Permanent Board Agenda

February 28, 2026

Zoom Only

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
- Travel endorsements, for **Approval**
    - Bruce Hawkins, Northampton FM, CVQM
    - Benigno Sanchez Eppler, Northampton FM, Puente de Amigos Committee
- September 27, 2025 Permanent Board Minutes, for **Approval**
- December 13, 2025 Permanent Board Minutes, for **Approval**
- Yearly Meeting Secretary's Report
    - YM Secretary's responsibilities and activities update
    - Budget, Finance and YM priorities update
    - Friends Camp financial statement
- Presiding Clerk's Report
    - Israel-Palestine Resource Group, with travel recommendations
- Coordinating and Advisory Report
    - Conflict Response PP&C, for **Approval**

    - Gifts Committee PP&C (*formerly Legacy Gift Committee*) for **Approval,** with comments by Karen Reixach, clerk
    - C&A recommendations on Retrospective Restorative Justice

- Nominating Committee- for **Approval**
- FCNL representative report
- NEYM Program Director, verbal report
    - Youth retreats and programs, YM programs, and calendars
- Memorial Minutes- First Readings (12, for approval in May) and 9 for **Approval**

Closing Worship

Gmail

Sara Hubner <office@neym.org>

For posting Fwd: travel minute Bruce Hawkins

1 message

Susan Davies, NEYM Permanent Board clerk <pbclerk@neym.org> Thu, Feb 19, 2026 at 9:19 AM
To: Sara Hubner <office@neym.org>

Please post the attached pdf and David Ahlfelds cover email

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:
August 2025- NEYM Sessions, UMass Amherst
September 27, 2025 location Monadnock FM, Jaffrey NH
December 13, 2025 location Concord Friends Meeting
February 28, 2026- Zoom only
May 9, 2026 location Wellesley Friends

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **David Ahlfeld** <davidahlfeld55@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Feb 8, 2026 at 5:04 PM
Subject: travel minute
To: Susan Davies, NEYM Permanent Board <pbclerk@neym.org>

Hi Susan,

Attached is a travel minute for Bruce Hawkins of Northampton Meeting. It was endorsed by CVQM on Feb 1; we found that Bruce carries this ministry with clarity and devotion. We now ask that PB consider endorsing the minute.

Light and Love,

David

--
David Ahlfeld
Amherst, Massachusetts

Bruce Hawkins travel minute - QM endorsed.pdf
42K

Northampton Friends Meeting
43 Center Street
Northampton, Massachusetts 01060

12th month, 14th, 2025

To Friends everywhere:

Northampton Friends greet you in the Light during this trying time of dividedness. We are pleased to introduce Bruce Hawkins, who is a founding member of our Meeting.

We ask you to receive him in tender kindness and treat him as kin. Friend Bruce is following a leading to seek and foster better understanding of those who seem in opposition to us, and to query Friends and others about those we might feel divided from or sometimes mistakenly think of as enemies.

Bruce is developing this ministry of bringing a loving lens to how we see those people who think differently from us. His work here with Friends has helped participants see that we are all closer than it may appear and offers a way forward. Bruce purposes to travel in the Ministry to help us consider how our experiences of love and joy can help us in understanding how to overcome “othering” and division. We urge Friends to faithfully engage in the opportunity he is offering.

Northampton Friends commend Bruce to your tender care.

In the Light,

Marcianna Caplis, clerk

From: **Richard Lindo** <rhblindo2@aol.com>
Date: Mon, Feb 16, 2026 at 2:05 PM
Subject: Possible Travel to Cuba by Benigno Sanchez-Eppler, March 13 - 22, 2026
To: NEYM Permanent Board Clerk Susan Davies <pbclerk@neym.org>
Cc: Sara Hubner <office@neym.org>, Carolyn Stone <carolynstone10@gmail.com>

Hello Susan,

Benigno Sanchez-Eppler has felt a strong leading to go to Cuba to support our Cuban Friends at this difficult and disorienting time. He has let his support committee know at his monthly meeting and has let us in Puente know of his leading. He will be meeting with his clearness committee at Northampton Meeting this evening and we are planning to convene a clearness committee within Puente later this week. We anticipate that we will be seeking authorization from Permanent Board for his travel to Cuba between March 13 and 22 which coincides with Amherst College's spring vacation and will be sending you a formal request probably later this week or at the latest early next week. His plans to travel to Cuba are warmly welcomed by the leadership of Cuba Yearly Meeting.

I am alerting you about this now so that you might add this request to your agenda on February 28. I have copied Sara Hubner on this and will do so again when we send the formal request. He will not be taking any cash on the Yearly Meeting's behalf with him; so, we will just need a letter authorizing his travel by the Yearly Meeting.

Thanks very much for your attention to this. It is all a bit rushed; however, the leading is a powerful one for Benigno that has grown as the situation in Cuba and the threats of the current administration have recently worsened.

Richard Lindo, co-clerk, Puente de Amigos Committee

Gmail Sara Hubner <office@neym.org>

For posting in PB Adv Docs-Fwd: Benigno Sanchez-Eppler travel to Cuba

1 message

Susan Davies, NEYM Permanent Board clerk <pbclerk@neym.org> Thu, Feb 19, 2026 at 9:21 AM
To: Sara Hubner <office@neym.org>

Sara, please post this cover email and the two attached pdf docs for Puente de Amigos. They are both scanned docs but are readable.
Puente (Richard L) said they would send a doc stating their approval of Benigno's travel- hopeful it will arrive tomorrow or Monday.

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

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---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Maxine Schmidt** <schmidt.maxine@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Feb 17, 2026 at 4:04 PM
Subject: Benigno Sanchez-Eppler travel to Cuba
To: <pbclerk@neym.org>
Cc: Richard Lindo <rhblindo2@aol.com>, Carolyn Stone <carolynstone10@gmail.com>, Bruce and Ruth Hawkins <bhawkins@smith.edu>, Lucille Fandel <fandellaf@gmail.com>, Becky Jones <emacjones@gmail.com>

Hi, Susan,
Attached please find an open-ended travel minute for Benigno and an addendum his committee has written for this visit to Cuba next month. We did not feel that the travel minute alone addressed his leading to be with Cuban Friends at this time. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.
In the Light,
Macci Schmidt
Northampton Friends Meeting

2 attachments

Benigno addendum02-2026.pdf
230K

2019 Benigno.open ended travel minute.png.pdf
324K

Northampton Friends Meeting
43 Center Street
Northampton, Massachusetts 01060

Travel Minute for Benigno Sánchez-Eppler,

Greetings from Northampton Friends in New England Yearly Meeting. It is very moving to send you our dear Friend Benigno Sánchez-Eppler, who has traveled in the ministry under the care of our Meeting for 25 years. We have faith that he will listen to how the Spirit of God is moving among you and that he will wait until given a message that can speak to your condition.

Benigno has grown in spirit from his work with other Friends in the '90s, establishing sister relationships between Meetings in New England and Cuba Yearly Meeting. Translating early Quaker texts into Spanish is a long-established ministry he shares with Susan Furry. Workshops and teaching opportunities arise from that work. He has been a servant-leader both to his Monthly and Yearly Meeting. From 2015 to 2019 he served as clerk of Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas, and at New England Yearly Meeting sessions and the Friends General Conference Gathering he has offered Bible Half Hours.

A hope that underlies Benigno's work is that Friends will find new life in the words of early Quakers, relearning and reclaiming the Gospel vocabulary they used as our own shared language for our spiritual experience.

A Monthly Meeting minute approved in April 2019 affirms our continued support and oversight of Benigno's ministry in these terms:

"Northampton Friends Meeting unites with Benigno Sánchez-Eppler's call to travel in the ministry among Friends. The functions and activities in which he has demonstrated gifts and discipline include translating, publishing and teaching selections from the works of early Friends; interpreting at international Quaker conferences; public speaking under the direction of the Spirit; and vocal ministry in meeting for worship."

We rejoice in this opportunity to send you our love. We are confident that you will welcome Benigno and look forward to receiving news of you upon his return.

Approved and minuted atNorthampton Friends Meeting for Business
October 13, 2019
Eleanor H. Warnock, Clerk

Eleanor H Warnock

Endorsed by Connecticut Valley Quarterly Meeting, February 2, 2020
Kimberly Stoner, Clerk

Kimberly Stoner

Endorsed by Permanent Board of New England Yearly Meeting, February 14, 2020
Leslie Manning, Clerk

Leslie Manning
We send him forth our love.

Benigno Sanchez-Eppler is a beloved member of Northampton Friends Meeting. He has expressed a strong leading to visit Cuban Friends in this time of privation and desperation. He sees this leading as a call to a kind of communion, to acknowledge their affliction and share in it, and to witness God's working through them as they struggle together. His presence will also remind our Cuban Friends that New England Friends are praying for them and working to relieve their suffering as much as we can.

While Benigno has no specific task in mind, he hopes to provide spiritual fellowship, to support the leadership of Cuba Yearly Meeting and the monthly meetings, and, if asked, to work with young Friends. Cuban Friends have urged Benigno to visit them again when he is able. For the past few years, he has been caring for his mother, who died this past summer, and tending to some health concerns of his own, which are now much less pressing.

He told his committee that "all urgency has yielded to a deep and strengthening ripeness of purpose and resolve." He has spoken with the leadership of Cuba Yearly Meeting, and they told him to come, that his visit at this time would be an important reminder that the Bridge of Love still connects us. The Secretario of Cuba Yearly Meeting wrote to the Secretary of New England Yearly Meeting assuring us that Benigno would be very welcome and cared for, despite the difficult circumstances there.

His anchor committee has found him clear to take this journey and asked him to carry our love to Cuba.

Endorsed by Northampton Friends Meeting, February 17, 2026

Marcianna Caplis, clerk

Permanent Board
27th day, 9th month, 2025
Monadnock Quaker Meeting, Jaffrey NH and on Zoom

PB 25-48 Interim Recording Clerk
Friends approved Martin Forsythe to serve as Recording Clerk for this meeting.

PB 25-49 Roll call
The following Friends were in attendance for the conduct of this meeting for worship with a concern for discernment of the business of New England Yearly Meeting.

Members of Permanent Board
Present: Susan Davies (Vassalboro Friends Meeting, PB Clerk, Zoom); Martin Forsythe (Putney Friends Meeting/attending Mt. Toby); Mary Zwirner (Beacon Hill Friends Meeting, Zoom); Martha Schwope (Wellesley Monthly Meeting, Zoom); Elizabeth Hansen (Westerly Monthly Meeting, Zoom); Liesa Stamm (Hartford Monthly Meeting); Newell Isbell Shinn (Mount Toby Friends Meeting, Zoom); Darcy Drayton (Weare Monthly Meeting); Thomas Brenner (Worcester Friends Meeting, Zoom); Meg Klepack (Portland Friends Meeting, Zoom); Willa Taber (Fresh Pond Monthly Meeting); Travis Belcher (Monadnock Quaker Meeting); Edward Mair (Amesbury Monthly Meeting, Zoom); Palma Vaccaro (Hartford Monthly Meeting); Kathleen Wooten (Fresh Pond Monthly Meeting); Morgan Wilson (Framingham Friends Meeting); LouAnne McDonald (Hartford Friends Meeting); Frances Lightsom (West Falmouth Preparative Meeting); Connie Kincaid-Brown (Hanover Friends Meeting)

Regrets: Allison Randall (Keene Friends Meeting)

Absent: Carolyne Jordan (West Falmouth Preparative Meeting); Kimberly Allen (Durham Friends Meeting)

Ex Officio members: Sadie Forsythe (Nominating Clerk, Putney/attending Mt. Toby); Jacqueline Stillwell (Supervisor of the YM Secretary, Monadnock Quaker Meeting); Janet Hough (NEYM M&C Clerk, Cobscook Monthly Meeting); Noah Bishop Merrill (NEYM Secretary, Putney Friends Meeting); Marian Dalton (NEYM Treasurer, Brunswick Friends Meeting); Philip Veatch (NEYM Presiding Clerk, Fresh Pond Monthly Meeting); Sarah Gant (NEYM Meeting Accompaniment Group clerk); Douglas Keith (NEYM Finance Committee Clerk, Hartford Monthly Meeting); Rebecca Leuchack (Providence, past presiding clerk)

Visitors

Betsy Cazden (Providence Friends Meeting); Sandy Harvey (Dover Friends Meeting, clerk of Dover Quarter); NiaDwynwen Thomas (NEYM Program Director, Northampton Friends Meeting); Regina McCarthy (Wellesley Friends Meeting); Lucy Meadows (Beacon Hill Friends Meeting**,** Nominating shepherd for Permanent Board); Carl Williams (Past M&C clerk, Plainfield Friends Meeting, Zoom); Mallie Wooten (Fresh Pond Friends Meeting, tech support); Elizabeth Hacala (NEYM Events Coordinator); Leslie Manning (Durham Friends Meeting & Three Rivers Meeting, Zoom)

PB 25-50 Permanent Board Clerk Report

The clerk welcomed new members of the Permanent Board and offered gratitude to those whose terms of service have concluded: Donn Wienholtz and Dianne Wienholtz. Friends also offered thanks to Carl Williams, who is stepping down from clerk of Ministry and Council and to Willa Taber, whose term as PB Recording Clerk has concluded.

PB 25-51 Permanent Board Minutes

Friends approved the minutes of the July 29, 2025, called Permanent Board meeting with the understanding that minor corrections could be sent to Martin Forsythe for inclusion.

PB 25-52 Sessions 2025 Minutes

We are grateful to the clerks table, Michelle Wright, Phil Veatch, and Sara Hubner for their attention to detail in finalizing the minutes from Sessions 2025. Once finalized, the minutes will be posted on the NEYM website at https://neym.org/who/governance/decisions-discernment.

PB 25-53 Friends Camp 2026 budget

Friends approved the operating budget for Friends Camp for fiscal year 2026.

In presenting this budget the Yearly Meeting Secretary drew Friends' attention to the faithfulness in crafting a budget that emphasizes operating a surplus as a critical component to responsible operation of a camp with significant ongoing maintenance costs for the physical plant. The budget's increase in healthcare expenditure is a response to increased need for distributing medications to campers. The Friends Camp endowment, approved by PB in May, has now been created and has received significant contributions.

PB 25-54 Yearly Meeting Secretary's Report

The Yearly Meeting Secretary gave a verbal report, testifying to the fact that Friends across New England are engaged in responding to the challenges of the present

moment in many ways. This has been a season where our YM Secretary has been called into wider service among the web of Friends internationally. This is an aspect of the charge of serving as the Yearly Meeting Secretary; a reminder to us that the work we do in service on behalf of New England Friends is not for us alone. We are part of a wider body, a global body. There are many ways that Friends in New England are serving that broader call. The following are a few of the examples that were shared:

> Cat Chapin-Bishop (Mt. Toby) and Mike Shell (Worcester), supported by Nia Thomas and Elizabeth Hacala, have been hosting monthly check-in calls for Friends engaged in support for immigrant rights across the Yearly Meeting. Based on these calls and the contributions of several Friends actively involved in their local contexts, the YM is hosting a collection of curated resources at neym.org (https://neym.org/resources-support-immigration-justice).
>
> Beacon Hill Friends Meeting is one of several meetings that, with NEYM assisting in making connections with attorneys, have developed protocols for how the meeting will respond in cases of ICE activity in or around their meetinghouses, mindful of the current injunction protecting Friends meetinghouses to some extent. Some of these have been shared with the Yearly Meeting. These documents are not being posted publicly; meetings interested in seeing these guidelines as part of their own processes of discernment should contact the Yearly Meeting Secretary at ymsec@neym.org.
>
> In early September there was an interfaith march from Lexington, Massachusetts, to the “Embrace” sculpture on Boston Common in support of democracy and the rights of immigrants. More than five Friends meetings participated, as well. The Presiding Clerk participated in the beginnings of the march, and the NEYM Secretary was asked by the MA Council of Churches to offer prayers in English and in Spanish at the conclusion of this march.

This fall the Yearly Meeting is going through two significant staff transitions. Xinef Afriam (they/them) has assumed their duties as the new Young Friends coordinator. The vision and possibility that Xinef sees for that work is encouraging. Our beloved office manager Sara Hubner has expressed an intention to retire following Sessions 2026. The work of planning for this transition and the required transfer of knowledge is underway. The Yearly Meeting approved expanding the role of Elizabeth Hacala from a part-time events coordinator role to a full-time Operations Director role. There will be shifts in administrative support as this transition comes to life.

Deep thanks were offered to Rebecca Leuchak, reflecting on her service in the role of Presiding Clerk. There are many aspects in this work; one for them is care for others who are serving in challenging roles serving the yearly meeting. She brought a spirit of artistic creativity and joy. This challenged us and bonded us. Her care for the *whole* yearly meeting stands out; Rebecca called in both Friends who have a long history of high-profile engagement with the yearly meeting as well as those who have deep roots in their local meetings but less visible connection to the broader yearly meeting. It can be tempting to forget that we are seeking to serve on behalf of all Friends living and worshiping across New England as Friends. Rebecca's service called us to reject that temptation.

The planning for Sessions 2026 is in progress and the Presiding Clerks' report (attached) provides some updates on that process. Additionally, since Sessions 2025 there have been two substantive meetings to move forward with the planning process. By the end of October or early November there will be a survey distributed that will feed next steps in the decision-making process. By late November or early December, it is hoped that there will be an announcement about the location and dates.

The Secretary also offered a brief update on development efforts and shared about the work of the Living Stream Travel Team consisting of Michael Waejda, Noah Bishop Merrill, Donn Weinholtz, Fran Lightsom, Jeremiah Dickinson, and Jacqueline Stillwell. They have begun outreach to local meetings, aiming to learn about the life of those meetings, to articulate clearly the ministries that are supported by the Yearly Meeting, and the resources that are engaged in supporting those ministries. The travel team has begun engagement with nine Friends meetings. This work is based in relationship and conversation; shared awareness of the condition of the wider yearly meeting is required to strengthen our development program. Since Sessions 2025, two fundraising appeals have been sent with additional appeals to be sent soon. This fundraising communication is also ministry and offers an opportunity to share about the Life that is present.

It is difficult to make financial projections when there is a lot in flux at the end of the Yearly Meeting's fiscal year (September 30, 2025). Acknowledging this, the Secretary offered some reflections on our financial condition. There will be a shortfall relative to the individual giving goal in the 2025 budget, but we exceeded last year's individual giving total. Despite the increased operating costs of Sessions at UMass Amherst, the direct expenses of Sessions were exceeded more than we had projected. Including the indirect expenses of Staff time preparing for Sessions, we still had a deficit on Sessions, but we did better than we thought we would do. We are reducing the gap. If we can accomplish some of the goals that we have laid out for ourselves in reconsidering the structure of Sessions, we are hopeful that Sessions can be more sustainable.

For other reasons we are still likely to have a nearly $30,000 deficit. We received a one-time payment this year of $53,000 in funds from the Employee Retention Tax Credit. At the end of the fiscal year, we are anticipating that our reserves will be nearly $20,000 higher than they were at the beginning of the year. The deficit from Sessions will be covered by monies from the Future Uses fund. Our projection at this point is that at the end of this fiscal year our operating reserves will be $58,000 and the Future Uses fund will be at about $260,000.

We successfully got through Sessions with a lower deficit than our worst projections. We had 100 newcomers and it was the largest Sessions since the beginning of the pandemic. We doubled our operating reserves. We have increased both monthly meeting and individual giving. The monthly meeting contributions exceeded our budget. With transitions in staffing, we see a clear path to reduced reliance on the Future Uses fund.

The Secretary noted that the Yearly Meeting is eager to receive feedback on the fundraising appeal communications acknowledging that it is challenging to craft short communications that are visually interesting and impactful.

PB 25-55 Travel to Cuba
Friends endorsed travel minutes for Noah Bishop Merrill and Jacqueline Stillwell to travel to Cuba Yearly Meeting.

In endorsing this travel, we heard about the depth of meaning of this invitation to be present with Cuban Friends as they celebrate the 125th anniversary of the arrival of the first Quaker missionaries in Cuba. Noah and Jackie have both traveled to Cuba multiple times. Their fluency in Spanish and the continuity of relationship that they bring to this visit will be a gift as they encourage Friends in Cuba during this extremely challenging time. We commend them to the care of Cuban Friends with love and hope that we might continue to strengthen our Puente de Amigos connections.

PB 25-56 Called Meeting on Gaza
The Permanent Board approved holding a called meeting on October 18, 2025, from 3 to 6 pm via Zoom for the purpose of sharing and encouraging work that is already being done in the Yearly Meeting, and discerning how we might be called to respond to the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza. This meeting is being called by the Permanent Board in reflection of the need to gather many Friends together with greater time for discernment than was afforded at Sessions. We pray that by joining together as a larger stream we might expand our capacity to hold the fullness of our grief and be called by

Spirit to greater clarity in how to let our lives speak in this moment. The clerk of the Permanent Board and the Presiding Clerk are charged with planning the details of this called meeting; many members committed to attending.

PB 25-57 Indigenous Relations Resource Group Purpose, Procedures, and Composition
The Presiding Clerk presented a recommendation from the Coordinating and Advisory committee to rename the Right Relationship Resource Group to the Indigenous Relations Resource Group (IRRG) with an updated Purpose, Procedures, and Composition (PPC) document. Friends approved; the updated PP&C is attached.

PB 25-58 Narrowing of Charge for IRRG
In discerning the PPC for the reformulated Indigenous Relations Resource Group, it became clear that this group does not have the resources and expertise to be a resource for relationship building beyond Indigenous communities, despite the broader original charge of the Right Relationship Resource Group from Sessions minute 2024-62 to "consider BIPOC communities broadly in any discernment of financial reparations." Friends approved the recommendation from Coordinating & Advisory (C&A) that the IRRG be released from this broader charge to focus on serving the Yearly Meeting as a resource group focused on Indigenous communities.

We are clear that the work of reparative relationship building with Black and people of color communities is vital and deserves focused ongoing attention. Friends asked C&A to bring back to the February Permanent Board meeting a proposal for how this work might be attended to most faithfully.

PB 25-59 IRRG connection to Sessions Minute
Friends approved designating IRRG as the body responsible for carrying out the research and retrospective justice work described in the "Revised Minute on Quaker Indigenous Boarding Schools Research Group," Sessions minute 2025-49.

PB 25-60 NABS affiliate membership
Permanent Board approved the IRRG's request to apply, on behalf of New England Yearly Meeting, for affiliate membership in the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS). NABS is an Indigenous-led coalition of individuals and organizations working to support the healing of boarding school survivors and descendants. Membership requires no fees; as an affiliate member NEYM would be pledging solidarity with boarding school survivors and communities. We hope that this relationship with NABS will provide monthly meetings with additional opportunities for

ongoing education and action. The IRRG will be responsible for applying for and maintaining this affiliate membership status.

The IRRG's request to make a contribution to NABS will be given additional seasoning and brought back to the Permanent Board in due course.

PB 25-61 Nominating Committee
Sadie Forsythe, clerk of NEYM nominating committee, offered gratitude for the clarity in nominating work that resulted from Jacqueline Stillwell's seven years of service in the role, during which there was substantial consolidation and reorganization of the nominating process. Nominating committee has heard from a number of committees expressions of being stuck in an uncertain, undecided state while waiting for clarifications on their Purposes, Procedures, and Composition guidance; with this context we offered thanks for today's work to clarify the work before our resource groups.

Friends **approved** the attached slate of nominations.

PB 25-62 Quarterly meetings
The clerk of Permanent board gave a brief verbal report on the ongoing work of the PB clerk and the Presiding Clerk in attending to the condition of quarterly meetings. A visioning day will be held on April 11th, 2026, offering an opportunity to explore the historical and spiritual background of how quarterly meetings came to be and what their purposes were.

Friends closed with a period of waiting worship.

Permanent Board

Concord Monthly Meeting (hybrid)

December 13, 2025

PB 25-63 Approval of Permanent Board Recording Clerk

The clerk of Permanent Board requested approval of nomination of Frances Lightsom (West Falmouth) as recording clerk of Permanent Board.

Friends approved.

PB 25-64 Roll Call

Frances Lightsom (West Falmouth), Recording Clerk for the Permanent Board, read the roll.

Bold is present in the room.

Susan Davies (PB Clerk), Frances Lightsom (PB Recording Clerk), Travis Belcher, Connie Kincaid Brown, **Darcy Drayton, Sarah Gant, Elizabeth Hansen,** Meg Klepack, Edward Mair, **LouAnne McDonald,** Allison Randall, **Martha Schwope,** Newell Isbell Shinn, Liesa Stamm, **Jacqueline Stillwell, Willa Taber,** Palma Vaccaro, **D. Morgan Wilson, Kathleen Wooten,** Mary Zwirner

Ex-officio members

Sadie Forsythe (YM Nominating Committee Clerk), Marian Dalton (Treasurer)**,** Janet Hough (YM Ministry & Counsel Clerk), Douglas Keith (Finance Clerk), **Noah Bishop Merrill** (YM Secretary)**, Phillip Veatch** (YM Presiding Clerk)

Absent members

Kimberly Allen, Thomas Brenner, Martin Forsythe, Carolyne Jordan

Visitors present

Chris Gant, Elizabeth Hacala, Linden Jenkins, Kristina Keefe-Perry, Mary Link, Leslie Manning (Durham), **Lucy Meadows,** Karen Reixach, Nia Thomas, Carl Williams, **Maille Wooten**

PB 25-65 Permanent Board Clerk's Comments

Susan Davies (Vassalboro), clerk of the Permanent Board, welcomed Friends and expressed gratitude for Concord Friends hosting us, the capable help of Maille Wooten in technical support, and Janet Hough serving as online host this morning. The clerk also thanked those who faithfully prepared business for this meeting, especially the revised Legacy Gift Committee Memorandum of Understanding which was shepherded by Mary Link, former Clerk of the Legacy Gift Committee, with input and review from Morgan Wilson and JR Robinson.

PB 25-66 MOU for use of Salem Quarter Fund

The clerk presented a Memorandum of Understanding to enable the Legacy Gift Committee to resume carrying out the discernment of grantmaking from the Salem Quarter Fund. Permanent Board approval of the MOU is required during the Salem Quarterly Meeting period of sabbath rest from business. Morgan Wilson (Framingham) answered questions.

Friends expressed gratitude for the drafting of the MOU. Friends expressed concern that, due to their hiatus, Salem Quarterly Meeting has been unable to disburse funds for monthly or quarterly meeting expenses outside the purview of grantmaking and about the impact of the MOU on the perceived necessity of maintaining an active Quarterly Meeting.

Friends **approved** the Salem Quarter Fund MOU for Legacy Gift Committee, attached.

PB 25-67 Update on Salem Quarterly Meeting Status

Kristina Keefe-Perry (Fresh Pond/Three Rivers) presented an overview of continuing discernment within Salem Quarterly Meeting (SQM) about the future of the Quarterly Meeting, which began a sabbath period 2022 with the intention to stop doing business but to focus on rebuilding relationship. In 2025, the Salem Quarter Sabbath Planning Committee invited monthly meetings to send representatives to a meeting for discernment of a path forward, but only heard from 5 of 10 local meetings. The Sabbath Planning Committee hopes that the 5 meeting representatives will gather early in 2026 to discern a future Quarterly Meeting that has life.

Friends expressed gratitude for the efforts of the Salem Quarter Sabbath Planning Committee as well as regret that Friends from other quarterly meetings have not assisted more in the care of Salem Quarterly Meeting.

Friends considered changes in Friends' lives that influence our need and availability for quarterly meeting gatherings. In regions where traditional quarterly meeting forms no longer hold life, can new forms be given space to grow? The special cultures and bioregions of different areas call for listening and relationships that are rooted in place. Examples of other successful or struggling

quarterly meetings were offered. Suggestions included a relaxation of the requirement for monthly meeting representation for quarterly meeting business; inviting quarterly meetings to season business for yearly meeting sessions; continuing the practice of recording ministries at quarterly meetings; encouraging less formal arrangements for mutual support among monthly meetings.

Permanent Board clerk asked Friends to hold the care of Salem Quarterly Meeting as a Permanent Board concern and suggested that a small group of us could hold this concern and advise the clerk on responsible, efficacious action.

Friends expressed concern that quick efficient action might not allow unfolding of a form with new life. Listening as well as action is needed. Friends noted that work has begun already in response to Sessions in 2022 and 2024 calling for attention to the health of all the quarterly meetings. A suggestion was made that Friends might facilitate or clerk Quarterly gatherings on behalf of Permanent Board so that Salem Quarterly Friends could all participate fully.

Friends **approved** the clerk reaching out to Permanent Board members to work with the SQM planning and consultation group forming in Salem Quarterly Meeting as a short-term working group that will recommend some practical steps in care of the quarterly meeting.

PB 25-68 Implementing the Actions Approved at the Called Meeting on Gaza

A written report from Phillip Veatch, Presiding Clerk of NEYM, is attached. In his spoken report, he called attention to the October 18 called meeting of New England Friends "for the purpose of sharing and encouraging work that is already being done in the Yearly Meeting, and worshipfully discerning a corporate response to the crisis in Gaza" (Sessions Minute 2025-57).

After verifying that the called meeting was a faithful response to the Sessions minute 2025-57, Friends **approved** the minutes of the October 18 called meeting.

At the October 18, 2025 called meeting on Gaza, the following minute was approved:

> The meeting charged the Presiding Clerk, the Clerk of Permanent Board and the Israel-Palestine Resource Group to convene to explore, in consultation with those with experience in the region and who could provide context on the ground, the idea of sending witnesses to Gaza from the Yearly Meeting. After this consideration, this group will bring a recommendation forward to Permanent Board for their discernment.

The resource group and clerks have met with several people with experience in Gaza. Their conclusion is that, at this time, it is not feasible for NEYM to send witnesses into Gaza for three principal reasons:

1. It is not safe for people to travel into and around Gaza.

2. The Israeli government is not allowing outsiders into Gaza.
3. The scarcity of food and other resources in Gaza means that even if someone could get into Gaza, their very presence would be taking away resources from residents who are in dire need.

The Israel-Palestine Resource Group of NEYM is continuing to actively explore two other initiatives that are in keeping with the spirit of the minute's request: 1) travel opportunities in the next few months to the West Bank; and 2) exploring ways in which the yearly meeting might create long-term relationships with people living in Palestine, such as strengthening our relationship with the Ramallah Friends School. The travel would most likely be for individuals travelling with other groups such as the Civilian Peace Force in the West Bank. The resource group is also keeping track of a longer term AFSC initiative that might lead to work service camps in Gaza. As details become clear on these initiatives, the resource group expects to return to Permanent Board for discernment and support. (See the Informational Report to the Permanent Board from the Israel-Palestine Resource Group (IPRG), dated December 3, 2025, attached.)

Friends expressed concern that the NEYM relationship with Palestinians is not built on meeting-to-meeting connections as is Puente de Amigos, although meeting relationships with Ramallah Friends School exist and might be expanded. Friends suggested that local meetings concerned about this situation could invite consultation with IPRG.

PB 25-69 NEYM Presiding Clerk Report

A written report from Phillip Veatch, Presiding Clerk of NEYM, is attached. In his spoken report, he called attention to the following items in addition to responses to the called meeting on Gaza.

Draft Charge for Conflict Response Team. The group creating a revised charge for the Conflict Response Team is meeting regularly. It is currently developing a detailed outline of what types of conflict the team is expected to engage with, along with guidance about other ways Yearly Meeting can handle internal conflicts that are not expected to come to the Conflict Response Team. The drafting group hopes to have a draft charge ready for the next Permanent Board meeting in February. The current members of this group are Janet Hough, Becky Jones, Rebecca Leuchak, Alysia Parkes, Carl Williams, Susan Davies, and Phillip Veatch.

Support of the Rights of Asylum Seekers. In consultation with the Yearly Meeting Secretary, the Presiding Clerk signed a letter on behalf of NEYM to the Canadian Prime Minister in support of protections for asylum seekers. The letter is attached.

Planning for Sessions 2026. In researching potential sites for Sessions 2026, 44 sites have been reviewed. About 20 met our requirements and requests for proposals were sent out. Our goal for having a site selected by early December has been delayed by waiting for critical responses to

come back. We hope to announce site selection and dates before Christmas. Based on strong feedback from Sessions 2025 we are focused on sites near central Massachusetts. It should be noted that every site comes with trade-offs in regard to our preferred accommodations. Plans are based on an expectation that the Sessions will end at mid-day Tuesday.

