

Ministry and Counsel Annual Report to the Quarter
Seventh Month 16, 2022

The Ministry and Counsel Committee of the New York Quarterly Meeting met faithfully throughout the year. We continue to meet at least 4 times each year with meetings more frequently as need arises.

As we continue to grow as a community in our recognition of the different ways we as a spiritual Society (embedded within a worldly society) have benefitted from and participated in the oppression of People of Color, Ministry and Counsel encouraged the Monthly Meetings to consider how to respond to the reality of our living and worshipping on land taken from the Native Peoples who were here before colonization. We also continue to support Meetings in the Quarter as they labor with concerns of racism in our Society (and in society).

For some decades, the primary focus of M&C has been the responsibilities to support the quarterly meeting clerk, to maintain an eldering presence at the Quarterly Meetings, and to offer assistance to the Monthly Meetings hosting the Quarterly Meetings. We continue to maintain this focus in our work for the Quarter.

M&C was asked on a number of occasions to help Friends find clearness on difficulties they were experiencing in their spiritual journeys with their Meetings. The members of those clearness committees found the experiences deeply moving. We encourage members of the Quarter who are struggling spiritually to reach out to us. We were not asked to be an eldering presence for any committee of the Quarter during this year. We are always available should committees feel the need of a pastoral presence.

This year, after a two year hiatus, we were able to hold the dinner for the clerk's of Quarterly committees and of the Monthly Meetings. Katherine Alford was very gracious in allowing us into her home to have it be in person. She was also extremely gracious on top of that to prepare an amazing meal for all of us. We hope to be able to do more in person activities later in the year.

Concern for Quaker Living Working Group (a committee under the care of M&C) continues to explore ways to support older Friends to remain in NYC as capacities

change along three paths: supportive services, community building, and housing support. Towards exploring supportive services, we have developed a report based on what we learned from speaking with Friends providing pastoral care in our meetings. We heard that Friends providing pastoral care in our meetings regularly encounter material needs beyond what can be provided by volunteers, and that Friends providing pastoral care would generally welcome the support of a professional social worker. Based on these findings we are developing a proposal to engage professional social work support for Friends in NYC. We hope to bring this proposal to the NYQM Trustees soon. As part of our effort to build community among Friends in NYC, in April we offered a workshop called "What Good Is Money?" Over 20 Friends participated in this lively evening on Zoom. Due to popular request we are planning a follow-up workshop in October on the topic of personal finances. We have also prepared a request for proposals for a feasibility study for a housing project to support Friends, which has been reviewed by M&C, the FCC, and Trustees. We are currently seeking proposals. Following NYQM's established process, we'll submit at least three contractor bids to FCC and Trustees for consideration to produce the study we are seeking.

Katherine Alford (ex-officio), Beverly Archibald, Zachary Edminister, Ed Elder(clerk), David Herendeen, Callie Janoff (CQL), Hugo Lane, Steven Monroe Smith, Diana Smith-Barker, Robert Wilber