

# Dear Friends

## WILTON QUAKER MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

317 New Canaan Road (Route 106), Wilton, CT 06897-3322  
[www.fgcquaker.org/cloud/wilton-quaker-meeting](http://www.fgcquaker.org/cloud/wilton-quaker-meeting)  
[www.facebook.com/WiltonQuakers/](https://www.facebook.com/WiltonQuakers/)  
(Virtual) Meeting for Worship 10:00 a.m. each First Day (Sunday)



Children attend for the first 15 minutes, followed by Children's Meeting.  
Meeting for Business at rise of meeting on second Sundays

## April, 4<sup>th</sup> Month, 2021

Query 14: “Do we make ourselves available in a tender and caring way when we sense a need for assistance in time of trouble? Do we trust each other enough to make our needs known to someone in our meeting?”

*-- New York Yearly Meeting Quaker Faith and Practice, Queries*

Advice 15: “All are especially cautioned against any harshness of tone or manner when administering counsel or reproof, either privately or in meetings. Friends should speak truth with love, remembering that if they do God's work, they must abide in God's love. Even a seeming harshness may check the beginnings of true repentance, and a lack of sympathy may cause harm where only good was intended.”

*--- New York Yearly Meeting Quaker Faith and Practice, Advices*

## **New York Yearly Meeting Statement on Anti-Asian Violence**

Over the past year, there have been more than thirty-eight hundred reported hate incidents targeting Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI), nearly 70% of them targeting women. The casual ignorance and nastiness of public statements about “the China virus” and other racial scapegoating were insufficiently challenged in person and in the media. We, those of us not of Asian descent, as Quakers, should have been sensitive to the dangers to our friends and Friends in the Asian communities. If we had been paying attention, the shooting of eight people – six of them women of Asian descent – in Atlanta last week would not have come as a surprise or seem unconnected with anything larger. Regardless of what other layers of motivation there might be for the incident, the racial and misogynist aspects of this crime cannot be ignored. We must not be silent in the face of anti-AAPI violence or allow anti-Asian bias to permeate our meetings and Society.

What can we do now?

First, we can raise awareness of the forms and history of anti-Asian bias and violence.

There needs to be education about the lynching and mass murder of Chinese workers in the 19th century, the stereotyping of AAPI immigrants including the hyper-sexualizing of Asian women, the conflating of all AAPI nationalities as having the same values and cultures, and countless other forms of ignorance and misunderstanding of Asians in America. And we can ask what else we should learn about the varied Asian experiences among Quakers and in America.

Second, we can speak out against violence and we can name anti-AAPI speech and attitudes when we see them. We can be activists for safety, for a just society that provides full inclusion for AAPI, for a community that makes no one the “other.” And we can ask, how might my own actions, words, thoughts, explicitly or inadvertently, reflect internal bias and contribute to systemic racism?

Third, we can prepare to intervene whether or not we know the person being targeted. It is important to prepare before we unexpectedly find ourselves in such a situation. See this [American Friends Service Committee guidance on bystander intervention](#). And we can ask what other support is needed.

Fourth, we need to be clear that anti-AAPI violence is part of racism in America. The White Supremacist system in which we live benefits from creating division among oppressed groups, so we must encourage mutual support and unity (see [standtogethersf.org](#), [www.tsuruforsolidarity.org](#), [www.ihollaback.org](#)). Until we can all be safe from violence no one of us is safe. And we can continue to work on addressing all racism.

This is work for all of us, no matter our skin color, gender, or cultural orientation. Spirit tells us we are one, we all have the Light within us, we are all connected. As we deepen our listening, let us ask ourselves: how can I become more aware, how can I prepare myself to act, what actions are mine to do?

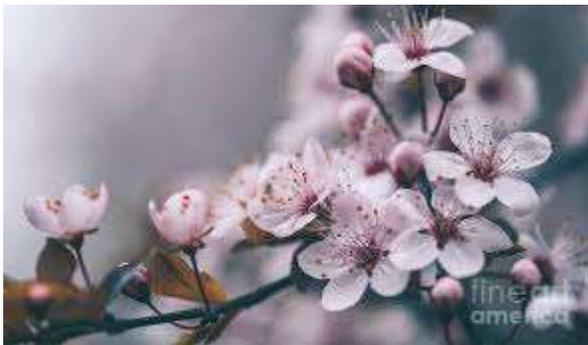
Neither of the authors of this statement are of Asian descent and we are aware that we cannot adequately represent or reflect the experiences and feelings of those who are. Nor do we mean to imply that every person of Asian descent would see any specific incident in the same way. But we do hope to hold up some of what we have heard from Friends of Asian descent in our recent consultation. We share one specific reflection: “It might be worthwhile for our Quaker community, across all racial and ethnic lines, across all ages, across all gender identities, to really dig deep to understand where we actually stand on this issue and how we understand racism.”