PB 25-70 Coordinating and Advisory Committee Report

A written report from Phillip Veatch, Clerk of Coordinating and Advisory Committee, is attached. In his spoken report, he called attention to the following areas of the committee's work.

Retrospective Restorative Justice, scope of work charge. The Permanent Board asked the committee to make recommendations regarding how the yearly meeting should work on retrospective restorative justice for communities other than Indigenous communities. The committee has begun discerning this and expects to bring suggestions to the February Permanent Board meeting.

Faith and Practice Revisions. At the request of the Faith and Practice Revision committee, the Coordinating and Advisory committee is editing and updating the 1985 chapter on the organization of the yearly meeting.

Legacy Gift Committee. The clerk of the committee and the Yearly Meeting treasurer are in discussions over how best the treasurer might support the committee's work.

Upcoming Retreat. The Coordinating and Advisory Committee will be holding its three-day winter retreat January 27-29.

PB 25-71 Purpose, Procedures, and Composition of Earthcare Ministry Resource Group

Sarah Gant, clerk of the Meeting Accompaniment Group, introduced a Purpose, Procedures, and Composition document for the Earthcare Ministry Resource Group, for approval by Permanent Board. This document is attached.

Friends expressed concern about the frequency of review and reports from Resource Groups and Committees, balancing the need for transparency about important concerns while not overburdening Friends. Friends were assured that C&A is considering the review and report calendar.

Friends **approved** the document on Earthcare Ministry Resource Group Purpose, Procedures, and Composition for final approval at Sessions.

PB 25-72 Yearly Meeting Secretary's Report

A written report from Noah Bishop Merrill, Yearly Meeting Secretary, is attached. In his spoken report, he called attention to the following areas of his work.

- Local meeting witness for religious freedom and the consultation and resources NEYM is providing.

- The new NEYM Ministry and Eldership Resource Group for sharing local meeting experience with encouraging, supporting, and holding accountable Friends carrying gifts of ministry and/or eldership.

- A revision of the NEYM personnel polices. Permanent Board members are asked to review, ask questions, and make suggestions on a new draft of the Personnel Policy (attached) to enable a final proposed set of personnel policies for Permanent Board's consideration and approval at our February 2026 meeting.

- Development and relationship-strengthening among New England Friends, including the local meeting visits of the Living Stream Travel Team and the participation and resources NEYM is providing. Members of the Travel Team gave a version of their presentation to Permanent Board and welcomed questions, feedback, and guidance.

  After the presentation, Friends expressed concern about how the Living Stream presentation fits with meetings that have many new Friends, and suggested asking how many Friends present are new, how many are already involved with NEYM, etc. Friends asked what, from the presentation, they should take back to local meetings, and whether the presentation is available for local meetings to show. Friends suggested inclusion of a benchmarking slide that addresses how NEYM finances are typical of similar organizations, and explicit reference to what yearly meeting is providing to assist Friends in meeting spiritual challenges.

PB 25-73 Update on NEYM Financial Status

Marian Dalton (Brunswick), Yearly Meeting Treasurer, presented an overview of our FY2025 budget versus actuals, attached. She called attention to increases in donations from individuals and meetings; the net income versus expenses from Sessions was a shortfall, as expected, due to the significantly higher cost of meeting at University of Massachusetts; continuing operational deficits are a concern as we discern where the life is in NEYM.

Friends affirmed the shared concern about the risks of continuing deficits, along with recognition that operational reserves are slowly increasing. Friends affirmed the importance of continuing attention to vision, strategy, and priority-setting.

PB 25-74 Nominating Committee Report

Lucy Meadows (Beacon Hill, moving to Hanover)) presented the report from the Nominating Committee, attached.

In her spoken report, Lucy mentioned that the work of nominating committee includes calling Friends to learn how they might be interested in serving NEYM and invited Permanent Board members to suggest Friends they might call.

This meeting is the second reading, for approval of the following nominations:

Archives & Historic Records Committee clerk - Elizabeth (Betsy) Cazden (Providence Monthly Meeting) to begin immediately, class of 2026

Youth Ministries Committee member - Jana Noyes (Westerly Monthly Meeting), to begin immediately, class of 2028

Puente de Amigos Committee, members:
Bob Watt (Providence Monthly Meeting), to begin immediately, class of 2028
Chris Jorgensen (Friends Meeting of Cambridge), to begin immediately, class of 2028
Hannah Colbert (Portland Friends Meeting), to begin immediately, class of 2028
Kim Bolshaw (Durham Friends Meeting), to begin immediately, class of 2028

Friends **approved** these nominations.

PB 25-75 Memorial Minutes

Friends received three memorial minutes for approval at this meeting: Nancy First (Northampton), Lucy Townsend (Hartford), and William Ray Taylor (Hartford).
Eight additional memorial minutes arrived without necessary dates of monthly meeting approval and are available for first reading. These are memorial minutes from Friends Meeting Cambridge for Christine Connaire, Joan Austin, Lynn Lazar, Ghanda DiFiglia, Mehmet Rona, Joan L. Griscom, Roger Webb, and Patricia Anne Hogan.

Monthly meetings are reminded to consult the 2017 guidance on preparation of memorial minutes so that memorial minutes can be accepted and included in the NEYM archives.

Friends **accepted** the memorial minutes for Nancy First, Lucy Townsend, and William Ray Taylor for Yearly Meeting Sessions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frances Lightsom, Recording Clerk

To: The Permanent Board of New England Yearly Meeting of Friends

From: Noah Bishop Merrill, Yearly Meeting Secretary, Putney (VT) Friends Meeting

Re: Report in preparation for PB meeting on February 28, 2025.

"I would have written a shorter [report], but I did not have the time."
–Blaise Pascal

Dear Friends,

I look forward to the opportunity to worship and seek Guidance together this coming Saturday. Below are some updates I felt would merit inclusion in this written report. As always, I welcome your questions, insights, and suggestions on any aspect of our work together.

Witness for religious freedom and humane immigration policies

In recent weeks, several more monthly meetings have requested and received both the poster making visible the injunction limiting ICE enforcement activities in or near Friends places of worship, and a copy of the order issuing the injunction itself. I'm aware of many ways, both public and more quietly, that Friends and meetings across our region (and certainly, beyond) are seeking to do what they can, what they are led and given to do, in this troubling time.

Next week, shortly after our meeting of the Permanent Board, I and a small number of other Friends involved in the lawsuit will receive a briefing from our attorneys with Democracy Forward, and hope to have a further update to share more widely soon after.

While there have been several challenges by the Department of Homeland Security to aspects of our suit, most of them have been rejected. We understand the process is proceeding forward and expect further consideration of our claims before the court to happen this spring. Please contact me if you have questions.

Ministry & Eldership Resource Group

I expect you will hear more about this from the Clerk of Ministry & Counsel at our meeting. I continue to be grateful for the work of the Ministry and Eldership Resource Group as it forms and gets its bearings. Many Friends may have seen the letter that was sent out by the working group to all meetings, contacts for local meeting ministry and counsels, quarters, and others. The committee is beginning its work with a period of listening, seeking to understand both the learning and practices of Friends within local meetings, as well as the challenges, needs, and questions that are

arising as local meetings consider their support for gifts of ministry and eldership, and how they might exercise both care and oversight for the expression of these gifts in service.

Finance

The budget process for the fiscal year ending September 2027 has begun. Key factors influencing the budget are Sessions costs and income, personnel costs (where some savings has been found, though health care costs continue to increase), and the continuing desire to increase financial contributions to wider organizations with whom we partner in service. I look forward to working with the finance committee, staff, and C&A to explore creative ideas on how we might reduce costs and increase income.

I hope you'll review the quarterly report for FY2026 in these advance documents, and bring any questions or insights you may have, or direct questions to the Treasurer, the Accounts Manager, or to me.

The general division (that is, all of NEYM's operations except Friends Camp) recently received a transfer of funds *from* Friends Camp. These are funds which the Friends Camp Committee has graciously approved returning, a substantial portion of the funds the general division of NEYM transferred *to* Camp from the general division reserves in the early days of the pandemic in 2020, in order to support the camp as we entered an uncertain time. Friends Camp's financial position is now strong, especially with the infusion of their portion of this last ERTC payment, and it was felt that this would be a good moment to return these funds, especially since the general division's reserves need strengthening. I want to express my gratitude for this considerate and very helpful initiative on the part of Anna Hopkins and the Friends Camp Finance subcommittee.

The Treasurer and Accounts Manager have been working hard with a CPA who we have contracted to review our bookkeeping and practices, and to make recommendations for approval of how we manage the finances of the Yearly Meeting. Preparation for this effort, including setting funds aside for this purpose for many years, began more than ten years ago, and it is a joy to see it beginning to bear fruit. I am deeply grateful for the persistence and energy both Marian and Frederick have brought to this project.

I am also encouraged that during this present fiscal year, giving from household and individuals has been consistently ahead of last year's results to date. These trends are certainly not conclusive, but there are clear signs of increasing engagement by both current and new donors; these data do not only represent gifts being given early by current donors.

Development and relationships

As part of our overall efforts to increase income and reduce expenses, and to invite more Friends into an orientation to our common life as a regional body that includes robust financial support of ways we serve together, I am encouraged by an effort led by Program Director Nia Thomas with support from several staff members to assess the income and expenses of our year-round programs. The goal of this effort has been to compile, analyze, and review information on costs and participation in YM-sponsored events, and to make recommendations for how the costs of offering our year round programs can be made more transparent both in how we set our fees and how we educate us all on the ways Friends more widely support our programs beyond income from program fees. I believe we are making progress toward steps to accomplish these goals while keeping all of our events financially accessible through commitment to the Pay-As-Led approach to our year-round programs.

Michael Wajda, who we have retained as a consultant on our development program, continues to work with me and others as we develop and make use of a table of giving ranges to help guide our outreach to Friends, inviting their discernment about whether and how much they might be led to give or to increase their annual giving. We are deeply grateful for all who have welcomed our invitations to these conversations, and would love to hear from you if you would be interested in a visit to hear more about these growing efforts and the work they support, and to support your discernment about where your present and future giving might be part of this overall effort.

A continuing source of energy and life in recent months has been the opportunity to participate in the series of visits conducted by the Living Stream Travel team, a group of Friends from across our yearly meeting who have been visiting, in groups of two or three, several meetings throughout our region. As of now, these Friends are Jeremiah Dickinson, Fran Lightsom, Donn Weinholz, and Jackie Stillwell, supported as needed by me, Elizabeth Hacala, Frederick Martin, and Michael Wajda. As of this writing we have been blessed to visit with Wellesley (MA), Westerly (RI), Mt. Toby (MA), and Providence Meetings (RI), and we have plans to visit a total, we hope, of nine meetings before annual sessions this year. These opportunities have been energizing in the way that they have opened conversation between the visitors and Friends in meetings, and for some host meetings have served as a part of their own reflection on their spiritual condition as they prepare their state of society reports.

In these visits, Friends hosting have offered meaningful and constructive feedback that the travel team has incorporated in the planning of future presentations and visits. The team's goal is to focus more and more on the Life and fruits of the Spirit in the local meeting and the ways that the life of each meeting flows into the living stream of Friends as a whole, as we journey together in the Spirit across New England.

In each visit to a meeting, Friends have shared gratitude for a clearer and more coherent awareness of the opportunities, programs, ministries, and resources that together Friends make possible through our Yearly Meeting. We have also heard strong affirmation of the resources and context visitors have provided, and how they have led to a clearer and more transparent sense of the financial and other resources necessary to make this shared ministry possible. We continue to learn and grow, remembering that it is through relationship that we come to know one another in that which is Eternal.

If you are a member of a meeting that would welcome a visit of this kind, and we haven't reached out to your meeting yet, please contact livingstream@neym.org to invite us!

Programs, activities, opportunities

I'm especially grateful in this season to have had the opportunity—which I endeavor to take each year—to visit, listen, and share with both the midwinter retreat for high school age youth, as well as the midwinter retreat for younger adults, exploring and deepening their connections with Quaker faith and practice and their local meetings. The Young Friends retreat was larger than in several years, and the retreat for young adults was at the capacity of Woolman Hill, with more than a quarter of participants attending a Friends event outside of their local meeting for the first time.

It seems clear from this pattern in recent years that the time and energy put into providing programs which explicitly emphasize opportunities and content supporting spiritual formation, and prioritizing the intentional welcoming of newcomers with a clear invitation to explore Friends faith and practice in the design of these opportunities has borne fruit in the lives of many young adults, and in the life of their meetings. This "proof of concept" feels like something to celebrate, and to continue to seek ways to sustain and grow.

I was also grateful to offer a reflection in preparation for the early-January gathering for extended worship at Woolman Hill, on the corporate dimension of Quaker worship, drawing on a quotation from the Journal of Job Scott, a New England Friends minister most active in the late 1700s:

This may be strange doctrine to some; but others know that the spring must be opened in the hearer, or else there can be but little profitably done by the speaker.

And [he] that speaks only in the ability that God immediately gives, must feel a door of entrance in the people's minds, or it is very difficult to get safely and relievingly forward.

But when the spring is livingly opened in [him] that speaketh, and in those that hear, then it is that deep calleth unto deep at the sound of the waterspouts of life, and here instruction is sealed.

– Job Scott, Journal, 1794 (referencing Psalm 42)

Subsequently, I offered a related reflection on the corporate dimension of Friends worship for a well-attended January 2026 meeting leader Zoom call. A video of that reflection is available, and has been requested by some meetings to support their meeting's religious education activities. Email nia@neym.org for the video link.

We are now in the fourth year of a consistent pattern of year-round "keystone" opportunities[1]" focused on strengthening the life of local meetings, from Meeting Care Day in the fall, to the upcoming Living Faith gathering this spring with a focus on Witness, to the Meeting for Listening in early summer, and of course, Annual Sessions in the late summer. These keystone opportunities have drawn consistently strong attendance from across the Yearly Meeting, often reaching many who have never attended Sessions or another YM-sponsored event before. We've heard expressions of appreciation for their usefulness in meetings across our region, and I am grateful that many Friends have come to expect that these opportunities will be offered and worth their while, even to the point of taking initiative to invite or recommend attendance to others in their meeting who might find it beneficial to their service.

All of these—along with positive trends in attendance in our youth ministries retreats, ongoing care and presence provided to a growing number of local meetings through the Meeting Accompaniment Group, the monthly calls for Friends serving in leadership roles within their local meetings, support for local meeting youth ministers, workshop opportunities on aging and grief, and as well as the ongoing opportunities for Friends to support one another in shared concerns for humane immigration policies and practices—weave a rich tapestry of mutual encouragement and support for, with, and by Friends in New England and beyond.

There is much to celebrate here, and there are many stories to be told. I see evidence that we (many Friends who are part of our spiritual body) are learning to tell them, including sharing what we have found in these opportunities and strengthening relationships including through the work of the

[1] That is, large group one day events (perhaps surrounded by other weekend activities) for an adult and/or multigenerational audience, featuring opportunities for worship, fellowship, relationship-building and sharing across meetings, and learning together about key aspects of Friends faith and practice rooted in our local contexts.

Living Stream Travel Team.

Personnel policy and legal counsel

I'm please to share that we have retained a new law firm to serve as general counsel for NEYM, to advise the Yearly Meeting on a comprehensive range of issues. This firm, E. Reinhardt and Associates, is a small, well-regarded, women-led firm in Massachusetts singularly specializing in work with nonprofit and religious organizations, with expertise in governance, liability, personnel/HR, government relations, restricted funds and trusts, and more. This firm also serves as the general counsel for the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ in New England, a denominational body which has very similar needs to ours, and by which this firm comes highly recommended. The firm also has a commitment to financial accessibility, basing their billing rates on the annual budget and assets the client. I'm very pleased and relieved that we will again have a skilled attorney reliably on call to assist us with both simple and complex legal matters as they arise.

As I mentioned in my report for our last meeting, a full revision of the NEYM Personnel Policy has been a long-term goal for several years. In December, I shared the hope that I would be able to bring a more final draft back to Permanent Board for approval in February. Since that time, I have had helpful conversations and input from the Personnel Subcommittee of Friends Camp as well as additional notes from the Friends Camp Director, which while generally aligned with the direction of the text as it stands, bears some further consultation and discernment before the draft will be fully ready to bring forward. As perhaps Friends can appreciate, a project so long in coming forward perhaps does not benefit from being rushed in the final stages. It's important to me to bring forward a draft that has been seasoned and that has benefited from the input of all involved. One key aspect of the revision has been clarifying which aspects of the personnel manual applied to Friends Camp and in what ways. This continues to be an area where intentional consultation and care is needed, so that our personal policy can work for everyone involved.

Because of the need for further consultation and some edits, I now intend to bring a final draft of the personnel policy to the Permanent Board's meeting in May of this year. That draft will contain clarified language in relation to Friends Camp, as well as, I hope, clarification of some of the policy areas that seemed they weren't ready to come forward in February, but might God willing be ready to bring forward in May. I expect that even in May there will still be a few areas of policy in need of further and future work, but I believe we can give those areas the time they need while still proceeding to approve most of the document in a final form.

As a reminder and context, the primary work of revision of the personnel policies has been carried out consistent with the Yearly Meeting's approved practice, led by the Secretary with the input and

guidance of the Personnel Advisory Group, a group called upon as needed which consists of the Clerk of the Permanent Board, the Supervisor of the Yearly Meeting Secretary, and two to three other Friends with substantial experience with personnel issues and HR policy. At present these two Friends are Bob Murray and Dulany Bennett, both of whom have served as clerks of the former Personnel Committee, which preceded the current Personnel Advisory Group. The input of staff, including the Friends Camp Director, as well as the Personnel subcommittee of the Friends Camp Committee have also provided vital input. It is my intention to have the proposed policy reviewed by legal counsel prior to final approval and adoption.

Sessions 2026

Plans for Sessions 2026 at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts continue. The Presiding Clerk's report offers more details. One key concern, always present but especially important this year, has to do with transitions in Friends carrying long-term coordination responsibilities at Sessions. As Friends may recall from sharing in recent years, of the many areas of work necessary to offer Sessions each year, recruitment and orientation of volunteer and stipend-receiving coordinators for key aspects of Sessions activities requires significant time and energy.

Quarterly meetings

I look forward with great anticipation to the planned Quarterly Meeting Visioning Day on April 11. I trust that people will find more about this and other ongoing efforts to strengthen and support Quarters in other reports.

Wider and integrated service

As other responsibilities allow, my preparations for the Perkins Lecture on April 24, 2026 continue, with publicity soon to be released. The working title is: "For the Sake of the Joy"*: Meetings, Pilgrimage, and the Reolding of Quakerism.*

In January, at the request of the New Hampshire State Council of Churches, and in cooperation with AFSC-New Hampshire, I traveled to Concord, NH to testify before the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee of the NH House of Representatives in opposition to four new bills introduced in this legislative session that would reinstate the death penalty in some form in New Hampshire, after its abolition in 2019. In the timing of this invitation, coming as it did on the second anniversary of my brother Justin's murder, I felt the movement of Grace. In part as the result of a strong presence of advocates opposing the death penalty, I have recently heard that no bills that would reinstate the death penalty have been forwarded to the legislature for a vote.

It has become increasingly common for me and other Friends in servant leadership roles to be contacted by Friends from another yearly meeting who have heard about or seen resources, experiments, or approaches that have developed through discernment and efforts within our yearly meeting, and which they believe might be of support to their monthly or yearly meetings. In nearly all cases, our practice is to freely share the fruits of this work, as well as something of the process or intention that led to it. It is a blessing to see that the work of the Spirit among us in New England is serving as inspiration and initial guidance to other Friends wrestling with similar questions in their own contexts, and to receive the blessings that come to us through these relationships of trust and reciprocity that accompany such connections.

I continue to participate in and support the work—including governance, mentoring, skills, and at times forms of diplomacy or cross-cultural conflict transformation—of Friends United Meeting and Friends World Committee for Consultation when I am invited to do so. I would be happy to share more details of this work, if Friends have further interest.

I cannot close this report without highlighting a particularly urgent concern for both FUM and FWCC, as well as many in our Yearly Meeting and others: Searching for guidance and support in how we can collaborate to strengthen our presence with and care for Friends in Cuba as they seek to live their faith in a profoundly uncertain and harrowing time.

In faith and service,

Noah Bishop Merrill

Secretary

New England Yearly Meeting of Friends


Program Fees Review
Major Gifts: Annual Giving
Living Stream Travel Team
Monthly Meeting Giving
Non-Contributory Income
Individual & Household: Annual Giving
Income
New Sessions Site & Cost Structure
Savings in Operations & Admin
Staffing Transitions
Expense

Recommendations relating to the FY2027 Budget Process

"Stay the Course"

1. *Maintain staffing levels to carry out existing plans, including increases by policy consistent with healthcare, cost of living, etc.*
2. *Future Uses Fund:*
    1. *Continue approved support of development efforts supported by the Future Uses Fund*
    2. *Transition to new staffing model allowing earlier-than-planned transition (savings) from use of the Future Uses Fund for staffing*
3. *Hold in prayerful awareness:*
    a. *yearning to increase financial support of other organizations, including Friends groups with which we are affiliated*
    b. *rise in newcomers in many meetings creates new needs to attend to welcoming, religious education, spiritual formation, and mentoring*

NEYM
FY2025 Operating Budget vs. Actuals Summary
October 2024 - September 2025

	Actual	Budget	Over / (Under) Budget	% of Budget
Income				
4010 Individual Contributions	212,545	228,000	-15,455	93.22%
4020 Monthly Meeting Contributions	353,484	345,000	8,484	102.46%
4030 Organizations Contributions	250		250	
4050 Interest and Dividend Income	4,761	11,000	-6,239	43.28%
4070 Books & Other Sales Income	6,024	10,500	-4,476	57.37%
4080 Retreat Program Fees	28,797	37,500	-8,703	76.79%
4085 Sessions Program Fees	196,314	214,895	-18,581	91.35%
4090 Change in Fair Market Value	-7		-7	
Total Income	**802,168**	**846,895**	**-44,727**	**94.72%**
Expenses				
5000 Staff	495,660	516,314	-20,654	96.00%
5100 General & Administration	100,358	87,449	12,909	114.76%
5300 Travel & Conferences	17,577	22,300	-4,723	78.82%
6000 Programs	206,086	213,850	-7,764	96.37%
6140 Books & Other Sales Expense	4,828	8,000	-3,172	60.36%
Total Expenses	**824,509**	**847,913**	**-23,404**	**97.24%**
Net Operating Income	**-22,341**	**-1,018**	**-21,323**	
Transfers In/Out				
9940 Other Income - Transfers from other funds	60,009		60,009	
9950 Other Expense - Transfer to other funds	8,607		8,607	
Net Other Income	**51,402**	**0**	**51,402**	
Net Income	**29,061**	**-1,018**	**30,079**	

NEYM
FY2025 Operating Budget vs. Actuals Detail
October 2024 - September 2025

	Actual	Budget	Over / (Under) Budget	% of Budget
Income				
4010 Individual Contributions	212,545.06	228,000.00	-15,454.94	93.22%
4020 Monthly Meeting Contributions	353,484.47	345,000.00	8,484.47	102.46%
4030 Organizations Contributions	250.00		250.00	
4050 Interest and Dividend Income	4,760.76	11,000.00	-6,239.24	43.28%
4070 Books & Other Sales Income	6,024.36	10,500.00	(4,475.64)	57.37%
4080 Retreat Program Fees	28,796.65	37,500.00	-8,703.35	76.79%
4085 Sessions Program Fees	196,313.65	214,895.00	-18,581.35	91.35%
4090 Change in Fair Market Value	-7.00		-7.00	
Total Income	**$ 802,167.95**	**$ 846,895.00**	**-$ 44,727.05**	**94.72%**
Expenses				
5000 Staff				
5010 Salaries & Wages	316,110.87	389,236.00	-73,125.13	81.21%
5037 Housing Allowance	60,000.20		60,000.20	
Total 5010 Salaries & Wages	**$ 376,111.07**	**$ 389,236.00**	**-$ 13,124.93**	**96.63%**
5020 Payroll Taxes	23,495.36	30,195.00	-6,699.64	77.81%
5030 Benefits				
5033 Health Benefits	55,193.12	51,796.00	3,397.12	106.56%
5035 Retirements	38,137.48	38,924.00	-786.52	97.98%
5040 Disability	1,036.08	1,013.00	23.08	102.28%
5045 Workers' Compensation	647.00	600.00	47.00	107.83%
5050 Spiritual Retreats	150.00	1,200.00	-1,050.00	12.50%
5060 Staff Development	789.49	3,250.00	-2,460.51	24.29%
5070 Sabbatical & Paid Leave	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00%
Total 5030 Benefits	**$ 96,053.17**	**$ 96,883.00**	**-$ 829.83**	**99.14%**
Total 5000 Staff	**$ 495,659.60**	**$ 516,314.00**	**-$ 20,654.40**	**96.00%**
5100 General & Administration				
5110 Administration				
5120 Bank Expense	9,734.47	7,000.00	2,734.47	139.06%
5130 Contracted Services	20,225.00	18,000.00	2,225.00	112.36%
5140 Legal Services	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00	100.00%
5150 Liability Insurance	7,852.49	5,250.00	2,602.49	149.57%
5160 Payroll Service	8,593.75	5,500.00	3,093.75	156.25%
5170 Recruiting Expense	125.00	0.00	125.00	
5180 Rent	9,350.00	9,350.00	0.00	100.00%
5190 Misc. Expense	766.81		766.81	
Total 5110 Administration	**$ 59,147.52**	**$ 47,600.00**	**$ 11,547.52**	**124.26%**
5200 Office				
5220 Cleaning Services	300.00	299.00	1.00	100.33%
5230 Maint - Equip & Hardware	86.80	500.00	-413.20	17.36%
5240 Postage	1,844.46	3,750.00	-1,905.54	49.19%
5250 Office Equipment	2,381.32	1,500.00	881.32	158.75%
5260 Office Supplies	1,588.90	1,600.00	-11.10	99.31%
5270 Printing & Copying	8,146.87	9,500.00	-1,353.13	85.76%
5280 Software & Updates	22,095.72	19,000.00	3,095.72	116.29%
5290 Telephone	4,651.50	3,700.00	951.50	125.72%
5295 Misc. Office	115.25		115.25	
Total 5200 Office	**$ 41,210.82**	**$ 39,849.00**	**$ 1,361.82**	**103.42%**
Total 5100 General & Administration	**$ 100,358.34**	**$ 87,449.00**	**$ 12,909.34**	**114.76%**

5300 Travel & Conferences				
5310 Travel - Committee		1,400.00	-1,400.00	0.00%
5320 Travel - Clerk	3,554.10	2,500.00	1,054.10	142.16%
5330 Travel - Programs	798.49	4,100.00	-3,301.51	19.48%
5335 Travel - Representatives Travel	2,059.63	2,000.00	59.63	102.98%
5350 Travel - Staff	11,164.39	11,900.00	-735.61	93.82%
5360 Travel - Ministries		400.00	-400.00	0.00%
Total 5300 Travel & Conferences	**$ 17,576.61**	**$ 22,300.00**	**-$ 4,723.39**	**78.82%**
6000 Programs				
6110 Sessions Room & Board *SEE ALSO 3775 Future Uses Fund	139,021.78	135,570.00	3,451.78	102.55%
6112 Retreats - Room & Board			0.00	
6114 Room Rental	12,498.00	10,000.00	2,498.00	124.98%
6150 Food Expense	13,073.81	10,000.00	3,073.81	130.74%
Total 6112 Retreats - Room & Board	**$ 25,571.81**	**$ 20,000.00**	**$ 5,571.81**	**127.86%**
6125 Program Expenses				
6105 Honoraria - Speakers/Wkshp Ldrs	17,177.00	21,000.00	-3,823.00	81.80%
6107 Honoraria - Volunteer Leadership	9,750.00	15,000.00	-5,250.00	65.00%
6115 Equipment Rental	3,379.70	6,500.00	-3,120.30	52.00%
6121 Supplies and Other Expenses	4,554.16	5,000.00	-445.84	91.08%
6165 Pre-Sessions Expense	1,429.66	1,500.00	-70.34	95.31%
Total 6125 Program Expenses	**$ 36,290.52**	**$ 49,000.00**	**-$ 12,709.48**	**74.06%**
6130 Committee Expenses - General	1,685.61	4,400.00	-2,714.39	38.31%
6134 Childcare		2,000.00	-2,000.00	0.00%
Total 6130 Committee Expenses - General	**$ 1,685.61**	**$ 6,400.00**	**-$ 4,714.39**	**26.34%**
6160 Program Support				
6163 Friends Camp	3,512.00	2,880.00	632.00	121.94%
6167 Religious Education & Outreach	4.04		4.04	
Total 6160 Program Support	**$ 3,516.04**	**$ 2,880.00**	**$ 636.04**	**122.08%**
Total 6000 Programs	**$ 206,085.76**	**$ 213,850.00**	**-$ 7,764.24**	**96.37%**
6140 Books & Other Sales Expense				
6142 Books	2,130.81	8,000.00	-5,869.19	26.64%
6145 Other Items for Sale	762.40		762.40	
6147 Consignment Sales	1,935.28		1,935.28	
Total 6140 Books & Other Sales Expense	**$ 4,828.49**	**$ 8,000.00**	**-$ 3,171.51**	**60.36%**
Total Expenses	**$ 824,508.80**	**$ 847,913.00**	**-$ 23,404.20**	**97.24%**
Net Operating Income	***-$ 22,340.85***	***-$ 1,018.00***	***-$ 21,322.85***	
Transfers In/Out				
9940 Other Income - Transfers from other funds	60,008.65		60,008.65	
9950 Other Expense - Transfer to other funds	8,606.87		8,606.87	
Net Other Income	**$ 51,401.78**	**$ 0.00**	**$ 51,401.78**	
Net Income	***$ 29,060.93***	***-$ 1,018.00***	***$ 30,078.93***	

NEYM
Statement of Activities - All Funds
October, 2024-September, 2025

	Operating	Non-Operating		Total All Funds
	(unrestricted)	*Board Designated (unrestricted)*	*Donor Restricted*	
Income				
4010 Individual Contributions	212,545.06	39,184.00	10,575.00	262,304.06
4020 Monthly Meeting Contributions	353,484.47	6,988.50	11,658.20	372,131.17
4030 Organizations Contributions	250.00		27,800.00	28,050.00
4050 Interest and Dividend Income	4,760.76	41,172.79	25,366.94	71,300.49
4070 Books & Other Sales Income	$6,024.36		0.00	6,024.36
4077 Consulting Fee Contribution	0.00		3,825.00	3,825.00
4080 Retreat Program Fees	28,796.65		0.00	28,796.65
4085 Sessions Program Fees	196,313.65		0.00	196,313.65
4090 Change in Fair Market Value	-7.00	10,046.55	8,164.45	18,204.00
4099 Net Assets Released To/From	0.00		0.00	0.00
Total for Income	**$802,167.95**	**$97,391.84**	**$87,389.59**	**$986,949.38**
Expenses				
Total for 5000 Staff	$495,659.60	$4,097.00	$24,885.73	$524,642.33
5110 Administration				
5120 Bank Expense	9,734.47		73.76	9,808.23
5130 Contracted Services	20,225.00	25,853.80	2,000.00	48,078.80
5140 Legal Services	2,500.00	564.86	0.00	3,064.86
5150 Liability Insurance	7,852.49		0.00	7,852.49
5160 Payroll Service	8,593.75		0.00	8,593.75
5170 Recruiting Expense	125.00		0.00	125.00
5180 Rent	9,350.00		0.00	9,350.00
5190 Misc. Expense	766.81		0.00	766.81
Total for 5110 Administration	$59,147.52	$26,418.66	$2,073.76	$87,639.94
5200 Office				
5220 Cleaning Services	300.00		0.00	300.00
5230 Maint - Equip & Hardware	86.80		0.00	86.80
5240 Postage	1,844.46		78.83	1,923.29
5250 Office Equipment	2,381.32		0.00	2,381.32
5260 Office Supplies	1,588.90		0.00	1,588.90
5270 Printing & Copying	8,146.87		211.40	8,358.27
5280 Software & Updates	22,095.72		0.00	22,095.72
5290 Telephone	4,651.50		21.75	4,673.25
5295 Misc. Office	115.25		0.00	115.25
Total for 5200 Office	$41,210.82	$0.00	$311.98	$41,522.80
Total for 5100 General & Administration	$100,358.34	$26,418.66	$2,385.74	$129,162.74
Total for 5300 Travel & Conferences	$17,576.61	$0.00	$1,961.30	$19,537.91
Total for 6000 Programs	$206,085.76	$59,377.72	$59.10	$265,522.58
Total for 6140 Books & Other Sales Expense	$4,828.49	$0.00	$0.00	$4,828.49
Total for 6200 Support of Other Organizations	$0.00	$11,000.00	$40,356.50	$51,356.50
6600 Publications	0.00		5,500.00	5,500.00
Total for Expenses	**$824,508.80**	**$100,893.38**	**$75,148.37**	**$1,000,550.55**
Net Operating Income	**-$22,340.85**	**-$3,501.54**	**$12,241.22**	**-$13,601.17**

