

New York Quarterly Meeting, Religious Society of Friends

Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

15th Street Meeting, New York, NY

April 19, 2025

Attendance (both online and in person):

Clerk: Katherine Alford (Morningside)

Manhattan: 3

Recording Clerk: Sarah Way (Brooklyn)

Morningside: 7

Brooklyn: 6

Staten Island: 0

Fifteenth Street: 10

NYQM exec dir: Ted Bongiovanni

Flushing: 3

Visitors/Unidentified: 1

Staff: 2

2025.04.01. The meeting settles into silence at 1:11 pm.

Out of the silence the clerk, Katherine Alford, shares a reading: the poem [Twenty Ways to Matter](#) by Maria Popova. An excerpt:

*And remember
that life is an extraordinary creative collaboration,
that if we keep shining a light
on the things that mean and matter the most
the light overcomes the darkness*

2025.04.02. The clerk welcomes Friends to our quarterly meeting for worship with a concern for business. Friends approve last meeting's [minutes](#) and approve today's [agenda](#).

2025.04.03. Ted Bongiovanni [reports](#) as Executive Director of the New York Quarter. The scaffolding around 15th Street Meeting is finally down. Improvements and maintenance on our spaces continues. The quarter's finances are good. Our budget is slightly ahead of schedule, and income is as expected. The audit of last year's finances is clean.

Our meeting spaces are now protected from Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent activity due to our involvement in the Quaker-originated [lawsuit](#) against the US Department of Homeland Security.

Co-working at Brooklyn Meeting has enabled the meetinghouse to become a springboard for activism, including the upcoming Migrant Solidarity walk from Flushing to DC. The community wellness program with University Settlement has reached its six-month mark. We're strengthening our connections with Brooklyn Frontiers School, a supportive transfer high school

next to Brooklyn Meeting. A celebration of the Brooklyn Frontiers cooking class will happen in June.

Erin Hughes is now a full time staff member. Nova sturrup is taking health leave. Friends pause to hold her in the Light. Friends accept the report.

2025.04.04. The treasurer, Dan Seeger, reports on the updated investment policy of the quarterly meeting, worked on by the Finance Subcommittee of the Trustees ([Investment Policy Statement Executive Summary](#)). The policy is intended to guide us in keeping our funds aligned with our Quaker values and testimonies. Friends are encouraged to review the policy. Other principles and methods that guide the quarter's finances, including "the Earlham Formula," will be presented at future quarterly meetings. Friends accept this second reading of the policy.

2025.04.05. Dan Seeger continues, reporting on the [Summary of the 2024 Independent Audit](#). This annual process ensures we are managing our resources carefully. Our financial records and our finances themselves are in good order. The full auditors report is available [here](#). Dan added that the education committee requested an addition to their budget. Trustees are inclined to approve this request. Friends accept this report.

2025.04.06. Bill Guy, Brooklyn Meeting, presents the [Nominating Committee Report](#). The committee has concerns about filling spaces on NYQM Ministry and Counsel and the Brooklyn Friends School Board of Trustees. The renewals and nominations are read. The full committee roster is [here](#). Katherine gives heartfelt thanks to the Nominating Committee. Friends approve the renewals and nominations and accept the request for release.

2025.04.07. Ed Elder, Morningside, presents a summary of the [report from the Witness Funds Committee](#). Requests again exceeded their fund of \$100,000. Projects funded again include Africa Education Committee, Devanga Friends School, and Juri See. New projects funded include food for Immigration Rights meetings, New Sanctuary Coalition, Brooklyn Soup Kitchen, and Migrant Solidarity Walk. The committee granted \$57,000, more than half their yearly total. They request an increase of \$50,000 to their budget. At the last quarterly meeting, we approved that the committee will no longer limit how many years a project can be funded, and they expect requests will continue to increase in the future. The request will be seasoned within the Audit and Budget Committee.

A Friend asks if a grant to Powell House Capital Campaign was considered. However, Powell House has not requested funds from the quarter.

Friends accept the report.

Friends approve the minutes up to this point.

2025.04.08. Meeting of the Corporation of the New York City Religious Society of Friends.

At 2:00 pm., Glenn Josey called to order the annual meeting of the NYQM corporation. The separate minutes for the meeting of the corporation are [available here](#).

Glenn reads the yearly [report from the Trustees](#). Officers for the upcoming year are named. The new clerk of Trustees is Dan Seeger and the Assistant Clerk is Miguel Herrera.

Finance Subcommittee has been updating the Quarter's Investment Policy Statement to keep it aligned with our Quaker testimonies. A concern raised in October about investment in Amazon has been addressed; conversations with Friends Fiduciary are ongoing.

The Personnel Subcommittee has clarified its responsibilities. Glenn thanks all the staff members by name and notes Miriam's retirement.

The Facilities Coordinating Subcommittee reviews and oversees the capital and maintenance projects for our physical properties. The roofs and fences at both Brooklyn and 15th Street Meetings need to be repaired or replaced.

