

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting

Monthly Meeting for Business

15 November 2020

The Meeting for Business was clerked by Jeff Perkins. Twenty-four Friends were present via Zoom electronic conferencing service. Dan Evans served as Elder, holding the meeting in the Light. The meeting began with a period of silent worship and the reading of the queries for the Eleventh month – Stewardship of Resources.

Responses included:

- I love these queries because they link our spiritual lives with our physical lives and remind me of what Jesus said about physical things. The queries also help me think through our relationship with our money, stuff and gifts. Queries help us remember our spiritual lives. Physical things like putting the garden to bed can be deeply spiritual. Stewardship can be a spiritual practice, a holy practice.
- When I was treasurer, I was surprised and exasperated by people who expressed concern that my job was cold and analytical. To me it was a spiritual activity to manage the Meeting's money, and my role on the property committee, I find it spiritual to clean and remove the air filters. I think that it is a problem with western thought. We get our gospel through the filter of Greek and then later translations. In Islam there is no difference between physical and spiritual. In Judean thought there is the ephemeral which Jesus translated into sacred unity. We do ourselves a disservice when we think about our physical world as being separate from the spiritual.
- Meeting for Worship is the center of Quakerism and, for me, hearing the truths of others affects how I relate to life. Finance is necessary and by facilitating worship, it feels meaningful.
- When I hear these queries, it makes me think about reparations.

1. **Clerk's Report.** Jeff Perkins brought forward the following:

- a. The Coronavirus working group laid out steps for moving toward in-person worship and is committed to synchronized video and physical worship. In terms of next steps, we are considering the following:
 - i. We think it would be helpful to do another survey, but later in the year because the current surge has brought new uncertainty. Diane Dunning, Beth Zelasky and Sarah Whitman will begin work in December.
 - ii. We realize that the technology necessary to have synchronized in-person and online worship will require significant support. We are asking for volunteers to develop a team to help do this work.
 - iii. We realize that the additional effort needed for synchronized in-person and online worship would likely overwhelm the Worship & Ministry Committee if it were solely their responsibility.
- b. Jon Landau and Signe Wilkinson have asked Jeff, as clerk of the Meeting, to write a letter to the parole officer of the person convicted and imprisoned for vandalism during the construction of the new meetinghouse so that the person can attend worship and participate in Meeting activities.

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- c. We will probably have a called meeting for business in December to receive the report of the Nominating Committee about officers.
2. **Landscape Committee Annual Report.** Committee clerk Cyane Gresham brought forward the attached report. The Meeting thanked Cyane and the committee for their work throughout the year.
3. **Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Dylan Steinberg brought forward the report (attached) and the following:
 - a. The attached report is budget versus actual figures from June through September.
 - b. Contributions so far have mostly come through PYM's payment system and Dylan encouraged Friends to use that system to help level out payments to the meeting. Other contributions usually arrive after fundraising letters go out at the end of the calendar year and the end of the fiscal year.
 - c. We are starting to see building use bookings for late spring of 2021, so there is rental income shown.
 - d. Expenses are more or less in line with last year.
 - e. Mortgage expense is less than normal because of forbearance on the July and August mortgage payments. The total of those payments has been added to the end of the mortgage.
4. **Worship & Ministry.** A member of Eileen Flanagan's support committee, Amey Hutchins, brought forth the attached report.

Observations raised included:

 - Eileen's ministry is the only active minute of religious service that the Meeting is currently supporting. If there are other endeavors that might need a minute of service, please contact the Worship & Ministry Committee to talk about support.
 - Friends noted, with appreciation, the sharing of Eileen's gifts with the meeting community through tech support, adult RE sessions and facilitation.
5. **Addressing Racism Committee.** Committee member Ellen Deacon brought forth a report in response to the Yearly Meeting's request that monthly meetings share their engagement around PYM concerns such as racism.

The Meeting approved the report for submission to PYM.
6. **Ad Hoc Committee on Grants and Covenants.** Committee member Rebecca Heider brought forward the following:
 - a. The members of the committee are now Jude Brandt, Ellen Deacon, Storm Evans, Rebecca Heider, and Linda Rosenwein.
 - b. The committee has met and sketched out a plan to begin a dialog in January with the goal of having a recommendation by April 2021.
 - c. We hope that when the dialog begins, everyone will attend.
7. **Philadelphia Quarter Report.** Representatives Tricia Walmsley and Phil Anthony presented the report (attached). The meeting considered offering to host Quarterly Meeting in 2021, but also wanted to allow other meetings in the Quarter that opportunity. If a host is needed, we will consider that at a future business session.

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8. **Approval of Minutes.** The October minutes were approved as read.

9. **Announcements**

- a. January Annual Reports Due
 - i. Worship & Ministry
 - ii. Library
 - iii. Treasurer Quarterly Report
 - iv. Peace & Social Concerns (held over)
 - v. PIHN Committee Annual Report (held over)
- b. Release date for January 16 is tomorrow.
- c. Nominating Committee Report will be delivered at a called meeting in December.
- d. Minute of appreciation for Jeff Perkins as retiring Clerk, and Storm Evans, as retiring Recording Clerk. We appreciate their faithfulness, spirit-led approach, attention to detail, sense of humor and grace under pressure. We realize with the COVID response effort, the work of each of them has been doubled this year.

10. **Closing Worship.** Gratitude for all of us together as a community.

Storm Evans, Recording Clerk