Other Income				
9940 Other Income - Transfers from other funds				
Create Future Uses Fund - transfer from W&M		317,429.62		
Transfer budgeted Legal Services amount from Operating 5140 to Legal Services Revolving Fund		2,500.00		
Transfer budgeted Sabbatical amount from Operating 5070 to Sabbatical Revolving Fund		100.00		
ERTC (Employee Retention Tax Credits) 2020 Q2,Q3,Q4	60,008.65			
Total for Other Income	**$60,008.65**	**320,029.62**	**0.00**	**$380,038.27**
Other Expenses				
9950 Other Expense - Transfer to other funds				
MM Equalization Restricted donations to Operating 4020			6,560.50	
Income from Endowment to Operating 4050			2,465.48	
Donation from 3832 West Falmouth Fund to Operating 4020			200.78	
Transfer from W&M Fund to create Future Uses Fund		317,429.62		
Pay-As-Led Equalization donations to Operating 4010		39,184.00		
MM Equalization (designated) donations to Operating 4020		6,988.50		
Income from Quasi-Endowment to Operating 4050		150.99		
ERTC 2020 Q2,Q3,Q4: Transfer to Camp their portion	7,341.25			
ERTC Paychex filing cost 2020 portion, from 1150 Prepaid Exp	1,265.62			
Total for Other Expenses	**$8,606.87**	**$363,753.11**	**$9,226.76**	**$381,586.74**
Net Other Income	**$51,401.78**	**-$43,723.49**	**-$9,226.76**	**-$1,548.47**
Net Income	**$29,060.93**	**-$47,225.03**	**$3,014.46**	**-$15,149.64**

Statement of Financial Position
NEYM
As of September 30, 2025

	As of September 30, 2025	As of September 30, 2024	Change	% Change
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Bank Accounts				
1000 Checking Accounts				
1010 Santander Checking	57,770.31	72,175.64	-14,405.33	-19.96%
1015 Everence Fed Credit Union Checking	433.78	6,093.78	-5,660.00	-92.88%
1040 Petty Cash	13.82	40.00	-26.18	-65.45%
Total for 1000 Checking Accounts	**$58,217.91**	**$78,309.42**	**-$20,091.51**	**-25.66%**
1020 Money Market Accounts				
1028 Santander Money Market Savings	133,734.06	75,870.98	57,863.08	76.27%
1029 Everence Fed Credit Union SHARE Savings	6,218.28	609.45	5,608.83	920.31%
Total for 1020 Money Market Accounts	**$139,952.34**	**$76,480.43**	**$63,471.91**	**82.99%**
Total for 1050 Certificates of Deposits	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	
Total for Bank Accounts	**$198,170.25**	**$154,789.85**	**$43,380.40**	**28.03%**
Accounts Receivable				
Total for Accounts Receivable	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	
Other Current Assets				
1075 Pooled Funds	1,760,327.54	1,812,116.54	-51,789.00	-2.86%
1100 Accrued Receivables	46.76	526.76	-480.00	-91.12%
1110 Due to/from Friends Camp				
1112 Camp Disability	20.26	-1.07	21.33	1,993.46%
1113 Camp Health Ins	1,735.65	1,005.65	730.00	72.59%
1114 Camp - Retirement	1,266.83	853.34	413.49	48.46%
Total for 1110 Due to/from Friends Camp	**$3,022.74**	**$1,857.92**	**$1,164.82**	**62.69%**
1150 Prepaid Expenses	4,239.59	6,272.22	-2,032.63	-32.41%
Total for Other Current Assets	**$1,767,636.63**	**$1,820,773.44**	**-$53,136.81**	**-2.92%**
Total for Current Assets	**$1,965,806.88**	**$1,975,563.29**	**-$9,756.41**	**-0.49%**
TOTAL ASSETS	**$1,965,806.88**	**$1,975,563.29**	**-$9,756.41**	**-0.49%**
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS				
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Total for Accounts Payable	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	
Credit Cards				
2005 Credit Card Elan St Marys	6,018.32	5,539.46	478.86	8.64%
Total for Credit Cards	**$6,018.32**	**$5,539.46**	**$478.86**	**8.64%**
Other Current Liabilities				
2010 Accrued Liabilities	76.60	76.60	0.00	0.00%
2100 Payroll Liabilities	105.76	105.76	0.00	0.00%
2110 Federal Taxes	-785.87	-797.40	11.53	1.45%
2120 State Taxes	907.35	757.46	149.89	19.79%
2150 Health Insurance Premium	303.60	340.90	-37.30	-10.94%
2155 Sect 125 Employee Withholding	4,762.82	22.57	4,740.25	21,002.44%
2160 403B Retirement	470.26	420.26	50.00	11.90%
Total for Other Current Liabilities	**$5,840.52**	**$926.15**	**$4,914.37**	**530.62%**
Total for Current Liabilities	**$11,858.84**	**$6,465.61**	**$5,393.23**	**83.41%**
Total for Liabilities	**$11,858.84**	**$6,465.61**	**$5,393.23**	**83.41%**
Net Assets				
3500 Undesignated Unrestricted Net Assets	22,807.08	80,005.15	-57,198.07	-71.49%
Total for 3600 Board Designated Funds	**$891,279.06**	**$1,179,777.34**	**-$288,498.28**	**-24.45%**
Total for 3700 Revolving Accounts	**$312,981.79**	**$75,092.91**	**$237,888.88**	**316.79%**
Total for 3800 Permanently Restricted Funds	**$697,819.18**	**$691,420.35**	**$6,398.83**	**0.93%**
3900 Retained Earnings	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Net Income	29,060.93	-57,198.07	86,259.00	150.81%
Total for Net Assets	**$1,953,948.04**	**$1,969,097.68**	**-$15,149.64**	**-0.77%**
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	**$1,965,806.88**	**$1,975,563.29**	**-$9,756.41**	**-0.49%**

FY2025 Meeting Contributions

	General Fund	Equalization	Total
Connecticut Valley Quarterly Meeting			
Hartford Monthly Meeting	27,000.00		27,000.00
Litchfield Hills Monthly Meeting	3,153.69		3,153.69
Mount Toby Monthly Meeting	35,175.00	500.00	35,675.00
New Haven Friends Meeting	8,715.00		8,715.00
Northampton Friends Meeting	5,625.00	579.00	6,204.00
Storrs Friends Meeting	3,200.00		3,200.00
Subtotal	**82,868.69**	**1,079.00**	**83,947.69**
Dover Quarterly Meeting			
Concord Monthly Meeting	7,766.50	372.00	8,138.50
Dover Monthly Meeting	5,500.00	250.00	5,750.00
Gonic Monthly Meeting	407.00		407.00
Weare Monthly Meeting	1,600.00	1,400.00	3,000.00
West Epping Preparative Meeting	2,000.00		2,000.00
Subtotal	**17,273.50**	**2,022.00**	**19,295.50**
Falmouth Quarterly Meeting			
Brunswick Friends Meeting	1,100.00		1,100.00
Durham Monthly Meeting	6,000.00		6,000.00
Portland Friends Meeting	16,000.00	3,595.00	19,595.00
Southern Maine Friends Meeting	100.00		100.00
Windham Friends Meeting	100.00		100.00
Subtotal	**23,300.00**	**3,595.00**	**26,895.00**
Northwest Quarterly Meeting			
Bennington Monthly Meeting	1,700.00		1,700.00
Burlington Monthly Meeting	5,549.50	1,050.00	6,599.50
Hanover Friends Meeting	23,750.00		23,750.00
Middlebury Friends Meeting	4,000.00	700.00	4,700.00
Monadnock Quaker Meeting	5,400.00	300.00	5,700.00
Northeast Kingdom Quaker Meeting	250.00		250.00
Plainfield Monthly Meeting	1,000.00		1,000.00
Putney Friends Meeting	4,000.00		4,000.00
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	**47,399.50**	**2,050.00**	**49,449.50**
Salem Quarterly Meeting			
Amesbury Monthly Meeting	3,000.00		3,000.00
Beacon Hill Friends Meeting	11,845.00	1,398.00	13,243.00
Framingham Friends Meeting	10,000.00	800.00	10,800.00
Fresh Pond Monthly Meeting	10,000.00	300.00	10,300.00
Friends Meeting at Cambridge	43,176.00	1,000.00	44,176.00
Lawrence Monthly Meeting	600.00		600.00
North Shore Friends Meeting	3,000.00	100.00	3,100.00
Wellesley Monthly Meeting	24,462.00		24,462.00
Subtotal	**106,083.00**	**3,598.00**	**109,681.00**

Sandwich Quarterly Meeting			
East Sandwich Preparative Meeting	500.00		500.00
West Falmouth Preparative Meeting	5,300.78	200.00	5,500.78
Yarmouth Preparative Meeting	1,000.00		1,000.00
Allen's Neck Monthly Meeting	3,630.00		3,630.00
Dartmouth at Smith Neck Monthly Meeting	1,000.00		1,000.00
Martha's Vineyard Monthly Meeting	960.00		960.00
Mattapoisett Monthly Meeting	250.00		250.00
New Bedford Monthly Meeting	250.00	755.00	1,005.00
Sandwich Monthly Meeting	1,100.00		1,100.00
Sandwich Quarterly Meeting		200.00	200.00
Westport Monthly Meeting	6,000.00		6,000.00
Subtotal	**19,990.78**	**1,155.00**	**21,145.78**
Southeast Quarterly Meeting			
Providence Monthly Meeting	20,500.00		20,500.00
Westerly Monthly Meeting	3,500.00		3,500.00
Worcester Friends Meeting	6,620.00		6,620.00
Subtotal	**30,620.00**	**-**	**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	500.00		500.00
Eggemoggin Reach Monthly Mtg	150.00	50.00	200.00
Narramissic Valley Monthly Meeting	100.00		100.00
Orono Monthly Meeting	750.00		750.00
Vassalboro Friends Meeting	7,000.00		7,000.00
Winthrop Center Friends Church	2,400.00		2,400.00
Subtotal	**12,400.00**	**50.00**	**12,450.00**
Total All Quarters	**339,935.47**	**13,549.00**	**353,484.47**

NEYM
FY2025 Committee Budgets vs Actuals
October 2024 - September 2025

	Actual	Budget	Remaining
315 C&A	535.44	500.00	-35.44
320 F&P Rev		600.00	600.00
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	1,150.17	1,500.00	349.83
360 Youth Ministries Committee (was YP)		500.00	500.00
370 Earthcare Ministry Comm		100.00	100.00
390 Other Cmttes (Permanent Board & Nominating)		700.00	700.00
TOTAL	**$ 1,685.61**	**$ 4,400.00**	**$ 2,714.39**

NEYM Continuing Projects

Statement of Activity

October, 2024-September, 2025

	Board-designated projects			*Temporarily Restricted projects*									
Project	**Archives Transition Processing**	**Future Uses Fund**	**Board-designated Continuing Projects Totals**	**RSEJ Book Project 2017**	**FWCC Quaker Connect Evaluation Consulting**	**Friends Foundation for the Aging: ARCH Grants**	**Quakers Advocating Justice for Palestine**	**Quaker Outreach 2015 grant**	**Printing of Interim Faith & Practice**	**Shoemaker Fund Grant**	**Growing Edges Youth Programs Initiatives**	**Restricted Continuing Projects Totals**	**Continuing Projects Totals**
Income ***Project Balance beginning of year: (from previous year or opening transfer)***	**2,495.00**	**317,429.62**	**319,924.62**	**250.62**		**2,198.15**	**867.88**	**4,022.96**	**1,423.60**	**7,522.42**	**1,285.95**	**17,571.58**	**337,496.20**
4020 Monthly Meeting Contributions			0								562.91	562.91	562.91
4030 Organizations Contributions			0			17,800.00						17800	17800
4050 Interest and Dividend Income		10,849.98	10,849.98									0	10849.98
4077 Consulting Fee Contribution			0		3,825.00							3825	3825
4080 Retreat Program Fees			0									0	0
4090 Change in Fair Market Value		287.03	287.03									0	287.03
Total Income	**0.00**	**11,137.01**	**11,137.01**	**0.00**	**3,825.00**	**17,800.00**					**562.91**	**22,187.91**	**33,324.92**
													0.00
Expense													0
5000 Staff		4,097.00	4,097.00		3,825.00	12,752.30				5,538.95	2,769.48	33,079.73	37,176.73
5100 General & Admin - incl Contracted Services		25,853.80	25,853.80			1,501.03					511.16	53,719.79	79,573.59
5300 Travel & Conferences			0.00		0.00	1,819.80		141.50				1,961.30	1,961.30
6000 Programs - incl Sessions		59,377.72	59,377.72									118,755.44	178,133.16
Total Expense	**0.00**	**89,328.52**	**89,328.52**	**0.00**	**3,825.00**	**16,073.13**	**0.00**	**141.50**	**0.00**	**5,538.95**	**3,280.64**	**28,859.22**	**118,187.74**
Net of Income and Expense FY2025	**0.00**	**-78,191.51**	**-78,191.51**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**1,726.87**	**0.00**	**-141.50**	**0.00**	**-5,538.95**	**-2,717.73**	**-6,671.31**	**-84,862.82**
Ending Balance (Sept 30, 2025)	**2,495.00**	**239,238.11**	**241,733.11**	**250.62**	**-**	**3,925.02**	**867.88**	**3,881.46**	**1,423.60**	**1,983.47**	**(1,431.78)**	**10,900.27**	**252,633.38**

Board-Designated and Revolving Funds

	Balance Sep 30, 2024	Invested balance Oct 1, 2024	Liquid balance Oct 1, 2024	Total Balance Oct 1,2024	Investment Income	Change in Fair Market Value	Other Income	Expenses	Net Change 10/1/24-9/30/25	Invested balance Sep 30, 2025	Liquid balance Sep 30, 2025	Total Balance Sep 30, 2025
3600 Board Designated Funds												
3620 Faith & Practice Revision	70,953.69	59,797.29	11,156.40	70,953.69	2,227.96	717.08			2,945.04	60,514.37	13,384.36	73,898.73
3630 World Conference Travel	0.00								0.00			0.00
3650 Quasi-Endowment (Investments)	4,051.78	4,051.78		4,051.78	150.99	48.59		150.99	48.59	4,100.37	0.00	4,100.37
3682 Witness & Ministry Fund	1,104,771.87	750,000.00	37,342.25	787,342.25	27,943.86	8,993.85		11,000.00	25,937.71	758,993.85	54,286.11	813,279.96
Total 3600 Board Designated Funds	**1,179,777.34**	**813,849.07**	**48,498.65**	**862,347.72**	**30,322.81**	**9,759.52**		**11,150.99**	**28,931.34**	**823,608.59**	**67,670.47**	**891,279.06**
3700 Revolving Accounts												
Board-designated Revolving Accounts												
3705 Archives	0.00		0.00	0.00					0.00		0.00	0.00
3706 Sabbatical	100.00		100.00	100.00			100.00		100.00		200.00	200.00
3707 Accounting Services	19,700.00		19,700.00	19,700.00					0.00		19,700.00	19,700.00
3708 Infrastructure	1,016.50		1,016.50	1,016.50					0.00		1,016.50	1,016.50
3709 Legal Services	1,588.67		1,588.67	1,588.67			2,500.00	564.86	1,935.14		3,523.81	3,523.81
3710 Equalization	0.00		0.00	0.00			46,172.50	46,172.50	0.00		0.00	0.00
3732 Sufferings - Unrestricted	18,158.62		18,158.62	18,158.62					0.00		18,158.62	18,158.62
3775 Continuing Projects: Archives Transition	2,495.00		2,495.00	2,495.00					0.00		2,495.00	2,495.00
3775 Continuing Projects: Future Uses fund	0.00	317,429.62		317,429.62	10,849.98	287.03		89,328.52	(78,191.51)	247,716.65	(8,478.54)	239,238.11
Restricted Revolving Accounts												
3711 Equalization - Restricted	0.00		0.00	0.00			6,560.50	6,560.50	0.00		0.00	0.00
3712 FUM Intervisitation	0.00		0.00	0.00					0.00		0.00	0.00
3713 FUM Earmarked Donations (per 2009-54)	0.00		0.00	0.00					0.00		0.00	0.00
3715 Peaceworker	1,784.36		1,784.36	1,784.36					0.00		1,784.36	1,784.36
3716 Bodine-Rustin Fund	1,051.41		1,051.41	1,051.41			965.00	1,051.41	(86.41)		965.00	965.00
3720 Prejudice & Poverty	0.00		0.00	0.00					0.00		0.00	0.00
3725 Puente de Amigos	8,534.41		8,534.41	8,534.41			23,844.79	20,771.44	3,073.35		11,607.76	11,607.76
3730 Sufferings - Restricted	0.00		0.00	0.00			300.00		300.00		300.00	300.00
3760 Young Friends Travel	3,092.36		3,092.36	3,092.36					0.00		3,092.36	3,092.36
3775 Continuing Projects: Restricted	17,571.58		17,571.58	17,571.58			22,187.91	28,859.22	(6,671.31)		10,900.27	10,900.27
Total 3700 Revolving Accounts	**75,092.91**	**317,429.62**	**75,092.91**	**392,522.53**	**10,849.98**	**287.03**	**102,630.70**	**193,308.45**	**(79,540.74)**	**247,716.65**	**65,265.14**	**312,981.79**

* The current year Operating Net Income, shown on the Balance Sheet and the Statement of Activites, 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.

Permanently Restricted Funds

Fund	Balance Sep 30, 2023	Balance Sep 30, 2024	Unavailable (Invested) Oct 1, 2024	Remaining Available from FY2024	Investment Income *	Expenses	Change in Fair Market Value	Unavailable (Invested) Sept 30, 2025	Remaining Available Sept 30, 2025	Balance Sep 30, 2025
3802 Endowment Fund	57,060.33	**66,172.42**	66,172.42	0.00	2,465.48	2,465.48	793.53	66,965.95	0.00	**66,965.95**
3804 Alice Needham	18,950.40	**21,976.62**	21,976.62	0.00	818.82	818.82	263.53	22,240.15	0.00	**22,240.15**
3806 Amy S. Hayden	62,641.49	**72,644.82**	72,644.82	0.00	2,706.64	2,706.64	871.15	73,515.97	0.00	**73,515.97**
3808 Anna M. Brown	41,550.42	**48,185.68**	48,185.68	0.00	1,795.33	1,795.33	577.82	48,763.50	0.00	**48,763.50**
3810 Freedmen's	151,981.73	**173,932.58**	173,932.58	0.00	6,480.45	6,480.45	2,085.77	176,018.35	0.00	**176,018.35**
3812 FUM Foreign Missions	51,071.01	**59,226.63**	59,226.63	0.00	2,206.69	2,206.69	710.23	59,936.86	0.00	**59,936.86**
3814 FUM Home & Foreign	7,101.85	**8,235.95**	8,235.95	0.00	306.86	306.86	98.76	8,334.71	0.00	**8,334.71**
3816 FUM Ramallah	64,576.92	**74,889.32**	74,889.32	0.00	2,790.26	2,790.26	898.05	75,787.37	0.00	**75,787.37**
3824 Mosher Book & Tract	87,349.09	**104,077.14**	95,322.48	8,754.66	3,551.55	5,779.07	1,143.08	96,465.56	6,527.14	**102,992.70**
3826 Phillips/Purington/Hawkes	27,397.76	**31,772.96**	31,772.96	0.00	1,183.82	1,183.82	381.01	32,153.97	0.00	**32,153.97**
3828 Pittsfield/Varney	12,050.06	**14,225.76**	12,397.93	1,827.83	461.90	0.00	148.68	12,546.61	2,289.73	**14,836.34**
3830 Susan B. Kirby	9,219.43	**10,691.70**	10,691.70	0.00	398.36	398.36	128.22	10,819.92	0.00	**10,819.92**
3832 West Falmouth Prep Mtg	4,646.73	**5,388.77**	5,388.77	0.00	200.78	200.78	64.62	5,453.39	0.00	**5,453.39**
Total 3800 Permanently Restricted Funds	595,597.22	**691,420.35**	**680,837.86**	**10,582.49**	**25,366.94**	**27,132.56**	**8,164.45**	**689,002.31**	**8,816.87**	**697,819.18**

* Available amounts for FY2025 were each fund's investment income from the Pooled Funds plus any remaining Available from FY2024.

Investment Income (formerly called Interest & Dividends) was 4% of a 3-year average of the total 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.

Operating Reserves[1]

	Balance Sep 30, 2024	Investment Income	Change in Fair Market Value	Other Income	Expenses	Net Change	Balance Sep 30, 2025
3500 Undesignated Unrestricted Net Assets	80,005.15	0.00	0.00		57,198.07	(57,198.07)	22,807.08
3900 Retained Earnings + Net Income	(57,198.07)	0.00	0.00	86,259.00		86,259.00	29,060.93
Total (9/30 = Undesig. Net Assets Oct 1 next FY)	**22,807.08**	0.00	0.00	86,259.00	**57,198.07**	**29,060.93**	**51,868.01**
3600 Board Designated Funds							
3650 Quasi-Endowment (Investments)	4,051.78	150.99	48.59		150.99	48.59	4,100.37
Total Operating Reserves	**26,858.86**	**150.99**	**48.59**	**86,259.00**	**57,349.06**	**29,109.52**	**55,968.38**
Total Expense Budget FY2026							**869,108.00**
Total Operating Reserves as Percent of Expense Budget [2]							**6.4%**

Notes

1. Operating Reserves are composed of 3500 Undesignated Unrestricted 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, 2025 fell below this amount.

NEYM
FY2026 Operating Budget vs. Actuals - Summary
October - December, 2025

	Oct-Dec 2025 Actual	Oct-Dec 2024 Actual	Difference FY25-FY26	Budget FY2026	% of Budget
Income					
4010 Individual Contributions	56,114	39,321	16,793	239,000	23.48%
4020 Monthly Meeting Contributions	51,834	61,547	-9,713	362,250	14.31%
4025 Unallocated Income	2,704		2,704	10,873	24.87%
4030 Organizations Contributions		100	-100	500	0.00%
4050 Interest and Dividend Income	1,618	1,430	188	5,712	28.33%
4070 Books & Other Sales Income	16		16	8,800	0.19%
4080 Retreat Program Fees	6,368	8,165	-1,797	41,350	15.40%
4085 Sessions Program Fees				201,000	0.00%
4090 Change in Fair Market Value	198		198	0	
4099 Net Assets Released To/From	0	0	0	0	
Total Income	**118,853**	**110,563**	**8,290**	**869,485**	**13.67%**
Expenses					
5000 Staff	131,088	114,726	16,362	517,758	25.32%
5100 General & Administration	23,851	26,628	-2,778	93,650	25.47%
5300 Travel & Conferences	5,410	3,281	2,129	23,000	23.52%
6000 Programs	13,678	13,415	263	227,700	6.01%
6140 Books & Other Sales Expense		0	0	7,000	0.00%
Total Expenses	**174,026**	**158,050**	**15,976**	**869,108**	**20.02%**
Net Operating Income	**-55,173**	**-47,487**	**-7,687**	**377**	
Other Income					
9940 Other Income - Transfers from other funds	162,969	60,009	102,961		
Total Other Income	**162,969**	**60,009**	**102,961**	**0**	
Other Expenses					
9950 Other Expense - Transfer to other funds	1,257	7,341	-6,085		
Total Other Expenses	**1,257**	**7,341**	**-6,085**	**0**	
Net Other Income	**161,713**	**52,667**	**109,045**	**0**	
Net Income	**106,540**	**5,181**	**101,359**	**377**	

NEYM
FY2026 Operating Budget vs. Actuals - Detail
October - December, 2025

	Oct-Dec 2025 Actual	Oct-Dec 2024 Actual	Difference FY25-FY26	Budget FY2026	% of Budget
Income					
4010 Individual Contributions	56,114.20	39,321	16,793	239,000.00	23.48%
4020 Monthly Meeting Contributions	51,834.00	61,547	-9,713	362,250.00	14.31%
4025 Unallocated Income	2,704.25		2,704	10,873.00	24.87%
4030 Organizations Contributions		100	-100	500.00	0.00%
4050 Interest and Dividend Income	1,618.15	1,430	188	5,712.00	28.33%
4070 Books & Other Sales Income			0		
4072 Sales - Books	16.47		16	8,800.00	0.19%
Total 4070 Books & Other Sales Income	**$ 16.47**	**$ 0**	**$ 16**	**$ 8,800.00**	**0.19%**
4080 Retreat Program Fees	6,368.06	8,165	-1,797	41,350.00	15.40%
4085 Sessions Program Fees				201,000.00	0.00%
4090 Change in Fair Market Value	197.70		198	0.00	
4099 Net Assets Released To/From	0.00	0	0	0.00	
Total Income	**$ 118,852.83**	**$ 110,563.03**	**$ 8,290**	**$ 869,485.00**	**13.67%**
Expenses					
5000 Staff					
5010 Salaries & Wages	85,965.30	72,165	13,800	330,235.00	26.03%
5037 Housing Allowance	13,846.20	13,846	0	60,000.00	23.08%
Total 5010 Salaries & Wages	**$ 99,811.50**	**$ 86,012**	**$ 13,800**	**$ 390,235.00**	**25.58%**
5020 Payroll Taxes	6,310.86	5,276	1,035	25,723.00	24.53%
5030 Benefits					
5033 Health Benefits	14,174.34	13,235	939	58,399.00	24.27%
5035 Retirements	9,316.36	9,198	119	39,424.00	23.63%
5040 Disability	264.24	243	21	1,057.00	25.00%
5045 Workers' Compensation	625.00	613	12	620.00	100.81%
5050 Spiritual Retreats		150	-150	1,200.00	0.00%
5060 Staff Development	585.44		585	1,000.00	58.54%

5070 Sabbatical & Paid Leave				100.00	0.00%
Total 5030 Benefits	**$ 24,965.38**	**$ 23,439**	**$ 1,526**	**$ 101,800.00**	**24.52%**
Total 5000 Staff	**$ 131,087.74**	**$ 114,726**	**$ 16,362**	**$ 517,758.00**	**25.32%**
5100 General & Administration					
5110 Administration					
5120 Bank Expense	1,056.39	884	173	6,750.00	15.65%
5130 Contracted Services	7,375.00	3,695	3,680	22,500.00	32.78%
5140 Legal Services	18.33		18	1,500.00	1.22%
5150 Liability Insurance	3,721.00	6,489	-2,768	7,000.00	53.16%
5160 Payroll Service	1,989.05	1,867	122	7,500.00	26.52%
5180 Rent	2,337.50	2,338	0	9,350.00	25.00%
5190 Misc. Expense	75.04	63	12		
Total 5110 Administration	**$ 16,572.31**	**$ 15,335**	**$ 1,237**	**$ 54,600.00**	**30.35%**
5200 Office					
5220 Cleaning Services	75.00	50	25	300.00	25.00%
5230 Maint - Equip & Hardware	106.99		107	100.00	106.99%
5240 Postage	479.77	772	-292	3,600.00	13.33%
5250 Office Equipment	15.98	1,031	-1,015	1,000.00	1.60%
5260 Office Supplies	141.68	65	77	2,000.00	7.08%
5270 Printing & Copying	309.89	3,211	-2,901	5,350.00	5.79%
5280 Software & Updates	5,001.72	5,058	-57	22,700.00	22.03%
5290 Telephone	1,147.47	1,106	41	4,000.00	28.69%
Total 5200 Office	**$ 7,278.50**	**$ 11,293**	**-$ 4,015**	**$ 39,050.00**	**18.64%**
Total 5100 General & Administration	**$ 23,850.81**	**$ 26,628**	**-$ 2,778**	**$ 93,650.00**	**25.47%**
5300 Travel & Conferences					
5310 Travel - Committee				1,500.00	0.00%
5320 Travel - Clerk				3,000.00	0.00%
5330 Travel - Programs		196	-196	3,800.00	0.00%
5335 Travel - Representatives Travel	400.00		400	2,400.00	16.67%
5350 Travel - Staff	5,009.78	3,085	1,925	11,900.00	42.10%
5360 Travel - Ministries				400.00	0.00%
Total 5300 Travel & Conferences	**$ 5,409.78**	**$ 3,281**	**$ 2,129**	**$ 23,000.00**	**23.52%**
6000 Programs					
6110 Sessions Room & Board				171,500.00	0.00%
6112 Retreats - Room & Board					

6114 Room Rental	9,158.25	2,730	6,429	11,700.00	78.28%
6150 Food Expense	2,294.12	1,813	481	9,450.00	24.28%
Total 6112 Retreats - Room & Board	**$ 11,452.37**	**$ 4,543**	**$ 6,909**	**$ 21,150.00**	**54.15%**
6125 Program Expenses			0		
6105 Honoraria - Speakers/Wkshp Ldrs	999.00	1,346	-347	18,000.00	5.55%
6107 Honoraria - Volunteer Leadership	750.00	3,000	-2,250	4,500.00	16.67%
6115 Equipment Rental				4,000.00	0.00%
6121 Supplies and Other Expenses	476.30	1,010	-533	5,400.00	8.82%
6165 Pre-Sessions Expense				1,500.00	0.00%
Total 6125 Program Expenses	**$ 2,225.30**	**$ 5,356.00**	**-$ 3,131**	**$ 33,400.00**	**6.66%**
6130 Committee Expenses - General				1,250.00	0.00%
6134 Childcare				400.00	0.00%
Total 6130 Committee Expenses - General	**$ 0.00**	**$ 0.00**	**$ 0**	**$ 1,650.00**	**0.00%**
6160 Program Support			0		
6163 Friends Camp		3,512	-3,512		
6167 Religious Education & Outreach		4	-4		
Total 6160 Program Support	**$ 0**	**$ 3,516**	**-$ 3,516**	**-100.00%**	**$ 3,516**
Total 6000 Programs	**$ 13,677.67**	**$ 13,414.91**	**$ 263**	**$ 227,700.00**	**6.01%**
6140 Books & Other Sales Expense					
6142 Books				3,600.00	0.00%
6147 Consignment Sales				3,400.00	0.00%
Total 6140 Books & Other Sales Expense	**$ 0.00**	**$ 0.00**	**$ 0**	**$ 7,000.00**	**0.00%**
Total Expenses	**$ 174,026.00**	**$ 158,050.43**	**$ 15,976**	**$ 869,108.00**	**20.02%**
Net Operating Income	**-$ 55,173.17**	**-$ 47,487.40**	**-$ 7,686**	**$ 377.00**	
Other Income					
9940 Other Income - Transfers from other funds	162,969.36	60,009	102,961		
Total Other Income	**$ 162,969.36**	**$ 60,009**	**$ 102,961**	**0**	
Other Expenses					
9950 Other Expense - Transfer to other funds	1,256.60	7,341	-6,085		
Total Other Expenses	**$ 1,256.60**	**$ 7,341**	**-$ 6,085**	**0**	
Net Other Income	**$ 161,712.76**	**$ 52,667**	**$ 109,045**	**0**	
Net Income	**$ 106,539.59**	**$ 5,181**	**$ 108,459**	**$ 377.00**	

