

NEW YORK YEARLY MEETING MINUTES

SUMMER SESSIONS 2025

Online via Zoom
Wednesday evening, July 23, 2025

*Gloria Thompson (Manhattan), Clerk
Frederick Dettmer (Purchase), Assistant Clerk
Lu Harper (Rochester), Recording Clerk
Marvea Thompson (Brooklyn), Reading Clerk*

2025-07-01. Welcome

Clerk Gloria Thompson (Manhattan) welcomed Friends to our 331st Summer Sessions. Gloria raised up our theme: Dare to Hope! Dare to Heal! Dare to Witness! We then entered into a period of worship, during which Gloria read a quote from Francis of Sales: *“Prayer opens the understanding to the brightness of Divine Light, and the will to the warmth of Heavenly Love---nothing can so effectually purify the mind from its ignorances, or the will from its perverse affections. It is as a healing water which causes the roots of our good desires to send forth fresh shoots, which washes away the soul’s imperfections, and allays the thirst of passion.”*

2025-07-02. Reading

Gloria shared this quote from *Faith & Practice*: *“We look with tender hearts, especially during meetings for worship with a concern for business, for one another’s spiritual vision. Truths of the Spirit may come from any of us.”*— *Faith & Practice*, 2020 Edition, New York Yearly Meeting, page 26

2025-07-03. Introduction and Agenda

Gloria introduced the Clerk’s Table and reviewed the agenda.

2025-07-04. Land Acknowledgement

Brendan Glynn (Brooklyn), from Indigenous Affairs Committee, read the [Land Acknowledgement](#).

2025-07-05. Roll Call

Marvea Thompson (Brooklyn) read the roll call.

2025-07-06. Visitors

The clerk invited visitors to introduce themselves. Tom Rothschild, of Strawberry Creek Meeting, Pacific Yearly Meeting, and Kathleen Wooten, from New England Yearly Meeting, introduced themselves.

2025-07-07. Continuing Quaker Education

General Secretary Steve Mohlke (Ithaca) brought Continuing Quaker Education on the topic, “Why Can’t I Stand In The Way?” Steve shared his understanding that Quaker decisions are

decisions of the group, noting that “Individuals have a responsibility to share their truth and raise concerns after a proposal is made. After speaking, the individual releases it to the whole group. The group needs to discern whether what has been said prevents it from moving forward on the matter under consideration.” Friends shared concerns and ministry.

2025-07-08. Epistle from Bhopal Yearly Meeting

Carol Clarke (Ithaca), from the Epistle Committee, read the epistle from [Bhopal Yearly Meeting](#).

2025-07-09 Annual Meeting of the Corporation

This section of our Meeting for Business opened the Annual Meeting of the Corporation. Clerk of Trustees Mary Harpster (Rahway and Plainfield) summarized the [Annual Report of the Corporation](#). The Trustees’ full report was included in the Supporting Documents.

2025-07-10. Nominations to Trustees

Jill McLellan (Buffalo) brought two nominations of Friends for service on the NYYM Board of Trustees.

Mary Harpster (’20)	Rahway-Plainfield	Class of 2029
Elaine Learnard	Conscience Bay	Class of 2029

Friends approved these appointments.

With this approval, the Annual Meeting of the Corporation was closed, as required by our By-Laws.

2025-07-11. Task Group on Racism

Anne Pomeroy (New Paltz and Brooklyn 9am meetings), from Ministry Coordinating Committee, introduced John Choe (Flushing) and Rebekah Rice (Saratoga), who brought an update on the structure of the Task Group on Racism.

Rebekah Rice read a minute prepared by the Task Group.

The Task Group on Racism, under the care of the Ministry Coordinating Committee in collaboration with Witness Coordinating Committee, met as a group of representatives from NYYM committees who share a concern for racial healing and justice and for addressing racism within the Yearly Meeting in all its forms: interpersonal, structural, and identity. Members are from MCC, WCC, GSCC, Racial Justice Center, Indigenous Affairs, Euro-American Quakers Working to End Racism (EAQWER), Good Trouble, Prisons, Another World is Possible, Black Concerns, Barrington-Dunbar, and NYYM staff. Others are welcome: contact Rebekah Rice <rebekahrrice@gmail.com>. Does NYYM affirm the new formation of the Task Group on Racism or have any ministry, questions, concerns or blessing to share now?

