



**MINUTES**  
**NEW YORK YEARLY MEETING SUMMER SESSIONS**  
**July 25-31, 2021**

**Online via Zoom**  
**Sunday, July 25, 2021**

*Elaine Learnard (Conscience Bay), Clerk*  
*Matthew Scanlon (Scarsdale), Assistant Clerk*  
*Lucy (Lu) Harper (Rochester), Recording Clerk*

2021-07-01. Friends remained gathered in deep worship.

2021-07-02. Out of worship, Elizabeth (Buffy) Curtis and Liseli Haines, (Mohawk Valley) read an [acknowledgment of the original inhabitants of this land](#). Buffy acknowledged the presence of two indigenous elders, Maureen Lyons of the Onondaga Eel clan and Hazel Powless of the Oneida Bear Clan (both nations of the Haudenosaunee confederacy) who will be present with us during Summer Sessions. Buffy & Liseli invited Friends to respond to two queries in the chat: How does acknowledging the original inhabitants of the land you live on connect to your heart? How are our evolving testimonies related to the acknowledgment of the original inhabitants of the land?

2021-07-03. The clerk welcomed Friends, introduced the clerks table and tech team and reminded Friends of technical details that will make our business sessions smoother for all.

2021-07-04. The clerk welcomed visitors. Three visitors introduced themselves: Chelle Rieneau (Wellesley, NEYM), a visitor from Friends General Conference; David Male, (Ohio YM and Olney Friends School); and Eli Zerof (15th Street, and an intern from FCNL).

2021-07-05. Annemarie (Dawn) Pozzi (Rochester), Clerk of Sessions Committee, welcomed Friends to Summer Sessions. She reminded Friends of the welcome mailing that was sent out on Friday, and invited Friends to contact her with questions and concerns. Dawn noted that Friends attending worship sharing sessions will have received links to those sessions, which are not included in the online calendar. She reminded us of the Meeting for Remembrance, which will be held on Wednesday. Dawn reminded us that there will not be a Junior Yearly Meeting during Summer Sessions, but children who were registered for Summer Sessions will be receiving packets from JYM.

2021-07-06. Steve Mohlke (Ithaca), General Secretary, reported on an Interim Action in which the clerks signed on to [a petition](#) protesting New York City's plan to continue solitary confinement in violation of the HALT Solitary Confinement Act passed by New York State earlier this year.

2021-07-07. Peter Laughter (Brooklyn), clerk of the Powell House Capital Campaign, and Mary Brown (Saranac Lake), clerk of the Powell House Committee, reported on [Powell House's capital](#)

[campaign](#). Peter spoke about how Friends can experience powerful transformation through the Powell House community and its programs, and how the capital campaign will help to sustain Powell House's financial capacity and steward its resources and facilities. Mary Brown spoke of the need to upgrade and modernize Pitt Hall, including addressing long-standing issues brought by the brook that runs through the basement. The campaign looks to add guest cabins to increase housing capacity; investigate green energy options to reduce expenditures on fossil fuels and return those fuel costs to the operating budget to develop and strengthen programs; and increase digital capacity and competence. Building the endowment will give Powell House the resources it needs to keep offering its programs and become financially self-sufficient. The campaign will move into its public phase in the Fall of 2021 and is expected to continue through the end of 2023. Mary asked Friends for their support and volunteer assistance.

Friends testified to Powell House's enduring influence in their lives. One Friend spoke of his first experience of Powell House, when he was brought to Powell House by his father who was investigating it as a proposed gift to the yearly meeting. He testified that community is what Powell House is about and that community is what will sustain the strength of the yearly meeting. A Friend expressed their love for Powell House's fireplaces and nature walks. A Friend encouraged the campaign to look for long-term sustainable solutions. Another Friend encouraged Powell House to consider a sliding scale fee structure to increase accessibility to its programs. A Friend asked about the overall cost for the feasibility study and consultants as a percentage of the campaign's total cost. Mary Brown replied that it was 10%, which is a little under industry standard. Mary encouraged Friends to contact her with questions or further information.

2021-07-08. The recording clerk read the minutes 2021-07-01 to 2021-07-07. The minutes were approved.

2021-07-09. The clerk noted that a Friend asked in the chat about the purpose of the practice of land acknowledgment. Elaine noted that the yearly meeting is continuing to consider questions like these, and that much of our time this week may touch on such questions. Buffy Curtis stated her willingness to respond to questions. She said that Indian Affairs Committee practices land acknowledgments in our yearly meeting sessions as a baby step to begin the process of understanding our true history and stepping into our responsibility as Quakers in healing our relationship with indigenous peoples, and that sometimes healing hurts. Another Friend spoke of walking in the woods behind Albany Meeting and Powell House, experiencing it as land that has been holy for hundreds of years before Quakers came on the scene.