Statement of Financial Position
NEYM
Q1 FY2026

	Q1 Net Income of each Fund	December 31, 2025 UNCLOSED QBO export	Balances of each Fund Dec 31, 2025 Q1 FY2026
Assets			
Current Assets			
Bank Accounts			
1000 Checking Accounts			
1010 Santander Checking		63,992.93	
1015 Everence Fed Credit Union Checking		418.78	
1040 Petty Cash		13.82	
Total for 1000 Checking Accounts		**$64,425.53**	
1020 Money Market Accounts			
1028 Santander Money Market Savings		272,779.44	
1029 Everence Fed Credit Union SHARE Savings		6,220.63	
Total for 1020 Money Market Accounts		**$279,000.07**	
Total for Bank Accounts		**$343,425.60**	
Total for Accounts Receivable		**$0.00**	
Other Current Assets			
1075 Pooled Funds		1,802,833.92	
1100 Accrued Receivables		46.76	
Total for 1110 Due to/from Friends Camp		**$2,010.82**	
1150 Prepaid Expenses		0.00	
Total for Other Current Assets		**$1,804,891.50**	
Total for Current Assets		**$2,148,317.10**	
Total for Assets		**$2,148,317.10**	
Liabilities and Net Assets			
Total for Liabilities		**$7,288.44**	
Net Assets			
3500 Undesignated Unrestricted Net Assets	29,060.93		51,868.01
3600 Board Designated Funds			
3620 Faith & Practice Revision INVESTED	1,461.23		61,975.60
3620 Faith & Practice Revision CASH	459.64		13,844.00
Total 3620 Faith & Practice Revision	**1,920.87**		**75,819.60**
3630 World Conference Travel			
3650 Quasi-Endowment (Investments) INVESTED	99.01		4,199.38
3650 Quasi-Endowment (Investments) CASH	0.02		0.02
Total 3650 Quasi-Endowment (Investments)	**99.03**		**4,199.40**
3680 NEFH Fund			
3682 NEYM Ministry Fund INVESTED	18,327.32		777,321.17
3682 NEYM Ministry Fund CASH	4,764.91		59,051.02
Total 3682 NEYM Ministry Fund	**23,092.23**		**836,372.19**
Total for 3680 NEFH Fund	**$23,092.23**		**$836,372.19**
Total for 3600 Board Designated Funds	**$25,112.13**		**$916,391.19**

3700 Revolving Accounts			
3705 Archives			0.00
3706 Sabbatical			200.00
3707 Accounting Services			19,700.00
3708 Infrastructure			1,016.50
3709 Legal Services	-99.87		3,423.94
3710 Equalization	312.50		312.50
3711 Equalization - Restricted			0.00
3715 Peaceworker			1,784.36
3716 Bodine-Rustin Fund	100.00		1,065.00
3720 Prejudice & Poverty			0.00
3725 Puente de Amigos	13,828.00		25,435.76
3730 Sufferings - Restricted			300.00
3732 Sufferings - Unrestricted			18,158.62
3760 Young Friends Travel			3,092.36
3775 Continuing Projects **Future Uses Fund INVESTED**	5,981.58		253,698.23
3775 Continuing Projects **Future Uses Fund CASH**	-5,847.28		-14,325.82
3775 Continuing Projects **Future Uses Fund TOTAL**	134.30		239,372.41
Total 3775 Continuing Projects	**20,238.90**		**272,872.28**
Total for 3700 Revolving Accounts	**$34,379.53**		**$347,361.32**
3800 Permanently Restricted Funds			
3802 Endowment Fund			
38021 Unavailable	1,617.02		68,582.97
38022 Available			0.00
Total for 3802 Endowment Fund	**$1,617.02**		**$68,582.97**
3804 Alice Needham			
38041 Unavailable	537.03		22,777.18
38042 Available	168.92		168.92
Total for 3804 Alice Needham	**$705.95**		**$22,946.10**
3806 Amy S. Hayden			
38061 Unavailable	1,775.18		75,291.13
38062 Available	558.38		558.38
Total for 3806 Amy S. Hayden	**$2,333.56**		**$75,849.51**
3808 Anna M. Brown			
38081 Unavailable	1,177.49		49,940.98
38082 Available	370.38		370.38
Total for 3808 Anna M. Brown	**$1,547.87**		**$50,311.36**
3810 Freedmen's			
38101 Unavailable	4,250.29		180,268.65
38102 Available	1,336.94		1,336.94
Total for 3810 Freedmen's	**$5,587.23**		**$181,605.59**
3812 FUM Foreign Missions			
38121 Unavailable	1,447.29		61,384.14
38122 Available	455.24		455.24
Total for 3812 FUM Foreign Missions	**$1,902.53**		**$61,839.38**

3814 FUM Home & Foreign			
38141 Unavailable	201.26		8,535.97
38142 Available	63.31		63.31
Total for 3814 FUM Home & Foreign	**$264.57**		**$8,599.28**
3816 FUM Ramallah			
38161 Unavailable	1,830.03		77,617.42
38162 Available	575.64		575.64
Total for 3816 FUM Ramallah	**$2,405.67**		**$78,193.06**
3824 Mosher Book & Tract			
38241 Unavailable	2,329.34		98,794.90
38242 Available	732.70		7,259.85
Total for 3824 Mosher Book & Tract	**$3,062.04**		**$106,054.75**
3826 Phillips/Purington/Hawkes			
38261 Unavailable	776.42		32,930.39
38262 Available	244.22		244.22
Total for 3826 Phillips/Purington/Hawkes	**$1,020.64**		**$33,174.61**
3828 Pittsfield/Varney			
38281 Unavailable	302.96		12,849.57
38282 Available	95.30		2,385.05
Total for 3828 Pittsfield/Varney	**$398.26**		**$15,234.62**
3830 Susan B. Kirby			
38301 Unavailable	261.27		11,081.17
38302 Available	82.18		82.18
Total for 3830 Susan B. Kirby	**$343.45**		**$11,163.35**
3832 West Falmouth Prep Mtg			
38321 Unavailable	131.68		5,585.07
38322 Available	41.42		41.42
Total for 3832 West Falmouth Prep Mtg	**$173.10**		**$5,626.49**
Total for 3800 Permanently Restricted Funds	**$21,361.89**		**$719,181.07**
3900 Retained Earnings	-29,060.93		0.00
Net Operating Income (not incl. Equalization, see 3710)	-55,485.67		-55,485.67
Net Other Income (ERTC, before Camp's portion transferred)	161,712.76		161,712.76
Total Net Income	106,227.09		106,227.09
Total for Net Assets	**$187,080.64**		**$2,141,028.68**
Total for Liabilities and Net Assets	**$187,080.64**		**$2,148,317.12**

Total 3500+3650+Net Other Income (ERTC):
$ 217,780.17
Camp's portion of ERTC, transferring in Q2:
$ 110,679.38

Total Reserves after Camp ERTC transfer:
(not including Q1 operating deficit of -55,485.67
$ 107,100.79

Total Reserves 9/30/2025:
$55,968.38

FY2025 Year-End Financial Statements Narrative

Friends Camp

Attached are the Fiscal Year 2025 (October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025) financial statements for Friends Camp.

Overall, Friends Camp had a strong financial performance in Fiscal Year 2025. Our net income was almost $45,000 – about $27,000 more than we had budgeted for. Our cash reserves increased, as we did not have significant capital expense this Fiscal Year. We anticipate more significant capital expense needs in coming years. In addition, increasing our cash reserves is a long-term goal for Friends Camp in order to increase our institutional resilience.

For the most part, income and expenses were close to what we budgeted. We exceeded budgeted tuition by about $7,000 and contributions by about $24,000. We received about $7,300 in funds from the Employee Retention Tax Credit which we had not budgeted for.

This year we adjusted the way in which we track campership funding. In previous years, lower tiers of tuition were not accounted for as "campership" money, although in truth they represent a cost of camp that is lower than the true cost of camp for each camper. This year, we included both self-applied campership through tiers and campership that families apply for and receive beyond tiers. In total, we discounted camper tuition by nearly $150,000 in the form of camperships for families who need financial support to attend camp.

Expenses this year were largely unsurprising; some things were a little more costly than we planned, and others a little less. Due to an unusually high retention year for camp counselors, we exceeded the counselor salary line by $14,000. Insurance costs, transportation costs, and credit card processing fees especially continue to rise.

Establishing our first-ever Friends Camp Campership Endowment Fund is a major accomplishment this year, and we are grateful especially to members of our Friends Camp Finance Committee and Camp Committee who made this possible. We ended the year with $50,000 in contributions to the Endowment Fund and intend to continue fundraising in earnest for this fund which will support camperships and the overall financial health of Friends Camp.

We are sharing these statements in the format that has been suggested in our former Financial Reviews with the accounting firm Baker, Newman, & Noyes. These reviews are intended to be triennial, meaning another would be "due" for the FY2025 statements. However, the Friends Camp Finance Committee is engaged in a process of considering what the most helpful financial review process might entail and evaluating alternatives. We believe there may be options that are more functional and meaningful, and less expensive, than our BNN reviews.

Respectfully Submitted by Anna Hopkins (Camp Director) and Kate Monahan (Camp Treasurer)

Friends Camp
New England Yearly Meeting of Friends
STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
Year Ended September 30, 2025
Final Report Jan 15, 2026

	Program	Management and Administration	Fundraising	Total
Paid compensation	$ 311,147	$ 42,613	$ 9,903	$ 363,664
Deferred compensation		$ 8,300		$ 8,300
Benefits	23,419	$ 10,149	2,451	36,018
Payroll taxes and fees	22,003	3,246	2,451	27,700
Contract services	6,660	13,301	-	19,961
Depreciation	39,369	-	-	39,369
Insurance	-	25,011	-	25,011
Miscellaneous	5,078	100	-	5,178
Food, kitchen and laundry	90,915	-	-	90,915
Program and office supplies	8,753	2,892	2,572	14,217
Professional dues and fees	-	12,556	-	12,556
Rent - off-season office	-	2,880	-	2,880
Repairs and maintenance	24,093	-	-	24,093
Utilities	14,786	-	-	14,786
Training	8,678	-	-	8,678
Travel, meals and lodging	17,041	329	66	17,435
Marketing	1,212	1,515	303	3,030
Merchandise	10,870	-	-	10,870
Bank and credit card fees	-	10,182	-	10,182
Total	$ 584,023	$ 133,074	$ 17,746	$ 734,843
Percentage of total	79.5%	18.1%	2.4%	100.0%

Friends Camp
New England Yearly Meeting of Friends
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
Year Ended September 30, 2025
Final Report Jan 15, 2026

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Program income:			
Tuition and fees:			
Gross tuition and fees	$ 781,158	$ -	$ 781,158
Funded camperships awarded	$ (2,880)	$ -	$ (2,880)
Unfunded camperships awarded	$ (148,735)	$ -	$ (148,735)
Discounts Awarded	-	-	-
Net tuition and fees	$ 629,543	$ -	$ 629,543
Contributions:			
Individuals	$ 71,420	$ 53,880	$ 125,300
New England Yearly Meeting	3,512	-	3,512
Monthly and Quarterly Meetings	7,655	-	7,655
Grants	-	934	934
In-kind	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-
Total contributions	$ 82,587	$ 54,814	$ 137,402
Other income:			
Off-season rentals	$ 28,060	$ -	$ 28,060
Merchandise sales	10,496	-	10,496
Employee Retention Tax Credit Distribution	7,341	-	7,341
Other	744	-	744
Total other income	$ 46,641	$ -	$ 46,641
Net interest and investment income	$ 13,513	$ -	$ 13,513
Earnings retained for operations released from restrictions:			
Camperships	$ 2,880	$ (2,880)	
Capital Improvements	1,000	(1,000)	
Grants	3,187	(3,187)	
Total earnings released from restrictions	$ 7,067	$ (7,067)	
Total operating income	**$ 779,352**	**$ 47,747**	**$ 827,099**

Expenses:			
Program expenses	$ 584,023	$ -	$ 584,023
Management and administration	133,074	-	133,074
Fundraising	17,746	-	17,746
Total operating expenses	**$ 734,843**	**$ -**	**$ 734,843**
Net operating surplus/(deficit)	**$ 44,509**	**$ 47,747**	**$ 92,256**
Property and equipment valuation adjustment	-	-	-
Total increase in earnings retained for operations	**$ 44,509**	**$ 47,747**	**$ 92,256**
Earnings retained for operations, beginning of year	1,707,149	3,354	1,710,502
Adjustment for prior years	-	-	-
Earnings retained for operations, end of year	$ 1,751,658	$ 51,101	$ 1,802,759

Friends Camp
New England Yearly Meeting of Friends
RESTRICTED FUNDS ACTIVITY
Year Ended September 30, 2025
Final Report Jan 15, 2026

Restricted Funds Activity by Fund

	Beginning Balance	Contributions Received	Change in Market Value	Released to General Fund	Ending Balance	Net Change
Campership funds:						
General Campership Fund	$ -	$ 2,880	$ -	$ (2,880)	$ -	$ -
Codman Academy Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
One Child at a Time Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Campership Endowment Fund	-	50,000	934	-	50,934	50,934
Total campership funds	$ -	$ 52,880	$ 934	$ (2,880)	$ 50,934	$ 50,934
Capital Improvement Fund	-	1,000	-	(1,000)	-	-
Grants	3,354	-	-	(3,187)	167	(3,187)
All restricted funds	$ 3,354	$ 53,880	$ 934	$ (7,067)	$ 51,101	$ 47,747

Restricted Funds Income by Source

	Individuals	New England Yearly Meeting	Monthly & Quarterly Mtgs.	Other Organizations	Change in Market Value	Total
Campership funds:						
General Campership Fund	$ 2,880	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 2,880
Codman Academy Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
One Child at a Time Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Campership Endowment Fund	50,000	-	-	-	934	50,934
Total campership funds	$ 52,880	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 934	$ 53,814
Capital Improvement Fund	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,000
Grants	-	-		-	-	-
All restricted funds	$ 53,880	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 934	$ 54,814

Friends Camp
New England Yearly Meeting of Friends
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
September 30, 2025
Final Report Jan 15, 2026

ASSETS				
Current assets:				
Cash and cash equivalents (General Fund)	$	225,712		
Cash and cash equivalents (Resticted Funds)	$	10,000		
Accounts receivable		-		
Investments (General Fund)		143,068		
Investments (Restricted Funds)		40,934		
Total current assets			$	419,714
Property and equipment:				
Land and land improvements	$	576,800		
Buildings		1,098,823		
Construction in progress		-		
Furniture, fixtures and equipment		122,253		
Vehicles		8,000		
Less accumulated depreciation		(406,451)		
Total property and equipment				1,399,425
Total assets			**$**	**1,819,139**
LIABILITIES				
Current liabilities:				
Accounts payable and accrued expenses			$	1,980
Long-term liabilities:				
Loans payable	$	-		
Reserve for accounting review		6,100		
Reserve for director sabbatical or leave		8,300		
Total long-term liabilities				14,400
Total liabilities			$	16,380
NET ASSETS				
Earnings retained for operations:				
Without donor restrictions	$	1,751,658		
With donor restrictions		51,101		
Total earnings retained for operations				1,802,759
Total liabilities and net assets			**$**	**1,819,139**

Friends Camp
New England Yearly Meeting of Friends
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
Year Ended September 30, 2025
Final Report Jan 15, 2026

Cash flows from operating activities:		
Increase in earnings retained for operations	$	92,256
Adjustments to reconcile increase in earnings retained for operations to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation		39,369
Valuation adjustment		-
Net realized and unrealized gain/(loss) on investments		(7,859)
Restricted contributions		(54,814)
In-kind contributions		-
Increase in accounts receivable		-
Increase in accounts payable		12,272
Net cash provided by operating activities		81,225
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Net purchase of investments		(40,000)
Net additions to property and equipment		(18,765)
Net cash used by investing activities		(58,765)
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Proceeds from restricted contributions		54,814
Net cash provided by financing activities		54,814
Net increase in cash		77,274
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		158,438
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	$	235,712

Presiding Clerk's Report to the Permanent Board of New England Yearly Meeting of Friends
From: Phillip Veatch, Fresh Pond Monthly Meeting (Cambridge, MA)
Meeting Date: February 28, 2026

Overall

If it is true that, "In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity," then we are in a time of great opportunity. I feel a yearning from Friends to be engaged in the world during these tumultuous times. And many meetings are reporting a surge in attendance as newcomers seek to find out what Quakers have to say. I believe that many of them are, at least in part, following the advice of, "Don't worry about what to do, worry about who you want to do it with." It is easy for yearly meeting leadership like the Permanent Board and C&A to be focused on immediate practical issues that naturally demand our attention and energy. I urge us to take some time to step back and consider who we are and what do we want to be known for. In the deepest sense, are we using our time and other resources in ways that best serve what we are called to be?

Planning for Sessions 2026

Sessions 2026 will be held at Mt. Holyoke College. The theme is, "Spring forth O well and make us whole." Planning for the schedule is well underway. The Theme and Speakers team has identified potential speakers and we are waiting for their discernment on our invitation. Similar to recent years, Friends will be encouraged to arrive on Friday, July 31 with the opening ceremony on Saturday morning, August 1. We hope to have a few structured activities for early arrivers on Friday, including an opportunity for extended worship similar to last year's worship event.

Our wonderful coordinators of Childcare and Junior Yearly Meeting for the past few years (Rainer Humphries and Kenzie Burpee) will not be able to continue for 2026 Sessions. We are actively searching for new coordinators for these positions. If you have any suggestions, please contact Kara Price at kara@neym.org .

Health of Quarterly Meetings

I continue to engage with quarterly meetings jointly with the clerk of Permanent Board to find ways to more deeply connect quarterly meetings to the work of Sessions. It is a long term goal to have quarterly meetings be places where the yearly meeting can have time for deep discernment and generate articles that come before our annual gathering.

Draft Charge for Conflict Response Team

The group responsible for redrafting the charge for the Conflict Response Team has finished its work and is bringing its draft to Permanent Board for approval. I believe the drafting group has done a thorough job and hope the PB is clear to move forward with their proposal.

Reminder of upcoming events

1) Living Faith will be held March 28 at Portland Friends School. "From the deep well of worship and shared listening, our witness springs forth—sometimes as a quiet trickle, sometimes as a bold flow—bringing the Love and Truth we experience inwardly to one another, our meetings, and our wider communities. Together we will explore how the Spirit's living water rises among us, what has grown from our faithfulness, and how our lives, joined with others, may bear witness in this time."

2) Visioning Day: Thriving Quarters. The gathering will be on April 11th in Haverhill, MA. Each quarterly meeting is encouraged to send 3 or more people for an in-depth visioning of the roles of quarterly meetings within our communal life. Serving as an official representative of a quarter is not a requirement to attend, all interested New England Friends are welcome

Israel-Palestine Resource Group Report to Permanent Board
February 28, 2026

Dear Friends, and members of the Permanent Board,

We remain committed to facilitating discussion and discernment about Palestine and Israel, and are clear to seek ways for us in NEYM to provide support for travel to the region. See below, **Recommendations From IPRG re: Travel to Palestine and Israel for Solidarity, Witness and Support,** for our assessment of the feasibility for travel at this time.
Bob Watt of Providence Meeting is back from his trip in December, 2025 and is very willing to share with your meeting or Quarter about his experiences, as is Linden Jenkins, who continues to travel in the ministry under the care of N. Sandwich (NH) Friends, having given her message, *Pilgrimage to Palestine, Pilgrimage to Home: A Report* back to 17 groups since returning November 2024 after 3 months there. Bob can be reached at wattesq@aol.com and Linden at lightreveals2prevail@proton.me.

We will also be offering a workshop at the upcoming Living Faith gathering featuring Bob and Linden, facilitated by Martha Yager of Providence called "Come and See, Go and Tell".

First, we wanted to provide some updates on the status of the region, primarily from American Friends Service Committee, and their decision to remain despite recent demands from the Israeli government

https://afsc.org/newsroom/quaker-org-will-continue-gaza-work-despite-israels-threat-ban-ingos

And this link to their Palestinian Program webpage, featuring their monthly newsletter on Palestinian activism.

https://afsc.org/programs/us-palestine-activism-program

In addition, here is the Northeast Region newsletter announcing Keith Harvey's retirement. We are requesting that the Permanent Board approve a Minute of Appreciation for Keith's work over the last three decades.

https://afsc.org/sites/default/files/2025-12/afsc-northeast-region-holiday-2025-newsletter.pdf?ms=EMA26NE1231YE&emci=917aefc3-59e6-f011-8195-000d3a1d58aa&emdi=739fc0b6-73e6-f011-8195-000d3a1d58aa&ceid=770453

Here is a report from Britain about the recent court decision on the group Palestine Action, which I hope to update on the 28th

https://www.bbc.com/news/live/c8x90q9nyzyt

And, a recent investigation by Al Jazeera about the types of weapons Israel has deployed against Palestinians

https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2026/2/10/israel-used-weapons-in-gaza-that-made-thousands-of-palestinians-evaporate

Here is a series of offerings from Friends Meeting at Cambridge, scheduled for March

Upcoming programs at Friends Meeting Cambridge:

Divesting for Palestinian Rights (Zoom) WED, 3/11, 2--4:00pm

Dov Baum, Director of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Action Center for Corporate Accountability, will talk about divestment—both personal and institutional—and answer our questions.

Check back for more information about this event. To participate using Zoom, click this link or provide the meeting ID 783 475 1861 and passcode 1652 (if requested) on Zoom.com, the Zoom app, or after calling 1-646-558-8656. Contact Stephen Houseworth at gaza@fmcquaker.org

Palestinian-Themed Simple Lunch (Friends Room).

Sun, 3/22, 12:15--1:00pm

A $6-7 donation is requested to cover the cost of the vegan soup, salad and bread provided, but you are invited regardless of whether you can contribute money. An extra donation is welcomed to cover extra foods purchased for this event. Contact Tom Sander / David Smith at simplelunch@fmcquaker.org.

The Trump 'Peace Plan' and the Future of Palestine (Friends Room /Open Zoom). Sun, 3/22, 1:15--3:00pm

After a Palestinian themed lunch, we will hear from two activists about Gaza—Nancy Murray (scholar and writer) and Leila Farsakh (Palestinian-American political scientist at UMass-Boston) with discussion following their presentation.

To participate using Zoom, click this link or provide the meeting ID 783 475 1861 and passcode 1652 (if requested) on Zoom.com, the Zoom app, or after calling 1-646-558-8656. Contact Skip Schiel at gaza@fmcquaker.org

And a recent appeal from Jewish Voice for Peace

https://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/2025/12/05/israel-bonds-victories-27/

We offer these resources so that we may be reminded of the international efforts of so many, and to provide more background than is easily available through mainstream media.

Here is an update on Shadi Khoury, Ramallah Friends School Graduate from Friends United Meeting, as of 2/16/26

(via Kathleen Wooten of Lawrence Meeting and a member of the Permanent Board)

> For the past several years, we have lifted up the story of Shadi Khoury, a member of our Ramallah Friends School community, who was arrested by the Israeli military, and has since endured repeated trials, prolonged delay, house arrest, imprisonment, isolation, physical abuse, and the strain of the Israeli military court system.
>
> After extended proceedings and retrial, a verdict has now been issued: The court sentenced Shadi to 32 months in prison, a fine of 12,000 shekels, and a six-month suspended sentence. He must turn himself in on March 29th.
>
> We continue to pray for him and for his family.
>
> We are deeply grateful for the care, the prayer, and the advocacy that so many Friends have offered around the world. As we pray for Shadi. we also remember the many Palestinian youth held in military prisons. We pray for their protection, and we must continue to shine a spotlight on the injustice of these prisons that operate outside regular oversight and accountability.

- Kelly Kellum, Friends United Meeting

** Max Carter is in touch with the family, and trying to determine if folks can donate to the fee, or their needs. I will share more info as I receive it. (from Kathleen)

Recommendations From IPRG re: Travel to Palestine and Israel for Solidarity, Witness and Support

Following the approval by the Permanent Board of the recommendations from the Called Meeting on Gaza, the Resource Group has explored and researched several options for travel to the area, primarily the West Bank and East Jerusalem, since it may not be possible to travel to Ramallah (which was the case in December, 2025 per Bob Watt).

We have consulted with Friends who have relationships in the area, with staff at the American Friends Service Committee and with other faith groups who have or are planning similar trips.

Here are some options:

- To partner with Sabeel https://sabeel.org/category/delegation/

which is the group that coordinated the delegations that both Linden and Bob were in. Linden has volunteered with them since 2024 and helped to organize several trips and is willing to do that for us. Estimated cost is $4,500-5,00 per person for ten days.

- To partner with the World Council of Churches (as suggested by Brian Blackmore of AFSC)

Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) with the World Council of Churches: Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel | World Council of Churches. This program brings 25-30 people to Palestine for a three-month period to do the kind of work NEYM is envisioning. Quakers in Britain and Ireland are very involved in EAPPI. You can learn more about their involvement here: Eyewitness Stories from Palestine and Israel – EAPPI UK &

Ireland – We share the eyewitness stories of Palestinians and Israelis and advocate for justice, equality and an end to the military occupation of Palestine.

In addition to the fee, participants gather, pre-trip, in Washington, D.C. for some days of training and orientation, and post-trip for debriefing & prep for the 10 talks they agree to give, as part of their witness.

Estimated cost $10,000 plus airfare

- Another possibility is to partner with AFSC,

We have been exploring that with their staff. Because of the demands and restrictions of the Israeli government, that may not be the best option at this time, but we are not ruling it out.

When Bob Watt participated in his trip with Catholic Workers, that group made the commitment to raise enough money to self-fund their trip. We look forward to ways that NEYM may be able to assist with travel costs, including the possibility of a matching fund, or a discussion with the Gifts Committee (formerly the Legacy Gift Committee) of NEYM to support individuals in their travel. In any event, there does appear to be both ways and means that these trips can happen.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Manning (Durham and 3 Rivers), Skip Schiel (Friends Meeting at Cambridge)

Bob Watt (Providence), Linden Jenkins (North Sandwich), Martha Yager (Providence), Petra Doan (Brunswick), Steve McKnight (Wellesley)

To: The Permanent Board of New England Yearly Meeting of Friends
From: Phillip Veatch, Fresh Pond Monthly Meeting (Cambridge, MA), Clerk of Coordinating and Advisory Committee
Re: Report from C&A in preparation for the Permanent Board Meeting on February 28, 2026

1) Since the last Permanent Board meeting in December, the Coordinating and Advisory Committee has had its three day winter retreat. At the retreat we spent some time reflecting on the state of the world. Responses from C&A members included:

- One of our gifts as Friends is to help others see and trust the Living Presence.
- Sadness and hope are being experienced together leading to a strength in community.
- Small steps bring people in monthly meetings together.
- The challenge and frustration of not feeling one can break through with those on "the other side".
- The recent Quaker Call to Action with 1000 people on Zoom featuring Phil Gulley. "From exhaustion to exuberance: Joy in the resistance to tyranny". Joy in celebrating what is happening is needed especially when we are personally depleted exhausted. Such a hunger among Friends and people now. Hearing a hunger for visioning— what's the prophetic vision of rebuilding?
- An opportunity to cultivate what we are for, not just what we are working against.

2) C&A has been working to clarify which committees require monthly meeting membership (and how to handle situations where membership status changes during a person's term). While a few PPCs (Purpose, Procedure, and Compositions – the defining document for each committee) have an explicit requirement, others are vague. We will be bringing recommendations to Permanent Board in future meetings regarding changes to PPCs to clarify which committees require membership and which do not.

3) We reviewed the proposed PPC for the Conflict Resolution Team and generally endorsed the proposal that will be presented to Permanent Board by the group charged by Sessions to revise the charge originally brought to Sessions in 2024.

4) There is now a designated email address for Quarterly Meetings to send memorial minutes to: memorialmins@neym.org . Letters to this address go to the clerk of PB, the clerk of M&C, and the NEYM office manager.

When memorial minutes are received by NEYM, they will be shared with the clerk of M&C who will follow up with the meeting if needed regarding memorial minute guidelines. All the memorial minutes that Quarterly Meetings send to YM will go into the memorial minute booklet and excerpts from all of them will be read at the memorial meeting at Sessions.

Here is the link for guidance on writing a memorial minute:
https://neym.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/Writing%20Memorial%20Minutes%20%282017%29.pdf

5) We spent some time reflecting on questions raised by the Nominating Committee as they reviewed the PPC of the Permanent Board (which has not been updated since 2017). While C&A will leave most

of those questions up to the Nominating to bring to Permanent Board, one timely question is, “Does the current size of the PB feel small and would we wish to increase it by 10 or so members?” There are currently 31 members of PB (including the 9 ex officio members). Faith and Practice calls for the size of PB to be, “not more than fifty members, with each quarterly meeting represented.” If current members of PB have suggested names of additional PB members, please share them with Sadie Forsythe, the clerk of Nominating at nomclerk@neym.org or Lucy Meadows, Nominating shepherd for Permanent Board at lucymeadows@live.com.

We also reaffirmed the existing practice that clerks of committees are appointed by the Nominating Committee in consultation with members of each committee.

6) PB had asked C&A to make recommendations regarding how the yearly meeting should work on retrospective restorative justice for communities other than Indigenous communities. In spurring the Yearly Meeting to take up this work at this time, Hal Weaver offered both an important impetus, and through The Black Quaker Project, an important resource.

C&A’s recommendation is that the PB endorse the creation of a working group modeled after the NEYM Quaker Indigenous Boarding Schools Research Group with an overarching goal of **enabling meaningful reflection among Friends across NEYM in a way that positively impacts the choices we are making today.**

There is a historical part to this work that should consider the role (arc of involvement; actions) of New England Friends in chattel slavery and systemic racism. This includes the involvement of individual Friends and also any involvement of NEYM institutionally (as evidenced in our minutes, committee structures, and finances). A review of current and previous efforts towards reparations would be part of the group’s charge. We are looking for an overview, not something book length, with a goal of making the information accessible to New England Friends of different ages and backgrounds.

Without presuming that we (the yearly meeting) knows what is the best approach for retrospective restorative justice, the group would be charged with reaching out to affected communities to learn their understanding of what retrospective justice requires, and bringing possibilities for meaningful action back to the yearly meeting.

If the PB endorses this approach, C&A would draft a more complete PPC for PB’s consideration in May.

Introduction

A draft proposal for a New England Yearly Meeting Conflict Response Team was included in the Unity Agenda at 2024 Sessions. While general appreciation was shown, the proposal was withdrawn after questions were raised with suggestions for improvements. Instead, Friends at 2024 Sessions "provisionally approved the Permanent Board to refine and implement the proposal."

After some delay, a new drafting group was formed and began work this fall. A revised proposal is now ready for your consideration (below). We acknowledge that many people throughout the yearly meeting have expressed concern with the delay. We believe that we as a yearly meeting are ready to live into this new experiment. The Nominating Committee is ready to begin working to fill this team as soon as the final charge is approved by Permanent Board.

Current drafting group: Alysia Parkes, Becky Jones, Rebecca Leuchak, Phil Veatch (Presiding clerk), Susan Davies (Permanent Board clerk), Janet Hough (M&C clerk)

With acknowledgment for the work of the original drafting group: Darcy Drayton, Melody Brazo, Carl Williams, Rebecca Leuchak, Susan Davies

Conflict Response Team of New England Yearly Meeting

> *From NEYM Annual Sessions Minute 2023:42 Faithfulness demands that we lean in, rather than avoid the hardship of facing conflict. This is an opportunity for healing, learning, deepening, and transformation of relationships. But it demands structure, support, and tender care that is lacking within our body at this time. We need to transform conflict at every level of our body. In particular, we hear that there is a call for a clear structure or path that supports a healthy response to conflicts when they arise outside the structure of the monthly meeting.*

Purpose

The Conflict Response Team (the Team) is intended to supplement the policies and practices that already exist within NEYM. The work of the team is to support a healthy response to conflict and help Friends restore meaningful relationships through processes that value all parties and that reach shared understanding and goals. Friends may turn to the Team when other means have not resolved a conflict.

The Yearly Meeting as a whole has a concern for recognizing systemic issues that lie below a particular concern so that we may shift patterns and practices that repeatedly lead to conflict. When the Team observes what it understands to be repeating patterns of harm, injustice or oppression in the conflicts brought to their attention, it is the Team's role both to respond to the particular situations and to bring the patterns to the attention of the clerk of Permanent Board, for the yearly meeting to discern how to address these patterns more broadly.