In response to a question, Rebekah and John summarized the current and forthcoming work of the Task Group. The Task Group welcomes participation from interested Friends, and encourages more participation from Friends of Color. They are still looking for a representative from General Services Coordinating Committee, and hope that will be confirmed soon. Friends shared suggestions for the direction of the Task Group. Friends affirmed the report of the Task Group.

2025-07-12. Introduction of Treasurer

Robin Gowin (New Brunswick), Clerk of General Services Committee, introduced the Treasurer.

2025-07-13. Treasurer's Report

NYYM Treasurer Laura Cisar (New Brunswick) brought the [June 2025 Treasurer's Report](#). With half of the fiscal year completed, we are running a deficit of \$77,828, compared to June 2024 when the deficit was \$18,581. At the end of June, NYYM had received 30.9% of monthly meeting contributions. The percent of budgeted monthly meeting contributions has increased to 45% through additional contributions received so far in July. The available operating reserve is \$299,243.48. The current balance of the Sharing Fund is \$71,312.49, and the current balance of the Designated Use Funds is \$57,058.86. The value of NYYM Invested Funds at the end of June 2025 was \$6,993,034. The Lindley Murray Trust, which is now under the Trusteeship of Friends Fiduciary Corporation, will no longer be reported by NYYM. In response to a question, Laura noted that Trustees are looking at the yearly meeting's structural deficit and are considering remedies.

2025-07-14. Minutes approved

Lu Harper (Rochester) read the minutes. Friends approved the minutes.

2025-07-15. Jim Atwell announcement

Buffy Curtis announced recently-received news of the passing of Jim Atwell (Butternuts).

2025-07-16. Closing worship

As Friends entered into closing worship, Gloria read a passage from Noel Palmer's book, *Daily Notes to God*.

2025-07-17. Closing and Online Meetinghouse

Meeting for Business closed as Friends transitioned into the first session of a new experiment, the Online Meetinghouse, a space for Friends to connect online after our times of worship and business.

Oakwood Friends School and Online via Zoom
Saturday morning, July 26, 2025

Clerk: Fred Dettmer (Purchase Meeting)
Assistant Clerk: Gloria Thompson (Manhattan Meeting)

Recording Clerk: Mary Eagleson (Scarsdale Meeting)
Reading Clerk: Barbrah Bleecker (Montclair Meeting)
Tech Support: Chad Gilmartin and Richard Mattocks

2025-07-17. Welcome and Readings

The meeting began with a period of worship. Out of the silence, Clerk Fred Dettmer read this passage:

In such a world as ours today, no light glib word of hope dare be spoken. . . . Only if we look long and deeply into the abyss of despair do we dare to speak of hope. . . . We dare not tell people to hope in God . . . unless we know what it means to have absolutely no other hope but in God. But as we know something of such a profound and amazing assurance, clear at the depths of our beings, then we dare to proclaim it boldly in the midst of a world aflame.

— *Thomas Kelly, a Quaker mystic, 1938*

He read from *Faith and Practice*:

We look with tender hearts, especially during meetings for worship with a concern for business, for one another's spiritual vision. Truths of the Spirit may come from any of us.

— *Faith & Practice*, 2020 Edition. New York Yearly Meeting. Page 26.

And shared a personal reflection:

As many of you know, Purchase Meeting sits adjacent to an airport, and sometimes planes take off overhead while Friends are worshipping. On those occasions, I find myself wondering if there is that of God in the jet's roar. After all, they are made of the same substance as we are, material that came from the unfathomable miracle of Creation.

In *The Givenness of Things*, Marilynne Robinson offers one answer (pages 200-201):
“Creation must have a quality at its center and in its substance to which we as human beings belong. . . . To worship God in the Creation is to celebrate as well the fact that we ourselves are created, and strangely and wonderfully made. Our honor and glory are not our own doing, and are only more precious, more to be enjoyed and explored, for this reason.”

