

- **2008.1.8** The Clerk reviews recent developments toward the creation of a Care Committee for Friends Seminary. The Meeting appoints three Friends, Michael Schlegel, Margaret Lew and Elizabeth Crownfield, to serve on a Joint Planning Committee for the creation of such a Care Committee
- **2008.06.04** Michael Schlegel reads the report with a draft minute for the Joint Planning Committee for the creation of a mutual Care Committee with Friends Seminary (below):

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• **Fifteenth Street Monthly Meeting
Joint Planning Committee for the creation of a
Care Committee with Friends Seminary**

• **Clerk's Report
June 4, 2008**

- On behalf of the members of the Joint Planning Committee which included Mary Alexander, Dan Wise, Robert Segal from the Friends Seminary School Committee and Elizabeth Crownfield, Margaret Lew and Mike Schlegel from 15th Street Monthly Meeting, I would like to provide the Committee's recommendation.
- As background, this committee was established at the January 2008 business meeting by 15th Street and the Friends Seminary School Committee to consider the creation of a joint care committee and report back with a specific recommendation. The committee was considered as a result of issues reflecting poor communications between the school committee and the meeting along with the success of a care committee established in Brooklyn in 2007.
- After four committee meetings, we concluded with the following proposal for a care committee. Our discussions started from a place of wondering why there is a need for a new committee and settled into believing the need exists to focus exclusive on the relationship, community and communication between the meeting(s) and Friends Seminary. While we discussed many possible initiatives, we chose to leave the implementation of the mission to the new committee. Our proposal follows:
- **Proposed Membership:** The Care Committee will have eight members: three will be nominated by the 15th St. Meeting Nominating Committee, one by NYQM Joint Nominating, and four by the Nominating Committee of the Friends Seminary School Committee. We advise that the committee should represent a breadth of points of view and suggest members might be nominated who serve on the School Committee's Spiritual Life Committee, 15th St.'s Religious Education Committee and Ministry and Worship Committee, as well as Friends Seminary's Quaker Studies director or other faculty member, and a parent at the school. We also advise that the clerk of 15th St. Meeting and the clerk of the School Committee be nominated.
- **Proposed Mission Statement:** The Care Committee is charged with the task of addressing and finding ways to help in the resolution of communication and relationship issues between the meeting and the school-from and to both sides-in order to nurture and strengthen right relations between the two bodies. The Care Committee will serve as a resource for the school as it continues to grow into its mission as a Friends school.
- It was clear to this committee that a true guardian of the loving relationship between the school and meetings was needed. Our hope is that the committee will work with the School Committee's Spiritual Life committee to: engage the school Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and other groups; facilitate mediation and serve as an independent sounding board; seek better means of working together in positive and constructive ways; and heal old wounds and hurt feelings while building mutual trust. We note the very positive effect of the Brooklyn Care Committee and encourage close communication with them. Our committee sees this as a wonderful opportunity to face new challenges as one community.
- Thank you for your consideration.

• Submitted in Friendship,
Mike Schlegel
Clerk, Joint Care Committee

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2009.02.01 At the suggestion of the Nominating Committee we appoint these Friends to service to the committees, posts, and terms listed:

... Care Committee for 15th St. MM/Friends Seminary
George Fisher and Nancy Adelman (term length to be determined)

2009.04.04 The Peace Committee and the Religious Education Committee bring a proposed minute that the 15th Street Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends endorse the Manhattan Borough President Springer's resolution regarding the Adoption and Enforcement of a Chancellor's Regulation to Govern Military Recruitment Activities in New York City High Schools with a request that 15th Street forward this request to the Quarterly Meeting, the 15th Street/Friends Seminary Care Committee, the Manhattan Borough President, and to the NYC Panel for Educational Policy (before their next meeting, Fifth month, 2009). Friends are encouraged to independently protest the city's recruitment policy.