Procedures

- In situations of unresolved conflict, any individual Friend, the clerk of a monthly meeting or quarterly meeting, or representative of the Yearly Meeting may ask the Conflict Response Team for advice, counsel or direct engagement. The Yearly Meeting's Accompaniment Group may direct people to the Conflict Response Team and vice versa.
- In determining whether the Conflict Response Team is the appropriate body to assist with the conflict, the Team will consider what other conflict transformation pathways have been considered or used, including advice in Faith and Practice, the document Pathways and Practices for Responding to Conflict, and the brief overview in First Steps in Addressing Conflict.
- When engaging in direct assistance, the Team will consult with all parties understood to be involved in the conflict to establish that they are willing to take part in a process to address the conflict, with the hope of repairing relationships.
- The Team will ask all parties for background information about the situation to be addressed and will prayerfully consider what steps might be taken to bring all to a table of deep listening and respect.
- The number and manner of meetings will be determined based on the wisdom of the Team with the mutual agreement of the parties involved.
- In all they do, the Team should encourage and foster an atmosphere of trust, respect, and truthfulness so Friends can hear the words of others in an open-hearted way. The Team should attempt to establish a shared commitment to searching self-examination concerning one's part in the conflict and acknowledgement of personal accountability.
- It may be helpful to distinguish between conflicts arising from disagreements over policy and conflicts arising from behavior, and to notice what power imbalances may be present.
- As appropriate, all participants will affirm that confidentiality will be maintained by all involved. In cases where the conflict has been public, there may be a need to inform the larger body that steps have been taken to address the conflict. In such cases, the Team will work with all parties to determine what will be publicly shared and how..
- If conditions for working together are not possible, the Team will inform the original requesting person or body of this conclusion. The Team will report to the clerk of Permanent Board that a request has been made and considered, and that way was not open to proceed.
- If the Team and the parties involved find that a conflict is not currently resolvable, the Team may make recommendations for ongoing pastoral care for the parties, so that, if possible, all parties may remain connected to the Yearly Meeting or home meeting, consistent with advice on limits of pastoral care capabilities, in the Faith & Practice chapter on Ministry & Counsel.
- The Team may recommend other actions, including referring the parties involved to outside services.
- In cases where a member of the Team is named as a party in a conflict, then that member will be asked to step aside from participation in considerations about that particular conflict.
- In general, two or three members of the Team will participate in the response to a particular conflict. The Team may invite other Friends to join in this work as needed, in support of particular situations or needs.

Membership

The Conflict Response Team will consist of 4 or 5 people, who have gifts and skills in the work of conflict response, named by the NEYM Nominating Committee, and approved by the Yearly Meeting. There are no ex-officio members; however, people in leadership roles may be nominated as individuals. Terms of appointment will be for 3 years, with staggered membership. Members may be reappointed. Nominating Committee will discern a clerk in consultation with the Team, to be approved by the Yearly Meeting.

Additional qualities to be looked for in the Team's membership are listed below. The work may involve sensitive discussion and will need to be held with care that allows for open and honest responses, skillful empathy, and respect for confidentiality.

Supervision, guidance and support

The Conflict Response Team is under the care of the Permanent Board.

- The Team may seek insight or help from people within or outside of the Yearly Meeting with regard to particular conflicts. This may include the Permanent Board clerk, the Yearly Meeting Presiding Clerk, the clerk of the Accompaniment Group, the clerk of Ministry & Counsel, and/or the Yearly Meeting Secretary, except in the case where one or more of these individuals is a party in the conflict.
- The Presiding clerk, Yearly Meeting Secretary, and clerks of Permanent Board, Accompaniment and Ministry & Counsel may seek insight from the Team.
- Funding for the Conflict Response Team's work may come from a variety of sources.
    - Committee members' travel would come from a travel fund for committees.
    - If members of the Team were to see a need for themselves to get training or for outside professional advice or assistance and funds were not otherwise available, a request for funds could be made to the clerk of Permanent Board for consideration and possible approval.

Annual Self-Evaluation & Reporting

The Conflict Response Team will report annually to Permanent Board on the nature and progress of their work, including the number and general nature of instances the Team has been called upon. The primary purpose of the reporting is to share what the Team has learned and to make recommendations for ways the Yearly Meeting can corporately improve our skills in responding to conflict. The Team will work to balance both the importance of confidentiality and the benefits of transparency.

When the Team reports on their work to the Permanent Board, at least two team members should be available to provide a brief summary and to respond to questions.

When the Team observes common patterns in the conflicts it is called to address that it understands to be arising from the harm of systemic injustice or oppression, the Team will bring

these patterns and their insights concerning them to the attention of the clerk of Permanent Board, for the Yearly Meeting to discern how to address these patterns more broadly.

Continuation of Process or laying down the Conflict Response Team

The charge and process will be evaluated after five years of implementation, or earlier if requested by the Team or by Permanent Board. Recommendations for any modifications to the Conflict Response Team's charge and a new timeline based on the evaluation will be presented at Sessions for approval.

When it considers continuation of the Conflict Response Team, Permanent Board will review the annual self-assessments of the Team. The Team will invite evaluation from parties who have engaged with them in conflict response to reflect on their experiences, and if led to do so, communicate these to the clerk of Permanent Board or to someone they trust to speak for them.

Closing prayer

This work is intended to create a path for addressing conflict that all in our Yearly Meeting can access. In our community life, we recognize that we all carry, and at times uncomfortably express, the burdens of our humanness. May we live into a bold commitment to learn to love each other because we are the same and because we are different. May the Spirit draw us into a communion of love, hearing each other fully, and working to heal ourselves and each other—together under God's infinite and abiding care.

* * * * * * * * *

Qualities to be looked for in people for the Conflict Response Team

Derived from qualities lifted up in worship sharing at NEYM Annual Sessions 2023 [Minute 2023-58]

- Friends who have relevant training, experience, and skills in holding spaces for trauma-informed mediation, restorative justice, and transformation
- Friends who are comfortable with situations of conflict, who have come to understand and manage their own trauma enough to be able to see others' needs
- Friends who bring a degree of humility and selflessness, and who have the skill and grace to listen to, honor and respect the pain, the words, and experiences of others
- Friends with experience recognizing and setting healthy boundaries for all involved in situations that might be experienced as abusive
- Friends who can hold the dynamic of dual narratives - both of which may be true
- Friends who inhabit liminal spaces, and whose identities place them on the margins, such that they can see dynamics that those in the center cannot.
- Friends who are able to be present in a way that provides a level of safety and comfort in a difficult time
- Friends who understand the dynamics of power and privilege and how they impact situations of conflict
- Friends who understand how interpersonal conflicts reveal and are shaped by our values (what we believe, our identity, systems and cultural patterns) and who understand that the intersection of these values affects how we move through conflict

- Friends who are tuned in to somatic awareness—ways of wisdom that are not just intellectual but connected to the body's way of knowing
- Friends with recognized gifts of eldership and oversight
- Friends who are people of prayer

February 22, 2026

Gifts Committee

Purposes, Procedures and Composition

Background
NEYM Sessions Minute 2015-27 established the Legacy Gift Fund, administered for ten years by the Legacy Gift Committee. In 2024, NEYM Sessions Minute 2024-62 reconfigured the former Legacy Gift Funds into the Witness and Ministry Fund (W&M Fund), to be administered by the Gifts Committee.

The primary purpose of the Gifts Committee is to fulfill the purposes expressed in Minute 2024-62 by distributing the available income generated by the W&M Fund and other funds assigned to the committee.
Minute 2024-62:

> *"The purpose of the Legacy Gift Funds is to support the ministries of New England Yearly Meeting Friends, both within and beyond our region.*
> *"Guided by our living testimonies, we seek to strengthen our Witness through the funding of public and released ministry....*
> *"We seek to nurture our beloved community through the support of education, outreach, released ministry and meetinghouse projects..."*

Available income from the Fund is determined by current NEYM Board of Managers investment policies, and NEYM accounting practices. For requests over $10,000, the Gifts Committee will encourage applicants to first seek other funding sources, before the Committee and the Permanent Board consider withdrawal of funds from the principal of the Witness and Ministry Fund. Should special circumstances (such as a large request over $10,000) make it advisable, the Committee may draw funds from the principal, following consultation with, and approval of, the Permanent Board. Should the Yearly Meeting deem it advisable to withdraw funds from principal, for the good of the Yearly Meeting as a whole, that discernment shall be with the consultation and participation of members of the Gifts Committee, and shall be approved by the Yearly Meeting.
The Committee may also seek and encourage additional ways to release and support ministry in New England and beyond, for example, collaboration with the NEYM Ministry and Eldership group, engagement with local meetings/support committees of recipients, or engagement with individual recipients.

Additionally, the Yearly Meeting, in consultation with the Gifts Committee, may request that the Committee administer awards from other grant funds such as the Bodine-Rustin Fund, and the Salem Quarter Fund.

Procedures
The Committee sets review and discernment processes and application deadlines in accordance with established, successful, and currently appropriate practices of the former Legacy Gift Committee, and in keeping with the charge of Minute 2024-62.

Detailed guidance on the Application Process appears on the NEYM website at https://neym.org/legacy-gift/legacy-grants-apply-now.

The Committee meets regularly throughout the year, for the purpose of soliciting and reviewing applications to the fund, and to conduct other business pertinent to its mission. From time to time, the committee may invite guest reviewers to participate in the review process. The Witness and Ministry Fund is not limited to existing balances but can receive additional donations to support the work.

The Committee is required to report back to Sessions directly every year during a Meeting for Business and is encouraged to offer workshops to promote the work of the Committee, the relationship of money to our spiritual condition, and to highlight the ministry and witness of the recipients of these funds.

Witness and Ministry Fund recipients are expected to report annually to the Committee for the duration of their grant, and to consult with the Committee if there are significant changes to their budget or schedule after approval.

Composition
The committee consists of up to nine individuals, including a clerk, named by the NEYM Nominating Committee, in consultation with the Committee, and approved by the Yearly Meeting. The Yearly Meeting Presiding Clerk, the Permanent Board Clerk, and the NEYM Office Manager, serve as *ex-officio* members to facilitate coordination of activities and resources. Members serve for renewable, staggered 3-year terms. Friends may be appointed for a second term.

Gifts Committee members may include Friends who:
- bring gifts in spiritual discernment and supportive guidance to new applicants
- are gifted in, or called to support witness and ministry among us
- Have experience in supporting released ministry
    - https://neym.org/read-approved-chapters-faith-and-practice/ministry-and-counsel Section on “Public Ministry and the Released Friend”
- bring experience in grant writing or awarding
- are previous recipients of the Legacy Gift funds

- are able to commit to the time expectations of the committee's work
- can actively reach out to applicants, and whenever possible meet them in person (or on Zoom when necessary) for reviews
- will respond to applicants in a fair, timely and supportive manner
- are able to help the group make decisions about competing priorities
- bring skills in, and are comfortable with, the technology used by the committee, such as Google Docs, Zoom, and other relevant programs to participate in and share the work of the committee
- share a bold vision of the possibilities of what these funds could support.

Lifespan
The former Legacy Gifts Committee process and disbursement of Legacy Gift funds was reviewed, after ten years of implementation, by the Yearly Meeting in 2024. It is recommended that practices of the Gifts Committee, and the stated “vital purposes” of the Fund be reviewed by Sessions in 2034, or sooner if directed by Sessions.

Supports Available:
NEYM supports that are available to Friends in service to YM can be found at: https://neym.org/support-yearly-meeting-office. Additionally, the Committee may request guidance and support from the NEYM Treasurer; the Accounts Manager, who will assist in management and disbursement of the Fund; and the Program Director for coordination of programs and outreach. The Ministry and Eldership Resource Group can assist when meetings need help establishing care and oversight committees for recipients of W&M funds.

NEYM Nominating Committee Report to the Permanent Board
February 23, 2026

In keeping with current tradition of the Permanent Board - these advance documents are used as the first reading for nominations to be approved at the coming meeting. Please contact me as soon as possible if you would like to discuss any of these nominations.*

The nominating committee has been working diligently to anticipate which committees and roles will have some turn over this year, to give us time to be in conversation with committees about what gifts and skills are needed, and who among us may be called to service.

As always, we invite Friends to consider who in your own circles may be interested in increased yearly meeting involvement through committee service. We are happy to make "get to know you" calls with individuals you recommend, so that we may hear about their leadings, and share about the work of the yearly meeting to explore where there may be a match. We are also striving to be present at yearly meeting events to have informal Opportunities with Friends who may not already be on our radar. I was grateful to be invited to visit the Young Adult Friends midwinter gathering at Woolman Hill this month, and appreciated the opportunity to hear what was stirring among those gathered.

This year, our looking ahead to transitions includes the clerk of Permanent Board as Susan Davies will conclude her service in this role at Sessions in August. With grateful acknowledgement of all that Susan has brought to this role, we have been discerning who might serve as a rising clerk allowing for a time of overlap to support this transition, and are grateful to have a name to offer for your consideration now. As I shared with the nominee, it is, as always, a delight when discernment of gifts, skills, and right timing aligns among those called to nominate and those nominated to serve.

Permanent Board, clerk:

The Clerk of the Permanent Board serves as the presiding officer at meetings of the Permanent Board and as such serves an essential leadership role for the Yearly Meeting between the annual sessions of the full body. As it is the governing body of the Yearly Meeting between Sessions, including being given oversight for personnel, property and legal matters that arise during the year, the Clerk of Permanent Board is the final authority on personnel concerns and the designated signatory for legal documents. The Clerk of the Permanent Board oversees the work of bodies under the care of the Permanent Board. They serve as a member of the Coordinating and Advisory Committee. In partnership with the Presiding Clerk and Yearly Meeting Secretary, they are responsible to speak and act for the organization as needs arise, consistent with the policies of the Yearly Meeting.

Permanent Board, clerk - Liesa Stamm (Hartford Monthly Meeting) to begin August 20026, class of 2029

Liesa brings a deep spiritual grounding, and a simultaneous interest in organizational structures, with an ability to hold both attention to detail and the big picture. She currently serves as a member of Permanent Board, and of the Meeting Accompaniment Group, and has found this service deeply meaningful while deepening her own connection with Friends community. She brings an enthusiasm for the support of quarterly meetings. Previously, Liesa served on the board of Woolman Hill, and she currently serves on the board of the Obadiah Brown Benevolent Fund. If approved, she will work alongside Susan Davies as a rising clerk, and begin clerking Permanent Board following sessions in August 2026.

Friends World Committee for Consultation:

Friends World Committee for Consultation–New England (FWCC–NE) encourages fellowship among all the branches of the Religious Society of Friends, connecting Friends, crossing cultures, and changing lives. FWCC–NE brings Friends of varying traditions and cultural experiences together in worship, communication and consultation, to express our common heritage and our Quaker message to the world. The NEYM FWCC Committee represents NEYM in the work of the international Friends World Committee for Consultation, and promotes and interprets FWCC's work within the Yearly Meeting. FWCC–NE facilitates visits within New England of Friends from other parts of the world, including cooperating with Puente de Amigos.

FWCC–NE meets during Yearly Meeting Sessions and several times during the year, in person or by conference call. The committee designates six of its members to represent NEYM at meetings of FWCC Section of the Americas. Some of these representatives also serve on Section committees. The committee recommends delegates to represent NEYM at periodic worldwide and sectional FWCC meetings.

Friends World Committee for Consultation - NiaDwynwen Thomas (Northampton Friends Meeting) to begin immediately, class of 2029

NiaDwynwen Thomas is a member of Northampton Friends Meeting and serves as Program Director for NEYM. Over the last few years, she has worked with Friends from FWCC on the development, implementation, and evaluation of the Quaker Connect program, a congregational health & renewal program for Quaker congregations from across the Americas.

Thank you for your consideration of these nominations, and for your own service among Friends as a member of Permanent Board. Please contact me directly as soon as possible with any questions about these nominations.

With appreciation and care,

Sadie Forsythe (Putney/also attending Mt Toby)
Clerk, NEYM Nominating Committee
nomclerk@neym.org or 215-360-1815

Nominating Committee members: Beth Hansen, recording clerk (Westerly), Chris Gant (Beacon Hill), Darcy Drayton (Weare), Kathleen Wooten (Lawrence), Tim Lamm (Worcester), Martha Schwope (Wellesley), Leslie Manning (Durham), Lucy Meadows (Hanover), Sadie Forsythe (Putney)

* The process for approving nominations by the Permanent Board during the year 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 Nominating Committee clerk. 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, or withdrawn from the nomination. Depending on the situation, there may be a brief mention of the concerns and response.

A Report of FCNL Happenings

To: NEYM Permanent Board

From: Scot Drysdale, NEYM representative to FCNL

Date: February 28, 2026

FCNL is undergoing a number of changes.

For decades the FCNL General Committee of about 180 Quakers has met annually in Washington during November as the governing body of FCNL. Two years ago, we met in Arlington, because the hotels in Washington were too expensive. We met virtually over Zoom last November, again to save money. The current plan (as I understand it) is to meet in-person on even years and virtually on odd years.

Last November we approved new Bylaws that reorganized governance. The Executive, Policy, Nominating, Naming, and Audit committees remain as they were, but the other committees (including Finance, Development, Field, and a number of others) have been consolidated into two overarching committees—the Stewardship Committee and the Quaker Governance and Engagement Committee. Also, the Executive Committee will approve the annual budget instead of the General Committee.

The Spring Lobby Weekend (where young people came to Washington to learn to lobby and to lobby their senators and representatives) and the Quaker Public Policy Institute (where General Committee members met before the Annual Meeting to lobby their senators and representatives) have been replaced by a Friends Changemaker Weekend (FCW). This intergenerational conference will bring together students, advocates, and community leaders. The first FWC will be April 11–14, 2026. Registration information is available at fcnl.org.

This event will take place both in-person (at the Hilton Arlington National Landing Hotel this year) and online. Virtual participants will not be lobbying with in-person participants, but they will have their own virtual action to take with FCNL staff.

FCW 2026 “will push back against this administration’s unprecedented, militarized actions, which have undermined congressional and constitutional authority. Claiming national security threats, the administration continues to justify violence, repression, and militarization in both international waters and U.S. city streets. Under the theme “No War at Home or Abroad,” constituents at Friends Changemaker Weekend will learn about and advocate for Congress to oppose this militarized approach.”

The Advocacy Teams program has been quite active. There are over 1,500 Quakers organized into 135 Advocacy Teams covering all 50 states. These teams try to establish ongoing relationships with representatives and senators, and they lobby on issues suggested by FCNL.

Last year the Policy Committee wrote a statement about AI, with lots of input from many sources. Last November the General Committee approved the following addition to The World We Seek document:

III.2.12 *Artificial Intelligence.* Artificial intelligence (AI) is a rapidly developing technology that enables computers and machines to simulate human learning, comprehension, problem-solving, decision-making, creativity, and agency. Already embedded in our lives (e.g., medicine, research, writing, communications, robotics, entertainment, education, homes, and workplaces), AI is having pervasive positive and negative impacts on society. Even experts are unable to fully understand how AI systems process information and make decisions. Experts have also sounded alarms about whether humans will be able to control autonomous AI systems. Therefore, AI policymaking must be continuously probing, nimble, anticipatory, and protective.

As Quakers, we seek to safeguard truth, knowledge, and discernment guided by the Spirit. It is essential that federal legislation and regulatory frameworks ensure AI applications are ethical and protect the public, especially children and other vulnerable populations, from AI misuse. Those responsible for training AI systems must work to prevent harmful bias. Any AI systems must protect privacy and intellectual property, be universally available, and be affordable. Our democracy must be protected from AI manipulation. AI products must be clearly identified as such and be subject to all civil and criminal liability. Our democracy must be protected from AI manipulation. We support efforts to mitigate the negative effects of AI on jobs, incomes, and the economy. We oppose autonomous AI weapons. We also oppose AI's excessive demands on energy, water, and land.

Finally, this is the year when the General Committee will set priorities for the 120th Congress. Two years ago, the priorities approved for the 119th Congress were as follows:

Legislative Priorities for the 119th Congress

With each priority below, in collaboration with the most directly impacted populations, we will identify, expose, and work to end laws, policies and practices that are racist, sexist, biased or otherwise discriminatory.

» Counter the imminent threat of further climate change and support evidence-based mitigation and adaptive remedies.

» Demilitarize our borders and reform immigration policies to protect fundamental human rights for immigrant communities, regardless of immigration status.

» Dismantle militarism at home and abroad while reasserting Congress' role in decisions around military engagements. Champion initiatives to reduce military spending and to eliminate nuclear, conventional, and newly emerging weapons.

» Eliminate poverty, structural economic inequity, and health care inequity.

» Ensure U.S. commitment to international peacebuilding, diplomacy, cooperation, and human rights at home and abroad.

» Strengthen environmental protections and advance environmental justice in the United States and around the globe.

» Support gun violence prevention, nonviolent conflict resolution, and community-led safety solutions.

» Transform our current cruel and unjust criminal legal system into one that is restorative and rehabilitative.

» Uphold the community rights and concerns of indigenous peoples, and reform the federal legal and administrative systems to protect tribal sovereignty and self-determination.

The priority-setting process is underway, with meetings and other Quaker groups meeting to discuss priorities and send their choices to the Policy Committee. The Policy Committee will read the submissions and meet virtually to choose a set of priorities, which will be reviewed by the Executive Committee and staff. Then the priorities will be discussed in on-line listening sessions. The final priorities will be presented and discussed (and hopefully approved) at the Annual Meeting this November.

Hartford Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

MEMORIAL MINUTE FOR CYNTHIA WEST REIK

January 23, 1930 – September 14, 2024

Cynthia truly walked cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone

***

Cynthia was a dedicated teacher who never stopped learning and readily shared her knowledge from a long and happy life with all whom she encountered.

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Cynthia Marjorie West was born in Evanston, Illinois, the younger sister of two brothers. Her father worked for the *Chicago Daily News.* When she was seven, her father's job took the family to the East Coast, where they settled in Bronxville, New York, chosen for the quality of its public schools. Cynthia's education in Bronxville established her commitment throughout her life to public school education. Following high school graduation, Cynthia attended Radcliffe College, before taking a leave to care for her dying mother. Back in Bronxville, she continued her college education at near-by Sarah Lawrence College. In 1950 just before her senior year at Sarah Lawrence, Cynthia married James (Jim) Reik. She and Jim had known each other since their childhoods in Bronxville when Jim and her brother, Richard, became best friends.

After several moves and the birth of her first three children, Deborah, Jonathan and David, Cynthia graduated from Sarah Lawrence in 1955 with a degree in English. That same year Cynthia, Jim and their family moved to the Hartford area where she and Jim continued to live the rest of their lives. Their fourth child, Conny, was born in 1956.

Quaker Meeting was central to Cynthia's life and values. She and Jim found Hartford Friends Meeting shortly after they moved to the Hartford area and continued as active Meeting members throughout their lives. The Reik children were brought up in the Meeting's First Day School and attended Quaker Lane Cooperative Nursery School. The friends that Cynthia and Jim made through the Meeting and the Nursery School remained their closest friends. Cynthia continued attending Meeting for Worship, Meeting for Business and the Meeting's 11th Hours and other programs, as well as Quarterly Meeting until several months before her death.

Cynthia's commitment to Friends included serving on a number of Hartford Meeting committees and initiatives over the years, including her long service as an Alternative to Violence Project (AVP) facilitator in Connecticut prisons, participating in the Meeting's Court Monitoring project, and serving as Meeting Clerk. She also joined in many Friends activities in New England and elsewhere. She loved attending weekend retreats at Woolman Hill, the annual gatherings of New England Yearly Meeting, Connecticut Valley Quarterly Meetings, and the former biennial FGC conferences in Cape May. She served for a number of years on the Board of Trustees of the Obadiah Brown Benevolent Fund, as well as a Trustee of the Moses Brown School. Cynthia actively expressed her Quaker values through joining in demonstrations for peace and human rights in Connecticut, around New England and on occasion in New York.

She was in her element publicly standing up for social justice, frequently in the company of other Quakers.

Cynthia began what became a twenty-nine-year commitment to teaching English at Hartford High School after receiving a master's degree in Education from Trinity College in 1962. She adored the school and the students, about whose successes she loved to tell friends, even for years after she retired. She was honored to be chosen to teach in the School's Talented and Gifted program for which she devoted her love of educating and supporting students' learning. Cynthia expressed her dedication to sharing her interests and knowledge by co-authoring *On Common Ground: A Selection of Hartford Writers,* and editing another book, *The Harriet Beecher Stowe Reader.* She and fellow Hartford public school teacher and Meeting member, Brad Noel, created a guidance booklet for high school girls entitled *Sex: Female*. After retirement Cynthia maintained her enthusiasm for educating through teaching classes at the University of Connecticut, University of Hartford, and Saint Joseph College. And for many years she graded essays for the National College Board. Cynthia's pursuit of knowledge included learning more about other places in the world. She and Jim traveled widely, often with other Hartford Meeting friends, visiting 57 different countries.

In addition to her many years of teaching, Cynthia contributed to the community in a number of ways. She served on the Hockanum River Commission, the Board of the Hartford Public Library and subsequently of the East Hartford Public Library, the East Hartford Board of Education, and was a devoted supporter of the Stowe Day Foundation. In addition, she enthusiastically participated in a memoir writing group at UConn for a number of years. She was a voracious reader throughout her life and began each morning reading *The New York Times.* She was a founding member of a long time Meeting book club and belonged to four other book groups. Even during her last years, she regularly participated in discussion groups on *The New Yorker* and *The Atlantic* magazines at the West Hartford Library.

Cynthia had a wonderful enthusiasm for life which she conveyed to all with whom she was in contact, even making difficult situations an adventure. As her daughter Debbie reflected, "my mother was irrepressible. When we were planning her 90th birthday party, I asked her if she had 90 people she wanted to invite and she replied, 'Am I limited to 90?'"

Respectfully and lovingly submitted,

Liesa Stamm, Karen Will, and Palma Vaccaro

October 2025

Joan Austin
June 18, 1921 - April 28, 2019

Friends Meeting at Cambridge lost a treasured member, Joan Austin, on April 28th, 2019, just a few weeks before her 98th birthday. An activist, advocate, and near neighbor of the Meeting, Joan found Friends in the early 1970s, and became a member in 1974.

Joan (Perkins) Austin grew up in Greenwich, Connecticut, outside New York City. Even as a child she felt a deep spiritual connection with the natural world. The youngest of four in a large blended family, she attended Presbyterian services like her much older siblings, but never adopted that tradition. She cherished the outdoors, especially the beauty of Mishaum Point in South Dartmouth, MA where her family spent every Summer.

Joan attended Milton Academy and Vassar College, and went on to earn her Master's in American History at Columbia in 1944. There she met her first husband, John Garraty. The couple settled in Michigan and had three children: John, Katharine, and Sarah. The family returned to New York when her husband was offered a position at Columbia.

For several years Joan taught second and third grades at private schools in New York and Connecticut. After her first marriage ended in divorce, she reconnected with John Austin, a former beau who had moved to California. They were married in 1966, and Joan and her younger daughter, Sarah, moved to Berkeley to live with him. However, it was a tumultuous time for all. As Joan struggled with her own emotional hardship and recovery, the marriage unraveled, and the couple divorced in 1970. Joan then moved to Massachusetts, first to Lexington, and then to Cambridge.

In addition to her twelve-step work Joan became active in Massachusetts in a variety of progressive causes. Notably, she served as Director of Common Cause Massachusetts during the Dukakis administration. She also supported the Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust near her summer home; Joan was passionate about the natural resources of the area, as well as its history.

Many Friends will remember her vocal ministry lifting up the wonders of nature; the miracles she found there spoke to her spirit. Yet Joan's generosity, hospitality, and compassionate presence nurtured the Meeting as much as her messages in worship. Living only steps from Longfellow Park, Joan gave tremendous energy to the Meeting, greeting attenders at the door, bringing fresh flowers, and tending the meetinghouse gardens. Over decades she served in many roles at FMC, including several stints on Oversight Committee (as it was then known), of which she was appointed clerk in 1999.

The committee met regularly at her house on Foster Place, a haven for Quaker gatherings. Joan hosted not only individuals, but potlucks and events; for years the West Cambridge Village group met for worship in her home.

Joan can be credited with several practices that still inform our community life today. She instituted the practice of checking in at the beginning of meetings, something that was particularly helpful to one member who was going through a difficult time in her life. In addition, under Joan's care, Oversight Committee established monthly meetings for healing on Thursday evenings. Joan also led a memorable forum on "Healing from Childhood Trauma: Turning in to the Healing Presence of God in our Community."

In 2001 Joan moved to Brookhaven, an assisted living community in Lexington that included several other Quakers. She attended the Brookhaven Worship Group for a time, but its silence did not speak to her condition and she stopped coming. However, she maintained contact with friends at Cambridge through periodic visits. When her daughter Katherine died suddenly in 2005, Joan turned to FMC for a memorial meeting.

In addition to her children, Joan had three grandchildren and played an active role in their lives from their births to her death. When she died, she also left two greatgrandchildren, and another has been born since.

Just as Joan's presence was essential to Friends Meeting at Cambridge, so the Meeting was dear to Joan. Those who knew her respected her connection with Friends as they did her connection with the natural world. Though she suffered from alcoholism in her younger years, Joan always said that it was through Friends worship that she found the Higher Power that sustained her in recovery for the rest of her life.

Approved by Friends Meeting at Cambridge on February 14, 2021, Deborah Colgan, clerk.

Christine (“Chris”) Connaire
February 10, 1934 - September 5, 2019

If you didn’t know that Chris Connaire was a theater professional, you might have been able to guess. She dressed with flair, spoke crisply, with an enduring English accent, and was capable of making a grand entrance. But Chris was also always authentically herself: kind, generous to a fault, passionate about social justice. She was a force of nature engaging people from different walks of life with equal interest, concern, and enthusiasm.

Chris was born February 10, 1934 in Esher, UK, outside London. She was raised by her father and stepmother. One of Chris’s most indelible memories of living through World War II in England arose for her more than once in vocal ministry in Friends’ worship many years later. Participating in a civic program just after the war, her family took in a German prisoner of war for a time. It was Christmas, and in an effort to assuage the intense loneliness of the displaced German soldiers, children were taught at school how to sing “Silent Night” in German as well as English. Singing the carol in German with the stunned young man who had been dropped into their family circle deepened for Chris a passionate, lifelong pacifism.

Chris came to the United States, reuniting with her mother in pursuit of her education, earning a bachelor’s degree from Hope College in Holland, Michigan, and a master’s degree from Wellesley College. Chris was a co-founder of the People’s Theater in the 1970s. She was involved in helping racially integrate the theater and took the reins when leadership was needed. Later she served as director of the Cambridge Arts Council. She was an indispensable member of a small group of Quakers who met monthly to read plays aloud together for fun.

Stephanie Fox, a niece related “by divorce” remembered at Chris’ memorial that when she came to family events that included children, she “talked funny, wore odd hats, and was colorful and playful, arriving in costume with her kids.” She went on, “Chris had a calling to spark imagination in all and to express being brave. Chris treated everyone as co-equal.”

Chris became a member of the Friends Meeting at Cambridge 2008 and stayed engaged until her death. She ran the meeting’s First Day School (FDS) from 2010 to 2014 with a combination of tenderness and no-nonsense fierceness encouraging our youth to be their true selves—a blessing she had not always been afforded as a child. Perhaps it was a voice of authority declaring a girl’s “proper” place that empowered Chris to burst forth with her vibrant spirit. As FDS Coordinator she developed relationships with all the children and teens, speaking to their differing needs. Her infectious enthusiasm for her work with the youth, as well as the joyous Christmas pageants they produced together, kept the young people present in the minds and hearts of adults in the community. She made work into fun, enriching, and connecting our community at Friends Meeting at Cambridge.

Friends remember Chris' dedication to prison ministry, visiting incarcerated individuals as well as helping their transition upon release. Chris served on the board of Concerned Elders, Inc. -- a Massachusetts non-profit founded in 2014, now renamed the Community Re-entry Program. She was a consistent friend of prisoners, returning citizens and recent immigrants, sharing her life and her possessions.

Chris advocated for the needs of others in many ways. She modeled considerate, compassionate interaction with homeless people. Chris regularly led the meeting's youth in making meals for a nearby shelter. A Friend remembers the years, for a few weeks before Christmas, that Chris would stand at the rise of Meeting, and "invite us -- in her inimitable Chris way -- to drop money into her Santa's sack. She was raising funds for homeless women and children at the Y in Central Square. We could not respond to her request fast enough."

Chris's energetic generosity also took her back across the Atlantic several times to be with and, in the end, to ensure good care for her stepmother Kitty. The relationship had been a sustaining one in Chris's younger life and flowered as Chris made the faithful trips that taxed her budget but nourished her heart.

Another Friend remembered her pride in her son, Colin, and in his roles both in taking care of his family and as a police officer. She was proud of her daughter, too, keeping Celia's artwork within eyesight and talking of her impressive job.

An avid camper when she was younger, and swimmer even in old age, Chris embraced new adventures including marriage. She let her friends know that she was over the moon about Jonathon Fine, whom she married as soon as she turned eighty.