2025-07-18. Introductions

Fred then introduced the clerks' table and invited visitors to introduce themselves.

Windy Cooler (Baltimore YM), Beth Collea (Quaker Religious Education Collaborative, Dover Friends Meeting, NEYM), Megan Thomas (FCNL), Traci Hjelt Sullivan (General Secretary of Right Sharing of World Resources), Greta Kirk Mickey (Baltimore YM, formerly of NYYM), Marian Baker (United Society of Friends Women International, Northeast Region). First-time attenders were Eric Roost (Morningside MM), and Mattie Johnson, her spouse Jason Perlman, and their baby daughter Alithia Johnson (Morningside MM).

The clerk reviewed the agenda.

2025-07-19. Epistle from Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

Matt Sunderland (Scarsdale Meeting), from the Epistle Committee, read selections from [the epistle from Lake Erie Yearly Meeting](#). It urges mending of the net of our interpersonal relationships and of the wider society.

2025-07-20. Witness Section

Lu Harper introduced the Witness Coordinating Committee.

2025-07-21. Quaker Walk to Washington DC

Ross Brubeck (attender Brooklyn Meeting, member Sandy Springs Meeting, Baltimore YM) reported on the recent Quaker Walk To Washington D. C., which was inspired by the Flushing Remonstrance of 1657. The report began with [a video](#) of the walk. The group completed a new Flushing Remonstrance 2025, which was delivered to the offices of several members of Congress. Ross also read parts of the [report to the yearly meeting](#), noting that the group had walked 295 miles on foot and paddled 5 miles by canoe across the Susquehanna River. The video and remonstrance are posted on the website www.quakerwalk2025.org.

2025-07-22. Presentation on Quaker Involvement with Slavery

Nadine Hoover introduced Josh Randall, who attended the public hearing in Buffalo on reparations to formerly enslaved people. He has researched information on how Quakers were involved in slavery, both as slave holders and as abolitionists. He presented [a series of slides](#) on this history, extending into the present.

2025-07-23. State of Society Report

Hans-Jurgen Lehmann (member-at-large, New York Yearly Meeting) and other members of the State of Society Committee read that committee's [report](#).

2025-07-24. Budget

Albert Hsu (Wilton Meeting) & Laura Cisar (New Brunswick Meeting) presented [the report](#) of the Budget Development Committee (BDC). Albert presented a review of how the yearly meeting reached its current financial position, with a deficit budget for 2025. He indicated that the budget for 2026 will also be a deficit budget. Although the Sharing Fund and Designated Funds Reports are not part of this year's budget report, the BDC is planning to include them in the budget for 2026 and subsequent years.

Laura reviewed the current budget funds available and anticipated regular expenses. She then shared [the public budget](#), which was sent to Friends earlier, with space for comments. There are two potential budgets for 2026, one assuming that Summer Sessions would be held at Oakwood School and the other assuming they would be held at Silver Bay. The difference is approximately \$20,000.

Albert spoke to the difference in deficit projections between the two estimates for 2026. He stressed that the higher expense for attendance at Silver Bay could be made up if Friends will be more generous with their contributions and if enough of them attend sessions at Silver Bay. The

Budget Development Committee, with input from coordinating committees and individuals, will discern how to decrease the projected deficit.

2025-07-25. Sharing Fund Appeal

Nadine Hoover (Buffalo Meeting) made an appeal to Friends to increase their support to the Sharing Fund by including it as well as the operating budget in their monthly meeting budgets for support of the yearly meeting. Individual Friends explained briefly the variety of activities the Sharing Fund supports.

2025-07-26. Closing

Having run over the allotted time, the meeting ended without consideration of the minutes, which will be read at the meeting on Tuesday morning.

Oakwood Friends School and Online via Zoom
Tuesday morning, July 29, 2025

Clerk: Gloria Thompson (Manhattan Meeting)
Assistant Clerk: Frederick Dettmer (Purchase Meeting)
Recording Clerk: Mary Eagleson (Scarsdale Meeting)
Reading Clerk: Marvea Thompson (Brooklyn Meeting)

2025-07-27. Welcome and Readings

Clerk Gloria opened the meeting for worship with a concern for business by reading from *Faith and Practice*:

Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

We look with tender hearts, especially during meetings for worship with a concern for business, for one another's spiritual vision. Truths of the Spirit may come from any of us.