2009.11.05 Nominating Committee 2010 list:
Care Committee for Friends Seminary

Nancy Adelman (1)
George Fisher (1)
Gloria Thompson (1) [appointed by Manhattan
Monthly Meeting]

November 2005 business meeting:

George Fisher reports acceptably for the Care Committee as follows:

CARE COMMITTEE BETWEEN 15TH STREET MONTHLY MEETING AND FRIENDS SEMINARY
REPORT TO 15TH STREET BUSINESS MEETING
11TH MONTH 2009

The Care Committee between 15th Street Meeting and Friends Seminary was formed in the spring of 2009 to help foster a greater sense of community between our two institutions by working to increase communication cooperation and mutual trust. Before reporting on our own activities, we make note of some recent initiatives from the school that help foster a good care relationship and reflect a concern for Quaker values. These include:

- A Professional Development Day, held on Wednesday, October 28th, in which 10 Friends from the Quarter observed and commented on decision making within departmental and interdepartmental committees and participated on a panel for all faculty and staff at the end of the day. The following Friends participated: Mary Alexander, Nancy Black, Margery Cornwell, Elizabeth Enloe, George Fisher, Maureen Healy, John Maynard, Naomi Paz Greenberg, Tom Rothschild, Carol Summar. Initial reports from faculty, staff, and the Friends participating were very positive.
- A series of discussions about integrity among students in grades K-12 during the spring of 2009 that resulted in new guidelines for acknowledging sources and help in preparing assignments.
- Consideration by the Lower School faculty this fall of a query on simplicity as it relates to their work activities.

The Committee currently consists of six members -- three appointed by 15th Street (Nancy Adelman, George Fisher and Gloria Thompson) and three appointed by the Friends Seminary (Margery Cornwell, Terri Hassid and Pamela Wood). George Fisher is clerk, and Pamela Wood is Recording Clerk. We have met four times so far, and expect to continue meeting monthly with the exception of the summer months. We record minutes for each meeting and routinely distribute them to Carol Summar, as clerk of 15th Street and Mary Alexander, as clerk of Friends Seminary. We are also happy to send them via e-mail to other interested Friends upon request.

A summary of recent discussion topics and activities includes the following:

- A consideration of our charge at our first meeting, and subsequent conversations about best to direct our time and energies.
- A continuation and nurturing of initiatives already undertaken by our First Day School and the Lower School, including such things as plantings in the courtyard and writing letters for Peace Week.

- The sharing of relevant information in a reliable way through announcements, bulletin boards, newsletters, and the web.
- Assisting in the planning and coordination of our welcome meeting for Friends Seminary and the dissemination of information about the school for Friends families.
- The exploration of shared services opportunities.

At our meeting last week, we formulated the following two proposals for consideration by 15th Street Meeting. (The second one will also be brought to the Friends Seminary School Committee.)

1. We propose an open meeting of the Care Committee with interested members of 15th Street Meeting, for the purpose of listening to the comments and suggestions that 15th Street Friends have for the Committee. We suggest a date in late January or early February, either on a Sunday or on a weekday evening. (We currently meet on Wednesday evenings.) We envision a worship-sharing format, using queries we would develop in advance based on your input and further discussion at our December meeting.
2. We propose the addition of one more appointment from each institution, to better represent diverse interests and constituencies among our members. We suggest that 15th Street Meeting appoint a person active in the First Day School and that Friends Seminary School Committee appoint a person active to the parent community.

Respectfully submitted
George Fisher

*Suggestions for the Committee may be sent directly to
Margery Cornwell, George Fisher (georgef1151@yahoo.com)
or Nancy Adelman (nancylee1@verizon.net).*

2009.11.06 Friends approve Proposal #1 from the Care Committee's report:

We propose an open meeting of the Care Committee with interested members of 15th Street Meeting, for the purpose of listening to the comments and suggestions that 15th Street Friends have for the Committee. We suggest a date in late January or early February, either on a Sunday or on a weekday evening. (We currently meet on Wednesday evenings.) We envision a worship-sharing format, using queries we would develop in advance based on your input and further discussion at our December meeting.