If you are interested in reading more, here are some links to articles that were shared with us that we found helpful:

- [\*A Letter to My Fellow Asian Women Whose Hearts Are Still Breaking\* by R.O. Kwon](#)
- [\*These Are the Names of the Atlanta Spa-Shooting Victims\* by Claire Lampen](#)
- [\*'Black and Asian unity': attacks on elders spark reckoning with racism's roots\* by Vivian Ho and Abené Clayton](#)
- [\*Hundreds Turn Out For Black and Asian Solidarity March\* by Alyssa Paolicelli](#)

Elaine Learnard, Clerk, NYYM

Steve Mohlke, General Secretary, NYYM



Oh, had I a golden thread  
And needle so fine  
I would weave a magic spell  
Of rainbow design  
Of rainbow design

In it I would weave the courage  
Of women giving birth  
And in it I would weave the innocence  
Of children of all the earth  
Children of all earth.

Show my brothers and sisters  
My rainbow design  
I'd bind up this sorry world  
With hand and heart and mind  
Hand and heart and mind

Oh, had I a golden thread  
And needle so fine  
I'd weave a magic spell  
Of rainbow design  
Of rainbow design

-Pete Seeger

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## ***Announcements and Events***

### **The NYYM Prayer List**

Through grace and gifts that God makes available to all of us, we share the work and witness of ministry as we hold each other in the Light.

Prayer is a type of Ministry by which, in communion with God, we ask for wisdom, guidance, faith, or help for the sake of others. Through Intercessional Prayer, we can stir the embers and petition, confess, offer gratitude, express grief, or find relief.

A Prayer List is sent out periodically by email to subscribers offering the names of Friends who have asked to be prayed for, or of loved ones for whom Friends have requested prayer. You can ask for prayers for God's healing, or for God to strengthen you in faithfulness, courage, discernment, the ability to forgive, or for whatever speaks to your condition.

As the way opens, consider being a recipient of prayer, and/or subscribe to offer intercessional prayer by contacting [prayerlist@nyym.org](mailto:prayerlist@nyym.org).

### **Join the Inside Outside Letter Writing Collective**

Connecting incarcerated Friends with outside Quakers. Visit:

<https://nyym.org/content/inside-outside>

or email Judy Meikle: [jubilantjudy@mac.com](mailto:jubilantjudy@mac.com)

### **Friends Needed for Young Adult Friends Support Committees**

Do you feel called to support young adults who are struggling? Interested Friends may join the YAF Support Committee database. Go to:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScOz74IIu7Dy9hoeMD8958zjhWGY9ZKzu305qjGQZb4sZILVw/viewform>

### **International Standards on Conscientious Objection to Military Service 2021**

This updated paper from QUNO (Quaker United Nations Office) lays out the ways in which conscientious objection has been recognized and is protected under human rights treaties and mechanisms, taking into account developments in international standards that have occurred since 2015. These strengthened standards can be used by frontline organizations as a tool to limit suffering, improve lives and challenge root causes of injustice.

### **Bible Study with Powell House**

Join Regina Haag and Emily Provance as they go through the Bible starting with Genesis.

[Sign up](#) for Powell House's Bible Study Mailing List. Newcomers always welcome. [https://poho.org/index.php?gid=29&option=com\\_civicrm&reset=1&task=civicrm%2Fprofile%2Fcreate](https://poho.org/index.php?gid=29&option=com_civicrm&reset=1&task=civicrm%2Fprofile%2Fcreate)

### **OPEN CALL for Submissions to Spark**

The theme for the May issue of Spark is Eldership and Spiritual Accompaniment, guest-edited by Lu Harper and Anne Pomeroy.

Please [share your stories](#). [communications@nyym.org](mailto:communications@nyym.org) <[communications@nyym.org](mailto:communications@nyym.org)>:

The deadline is April 7.

### **New Edition of Faith and Practice Available**

\$10.00 per copy suggested. To order, contact [office@nyym.org](mailto:office@nyym.org) or write to New York Yearly Meeting, 15 Rutherford Place, New York, NY 10003.

## Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Legislative Policy Collaborative

### Pathways to Ending Gun Violence: Legislative Solutions

April 10 @ 11:00 am - 2:30 pm – Free



The annual workshop of the Legislative Policy Collaborative of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting will be a virtual event, featuring a keynote address by Peter Murchison, a member of Wilton Friends Meeting (CT) whose nephew was one of the first graders killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School eight years ago. There will also be a panel discussion of local activists on gun control, breakout rooms to share ideas and lobby training by a staff member of the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). Join us for this exciting and timely event!

<https://www.pym.org/event/pathways-to-ending-gun-violence-legislative-solutions/>

### White Privilege Conference 2021 **The Time is Now! The Truth, the Whole Truth, & Nothing But.**

April 7-10, 2021

The WPC is a high energy and loving community space designed for attendees to learn about white supremacy, power, privilege, leadership, oppression and the impact of structural inequities. **Register:**

<https://web.cvent.com/event/f11b46bb-5ef2-47d3-972a-b0e0ef358a02/regProcessStep1>

## **NYM Spring Sessions is now open for registration!** Online, April 9-11, 2021

Everyone is invited to attend NYM's Spring Sessions. View the [Spring Sessions site](#) for more info, including the weekend's schedule, and [register now](#). You can also review the [Seasoned Business Items](#). Want to help run a social meal? Please fill out [this form](#).

