

Dear Friends

WILTON QUAKER MEETING
of the Religious Society of Friends

317 New Canaan Road (Route 106), Wilton, CT 06897
www.wiltonfriends.org

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 First Days



July, 7th Month, 2021

From the beginnings of our Society, we have considered it necessary to assemble frequently for the purpose of public worship held in expectant waiting for divine guidance, thereby manifesting our belief in and dependence upon our creator. Meeting for worship is fundamental for us, and we should be diligent and punctual in our attendance. We seek, through communion with God, the strengthening influence of the Holy Spirit to enable us to discharge with fidelity the services we owe to God, to each other, and to all people.

Advice 1, 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 attendance? Are we willing and faithful in the service of our meeting and in financial support of its activities?

Query 1, New York Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice





it must have been the quiet
candlelight
that filled my room,

it must have been
the first
easy rhythm
with which I breathed
myself to sleep,

it must have been
the prayer I said
speaking to the otherness
of the night.

And
I thought
this is the good day
you could
meet your love,

this is the gray day
someone close
to you could die.

This is the day
you realize
how easily the thread
is broken
between this world
and the next

and I found myself
sitting up
in the quiet pathway
of light,

the tawny
close grained cedar
burning round
me like fire
and all the angels of this
house
heaven ascending
through the first
roof of light
the sun has made.

This is the bright home
in which I live,
this is where
I ask
my friends
to come,
this is where I want
to love all the things
it has taken me so long
to learn to love.

This is the temple
of my adult aloneness
and I belong
to that aloneness
as I belong to my life.

There is no house
like the house of belonging.

“The House of Belonging”
David Whyte

I awoke
this morning
in the gold light
turning this way
and that

thinking for
a moment
it was one
day
like any other.

But
the veil had gone
from my
darkened heart
and
I thought



Report from Ministry & Council – Sixth month, 13, 2021

Ministry & Counsel Committee was asked to bring a recommendation to Meeting regarding restarting the indoor use of the meeting house.

Worship:

- Unvaccinated people must wear masks and maintain social distancing
- Vaccinated people can choose whether to wear a mask
- Masks will be made available for those who need them.

Hospitality:

- On fair days, will be held outside
- When held indoors, worship guidelines will apply.

Events:

An event is when a much larger group of people and/or significant numbers of people from outside our community gather. An example would be a memorial meeting.

CT Dept of Public Health advises for “events” –

“Business Owners and Event Operators • Should consider requiring customers to wear a mask when they are inside an establishment or at a large indoor event or private gathering if the space is not designed for continuous social distancing”

- Our recommendation is that, for an event held inside, that masks are
- required of all attendees. If it is held outside, this is not a requirement.

Hybrid Meetings Statement:

We support the continued use of virtual meeting technology. We feel it is important to have one Meeting for Worship for the community whether they attend in person or not.



Announcements



Check this out everyone!

There are over 45 interest groups being offered this year for three weeks prior to Yearly Meeting. Most will be using Zoom, a couple will be using some other method.

There is no charge. Meet other Friends and find out what they are up to in the world! register for Yearly Meeting Summer Sessions separately.

call me with questions

Martha

203 451 6445

Purchase Quarter's Ministry & Counsel is sponsoring a gathering every fourth Tuesday on Zoom to read through New York Yearly Meeting's Faith & Practice together.

7 to 8:30 p.m. (A link will be sent.)

Faith & Practice can be found on New York Yearly Meeting's website here: <https://nyym.org/faith-and-practice>

We'll begin with the Introduction:

<https://nyym.org/content/faith-and-practice-introduction>

Adding the often-quoted statement from the elders at Balby: <https://nyym.org/content/faith-and-practice-faith>

Our proposed format is to read the passage aloud (about 10 minutes) and then to spend about 20 minutes writing our responses to the passage guided by the Friendly Bible Study. That will leave an hour for discussion.

For more information or to share suggestions or concerns, contact Carol Holmes Alpern or Laura Higgins 203-981-5267.

Please join the Organization of Chinese Americans, Fairfield County at the Norwalk International Cultural Exchange festival on July 10 from 11 am - 10pm. It will be held at the Oyster Shell Park behind the Sono Mall. It is **free**. No registration required. There will be entertainment of live music and performances, food trucks and children's area.

See <https://norwalknice.org/> for more details. OCAFC is contributing four Chinese dance performances and we have a tent next to the Hospitality tent, educating about Asian American history, offering registration for free Bystander Intervention Training and giving out Yellow Whistles, a symbol of solidarity against Asian bias and hate.