2009.11.07 Friends approve Proposal #2 from the Care Committee's report:

We propose the addition of one more appointment from each institution, to better represent diverse interests and constituencies among our members. We suggest that 15th Street Meeting appoint a person active in the First Day School and that Friends Seminary School Committee appoint a person active to the parent community.

CARE COMMITTEE

2009.12.02 George Fisher gave a report from the Care Committee and the meeting approves an open meeting of the Committee, open to all members/attenders of the 15th Street and Manhattan Meetings, on January 31st at 1 p.m.

Summary of January 31, 2010 Open Meeting of the Care Committee including Fifteenth Street Meeting, Manhattan Meeting and Friends Seminary, held in the Meeting House 1 -3 pm.

The meeting commenced with Open Worship at 1:00 pm, followed by introductions, a review of the charge of the committee by George Fisher, an explanation of the Friends Seminary Long Range Plan by Teri Hassid and Pamela Wood, a report on the

African Schools project by Gloria Thompson, a report on Peace Week Activities by Margery Cornwell, an open discussion of suggestions for other shared activities, a description of the work of the Care Committee including projects to date, current concerns and future plans and suggestions. This session ended in closing Worship.

Participating Friends in the Open Committee made the following suggestions to the Care Committee:

- 1) To improve communication (identify contact people, create more complete and inclusive email lists, to announce events and job opportunities with greater care
- 2) To have a social event involving Friends Seminary faculty.
- 3) To protect the flower beds in the court yard by raising student awareness and building a fence
- 4) To join the Friends Seminary effort to raise money for a service project in Haiti (a possible First Day School project)
- 5) To share green and sustainability projects
- 6) To communicate with Brooklyn Care Committee
- 7) To determine the number of Quaker families and students.
- 8) To facilitate participation of the 15th St. Peace Committee in planning for Peace Week.
- 9) To be cognizant of time constraints of interested parties by identifying and maximizing areas of overlap

In attendance: George Fisher, Margery Cornwell, Gloria Thompson, Nancy Adelman, Teri Hassid, Pamela Wood, Carol Warner, Linda Brainard, Charles Brainard, Janet Soderberg, Leslie Harris, Melvin Dennis, Arthur Berk, Carol Summar, Margaret Lew, Frederica Clare, Roxanne Wolanczyk

From State of the Meeting report, 2009:

We would like to see more contact between our meeting and the K-12 Friends Seminary, with which we share space; this is one function of the new joint Care Committee between Fifteenth Street and Friends Seminary.

CARE COMMITTEE

2010.8.2 The Annual Report of the Care Committee between 15th-Street Meeting and Friends Seminary is presented by George Fisher. Friends accept the report. A written version is appended. The Committee proposes Sunday, October 3rd, as the date when 15th Street Meeting will host members of the Friends Seminary community at morning worship, and Friends accept the proposal. The Committee relayed the School's request that the God's Love We Deliver bags be displayed in the meeting room over one weekend in December, and Friends accept the proposal.

Care Committee between 15th-Street Meeting and Friends Seminary
Report to 15th Street, Eighth Month 2010

We last reported in November 2009. A compilation of minutes for all meetings of the committee since that time is available upon request.

Committee meetings and membership issues:

The committee met monthly through June except for March. We also hosted an open meeting with Friends from 15th Street and Manhattan Meetings in January and provided summary of that meeting to the February business meeting. This past spring we increased our membership from 6 to 8 by adding one more appointee from 15th Street (Carol Warner, who is active in the First Day School) and one more appointee from Friends Seminary (Gloria Pitagorsky, who is active in the Parent Association). They join the other continuing members of the committee: Nancy Adelman, Margery Cornwell, George Fisher, Teri Hasid, Gloria Thompson, and Pamela Wood. Attendance and participation at all meetings has been good to excellent.