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1D06IMQjQ1unaOiSWUIKZ5vGA39P6k1CwVIW1XSXkIK0/viewform?edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1D06IMQjQ1unaOiSWUIKZ5vGA39P6k1CwVIW1XSXkIK0/viewform?edit_requested=true)

## From the Center for the Study of White American Culture:

### Raising Anti-racist White Children

**3 Friday Sessions: April 9, 16, & 23, at 1-3 p.m. Eastern Time**

An online, live interactive workshop for parents and educators offering information and guidance on how to prepare white children in our increasingly multiracial society. [Register here:](#)

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ehgsjty9717cbbc7&oseq=&c=&ch=>

## Brooklyn Meeting's Ad Hoc

Committee on Racial Justice presents

an online workshop:

**Racial Injustices in Healthcare and What We Can Do About It**

**Tuesday, April 13, 2021, 7:30-9:00**

**p.m.**

[Click here](#) to connect via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89385676713?pwd=ZUVCCjdFajA2OVRERUJHdlo2Z1ZQZz09#success>

Or dial 646 558 8656; Meeting ID: 893 8567 6713; Passcode: 776125

## **Friends General Conference**

### **Consultation**

#### **Spirit and Community in Online Gatherings**

**April 17, 2021, 10:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
ET**

Share what you've learned over the past year about gathering online and finding ways to allow Spirit to move us. A panel will discuss their best practices for on-line worship, business meetings, and community building. Register here:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc65ocDGIP\\_C3Iw-ChrdgipTL25ubrhyBpbuOjKzApi7Eb-qw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc65ocDGIP_C3Iw-ChrdgipTL25ubrhyBpbuOjKzApi7Eb-qw/viewform)

### **WQM Friendly Forum**

**How can we see that of God in those we dislike?**

**On April 18<sup>th</sup> at rise of meeting**

The forum will be led by Karen Tibbals, former co-clerk of Rahway Plainfield Monthly Meeting in New Jersey and a graduate of Earlham School of Religion. She has published a book on this subject. which you can order before or after the session at <https://persuadedontpreach.com/>

We bought 4 copies for this forum, so if you want it but can't afford it, please contact Peter Murchison.

"Speaking Truth to Power"  
The old Quaker professor  
Baked 50 fruitcakes each year  
Giving pupils a remembrance  
Of love  
Of Truth  
Of history  
Warm, wonderful dinners  
Brought lonely students together  
Gave them nourishment  
Of strength  
Of beauty  
Of friendship  
He drove students to DC  
Conscientious objectors  
And poor students home  
To visit  
To receive love  
To gain courage.  
-- Mary Keane

# Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

## Wilton Quaker Meeting

March 14, 2021

**Attendees:** Martha Gurvich (Clerk); John Anderson (Recording Clerk); Albert Hsu (Treasurer); Pete McCaughan; Renda McCaughan; Sean Higgins; Laura Higgins; Peter Murchison; Judy Meikle; Wini Keane; Diane Keefe; Virginia Auster; Irene Corsaro; Ann Pettigrew Nunes; Brian Nunes; Ellie Kirk; Missy Conrad; Doris Munger; Madeleine J. Wilken

1. Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business opened with a period of silent worship.
2. **Approval of 'State of the Meeting' Report (Peter Murchison)**
  - Friends reviewed the revised State of the Meeting report.
  - **2021-03-01: Friends approved the 2020 State of the Meeting report for Wilton Quaker Meeting to be sent to NYYM. (attached)**
3. **Approval of By-Laws (Pete McCaughan)**
  - Friends reviewed the draft By-Laws as presented by Pete McCaughan:

DISCUSSION & BACKGROUND

INCORPORATION

As you may know, several months ago we endeavored to incorporate WQM with the able pro bono assistance of attorney Cristen Murchison Rescigno and her associates at Daniels, Porco, & Lusardi LLP.

We were surprised to find we were already incorporated as a Connecticut religious corporation in 1948 as Fairfield County Monthly Meeting with business ID 0138668. In 1957 the name was changed to Wilton Monthly Meeting and as of 2018 to Wilton Quaker Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.

BY-LAWS

With corporate status settled We turned our attention to the by-laws. We had no record of previous by laws, so using examples of by-laws of other meetings and input from our attorneys, we created draft bylaws that reflected Quaker practices and unique situations with our meeting. Here are some examples:

II.1, „II.2 AND „II.3 MEMBERS AND ATTENDERS:

We define members and attenders and their role in the meeting.

II.1.b DECISIONS:

Unlike most corporations, Quakers do not vote. Members arrive at decisions by seeking unity, often called sense of the meeting, through discussion, prayer, and waiting to achieve collective discernment of God's will.