Bob Baldrige is making a [collection of Quaker stories](#) and asks us to share with him any you happen to know. His phone number is 646-554-4700. His e-mail address is bobbybaldrige@gmail.com

Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

Wilton Quaker Meeting

June 13, 2021

Attendees: Martha Gurvich (Clerk); John Anderson (Recording Clerk); Albert Hsu (Treasurer); Pete & Renda McCaughan; Sean Higgins; Laura Higgins; Judy Meikle; Peter Murchison; Virginia Auster; Wini Keane; Becky Bunnell; Pat Gormley; Diane Keene; Irene Corsaro; Jeff Menoher

- 1. Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business opened with a period of silent worship.**
- 2. Ministry & Counsel Committee Update (Peter Murchison):**
 - M&C proposed re-opening the meetinghouse for Meeting for Worship on June 20.
 - PM presented a recommendation from the committee on guidelines to follow in reopening the meetinghouse in 3 areas (full recommendation attached):
 - **Worship:**
 1. Unvaccinated members and attenders are asked to wear a mask and maintain social distancing
 2. Vaccinated members and attenders may wear a mask at their own discretion
 3. Masks will be available for those who need them.
 - **Hospitality:**
 1. On fair weather days, hospitality will be held outdoors
 2. On inclement days, hospitality held indoors will follow the same guidelines as Meeting for Worship
 - **Events:**
 1. It is recommended that the Guidelines of the State Connecticut for 'events' be followed for any events held at the meetinghouse.
 - A recommendation for hybrid meetings was to continue to use technology to facilitate the holding of 'one meeting' for worship
 1. A group of Friends plan to meet this week to work on technology accommodations to facilitate integration of virtual worship with live worship in the meetinghouse. Technology such as a projector and other measures are being considered. Some meetings such as Chappaqua are using a technology called D5, which is an easy-to-use technology which would accommodate both visual and audio integration of virtual and live meeting attenders.
 - A Friend asked about coordination with Physical Stewardship committee on guidelines for accommodations such as air purifiers and other measures to maintain safety in the meetinghouse. PM replied that the M&C committee discussed these measures but elected to make the recommendations more high-level. It was discussed in committee that with windows open, this may mitigate some of these concerns. Window fans were considered, and a concern was raised that the window size may not accommodate window fans. A Friend suggested that a window fan could be made to fit in the meetinghouse window with some adjustments.
 - A Friend asked about vaccinated vs unvaccinated status. PM explained that the committee recommendations reflected a desire not to question individuals

regarding vaccination status. A Friend asked about how we are defining social distancing. The committee discussed this and agreed that social distancing will likely take place naturally as attenders spread out around the meetinghouse. The committee had also discussed creating separate bench space for those who need to mask and social distance. A Friend raised concern about the history of 'back benches' being used to separate Friends of color from the rest of the meeting.

- Friends asked questions about how to conduct hospitality in a fair and safe manner. A Friend raised a concern about the unequal burden placed upon those who set up and provide food, and clean up after hospitality, vs those who partake. A Friend said that in the current outdoor meeting for worship on campus, the provision of hospitality has taken place organically, with coffee and snacks being placed on a table. A Friend stated that we should not place restrictions upon hospitality, and another Friend agreed.
- A Friend shared that the Connecticut Friends School hosted a hospitality session this past week with certain food safety precautions.
- The Clerk suggested that these topics regarding conduct of hospitality following Meeting for Worship should be considered at Hospitality committee.
- A Friend suggested that we should accommodate both outdoor and indoor Meeting for Worship on the campus when weather allows. Another Friend agreed, and expressed that outdoor meeting for worship has brought a special richness to worship. Another Friend expressed concern about the division of meeting between indoor and outdoor meeting for worship. A Friend suggested that technology could be used to accommodate both indoor and outdoor meetings for worship. The Clerk suggested that this suggestion should be brought back to M&C committee, considering the desire expressed that the community should hold one meeting for worship, to include both on-site and virtual worship.
- M&C Committee will meet to consider the question of meeting greeters for Meeting for Worship.
- The Clerk asked if we should send an announcement to the global email list regarding the opening of the meetinghouse on June 20. PM agreed that M&C committee will send out such an announcement. A Friend raised a concern that a number of questions remain outstanding for M&C to consider, and raised a concern regarding virtual worship still seeming separate from live worship (2 meetings vs the desire for a single community in worship). PM responded that Meeting for Business has helped to discern answers for a number of questions. There will be no questioning of members/attenders as to vaccination status. Social distancing in the Meetinghouse will be expected to take place organically. PM said that virtual worship will be accommodated and integrated into live meeting for worship to maintain the sense of one meeting, worshiping in community.

