

Minutes of the Meeting for Worship
Online via Zoom
Thursday, July 30, 2020, 7:30 p.m.

Clerk pro tem, Elaine Learnard, Conscience Bay
Assistant Clerk pro tem, Jeffrey Aaron, New Brunswick
Recording clerk, Laura Higgins, Wilton
Reading clerk, Barbra Bleeker, Montclair

2020-07-53. Friends gathered into a period of waiting worship.

2020-07-54. Clerk Elaine Learnard reminded Friends how to participate in the Zoom meeting. Elaine said we would take the time to discern as we need to speak.

2020-07-55. Peter Cook, Executive Director of the NY State Council of Churches (NYSCoC), began by recognizing the contributions of John Lewis, urging that all retain concern for his legacy. Peter welcomed Friends partnership and ministry out in the country and out in the world. He recognized NYYM's representatives to NYSCoC. Peter described an extensive number of social justice initiatives being led by NYSCoC.

2020-07-56. Cai Quirk (Ithaca), Co-Clerk of Witness Coordinating Committee (WCC), introduced Glenn Josey to bring a minute advocating a change to the 13th Amendment of the US Constitution to the Yearly Meeting body at Summer Sessions floor. WCC endorsed the minute approved by Fifteenth Street, Brooklyn, and Morningside Monthly Meetings, and New York Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.

2020-07-57. Glenn Josey (Fifteenth Street) presented the minute through a PowerPoint presentation.

The Thirteenth amendment to the Constitution, ratified in 1865, abolished slavery "except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted." This clause has allowed slavery to continue in the United States. The minute asks for a new amendment to the United States Constitution that replaces the current 13th amendment. The Minute is seeking to remove the exception clause that allows the continuation of slavery to continue in the United States through the disproportionate imprisonment of people of color and involuntary servitude of incarcerated persons.

Minute 2020.6.3, Fifteenth Street Monthly Meeting

Friends considered a statement regarding the 13th Amendment to the Constitution:

Section 1 of the 13th amendment of the US constitution states:

Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

We propose a new amendment to the constitution that amends section 1 to state the following:

Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Friends support the spirit and intention of this proposal and approve the suggested amendment.

Glenn introduced a Congressional Delegation Letter. New York Yearly Meeting was asked to endorse this minute and authorize the Clerk and the General Secretary to sign the attached letter to send to the congressional delegations of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut introducing bills seeking two thirds approval from the House of Representatives and the Senate to begin the process of abolishing slavery in the United States. We also ask the Clerk to send this letter to other yearly and national meetings and other organizations as necessary to complete this work. We ask each local meeting to consider endorsing this minute and sending letters to their own representatives.

Documents read and referenced:

[13th Amendment Cover Letter](#) (attached)

[13th Amendment Congressional Delegation Letter](#) (attached)

Friends approved endorsing the minute and sending the letters as described. Friends were urged to get under the weight of supporting the work necessary to bring the proposed constitutional amendment to completion.

2020-07-58 Clerk presented Nominations (attached) in two parts.

The first part is the nominations that have been posted in advance. These nominations would have been on the Seasoned Business Items (SBI) list. Nominations are the only item on the SBI list for summer sessions. Because they have been posted in advance and Friends have had the opportunity to consider them and ask in advance for any changes to the list, there is no discussion of these nominations.

There were four people listed on what was posted who were already approved through the SBI process that took place after Spring Sessions was canceled.

These people are already serving in their rolls and should not have appeared on this list:

- Laura Higgins, recording;
- Dawn Pozzi, Sessions;
- Mary Harpster and Peter Phillips, trustees;

Additionally,

- Carol Holmes Alpern's name is removed from FUM Board nomination because our YM membership numbers now allow only two representatives and the two already serving are continuing, and Carol understands;
- Emilie Gay's name is removed from reappointment to Oakwood Board at her request;

- Robin Mullaney is removed from the list because she is on the separate approval list as an attender.

Friends approved these nominations.

2020-07-59 The reading clerk read the names of additional nominations, which must be considered individually.

Requiring separate approval are:

	Elsie K. Powell House Inc.	
Matthew Lindop	Saratoga (attender)	class of 2021

	Communications Committee	
Jennifer Swann ('17)	South Berkshire, NEYM	class of 2021

	Sessions Committee	
Robin Mullaney	Old Chatham (attender)	class of 2021
Ann Nunes ('18)	Wilton (attender)	class of 2021
*Deborah B. Wood ('17)	Purchase	class of 2023
*Accidentally omitted from regular list		

	Supervisory Committee for General Secretary	
Ileana Clarke ('17)	Cornwall (attender)	class of 2021

Anne-Marie Scheidt, Conscience Bay, was released from service on the Indian Affairs Committee.