II.2 AND „V.4 HIERARCHY:

Quakers do not have a hierarchical organization above the monthly meeting. Yearly meetings are associations of monthly meetings. They are NOT a hierarchical governing body to which the monthly meeting reports. WQM is a constituent of New York Yearly Meeting. WQM is free to modify NYYM Faith and Practice based on our local process.

#### IV.7 PROPERTY:

When the Dominicks gave our meeting the land at 317 New Canaan Road they specified that should we lay down the meeting or choose to divest ourselves of the property, then it is understood that the property shall be first offered to the Town of Wilton as a park.

- **2021-03-02: Friends approved the adoption of the By-Laws for Wilton Quaker Meeting. (Attached) The By-Laws will be included in an upcoming revision of the Meeting Handbook.**
- 4. Approval of Renewal of Travel Minute for Peter Murchison (Pete McCaughan)**
  - **2021-03-02: Friends approved the renewal of Peter Murchison’s travel minute, regarding his ministry to prevent gun violence. Clerk will bring the travel minute forward to Quarterly and Yearly meetings.**
- 5. Purchase Quarterly Meeting Items (Laura Higgins)**
  - Purchase Quarterly Meeting is in pause due to the pandemic.
  - A Friend proposed that Wilton Quaker Meeting host the May Purchase Quarterly Meeting.
  - The meeting would be a hybrid of virtual meeting and live socially distanced meeting outdoors at the meadow on campus at Wilton Quaker Meeting. Ministry and Counsel committee and the Ad Hoc committee for live meeting worship will coordinate the logistics of hosting those that attend live on campus.
  - **2021-03-04: Friends approved that Wilton Quaker Meeting will host the May meeting of Purchase Quarterly Meeting (held first Sunday in May, May 2, 2021). Follow up note: Purchase Quarterly Meeting has decided to host the May 2 meeting, so it is not necessary for WQM to host.**
  - A proposed agenda item for Quarterly Meeting is ‘white exceptionalism’. The White Affinity group will take on the task of crafting a program for the Quarterly Meeting, and will work with Ministry and Counsel committee as needed.
  - Friends discussed whether they would prefer for Quarterly Meetings to be held on Saturdays or on Sundays. While some Friends preferred Saturdays, in order to be able to worship with our home Wilton Quaker Meeting on Sunday, it seemed that more Friends preferred to keep the meetings on Sundays, to avoid more time away from family.
- 6. Peace & Service Carryover Items (Diane Keefe)**
  - **Public Health Insurance Option**
    - A bill (SB 842) has been introduced into the CT State Legislature to offer a public health insurance option. The bill would also expand Medicaid in the state of CT.
    - The bill is being opposed by private insurers and health insurance brokers.
    - **2021-03-05: Friends approved the following Minute: WQM supports a public health insurance option for small business, nonprofit and labor union**

**employees to provide a more comprehensive health insurance option at a more affordable price.**

- Peace and Service Committee will follow up on publicizing this approved minute.
  - **School Choice**
    - SB 255 is a bill that supports open school choice to create greater equity in education among school systems across regions.
    - **2021-03-06: Friends approved the following Minute: WQM supports the Open Choice Program expanding to include Norwalk and Danbury schools. More needs to be done to address educational inequities in Connecticut.**
    - Peace and Service Committee will follow up on publicizing this approved minute.
  - **Killingly Power Plant Letter**
    - Friends previously approved a minute to oppose the construction of a new natural gas power plant in Connecticut.
    - **2021-03-07: Friends approved the following Minute: Friends approve co-signing a letter in support of meeting the goal of zero-carbon electricity generated in Connecticut.**
7. Friends closed Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business with a brief period of silent worship.

## State of the Meeting Report

### Wilton Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

**Query: How have you experienced Spirit working in these times? What impact, positive or negative, have these challenging times had upon your meeting, spiritually, organizationally, financially and in your life as a community? What unexpected joys & benefits, if any, has your meeting experienced? In these uncertain times, how are you led by the Light to recognize and experience possibilities for renewal and rebirth?**

#### **Worship**

We began the year able to worship, as is our custom, gathered in person in our Meeting House. By March, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Friends met the challenge of social distancing in worship by utilizing technology to have a hybrid form of worship. Our use of Zoom has evolved from all digital to our current hybrid model where many of us meet online in worship, and those comfortable with social distancing outdoors go to the grounds of the Meetinghouse and, with a computer connection, meet with us as well. One friend, in particular, enjoys seeing Friends on campus with the view of the sun streaming through the trees. We experience great joy when Friends who have moved far away or have trouble getting out of the house can still join us. We have a number of new attenders with whom we worship regularly, but have never met in person. There are some Friends who have decided they do not want to worship using a digital platform, and we miss seeing them. We note that there are those who cannot access or prefer to not use Zoom that still worship along with us in spirit, including incarcerated friends. Some Friends feel that breaking the silence in this video format can feel awkward, but that vocal ministry has been impacted minimally, and that there is added depth in the ministry given.