3. Nominating Committee Update: First Reading of the Slate of Committee Members (Albert)

- Many of the nominations are extensions of last year's nominations.
- New members are being nominated for M&C and Physical Stewardship, while some Friends are going on hiatus or have asked to be excused from their committee duties.
- Children's Meeting committee has been inactive due to the pandemic. Ann Nunes and Diane Keefe are proposed members of the committee. A meeting is planned between Ann and Diane with M&C committee to determine the next steps for

reconstituting the committee and determining the new members in order to relaunch the children's meeting.

- The proposed slate will be sent to the email list serve and will be sent as part of the newsletter.
- The proposed slate will be presented for approval at July Meeting for Business. Any concerns may be brought to the Nominating Committee in the meantime.

4. Recorder's Report on Meeting Membership (Renda)

- We have a total of 95 members of WQM; 89 adults and 6 associate members. This was communicated to New York Yearly Meeting by our Recorder.

5. Purchase Quarter Ministry and Counsel Committee Report (Laura)

- Purchase Quarter has not been holding business meetings; they have been calling it a 'jubilee year'. Purchase Quarter has proposed holding a meeting on the second Sunday in August, since local meetings are not holding Business Meetings.
- Purchase Quarter has asked whether Wilton Quaker Meeting can host the proposed August meeting.

- A Friend expressed support for hosting Purchase Quarterly Meeting at the WQM meetinghouse, and offered to connect WQM with a program on composting, that would provide meeting content.

- This meeting would be both a virtual and live meeting.

- **Minute 2021-06-01: Friends approved hosting the proposed Purchase Quarter meeting as a hybrid meeting at the WQM meetinghouse on the second Sunday of August.**

- Purchase Quarter also asked whether WQM would be willing to host a traditional quarterly meeting in November, which would still be a hybrid meeting. Meeting is asking that this question should be brought to M&C committee for consideration, with a recommendation to be brought back to business meeting.

6. Distribution of Wilton Quaker Meeting Directory (Pete McCaughan) (held over from May Meeting for Business)

- This topic will be held over until July Meeting for Business.

7. Trustees Meeting:

- The by-laws specify that a meeting for the Trustees of WQM should be held at least once a year. It was decided to hold this meeting in July.

8. Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business closed with a period of silent worship.



