

New York Quarterly Meeting, Religious Society of Friends

Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

July 16, 2022

Attendance:

Clerk: Katherine Alford (Morningside)	Morningside: 5
Recording Clerk: Sarah Way (Brooklyn)	Staten Island: 0
Brooklyn: 10	NYQM General Manager: 0
Fifteenth Street: 11	Visitors/Unidentified: 1
Flushing: 2	
Manhattan: 2	

2022.07.01. The meeting settled into silence at 1:08 p.m. on a rainy afternoon in the Quaker Cemetery in Prospect Park. Out of the silence Katherine Alford, clerk, shares a reading from Richard Powers' *The Overstory*:

The Greeks had a word, *xenia*—guest friendship—a command to take care of traveling strangers, to open your door to whoever is out there, because anyone passing by, far from home, might be God. Ovid tells the story of two immortals who came to Earth in disguise to cleanse the sickened world. No one would let them in but one old couple, Baucis and Philemon. And their reward for opening their door to strangers was to live on after death as trees—an oak and a linden—huge and gracious and intertwined. What we care for, we will grow to resemble. And what we resemble will hold us, when we are us no longer. . . .

2022.07.02. The clerk welcomes everyone present.

2022.07.03. The clerk reviews the agenda, with minor amendments, and Friends approve it.

2022.07.04. Brian Oettel presents a [report](#) from the Cemetery Committee, attached. The committee has increased accessibility of the cemetery. There have been six interments and a number of open days and work days. They plan to continue to have a monthly Open Saturday, tentatively scheduled for the 3rd Saturday of each month through October. Friends receive the report.

2022.07.05. Richard Accetta-Evans presents the [report](#) from the Nominating Committee. The nominations were read aloud and are also attached. With noted amendments, the report is

approved. The nominations of Friends from meetings outside New York Quarter nominated to quarterly meeting committees are also approved.

2022.07.06. Glenn Josey presents a report from the Trustees, mainly noting recent personnel changes at the NYQM office. The report is approved.

2022.07.07. Paul von Linden Tol presents the Audit and Budget [report](#), attached, which includes some proposed changes to the 2022 budget. Friends accept the report and approve the revised budget.

2022.07.08. Ed Elder presents the annual [report](#) from the Quarter's Ministry and Council Committee, attached. M&C has provided a number of clearness committees for Friends over the past year and is available to serve as elders and provide spiritual support to anyone in the Quarter.

The report from M&C includes an update from the Concern For Quaker Life Committee, which is under the care of M&C. The CQL continues to explore ways to support older Friends who want to remain in NYC, including the possibility of hiring a professional social worker, holding a workshop on personal finances, and a feasibility study for a housing project for Friends. The report is accepted.

2022.07.09. Ed Elder continues and presents a [report](#), attached, from the ad hoc group responding to the previous request from Friends for "Ministry and Counsel to form a committee that will develop procedures for this {Witness Concerns} budget line." The report describes a new proposed Witness Fund Committee. Friends accept the report and will bring it to their monthly meetings for seasoning, with the goal of revisiting this issue in October for possible approval.

2022.07.10. Carol Summar presents a [report](#) from Fifteenth Street Meeting, attached, and it is accepted.

2022.07.11. Julie Finch brings a minute from Fifteenth Street's Peace & Social Justice Committee, [attached](#), concerning Quakers and Indian Boarding Schools. The minute asks Friends to review American Friends' historical support for these boarding schools and to resolve to apologize for our actions, including a discussion of reparations. The minute also urges our elected officials to support "The Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the U.S. Act." Friends approve the minute. The clerk will forward the minute to New York Yearly Meeting.

2022.07.12. Jonathan Fluck presents a [report](#) from Brooklyn Meeting, attached. They have recorded new members and are holding three weddings in the next few months. Friends accept the report.

2022.07.13. Katherine Alford presents a [report](#) from Morningside Meeting, attached. Morningside continues to hold blended/hybrid meetings for worship. Friends accept the report.

2022.07.14. Jeffrey Guyton presents a [report](#) from Flushing Meeting, attached. The meeting is continuing its outreach efforts. Friends accept the report.

2022.07.15. Katherine Alford presents the [report](#) from Staten Island Meeting, attached, and it is accepted.

2022.07.16. Gloria Thompson presents a report from Manhattan Meeting. The meeting has been undertaking many inter-visitations. Friends accept the report.

2022.07.17. Ann Kjellberg presents a [report](#) from the Communications Committee, attached, and Friends accept the report.

2022.07.18. Marna Herrity presents a report from the Great Lakes Region Africa Education Committee. The success, size, and budget of the school are growing. Friends accept the report.

2022.07.19. Jonathan Fluck gives an announcement from the Fifteenth Street Arts Committee about a new play that will be produced at the meetinghouse. The subject of the play is John Dickinson, a former Quaker and a supporter of reconciliation during the War of Independence.

2022.07.20. Todd Drake gives an announcement inviting NY Quarter's monthly meetings to use the parlor at the Penington House. Todd and Margaret Lew promote the Quaker Call to Action to defend democracy (see quakercall.net). A discussion on this, including training in "deep canvassing" and organizing further action, will take place at the Penington at 10 am-3:30 pm on August 6, in person or on Zoom.

2022.07.21. The clerk thanks everyone for sticking with the community and staying at the meeting through the rain. The meeting settles into worship. Out of the silence, the clerk reads another excerpt from Richard Powers' *The Overstory*:

We found that trees could communicate, over the air and through their roots.
Common sense hooted us down. We found that trees take care of each other.
Collective science dismissed the idea. Outsiders discovered how seeds remember

the seasons of their childhood and set buds accordingly. Outsiders discovered that trees sense the presence of other nearby life. That a tree learns to save water. That trees feed their young and synchronize their masts and bank resources and warn kin and send out signals to wasps to come and save them from attacks.

Here's a little outsider information, and you can wait for it to be confirmed. A forest knows things. They wire themselves up underground. There are brains down there, ones our own brains aren't shaped to see. Root plasticity, solving problems and making decisions. Fungal synapses. What else do you want to call it? Link enough trees together, and a forest grows aware.

2022.07.22. The meeting ends at 2:26 p.m., with skies clearing.

UPCOMING NYQM DATES:

2022:

October 16th: Flushing Monthly Meeting, Flushing

2023:

January 15, Brooklyn Monthly Meeting

April 16, 15th Street Monthly Meeting

July 22, Friends Cemetery