada con la historia de los dos discípulos de Jesús camino a Emmaús, escrita en Lucas 24:13 – 35.

Donde el desconocido para ellos (Cristo resucitado) hizo el trabajo de aclarar los eventos que tenían que cumplirse hasta que los discípulos le reconocieron.

Lo que nos compartió el hermano Noah, fue interesante y despertó el interés de los oyentes, dejando como resultado la necesidad de buscar profundidad en esta reflexión.


También fue de profunda reflexión acerca de los "muros de separación" que presentó el domingo 20 en el "Culto de Santidad", llamado así en el programa realizado en la Junta Mensual 16 de Julio. En la cita bíblica de Efesios 2:14 – 16, se refirió a que la humanidad hemos construido diferentes muros de separación; en lo político, social y religiosa; que frente a éstos muros es necesario hacer puentes de conexión especialmente con amigos de diferentes formas de adoración y distintas maneras de expresar la fe en Dios para que seamos creyentes verdaderos.

Asimismo; la pascua que se celebra no debería ser recordada sólo cada año, sino que, deberíamos tener en constante recordatorio éste suceso histórico que nos cambió nuestra relación con Dios (1 Corintios 5:7 – 8).

Deseamos los asistentes a ésta Junta; que el señor Jesucristo siga usando la vida del hermano Noah para transmitir aliento, consejo y enseñanza bajo la dirección del Espíritu Santo de Dios.

Sinceramente:

Gualberto Torrez Q.


Ptr. Gualberto Torrez Quispe
PRESIDENTE
DIRECTORIO NACIONAL
IGL. EV. UNIÓN BOLIVIANA "AMIGOS"