2021-07-10. Rebekah Rice (Saratoga), co-clerk of the Witness Coordinating Committee, brought a [Minute](#) concerning the Japanese government's plan to release 1.25 million metric tons of radioactive water from the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant into the Pacific Ocean beginning in 2023. She shared a [letter](#) addressed to the Consulate General of Japan in NY and the permanent mission of Japan to the United Nations, which Morningside Meeting approved, forwarded to NY Quarterly Meeting with their approval and to Witness Coordinating Committee which has approved it in principle. While it is now too late to sign on to the letter shared here, it is not too late for the yearly meeting to respond with a new copy of this letter sent with today's date. In the minute, the yearly meeting was asked to approve writing to monthly,

quarterly, other yearly meetings, as well as relevant Quaker and international organizations to join us in expressing concern about this dangerous plan. Morningside Meeting is planning a march to protest this plan and invites participation in its planning via email to [morningsidequakermeeting@gmail.com](mailto:morningsidequakermeeting@gmail.com).

Friends overwhelmingly expressed support for the minute and spoke to the compelling nature of the supporting letter. A Friend suggested reaching out to Tokyo Meeting, and expressed concern for losing our message with too much information, suggesting that Friends keep our communication as simple and clear as possible. A Friend asked, how do we invite other Friends into this issue? She suggested that our practice is to invite others to seek Spirit's direction on any issue, and asked Friends to consider modifying the wording of the minute accordingly. A Friend born in Japan, and an organizer of the protest march, spoke of her love of her native country and spoke strongly to the potential hurt to the world that would be caused by the proposed dumping. She encouraged Friends to attend the protest march planned for Saturday October 2nd and noted that Friends in Fredonia Meeting are also planning a march in western New York. She encouraged other meetings to plan marches in their locales. The clerk asked for clarification of whether the yearly meeting is being requested to send letters to the Consul General and Permanent Mission to the UN as well as to Quaker organizations. Friends with concerns about word crafting were invited to meet with members of the Witness Coordinating Committee and bring clearer wording and direction to a subsequent meeting for business. The clerk asked Friends to bring a clear message of how to communicate the concern to others and to bring a revised minute describing the specific actions to be taken to a future business session. Interested Friends were invited to contact Rebekah Rice. Friends will be informed when those interested in working on this will meet.

2021-07-11. The recording clerk read minutes 2021-07-09 and 2021-07-10. The minutes were approved.

2021-07-12. The clerk closed the meeting after a period of worship at 6:23 p.m.

**Online via Zoom**  
**Monday, July 26, 2021**

*Elaine Learnard (Conscience Bay), Clerk*  
*Matthew Scanlon (Scarsdale), Assistant Clerk*  
*Mary Eagleson (Scarsdale), Recording Clerk*  
*Robin Alpern (Amawalk), Reading Clerk*

2021-07-13. Friends remained gathered in deep worship.

2021-07-14. The reading clerk read the roll call. All regions were represented.

2021-07-15. Clerk Elaine Learnard welcomed those present and previewed the week. She began with what she characterized as a dangerous word, "we", which she clarified she is using to

include everyone with a connection to New York Yearly Meeting, inviting everyone to know they are included. Much of the work before us this week will concern “Witness” concerns, and yet, “witness” and “ministry” and “general services” are all intertwined. There is much to absorb, and we will take time to reflect on all of it. A growing movement among us is leading toward consideration of a minute committing ourselves to becoming an anti-racist faith community.

2021-07-16. Elaine introduced the clerks and tech support and reviewed technical details needed to make the meeting run smoothly for all.

2021-07-17. The Clerk welcomed visitors. Three identified themselves orally: Stephen Donahoe of FCNL ([Stephen@fcnl.org](mailto:Stephen@fcnl.org)), Lilia Fick (Ottawa MM, Canadian YM, Canadian Young Friends), and Stephen Willett (Manchester Meeting, Britain YM). Francis O'Hara (New England YM, Storrs Friends Meeting in CT on indigenous Nipmuck Land) identified himself through the chat function.

2021-07-18. Lucy (Lu) Harper (Rochester), Helen Mullin, Polly Duke, Karen Snare, Mary Pasurelias and Angela Hopkins read the [State of Society report](#). Friends paused for a time to reflect on what they heard.