These nominations and release request were approved.

2020-07-60. Julia Giordano (Bulls Head - Oswego) presented the final reading of the Epistle.

Ministry followed. Necessary clarifications and corrections were brought to the Epistle Committee.

Friends approved the Epistle with minor revisions that will be accomplished by the Epistle Committee, Clerk, Assistant Clerk, and General Secretary.

Attachments

13th Amendment Cover Letter

See minute 2020-07-57

Witness coordinating committee endorsed a minute approved by Fifteenth Street Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. The minute asks for a new amendment to the United States Constitution that amends the 13th amendment. The minute is seeking to remove the exception clause that allows the institution of slavery to continue in the United States through imprisoning people.

Minute 2020.6.3, Fifteenth Street Monthly Meeting

Friends consider a statement regarding the 13th Amendment to the Constitution

Section 1 of the 13th amendment of the US constitution states:

Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

We propose a new amendment to the constitution that amends section 1 to state the following:

Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Friends support the spirit and intention of this proposal and approve the suggested amendment.

It is important that we begin this work now as the foundational documents of our country continue to allow for the inhumane treatment of imprisoned people. As is apparent in the current cases of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, along with the thousands of other deadly and nondeadly cases across the US, people of color are treated differently than non-people of color. This leads to disproportionate rates of arrest and incarceration of people of color. According to the June 20, 2020 Federal Bureau of Prisons Inmate Statistics on Race, African-Americans make up 38.1% (61,274 people) of all federally incarcerated people, while, according to the Federal Bureau of Prisons Inmate Statistics on Ethnicity, Hispanics make up 31.1% (49,874 people) of all federally incarcerated people. These people are considered slaves.

Efforts to change state Constitutions have started to occur around the country. Prior to 2018, the state of Colorado's Constitution read "there shall never be in this state either slavery or involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted." Efforts to change the state Constitution began in 2016 to remove the exception. In the 2018 election, 66% of voters voted to change the state Constitution to state "there shall never be in this state either slavery or involuntary servitude." Vermont and Utah have also introduced measures to ban all slavery in their state Constitutions. New York, New Jersey and Connecticut State's Constitutions do not mention slavery.

There are many steps that must occur to pass an amendment to the US Constitution. Article V of the Constitution states the process as follows:

The Congress, whenever two thirds of both houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to this Constitution, or, on the application of the legislatures of two thirds of the several states, shall call a convention for proposing amendments, which, in either case, shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of this Constitution, when ratified by the legislatures of three fourths of the several states, or by conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by the Congress; provided that no amendment which may be made prior to the year one thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any manner affect the first and fourth clauses in the ninth section of the first article; and that no state, without its consent, shall be deprived of its equal suffrage in the Senate.

We ask New York Yearly Meeting to endorse this minute and authorize the Clerk and the General Secretary to sign the attached letter to send to the congressional delegations of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut introducing bills seeking two thirds approval from the House of Representatives and the Senate to begin the process of abolishing slavery in the United States. We also ask the Clerk to send this letter to other yearly and national meetings and other organizations as necessary to complete this work. We ask each local meeting to consider endorsing this minute and sending letters to their own representatives.

13th Amendment Letter to Congressional Delegation

See minute 2020-07-57

7 July 2020

Dear _____

Since the 18th Century, the Religious Society of Friends, Quakers, have advocated for the abolishment of slavery in the United States. The Thirteenth amendment to the Constitution, ratified in 1865, abolished slavery “except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted.” This clause has allowed slavery to continue in the United States.

It is important that we complete the work of abolishing slavery now as the foundational documents of our country continue to allow for the inhumane treatment of imprisoned people. As is apparent in the current cases of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, along with the thousands of other deadly and nondeadly cases across the US, people of color are treated differently than non-people of color. This leads to disproportionate rates of arrest and incarceration of people of color. According to the June 20, 2020 Federal Bureau of Prisons Inmate Statistics on Race, African-Americans make up 38.1% (61,274 people) of all federally incarcerated people, while, according to the Federal Bureau of Prisons Inmate Statistics on Ethnicity, Hispanics make up 31.1% (49,874 people) of all federally incarcerated people. These people are considered slaves.

