

20200718\_Brooklyn Clerks report  
Report of Brooklyn Meeting  
New York Quarterly meeting, 18<sup>th</sup> day of Seventh Month, 2020.

This has been an extraordinary time in the life of our City and the world, and in the life of our community. Since late March, due to the COVID -19 pandemic, we have been unable to meet together in person. Our regular worship meetings, two on Sunday morning, and one on Tuesday evening, have taken place online through the use of Zoom technology. During our Sunday 11:00 meeting, Brooklyn friends, joined frequently by a few people from around the world through zoom, have gathered in worship that frequently includes more than 100 people, and yet, can feel very intimate and engaging. We have felt especially blessed to have long term friends who have been away joining us again at worship. We miss being in one another's presence, but the spirit and community feel very alive.

We have been able to continue some of our activities, and to add to them in response to our needs. The community dinner has provided monthly meals for many of our regular dinner attenders by providing vouchers for takeout at a local restaurant. A group of us has reached out to many members and attenders to offer help, as needed. A relief fund was formed to provide \$1,000 to any Brooklyn friend in need and is overseen by the treasurer and an ad hoc committee. Small groups have formed online to provide fellowship. First day school has organized parent - child meetings in June and hopes to continue them during the summer. The communications committee has organized a weekly online newsletter to provide a list of activities along with links for participation. Many of these activities have been coordinated and supported by an ad hoc emergency committee formed for this purpose. Most of our standing committees have been able to meet via zoom and we have held four business meetings via zoom with very good attendance.

Since February, we welcomed four new members - Carrie Tatum, Chris Roddick, Esme Spanier, and Andrew Moran, and one sojourning member- Charlotte Lapsansky. We also transferred Tom Rothschild's membership to Strawberry Creek meeting in California where he now resides.

In this last month, we have felt keenly the horrific impact of continuing police brutality on African Americans, with the recent murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and others. We stand in support of Black Lives Matter. We prayerfully considered our response as a meeting community and approved the following minute in June, which we have already sent to the Quarter.

Black lives matter. The members of Brooklyn Meeting are committed to joining with others of good will in seeking inclusive justice for all and dismantling systemic racism. Brooklyn Meeting commits itself to spending the next year focused on building racial justice through the actions of individuals, small study groups, standing committees, and alliances with others beyond the Meeting.

We commit to taking this year to look at ourselves to see how to advance the Meeting towards our goal of becoming anti-racist and seeking ways we can help transform our society to become less racist.

As noted, this was sent to the NY Quarter for approval earlier, we now request that the NY Quarterly business meeting approve this minute and add it to those of 15<sup>th</sup> st and Morningside meetings and any other meetings' minutes that the NY Quarterly meeting may have received in support of racial justice. It is, I believe, the intent of all the meetings to

have these minutes sent to the NY Yearly Meeting with the NY Quarter's support and approval.

In addition, The following minute from 15<sup>th</sup> street meeting was approved by Brooklyn meeting's July 5 business meeting, with the hope that this approval will join with that of other meetings in the Quarter so that this minute can be approved by NY Quarterly business meeting and sent to NY Yearly meeting

**2020.07.13** The clerk brings us a cover letter and a minute from 15th Street, attached as attachment G for our consideration. The minute reads:

13th Amendment: Section 1 of the 13th amendment of the US constitution states:

Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

We propose a new amendment to the constitution that amends section 1 to state the following:

Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Friends support the spirit and intention of this proposal and approve the minute.