

New York Quarterly Meeting, Religious Society of Friends

Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

15th Street Meetinghouse, New York, NY

April 16, 2023

Attendance (both online and in person):

Clerk: Katherine Alford (Morningside)	Manhattan: 0
Recording Clerk: Sarah Way (Brooklyn)	Morningside: 10
Brooklyn: 10	Staten Island: 1
Fifteenth Street: 16	NYQM exec dir: Ted Bongiovanni
Flushing: 0	Visitors/Unidentified: 1

2023.04.01. The meeting settles into silence at 1:09 p.m.

Out of the silence the clerk, Katherine Alford, shares the following readings:

In all our fervor — in all my fervor — to be doing, have I paid too little attention to the power that lies in being? Do we remember that it is the spirit of our service, the aura that surrounds it, the gentleness and the patience that marks it, the love made visible that compels it, that is the truly distinctive quality that lifts Quaker service above lobbying, above pressure, above coercion, that inspires the doubtful, and reaches the heart of the adversary?

— Stephen Cary, 1979

Community is another place where we get to pay attention. Community is a wonderful gift where we get to cultivate and discover, or uncover our gifts, but also sometimes where we're confronted with a mirror that reminds us of how we're still invited to grow into wholeness. And so all of that ...is discernment. Discernment is when we can align our spirits, and our minds, and our bodies, and our communities in a direction that leads us into that mystery that King called the beloved community or what Charles Eisenstein calls "that more beautiful world that our hearts know as possible."

— *Integrity & Imagination: Facing What We Fear* with Anton Flores-Maisonet, [Pendle Hill's The Seed](#)

2023.04.02. The clerk welcomes everyone and gives some introductory remarks. The agenda is reviewed and approved.

2023.04.03. Dan Seeger, NYQM treasurer, reports for the Audit and Budget Committee. The audit has been completed (and is [attached](#)). It is technically a “qualified” audit as our records previous to 2007 weren’t complete, but that is not a concern. Because of the movements of the stock market our assets had lost value as of the end of 2022. The auditors recommend upgrading the quarter’s accounting staff. Friends accept the report.

2023.04.04. Barbara Barnard, 15th Street, gives the Nominating Report. The committee expresses regret that not all vacancies could be filled and gratitude for those who have agreed to serve. See the [attached report](#) for the list of new and renewed appointments and one request for release. Friends approve the nominations. The Nominating Committee is being held in the Light. Friends are asked to consider service on a quarterly meeting committee. (Friends can view the committee roster [here](#).)

2023.04.05. Ann Kjellberg, 15th Street, brings a report and a minute from the Communications Committee, [attached](#). The committee asks to be released from the charge to report quarterly and to move to an annual report schedule. Friends approve this change to the handbook and accept the report.

2023.04.06. Jessica Fleischer-Black brings the annual report from the Relief Committee. The committee met monthly over the last year. They distributed over \$25k in grants and \$3k in loans to Friends in need of financial assistance in the quarter. Brooklyn and Staten Island Meetings accepted some money to distribute to their members in need. Not all meetings are represented on the committee. The [full report is attached](#) and is accepted.

2023.04.07. Katherine reads the report from Todd Drake, co-Director of the Penington, [attached](#). There is a line in the quarterly meeting budget for Witness activity, and funds from this have been distributed to several places, including local meetings, the yearly meeting, and the Penington. Penington House used their grant to support their yearly Bayard Rustin residency for a BiPOC artist. The first Bayard Rustin resident produced a transformative body of work and has remained at the Penington, and the second, an author, is currently in residence. The selection process for the third year is in process and there are more applications than ever before. Friends accept the report.

2023.04.08. A Friend, Mike Philips from Brooklyn, expresses a concern that the Witness Committee is misnamed, as “Witness” is something Quakers DO and is not about money, and suggests alternative names for the committee. The committee will take this under advisement. Other Friends have clarifying questions about the sources of funding for the Rustin Residency, answered by Glenn Josey, a member of the selection committee.

Friends approve the minutes thus far.

2023.04.09. Marna Herrity, Brooklyn, gives an announcement about the work of the Great Lakes Africa Education Committee and an upcoming opportunity to learn more about their work, the date of which will be announced to the NYQM list once it has been set.

