

**New York Quarterly Meeting, Religious Society of Friends
Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
Held by Zoom - COVID-19 video-conferencing
missing the Quaker Cemetery, Prospect Park, Brooklyn
18th Day of Seventh Month 2020**

MINUTES
Jubilee meeting

Present: Nancy Britton (Morningside), clerk; Ian Hansen (Fifteenth Street), assistant clerk.

Attendance: Brooklyn 14, Fifteenth St. 10, Morningside 16, Flushing 4, Manhattan 4, Wilton 3, QM staff 1; total 53 (55 total with the clerk's table included).

2020.07.01 The Meeting gathers virtually at 1:00pm. After a period of waiting worship, the clerk reads the message below from the Morningside Monthly Meeting Racial Justice Study Group, which Friends consider in worship:

In recent months, the United States has experienced racial strife and activism that has spread across the country and the globe untapped since the civil rights era of the 1950s and 1960s. While the unjust killing of Black people in America is nothing new, the recent killings of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and George Floyd has clearly struck a deep chord moving us beyond Black America and now reaching all racial and ethnic communities. We welcome this as an opportunity to inspire anti-racist education and activism in particular among white Quakers as well as with Quakers of color and Quakers at large. The Racial Justice Study Group (RJSG) sponsored by Morningside Monthly Meeting has held monthly meetings supporting the education of participating attendants (Quakers and friends of Quakers) over the past two years. In future months we will be working toward establishing a NYQM racial justice network to continue this work with Friends in the New York City region. We see education focusing on the history of racism in America as a crucial foundational step upon which to further build and sustain justice-focused activism. As such, we encourage other monthly meetings within the NY Quarterly Meeting to develop racial justice study groups to encourage an anti-racist agenda within your communities and among your members.

The facilitators of the Morningside Monthly Meeting RJSG are available, individually or collectively, to provide suggestions and guidance toward this objective upon your request.

In Friendship,
The Morningside Monthly RJSG facilitators: David C. Fletcher, Karen Taborn,
Helen Garay Toppins

2020.07.02 Friends, having been asked to read the consent agenda reports online before the meeting, accept the following reports and approve the nominations.

Africa Great Lakes Annual Report
Audit and Budget Committee Financial Statements Memo
Audit and Budget Committee Audited Financial Statements
Cemetery Committee Annual Report
CQL Report
Communications Annual Report
Downtown Allowed Meeting Annual Report
Flushing Clerk's Report (came in after meeting, included here)
Handbook Committee – updated Handbook and PPP
Manhattan Monthly Meeting Report
Nominating Proposed roster-consent slate
Staten Island Meeting Report

2020.07.03 Edward Elder, of Ministry and Counsel, reads their Annual Report, including the proposed extension of Jubilee until October 2020. The report is appended to these minutes. Friends receive the report and approve the extension of Jubilee year until October 2020.

2020.07.04 Ted Ehrhardt, of Brooklyn Monthly Meeting, reads their report, which is appended to these minutes. Friends receive the report. The report includes a minute, appended below. Friends endorse this minute. Friends instruct the clerk to forward this minute to the New York Yearly Meeting and the New York Yearly Meeting Witness Coordinating Committee to consider for endorsement.

Endorsed minute:

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.

2020.07.05 Ed Elder, of Morningside Monthly Meeting, reads their report, which is appended to these minutes. Friends receive the report. The report includes a minute, appended below. Friends endorse the minute and instruct the clerk to forward it to the New York Yearly Meeting.

Endorsed minute:

Cuomo Minute approved to be forwarded to Summer Sessions by the Witness Coordinating Committee, June 27, 2020.

Proposed letter to Governor Andrew Cuomo

“Blessed are the merciful for they will be shown mercy.” Matthew 5:7

To Governor Cuomo,

This time of sickness and sadness is indeed a time we need to show mercy to one another. In that spirit, we urge you to consider showing mercy to those who are incarcerated, especially those who are particularly at risk of COVID-19. As Governor of the State, there are many steps you have the power to take; we urge you to take this moment to give people hope in a time of despair and grieving. You could encourage the use of compassionate release for people who are elderly and people who have health issues, thereby saving lives. You could use the power you have to grant clemency. We encourage you also to consider clemency for the many incarcerated people who are eligible for parole but are denied parole solely because of the “nature of their crime.” As members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), we believe that the Inner Light, that each of us has, gives people the power to grow and change. It is important for you to acknowledge that change. If people in prison have been granted parole, and they have a place to go in the community, you could encourage their immediate release rather than exposing them to the virus while in transitional correctional facilities. New York State has a very high re-incarceration rate for minor parole violations. Currently this exposes the formerly incarcerated to a greater possibility of infection from the virus. You have the ability to bring a halt to this.

It is urgent that you drastically increase testing of those who are incarcerated and staff to save lives and to let us know how much testing is being done. This protects everyone associated with these facilities. We urge you to be more transparent and active in this area. You could encourage the HALT Solitary Confinement Bill to come to a vote as soon as possible. To experience solitary is to experience torture. In this time of COVID-19, people in solitary are also at greater risk of not receiving the medical care they might need if they are infected. As members of the Religious

Society of Friends (Quakers), we know that there are many non-violent ways to address violence that do not escalate into further violence. Programs such as the Alternatives to Violence Project, already offered in many correctional facilities for those inside, could be used for Staff as well. Training Correctional Officers in de-escalation strategies has the potential to improve outcomes for all who live and work in these facilities.