— *Faith & Practice*, 2020 Edition. New York Yearly Meeting. Page 26

She reminded us that the theme of the worship is healing by reading this passage:

Meeting for worship for healing (healing prayer) is a gathering for the purpose of holding people, concerns, and situations in the Light... Wholeness can come in many different ways. People can receive their heart's desire as a result of healing prayer...

— "Meeting for Healing in the Manner of Friends" Merry Stanford and Richard Lee,
Friends Journal, December 1995.

2025-07-28. Introductions

After a period of silent worship, Gloria introduced the clerks' table and reviewed the agenda. Visitors attending for the first time introduced themselves: Steven Farmish, 15th St; Abby Daia, Brooklyn MM; Yohannes (Knowledge) Johnson, Bulls-Head Oswego MM; Monica (last name withheld at her request), Buffalo MM; and Dwight Huey, Manhattan.

2025-07-29. Epistle from Black, Brown, Indigenous, and People of Color Friends Meeting

Matt Sunderland (Scarsdale Meeting), Epistle Committee, read [the epistle](#) from the online meeting of Black, Brown, Indigenous, and People of Color from many yearly meetings on May 31, 2025.

2025-07-30. Minutes from last meeting approved

The minutes from Saturday morning's business meeting were read, and with one substantive correction, they were approved.

2025-07-31. White Privilege Conference Report

Karen Snare (Bulls Head-Oswego MM) gave the [attached report](#) of 10 members of NYYM who attended the White Privilege Conference in Hartford, Connecticut in March, 2025.

2025-07-32. Friends World Committee for Consultation Report

Jayant Singh (Bethpage Preparative Meeting) and Dwight Huey (Manhattan Meeting) gave [reports](#) from the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Section of the Americas meeting. Dwight related some of his memorable experiences as a young Friend within a Youth Gathering group from about 50 countries. He then played a recording of a spoken report given by Sylke Jackson. [The transcript is here.](#)

2025-07-33. Epistle First Draft

Matt Sunderland (Scarsdale Meeting) and Carol Clarke presented the first reading of the epistle from this year's Summer Sessions. Friends offered ministry in response. Those with more comments were invited to send them by email to epistles@nyym.org.

2025-07-34. Report from Sessions Committee

Anne Collins, clerk of Sessions Committee (Saratoga Meeting) gave the slide-show [report](#) on the current sessions.

She reported that the Summer Sessions in 2026 are tentatively scheduled for July 12 to 18 at Silver Bay. She warned that if registrations for those sessions, by the end of January, 2026, are not sufficient in number, and if not enough volunteers step forward, the plan will be cancelled.

2025-07-35. Minute from NYYM Trustees

Albert Hsu (Wilton MM), reported that the Trustees had met on July 27, and had approved the following minute:

Minute 2025.07.01: Trustees authorize the Clerk of Trustees and the Financial Clerk of Trustees, as an ex-officio member of General Services Coordinating Committee, to sign the agreement with Silver Bay, contingent upon the inclusion of the signatories and Clerk of GSCC in (a) the establishment of a binding mitigation plan with benchmarks that must be met for the securing of necessary resources, including financial and volunteer, (b) regular meetings to check on the progress of the mitigation plan, and (c) the final decision to move forward with Summer Sessions at Silver Bay made in advance of the cancellation date.

One Friend asked how the Sessions Committee will work to address the needs at Silver Bay of Friends who have hidden or visible disabilities.

Another commented that the cost to attenders of attendance at Silver Bay is prohibitive to many young Friends.

The concerns raised above were addressed by another Friend, who commented that over decades of attendance she observed that Silver Bay was a location that nurtured the bonding of our faith community; that Silver Bay had added golf carts after observing NYYM's use of them; and that we have time in advance of Summer Sessions to figure out ways to address the full range of disability concerns.

A Friend asked if the contract has been signed, and the answer is that it has been and will go into the email this afternoon.