We ask you to sponsor a new amendment to the constitution that removes the exception clause in section 1 of the 13th amendment. The new amendment would state the following:

Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

SUMMER SESSIONS 2020 NOMINATIONS

See minute 2020-07-58

Officers of NYYM

Clerk:	Elaine Learnard ('18)	Conscience Bay	class of 2021
Recording Clerks:	Mary Eagleson ('18)	Scarsdale	class of 2021
	Laura Higgins ('20)	Wilton	class of 2021
	Lu Harper ('20)	Rochester	class of 2021
Treasurer:	Laura Cisar ('16)	New Brunswick	class of 2021
Assistant Treasurer:	Albert Hsu ('18)	Wilton	class of 2021

Oakwood Friends School Board

Robert Fatherley	Wilton	class of 2023
Ben Frisch	Brooklyn	class of 2023
Emilie Gay ('17)	Brooklyn	class of 2023

AFFILIATE GROUPS

Friends General Conference

Anne Pomeroy	New Paltz	class of 2023
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Friends United Meeting Board

Carol Holmes Alpern	Scarsdale	class of 2023
Gabrielle Savory Bailey ('19)	Chatham/Summit	class of 2023
Emily Provance	Fifteenth Street	class of 2023

Friends World Committee for Consultation

Angela Hopkins	Ithaca	class of 2023
Brian Wigfall	Morningside	class of 2023

MINISTRY SECTION

Ministry Coordinating Committee

Polly Duke	Westbury	class of 2023
Karen Snare	Bulls Head-Oswego	class of 2023

Committee on Conflict Transformation

Herb Lape	Westbury	class of 2023
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Ministry & Pastoral Care

Helen Mullin	Brooklyn	class of 2023
Mary Pagurelias	Brooklyn	class of 2023

Committee to Revise Faith & Practice

Susan Bingham ('17)	Montclair	class of 2023
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Elsie K. Powell House Inc.

Mary Brown	Saranac Lake	class of 2023
Katharine Leary	Purchase	class of 2023
Matthew Lindop	Saratoga (attender)*	class of 2021
Jillian Smith	Saratoga	class of 2023

State of the Society Report

Anne Liske	Albany	class of 2023
Joanna Oltman Smith	Wilton	class of 2023

GENERAL SERVICES SECTION

General Services Coordinating Committee

Committee on Aging Concerns

Mason Jenkins	Morningside	class of 2023
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Audit Committee

Martha Hyde ('17)	Brooklyn	class of 2023
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Communications Committee

Alan Brenner ('17)	Shrewsbury	class of 2023
Stephen Fortuna ('17)	Matinecock	class of 2023
Jennifer Swann ('17)	South Berkshire, NEYM*	class of 2021*

Development Committee

Financial Services Committee

Hans-Jurgen Lehmann	Ridgewood	class of 2023
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Personnel Committee

Ben Frisch ('17)	Brooklyn	class of 2023
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Laura Higgins ('17)	Wilton	class of 2023
Anne Wright ('20)	Scarsdale	class of 2023

	Records Committee	
Bridget Bower ('20)	Perry City	class of 2023

Sessions Committee

Robin Mullaney	Chatham/Summit (attender)	class of 2021*
Dawn Pozzi	Rochester	class of 2023

Supervisory Committee for General Secretary

Ileana Clarke ('17)	Cornwall (attender)	class of 2021*
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New York Yearly Meeting Board of Trustees

Mary Harpster	Rahway and Plainfield	class of 2025
Peter Phillips	Monclair	class of 2025

WITNESS SECTION

Witness Coordinating Committee

Robin Alpern	Amawalk	class of 2023
Yana Landowne	Brooklyn	class of 2023

Alternatives to Violence Project Inc. Committee

Mary Eagleson	Scarsdale	class of 2023
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Black Concerns Committee

Naceo Giles ('17)	Brooklyn	class of 2023
Jeffrey Aaron ('20)	New Brunswick	class of 2023
Carl Blumenthal ('20)	Brooklyn	class of 2023
Emilie Gay ('17)	Brooklyn	class of 2023

Friends Committee on National Legislation

Diane Keefe	Wilton	class of 2023
Anthony Smith	New Brunswick	class of 2023

Friends Peace Teams

Lisa Stewart	Hudson	class of 2023
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Indian Affairs Committee

Judith Abraham	Scarsdale	class of 2023
Brendan Glynn	Brooklyn	class of 2023

New Jersey Council of Churches

Jan Phillips	Ridgewood	class of 2023
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