

Report of Brooklyn Monthly Meeting

New York Quarterly Meeting, 21st day of Fourth month, 2019

Meeting for Worship remains constant and at the core of our community. It is held weekly every first day at 9:00 and 11:00 as well as Third day at 6:30. Meetings for Worship with a Concern for Business were held first First days of the month these past three months. We continue to hold all our regular activities - hymn singing on the first First day of the month, adult education every third first day, spiritual reading every second first day, and community dinner on the fourth First day. First day school for children is also provided weekly and we are seeking to provide child care at all of our activities so that parents can participate.

This Quarter we welcomed one new member – Todd Drake. Our welcoming committee provided a workshop on finding one's calling, which was a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. The workshop has led to several small affinity groups: knowing your calling, racial and social justice, finding your creativity, and spirituality to help friends further pursue their leadings and feel supported. The welcoming committee also hosted a potluck dinner to help us to get to know one another better. Peace and Social Action Committee hosted two events this quarter – “Faithful Action in a Time of Political Turmoil, a talk by Diane Randell, Executive Director, Friends Committee on National Legislation, and a presentation by Medea Benjamin, co founder of Code Pink, an event co hosted with Brooklyn For Peace.

I want to highlight two concerns - racially healing and jubilee year – discussed at our recent Business meetings, which elevated areas for growth as a community. First, the concern around racial healing was from our discernment around the State of the Meeting report. This report was reviewed at two Business meetings. The report noted our concern as a Meeting for racial healing and the preliminary steps we had taken last year for further work. This work had stopped because of lack of clarity on what we might do, timing, and disagreement among Friends on way forward. The discussion at the meeting made us all aware that reflection and learning on racial healing and healing the wounds from this past effort must be done– the work and the needed bonds of our community are too important.

Second concern was the Jubilee year. We held two discussions on the NY Quarter's call for a Jubilee year. At first there was a lack of understanding as to why this was needed and what it might mean for Brooklyn meeting. As you will see in the attached minute, Brooklyn is in support of the Jubilee concept for the Quarter. We do not want to put our committee work aside because we feel the committees are our opportunity to practice our faith and be together. However, we would welcome opening our activities and events to others in the Quarter and participating in the Quarter's and other meetings events. We embrace the idea of deepening our fellowship and community across the city.