When a doctor informed her that she had inoperable cancer, she received the news calmly without tears. "I survived the bombing of London when I was a child," she told the doctor, explaining that she had faced death before and she was not afraid. During her long stay at the Miriam Boyd Parlin Hospice Residence in Wayland she had many visitors among Quakers, colleagues and family. From her bed she daily perused the New York Times and Boston Globe to keep abreast of world events. She became a favorite among the volunteers and staff. One volunteer said, "I learned how to die from her."

Chris died at age 85 Thursday, September 5, 2019. She is survived by her two children, Celia Connaire and Celia's spouse, John Budish, of Brick, NJ, and Colin Connaire and his spouse Nicole, grandchildren, and extended family. She was predeceased by her first husband, Joseph Connaire, and second, Jonathan Fine.

As she lay dying, Chris told Friends that she looked forward to rejoining Jonathan and telling him, “I’ll tell him ‘I told you so!’” that there was an afterlife. Shortly before her death she was looking up and was asked what she saw. "Jonathan." How's he look? "Good." Is he looking back at you? "Oh, yes!"

A Memorial Meeting for Worship was held December 14, 2019, at 2:00 PM at the Friends Meeting at Cambridge, 5 Longfellow Park, Cambridge MA 02138.

Approved by Friends Meeting at Cambridge, September 12, 2021, Ian Harrington, clerk.

Ghanda Virginia DiFiglia
August 25, 1938 - December 28, 2019

Ghanda Virginia DiFiglia grew up in Brooklyn, New York, in a large, close-knit Italian family. She spent many happy early years playing with cousins who would remain her close friends for life. She experienced Catholic grade school as quite rigid and stern, and it was a relief when she entered a secular high school. Her interests started to develop in history and civics, and she decided that a worthy and "faithful" life would be as a civic-minded citizen, taking action for justice and peace. In college, she developed a circle of friends who brought her joy and comfort throughout her life. Her early work with children with severe disabilities deepened her humanism by putting her in touch with the stories and experiences of others.

As an adult, Ghanda settled in the Boston area, where her work included careers as a teacher of special needs children, an educational writer, and a librarian. She retired as Department Administrator in the Philosophy Department at Harvard University. A poet and prose writer, Ghanda wrote several books, including a book of poetry and two children's books. She served as coordinating editor for two books highlighting Unitarian Universalist leaders who worked on behalf of refugees during and after World War Two.

Ghanda joined FMC in March of 1985. Among the many roles that Ghanda played in the meeting over the years, she served as an interim Friend in Residence, in 1990, where she initiated staff meetings for mutual support. She served as Recording Clerk for two years, and was a steady and resourceful member of the clerk's team. She served on Ministry and Counsel, with one year as co-clerk. Always concerned with the wellbeing and learning of children, she served on the Cambridge Friends School Trustees as well as serving the First Day School Committee for many years, often as co-clerk. She was a First Day School teacher, too, teaming up with Christel Jorgenson for several years to adventure together as teachers of the high school group.

Ghanda was especially interested in the intersection of faith and social action, and enjoyed dialoguing with congregations and other groups on that subject. In the 1980's she was a founding member of the meeting's Ad Hoc Committee of Concern for Central American Refugees. As a long-time member of the Peace and Social Justice committee (then "Peace and Social Concerns"), Ghanda's service was legendary. As one Friend recalls, "she not only lent her gravitas as a well-grounded Quaker to the peace and social justice committee, but created the notes that helped us stay on track." She created a new interfaith adult curriculum for peace education, gathered materials to support young people considering conscientious objection, and helped to initiate FMC's monthly meeting for worship and witness in front of Textron, and later Raytheon, corporations that profit from creating weapons of war. A strong proponent of action for peace and justice, Ghanda was heard more than once to express impatience with Friends

over the time it can take us to commit to social action.

Ghanda's belief in the importance of dialogue across differences led her to spend time in Oasis of Peace, a cooperative village jointly founded by Israeli Jews and Arabs in 1972. She returned to inform us at FMC about the village's intentional peace-making.

Ghanda brought her skills as an artist and writer to her work for peace. For more than a decade, she wrote the Good Friday Peace Witness pamphlet, each year broadening the concerns expressed to include the environment, racial justice, and concern about antisemitic themes in some portrayals of Holy Week. Collaborating with several FMC Friends, Ghanda produced, wrote and directed a film on the ecological costs of war and preparation for war, called Urgent Peace. Of their work together on this film, one collaborator remembers that Ghanda "didn't put in a word that she didn't think a lot about." Independent to the end in service of her abiding commitments, Ghanda traveled to an antiwar march in NYC after her diagnosis with cancer; her family worried about this trip, yet knew that she was being true to herself. As one Friend said, "Her commitment to peace and social justice reflected in her witness over so many years will continue to serve as an inspiration to many."

In her seventies, Ghanda followed a leading to create a children's book in which the three Wise Men, back home after their sojourn in Bethlehem, receive the gifts of faith, hope, and love to share with the people of their cities. The result was Home from Bethlehem: A Story of the Wise Men After They Came Home. As one Friend wrote: "Talk about being faithful! It took years and years to get that wonderful, profound story illustrated and published. Nevertheless, she persisted! What a gift to the world." FMC children – and adults – return frequently to Home from Bethlehem for learning and inspiration.

Ghanda's long list of loves included writing and singing, attending plays and musical performances, and connecting with children as playmate and teacher. She studied Italian, did extensive genetic and genealogical research on her family, and made several trips to Sicily to track down her family's genetic history and to reconnect with long-lost relatives. She loved creating and savoring community, and enjoyed serving Italian dinners to gatherings of her wide intersecting circles of friends. As her niece Becca said, "The human connection was really strong for Gigi. Such a full Roladex! And she had so much going on!" Above all, Ghanda loved Becca and the family that they created together over many years, including Becca's husband Josh and son James. She loved being a grandmother to James as he grew; she got down on the floor to play with him, and joined his wonder at their science adventures.

Friends remember Ghanda as "a self-effacing, proper, traditional person…a deep and deliberate thinker… … passionate and meticulous about the facts… steadfast in wanting to tell the truth." We relished Ghanda's sense of humor. One Friend remembers: Ghanda and I were

talking about meeting for business and how some people knit. She said, “I wonder how people would feel if I just set up an ironing board in the back and brought my ironing?” We laughed and laughed at the visual image of it. I loved how her nose would crinkle up and her eyes would dance.” And we felt her kindness: “When I was 8, my parents flew to China for two weeks to adopt my sister.. Ghanda agreed to care for me and my brother while they were gone. I have always had a soft spot in my heart for her and know it was because of how kind she was.” Another Friend prizes that “during her last months of illness, Ghanda demonstrated such consistent grace and caring about the welfare of others even as she was battling health issues of her own.” Friends might want to listen to this this beautiful piece celebrating Ghanda’s life based on the rhythms of the Stone of Hope drumming circle.

Ghanda died on Saturday, December 28, 2019, in Arlington, MA.. During her final illness, the FMC hospice choir came to sing to her, which was a profound experience: music had always brought her comfort, and it did so at the end. Becca and Josh were with Ghanda and relayed that she “passed away quietly, surrounded by love.” Becca spoke of how strengthened she felt by the caring and support Ghanda received from her FMC community.

We miss Ghanda. We seek to live up to her vibrant, deeply considered and persistent witness for justice and peace.

Approved by Friends Meeting at Cambridge March 9, 2025, Christel Jorgenson, clerk.

Joan L. Griscom
May 26, 1930 - March 2, 2017

Joan “Joanie” Griscom was born in Cambridge on May 26, 1930. She was educated at the Winsor School and Vassar College, earning three Master’s Degrees, one in English from the University of Minnesota, one in theology from Union Theological Seminary, and a third Master’s Degree from New York University. Joanie continued her education at New York University and was awarded her doctorate in Psychology in 1991. She was a dedicated professional, and her long career included serving as an educator and social worker with young adults, teaching college at William Paterson University, and research in Women’s Studies. Joanie published widely and was far ahead of her time in her enlightened understanding of issues of gender, sexuality and race.

Joanie loved music! She was a wonderful pianist and enjoyed playing Bach, Brahms, and Chopin, as well as Scott Joplin and Joseph Lamb. Her love of music was also evidenced in her deep commitment to choral music, singing both in professional and semi-professional groups. She sang for many years with Chorus Pro Musica and The Orpheus Singers, and had a lifelong association with the Longy School of Music. Joanie continued to study voice until shortly before she passed away, and shared her love of music both at FMC Women’s Silent Retreats and at Brookhaven. Joanie was delighted by her involvement in strengthening Brookhaven’s music program and she worked tirelessly with others to bring top quality guest musician’s to regularly perform there.

Joanie lived in Wanaque and Ringwood, New Jersey for many years and then chose to move to Brookhaven at Lexington where she had many deeply meaningful relationships with both residents and staff. She was an active and popular member of the Brookhaven community for 15 years. While at Brookhaven, she joined the local FMC worship group, subsequently becoming a member of Cambridge Friends Meeting.

Joanie had relayed that she had been drawn to Quakerism for years. She said that she had specifically reached out to FMC as a result of having read An Epistle to Friends Meeting at Cambridge from the Meeting on Ministry and Counsel, May 16, 2010**.** She shared that she had found the document very moving and that it spoke to her in a deep and personal way. Joanie said that reading this document directly led her to want to become a member of Friends Meeting at Cambridge.

Joanie shared that she regretted not being able to come as regularly as she would like to worship at FMC, but sincerely valued her connection with the community, including serving for a period of time on the Care and Support Committee. She often drove with Chuck Woodbury, another FMC member residing in Brookhaven, to the Meeting for Worship at FMC. Joanie often said that

she particularly cherished her times at the women's retreats, noting that she both valued the extended times of silence and the fellowship with women from FMC during these weekends together.

Her commitment to equality and social justice was apparent in her conversations. Joanie's innate curiosity led her to place an intense value on the benefits of open, frank and honest conversations, always ready to hear and explore ideas and deepen her own knowledge and understanding through conversations with others. Her extensive relationships spanned many generations and included people from all walks of life and from places all over the world. Joanie had a vast array of family members, both in her "family of origin" and her "family of choice." Joanie was predeceased by her former husband, Werner, and her devoted partner Marge. She was a member of numerous organizations and maintained contact with a wide spectrum of people. Joanie has been described as a "kind, wise, and delightfully unconventional person" and she described herself as someone who valued connections with family, friends and music more than anything else in her life.

Joanie passed away on March 2, 2017. Her love of family and friends, her passion for music, her commitment to deep and meaningful conversation, her intense commitment to women's issues, her desire for equality for all filled her life. Joanie's unquenchable joie de vivre will long live in the minds and hearts of those who had the pleasure of knowing her.

This minute was read at a special memorial meeting at Friends Meeting at Cambridge on November 20, 2024 and approved at the subsequent Meeting for Worship with attention to business on December 8, 2024, Christel Jorgenson, clerk.

Patricia Anne Hogan
May 17, 1937 - July 4, 2018

Patricia Anne Hogan was known by several names. Most of her family called her “Pat,” or “Auntie Pat.” Her school and college friends also called her “Pat.” Our meeting knew her as “Trish,” and later, as she spent several long sojourns in Ireland exploring her roots, she adopted the Irish version of her name “Padraigín Áine Ní Ógáin.”

Trish’s face was incredibly expressive, even transparent. On Sunday mornings, as she entered the meetinghouse, walking to her usual seat on the facing bench by the fireplace, a radiant smile would so often light up her whole face, and indeed the whole room would brighten. Trish wore her emotions plainly on her face — joy, consternation, empathy, worry, anger, love. As reflected in her face, she could easily move through any number of these emotions in a short space of time.

One of her relatives noted that “Auntie Pat” lived her life joyfully and had a curious, independent, adventurous nature. She didn’t like to sit still — she was always on the go, taking classes, going to contra dances, traveling, or riding her bike. She thought nothing of renting a car and heading down to Connecticut for a holiday or up to Vermont for a weekend.”

Born in 1937 in Boston and growing up in Melrose, Massachusetts, Trish surmounted all challenges while living a very full and overflowing life as a happy and content ‘single lady.’ In her twenties, she traveled extensively in Europe and Nigeria eventually finding her way to the Experiment in International Living with its mission of creating a more peaceful and sustainable world through international exchange. She continued working for other educational institutions and in the corporate sector. She fought gender and age discrimination her entire career. As a financial aid officer, she advocated for awards that would increase racial justice.

Later, she reinvented herself by marketing software for petroleum engineers and creating forecasting services for financial and corporate institutions. One of her last jobs before retirement was working for Friends Meeting at Cambridge as the Meeting Secretary.

Her religious and spiritual life was grounded in Quakerism, Alcoholics Anonymous, and Irish Catholicism. She began attending Friends Meetings in the 1960s while living in Maryland. When she moved back to Massachusetts, she joined the Beacon Hill Friends Meeting in the early 1980s and transferred her membership to Friends Meeting at Cambridge in 1987. She was active in New England Yearly Meeting, serving on the Finance Committee and the New England Friends Home Committee. She was a member of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) for 42 years. And, in her later years, she reconnected to the Irish Catholic spirituality of her youth, spending several summers in Ireland.

At age 49, Trish was diagnosed with chronic lymphocytic leukemia and lived an amazingly full life for the next 31 years. Her illness did not slow her down or stop her from doing things. She often shared her updates, conversations, and the research and guidance she would get from her oncologist and dear friend Lidia Schapira. Lidia writes of their friendship in an article, "Finding Ways to Celebrate the Joys of Living Over a Cup of Tea."

"Trish was one of my first patients. I was fresh out of specialty training in hematology and oncology, and Trish chose me as her doctor. Together we embarked on the long journey of managing an incurable illness. There were good years, when her leukemia was indolent and watchful waiting was the best approach. When the disease was stable, we had the luxury of talking about life, poetry, and travel during our routine clinic visits. Trish was fearless. She accepted her illness at age 49 and had decided to live her 2020-04-05 days as fully as possible and with confidence. Her mother had lived with the same disease for a couple of years before she passed at the age of 82.

"Trish taught me about coping with adversity and illness. It is absolutely true that oncologists learn about life, grief, and loss from their patients, and Trish has been my best teacher. I saw her move past the shock of receiving bad news time and time again. I watched her arrive at a state of peaceful, comfortable acceptance of what could not be changed. It was a state coupled with the determination to do whatever was necessary to keep on living as well as possible."

Trish did not slow down when she retired at the age of 62. Her love of books and poetry led her to the Harvard Institute for Learning in Retirement where she taught and studied the literature of William Faulkner and William Butler Yeats, as well as the poetry of Jorie Graham, Seamus Heaney, and John Ashbery.

A founding member of the Cambridge Cohousing community in 1998, she was an active and engaged participant there until her death. If she was sometimes quick to vent frustration during the ups and downs of community life, she was as quick to acknowledge and reconcile. She showed a particular and generous concern for the children of the community as they grew.

A few years before she died, she began planning her memorial meeting. She was absolutely clear that she did not want the usual Quaker memorial meeting. The idea of people speaking out of the silence in remembrance of her just seemed way too placid. She wanted the memorial to be a celebration of life. She wanted (and got) a Celtic harp player, lots of music, singing, poetry, even preaching. And yes, she did eventually agree to include a few minutes of silent waiting worship. And people did speak, so very movingly, about her.

When she knew it was time to let go of the twice-weekly treatments that were keeping her alive, she faced death with courage and grace. She assured everyone that she was in a good place and everything was going to be okay. She was ready. Over the next few weeks, a stream of visitors came by her bed at Elizabeth Evarts de Rham Hospice in Cambridge. Some would read to her, some would just sit quietly, and some would engage her in deep conversation about whatever was on her mind at the moment. Trish knew she was loved and embraced by so many — her family, her co-housing community, her medical community, her Quaker community, her dear friends, and of course, by the love of Jesus. She was often in awe of the support and she truly felt blessed.

Trish died on July 4, 2018, held in love by her friends and family.

Approved by Freinds Meeting at Cambridge, May, 17, 2020, Ian Harrington, clerk.

Lynn Lazar
January 14, 1936 - September 2, 2018

Lynn Patricia Chandler Lazar was born on January 14, 1936, in Oakland, California, to Scott and Marie Chandler. Lynn grew up in Oakland, graduating from Oakland High School and then moving down the road to Berkeley for college, graduating with a degree in Art History. Lynn's mother Marie worked at a credit union that played a significant role in helping the Oakland community socially and economically; as a child, Lynn would often visit Marie at work, listening to stories and absorbing the atmosphere of loving concern and practical action.

Lynn was briefly married to Roger Moss in the late 1950's. She subsequently met and married Edward Lazar, with whom she shared formative experiences of work for social justice and peace, along with two children, Sarania and Susie. Ed and Lynn worked on the Everyman Boat antinuclear protest in the early 1960's. Then, after brief stays in New York and Rhode Island, they traveled together to India to participate in the 1963 Delhi to Peking Friendship March. They came back to the United States, staying for a few years, then returned to India, living in an ashram, where spiritual growth was emphasized and the residents performed daily living tasks together. After the birth of Sarania, they decided that they should be closer to modern health care for the sake of their baby. They moved back to the Bay Area, then made their way to Cambridge, Massachusetts, when Ed accepted a job at the American Friends Service Committee.

The couple had their second child, Susie, while living in Cambridge. The entire family, Lynn, Ed, Sarania and Susie, became full members of Friends Meeting at Cambridge in 1972 (later on, Ed resigned and Sarania and Susie let their memberships lapse when they reached adulthood). Soon after, the marriage ended, and Lynn became a single parent raising her two girls; after 1980 or so, they lived in her house on Gorham Street in Cambridge, which was Lynn's address for the rest of her life.

Lynn was a strong woman who managed to balance single parenthood with a full professional life. Her girls were well-loved, and Lynn allowed them to be quite independent, but could be firm when that seemed called for. When the family faced challenges, they shared and processed their feelings in a circle, a practice that Lynn loved and urged on her friends the rest of her life.

In Cambridge, Lynn worked for Vocations for Social Change in Central Square, first as a volunteer, then in a paid position; she conducted counseling groups of young people and people in mid-career centered on how to bring social justice meaning to their work. Lynn was always intrigued about work; she loved reading and discussing Studs Terkel. (She was also continually introducing her friends to newfound favorite authors: John Paul Lederach,

Michele Alexander, and many others.)

After leaving Vocations for Social Change, Lynn went back to school to earn a certificate in counseling, and she started working as a drug counselor at The Third Nail in Boston. Later she worked at Transition House, an agency to help battered women. She participated in training police about domestic violence. For a short time, she worked as a temporary employee at Harvard University, then in a full-time job at the Aids Institute there. She then became involved in hospice work, and finally took up massage therapy, which she practiced until she retired. Throughout her work life, Lynn practiced and shared her enthusiasm for nonviolent communication.

Everywhere Lynn worked, she formed deep friendships and welcomed her friends into her home; there were many shared evenings nourished with tostados, curries, or other treats that she created out of whatever was in her tiny refrigerator, using a small toaster oven. As one friend said at her Memorial, "She made you feel like a rock star, just sitting and talking with her." Lynn and her daughters seldom lived alone in the house—there might be women who were victims of domestic violence, Buddhist monks, or others who just needed a place to stay for a while.

Lynn's first grandchild, Angel, son of Sarania and her partner Ernesto Osegueda, was born in California in 1999, and Lynn moved back to her home state to help out. In 2002, Lynn, along with Sarania's family, moved back to Cambridge, where they lived in two apartments in the Gorham Street house. (Sarania, Ernesto and Angel still live there, and they are preparing Lynn's old apartment for rental.) Meanwhile, Lynn's daughter Susie had her son Jahli in 2000 and then her daughter Gianna, who attended First Day School at Friends Meeting at Cambridge for a while with her cousin Jordan, in 2008.

In her later years, Lynn spent much time volunteering with local non-profits such as Haley House, Louis D Brown Peace Institute, Boston Worker's Alliance, Cambridge Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition, as well as Friends Meeting at Cambridge, where she was active with the Living with Dying Resource Committee, First Day School Committee, Youth Programs Committee, Ministry and Counsel, the Wednesday night Sharing Circle, among other groups. Everywhere she went, Lynn would volunteer to do work, but what she liked to do most was to talk with staff, volunteers, and clients, sharing her insights, listening and learning, and, above all, being a connection-maker (she would say, "You must meet so-and4 so; they are doing fabulous work."). She spoke with friends about the importance of "going across the river" into Boston to talk to people with different life experiences, rather than staying on the Cambridge side of the Charles, talking among ourselves about social justice. Lynn had many ideas and suggestions for peace and justice projects that she urged on her friends, her committees, her groups, and a number of her ideas came into fruition.

Establishing a bail fund for the son of a friend was accomplished quickly and led to an ongoing Cambridge Bail and Legal Defense Fund. Her idea that Friends Meeting at Cambridge should apply to sponsor a Boston chapter of Quaker Voluntary Service caught on after a few months of talking and leg work by her and a couple of friends she recruited; it is going strong today. Sometimes, Lynn would be frustrated that she could not get people to join with her in working on her ideas (Someday Farm on Longfellow Park is far from being realized, for example). She would lament what she perceived as her inability to express clearly what her vision was or what next steps might be.

Lynn was, in fact, concerned that all she had learned and experienced in her very active life would be lost unless she could get it written down and organized. Her basement was crammed with papers; when her children suggested that she reduce the piles, she objected, “Those papers are HISTORY!” She tried to write systematically about some of the social justice organizations she had been involved in, but this was a big challenge for her. (She would have been delighted to know that some of her papers are now being archived at the University of Massachusetts.)

Lynn was fully active in worship at Friends Meeting at Cambridge. She was also a stalwart participant for many years in the Course in Miracles group that has met for years on Saturday mornings at the Meeting. She deeply lived the admonition to “Teach only Love, for that is what you are.” She believed strongly in the spiritual nature of human beings: “I am not a body.” Toward the end of her life, she spoke graciously and authentically about her life ending soon—about the joyous adventure she anticipated of transitioning to another state beyond death.

In June 2018 Lynn experienced a large stroke. She recovered rather well physically and she was amazingly cheerful and gracious; her sense of humor was intact. But she had difficulty reading, writing and speaking, which she dealt with in her down-to-earth way— "not complaining, just observing,” as a friend said. She would say, “I don’t remember your name, but I know who you are.” When she was trying to get a thought out and got stuck, she would sometimes say any old word or word-like sound, trusting that her listener could substitute an appropriate English word. A second, massive stroke in August 2019 led to her death a few weeks later.

At the lovely Memorial Meeting that was held to celebrate Lynn’s life at Friends Meeting at Cambridge in November 2019, friends and family members remembered her with many loving and admiring messages. For instance:

- Lynn gave us space, but guided us when we needed it.
- She was a mentor who taught empowerment.
- Lynn was a mama bear. She was shy, but she would get in the mud with you, meet you where you were. She knew how to zero in on the center of her friends’ lives.
- The year between her strokes was a gift to all of us. She was serene, but not quite ready to go, because, “we have more work to do.”

- Ways I will miss Lynn: her cozy home, her welcoming, the way she cooked, snacking on what she put out in tiny bowls, her welcoming home, endless patience, inquiries about my work, talking about important people, talking about peace marches, Petsi pies and scones, big picture ideas, her plans for how I could change the world, ginger cookies, walking the walk, food cravings, efforts to stop smoking. She was a truly good friend.
- I am always meeting people who knew and loved Lynn. She helped teach me how to love unconditionally; she was truly genuine in showing her love and faith: "It will be okay—don't worry."
- She showed up for people; she felt it was a responsibility.
- She showed me how love can transform into justice.
- She was flexible but persistent.
- She taught me that kindness is a strength, not a weakness, and there is a ripple effect of her kindness and insight.

Lynn Lazar, how we miss you! We feel your kindness and love, your joy in doodles and paper cranes, rippling among us. You are with us.

Approved by Friends Meeting at Cambridge, November 14, 2021, Tom Sander, clerk.

Mehmet Rona
October 18, 1939 - October 26, 2019

Mehmet Rona was born on October 18, 1939 in Adana, Turkey, the fourth child of Hikmet and Ziya Rona. Mehmet was a curious and inventive child. His sons tell of young Mehmet building a box kite from a picture in a dictionary: “To many, this would have remained just a dream. But to my father, ideas demanded action. And with the minimal information that box kites existed and what they sort of looked like, he was able to build one. One can only imagine the scoffs turning to smiles of amazement when the box kite soared.” Mehmet lost both his older brothers when he was still young, and his father, Ziya, a pharmacist, passed away when Mehmet was 14 years old. Mehmet assumed the role of protector of his mother and sister for the rest of their lives. These formative experiences of loss shaped much of the remainder of Mehmet’s life, although, as his sons attest, he “never dwelled on how bad it was.” He met difficulties with resilience and Humor.

Mehmet graduated from Robert College, an independent American high school in Istanbul, in 1961. A former Robert College classmate remembers him as “ a brilliant person with loveliness in his heart. He cared for everybody. He was born a teacher.” A family story tells of his next steps: Mehmet went to the beach on a day off from his work in a steel mill – work that built a stocky, weight-lifter strength in his body that lasted to the end. He learned of an entrance exam for studies at Princeton University in the far-away USA, took the exam without studying, got the top score, and received a full scholarship. He earned a PhD in theoretical physics from Princeton in 1966.

The wife of Mehmet’s thesis advisor at Princeton recalled, during Mehmet’s memorial meeting, that the first time he came over to meet his advisor, having learned that he and his family were Jewish, he apologized about Turkey’s neutrality until the very end of World War II. We hear in this story Mehmet’s balance of head and heart, the infusion of his academic brilliance with a deep, caring sense of responsibility to his fellow humans. He became a close part of his advisor’s family.

During his years at Princeton, Mehmet and Susan Rich met and fell in love with each other. They married in Istanbul in 1968, and had two sons - Yilmaz Rona (now of Upton) and Ilyas Rona (now of Chestnut Hill). They settled in Turkey, where Mehmet taught physics at Middle East Technical University in Ankara. A colleague from that time remembers Mehmet teaching elementary physics to two classes of five hundred freshmen each, and being tremendously well respected. “They were students from all over Turkey. These young men adored him.” According to his former Robert College classmate, “In Turkey people are still saying, “Mehmet! He was my professor!” Mehmet also loved mischief. On the day scheduled for a faculty photo, he posed as a Saudi mathematician in full head-dress and sunglasses, was given a VIP tour, and showed up in

the faculty photo.

By the late 1970s, the political situation in Turkey became precarious. Middle East Technical University was at the center of the increasingly dangerous confrontations. When the president of the university stepped down, and no other faculty member had the courage to take on the role given the threat of violence from an extremist political group, Mehmet agreed to step into the political fray as acting president. In this role, Mehmet needed round the clock protection, and there were several attempts on his life. A colleague remembers that Mehmet "saved the university as interim director, with humor and great courage. He showed great bravery during that difficult time." Mehmet was famously absent minded, says his son Ilyas, but "his mind would be laser-focused on the right thing to do and his sense of duty when circumstances called for it."

When the danger to their family became too great, Mehmet and Susan moved with their sons to Belmont, MA, where Mehmet joined the storied consulting firm Arthur D. Little in Cambridge (which became Tiax LLC in 2002). A gifted practical theoretician, he authored several published works on the physics of semiconductors and invented several patents, and rose to the position of vice-president. A caring soul, he helped his workplace community through difficult times, greeted coworkers with lively concern, gave guidance when asked, and served as Ombudsman for a number of years. One colleague from Arthur D. Little calls Mehmet "a perfect gentleman, and a mensch." Another recalls seeing Mehmet in the halls: "He'd always check on us and ask about our careers. He was a trusted person in the organization." Many ADLers remember him simply as their mentor.

In his forties, Mehmet suffered a serious motorcycle accident that left him with pain for the rest of his life and prompted a mid-life search for deeper meaning. Mehmet went through a challenging time internally. Despite his professional success and being so well-respected as a scientist and consultant, he longed for his life to have an impact that felt more meaningful to him. He separated from Susan in 1990, and moved to Cambridge. This longing also led him to deepen his religious quest, and to engage Christianity more and more fully. He thought to become a Catholic, and asked his close friend Michael Shanahan, whom he assumed to be Catholic, where he went to Mass. When Michael responded that he was a Quaker, Mehmet came to Friends, and found himself at home. He became a member of FMC in October of 2006.

In an interview with a student at the Harvard Advocate towards the end of his life, Mehmet put into words the dynamic faith at work in him as he sat in the meeting house, Sunday after Sunday, his well-worn Bible in his hand. "I am in love with God," he told the young woman. My whole life, people have said I have a transparency for God. I leak my faith….My relationship with Christ is very intense. Meetings help me to organize that." Friend Jessie Brown often recorded the words of Mehmet's vocal ministry, so we can remind ourselves now of the messages that

came through him.

- Open your heart. Let God inspire you. Whether we conduct our life from fear or from hope is our choice. (2008)
- How does one get better at this? I am expectantly waiting! (2009)
- Can we remember for one another our own knowledge of the bright days, and rely on faith to remove the clouds? (2010)
- I've heard this admonishment, "Walk cheerfully over the earth, seeking that of God in every one," In my imperfect way, I hear it as an admonishment asking me to serve the needy, the hungry, the unloved. I hear it asking me to work on behalf of the community—and if I meet with failure, not to sulk, but to try again. (2010)
- There are wars, injustices, unspeakable cruelty... And yet, I am here. I have the sense that God wants good for all. Can I serve that purpose by being kind, loving, forgiving, here? Without sermons, thick books, catechisms, we can draw close to God. (2010)
- How do we prepare ourselves to be the pipe that resonates, that thrills to the mystery some call God, or Spirit, or the gathered meeting? We wait, listening, for that calling. It doesn't come always — but to make every attempt to make our souls ready, receptive, inviting to that tone, is our best chance…. (2012)
- To serve God is not like climbing Mount Everest, and shoving in a flag so that you're proved good! It's a constant process of humility—more like crawling up a surface of ice, hooking fingers, scrabbling, and not becoming furious if you lose altitude. (2013)

One Friend has said, "His faith wasn't about definitions or theology. He was about love. I hope his messages have fallen on enough hearts that we will carry that message of love forward."

Mehmet's service at FMC included a challenging stint on the Personnel Committee, to which he brought the wisdom of his experience as vice-president in a high-level technical consulting firm. He worried as this circle of non-HR-professionals tried to help FMC be a dependable, transparent and effective employer. During a particularly fraught period, when the committee struggled to do the right thing by both meeting and staff, he confessed that the task was grueling for him, "worse than a root canal." Later, Mehmet led the Grants Committee, where he was devoted to helping FMC give of our abundance to those in need.

Mehmet was also a founding member of the Wednesday Night Sharing Circle, a weekly mutual support group of Quakers and non-Quakers, many of whom have been in prison. In the circle, he spoke often of loving everyone present. When a circle member was having a hard time or a legal difficulty, Mehmet would volunteer his time and money to try to help. A member of the circle remembers: "He gave us the carved wooden cane from the Philippines that we use as a talking piece; one of the Circle participants always said that this talking piece contained the stories of everyone who ever held it."

Mehmet was a friend to innumerable ones of us at FMC. One Friend recalls that Mehmet reached out to him when he was new to the meeting and seeking a way to become part of things. “He took me by both my hands and blessed my presence here.” Another reports that “Mehmet was my spiritual friend and my protector. He helped me believe in myself and in what I was trying to do. He chose to help every possible way.” Mehmet had intense and intimate relationships in the meeting. In particular, he and Ann Foster experienced a deeply loving bond that endured over many years.

Mehmet’s generosity was felt beyond FMC’s walls. Those who socialized with him outside FMC report that he gave people money on the street, and regularly left half his meal at his regular restaurant for the waitstaff to give to nearby homeless people. He tutored at risk teenagers from East Cambridge, and work to end the constitutional deprivations wrought by our unjust bail system.

One of the more endearing aspects of Mehmet was his self-proclaimed imperfection, faults that he would own and humbly apologize for. Yet there was also in Mehmet a deep, private territory, an insistent, even stubborn, self-reliance, that even his closest intimates found it hard to get through to, but which they sensed was the source of much anguish and seeking in his life. This possibly traced back to the traumas of his youth and the loss of his brothers and father, leaving him as the sole protector of his mother and sister. It also made his final illness—that robbed him of both speech and movement—particularly difficult for him to bear.

