

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
New York Quarterly Meeting
15 Rutherford Place
New York, NY 10003
Ministry and Counsel Committee (NYQM M&C)
04.21.2019 (v. 4)

Declaration of Jubilee

"Behold, I will do a new thing!

Now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it?

I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

Isaiah 43:19 (KJV)

At First Month, 2019 Quarterly Meeting with a Concern for Business, the M&C Committee was charged with seasoning the Clerks' leading for NYQM to declare a Year of Jubilee. We have been in contact with the Monthly Meetings (see attached minutes) and QM committees to hear how different parts of the body respond to this leading. For over six months we have sponsored a mid-week Meeting for Worship on Wednesday

nights, holding this leading in prayer. We have held seven meetings of a Subcommittee on Discernment around the leading. The reflected sense of the Quarterly Meeting Body has been one of hopeful curiosity and a willingness to proceed to Jubilee. Friends recognize a need to engage in a period of deliberate spiritual refreshment. We see that we can enrich our work together by coming to know each other better in community—that fellowship, a “ministry of hanging out,” helps us to better trust each other and connect through the Spirit that calls us.

The plans for Jubilee are still emerging. Programming an unprogrammed Meeting has its challenges. We know that there are ministries and business which cannot, should not, be “put on hold.” Let the Guide work with prudence and reason on this point. While Jubilee is declared specifically for the Quarterly Meeting, some of our Committees and Monthly Meetings are

looking at transforming their usual course through simplifying business and building community. Others are following leadings to join with other meetings or committees to share the vitality of their ministries and community life.

For the past six months, the QM sponsored Midweek Worship has proven a rich opportunity for members of the Quarter to know one another better in The Spirit and provided welcome oasis of stillness in our somewhat frenetic time. M&C has made a tactical determination to suspend the QM Midweek Meeting through the end of September so we may join with and attend the Downtown Manhattan (Allowed) Meeting on Thursdays (May through September). The location is at the Labyrinth in The Battery near Castle Clinton <<http://thebattery.org/destinations/labyrinth/>>. We will revisit authorization for a Midweek Meeting for Worship at the Tenth

Month (2019). We also remind Friends of Midweek Worship on Tuesdays at 6:30 at the Brooklyn Meetinghouse.

In Jubilee, from July 2019 to July 2020, NYQM's clerk and our committee on Ministry and Counsel commit to supporting our QM Committees and Monthly Meetings in spiritual development. By a slight adjustment in the focus in our worship at Meetings for Business, we envision a spirit of joyful community, ready to heal and to create. For the July Meetings (2019 and 2020), M&C (in collaboration with the QM Clerk), will create a program exploring ways in which our business can be grounded in worship and understanding of how we can grow together in enthusiastic expectant waiting *.

Ministry and Counsel has come to unity about what we have heard from this body in the past months. It is time for us to embrace doing *a new thing!* It is time for New York Quarterly

Meeting to proclaim a Year of Jubilee. What is the will of the Body? What say Ye Friends?

At the Fourth Month Meeting of NYQM held at Rutherford Place, Manhattan, NY; 04.21.2019

NYQM Ministry and Counsel Committee:

Beth Kelly

Dan Truman

Nancy Britton (ExO)

Margery Cornwell

Joan Malin

Steven Monroe Smith(c)

Robert Wilber

Jim Morgan

*{*Among proposals is inviting the QM Host Monthly Meetings to similiarly prepare a program with an eye on Spiritual Nurture. These are Morningside for Tenth Month, 2019), Brooklyn for First Month, 2020, and Fifteenth Street for Fourth Month, 2020 These Meetings to could collaborate with the Meetings not hosting QM in the Jubilee year: Flushing, Staten Island and Manhattan MM on}*