

2006 September Business Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2006

The meeting opened with a period of silent worship, out of which the clerk read Advice #2 from Faith and Practice of New York Yearly Meeting:

Friends are advised to read frequently the Scriptures and such other books as will inspire and instruct, and to encourage the practice by their families and others.

Those present were: Matthew Scanlon, John Randall, William Seltzer, Elin Waring, Loomis Mayer, Ronald Rieder, Anne Wright, Norma Ellis, Mary Eagleson, John Bryant, Carolyn Andrews, Nancy Stix, Robert Lohaus, Alan McKenney, Virginia Blanford, Thomas Abernathy and Alice Clague.

1. **Loomis Mayer** passed out the following report from Ministry and Worship Committee: At our last meeting of the Ministry and Worship committee, we were presented with a list of recommendations from the Advancement committee regarding the times for Meeting for Worship and Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business, the role of the Greeter in making visitors/new attenders feel welcome, and the provision of a small group for newcomers.

After careful consideration of these proposals, the Ministry and Worship committee brings the following proposals to Meeting with a Concern for Business:

- (1) That Meeting for Worship begin at 11:00 A.M. every Sunday (First Day) without exception.
- (2) That the October Meeting with a Concern for Business be held on Friday, October 13, at 7:00 P.M., preceded by a potluck supper beginning at 6:00 P.M., and that this pattern be followed for the remainder of the year, the subsequent dates being November 10 and December 8.
- (3) That the Greeter will (a) hand a leaflet on Meeting for Worship to newcomers when they first arrive; (b) at rise of Meeting in August, September and October of this year bring the guest book into the Meeting Room and tell newcomers that it will be outside and that they are encouraged to sign it; (c) ask members of the Ministry and Worship committee to identify themselves as people with whom newcomers can discuss Quakerism.
- (4) That a member of the Ministry and Worship committee join William Seltzer in offering "Exploring Quakerism" as the need arises. For the present, Bowen Alpern has agreed to be that person; the committee will consider, at each of its meetings, which member will carry on that role.
- (5) That the proposal of the Advancement committee concerning the sending of postcards to persons who sign the guest book is not the work of the Ministry and Worship committee. The discussion which followed concerned whether the improvement in our communication with potential Friends should outweigh the inconvenience to present Friends of holding business meeting at a time other than Sundays at 11:15. Friends agreed that the time of worship will be at 11:00 A.M. every week.

There was further discussion of the proposal that, for the next three months, Meeting with a Concern for Business would be held at 7:00 P.M. on the second Friday of the month, preceded by a potluck. For some, Friday or any other weeknight would be

difficult because they work in New York City and would have trouble getting home and back to Meeting by 7:00 P.M., or because they are very tired on Friday evenings. Others thought that Sundays before or after worship would work better than evenings. The question was raised whether December 8 is the first evening of Representative Meeting of New York Yearly Meeting. It was agreed that we would attempt the experiment for three months, meeting for business at 7:00 P.M.. If there is a conflict with Representative Meeting, we will choose another date in December. It was noted that we need to make provision for rides for those who come directly from the City or who do not drive at night; the Clearness and Counsel committee is charged with assisting those Friends who would otherwise have difficulties attending. Ministry and Worship committee is charged with designing criteria for evaluating the experiment; it is to report back with those next month.

2. **Carolyn Andrews** reported for Clearness and Counsel that it had found Virginia Blanford clear for membership. The meeting approved her membership and appointed Alice Clague, Elin Waring, Alan McKenney and Anne Wright as her welcoming committee.

3. **Matthew Scanlon** handed out the following report:

The Advancement Committee reviewed the 20+ suggestions on Advancement that were developed at the Spring Retreat and decided initially to focus on four of them.

1. Holding Meeting for Worship at the same time every Sunday:

The Advancement Committee sent suggestions to Ministry & Worship which will make a recommendation to Business Meeting on the times for both Meeting for Worship and Business Meeting. 2. Use the Meeting website for Advancement: The Committee met with Elin and Anne to discuss the role of the website in Advancement. As a first step we decided to ask everyone in the Meeting to visit and use the website and send comments on content and navigation to Anne who will compile them. Our plan is to have a web site that will enhance our communication as a community, provide information about our community to people who are searching for a Meeting and engage people who share our concerns. 3. Create procedures to warmly welcome newcomers:

We will provide information to newcomers on what to expect in Meeting for Worship, follow-up with additional information and provide them a way to join a small group in the Meeting. We are taking the following steps:

a. Drafting a short description of Friends and of Meeting for Worship that the Greeter can hand to newcomers as they enter; b. Display the FGC Poster "Friends Worship" both downstairs and upstairs;

c. At rise of Meeting, members of M&W will identify themselves and welcome questions from newcomers;

d. Decide on a longer description to mail to newcomers with a letter of welcome

e. Periodically provide workshops on Quakerism based on the FGC publication "Exploring Quakerism;"

f. Set out a number of pamphlets describing Quakerism.

4. Compile a list of Media Contacts. The list can be used by Meeting Committees to let local media know about Meeting activities that the public may be interested in.

Finally, Advancement is supporting other committees in their Advancement-related activities. It will have the posters and cards about Friends ready for the Nursery school potluck; if Peace and Social Concerns finds a location for "Eyes Wide Open" it will get a banner. We also note that hiring a First Day School Coordinator was an important Advancement activity.

The meeting closed with a few minutes of silent worship.

The next meeting for worship with a concern for business will be held Friday, October 13, at 7:00 p.m.

Mary Eagleson, recording clerk