Ministry followed. A Friend expressed appreciation for the width and breadth of what was shared and for the many voices brought together in the report, as well as the recognition that there may have been voices not included. Another testified to the presence of Spirit in all the process of creating the report and to the care the committee took to include many voices in it. One member of the writing team related that it had been heart-wrenching to read all the reports from monthly meetings. A Friend not on the team appreciated the reminder of the pain of separation experienced by so many during the pandemic. One of the Friends who wrote the report from her monthly meeting expressed gratitude to the committee for reaching out to her when the process was stalled. A member of the committee noted that the State of Society Report Committee is not nominated by the Nominating Committee, and said that it was assembled of Friends who responded to the need, or rather, to the Spirit. Another member of the committee related what a blessing it had been to read all the reports from monthly meetings and to participate in the process of creating the report. Not everyone saw or was able to respond to the survey that accompanied the State of the Meeting queries, and this is probably why the reported number of responses was relatively low.

2021-07-19. Minutes to this point were approved in substance, pending insertion of comments Friends have given or will send.

2021-07-20. The reading clerk read the English version of [the Epistle from The General Meeting of Friends in Mexico](#), May 21-23, 2021. Solange Muller read the Spanish version *con mucho gusto*.

Solange reflected on her sadness at the great losses experienced by Latinx people with whom she works professionally, and on her gratitude at being able to read the epistle to us in Spanish. Another Friend commented on the mention in our State of Society of voices not heard, and

reminded us of all the trials people living south of the U.S. border have been experiencing in the last year.

2021-07-21. The minutes were approved.

### **Online via Zoom**

**Tuesday, July 27, 2021**

*Matthew Scanlon (Scarsdale), Clerk  
Elaine Learnard (Conscience Bay), Assistant Clerk  
Lucy (Lu) Harper (Rochester), Recording Clerk  
Melanie-Claire Mallison (Ithaca), Reading Clerk*

2021-07-22. Friends remained in gathered worship.

2021-07-23. The clerk welcomed Friends, introduced the clerks table and tech team.

2021-07-24. The clerk invited visitors to introduce themselves. Karen Reixach, a longtime member of NYYM now worshipping with Friends in Keene, NH (NEYM), introduced herself.

2021-07-25. Laura Cisar, Treasurer, presented the [June 2021 Treasurer's Report](#). She expressed gratitude for financial contributions from Friends and meetings. In the first half of 2021, NYYM is on solid footing with approximately \$312K in income and \$292K in expenses yielding a surplus of \$20,677 at the end of June, and bringing the Operating Reserve to approximately \$407K. At the end of June, the Sharing Fund and Designated Use Fund balances are approximately \$63K and approximately \$115K, respectively; the value of invested funds is a little over \$8M. She highlighted the detailed sharing fund balances as of June 30; the designated use fund balances; and noted that at the end of June \$15,029 had been contributed to the Children, Youth, and Young Adult Fund.

2021-07-26. Steve Mohlke presented the General Secretary's report. Steve spoke of the ways in which we undermine our intentions for community. Many meetings claim to be welcoming to all ages while prioritizing the needs of middle-aged adults. Steve noted ways in which meetings undermine their intentions to welcome young parents, young adults, children and teens. He announced that a full-time staff position for children, youth and young adults will be posted soon. Steve told us that everything will be just fine and that Marissa Badgley's blessings to our community continue in this transition. To support that work, he asked, "can we be open to changing the things we do that undermine what we say we want?"

Steve shared a story of a young family member who asked for different gender pronouns. It took about 6 months for Steve to decide that he wanted to change pronouns for his child and another six months before he could do it automatically. Habit and culture change takes attention and effort. He said, saying I love you is important but it is undermined if I also refer to you in ways that don't account for your authentic self.

Out of this story, Steve noted some of the changes our communities are in the midst of. He told us, “getting back to ‘normal’ is looking backwards. A Spirit-led community is forward looking. How are we called to wholeness?” Steve spoke of ways we can adjust to change, to new normals, and encouraged us to discard ways of speaking and being that undermine our intended love for one another. He noted some of the experiments we are living into: Pay as led, using people’s preferred gender pronouns, using “white people” instead of “we” when we mean white people. As a next step, Steve invited Friends to set a goal of having at least 100 Friends attend a deep antiracism training. Steve noted that this training is not just for white Friends. Steve’s address was recorded.

2021-07-27. The recording clerk read minutes 2021-07-22 to 2021-07-26. Friends suggested a specific change to minute 2021-07-26 that the recording clerk later resolved in consultation with the general secretary. In reviewing the minutes related to the general secretary’s report, Friends labored over the use of “ouch” in meetings for worship without reaching resolution. A minute of exercise from that work follows the end of these minutes.

2021-07-28. The clerk stated that we were not ready to accept these minutes and invited us to close in worship, stating that we would come back to the minutes at a future session.

