

2021.10.17 Brooklyn MM Clerk 's report.

These past three months we have been able to worship via zoom technology at our regular worship times – Tuesday nights at 6:30, Sunday at 9:00 and 11:00 – and we have also been able to gather in person for worship in the meetinghouse on Sundays at 11. We started in person worship in late June as an experiment to ensure that we could safely be there together, following public health protocols. We then considered continuing in person worship at the July Business meeting, which was affirmed by the meeting for a trial period until September. At the Sept business meeting, we agreed to continue. We will be alert to changes in the pandemic status and will respond, as needed. Those who attend in person are very grateful for this opportunity. There are approximately 30 people who come in person on Sundays to worship. However, we are also mindful that we must look to ensure that we do all we can to remain one community. The Trustees have asked us to incorporate proof of vaccination for all who attend in person. This was agreed to at the Oct business meeting and we are now developing the procedure to do so.

We held three meetings for worship with a concern for business this quarter all using zoom technology.

Brooklyn meeting approved Eddy Laughter as a new member . We also approved a sojourning membership for Alina Lee Lapsansky, young daughter of Charlotte Lapsansky, who sojourns with us from Lansdowne meeting. A certificate of transfer from Morning side meeting for Beth Bugdaycay was also accepted by Brooklyn meeting. We are very grateful for these new additions to our meeting community.

The wedding of members, Esme Spanier and Adam Peiffer is planned for Oct 16th at the Brooklyn Meeting house. Attendees are required to show proof of vaccination and follow all public health protocols.

A memorial service via zoom was held for a long term member of our community, Glenn Bibler. This was attended by family, friends and members of our community who shared their memories and joys in knowing Glenn.

Our activities remain as described in past letters. We all hold hope that we may be able to do more to bring first day school, and families together in the coming months.

At our Sept business meeting, we prayerfully considered the work of the Concern for Quaker Living committee and their call to us as to how we best can meet the needs of elder friends in our community . Below is our minute reflecting that conversation:

- 2021.09.09 Benjamin Warnke and Callie Janoff from the Committee for Quaker Living subcommittee of the New York Quarterly Meeting ministry and counsel committee bring us questions.
- How do we ensure that our elderly members can stay in the life of our meeting and how do we deepen our sense of community? The subcommittee reported at the last quarterly meeting and meetings were asked to reflect on certain topics. Those topics are:
 - • Create a detailed proposal of what could be developed to support older Friends' housing needs
 - • Develop and maintain relationships between monthly meetings and one or two service providers for older people
 - • Grow a more cohesive capacity to communicate with individual NYC Friends
 - • Foster a culture of trust
- Our discernment today will focus on the first topic - what could be developed to support older Friends' housing needs. Callie asks that we consider the use of our New York Quarterly Meeting property assets and specifically the building adjacent to our Brooklyn meeting house, 112 Schermerhorn Street. CQL has a vision for how this might work, but has not yet turned this vision into a plan to present for consideration. The decision on the use of this asset will be made by the quarter as a whole. The subcommittee asks for the meeting's support of the development of a plan for keeping our elderly members in the community.
- Friends express support for the development of such a plan.
- A friend notes two things may be needed, housing is one and additional support services is another, both of which can be challenging. Concern is expressed on the extensive resources needed for the development of physical housing and that it may absorb our attention from the other types of support that can permit aging in place.
- A friend notes that the quarter currently relies on the income generated to the Board of Education and notes the possible impact on the loss of a school building on our community. CQL speaks to some thinking that they have done on those issues. Friends express support for the inclusion of intergenerational housing, and our preference for a public school space as well as our support for our larger community in the plan. Our commitment to racial justice must be at the core of the plan for this project. CQL appreciates the need to continue ongoing work in supporting our elderly.
- The meeting supports the development of a plan for consideration.

Joan Malin, Clerk, BMM

October 13, 2021