## **Community Life**

Friends responded with great energy and creativity to the challenges put forth by the pandemic. Friends immediately took action to safeguard our members and attenders by closing our physical doors and opening up our virtual doors, utilizing Zoom to worship, hold our committee meetings, religious education, women's group and Friendly Forums. Many Friends have also been attending an assortment of committee meetings in various other locations, such as Quaker Earthcare Witness, FWCC, etc.

Meeting made our Zoom account available to our community for use in their personal lives as well. Some families use it to visit family members across the country while safely in quarantine. Phone contacts were initiated for those living alone, and/or not appearing on Zoom. Some examples of "going out there anyway" include that intrepid Friends have participated in socially distanced Black Lives Matter protests in the community, and an informal hiking group came to life. Our annual Christmas silent auction was held utilizing some creativity, dedication and time from Peace and Service Committee members.

We had an enthusiastic scramble to reach out to everyone, to guard against isolation from everyone's spiritual home. There are some of us who still struggle with the impact of the pandemic, and we continue to look for ways to increasingly engage and support everyone.

We would love to see more of our small First Day School group, but it is acknowledged the added struggles that both parents and children face with too much online time. Due to the new challenges faced by families raising children in a pandemic with distancing structures, First Day School ceased meeting in Third Month 2020. The presence of children is greatly missed, although cameo appearances have occurred on Zoom during announcements. One Friend felt exceptionally lifted up by NYYM's weekly email informing us of a variety of events and resources, and that there has been more outreach from NYYM this year than ever before. This made one family feel like part of the NYYM family, and connected to other families with children at home.

Balancing their absence from Zoom Meeting are the Friends/friends from distant places, including nursing homes and distant lands. There have been some new attenders in response to the easy access of Meeting for worship online. One Friend was grateful to have less impact on the environment by meeting online, as were other Friends isolated at home due to medical reasons.

The loss of gathering in person is felt deeply by all, both physically in person as well as the loss of being in the Meetinghouse. Folks also yearn for the spontaneous conversations that arise in Hospitality after worship, Memorial Meetings, the smell of coffee and the sound of children/adults at work and play.

## **Financial**

Our finances were slightly unpredictable yet stable at year-end. At this time we have a small deficit. Meetinghouse expenses were down and there was complimentary decrease in rental income from Connecticut Friends School due to a decrease in enrollment. A capital campaign may be needed to replenish our Capital Fund due to renovations made just prior to the pandemic.

## **Witness**

Even as we manage new routines under the COVID pandemic, Friends, as always, have stayed engaged in a variety of activities that are motivated by inner light: love made visible by worldly acts of kindness that speak as loudly as any vocal ministry. Many Wilton Friends continue to be moved to community action by their religious conviction. Others focus more on direct ministry to those in need. A conceptual thread of non-violence runs through these spiritually-led acts.

Friends were undaunted by the restrictions of social distancing and quarantine. Early in the spring, many Friends were called to participate in protests in area communities of Norwalk and New Haven following the death of George Floyd. Bicycles were collected, repaired and donated to needy local youth and adults. Friends also participated in a Mother's Day Peace Witness, followed by an outdoor meeting for worship on the Norwalk Green in place of the Memorial Day Parade. A virtual public vigil was held following the death of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg drawing several elected officials. One Friend, with a travel minute for his work to eliminate gun violence, continued to work with other faith groups virtually. On World Quaker Day, we celebrated with a demonstration in our parking lot using a forge to turn Guns to Gardening Tools, which were then presented to Fodor Farm, a local community garden. One Friend's leadership in prison ministries leadings has drawn the participation of others in Meeting. She was active in engaging us to fight solitary confinement, write letters to the currently and formerly incarcerated, and to try to protect CT incarcerated individuals from COVID.

Intrepid fund-raising Friends organized our annual Silent Auction on-line and were able to raise funds for three nonprofit organizations: Norwalk/Nagarote Sister City Project, Connecticut Friends School and CAGV (Connecticut Against Gun Violence.) In response to increased awareness of racial privilege, sessions began in a newly formed "White Affinity Space" group that addresses increasing awareness of racial privilege, racial awareness and how our cultural identity influences our behavior. A tradition of letter writing (and the use of various digital means) continues with many sharing their opinions with local elected officials on various concerns such as solitary confinement, gun violence, racial injustice and the environment.

All in all, Wilton Quaker Meeting has been led to experience many joys and unexpected benefits from adapting to the challenges presented by these times.



**Food drive for Homes with Hope March 29, Irene and Ty**

To me  
 the greatest gift of wqm pre Covid  
 was. the person to  
 person fellowship/sistership/humanship  
 of hospitality  
 where testimony was edible  
 and our cups did ranith over  
 with tea n coffee.

How will the community  
 regather itself ?  
 How can regain  
 That richness of being  
 We once had?  
 "Where are the snows of yesterday?  
 Where are they now? "  
 -- Pat Gormley



**Christmas 2019 Hospitality**

**BY-LAWS OF  
WILTON QUAKER MEETING  
OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, INC.**

Adopted by the Membership of Wilton Quaker Meeting  
on the Fourteenth day of the Third month in the year 2021.

