

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting Monthly Meeting for Business 17 March 2019

The meeting for business was clerked by Jeff Perkins. Twenty-five Friends were present. Phil Anthony served as elder, holding the Meeting in the Light. The meeting began with a period of worship and the reading of the Query for the Third Month – Spiritual Nurture, Ministry, and Religious Education. Responses included:

- I am concerned about how we teach about Quaker practice in business meetings. Do we talk enough about parallels between meeting for worship and meeting for business? It doesn't always feel like we query whether we follow the same discernment about speaking in business meeting as we do in worship. Do worldly matters take us away from the Spirit? Do we test what we are led to say? Do we question whether it helps move the full body forward toward greater Light and Unity. Is God or Spirit speaking or it is our ego. That is the challenge we have at meeting for worship for business.
- Do we act upon our understanding of truth? Do we insist on following our truth instead of looking for truth which may be different than that that we hold?
- Meeting for worship is not about me. When I find myself moved to speak, I ask myself: "Is this about me." If so, I need to take it back inside and let it season.

1. **Adult Class Committee.** Committee Clerk, Anne Hawkins delivered the committee's annual report (attached).

2. **Hospitality Committee.** Committee Clerk, Martha Rose delivered the committee's annual report (attached).

3. **Nominating Committee.** Committee Clerk, Meg Mitchell delivered the slate of committee appointments for approval by the Meeting. (attached). It was noted that under Adult Class, Terry Marek is to be in the 2021 class. Friends noted that a number of committees have opening spaces in their 2021 class. Tricia noted that it would be good to have some different Friends step forward as Quarter representatives as the current representatives have been serving for some time. **The Meeting approved the slate of committee members with the change to Adult Class.**

4. **Clerk's Questions.** Clerk of the Meeting, Jeff Perkins brought forward the following:

- April's business meeting (21st) falls on Easter Sunday. A Friends had raised concern about possible attendance at Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting on that day. Jeff wanted to see how many Friends were likely to be unable to attend business meeting that Sunday. About a quarter of those present in today's business meeting will be away on the 21st. Friends discussed other possibilities, but given the meeting schedule, none appeared to be a ready solution. The Clerk will continue to season the concern.
- Some Friends have suggested beginning Meeting for Business at noon or 12:15, in lieu of the current 12:30. Some concerns were expressed about the impact on members of the Hospitality Committee who are involved in kitchen cleanup. It was noted that there are many members of Hospitality that do not come to business meeting and perhaps some of them could take a greater role on the third Sundays. The Hospitality Committee will consider this. The meeting was easy taking a two month trial of beginning business meeting

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at 12:15 p.m. We will implement for April and May, and then reassess before the June business meeting.

5. Quarter Representatives. Tricia Walmsley delivered the report for the representatives (attached), and raised the following:

- The Quarter meets here at on April 28 and needs someone to take minutes during the business meeting. Friends who would like to volunteer should contact Tricia.
- The Quarter will be sending an appeal letter and needs addresses for Meeting members. The Meeting secretary plans to send the addresses to the Quarter. Jeff noted that Stewardship Committee asked that the Quarter's mailing not coincide with the Meeting's own fundraising appeals, which are typically in May and November.
- It is time for the report on the spiritual state of the Meeting to be written, approved and sent to the Quaker Life Council of PYM, if the Meeting chooses to do so. Jeff said that this had been coordinated by Worship & Ministry Committee the past and that he would work with Rebecca to see if some Friends can be identified to assist in the drafting of the report.

6. Religious Education Committee. On behalf of the committee, Meg Mitchell brought forward a recommendation to sponsor a child-focused event and performance by the Jasper String Quartet at the meetinghouse on a Saturday in May. Concerns included:

- Hopes that we publicize the event widely to other Meetings hoping to make the opportunity available to more families.
- Concerns about the financial arrangement. The Office & Admin committee will verify the arrangements with the Meeting secretary.
- The Religious Education Committee will coordinate with the Meeting secretary to get the event on the calendar.
- **The Meeting approved sponsorship and hosting, at no cost, of an event by the Jasper String Quartet at the meetinghouse on an available weekend in May.**

7. Peace & Social Concerns Committee. Committee clerk, Linda Rosenwein brought forward the forward the following items:

- FCNL would like our Meeting's input on their new pamphlet (introduction attached). Interested Friends should contact Linda.
- Linda has applications and forms for grants recommended by Peace & Social Concerns. Now is the time for Friends to apply for grants for organizations in which they are actively involved, and which are consistent with interests of the Meeting. Prior grantees must have submitted a report about their use of any prior grants before they can receive another grant.
- The committee hopes to have more conversations about the organization, POWER, and may recommend the Meeting join the group.

8. Finance Committee. Treasurer, Dylan Steinberg brought forward for approval the Operating Budget grants for 2019 (attached). Dylan explained that these grants are typically made to Quaker organizations and that they have not changed over several years because there is

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not specific criteria for determining new organizations or amounts. Dylan noted that there is a new ad hoc committee which will coordinate opportunities for a broader representation of the Meeting to consider whether grants and scholarships should continue to come from general operating funds and to discuss meeting covenants to PYM and Philadelphia Quarter. Concerns included:

- Whether the ad hoc committee will have concluded its work in time for 2021 grant recommendations.
- That the Meeting spends more on grants and covenants than we spend on our own programs.
- That Stapeley Enhanced Living does not need grants from us but that individual Quakers who live there do.

The Meeting did not reach unity on approving the grants as presented. The subject was held over until the April Meeting for Business.

9. Minutes of February Meeting for Worship for Business were approved with minor revisions.

10. Announcements

- a. April Annual Reports Due
 - i. Care & Counsel
 - ii. Stewardship
 - iii. Treasurer Quarterly Report
- b. Easy Evens
 - i. April---Care and Counsel
 - ii. May--Finance
 - iii. June--Skyspace
- c. Clerks' Meeting, April 14 at 12:15 in the Worship Room
- d. Property Committee will have a work day on Saturday, May 18 and hope to recruit help from the entire meeting.

11. Closing Worship

Storm Evans, recording clerk