2023.04.10. At 2:01 pm., Glenn Josey called to order the annual meeting of the NYQM corporation and gave the report from the Trustees. The minutes for the meeting of the corporation are available here [\(link\)](#), and include a link to [the Trustees report](#). The quarter has experienced a lot of change over the past year, including establishing the position of Executive Director and hiring Ted Bongiovanni for that position. The report includes reports from three subcommittees, Finance, Personnel, and the Facilities Coordinating Committee. There is currently no one serving as secretary; that will be addressed at the next meeting of the Trustees and reported on at the July 15 Quarterly Meeting. Friends receive the report, including the appointment of new Trustees. The meeting of the corporation is adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

2023.04.11. Ted Bongiovanni, Executive Director, passes out paper and pens and asks Friends to answer three questions: 1. What is a wish or a need for us as NYC Friends? 2. What is something that gets in our way or is an obstacle we need to overcome? 3. What is a change that you want us, as Friends in NYC, to work towards in the world? Friends online participated by typing their answers into the Zoom chat. Some Friends volunteered to share their concerns and wishes. The in-person answers were collected and posted on an easel pad. Ted further reports that he has spent his first hundred days trying to hear from as many people in the quarter as possible. Ted's written report is [attached](#). Friends accept the report with joy.

2023.04.12. Carol Summar reports from 15th Street Meeting, [attached](#). Attendance in person has been increasing for 11 am worship but business meeting attendance has decreased and many Friends say they are stretched too thin for committee work. There are three new meeting members. The homeless shelter has reopened six nights a week. Traveling member Emily Provance has been ministering throughout the country. The meeting has approved a minute in support of the basic human rights of transgender. Friends accept the report, and the nominations within are approved.

2023.04.13. Marna Herrity gives the report from Brooklyn Meeting, [attached](#). Marna is one of four co-clerks for the meeting. Brooklyn's in-person attendance at worship has been at around 100 people each week with a lot of new younger participants. First Day School and in-person

social hour has returned, along with use of the newly functional refurbished kitchen. Friends accept the report.

2023.04.14. Jason McGill reports from Morningside Meeting, [attached](#). They have also experienced an increase in attendance at worship. In-person hospitality and monthly breakfasts for all have resumed. The meeting has allocated the donation given from the Quarterly witness fund. The meeting has approved minutes affirming support of becoming an antiracist community. The report is accepted.

2023.04.15. This minute, approved by and brought from 15th Street and Morningside Meeting, is read to the gathered body of the quarter: "As Friends we embrace that of God and the Light in every person and respond with dismay to the current wave of legislation that seeks to demonize trans people and deprive them of life-giving treatment and their basic human rights. We urge our representatives and politicians to support legislation protecting the rights, safety, and human dignity of trans people." The minute is approved, with one Friend standing aside, and will be forwarded to the yearly meeting. A Friend suggests we also forward the minute to our legislators.

Minutes up to this point are approved.

2023.04.16. Katherine reads the report from Manhattan Meeting, [attached](#). Their weekly worship reflects the 2023 theme, "Fear Not." Friends are invited to join their hybrid and virtual meetings for worship. Friends accept the report.

2023.04.17. Ted Lochwyn reports from Staten Island, [attached](#). The meeting has been worshipping indoors at the [Everything Goes Cafe](#) on Bay Street in a hybrid format. Beginning in May some of the meetings for worship will be held at the beach. The report is accepted.

2023.04.18. Katherine reads the Flushing Meeting report, [attached](#). The meeting struggles with divisions but has been receiving support from the quarterly and yearly meetings. Friends accept the report.

2023.04.19. Announcements are shared: the quarter will again participate in the Pride Parade on June 25. The Committee on Quaker Living (CQL) has organized an event for quarterly Friends at the cemetery for June 3, at 10 am-2 pm: worship sharing with a query about the experience of COVID and potluck at the cemetery. Ted Bongiovanni announces the email address for the quarter: office@nycquakers.org. Donate food to the 15th Street Shelter: <https://takethemameal.com/KRSI7686> The upcoming Quarterly Meeting dates are below.

2023.04.20. The meeting ends at 3:45 p.m. after a brief period of silent worship.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:
UPCOMING New York Quarterly Meeting DATES**

Pride March June 25, 12pm Details to come Stay TUNED!!!

UPCOMING NYQM DATES:

Quarterly Meetings begin at 1pm.

2023:

July 15, Friends Cemetery

October 15, Morningside Meeting

2024:

January 17, Brooklyn Monthly Meeting

Pride March June 25, 12pm Details to come Stay TUNED!!!