Article I. Name, Principal Office and Purpose

1. Name: The name of this Corporation is **Wilton Quaker Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends**, hereafter referred as **WQM**. The business of the corporation may be conducted as **Wilton Quaker Meeting** or **Wilton Monthly Meeting**.
2. Principal Office: The principal office of WQM shall be 317 New Canaan Road in the Town of Wilton, in Fairfield County, in the State of Connecticut.
3. General Purposes: The purposes for which the Corporation is formed are to carry out the purposes set forth in the Corporation's Certificate of Incorporation, which may be amended from time to time. WQM is a functional unit of the Religious Society of Friends, consisting of a congregation of Members united with the purpose to worship together and to engage in any related social and benevolent activities or foster any work that the membership considers appropriate, including provision of funds and supervision for such common projects.
4. Non-profit Nature: WQM is incorporated under the Connecticut Religious Corporation Law. WQM is a religious non-profit corporation and shall operate exclusively as a "church" within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future Federal tax code.
5. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of WQM shall be a July 1 through June 30, unless otherwise determined by the Board.

Article II. Membership

1. Designation: Members of WQM shall be those persons having made application to and been accepted into membership in the Meeting. Members of the Meeting so received become Members of WQM. The existing Members shall from time to time prescribe the form and manner in which application may be made for membership.
  - a. The rights and privileges of all Members shall be equal.
  - b. Quakers do not vote. Members arrive at decisions by seeking unity, often called sense of the meeting, through discussion, prayer, and waiting to achieve collective discernment of God's will.
  - c. No Member shall have any right, title or interest in any of the property or assets, including any earnings or investment income, of WQM. Also, no such property or assets would be distributed to any Member on dissolution or winding up of WQM.
2. Authority: The governing authority of WQM shall be vested in its Members. All decisions and actions shall be taken at duly noticed meetings of WQM by the process of seeking unity in the manner of Friends as may be set forth from time to time in *Faith and Practice: The Book of*

*Discipline of the New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends* as amended by WQM in its *Wilton Quaker Meeting Handbook*.

3. **Attenders:** Attenders are those who have not applied for and been accepted to membership in WQM, but who manifest a continuing interest in the life of the meeting or the work of WQM. Attenders are welcome to participate in the activities of WQM in such manner as may be discerned by the Members of WQM, but Attenders may not serve as Clerk, Treasurer or Trustee of WQM. Decisions in meetings of WQM are made by Members only.
4. **Limitations on Liability:** No individual Member shall be personally liable to the creditors of WQM for any indebtedness, liability, or obligations of WQM, and any and all creditors of WQM shall look only to the assets of WQM for satisfaction of any debt, obligation or liability. Also, no member shall be subject to any assessment.
5. **Membership in WQM is nontransferable to another person or organization.** Membership shall be terminated by death, voluntary withdrawal, removal, release, discontinuance, or disownment, in accordance with the procedures in *Faith and Practice: The Book of Discipline of the New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends* as amended by WQM in its *Wilton Quaker Meeting Handbook* and thereafter all rights and privileges of the member in WQM and its property shall cease. Any procedure for the expulsion or suspension of or the termination or suspension of membership or membership rights must be in conformity with Connecticut law. Individuals whose membership has been terminated may apply for reinstatement in the same manner as application is made for initial membership.
6. **Members may request and be granted a transfer of membership to another Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends in accordance with the procedures in *Faith and Practice: The Book of Discipline of the New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends* as amended by WQM in its *Wilton Quaker Meeting Handbook*.**

### Article III. Board of Trustees

1. **The affairs of WQM shall be managed by its board of Trustees. Trustees must be Members of WQM.**
2. **Appointment:** The Members of WQM shall appoint no fewer than three nor more than seven Members of WQM to serve as Trustees of WQM. Trustees shall consist of the Clerk, Recording Clerk and Treasurer as well as additional Trustees appointed by the Members. No employee of WQM shall serve as a Trustee.
3. **Term:** Appointment shall be for individual terms as prescribed in the *Wilton Quaker Meeting Handbook* but not less than one year each. Trustees are eligible for successive reappointments as determined by Members. At any meeting Members may appoint Trustees to succeed those whose terms have expired, or to fill vacancies for unexpired terms.
4. **Responsibilities:** The Trustees shall be responsible for holding title to and administration of the properties, both real and personal, owned by WQM, and for the management of bequests and deeds of trust received by WQM in a fiduciary capacity.
5. **Meetings:** The Trustees shall meet at such times as they may determine upon not less than 30 days' notice or fixed at adjournment. Special meetings may be called by the Clerk, or by the Recording Clerk upon the request of any Trustee. At least ten (10) days' notice of special meetings shall be given to each Trustee, and the purpose for which the meeting is called shall be stated. Notice requirements may be waived upon unanimous consent of all Trustees. The

Trustees shall meet at least once every year, typically the second Sunday of June. Every meeting of the Trustees shall be minuted.