Highlights from recent months:

Open Meeting with 15th Street and Manhattan Meetings: In a format combining worship sharing with presentations, School members spoke about the Long Range plan of the school and responded to questions, we discussed Peace Week and African Education projects, and brainstormed about possible future activities among our communities and for the committee. The main question we took away from the event is the following: "How do we keep the lines of communication open?" We are considering hosting a similar meeting with the school in the coming year.

Courtyard concerns: The committee frequently addressed concerns about protecting the growing plants in the courtyard gardens while keeping the courtyard available for recreational use. We will continue to monitor this issue as necessary.

Peace Week. The Care Committee notes that the best way for Peace Committee of the meeting to be involved in the peace week activities of the school is to be involved in advanced planning. We encourage that initiative in the coming year.

Cooperative ventures. While agreeing to revisit the idea of a social activity for meeting members and employees of the school in the coming year, we decided this past spring to look for ways that each community might encourage the initiatives of each other without putting another event on the calendar that people would feel obliged to attend. In February, the First Day School children made Valentine's Day

cards to raise money for the Friends Seminary Haiti effort. In May, the meeting had a visible presence at the school, staffing a table at the front entrance, and the school again helped with the meeting's rummage sale the next day by encouraging students to use it as a community service project. Teachers and parents from the school participate frequently as volunteers at the Shelter.

Annual faculty dinner. At the committee's request, the school welcomed our members to their annual dinner honoring retiring school personnel and recognizing others for various milestones of school employment. Nearly all members were able to attend, and introduced to the gathering. We hope to agree to repeat that activity in the coming year.

Contact with the Brooklyn Care Committee. George met with Alice Pope, a founding member of the Brooklyn Committee, and reported back to the full committee. Shared events in Brooklyn focus on meal hosted by the meeting each year and service opportunities. Their Care Committee has occasionally served as a clearness committee for Friends with concerns about the school, and also served as a sounding board for the School Committee as they worked on essential principles. Their Spiritual Life Committee has referred Issues to the Care Committee from time to time. We noted that our two committees have already started to function differently, but we have much in common and can continue to learn from each other.

Current concerns and requests:

Shared worship: After consulting with our Ministry and Worship Committee and school officials, we now announce Sunday, October 3rd as the date when 15th Street Meeting will host members of the Friends Seminary community at morning worship. We extend our welcome to Manhattan Friends at this time as well. Refreshments will be served in the Common Room this year, and the Care Committee will be further involved in planning this part of the morning. We have also requested, and received School approval, that this event be separate from the time when School officials provide information about the school for prospective Friends families. We will recommend an October date for that event shortly, but plan in the future to move that activity to the spring to be better coordinated with the admissions process.

God's Love We Deliver. The school has asked our assistance in getting meeting approval for displaying the God's Love We Deliver bags in the meeting room over one weekend in December. While the Care Committee does not advocate a particular outcome, we strongly support the idea of having the meeting as a whole consider this question. We note the following aspects of the God's Love project that recommend it to our loving attention:

1. The project is already a cooperative project of the school and the meeting.

Members of meeting, including our First Day School, are regularly invited to join in decorating the bags and many do.

2. As part of God's Love We Deliver policy, no religious symbols are allowed to be used in decorating the bags.

3. A service activity of this scope and kind deserves whatever support we are able to provide.

2010 State of the Meeting Report:

Our relationship with Friends Seminary continues as a saga of growth and loss, joy and sorrow, cooperation and distrust. We share property and history. The Care Committee, composed of members from Fifteenth Street and the Friends Seminary community, provides an opportunity for both parties to know each other better and hopefully minimize misunderstandings. When the courtyard outside the Meetinghouse is used by Friends Seminary children as a play area, the fragile garden area near the courtyard is in peril. Gentle, persistent dialogue between teachers, gardeners and Care Committee members moved hearts and minds and soccer balls and fences.

2011-05-16. George Fisher, Clerk of the Care Committee for Friends Seminary, conveys a request for our approval to host the school community at the October 2nd 2011 meeting for worship [at 11 a.m.]. Friends approve.