

Scarsdale Friends Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
13 June 2010

The meeting began with a period of worship, out of which the clerk read Query #1 from New York Yearly Meeting *Faith and Practice*:

Are meetings for worship and business held in expectant waiting for divine guidance? Are we regular and punctual in our attendance? Are we willing and faithful in the service of our meeting and in financial support of its activities?

Those present were Bowen Alpern, Carol Holmes, William Seltzer, Robin Alpern, Carol Wilkinson, Bryan Kennedy, Gallia Taranto, Kristy Vant, Mary Eagleson, clerk, and Virginia Blanford, recording clerk.

1. Carol Wilkinson reported for the **Finance Committee**.
 1. Finance Committee is projecting that the contributions used for the general operations of the Meeting will be approximately \$3400 less than budgeted for the fiscal year, which ends on June 30th. Contributions for general operations were budgeted at \$30,000, and as of the end of May, we had received \$26,600 in contributions.
 2. The Meeting's income was \$9400 more than its expenses, because some expenditures were lower than expected and the income for Building Use and the earnings on investments were higher than expected.
 3. Finance Committee prepared and presented a budget for the 2010-2011 Fiscal Year that assumes an increase of \$1400 in contributions. Most of the Expense items were increased by at least a modest amount over the projected 2010 expenses, with an overall increase of \$6000. This includes \$1700 for New Initiatives. The two initiatives the Committee has in mind are additional shelving for the library and consulting on updating the Meeting's system of accounts.
 4. Most of the Meeting's expenses (approximately 86%) are non-discretionary.

These are composed of:

Building and Grounds:	\$18,000	(utilities, snow removal, and other annual contracted expenses)
Insurance:	\$10,000	
New York Yearly Meeting assessment:	\$23,200	
Sewer assessment:	<u>\$ 1,300</u>	
TOTAL	\$52,500	

One Friend noted his concern about our ongoing need to work within an austerity budget and the restrictions such budgeting imposes, both financially and psychologically, on the Meeting, and suggested the possibility that there might be times when organizations should consciously spend beyond their means. It was noted that the proposed budget does represent a small expansion from the previous austerity budgets, but also that contributions have in fact decreased in recent years. Friends raised questions about

several specific line items in the proposed budget, to which Finance Committee members responded.

Friends re-emphasized the need for each committee to accept advancement as part of its responsibilities and to consider activities that would bring in new attenders.

The Finance Committee clerk, Carol Wilkinson, noted that the committee intends to schedule a threshing session for the Meeting to discuss what should be done with the bequest of approximately \$391,000 from Cecile Vickrey; this is tentatively planned for the first Sunday in October.

The Meeting accepted the report and approved the budget.

2. Gallia Taranto reported for the **Committee on Peace and Social Concerns.**

Peace and Social Concerns Committee has decided to rotate the clerkship monthly unless someone is moved to step forward as clerk. The committee plans to meet on the third Sunday of each month, starting September 19. Juan Dempsey has found a new venue at St. Joseph's Church in New York City for the Hiroshima/ Nagasaki exhibit and will work with the committee to oversee that exhibit. The committee will continue to present movies, starting in the fall, and is currently looking for suitable movies to show. It plans to hold another dinner to raise money for gifts to residents of homeless shelters on Saturday, October 16, 2010.

The Meeting accepted the report.

One Friend noted that Mary Eagleson stepping into the meeting clerkship has left a void on several committees, in particular Peace and Social Concerns, Building and Grounds, and Religious Education, and urged that members of those committees step up as needed to fill that void, even if individuals do not feel entirely prepared to do so.

3. Virginia Blanford reported for the newly constituted **Committee on Ministry and Counsel.**

The Committee on Ministry and Counsel selected Norma Ellis and Ruth Bryan as co-clerks. It will meet on the second Wednesday of each month. At its initial meeting, the committee reviewed ongoing issues from the merged committees on Ministry and Worship, and Clearness and Counsel, identified priorities, created an agenda for considering these priorities, and assigned immediate responsibilities.

The Meeting accepted the report.

4. Other business.

1. The clerk noted that clerks for various committees had not yet been selected and asked committee conveners to provide these before the next meeting for business.

2. The clerk also asked what Friends would expect and want to see from their clerk.
 - A Friend suggested that it is important for the clerk to look beyond words—that is, what the Meeting is *saying*—and to address concerns that she sees within the meeting but that may not be being addressed openly.
 - A Friend offered that the new clerk should rest comfortably in her role, and that her particular gifts of discipline and wisdom are not only valuable but critical to the Meeting.
 - A Friend suggested that the clerk support delegation, especially in areas where she had previously taken a leadership role.
 - A Friend noted that the clerk's primary responsibility is to set an agenda for the Meeting, and suggested that the newsletter might include a Clerk's Corner in which the clerk shares news and information that might not otherwise be circulated to the meeting.
 - A Friend urged the clerk to encourage committee clerks to continue to provide written reports in advance of meeting for business. A Friend asked that these be distributed as part of a preliminary agenda via the listserv.

3. Bowen Alpern noted that the Purchase Quarter Committee on Ministry and Counsel intends to sponsor a retreat on the theme of vocal ministry and its relationship to the spiritual life of the community. Potential dates for this include the weekends of October 16 and 23, and December 4.

The meeting closed with a period of worship, out of which the clerk read Query #15 from New York Yearly Meeting *Faith and Practice*:

Do we partake of the joy of the love of God and make our lives a celebration of the sharing of this love? Do our daily loves so demonstrate Friends' testimonies as to commend them to others?

The next meeting for worship with a concern for business will be on Sunday, July 11, 2010, at rise of meeting.

Virginia Blanford, Recording Clerk
Mary Eagleson, Clerk