Specifics of a mitigation plan need to be developed and agreed to by Sessions Committee and Trustees, and will include financial, registration, volunteer, and staff milestones. If the agreed-to benchmarks are not met, the contract will be voided.

Friends emphasized that enough of us must register and pay for attendance at Silver Bay by the end of January. Further, those who can afford more must be prepared to give more.

Further discussion on this topic is postponed until the meeting on Friday.

2025-07-36. Minutes Approved

The minutes were approved, pending insertion of several corrections.

2025-07-37. Closing

The meeting closed with a brief period of silent worship.

Online via Zoom

Friday evening, August 1, 2025

Frederick Dettmer (Purchase), Clerk
Gloria Thompson (Manhattan), Assistant Clerk
Lu Harper (Rochester), Recording Clerk
Julia Giordano, (Bulls-Head Oswego), Reading Clerk

2025-07-38. Greeting and Reading

The meeting began with a period of worship, out of which Fred Dettmer (Purchase), clerking this Business session, read the following excerpt from Marilyn Robinson's book *Reading Genesis* (page 39):

“Quoting from Genesis: ‘out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight’, she asserts: “This world is suited to human enjoyment ... in anticipation of human pleasure, which the Lord presumably shares. This is an extremely elegant detail. . . . It is a rich goodness that the Lord intended and created for our experience. Two things are signified, that God as the creator of beauty intends it for us to see and enjoy, and that He gives us the gifts of apprehension this pleasure requires, which is nothing less than a sharing of His mind with us in this important particular. That God Himself in some celestial sense has and enjoys this kind of perception gives us an insight into the meaning of our being made in His image. The world is imbued with these reminders that there is a beautiful intention and assurance expressed in every perception we have of loveliness in the natural world.”

2025-07-38. Clerk’s Table

The clerk introduced the Clerk’s Table.

2025-07-39. Introductions

The clerk invited visitors and first-time attenders to introduce themselves. Christa Farmer from Westbury Monthly Meeting introduced herself. The clerk noted that we have received a letter of travel for Windy Cooler, who was with us earlier in sessions. Friends directed the clerk to endorse the letter of travel for Windy.

2025-07-40. Agenda Review

The clerk reviewed the agenda. Two reports will be deferred to Fall Sessions: Writing Statements of Conscience, and the report on the work of the New York State Council of Churches.

2025-07-41. Readings

The clerk read two excerpts from *Faith & Practice*:

We are called to share with others our experience that God is actively present in the world and in every human heart, and may be encountered by those who turn to God in openness and expectation.....Our witness may encourage action by others who have been shy or reticent. We broaden our fellowship and deepen our understanding of each other by sharing the insights and experiences that have led us to God.

— *Faith & Practice*, 2020 Edition. New York Yearly Meeting. Pages 31-32.

We look with tender hearts, especially during meetings for worship with a concern for business, for one another’s spiritual vision. Truths of the Spirit may come from any of us.

— *Faith & Practice*, 2020 Edition. New York Yearly Meeting. Page 26

2025-07-42. Reading of German Yearly Meeting’s 1938 Epistle

Anne Barschall (Scarsdale) read German Yearly Meeting’s [epistle from 1938](#). It spoke of Jesus Christ’s power over evil and death, the helping power of receiving epistles from other Friends past and present, and quoted extensively from one received from Australian Yearly Meeting,

which called us to be living epistles, and asked, “Can we help each other to remember more often that the power we long for is already waiting for us, and that to think of it, rather than our weakness and difficulty, is the way to victory?” The epistle from German Yearly Meeting ended with the call to Friends to “Let us be Friends!”

2025-07-43. Statement from Quaker Organizations Naming Genocide in Gaza

Lu Harper (Rochester) shared a [joint statement](#) from eight international Quaker organizations naming their belief that Israel’s actions in Gaza constitute genocide. Witness Coordinating Committee will be forwarding the statement to monthly and regional/quarterly meetings, as well as sending it out in the Weekly Update, for Friends’ discernment. The yearly meeting will be scheduling Zoom listening and sharing sessions to learn what is happening with the statement among our meetings and worship groups, to identify ways in which the yearly meeting and Witness Coordinating Committee could be helpful, and to discern whether the yearly meeting should endorse the statement. Look for announcements of those listening and sharing sessions in next week’s Weekly Update and separate emails. Friends here tonight were invited to share the statement with their meetings. Meetings were asked to let the clerks of WCC know the results of their discernment by emailing us at wcc-clerks@nyym.org.