2020.07.06 The Annual Meeting of the Corporation commences at 2:03 pm. NYQM clerk, Nancy Britton, turns the meeting over to Katherine Alford, President of the Corporation and clerk of trustees to clerk this meeting.

2020.07.07 The meeting approves Glenn Josey, secretary of the corporation, interim recording clerk for this meeting.

2020.07.08 The clerk, Katherine Alford, declares a quorum present and calls the meeting to order.

2020.07.09 The president/clerk reads a listing of the officers of the corporation as follows:
President – Kathrine Alford
Vice President – Bill Parrot
Treasurer – Bart Dominus
Assistant Treasurer – To Be Named
Secretary – Glenn Josey

2020.07.10 The president/clerk reads the Trustees report, which is appended to these minutes. Friends receive the report. Following questions, the trustees whose appointments were approved in NYQM minute 2020.07.02 are deemed elected.

2020.07.011 The president/clerk adjourns the annual meeting of the corporation at 2:41 pm.

2020.07.12 Glenn Josey, of Fifteenth Street Monthly Meeting, reads their report, which is appended to these minutes. He also reads the Friends General Conference People of Color Epistle, also appended to these minutes. Friends receive the report.

Glenn then reads a summary of the recent history of efforts to abolish slavery entirely by adding an amendment to the U.S. Constitution similar to the 13th Amendment but without the exception it makes for “punishment for crime”. Fifteenth Street’s report includes a

minute, appended below, endorsed also by Morningside Monthly Meeting and Brooklyn Monthly meeting.

2020.07.13 Friends, as requested by Fifteenth Street, endorse and adopt this minute, and instruct the clerk to forward the minute to the Yearly Meeting, and to send letters noting Friends' endorsement of this minute to the President of the United States, the Attorney General, New York State senators and New York City federal congressional representatives, and to Friends Committee on National Legislation. An introductory form letter is included.

Endorsed minute:

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.”

Then, at 4:00pm, the meeting concluded with waiting worship.

ATTACHMENTS:

Africa Great Lakes Annual Report

Audit and Budget Committee-Financial Statements Memo

Audit and Budget Committee - Audited Financial Statements

Brooklyn Monthly Meeting Report

Cemetery Committee Annual Report

CQL Report

Communications Annual Report

Downtown Allowed Meeting Annual Report

Fifteenth Street Monthly Meeting Report

*Flushing Monthly Meeting -submitted their report post-meeting and it is attached here

Handbook Committee – updated Handbook approval
Manhattan Monthly Meeting Report
Ministry and Counsel Annual Report
Morningside Monthly Meeting Report
Morningside Monthly Meeting Racial Justice Study Group Message
Nominating Proposed roster-consent slate
Staten Island Meeting Report

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Friends may wish to participate in **Healing Prayer** by telephone on Wednesday afternoons from 5 to 6 pm (for more information: brooklynprayerhealing@gmail.com).

The Ribbon International will hold a **Ribbon 2020** event by Zoom on **August 1st 2020 at 10:00 am** (EDT) for the 75th Anniversary of the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. For Zoom invitation and more information, contact us:

info@theribboninternational.org. Hold your Ribbon in front of the Zoom screen, and pray for a nuclear free world. Ribbon Tokyo, Hiroshima Peace Ribbon, Ribbon Minnesota, Ribbon Washington DC, Frederick MD, and other Ribbon groups around the world are also planning to have the Ribbon events. Please join us with your friends/family or by yourself. Follow us on Instagram “theribbon2020” or look for us on Facebook, and upload the photos/videos on Facebook and on Instagram “theribbon2020”.

Please click the link below to the Ribbon YouTube page.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NDthNVnECPA&feature=youtu.be>

To Friends in the NYQM:

The facilitators for the **Racial Justice Study Group (RJSG)** sponsored by Morningside Monthly Meeting seek to connect with Friends within the NYQM to form a **Racial Justice Action Group**. The Action Group will build on the work of the RJSG in developing anti-racism actions identified by the group as collectively acknowledged. Please contact members of the Morningside RJSG if interested.

David C. Fletcher, Karen Taborn, Helen Garay Toppins

Downtown Manhattan Allowed Meeting:

July 30 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm, Battery Park New York, New York

Every Thursday evening from the beginning of May to the end of September, we meet to worship from 6:00 to 7:00 PM. It's fine to come late or leave early. We sit on the two curved benches near the Labyrinth of Contemplation surrounded by the vegetable plots of the Battery Urban Farm. This is in the northeast corner of Battery Park. You can look for the colorful flower flags over the benches. As the sign we put up on the gate says, “ALL

ARE WELCOME". For more information go to our Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/Downtown-Manhattan-Quaker-Meeting-124380087573993/>
<https://goo.gl/maps/G49acHNkRUH2pERK8>

UPCOMING NYQM DATES:

2020 NYQM dates:

October 18th: Flushing Monthly Meeting, Flushing

2021 NYQM dates:

January 17th: Brooklyn Friends Meeting, Brooklyn

April 18th: Fifteenth Street Meeting, Manhattan

July 17th: Saturday, Quaker Cemetery, Prospect Park, Brooklyn

October 17th: Morningside Monthly Meeting, Manhattan