Nomination Slate 2021 - 2022 Proposed

<p>Clerk (1 yr) Martha Gurvich 203-838-3433</p> <p>Assistant Clerk (1 yr) Laura Higgins 203-981-5267</p> <p>Recording Clerk (1 yr) John Anderson 609-865-3666</p> <p>Recorder (1 yr) Renda McCaughan 860-799-7860</p> <p>Treasurer (1yr) Albert Hsu 347-989-6366</p> <p>Purchase Quarter Positions (1yr) M&C - Laura Higgins 203-981-5267 Scholarship - Laura Higgins 203-981-5267 Treasurer - Albert Hsu 347-989-6366 P&S - Virginia Auster 203-846-9288 NOMINATING - VACANT</p> <p>NYYM positions (1yr) Rep - Martha Gurvich 203-838-3433 Rep - Jerry Leaphart (Hiatus) 203-438-4589 Youth Cte - Martha Gurvich 203-838-3433</p> <p>Wilton Interfaith Madeleine Wilken 203-834-0352</p> <p>Westport-Weston Interfaith Virginia Auster 203-846-9288</p> <p>New Canaan Interfaith Irene Corsaro 203-524-5776</p> <p>CT Friends School (3 yr term) Nancy Sarno ('23) 203-845-2324 Sean Higgins ('22) 203-849-0012 Jane Olsen ('22) Doris Munger ('22) 203-966-1710 Madeleine Wilkens ('23) 203-834-0352 Virginia Auster ('24) 203-846-9288</p> <p style="text-align: center;">c - Convener * - Clerk of Committee</p>	<p>Advancement and Outreach (3 yrs) * Diane Keefe ('23) 917-312-4601 Laura Higgins ('23) 203-981-5267 Ty Griese ('24) 475-208-0732 * Irene Corsaro ('24) 203-524-5776 Rob Docters ('24) 203-966-0008</p> <p>Newsletter - Editing Madeleine Wilken - Editor 203-834-0352</p> <p>Newsletter - Distribution Irene Corsaro 203-524-5776 Ty Griese 475-208-0732</p> <p>Webmaster Pete McCaughan 860-799-7860 Peter Murchison 203-778-9809 Albert Hsu 347-989-6366</p> <p>Ministry and Counsel (3 yrs) * Peter Murchison ('24) 203-778-9809 Virginia Auster ('24) 203-846-9288 * Doris Munger ('24) 203-966-1710 Jeff Menoher ('23) 917-328-4471 Leslie Chapman ('23) 203-524-5457 John Anderson ('24) 609-865-3666 Gina Lobue Smith (Hiatus) 203-434-1159 Jerry Leaphart (Hiatus) 203-438-4589</p> <p>House and Grounds Physical Stewardship (3 yrs) c Sean Higgins ('23) 203-849-0012 Doris Munger ('22) 203-966-1710 Pete McCaughan ('22) 860-799-7860 Aaron Auslender ('23) 917-676-7675 Irene Corsaro ('24) 203-524-5776 Francis Corsaro ('24) 203-524-5776 Ty Griese ('24) 475-208-0732 Madeleine Wilkens ('24) 203-834-0352</p> <p>Hospitality Missy Conrad 203-354-2933 Irene Corsaro 203-524-5776</p> <p>Library c Ty Griese 475-208-0732 Doris Munger 203-966-1710</p>	<p>Children's Meeting (3 yrs) TBD Ann Nunes 203-956-7786 Diane Keefe 917-312-4601</p> <p>Peace and Service (1 yr) Virginia Auster 203-846-9288 Missy Conrad 203-354-2933 * Irene Corsaro 203-524-5776 Richard Duffee 203-588-0161 * Diane Keefe 917-312-4601 Doris Munger 203-966-1710 Peter Murchison 203-778-9809</p> <p>Gillespie House Becky Bunnell 203-762-2815 Irene Corsaro 203-524-5776</p> <p>Nominating (3 yrs) c Albert Hsu ('23) 347-989-6366 Virginia Auster ('23) 203-846-9288 Diane Keefe ('22) 917-312-4601 VACANT</p> <p>Long Range Planning (3 yrs) * Becky Bunnell ('24) 203-762-2815 Pete McCaughan ('22) 860-799-7860 Laura Higgins ('22) 203-981-5267 John Anderson ('23) 609-865-3666 Albert Hsu ('23) 347-989-6366</p> <p>Finance (3 yrs) * Becky Bunnell ('24) 203-762-2815 Diane Keefe ('22) 917-312-4601 Pete McCaughan ('22) 860-799-7860 John Anderson ('24) 609-865-3666 Albert Hsu (ex-officio) 347-989-6366</p> <p>Property Coordinator Diane Keefe 917-312-4601</p> <p>Trustees John Anderson 609-865-3666 Martha Gurvich 203-838-3433 Laura Higgins 203-981-5267 Albert Hsu 347-989-6366 Diane Keefe 917-312-4601 Pete McCaughan 860-799-7860 Peter Murchison 203-778-9809</p>
--	--	--

Committee Meeting Schedule

Week	9:00am	12:00pm
1st	Physical Stewardship/Finance	Peace & Service
2nd	Library	Meeting for Business
3rd	Advancement & Outreach	Long Range Planning/Friendly Forum
4th	Ministry & Counsel	Adult Religious Education
As Arranged	Children's Meeting	Nominating



Caroline and Albert at the Immersive Van Gogh Exhibit

**To join the WQM email announcements listserv,
 email Albert Hsu alhsu64@gmail.com
 or Pete McCaughan pete@mccaughan.net
 and ask to be added.**

Clerk	Martha Gurvich
Recording Clerk	John Anderson
Treasurer	Albert Hsu
Ministry & Oversight Co-Clerks	Peter Murchison & Leslie Chapman
Children's Meeting Acting Clerk	Ann Nunes
Physical Stewardship Convener	Sean Higgins
Peace & Service Clerks	Diane Keefe & Virginia Auster
Advancement & Outreach Clerks	Diane Keefe & Irene Corsaro
Finance Clerk	Becky Bunnell
Wilton Quaker Meeting Newsletter Editors	February 2021 Madeleine Wilken & Laura Higgins

Wilton Quaker Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends
317 New Canaan Road
Wilton CT 06897-3322

First Class Mail