

WITNESS COORDINATING COMMITTEE

MINUTES

APRIL 14, 2012 SPRING SESSIONS
SCHOOL OF THE HOLY CHILD, RYE, NY

Friends gathered in worship sharing and considered the following query and prayers.

How can we make God's Light shine brilliantly?

"Pray with CPT and its partners during a prayer vigil for peace in Colombia from 6 p.m. Saturday, April 14, to 6:00 p.m. Sunday, April 15. Light a candle, sing, meditate, read a story, or just sit quietly in God's presence."

Christian Peacemaker Teams
Prayers for Peacemakers
April 11, 2012

"And as many candles lighted, and put in one place, do greatly augment the light, and make it more to shine forth, so when many are gathered together into the same life, there is more of the glory of God, and his power appears, to the refreshment of each individual; for that he partakes not only of the light and life raised in himself, but in all the rest."

Robert Barclay, *Apology* (1676)

Friends present introduced ourselves: Fred Dettmer (Clerk), Justin Bishop (Recording Clerk), Shirley Way (At Large), Albert Hsu (Prisons), Naomi Paz-Greenberg (Conscientious Objection to Paying For War - COPW), Susan Wolf (Indian Affairs), Mary Eagleson (At Large), Andy von Salis (COPW), Patricia Chernoff (Earthcare Working Group), Margaret Lechner (Alternatives to Violence Project - AVP, Friends Peace Teams - FPT), Judy Meikle (Prisons), Sybil Perry (guest), Jeff Hitchcock (NYYM Assistant Clerk), Sarah Faith Dickinson (EAQWER – European American Quakers Working to End Racism), Suzanne Blackburn (Prisons), Robin Alpern (EAQWER), Sue Nowelsky (FPT), Ann Schillinger (Indian Affairs).

Regrets were received from: Diane Keefe, Jens Braun, Pam Wood, and Radh Achuthan.

Friends reviewed draft minutes of our Meeting on November 12, 2011.

Minute 12-04-01. Friends approved these minutes.

The Clerk distributed and Friends reviewed the Witness Coordinating Committee Approved Operating and Sharing Fund Budgets for 2012. The European American Quakers Working to End Racism (EAQWER) workgroup was not included in our allocations for both administrative expense (NYYM Operating Budget) and program work (Sharing Fund). The EAQWER Working Group requests \$200 from the Operating Budget, primarily for travel expense, and \$100 from the Sharing Fund for materials such as books and DVDs.

Minute 12-04-02. Friends approved allocating \$200 for an EAQWER administrative budget by redirecting all other administrative budget line items by proportional amounts.

Minute 12-04-03. Friends approved allocating \$100 for the EAQWER Working Group Sharing Fund budget.

Friends discussed the Endowment and Sharing Fund distributions. The correct financial reporting practice in the future will be to separately report Sharing Fund donations from Trustee endowment distributions.

The Clerk reported that the Sharing Fund will likely be the recipient of another bequest in the near future. Friends were also asked to consider as food for thought why it is that Witness Committees, workgroups, and resource persons are funded through the Sharing Fund.

Friends received a comprehensive report from Susan Wolf from the Indian Affairs Committee on the committee's efforts including outreach, presentations, information in *Info-Share*, and an article for *Spark* in ongoing service to the seasoning and active maturing of the mission underlying their Minute from 2010 (**Minute 06-10-02**) to Support the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and to Repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery.

Friends considered and discussed the ongoing relevance of this minute and what more may be done about this Minute and whether we should bring the minute back to the Body of NYYM.

Minute 12-14-04. Friends approved that the to Support the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and to Repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery - Minute 06-10-02 - should be presented for a second reading to the NYYM body at Summer Sessions. We ask that Indian Affairs Committee bring a freshened and sharpened, concise, revised version of the Minute and summary document to the Witness Coordinating Committee June Meeting for our discernment with the intention to present it to NYYM Summer Sessions once it has been approved.

Peace Concerns: Responses from Monthly Meetings: Mary Eagleson presented, and Friends reviewed, the results of the survey that was sent out to monthly meetings asking them to report on their peace and justice concerns and activities. Responses have been received from 45 Meetings. The Peace Concerns Coordinator has asked to be released and has ceased to do the work of that position, and no replacement has been named. Friends discussed the ongoing role of Peace Concerns within Witness and within the Yearly Meeting and regions, including distributing a newsletter. Many Friends are engaged in Peace work but may not be working in coordination with others. One idea, which met with energetic discussion, was to reconstitute a new "Peace and Justice" committee or workgroup with defined responsibilities. This conversation about the future of Witness Coordinating Committee and Peace Concerns was tabled owing to time constraints and to allow for further maturing of ideas, and may be revisited in June.

Annual (Advance) Reports, Responses to the Accountability Queries, and Proposed Budgets for 2013: Clerks of Witness constituent committees, workgroups and Resource Persons are reminded that the Annual (Advance) Reports and the Responses to the Accountability Queries need to be prepared by **May 14, 2012**.

The Annual Reports should be sent electronically to paul@nyym.org and office@nyym.org, with "cc" to Fred Dettmer (fdettmer@aol.com) and Mary Eagleson (mleagleson@aol.com).

The Response to the Accountability Queries should be sent to our Fred Dettmer and Mary Eagleson, but do **not** need to be sent to the YM office.

Budget proposals need to be submitted to the Witness Coordinating Committee clerk, assistant clerk and financial clerk at least one week before our June meeting on Saturday June 9th, 2012, location TBD (see below)

Expectations in the Annual Report were discussed and it was proposed that each Annual (Advance) Report be

expected to include a summary chart of the funds utilized by the constituent committees, workgroups and Resource Persons, including a single line statement of the amount of administrative funds (from the NYYM Operating Budget) used and a listing of activities supported by Sharing Funds and the amount utilized for each listed activity.

Minute 12-14-05. Friends approved adding this expectation of reporting funds used, namely that each Annual Report include a summary chart of the funds utilized by the constituent committees, workgroups and Resource Persons, including a single line statement of the amount of administrative funds used and a listing of activities supported by Sharing Funds, and the amount utilized for each listed activity.

Liaison Committee is considering adding 2 queries to the Accountability Queries

- Is there an assistant clerk or co-clerk to support the work of the clerk and who can step forward in the event the clerk is unable to fulfill the role?
- Are there likely, qualified candidates to replace the clerk, so that the committee can continue to function effectively after the clerk's retirement?

Naomi has agreed to volunteer to lead ___ and is asking for assistance.

Mary, Naomi, Helen have agreed to draft a letter for the Sharing Fund for the Spring/Summer appeal.

Friends approved that our next Meeting will be scheduled to be held at 10am June 9th 2012 location TBD by Suzanne Blackburn and Shirley Way.

Respectfully Submitted,

Justin Bishop
Recording Clerk

Fred Dettmer
Clerk