Of this final illness, Mehmet’s son Ilyas remembers that “to the very end, my dad kept his individuality. In his final year at the Wingate nursing home, he was unable to speak or walk, and yet even in a wheelchair he could be his imperious self. He even led my aunt on an unauthorized tour of the administrative offices. He was popular among staff and residents alike. He forged unspoken friendships with the diverse population that was there. Until the very end, he told you how felt with his eyes.” Those of us who were able to visit with Mehmet in his last months are indelibly imprinted with the silent depth of those visits. As one Friend said, “Mehmet could speak without saying any words. When he looked at you it was almost unbearable, his visual transfer of love.” To this day, people at Wingate speak of him with deep fondness.

Mehmet left his earthly body on October 26, 2019. In his three decades among us at Friends Meeting at Cambridge, we knew him to be courteous, compassionate, generous, and alive to his Christian faith. We experienced him as a complex, cherished, and cherishing, friend. We give thanks for his time among us, and are grateful that he is at peace. “Mehmet was in an internal embrace: he loved God, and God loved him. He is in that deep embrace now.”

Approved by Friends Meeting at Cambridge on April 11, 2021, Richard Ristow, clerk

Roger Webb
November 10, 1934 – June 10, 2019

At meeting for worship in the spring of 2019, an older, white-haired man struggled to his feet to offer ministry at the Cambridge Meetinghouse and began by saying, “I was born a Quaker and I want to die a Quaker…” After a long absence from the Friends community Roger Webb returned home to Meeting, where his membership was approved by Friends Meeting at Cambridge (FMC) on June 9th, 2019, just one day before his passing.

Roger began attending Friends Meeting at Cambridge shortly after he came to Harvard College in 1952 and joined the meeting in November of 1966. In 1967, as a witness against the growing U.S. war in Vietnam, the Meeting provided sanctuary for a man who was a conscientious objector to war and absent without leave (AWOL) from the military. Perhaps due to the Meeting’s support of this act of civil disobedience reflecting the polarized politics of the day, or perhaps because his career and family began to take precedence, after a few years Roger drifted away from the Meeting, resigning his membership in 1979. Rejoining the Meeting 40 years later, Roger came full circle, returning to his Quaker childhood roots.

The youngest of four siblings, Roger was born into a Quaker family in Montclair, NJ on November 10, 1934 to Eleanor Miller and Nathaniel Conant Webb. During childhood he spent summers visiting family in Sandy Spring, MD, where he became immersed in his Quaker heritage. In the company of his "Gaga" (grandmother) and extended family, Roger attended First Day (Sunday) meetings for worship at the nearby 18th century Quaker Meetinghouse. He fondly remembered making up small games to entertain himself in the silence. Years later, in his adulthood, Roger returned to the Sandy Spring Meeting, where he was surprised to find it had been transformed from a rural farming community into a suburb of Washington and Baltimore.

After attending Montclair Academy and The Choate School, in Wallingford, CT, he graduated from Harvard College in 1958, with a two-year interlude in the U.S. Army from 1954 to 1956. He went on to Harvard Business School, graduating in 1961. Roger's marriage in 1959 to Anne Van Vleck, an art history major at Smith College, sparked his interest in historic architecture, the field which was to become his lifelong career and passion.

A pioneer in preservation real estate development in Boston, Roger established Restoration and Relocation Enterprises (RARE) in 1963, a historic preservation contractor engaged in adaptive building reuse and relocation. Among the projects he completed were the relocation of a Greek Revival style chapel to the Belmont Hill School and the relocation of numerous structures threatened with demolition to locations in Cambridge, Brookline and Belmont. In 1966, Roger established the Architectural Heritage Foundation to jointly conduct a feasibility study for the

reuse of the Quincy Markets in Boston. That feasibility study created the framework for the subsequent redevelopment of the markets by the Rouse Company into what later came to be known as the Faneuil Hall Marketplace. Roger's signal accomplishment was working with Mayor Kevin White to preserve the recently vacated Boston City Hall building on School Street. At the time, little value was seen in historic buildings, with the city in the midst of a sweeping urban renewal movement. The successful rehabilitation of Old City Hall for commercial office use, became a model for other preservation efforts and helped to ignite interest in historic preservation locally and nationally. Roger later helped to establish the non-profit revolving fund Architectural Conservation Trust, which evolved into Preservation Massachusetts, the statewide advocacy group for historic preservation.

Throughout his life, Roger maintained vigorous physical health. Once, after being advised by a sports doctor to take up yoga, he sought instruction at a small personal growth center in Watertown with yoga classes taught by Jon Kabat-Zinn, the founder of mindfulness-based stress reduction. He later enrolled in a teaching program at the Kripalu Center for Yoga and Health and continued to practice yoga daily, for nearly five decades. He was last documented doing a headstand in February 2016, to the delight of many.

Roger's love of family and friends pervaded nearly every activity and was the generator of numerous group trips and adventures involving multiple families and generations. Group sailing expeditions to Maine or the Caribbean were a favorite, particularly if they included dancing to a steel drum band. At any family wedding Roger was often the last to leave the dance floor.
In retirement, Roger immersed himself in caring for grandchildren and took every opportunity to connect to the people around him. He continued to enrich his life by taking classes in painting, history and writing. Painting became a passion and he used his lifelong interest in the built environment to create voluminous travel sketches and paintings wherever he went.
Roger was a lifelong seeker. In his 80s, Roger participated in a series of creative writing classes, during which time he crafted a series of memory essays entitled Cheers and Tears Over the Years: My Story. In it, he wrote, "My retirement about ten years ago and my divorce brought me self-discovery. I spent a lot of time getting to know myself more deeply. ...my life is still a work in progress. Even at 80, I am still evolving."

Roger died peacefully in the care of hospice and his three daughters Rebecca, Mary and Ruth on June 10, 2019. A packed, joyous, and deeply moving memorial meeting for worship was held for Roger at the Cambridge Meetinghouse on July 13, 2019.

Roger is survived by his ex-wife Anne Webb, his daughter Rebecca Webb and her husband Christopher Heye of Belmont, his daughter Mary Webb and her husband Sean McDonnell of Cambridge and his daughter Ruth Webb and her husband Matthew Bellows of Cambridge, and his eight grandchildren Peter, Austin, Kate, Margaret, Claire, Anna, Nelson and Roy. He

treasured his close relationships with his nieces and nephews.

Approved by Friends Meeting at Cambridge, January 10, 2021, Deborah Colgan, clerk.

Hugh Stewart Barbour
August 7, 1921 - January 8, 2021

Hugh Stewart Barbour, a resident of Kendal on Hudson in Sleepy Hollow, New York, died on January 8, 2021. He was 99 years old. A lifelong scholar, academic, peace activist, and punster, he was still formulating plans well past his mid-90s to write a paper on the meaning of Jesus to Quakers.

Born in 1921 in Beijing, China, the first of three sons of an American missionary mother and Scottish geologist father, Barbour had a peripatetic childhood. By his own account, by the time he was sixteen, he had crossed the Pacific five times and the Atlantic ten, and had been "the outsider in ten schools." Perhaps this feeling of exclusion helped to shape some of his later, lifelong concerns: Overcoming divisions among Christians generally, as well as among Friends; fostering ecumenism; and supporting those who suffered hardship for their religious convictions. He particularly focused on Quakers and other Christians in regions experiencing religious oppression.

Hugh attended boarding schools in England before entering Harvard College, from which he graduated magna cum laude in 1942. There he majored in the History of Science, but also valued his participation in the Student Christian Movement, where he connected with others across denominations and nationalities. Many in the Student Christian Movement between the World Wars became pacifists and practiced a social gospel committed to justice. These concerns for peace and for justice led Hugh eventually to join the Religious Society of Friends—though not before serving as the pastor of a Congregational church in Coventry, CT, as part of his training in divinity school. Concerned that, as a young man, he couldn't deliver the Truth that his church members wanted to hear, he chose to pursue teaching instead.

Hugh was accepted at a number of distinguished medical and divinity schools, and chose Union Theological Seminary, earning a B.Div. He studied with Paul Tillich and Reinhold Niebuhr, and received his Ph.D. in 1952 from Yale University, where his mentor was Roland Bainton. His Yale dissertation became a book, The Quakers in Puritan England, which has been an indispensable resource for Quaker historians ever since. Over the course of his career, Hugh authored or co-authored six additional books, including Early Quaker Writings, Quaker Cross-Currents, Slavery and Theology, and The Quakers, as well as more than 70 articles, reviews, chapters, and pamphlets. At his retirement, many esteemed colleagues honored Hugh with a weighty Festschrift.

Hugh joined the faculty of Earlham College, in Richmond, Indiana, as professor of religion in 1953. There he met Sirkka Talikka, a Finnish exchange student, and the two married in 1959 in Helsinki. She had been a refugee from Karelia who spent her childhood years in Lapland and

Sweden during World War II. She and Hugh connected deeply through their shared experiences of dislocation and uprootedness as children, and a yearning for home and belonging, which they found together at Clear Creek Friends Meeting and the Earlham College community. Through their many years in Indiana and beyond, they kept close ties with family in Scotland and Finland. Hugh taught widely at Earlham, first focusing on Quakerism, church history, and biblical studies, but then widening the curriculum to include Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, and other traditions of East Asia, which he combined into a very popular course in World Religions. Early in his career, when the Earlham School of Religion came into being, Hugh was among its founding faculty. Not long after, when Earlham established its program in peace studies, Hugh became a steady contributor to its offerings. Through all his decades of teaching, he continued to earn his well-established reputation as an "absent-minded professor," and stories—both reliable and apocryphal— abound.

From his youth, Hugh was a citizen of the world, and he sought to enrich through international experience the lives of his students. He and Sirkka led foreign study groups to Germany, Austria, and the Soviet Union, and also taught summer school at Viittakivi, an International Quaker Institute in Finland. They introduced Earlham students not only to the cultural riches of Europe but also to the genuine difficulties faced by dissidents who lived under repressive governments. He particularly honored East German Friends for their valiant internal stance, and sought to convey such experience in his teaching.

Hugh was committed as much to contemporary Quakerism as to its history. He was active in numerous Quaker organizations, including the Friends World Committee for Consultation, which Hugh represented in Kenya and Japan; the Friends Committee for National Legislation; and the World Council of Churches. Always aiming to promote understanding among different sorts of Quakers, he was active nationally in Friends General Conference and Friends United Meeting. A seeker of truth all his life, Hugh came from a family that combined science and religion, with high expectations that he lead a life of service to others. Hugh pondered deeply the relationship of the authority of individual experience with the conviction that truth resides in community, always on guard against the human tendency toward self-deception. Hugh's reading of the young George Fox's relationship with his family focused on love and rebellion—a fitting description of tendencies in Hugh himself. Toward the end of his life, he spoke personally about the meaning of Jesus for early Quakers, emphasizing his ability to bring grace and solace to those burdened by efforts to redress the world's ills. The twinkle in Hugh's eye, for which he is remembered by so many, suggests that he may have experienced this grace all along.

Hugh had a lifelong love of the outdoors, and often took his family on camping and canoeing trips to the wilds of Canada and New England. Squam Lake in New Hampshire was a mutli-generational extended-family retreat, where Hugh could recharge with two of his favorite pastimes, boating and birding.

Hugh was a cherished member of Clear Creek Meeting in Richmond, Indiana, from 1953 to 1991. There, he was active in many ministries of the Meeting. From 1991 to 2005 he was part of Friends Meeting at Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he had been active as a student in his college years, and where he and Sirkka served together as Resident Friends for four years. He was a member of Chappaqua Meeting from 2005-2021, where he is remembered for his gifts in teaching and for the weightiness that he brought to the life of that community.

This minute was read at a special memorial meeting at Friends Meeting at Cambridge on November 20, 2024 and approved at the subsequent Meeting for Worship with attention to business on December 8, 2024, Christel Jorgenson, clerk.

David Bonner
March 8, 1937 - November 10, 2023

David Bonner, a long-time attender at Friends Meeting at Cambridge, died peacefully in the presence of his family on November 10, 2023, at the age of 86. David was active in FMC for nearly 40 years, along with his spouse, Jane Jackson. Their children Aaron and Kate grew up in the meeting.

David was born on March 8, 1937, in Ithaca, NY. where he spent his early years with his family on the shore of Lake Cayuga. When his father was drafted as an Army physician in World War II, the family followed him to postings in Florida and Texas. After the war the family settled in Rochester NY, where David's father practiced medicine from an office located in one end of the family home. In high school, David worked at a bowling alley picking up pins between frames (this was before the era of automatic pin machines.) He also worked the early morning shift at a bakery. He discovered an interest in ham radios and fixing all things electronic. He spent several treasured summers as a camper and counselor at Camp Pathfinder, canoeing along the rivers of Algonquin Provincial Park, Ontario. His love of the outdoors and of canoeing stayed with him for the rest of his life.

After graduating from Princeton University in 1959, David went to Officer Candidate School in the U.S. Navy, and served as a supply officer in the Pacific, visiting Japan three times. After the Navy, he went to Harvard Business School, emerging with an MBA in 1965. That world of business was never a good fit for David, and after a few years of trying different sales jobs in California, a more genuine persona emerged: he dropped out of the business world, moved to San Francisco, and immersed himself in hippie culture, living in a commune and teaching photography at a "free school." In the late sixties, he worked with others to staff an antiwar GI coffee house in Colorado Springs.

Looking back in later years, David remembered that he always had a great interest in radios, especially short-wave radios. Having moved to Somerville MA with his first wife, David used his GI education benefits to attend Mass. Radio School and earn a first-class radio license. When his marriage ended, he moved into a group house in Somerville and began working at Somerville Media Action Project, an after-school program for at-risk high school students. The Project taught photography and video production, taking advantage of Somerville's being one of the first cities in the country to have community access cable TV. Later, he founded Bontronics, a company in Somerville, MA that provided audiovisual rentals and design for boardrooms, classrooms, churches and restaurants for over 25 years.

David was always generous with his skills and resources, happy to support things he cared about. Bontronics donated AV equipment for many community events and gatherings. As one

Friend recalls, “As a Somerville resident, I’d always appreciated how David supported so many causes and initiatives in this community. And in the earliest days of media, ‘ville activists still fondly remember how David showed up and recorded local events.”

In 1974, Jane Jackson moved into the group house in Somerville. “It was not love at first sight,” Jane recalls, but David and Jane gradually warmed up to each other. They married in 1977. A spiritually deep person, David was attracted to Buddhist teachings, especially the writings of Thich Nhat Hanh, and joined a Sangha which he attended for several years. He loved Dylan Thomas, and memorized several of Thomas’s longer poems as he was driving around for his business. He was a long-time practitioner of Tai Chi and yoga.

David, Jane and their children started attending FMC in about 1985. At FMC, David taught First Day School and served on Outreach and Fellowship, Landscape and Gardening, Memorial Meetings, Cambridge Quaker Earthcare Witness, Peace and Social Concerns/Justice. For several years, he was a steady member of the Sunday lunch team. He was an “ever-helpful tech guy,” contributing to many improvements in the FMC audio-visual systems. ("Who ya gonna call? David Bonner, of course.") One friend remembers David for his “wonderful dance parties…and great sense of humor.” Another: “I worked with him many times during coffee hour, which can sometimes feel like a chore but with him it was a fun, joyous time. He was a lovely, kind, helpful man.”

A man of peace, David was a staunch member of Veterans for Peace and faithfully attended events and commemorations. Many of us remember the two forums in which he and fellow veteran Sev Bruyn spoke powerfully about their perspectives on war and on Memorial Day. One Friend observes, “David never met a peace vigil he didn’t like.” He was a faithful presence at the FMC monthly meetings for worship outside of Textron and then Raytheon. Friend John Bach recalls: “For years, David and I stood side by side with placards or at opposite ends of big banners proclaiming ‘Quakers Standing for Universal Justice and Enduring Peace.’ David knew where to stand and he stood there. It was a tribute to our individual journeys and spiritual openness that we could link arms in sync and enflesh our understanding of Quakerdom and our testimonies. David understood what it meant to be an activist and it was an honor to stand by his side.”

In 2007, David had a serious fall from a ladder at work. A Friend remembers that “the whole meeting came together to pray for him. I don't think I've experienced that for anyone else.” During treatment for that fall, a benign brain tumor was found, which was later removed. David recovered from the fall but suffered a stroke a couple of years later that affected his speech. However, “Even after his fall, when he was frustrated by having difficulty speaking, it was well worth the wait for little gems.” A Friend who was in a Yearly Meeting Anchor Group with David remembers that “although he had the opportunity to share, it felt like

his speech impediment always made it a challenge for him to feel heard. After one of our meetings, David and I shared a lovely conversation on an outdoor bench where he did most of the talking and I most of the listening. David loved to talk!" One Friend remembers his playful approach to one of the less desirable effects of radiation: "There were his cute hats when his hair loss was a patchy phenomenon - and then he abandoned hats for a "this is who I am" Look."

David served on a long-lasting Resident Friend's support committee that turned into a monthly breakfast club eventually dubbed the "Senior Scouts." John Bach remembers, "We were on a first-name basis with our Greek waitress and soon well on our way to dispensing with checks and engaged in a delightful routine of being ridiculously under-charged and responding with generous over-payment. It was a good example of Quakers walking (and dining) cheerfully in the world. The laugh-per-minute was high, with wide smiles, and David's challenges in speaking never impeded the communication at the table amid the closely knitted circle of older gentlemen." Another member of the group remembers that David was the one who "instigated group hugs whenever we parted."

In retirement, David developed his artistic side. He took tap dance lessons and learned to play the ukulele. He loved to dance and make music with friends. His love of the outdoors "bloomed" in his last years, when his favorite times were spent outside, identifying plants and trees on his phone, tending his plants, looking at seed catalogues, planning next year's garden.

A stroke in 2022 did more serious damage. David's last year was one of isolation and silence; his understanding of speech declined, and he could speak and write only with great difficulty. With Jane's help, he continued his faithful attendance at the once-monthly meeting for worship at Raytheon, attending for the last time only a month before his death. "David showed up, despite all his infirmities. His persistence inspired me."

To the end, David loved to be out in nature. He loved this world in all its variety and beauty. He took great joy in his children and grandchildren. As one Friend remembers, "He loved his family so much." David departed this life gracefully, surrounded by love. Staying true to his commitment to the environment, he had a green burial in Westview Cemetery in Lexington.

We at FMC benefited steadily from David's gentle, persisting witness for peace, his life-affirming lightness of spirit, and his generosity of heart. We miss him!

Approved by Friends Meeting at Cambridge, October 5, 2025, Chris Jorgenson, clerk.

Robert “Bob” Leland Carter
March 3, 1928 - April 29, 2020

Many of us at FMC remember Bob Carter best as he stood at the bottom of the main stairway in the Friends Center, in his characteristic corduroy pants, as solid and stable as a giant oak, welcoming all who entered. One Friend remembers: “I would arrive in a hectic bustle with too many things to do before worship, and there would be Bob, calm and serene, his presence reminding me that everything would be all right.” Another remembers her two year old daughter gravitating to Bob as he stood there, hugging his leg, feeling safe. “This unassuming man had an aura of welcome and safety.” Still another remembers his ministry of welcome, “Bob was my welcome to FMC. We talked about everything. I felt seen, listened to, respected, and welcomed. When I saw Bob as I entered the Friends’ center, I was here.” And another: “I always looked forward to seeing Bob on Sunday morning when I came to forum. I felt that he was truly fond of me. It is a true gift to a person who is new to FMC to encounter someone who seems genuinely fond of them.”

Robert Leland Carter had traveled many life miles to stand up among us in this way. He was born a birthright Quaker on March 3, 1928, in Indianapolis, Indiana. He grew up with two sisters, Elsa Littman of Donaldson, Indiana and Charlotte Harris of Boulder, Colorado. He was an avid Boy Scout and was awarded the Order of the Arrow, an honor for those who “best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives.” In high school, Bob was awarded a special leadership award from the Indianapolis YMCA. Bob attended Earlham College, as his father had done. For two of his undergraduate summers, he served as a commissary director for Boy Scout camps.

Bob was a conscientious objector to World War II and did alternate service with the YMCA. Following graduation, he met and married Beverly Stone, then attended the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, and obtained a Master’s Degree in Library Science.

Bob and Beverly raised their three children, Paul, Elsa and Amy, in Watertown, New York. There, from 1959 to 1966, Bob directed the North Country Library System, the oldest, largest cooperative library system in New York, consisting of 70 public libraries along its northern border with Canada. In this position, he started many local libraries in northern New York towns, and managed a bookmobile serving small villages all the way up to the St. Lawrence Seaway. Under his leadership, the library system became the major source of films on art for public libraries in the state of New York. He went on from that position to set up the first regional library system in the State of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana; he planned a new system headquarters building for the Lincoln Trail Library System, which coordinated library services in nine surrounding counties. Bob later served as Library Director in libraries in New Canaan,

Connecticut and Endicott, New York, and rounded out his book-related work many years later at the Harvard Coop Bookstore.

Bob's creative, knowledgeable and industrious efforts up to his early mid-life, unfortunately, did not yield personal satisfaction. As a result, he made a significant career and family change. In 1974, he moved to the Berkshire mountains in Massachusetts with his new wife, Mary Anne Becker, his son Paul, and her two sons, Allen and Andrew Becker. He became kitchen manager of Gould Farm, a therapeutic community in the Berkshire mountains for people troubled with mental illness. In 1980, Bob and Mary Anne moved to Great Barrington, where he continued food service work. After his second marriage ended in divorce, Bob remained in Massachusetts as head cook for Nature's Classroom, a school-age environmental education program, and served for several summers, as cook for Friends Camp of New England Yearly Meeting in China, Maine. His favorite thing to serve was a buffet with homemade soups and casseroles. He valued the praise he received from staff and campers for the superior meals he provided.

In the early 1990's, Bob came to Friends Meeting at Cambridge, and lived for a period as a resident in the Friends Center. As his daughter Amy writes, "Bob deeply trusted his fellow members of Cambridge Friends Meeting, where he found people who appreciated the unique person he was." Bob attended Sunday worship regularly, sitting where he could assist people who came up the ramp to the side door. He was a steady member of Wednesday morning worship, after which Nancy Cirillo, a professional violinist, remembers long discussions of classical music. He particularly enjoyed telling Nancy that his great grandmother had sat on the lap of Brahms! Bob was also an active part of his local worship group. Though he never spoke in meeting that we can remember, Bob let his life speak of a deep and steadfast faith.

Bob worked part-time for the Meeting for most of his last thirty years, often as the serene, attentive and reassuring welcomer that so many of us remember standing in the Friends Center entry way or at the end of the driveway to guide guests arriving for a wedding or memorial worship. Saturday mornings, he welcomed all who arrived to attend the weekly AA meeting, and guided new attendees to the Friends Room. For these seekers, he was the face of the meeting, a welcoming, affirming and steady presence. Bob did not want to leave his work at FMC. We sense that even our great affirmation and gratitude at his goodbye gathering did not assuage his sadness and disappointment at becoming too unsteady on his feet to do the work.

In the late 1990s, Bob joined with a group of Meeting members and others to found and build Cambridge Cohousing, a cooperative community for people and families of all ages who shared weekly meals, gardens and community spaces. He lived in this cohousing community for most of the final two decades of his life, and clung to living there considerably past the time when his

children felt it might be physically safer for him to move to assisted living. He did finally move to the nearby Cadbury Commons, and came to enjoy being there as well.

Many in his family recall Bob's generous nature. Amy remembers him as "a quiet, caring and generous man." She expresses pride in her father's "highly developed esthetic sense which found greatest expression in his hobby of picture framing. He framed art reproductions, using craftsman skills with materials he carefully selected, to give his family great beauty for the walls of their homes." Paul remembers him as "quiet, gentle, and a hard worker, a generous father who enjoyed playing Santa Claus to his family at Christmas time."

During the memorial service, Bob's stepson remembered him as an "adventurer on the inside" who took his new stepson on many excursions to "see the world" and provided a solid place in a tumultuous life. "The light of Bob Carter stays with me, and for that I am grateful." Bob's grandson John shared fond memories of Bob's signature corduroy pants ("He was easy to shop for!"), and the way Bob hummed when feeling amused. Bob's granddaughter, Lea, expressed gratitude for the way he enriched her life through the many picture books and reading books that he gave to his grandchildren. Leah taught herself to read in order to be able to read the books that her grandfather sent. She benefited from "his quiet nature, his listening. You cannot underestimate the power of listening to a child." She has chosen to be a kindergarten teacher; she loves to read to children, and hopes to pass this loving practice along.

Bob's passions were nature, fine art, picture framing, music and books. He never owned a TV and had little interest in computers. One of his prize possessions was the very large, very old Bible that had been passed down through his Quaker family. He was a simple man. Visitors to Bob's one-room apartment at Cohousing, and later at Cadbury Commons assisted living center, remember entering a room filled with the sounds of classical music and graced by shelves full of books that he knew well.

When Bob could no longer get to Friends Meeting to worship in the community, Friends met with him for worship in his room at Cadbury Commons. Bob died peacefully at the Parlin House, Wayland MA at the age of 92 on April 29, 2020. He is survived by his daughters Amy Clark and Elsa Carter, currently in Gallup New Mexico, and Paul Carter of Southborough, Massachusetts; two step children, Alan Becker of West Stockbridge, MA and Andrew Becker of Queens, New York; his grandchildren John Carter and Lea Holloway Gambuti, and her son, Bob's greatgrandson, Ashton Cree.

We deeply miss Bob's ministry of quiet presence.

Approved by Friends Meeting at Cambridge, November 14, 2021, Tom Sander, clerk.

Elisabeth Cotten
September 29, 1931 - August 26, 2023

Friends Meeting at Cambridge member Elisabeth Cotten (nee Graf) died on Saturday, August 26, 2023 at age 91. Elisabeth was born in Basel, Switzerland on September 29, 1931.

Elisabeth loved languages, culture, and travel from a young age. She was fluent in five languages. As an exchange student in high school, she lived in England, Holland, and France. After high school, she studied in France and Italy. Elisabeth worked in numerous countries including Finland, Italy, Scotland, Spain, Sweden, the United States, and Canada where she met her husband, George Cotten.

She transferred her membership to Friends Meeting at Cambridge from Stamford (Connecticut) Monthly Meeting on December 12,1962 along with the memberships of her three young children Janet, Gerald and Richard. Her husband George pre-deceased her on June 5, 2009.

From 1990 to 2002 Elisabeth served faithfully as the FMC Recorder. Elisabeth was a naturalized US citizen. Her resignation from that role in 2002 was precipitated by the Meeting's decision to join the Campaign of Conscience for the Iraqi People. At that time Recorder was an officer of the meeting and as an officer she felt she faced greater personal risk than native-born citizens in regard to possible penalties due to the Meeting's action. Elisabeth also served on the Center Furnishings Committee and the Exhibits Committee.

For many years, Elisabeth was one of the small group of stalwart regulars at the Brookhaven Worship Group under the care of Friends Meeting at Cambridge. It met outdoors, weather permitting, where a few Friends from FMC would sometimes join them, especially during the COVID pandemic when FMC only held worship online. Also, in recent years she served as the contact for the group answering inquiries. One Friend recalled, “Elisabeth was the group’s shepherd, phoning me and others every week to say whether they would meet or not. She was amazingly stalwart; I remember her donning coats, gloves, boots, scarves well into December. Only rain kept her away. She arrived early each time, having overseen the set-up of outdoor chairs by Brookhaven staff, and would stay afterwards to chat with visitors. It was clear that other Quaker residents prized her energy and held her in great affection.” Happily, she was able to attend worship at Brookhaven the Sunday before she died.

September 10, 2023, when Elisabeth’s death was announced, Friends held Elisabeth in the Light and shared memories of her ministry, organization, and care and love for the community.
She is survived by her daughter Janet Feuerman and her husband Brian, son Gerald Cotten and his wife Kimberly, son Richard Cotten and his wife Ann, four grandchildren, and niece and nephew.

A memorial service was held at Brookhaven at Lexington October 20th.

This minute was read at a special memorial meeting at Friends Meeting at Cambridge on November 20, 2024 and approved at the subsequent Meeting for Worship with attention to business on December 8, 2024, Christel Jorgenson, clerk.

C. Russell (Russ) de Burlo, Jr.
September 1, 1924 - February 24, 2024

C. Russell (Russ) de Burlo, Jr., a long-term member of Friends Meeting at Cambridge (FMC), died on February 24, 2024. Born on September 1, 1924, he was 99 years old. There was a richness, warmth, and breadth in Russ's life. He was a fun, compassionate, and energetic friend to so many people; living as a good Friend was important to him.

Russ and his late wife Edith (Edie) Thatcher de Burlo were active in the FMC community from the early 1950s and transferred their membership from Swarthmore (PA) Monthly Meeting in January of 1960. At that time, Russ was involved in the financial life of FMC on the Trustees Committee and also taught in the First Day School.

Russ and Edie were among the founding families of the Cambridge Friends School (CFS) in 1961. Russ was an active CFS Trustee, becoming Treasurer of the School in the Spring of 1969—all while working to keep the School and the Meeting closely connected.

Beginning in 1972, Russ filled a vital need, helping New England Yearly Meeting (NEYM) to invest responsibly, and offering socially responsible, Quaker-values-based investing advice to Meetings in NEYM. He became the Investment Advisor for the NEYM Board of Managers of Investments and Permanent Funds. He was an original architect of the Pooled Funds, created to pool the resources of all New England Meetings to centralize financial expertise and especially enable Meetings with limited size and finances to generate greater growth and income of their assets.. He assisted Friends General Conference and Friends Journal similarly. When Beacon Hill Friend's House (BHFH) needed to repair their building, Russ worked with the banking partner on the complicated task of allowing BHFH to use their share of the Pooled Funds as collateral. He was delighted that the process worked for BHFH, demonstrating how Pooled Funds could help other NE Meetings in new ways. His commitment to determining ways to help NEYM Meetings financially continued throughout his life.

Russ grew up in Havertown (PA) in a modest-income family and was the first in his immediate family to go to college. He entered Swarthmore College when the country was in WWII, and remembered studying very hard at Swarthmore which was then a year-round program with classes on Saturdays and science labs even on Thanksgiving! At Swarthmore he was introduced to Quakerism and meeting for worship. He attended a campus meeting in the Friends Meetinghouse during the first week and wrote that "the simplicity and quiet of the space had a lasting impact on my emotional being." He was drafted into the Navy just before the end of his junior year, completed boot camp in June 1944, and was finally discharged in June 1946. Returning to Swarthmore, he met his wife to be, Edie Thatcher, a birthright Quaker and member of Swarthmore Meeting, when they were both working for the Swarthmore post office. Edie was

a freshman and Russ a returning senior. Russ described her as his “inner light.” They were married in May of 1948 under the care of Swarthmore Meeting.

After Swarthmore, Russ graduated from the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School with an MBA and the family then moved to Medford (MA) as Russ began a long career at Tufts University as both a faculty member in the Economics Department and an administrator. He also worked toward a DBA from the Harvard Business School which he was awarded in 1960. The de Burlo family moved to Princeton (NJ) for two years in the fall of 1963 while Russ served on the administrative staff of the College Board organization. On their return to Boston, Russ resumed his service at Tufts University, culminating as University Treasurer and Vice President for Administration.

In 1987, Russ and two colleagues from Tufts co-founded The de Burlo Group, an early pioneer in Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) investing practices. The de Burlo Group took on the advisor role to the NEYM pooled funds, Friends General Conference, Friends Journal, and many other Quaker organizations. A treasurer for two of those organizations during the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s reminisced: “Russ was wonderful to work and talk with. He was both warm and practical. He kept his humanness in the world of financial management. He listened closely and was present in working and community relationships. I looked forward to his … visits and our phone conversations were generally more than just the numbers. I truly remember the frequent smile in his eyes.” Russ was a principal officer of The de Burlo Group until he retired from active participation in the summer of 2020.

Russ also served too many non-Quaker organizations to list here but they included being Assistant Treasurer of the Massachusetts chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. Rhododendrons were a passion of his and he enthusiastically provided many tours of the specimens he diligently cared for around his house.

He is survived by his children Jane de Burlo Waln, of Lincoln, California, John Todd de Burlo of Burlington, Vermont, and Laurie Ann Kutner also of Burlington, Vermont; four grandchildren, and a great grandchild. He was pre-deceased on June 8, 2008, by Edie, his wife of 60 years, and earlier, on August 6, 2005, by his son Charles Russell de Burlo.

This minute was read at a special memorial meeting at Friends Meeting at Cambridge on November 20, 2024 and approved at the subsequent Meeting for Worship with attention to business on December 8, 2024, Christel Jorgenson, clerk.

