Ministry and Counsel Annual Report to the Quarter
Seventh Month 21, 2024

The Ministry and Counsel Committee of the New York Quarterly Meeting met faithfully throughout the year. We have been meeting approximately monthly for the last year.

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. We are also working to deepen the Spiritual life of the Quarter as the year progresses.

M&C was asked on a number of occasions to form clearness or support committees for Friends, when they were unable to find those committees in their Monthly Meetings. 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 were asked to be a worshipful presence at a number of Business Meetings. We hope that our presence has a soothing effect that allows the Spirit to move more clearly in these Business Meetings.

We were able to hold the dinner for the clerk's of Quarterly committees and of the Monthly Meetings again this year. We expanded the invitations to include anyone who was "clerk curious" and a number of newer Friends attended to hear what clerking was all about. It was again a modified pot luck with much of the food prepared by Katherine Alford and some members of M&C, and much of it delivered by Fresh Direct. It was an enjoyable evening, full of good conversation about the joys and struggles of being a clerk.

We have begun the process of planning for a Quarter-wide retreat in the Fall. The dates of the retreat will be Nov. 15 -17. It will take place at Powell House. Please mark your calendars.

We are also working on marking World Quaker Day (Oct. 6) and the 400 anniversary of George Fox's birth, by inviting all alumni from Quaker schools around the country to visit our Meetings for the month of October.

Ministry and Counsel used it's budget to support the work of the committee and to support the work of various groups around the Quarter. Some of the groups we supported last year were AFSC for its work in Gaza and with refugees around the world, the Davanga Friends School (through Manhattan Monthly Meeting), and the NYYM Conflict Transformation Committee.

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. They have been very active in their work this year, hosting many very informative, spiritual and fun events. Their full report is attached.

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