Friends shared concerns and ministry.

2025-07-44. Nominating Committee Report

Jill McLellan brought the Nominating Committee report. Jill thanked the many Friends who stepped up and agreed to serve. Friends approved the appointments below.

NYYM Nominating Report for Summer Sessions — July 30, 2025

Officers

Clerk

Gloria Thompson ('23)	Manhattan	Class of 2026
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Assistant Clerk

Frederick Dettmer ('23)	Purchase	Class of 2026
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Treasurer

Laura Cisar ('18)	New Brunswick	Class of 2026
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Assistant Treasurer

Albert Hsu ('18)	Wilton	Class of 2026
Matthew Sunderland ('25)	Scarsdale	Class of 2026

Recording Clerk

Mary Eagleson ('23)	Scarsdale	Class of 2026
Lu Harper ('20)	Rochester	Class of 2026

Meetings for Discernment Steering Committee

Mary Pagurelias ('24)	Brooklyn	Class of 2028
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Oakwood Friends School Board

Elizabeth (Liza) Estony	Purchase	Class of 2028
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Friends General Conference, member of the Central Committee

Karen Snare	Bulls Head-Oswego	Class of 2028
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Ministry Coordinating Committee

At large member

Donald Badgley	Poughkeepsie	Class of 2028
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Committee for Conflict Transformation

Hugo Lane	Flushing	Class of 2028
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Anne Pomeroy ('22)	New Paltz	Class of 2028
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Rebecca Schillenbeck ('22)	Poplar Ridge	Class of 2028
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Epistle Committee

Anne Barschall	Scarsdale	Class of 2028
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Ministry and Pastoral Care

Lauren Scott ('22)	Westbury	Class of 2028
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Elsie K. Powell House

David Herendeen	Farmington	Class of 2028
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Carol Mallison	Ithaca	Class of 2028
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Melanie-Claire Mallison	Ithaca	Class of 2028
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Neil Murdock ('22)	Rockland	Class of 2028
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Mary Hannon Williams ('24)	Bulls Head-Oswego	Class of 2028
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State of Society

Gary Barnes ('22)	Buffalo	Class of 2028
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Stuart Bartram	Genesee Valley	Class of 2028
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Samuel Cooley	Rochester	Class of 2026
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Worship at Yearly Meeting Sessions

Barbrah Bleecker ('22)	Montclair	Class of 2028
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Ernestine Buscemi ('22)	Morningside	Class of 2028
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General Services Coordinating Committee

Aging Concerns

Jan Philips	Ridgewood	Class of 2028
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Dare Thompson	Poughkeepsie	Class of 2028
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Audit Committee

Michael Mascari ('22)	Westbury	Class of 2028
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Communications

Robert Renwick	Morningside	Class of 2026
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NYYM Board of Trustees (approved earlier in the Sessions)

Mary Harpster ('20)	Rahway-Plainfield	Class of 2029
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Elaine Learnard	Conscience Bay	Class of 2029
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Sessions

Samie Bartul	Cornwall	Class of 2028
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Polly Duke	Westbury	Class of 2028
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Lauren Scott	Westbury	Class of 2028
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Omen Weaver	Rochester	Class of 2028
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Mary Hannon Williams	Bulls Head-Oswego	Class of 2026
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Witness Coordinating Committee

At large member

Rebekah Rice	Saratoga	Class of 2028
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American Friends Service Committee — Member of the Corporation

John Choe	Flushing	Class of 2028
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Committee for Black Concerns

Jeffrey Aaron ('24)	New Brunswick	Class of 2026
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Nancy Cooper	Rochester	Class of 2028
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Helen Garay Toppins ('22)	Morningside	Class of 2028
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Jeanine Laverty	Easton	Class of 2028
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Michael Tritto ('22)	Buffalo	Class of 2028
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Barrington Dunbar Fund for Black Development