J. Malcolm “Jock” Forbes
May 12, 1932 - July 19, 2021

J. Malcolm “Jock” Forbes was born May 12, 1932, and grew up in Cambridge MA. Jock was a lifelong activist for world peace and justice. Jock was also a pillar of Friends Meeting at Cambridge. His commitment to working for a better world and the depth of his spirituality was certainly influenced by his early experiences.

In 1941 when Jock was nine his father, J. Malcolm Forbes, was drowned at sea and never found. When he was 18 Jock had a near fatal mountain climbing accident. His aunt Barbara Cummings remembered poignantly sitting with him while he was in a coma. His eldest daughter Cynthia wrote in his obituary that these events “contributed to a heightened awareness and acceptance of loss and ambiguity as the human condition.”

When Jock was 12, he became an associate member of FMC by “parental request” of his mother, Ethel Cummings Forbes Amory. Jock transferred to full membership in 1953 when he was 21. The Meeting minuted it was “very glad to welcome him.”

Jock was educated at Exeter and Harvard, receiving his M.A in History from the University of Wisconsin. He taught American, European, and Russian history in high schools, including BB&N and Choate. He developed a Global Education curriculum which addressed some of the many contradictions and omissions in recorded history.

Over the years Jock served on many Meeting committees including Ministry and Counsel and clerked the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. He was clerk of the Cambridge Friends School Corporation, and the CFS trustees. Jock also brought his teaching skills to his work with the Junior Business meeting of First Day School and served on the FDS committee.

The FMC minutes provide testimony to his influence in many other capacities, as well, recording him as welcoming new members, serving on marriage committees, and working with ad hoc committees on meeting projects, such as the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the building of the Meeting House.

Jock worked with Randall Forsberg on the Nuclear Freeze Campaign. He was a leader in the Sustained Boston Coalition for a Strong United Nations, which produced eight conferences of U.N. issues, such as peacekeeping, environmental preservation, and U.N. Reform. These took place at the Kennedy Library from 1993 to 1997. He also worked with members of UNESCO. A colleague remembers that it was Jock’s sense of peacefulness in himself which provided the grounding for harmonious work together.

Jock's office in the Cambridge AFSC building was the World Federalist headquarters in the Greater Boston region. He was also a founding member of Earthnet, which brought together in dialogue those with conflicting views. Jock was a leading figure in the Sustainable Cambridge Coalition and in Mass Peace Action. He brought these concerns and connections to his work with FMC.

Jock and Ariadne Politou met at FMC, where Ariadne was volunteering in the AFSC Clothing Room. They were married in the meeting and were faithful members.

Ariadne and Jock had five children, Cynthia, Anne, Rebecca, Malcom, and Lydia. Their home was full of music — two of the children, Cynthia, and Lydia, have become professional musicians.

Many friends and family remember the wonderful way Jock taught a wide range of skills such as sailing, rowing, chess and playing the guitar. He and Ariadne also served as host family to many Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) foreign students.

After 67 years of marriage, Jock Forbes died July 19, 2021, only one month before Ariadne died in August. A memorial meeting for them both was held in the Spring of 2022 when pandemic restrictions allowed.

Approved by Friends Meeting at Cambridge, May 15, 2022, Jonathan Vogel-Borne, clerk.

Walter Lenk
March 26, 1947 – October 7, 2022

Walter C. Lenk, born March 26, 1947, died peacefully October 7, 2022, in the comfort of his Cambridge home with Debby Knight, his longtime partner in life, music, and dance at his Side.

Walter grew up in a former Quaker Meeting House in Chadds Ford, PA, was a member of Birmingham Meeting, and attended Westtown School, an experience that had a major impact on his life. His early spiritual life included a connection to the outdoors with Scouting summer canoe trips, especially in the Quetico-Superior wilderness area.

In 1967, after one year of college, Walter relocated to the Boston area as a Conscientious Objector during the Vietnam War, serving primarily in the respiratory therapy department at Beth Israel Hospital. The vibrant music scene and the many people with shared interests he encountered led him to put down permanent roots in the Cambridge community. He volunteered at the American Friends Service Committee, and in 1976 he and a friend bought a Victorian house on Broadway, which remained his home until the end of his life.
In 1969 from his diary, Walter wrote of just one of his many adventurous wanderings. "From Philadelphia I traveled to Washington, DC and stayed at 'William Penn House'. While in Washington I went to the Senate and visited FCNL [Friends Committee on National Legislation]. Later when I got home, I hitched to FGC [Friends General Conference] in Wilmington, Ohio after the bike's transmission blew up in Cambridge. I got a ride back to Long Island with a FGC family, and then hitched home."

In the mid 1970's Walter was attending Friends Meeting at Cambridge (FMC) and met with other Young Adult Friends from FMC in a worship group – including current FMC members Bill Satterthwaite and Wendy Sanford, who have fond memories of that time. He served on Ministry and Counsel, Membership, and Oversight and Fellowship Committees.
Walter's life sometimes felt like a Who's Who of the 70s. At one point he "had started doing private secretarial work for Daniel Ellsberg, and . . . had occasional use of his BMW car when he was away."

Walter worked repairing, designing, and building sound equipment. He served Boston Symphony Orchestra musicians, Tom Rush, Aerosmith, venues such as Sanders Theater and Carnegie Hall, and festivals such as New Orleans Jazz and Heritage, Brandywine, Wheatlands, Mariposa, and the Great Hudson River Revival where he became friends with Pete and Toshi Seeger.

Through those experiences he was introduced to old-time music and dance as well as

contra and square dancing, which became a decades-long passion. Walter began calling dances and writing new ones. He was part of dances at FMC and Cambridge Friends School. Ever generous and playful with his sound engineering skills, Walter helped friends and neighbors create rousing block parties in the era of Saturday Night Fever, providing a sound system that moved young and old out to the street, where they line-danced for Hours.

It was through music that Walter met Debby Knight. She had been told Walter had sound equipment for musicians and wanted his help, but figured she should meet him first. When she asked him to dance, he turned her down. Soon, however, their lives interwove. Although Debby was never officially a Quaker, her promotion of Quaker values through her 42 years at Cambridge Friends School meshed well with Walter's experience as a Friend. Singing squares were a regular part of Walter's repertoire. When health issues prevented him from taking a more active role in the dance community over time, he continued to enjoy the social connections and the opportunity to call a few singing squares at the contra dance in Carlisle, MA until a few years ago.

As diabetes and multiple sclerosis impacted his ability to continue much of his earlier work, Walter gracefully navigated those changes, finding ways to follow his passions while reinventing his work life. He enjoyed researching the history of his Cambridge neighborhood and interviewing numerous people who had been involved in Boston-area contra dancing in the 1970s and assembling an archive of their stories.

Walter did not attend meeting when his health started deteriorating but enjoyed talking about the meeting and his memories of his past Quaker experiences, especially Westtown. Over the past decade, he developed deeper connections to Westtown, creating an active class email list focused on reunions, then collecting and assembling information from classmates to create a 50th Reunion Book. He also enjoyed the occasional visits with current Westtown staff who made trips to New England to connect with alums, and through that process shared stories and contributed photos to the school archives. Walter embodied the generosity, dry wit, and graciousness for which so many of us knew him. He gave a sense of truly listening to us. His stories and ability to engage people on wide-flung topics from electronics to history to music and dance were a gift to all of us, attested to by the number and diversity of attendees at his memorial service. Contractors who had worked on his house on Broadway were there, as was a former health care worker who traveled from Virginia to attend. Walter will be missed.

In addition to Debby, his beloved and loving partner of 40 years, Walter is survived by his sister Larhken Carroll of Oakland, CA, and brothers Ted Lenk (and sister-in-law Susan Weaver) of Nelson, NH, Gabrell Carroll of Swoope, VA, and Charles Lenk of Oakland, CA.

A memorial service was held at Friends Meeting at Cambridge, 5 Longfellow Park, on Saturday, October 29, 2022.

Approved by Friends Meeting at Cambridge, April 16, 2022, Tom Sander, clerk.

Everett Mendelsohn
October 28, 1931 - June 6, 2023

Friends Meeting at Cambridge was Everett Mendelsohn's spiritual home. He frequently delivered powerful messages during meeting for worship. Many appreciated his booming, professorial voice and uniquely pronounced messages. He'd often synthesize what others had offered to create a surprising new message. Probably few realized that he was an esteemed historian of science, linking science and society, and more used to public speaking than most Quakers. As a professor at Harvard he was beloved and widely honored.

Everett died on June 6, 2023 in his Cambridge home of a stroke at the age of 91 and FMC held his memorial meeting on October 28, 2023.

A Harvard colleague, Professor Anne Harrington, said, "In the classroom, Everett had a gift of gathering together the threads of a discussion, tidying up any incoherence and distilling the deeper insights. 'Let me see if I can pull together what I am hearing here,' he would say. Then he would show students an elevated and elegantly synthesized version of their contributions, so that they would all find themselves amazed and impressed by their own collective thoughtfulness." (Quoted in the New York Times)

About his activism (quoting the Harvard Crimson), "Mendelsohn was involved as an activist and organizer since his undergraduate days at Antioch College, where he — along with fellow classmate Coretta Scott King and others — was involved in the local labor [and civil rights] movements. 'I made a commitment to myself then, to work towards those goals I saw for society,'" Mendelsohn said in a November 1973 interview.

He and his first wife, Mary Leeds, brought their children to First Day School. His stepson, Marshall Wallace (who Everett raised from age 4) told me that Everett didn't believe he had any enemies, just people with a different understanding. He didn't feel he needed to convince people of his positions. They shared common ground.

Although devoted to FMC as his spiritual home, he never became a member, wishing to honor his Jewish heritage. Since a youth, he was dedicated to nonviolence, expressing it through his conscientious objection to military service. Inspired by his Jewish roots promoting justice and peace and thru the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) he secretly organized meetings of Israelis and Palestinians in his home and at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in Cambridge. The intent, occurring before the Oslo Peace Accords in the early 1990s, was to fashion a long-term solution to the violence. Through his participation in the AFSC (he clerked the Executive Board) and as chair of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences' Committee on Middle East Studies, he authored and co authored books on the troubles in the Holy Land,

notably A Compassionate Peace: Future for the Middle East (1982)**.** His messages in worship were often about his visits to the Ramallah Friends Meeting and Ramallah Friends School. He was one of the few in the FMC community who traveled regularly to the region, often two or three times a year; he and Skip Schiel (perhaps other travelers as well) often commiserated about their travel experiences. Preparing for his own trips, Skip often read Everett's writings on the subject.

Of special interest to Quakers and our Peace Testimony, Everett was a founder of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's Committee on Science, Arms Control, and National Security, and its Committee on International Security Studies. He was a founder and first President of the Cambridge-based Institute for Peace and International Security.

Everett continued to attend FMC with his second wife, Mary Anderson. When asked recently what message Everett might bring to Meeting during the War on Gaza, Mary said, "He'd ask, 'what next, once the violence ends?'" And—'contact your legislators and the White House'". He perpetually sought long-term solutions for many issues. Quoting The New York Times again, "His family, in a prepared obituary, said that he considered the dearth of progress on that front 'his greatest life failure.'"

Mendelsohn derives from menachem in Hebrew which means consoling or one who consoles, and that seems especially fitting for Everett Mendelsohn.

This minute was read at a special memorial meeting at Friends Meeting at Cambridge on November 20, 2024 and approved at the subsequent Meeting for Worship with attention to business on December 8, 2024, Christel Jorgenson, clerk.

Lita Newdick
June 27, 1930 - February 21, 2020

Lita Newdick, an active member of Friends Meeting at Cambridge for 18 years, died on February 21, 2020. Having been born Sally Larsh Wreszin in 1930, she legally changed her name to Lita, from "Salita," a nickname given to her by her father and beloved godmother, Ludi Clare. She was born in New York City and grew up in New Canaan, Connecticut. Her family had a beautiful home which also housed a married couple who worked for them.

Sally went to New Canaan High School before her parents sent her to boarding school in New Hampshire. Her father, Henry Wreszin, was a Jewish immigrant from Europe. Lita would often point out that he was able to buy a seat on the New York Stock Exchange, despite the anti-Semitism of the time. Henry later helped Jewish relatives relocate to the U.S. Her mother, also named Sally, was an actress before marrying Henry. Originally from New Mexico, Lita's mother attended Wells College and met Lita's father in New York. Lita had two halfbrothers, Michael and John, and a sister, Robin Resin, currently living in Connecticut.

From an early age, Lita loved going into NYC to attend the theater with her father and then dining at Sardi's among the theater crowd. Inspired, Lita graduated from Northwestern University's prestigious School of Speech for drama. She took part in "summer stock" productions and, later in life, embraced community theater at Boston's (Unitarian Universalist) Arlington Street Church. There, she sang occasional solos in the choir and played the piano. Lita was an active Unitarian for more than 30 years.

Lita married Edwin "Ned" Newdick of Boston, whom she met at the Unitarian Community Church of New York. Both musicians, they were drawn to each other as they shared a hymnal. They began dating long distance as Ned frequently visited his sister, Ann, in the City. After getting married in 1966, they bought an undervalued historic brownstone in Boston's South End. Ned and Lita spent years refurbishing two buildings as rental and commercial properties. Lita was proud of her success in real estate, which financed her retirement and her daughter's college tuition.

In 1967, soon after they were married, Lita and Ned had their child, Vivian Ann Newdick. Vivian now resides in Austin, TX, having moved to Austin for graduate school after living in Chiapas, Mexico. Lita was proud of her daughter's 2012 Doctorate in Sociocultural Anthropology. Milo Newdick Pratscher, Lita's beloved grandchild, was born in 2009, when Lita was 79. Intrepid, Lita would frequently visit Milo in Austin, boarding pre-dawn planes and sometimes arriving back in Boston after midnight. An adopter of new technologies, she could be found joyfully playing simple video games with Milo on the couch when he was a small child. Though she

disapproved of video games, she loved to snuggle up with her computer next to the otherwise rambunctious child.

Lita was inspired by the Feminist Movement of the 1970s and 80s and viewed her life in that light. She worked in New York as an advertising copywriter from young adulthood through the early 70s, earning a number of industry awards. Toward the end of her career she acted upon her criticisms of the industry. She says in her memoir "I was often uncomfortable, questioning the practices of cigarette and drug companies, for which I finally declined to write." After marrying Ned and moving to Boston, she owned her own small agency and remembers, "Before I left the advertising industry in the mid-seventies, I testified on a Boston TV panel as one of several advertising women, revealing the sexism in the industry. Women were routinely downgraded and I myself had been fired in 1967 for being pregnant."

Despite the sexist conservatism of the time, Lita took a break from the advertising industry in her youth to sail to Europe where she lived alone in Florence and Paris for a year. She had many memorable adventures there. Lita was an avid reader of many genres of literature and relished reading classics as well as novels, though Shakespeare was her favorite. She cultivated her mind and loved intellectual engagement. She started learning Spanish in the last decade of her life and practiced it with her housekeeper, friend, and caretaker, Estela Manc.a. Lita considered Estela extended family, and the feeling was reciprocal. Estela, originally of El Salvador, remembers Lita as a grandmother to her children.

Lita was also a social activist. She was involved in the "No Nukes" movement of the 80s, racial justice, and environmental activism for many years. Lita was known to have a great sense of humor, which her sister Robin remembers fondly. Lita's writing often included hilarious limericks and rhymes. She would surprise friends and family with salty jokes.

While we are unclear how Lita found Quakerism, she said it was "the music of her life." Lita was a seeker, and considered herself so. She was open to engagement and connection.

Lita was very active in a number of FMC committees over the years - Peace & Social Justice, Fellowship and Outreach, Membership, Care and Support, and the Cambridge Interfaith Sanctuary Committee. In the last years of her life she felt a strong desire to help the mentally ill and to speak up for those suffering from depression.

At her Memorial Meeting many of the messages shared gave us a sense of Lita: her energy, her enthusiasm for life, the breadth of experience. Here are a few of those messages.

- She seemed eternal, vital, and could be silly, fun and wise.
- She was always involved in her spiritual journey, with readings from Cynthia Bourgeault and A Course in Miracles.

- As a member of AA for 30 years, Lita struggled with her emotions as part of her spiritual journey as well as being a survivor.
- She documented what it is to be human in her writing and transcended her pain in her memoir draft, which she shared in the Writers and Artists group.
- A frequent participant in Forum and Afterthoughts, she was seen as a role model. It was said she had a fierce intelligence but did not look down on others.
- A frequent tennis player, she remained active physically throughout her life.
- She always had style and dressed very well.
- Lita always graciously offered help and was willing to take help when needed.
- She didn't understand White Supremacy and struggled with making sense of it. Her honesty in describing this was a good example of her forthright engagement with others.

Lita Newdick was a well-loved member of our community. We miss her.

Approved by Friends Meeting at Cambridge, September 11, 2022, Tom Sander, clerk.

William Braasch Watson
August 14, 1932 - August 13, 2022

Our member William Braasch Watson died on Martha's Vineyard on August 13, 2022, one day shy of his 90th birthday. The underlying cause was Parkinson's Disease, diagnosed in 2006. He is buried at Mt. Auburn Cemetery.

Will was born in Rochester, Minnesota, on August 14, 1932, but was raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He attended Phillips Academy Andover here in Massachusetts before returning to Pennsylvania to enroll at Haverford College, graduating in 1954. He developed his deep commitment to Quakerism at Haverford, shared with his first wife, Patricia, whom he met and married during his Haverford years. Returning once again to Massachusetts, Will earned a doctorate in history from Harvard and was awarded a Fulbright Grant to study in Spain in 1967/1968. He taught history for 42 years at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and retired in 2005.

Will and Patricia raised four children in Friends Meeting at Cambridge: Peter, Sarah, Sterling, and Gabrielle Watson. Although early Friends did not celebrate holidays like Christmas, the Watsons certainly did. No one who ever saw their tree carefully lit with real candles can ever forget it. They separated in 1975, and Will married Myra Harrison on Martha's Vineyard in 1988. At Friends Meeting at Cambridge (FMC), Will served as Recording Clerk from 1973-1976 and, indeed, wrote the book on how to do it. Before Business Begins: Notes for Friends Meeting Recording Clerks and Recorders has been gratefully used by many Recording Clerks who came after Will. It was published in 1996 by the Mosher Book and Tract Committee of New England Yearly Meeting. Will also served as FMC's representative to New England Yearly Meeting and as Treasurer of the New England Regional Office of the American Friends Service Committee.

Even long after his Parkinson's diagnosis, Will was a valued contributor to FMC's Peace and Social Justice Committee. It was he who came up with the perfect wording for a new banner when needed for various vigils and marches: "Quakers Standing For Universal Justice and Enduring Peace."

In his last decade, he gave a thoughtful presentation at our Sunday morning Forum on the Spanish Civil War and the costs of the United States entering World War II so late. Will worked for peace, but had a nuanced view of the traditional peace testimony of Quakers, stemming, no doubt, from his research into the Spanish Civil War. That research included Ernest Hemingway's war dispatches, which he later edited. He also read Hemingway's fiction, and ventured out of MIT's history department at least once to offer a seminar for MIT's writing program, on Hemingway and the short story.

Will Watson was a gift to our meeting and Friends throughout New England and we are grateful for his life.

This minute was read at a special memorial meeting at Friends Meeting at Cambridge on November 20, 2024 and approved at the subsequent Meeting for Worship with attention to business on December 8, 2024, Christel Jorgenson, clerk.

Marilee Wheeler
August 31, 1933 - June 10, 2020

Marilee Wheeler, a member of Friends Meeting at Cambridge since 1988, died on June 10, 2020. Marilee was, in the words of one friend, "an extraordinary woman – independent, intellectually curious, cultured, courageous, caring and generous."

Marilee grew up in nearby Wellesley, MA and graduated from Wellesley College in 1955. She earned a law degree at University of California San Francisco College of Law and lived in California before returning to the Boston Area. Marilee lived on Park Street in Brookline for many years, until she moved to Lasell Village in Auburndale (Newton), a retirement community that focuses on lifelong learning and wellness.

As another friend wrote, "Beneath a quiet, kind, pacific and Quakerly exterior, Marilee was a woman with an exciting past and a strong will." Marilee enjoyed traveling, and lived for some time in Istanbul, Turkey, where she taught English at an American private school. She was always eager to share her knowledge about Turkish culture and customs. Marilee's parents had a passion for and collected nineteenth-century American art and shared this passion with Marilee. After Marilee's mother died, Marilee organized a gallery showing of her parents' collection at Vose Galleries. Above all, Marilee was a great lover of music. A regular at the Symphony and Jordan Hall in Boston, she traveled far and wide for the joy that music brought her, from the Metropolitan Opera in New York, to the London Handel Festival, to the New Mexico Summer Music Festival. And one friend remembers "she was always beautifully turned out, with hat, when she came to Cambridge Meeting."

At FMC, Marilee attended meeting for worship faithfully on Sundays and on Wednesday mornings during the late fall, winter and early spring. While at her home on the Cape during the rest of the year, she attended West Falmouth Preparatory Meeting. At FMC, she served on the Living with Dying group in 1988-9, the Search Committee for Facilities Manager in 1998, and the support group for that Facilities Manager. She served on Trustees, where she joined a subcommittee that worked on the issue of boundary lines with neighbors. In Brookline, she is on record as hosting the Brookline-Brighton Worship Group several times in the late 1980's. More recently, a friend remembers visiting with Marilee for worship in her apartment while they both lived at Lasell Village. Others remember Marilee's presence at many holiday potlucks and simple lunches in the Friends Room.

From one family's story, we get a sense of Marilee's caring and attention, her gift for life and for friendship. Betsy Hewitt remembers getting to know Marilee through many years at Wednesday morning worship, where Betsy brought her daughter Lydia as a baby. Betsy recalls, "Marilee took an interest in Lydia. When Lydia graduated from UMaine Orono in Marine Biology,

Marilee donated to support Lydia's trip to Costa Rica to rescue endangered sea turtles and kept abreast of her progress and trip. When Lydia got an internship at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute one summer, Marilee offered Lydia a place to stay overnight so Lydia would not need to drive from Newton to Woods Hole and back each workday.

During her summers on the Cape, Marilee loved to swim at Old Silver Beach in Falmouth, MA, swimming purposefully a half-mile along the coast every day that the water was warm enough. Betsy also remembers that Marilee had a close relationship with her sister's son Paul, who taught Physics and Astronomy at Newton North High School. At times she spent holidays with Paul and his family.

Friend Jo Ellen Hillyer remembers Marilee's "gentle generosity…when Nancy Cirillo and I lost our precious husbands within a few months of each other in 2012. Marilee invited the two of us to her home on the Cape the following summer. Her bringing us to her place of much natural beauty and her treating us like honored guests soothed my aching heart for a day. She did not know me well, but she extended herself to someone who was hurting. I continue to be grateful."

After her death, Marilee surprised, awed and inspired the meeting community by leaving us a large bequest. We are seeking Spirit's guidance on how to use this gift, reflecting on all that it means about what FMC meant to Marilee and what her witness to love meant – and means– to us.

This minute was read at a special memorial meeting at Friends Meeting at Cambridge on November 20, 2024 and approved at the subsequent Meeting for Worship with attention to business on December 8, 2024, Christel Jorgenson, clerk.

Charles “Chuck” Woodbury
February 6, 1920 - December 20, 2018

“When I think of Chuck, I think of faithfulness — an active faithfulness, something lived.”

Our beloved member Charles “Chuck” Woodbury died on December 20, 2018. A treasured friend, Chuck let his light shine at Friends Meeting at Cambridge and beyond. One-time clerk of our Meeting, he also inspired in countless other capacities. In the words of a tribute from the Farm and Wilderness Camps, where he was involved for decades, Chuck “lived a productive and full 98 years; as a clinical psychologist, a husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, Quaker, voice for social justice, musician, birdwatcher, square and contra dancer, lover and protector of the outdoors.”

Chuck’s presence in worship, deepened by his daily practice of walks, reading and meditation, felt grounding to many of us. Although he seldom spoke in Meeting, his messages reflected a sense of being touched. Once, distracted by leaves drifting through our open door, he spoke of his own dependence on the winds of the spirit. Another time, he marveled that the love of truth was beauty, and that the truth of beauty was love.

His quiet constancy in Meeting hid an exuberance that bloomed in other arenas — in his unexpected puns, in witty tales, in his love of poetry, and his passion for music and contra dancing. Throughout, as one Friend remembers, “Chuck had a twinkle in his eye.” After one especially talkative Meeting, he confessed to a friend, “Some popcorn is tastier and more nourishing than others.” Chuck danced and played violin into his nineties, and when asked “Have you been dancing all your life?” he famously replied “Not yet!”

Chuck grew up in Washington, D.C.. It was while attending Oberlin College in Ohio that he met his future wife, Betty. He went on to study psychology at Yale, and he and Betty became engaged. Chuck then served a stint in the Army; after training in personnel psychology he was assigned to a travel team evaluating army recruits. He and Betty married on December 26, 1943, on his Christmas leave. After the war, Chuck returned to Yale for his Ph.D.

Chuck and Betty joined Friends in 1953 at the Oberlin Friends Meeting while Chuck was teaching at Oberlin College. In 1955 they settled in Newton, MA, for Chuck’s job as psychologist at Boston’s Judge Baker Guidance Center, and transferred their young family’s membership to Friends Meeting at Cambridge. Thus began decades of worship and service in our community, including Chuck’s years as presiding clerk from 1967-1970, and Betty’s role in Yearly Meeting and women’s retreats. Their children, Steven, Phil, Gail and Peter, grew up in the Meeting.

Chuck and Betty also helped all their children attend the Quaker-based Farm and Wilderness Camps, in Vermont, where the celebration of outdoor skills and living in community, not to mention story and song, reflected their own joys. Chuck's children recall how he would read aloud to them by the fireplace, "with different voices for each character (Winnie the Pooh, The Wind in the Willows, The Hobbit, Just So Stories …)." Theirs was a home filled with books — "history, anthropology, natural science, progressive politics" as well as music — "hundreds of records, from classical to folk to Gilbert & Sullivan." Of course there was plenty of singing in the car.

As Quaker parents, Chuck and Betty made their home a welcoming place. They often had young people to live with them— a black high school student from the Deep South, during the Civil Rights movement; a Kenyan college student; an art student from Costa Rica; a young man just out of prison. The whole family demonstrated against de facto segregation in the Boston public schools, against the Vietnam War, and for nuclear disarmament. His children remember Chuck as a "doer, not a preacher…. He valued living a moral life, where you did as much good as you could."

When their children were grown, Chuck and Betty were drawn to community living. They helped establish the Friends Community in North Easton, MA, where they lived for nine years until the ambitious project folded. Sadly, Betty died in 1989, and Chuck moved to Brookhaven, the retirement community they had chosen, alone. Active as ever, he supported the small Quaker worship circle there, and organized regular Brookhaven donations to the Cambridge Material Aid and Advocacy Program. He walked the nature trail most days, watching wildlife and the changing seasons. Chuck documented the vernal pools at Brookhaven and was instrumental in their designation by the State as protected places.

Much of Chuck's service to FMC, although quiet and behind the scenes, drew others together. Friends remember Chuck's special concern for young people in the meeting, and his "oneperson campaign of outreach to junior members." On Marriage and Family Life, Chuck and Wendy Sanford held gatherings for friends who were divorced, to explore how the Meeting could better support them. On Membership, he and Sara Sue Pennell visited many applicants together. Meanwhile, he became known for the thoughtful (and often humorous) notes he wrote to friends whose acts of service caught his attention. For years he volunteered at the Cambridge material aid program, often re-knitting sweaters. An accomplished violinist in the Concord Symphony, Chuck also took to the balcony for the Meeting's Christmas Pageant every year, anchoring the all-ages orchestra that gathered for the occasion.

Chuck truly cherished that of God in everyone, and worked from this foundation during the meeting's ten painful years of threshing around same-sex marriage. Polly Attwood and Wendy Sanford remember his steady service on their clearness and care committees for their marriage

under the care of the Meeting. Chuck was someone they wanted close at their side as they took this step.

In his later years, Chuck experienced increasing deafness. He attended worship prayerfully, although cut off from the vocal ministry. Soon, Jessie Brown began to sit beside him to transcribe messages for him. As one Friend recalls, “This itself was a beautiful ministry and relationship to behold. Chuck’s response when reading these transcriptions conveyed curiosity, openness, and gratitude. This modeled a way we all might receive ministry.”

Chuck’s life, a Quaker life, continues to burn bright for all who knew him. “When I think of Chuck, I think of his very ready smile — a sense of gentleness that characterized all his interactions.“ Wise as well as generous, he never reproached others for oversights — “He wasn’t that type! He left us with nothing but good wishes.” “The essence of graciousness.” “He had such a warm presence, and an inviting nature. I would love to carry that kind of welcome Forward.”

When a Friend asked Chuck once at coffee hour the secret to his long and healthy life, his response was “Be sure to have music in your life, and to dance!”

Approved by Friends Meeting at Cambridge, February 12, 2023, Lynne Weiss, clerk.

2/4/2026

Dear Sara,

This is a minute we created and wanted NEYM to have a copy of it. We distributed it to local newspapers in New Hampshire a couple weeks ago. Please let me know if I need to send it to someone else if you are not the one to receive it.

Take care, and thank you,

Love,

Reb MacKenzie, co-clerk
7 Glenwood Drive
Claremont, NH
603-504-2851

"Palestine Minute"

We, of Quaker City Unity Friends Meeting, prayerfully create and endorse statements of faith, called "Minutes." These clarify our corporate beliefs according to Divine Guidance. The Religious Society of Friends, aka Quakers, stand in the gap for those who experience injustice in local, regional, national, and international communities as a witness to our faith. This has been our practice since our founding in the mid-1600s. We grieve for the physical, emotional, and moral injury and trauma of the people of the Palestinian and Israeli territories. Violence begets violence. This is our minute about the unjust crisis continuing today that is funded by the U.S. Government with taxpayers' dollars:

> **Palestine Minute** (approved 9/2025): As members of the Religious Society of Friends, we recognize that there is that of God in each person. We revere the sanctity of life. We, of Quaker City Unity Friends Meeting, are deeply disturbed by the genocide occurring in Palestine and are moved by the Spirit to speak out clearly about the genocide the Israeli government is committing against the Palestinian People with the full complicity of the United States government. We urge the United States government to stop funding the Israeli military's aggression in Gaza and demand that the government of Israel lift the blockade on humanitarian aid for Palestinians. We also request that the U.S. Representative to the United Nations support holding the Israeli government accountable for their violations of International Law. To make this work, the United States government would have to agree to follow and be accountable to International Law, too. We support the many peacemaking groups of the Israeli People and Palestinian People who continue to work for a permanent ceasefire and a just peace.

June Goodband
Nelia Sargent
Larry Marcotte
Jim Contois
Jenny Wright, co-clerk
Reb MacKenzie, co-clerk

Minute of Gratitude for Janice Beattie's service to Windham Friends Meeting

Every year Falmouth Quarter receives a report from Windham Friends Meeting which reminds us of the primacy of God's Truth and guidance in our lives, and shares the news of how Friends in Windham gather as a faith family, honoring God, learning from and inspired by God's words and presence. This year, as has been true for many years, reading the report aloud during the Quarterly Meeting prompted a time of gathered worship and of gratitude. Thank you, Janice for these reports, you have been sharing your ministry with us for many years. For many years, Windham has been the faithful voice of Friends' discipleship to the living Christ.

Early in your ministry you took the whole of Falmouth quarter through a journey on how to recognize a need and to act to take away the recording of a pastor. It was a delicate time and we honor your courage in addressing this concern and in bringing it to the quarter.

We celebrate the nearly three decades of service that you have given as Pastor of Windham Friends Meeting. In your ministry and in your pastoral care you have held the community together in love and in communion through all the seasons of life and all the challenges of being in community. You have upheld and supported the classical pastoral Quaker ministry and kept the flame of Friends practice and testimony a light in the Windham congregation. Your deep understanding of liturgy and your gift of liturgical dance has enriched the community in their spiritual life

Windham Friends reminded us in this year's report that "Our faith rises to all of Life's challenges; and faithfulness is the way to Love." The continued richness and intimacy of the Windham Friends Meeting is testimony of this Truth and is testimony to the good and faithful service that you have provided for so long.

For Falmouth Quarter
Fritz Weiss, Wendy Schlotterbeck, Mimi Marstaller
11/23/25