The Clerk of Trustees, the Quarter, and the Executive Director meet weekly. Clerk Glenn Josey has been working on improving relations with Friends Seminary along with the Care Committee.

Glenn thanks the quarter, as this is his last meeting as clerk of Trustees.

Friends receive the report.

2025.04.09. NYQM clerk Katherine Alford reads her [last report](#) as clerk of the quarter, a role she has held since 2021. What Friends want from their Quarter is for it "To support and nurture New York Quarterly Meetings as a spiritual community." She has held that statement as a constant reminder and grounding. Katherine thanks Glenn, recording clerk Sarah Way, and this community of Friends. The report is accepted.

2025.04.10. Ted presents a beta version of the new NYC Quakers website. The new website is more visual and features individual Friends' testimonies on why they're Quakers. Another new feature is the News section, where we can share and celebrate what we've been doing. The new site also features our witness beliefs and our programs, including our space rentals. There's a robust About section as well. The URL will remain the same (nycquakers.org) and the old site will remain accessible as an archive.

2025.04.11. Barbara Barnard reads the [Fifteenth Street Meeting Report](#). The meeting held a worship sharing event based on George Fox's words and a workshop, a Quaker View of Ministry, with Emily Provance. They welcomed three new members. Their Friends focused on celebrating and defending our community this quarter. All are invited to their April 27th Earth Day event at their meetinghouse and on Zoom. See [15thstmeeting.org](#) for more events. Friends accept the report.

2025.04.12. Katherine reports that Gloria Thompson will be sending the Manhattan Meeting Report later tonight, when it will be posted on the website. (UPDATE: [The Manhattan Meeting report is here.](#))

2025.04.13. Scott Blumenthal presents the [Morningside Meeting Report](#). The meeting's Friends go through challenges together. Two Friends were accepted as members. There is increased attendance at Sunday worship, and Sunday afternoon meetings have been moved back to allow more time for socialising. The meeting is concerned about how to address long standing inequalities and confront rising injustices. They have a particular concern for anti-racism work, reform of the criminal legal system and prison ministry. Friends accept the report.

2025.04.14. Barbara Masters brings [the report from Brooklyn Meeting](#). Worship meetings continue as before. Attendance at the 11 a.m. meetings for worship continues to grow, sometimes reaching up to 200 people. Two attenders were welcomed into membership. Brooklyn Meeting decided to join the Quaker-originated lawsuit against the Department of Homeland Security on protecting houses of worship from Immigration & Customs Enforcement actions. Peace and Social Action has been organizing a Quaker Solidarity Walk from Flushing to DC that will take place next quarter. An event was held with incarcerated Friend Corey Devon Arthur. A collage art class was hosted. Regular Witness-related events are held.

A Friend from Flushing brings a concern she has heard from others about the upcoming Quaker Solidarity Walk that has sometimes been referred to as a "Migrant Solidarity Walk." The NYQM clerk clarifies that this is a project of the Brooklyn Meeting Peace and Social Action Committee and not of the Quarter. Another Friend clarifies that Flushing Meeting has agreed to be the launch point of the walk (as location of Flushing Remonstrance) and clarifies the meaning of the walk (from Brooklyn's report, the walk is "an action against authority and oppression, reaffirming and defending everlasting human rights across all borders). The Brooklyn Meeting clerk will facilitate a conversation to address concerns with Flushing.

Friends accept the report.

2025.04.15. Katherine reads the [Staten Island Meeting report](#). They continue to meet twice monthly. Leadings arise from their worship. Children sit with the adults during meeting for worship and adults read stories to the children afterward. In the upcoming warmer months the meetings on the beach will re-commence. Friends accept the report.

2025.04.16. Katherine reports that there is no official report from Flushing Meeting and asks us to hold them in the Light as they navigate through challenges. A Friend expresses gratitude for the help and support that the quarter has provided to Flushing.

Minutes are approved.

2025.04.17. The clerk reads some announcements.

- This Thursday, there will be a presentation from David Gray, Brumana Friends School, 6-8 pm on April 24, at 15th Street Meeting
- CQL – Pollinator Tour at Friends Cemetery, next Saturday, April 26. Tour at 11, potluck after. There is also a work day that begins at 10:00 am. Be prepared that there may be foot races happening around the park so it may be difficult to bring a car
- Earth Day: Celebrating our Local Waters, Sunday, April 27 at 12:45 pm, 15th Street and online
- In May, the Downtown Manhattan Allowed Meeting resumes meeting for worship on Thursdays, 6-7pm, at the Battery Park Labyrinth

Upcoming New York Quarterly Meeting Dates (all begin at 1:00 pm)

- 2025:
July 19 (Saturday) at Friends Cemetery (weather permitting)
October 19 at Morningside Monthly Meeting
- 2026:
January 18 at Brooklyn Monthly Meeting

2025.04.18. The meeting ends at 3:35 pm with a brief period of silent worship.