Audrey Aurora Jaynes ('22)	Montclair	Class of 2028
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Naceo Giles	Brooklyn	Class of 2028
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Glenn Josey	Fifteenth St.	Class of 2028
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Pamela Wood	Morningside	Class of 2028
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Bolivian Quaker Education Fund — representative

Gary Barnes	Buffalo	Class of 2028
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Indigenous Affairs

Julie Finch	Fifteenth St.	Class of 2028
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Lu Harper ('22)	Rochester	Class of 2028
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Sally Zelasko	Orchard Park	Class of 2028
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New Jersey Council of Churches

Jan Philips ('19)	Ridgewood	Class of 2028
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New York State Council of Churches — Representative to the Collegium

Gloria Thompson	Manhattan	Class of 2026
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Prisons

Corey Devon Arthur	NYYM	Class of 2028
Suzanne Blackburn ('22)	Genesee Valley	Class of 2028
Scott Blumenthal	Morningside	Class of 2028
Yohannes (Knowledge)	Johnson Bulls Head-Oswego	Class of 2028
Margaret Seely	Bulls Head-Oswego	Class of 2028
Helen Garay Toppings	Morningside	Class of 2028

Quaker Earthcare Witness

Margaret McCasland ('22)	Ithaca	Class of 2028
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Committee on World Ministries

Marianne Corbino	Scarsdale	Class of 2026
Edward Doty	Purchase	Class of 2028
Alison Hyde	Orchard Park	Class of 2026
Charlotte Tahk ('22)	Orchard Park	Class of 2028

2025-07-45. Releases from Appointments

The following Friends requested release from their appointments.

Releases:

Gabrielle Savory Bailey ('19)	Chatham-Summit	from Friends United Meeting — member of the General Board, Class of 2026
Renelda Walker ('23)	Poughkeepsie	from Committee on World Ministries, Class of 2026
Bryant Henning ('23)	NYYM	from Sessions, Class of 2026

2025-07-46. Report from Friends General Conference

Helen Mullin (Brooklyn) brought a [report](#) on the work of Friends General Conference (FGC). She noted that the structure of membership on the Central Committee is changing. In the future there will only be two members from yearly meetings rather than, in our case, twelve. Helen named some of the many resources FGC provides meetings. She encouraged Friends to explore the FGC website. The 2026 FGC Gathering will be held July 7-12, 2026, in Burlington, VT.

2025-07-47. Report from Sessions Committee

Anne Collins (Saratoga) brought the Sessions Committee report on the 2025 Summer Sessions at Oakwood and online. There were 309 total registrants, of which 231 were in-person and 78 online. There were 29 young adults and 31 children and youth. The Tagless Tag Sale raised \$1018.50; the Fun(d) Fair raised \$360; and Cafe Night raised \$3661.45; for a grand total of \$5039.95. Because a small number of checks were designated specifically for the Sharing Fund, the split was \$2377.48 Powell House and \$2662.47 Sharing Fund. There were 23 online interest

groups in the two weeks before Sessions. 160 Friends registered for at least one interest group, from 34 NYYM monthly meetings and four other YMs. There were, however, significant no shows from registrants to the online interest groups. 12 interest groups were held on campus during Sessions. NYYM Summer Sessions will be held at Silver Bay, July 12-18th, 2026.

2025-07-48. Epistle

Matt Sunderland (Scarsdale) read the [NYYM Epistle](#). Friends approved the epistle.

2025-07-49. Minutes Approved

Lu Harper (Rochester) read the minutes. Friends approved the minutes.

2025-07-50. Clerk's Closing Message

Gloria Thompson (Manhattan), clerk of NYYM, shared a closing message, celebrating all those Friends whose work supported the yearly meeting body throughout our time together.

2025-07-51. Reflections

The clerk invited Friends to share their reflections on Summer Sessions.

2025-07-52. Close of Meeting

The meeting closed with a period of worship, and with the final “online meetinghouse” of our Sessions.