6. Reports: The Trustees shall report annually to WQM.
7. Limitations on Responsibilities and Liabilities: The responsibilities of the Trustees are limited to those set forth in this Section. In particular, the Trustees are not responsible to WQM or to any person for the oversight of the Operating Budget of WQM, or for the retention, hiring, training or supervision of employees or volunteers who perform work on behalf of, and with the authority of, WQM.

#### Article IV. Officers

1. Officers: Members shall appoint the following Officers: Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Recording Clerk, Recorder and Treasurer in accordance with the *Wilton Quaker Meeting Handbook*. Members may also appoint other Officers as need may arise. The Clerk, Recording Clerk and Treasurer shall also be Trustees and the corresponding officers of the corporation.
2. Clerk of WQM: The responsibilities of the Clerk are to conduct business sessions, see that the business is properly presented to WQM for consideration, announce decisions when made, and keep an accurate set of minutes, properly dated and signed, showing all matters discussed and actions taken. The Clerk carries out the instructions of WQM and signs necessary documents on its behalf. The Clerk shall act as President of WQM when the acts of such an officer are required. The Clerk shall serve for a one-year term.
3. Assistant Clerk of WQM: If WQM appoints an Assistant Clerk, that officer shall have such duties as may be delegated by the Clerk of WQM. In the absence of the Clerk, the Assistant Clerk shall conduct business sessions in the same manner as Clerk of WQM. The Assistant Clerk shall serve for a one-year term.
4. Recording Clerk of WQM: The responsibilities of the Recording Clerk are to write minutes of any business meeting of WQM, subject to the Members' approval. The Recording Clerk shall act as Secretary of WQM when the acts of such an officer are required. The Recording Clerk shall see that all notices are duly given in accordance with these bylaws or as required by law and with respect to any membership that has been terminated, record that fact together with the date of termination. The Recording Clerk shall serve for a one-year term.
5. Recorder of WQM: The responsibilities of the Recorder shall be custodian of the corporate records; keep a membership book containing the names and addresses of all Members and Trustees of WQM; exhibit to any Trustee of the corporation, or any agent of such Trustee, or to any person or agency authorized by law to inspect them, at all reasonable times and on demand, these bylaws, the articles of incorporation, the membership book, the minutes of any meeting, and other records of WQM. The Recorder shall serve for a one-year term.
6. Treasurer of WQM: The responsibilities of the Treasurer are to receive and disburse funds with respect to the Operating Budget of WQM and such other funds and budgets as WQM may establish. As Trustee, the Treasurer shall receive and disburse funds held by WQM in trust. The Treasurer keeps account books of WQM and reports regularly to WQM. The Treasurer shall have charge and custody of and be responsible for all funds and securities of WQM; receive and give receipts for moneys due and payable to WQM from any source whatsoever, and deposit all such moneys in the name of WQM in such bank(s) or other depository or depositories as shall be designated by the board of Trustees; and in general perform all duties

incidental to the office of treasurer and such other duties as may, from time to time, be assigned by the Clerk or by the board of Trustees. The Treasurer shall serve for a one-year term.

#### Article V. Business of the Meeting

1. **Annual Corporation Meeting:** The Annual Meeting of WQM shall take place at a time and place to be announced by the Clerk, ordinarily in June of each year. The Members shall be given at least thirty (30) days' notice thereof.
2. **Other Corporation Meetings:** Other meetings of WQM may be convened by the Clerk. The Members shall have at least thirty (30) days' notice thereof or may be fixed at adjournment, and six (6) days' notice of any rescheduled meeting.
3. **Monthly Meeting:** WQM is known in the Religious Society of Friends as a monthly meeting. This arises in Quaker history because monthly meetings typically conduct their business affairs once a month. Monthly meetings are the basic organizational units of the Religious Society of Friends and conduct business, membership, marriages, funerals and such other practices in the manner of Friends as may be set forth from time to time in *Faith and Practice: The Book of Discipline of the New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends* as amended by WQM in its *Wilton Quaker Meeting Handbook*. Meetings for Worship, the primary concern of the monthly meeting, are held weekly or more frequently.
4. **Yearly Meeting:** Yearly Meetings are associations of Monthly Meetings. They are not a hierarchical governing body to which the monthly meetings report. WQM is a constituent of New York Yearly Meeting. Members of WQM are also Members of New York Yearly Meeting.
5. **Business Placed Before the Meeting:** Any duly noticed meeting of WQM for the conduct of business shall constitute a meeting of WQM. At any meeting of WQM, Members may act upon any order of business properly placed before them, including seasoned concerns and necessary business that is placed on the Agenda by the Clerk.
6. **Presiding Officer:** The Clerk (or, in the case of incapacity, unwillingness or unavailability to serve, the Assistant Clerk or other designee) shall preside over any meeting of WQM at which business will be transacted.
7. **Restricted Activities:** The property of the corporation is irrevocably dedicated to its religious, educational and charitable purposes. Should WQM wish to divest itself of its real property at 317 New Canaan Rd, Wilton, CT 06776 (Assessors Map 137, Tax Lot 35), that property shall be first offered to the Town of Wilton for a park. If the Town of Wilton does not accept this offer within 90 days, then WQM may dispose of the property consistent with these By-Laws.
8. **Prohibited Activities:** WQM is not organized and shall not be operated for the private gain of any person. No part of the assets, receipts, or net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of or be distributed to any individual. The corporation, however, may pay reasonable compensation for services rendered, and make other payments and distributions consistent with these By-Laws.
9. **Dissolution:** Upon termination of dissolution of WQM, any assets lawfully available for distribution shall be distributed as set forth in *Faith and Practice: The Book of Discipline of the New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends* provided, however, that the distribution of real property shall conform with the restrictions set forth in Restricted Activities above.

