

**FIFTEENTH STREET MONTHLY MEETING
RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS**

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April 21, 2019

Dear Friends,

In the last quarter, Fifteenth Street Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met every First Day for two Meetings for Worship, one at 9:30AM and the other at 11AM. We continue to hold First Day School every First day at 11AM. We also have Bible Study every second First day at 11AM. We continued our new time and transition from Meeting for Worship to Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business starting at 12PM holding meetings on February 10, 2019 at 12 PM, March 10, 2019 at 12PM and April 14, 2019 at 12PM.

Since our last report, we welcomed Deborah Dahl into membership. Our active Peace & Social Justice Committee continues to raise money for activities including UN refugees through sandwich sales. The Peace Committee brought the minute below, which was approved. We are forwarding the minute to NYQM to endorse share with other meetings.

The Peace and Social Justice Committee asks Friends to work for removal of a remnant of the practice of slavery, the abuse of labor in the prisons of New York and other states of the union as well as in federal prisons. As long as prisoners are not compensated or are under-compensated for the work they do for society while incarcerated, the states and federal government are incentivized to continue the practice of worker enslavement in our criminal justice system. Governments force work from the imprisoned and, in promoting dependence on free or nearly free labor, discourage reformation of prison conditions and work against the abolition of these intransigent, punishment-based establishments. We ask that incarcerated men and women be paid a minimum wage on a par with "free" labor, in order to compensate fairly and eliminate the occasion for exploitation.

At monthly meeting in April, 15th Street approved the following a Jubilee year proposal:

1. Treasurer's report and nominations will be presented on consent agendas
2. Committee's report be sent 1 week prior to Monthly Meeting and not read during meeting. Committees are encouraged to bring queries to meeting for consideration.
3. On second first days, social hour is extended for 30 min in order to encourage more fellowship.
4. During Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business, Friends will worship on queries from the clerk and from M&W focused on where we are as a meeting and where want to be in the future. Friends will continue to have other essential business brought to meeting as well.
5. On 5th Sundays, have one Meeting for Worship that begins at 10 am and ends at noon.
6. Following worship a meeting dinner. This could take place as friendly 8's or as a single meal.
7. During this year, committees are encouraged to make time to fellowship with each other. This could be as simple as having a meal together with no business for part or all of the meal.

In June, the Arts Committee will host our 3rd Sunday program. They will present the play 'The Way of a Pilgrim.' All Friends are welcome to attend.

In Friendship,

Glenn Josey
Clerk, Fifteenth Street Monthly Meeting, 2019