## Article VI. Committees of the Meeting

1. **Committee Composition:** WQM may create, from time to time, committees whose purpose is to undertake designated work of WQM. Such committees shall be committees of WQM, not of the Board of Trustees. No such committee shall have the power to enter into contracts or to obligate WQM in any manner, except as the membership of the Meeting may delegate and record in the *Wilton Quaker Meeting Handbook*, the operating budget of WQM, or in the general minutes of the WQM.
2. **Committee Establishment and Operations:** Standing Committees, their membership, purpose and functions shall be recorded in the *Wilton Quaker Meeting Handbook*. When WQM establishes a committee, it must also determine and approve a statement of its purpose and functions and provide adequate funding. Appointments to committees shall be made in accordance with the *Wilton Quaker Meeting Handbook*. No individual compensated by WQM may participate in deliberations on matters relating to his or her compensation.
3. **Accountability:** Members may, from time to time, authorize the expenditure of corporate funds in furtherance of the work of committees of WQM. Committees of WQM shall be accountable to the Members for work that they undertake and funds that WQM entrusts to them.

## Article VII. Indemnification

1. WQM shall indemnify any and all of its Trustees, Officers, members, employees or volunteers who perform work on behalf of, and with the authority of, WQM against expenses actually and necessarily incurred by them in connection with the defense of any action, suit or proceeding in which they, or any of them, are made parties, or a party, by reason of having performed work on behalf of, and with the authority of, WQM, in the absence of gross negligence or willful misconduct. Such indemnification shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which those indemnified may be entitled.
2. **Personal Liability:** No officer, trustee or member of this corporation shall be personally liable for the debts or obligations of WQM of any nature whatsoever, nor shall any of the property or assets of the officers, trustees or Members be subject to the payment of the debts or obligations of this corporation.

## Article VIII. Amendments to the By-Laws

1. These By-Laws may be altered, amended or repealed by (i) the presentation of such proposed alteration, amendment or repeal before a duly noticed meeting of WQM for a first reading, and (ii) approval by the Members of WQM of such proposal at a second, separate, meeting of WQM.

# QUAKERS

WILTON QUAKER MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

March 14, 2021

Dear Friends,

We send you our loving greetings with Peter Murchison as he travels in ministry to eliminate gun violence.

Peter, a member of this Meeting for over 40 years, has opened to us his leading to travel among Meetings in New York Yearly Meeting and other faith communities with a ministry of gun violence prevention. He is asking others to use their faith and understanding of the Spirit to decide on actions they can take to move our country towards the elimination of gun violence. He is traveling in this ministry between the current date and Third Month 2024.

This Meeting unites with Peter Murchison's leading. We trust that you will benefit as we have from sharing his experiences and insights. Peter's extended family was devastated by the Sandy Hook shootings, which took the life of a loved one. Over the last several years, Peter has increased his activism with a series of activities. He ran a Remembrance Event at our meeting house in 2018 for those lost to gun violence in all parts of our society, met with Senators and Congressmen, testified in our state capitol on pending legislation, and partnered with FCNL on this issue, including helping to train their current Advocacy Corps: 20 young adults who will do community organizing in their home states on this issue. Peter helped run a gun buyback with the city of Norwalk, CT where the guns collected were turned into gardening tools and donated to community gardening programs. Several Meetings have asked Peter to visit with them and discuss the many facets of this important issue.

Peter's efforts in this work have provided an abundance of spiritual energy to our community. We commend him to your care and hospitality.

Approved and minuted at our meeting for worship with a concern for business held Twelfth Month 8, 2019 and extended and reapproved Third Month 14, 2021.

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Martha Gurvich, Clerk  
Wilton Quaker Meeting

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Mary Eagleson, Clerk  
Purchase Quarterly Meeting New York Yearly Meeting

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Jeffery Aaron, Clerk

317 New Canaan Road • Wilton Connecticut 06897  
203/762-5669 • [www.fgcquaker.org/cloud/wilton-quaker-meeting](http://www.fgcquaker.org/cloud/wilton-quaker-meeting)  
**Peter Murchison Travel Minute**

WILTON QUAKER MEETING  
OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS  
317 New Canaan Road  
Wilton CT 06897-3322

**First Class Mail**