2021-07-29. The meeting ended in worship at 10 p.m.

2021-07-30. The minutes were approved.

2021-07-31. The following minute of exercise was approved on July 30, 2021. A minute of exercise is a statement of what happened at a meeting when we did not reach unity.

### **Minute of Exercise:**

During the ministry that followed the general secretary’s report, someone said: “...we don’t have pastors...”

Someone else responded: “Ouch. NYYM has pastors and pastoral meetings.”

(We did not hear from the pastors and members of pastoral meetings how this felt to them.)

At an earlier business meeting in these sessions, our clerk had invited us into the practice of saying “ouch” when a harm is noticed.

The recording clerk read the minutes. The “ouch” interchange was included in the minutes as read.

As we began to consider the proposed minutes, the clerk, practicing a technique used in the afternoon session of “stacking” or preferencing voices of people who might normally not be heard, invited a Friend of Color to speak before a white Friend who had raised his hand first. The Friend of Color experienced this preferencing as being singled out for being Black.

As we continued considering the proposed minutes, a Friend questioned the use of the “ouch process” in meetings for worship, describing the “ouch process” as harmful to the gathered Body and dangerous to our worship.

Then followed several messages about the “ouch process,” whether to include “ouch” interchanges in minutes, and public “eldering.”

Other Friends held up examples of practices of responding to harms occurring in the body such as New England Yearly Meeting’s noticing patterns of faithfulness and oppression.

Later, another Friend brought back to our attention the unaddressed distress of the Friend of Color who felt singled out by the use of “stacking.” The Friend of Color had called us into the unity in the Spirit that the Friend of Color knows experientially. She shared the pain of her experience of feeling silenced in her meeting when she spoke of meeting as a place of sanctuary. The Clerk apologized for the harm caused by his words.

A Black Friend noted that in the afternoon session white Friends were learning how to “call each other in” to greater faithfulness. The reason we practice “ouch” is so we can learn how to “call each other in” in the midst of the body, where the gathered body can witness what has happened and open the doors to healing. The Friend asked us to do our work of naming and noticing when micro- and macro-aggressions occur.

The clerk closed meeting for business without the body approving the minutes. The clerk invited Friends to remain in worship as long as they wanted to stay.

Out of worship, a Friend shared ministry in which she described a vision of a people gathered on a journey along a rocky road, working together to clear the road. Sometimes in their energy and zeal, some sent rocks backwards and injured those behind. Some people moved little rocks and some big rocks, working together to accomplish the goal of clearing the road.

The words spoken in the body reflected differences around whether or not to include in the minutes acknowledgement of hurts that transpire during our sessions. Friends lifted up a desire to discern around the use of this type of process.

## **Online via Zoom**

**Wednesday, July 28, 2021**

*Elaine Learnard (Conscience Bay), Clerk  
Matthew Scanlon (Scarsdale), Assistant Clerk  
Mary Eagleson (Scarsdale), Recording Clerk  
Barbra Bleecker (Montclair), Reading Clerk*

2021-07-32. Friends remained gathered in deep worship.

2021-07-33. Clerk Elaine Learnard welcomed those present and introduced the clerks and tech support.

2021-07-34. Roseanne Press, Clerk of Trustees, noted that the annual meeting of the corporation was opened. She gave the Trustees' Report: the trustees have asked a specialist in trusts to review the Lindley Murray Trust documents. Trustees will report back on this topic at Fall Sessions.

2021-07-35. Karen Snare, Clerk of NYYM representatives to Friends' General Conference, reported. The 2020 annual meeting was held last October by Zoom. One hundred and one representatives from yearly meetings attended. Karen noted that NYYM is allowed to have 12 representatives to FGC, but that there are currently only four. She invited anyone interested in serving as a representative to speak with her.

FGC is not "they," it is "we." It is one of two next-larger Friends' bodies of which NYYM is a part, Friends United Meeting being the other. Promising to be brief, Karen named five major priorities of FGC, which are the annual Gathering, antiracism, religious education, youth work, and serving as a connector among the constituent yearly meetings. There are others as well, not named in this report. The 2021 Gathering was held online, with a total registration of 1063. Three pre-gathering meetings were held: Adult Young Friends, People of Color, and Quakers and Business. It is hoped that the 2022 Gathering will be held in person at Radford University in Virginia, July 3-8. The theme will be "... and follow me." Ministry on Racism is a very active committee; during the pandemic it has hosted weekly online gatherings of Friends of Color and of Friends of European descent who are working to dismantle White Supremacy. Quakerbooks and Quaker Press make books available which are particularly helpful to Friends. QuakerFinder.org is a searchable list of Quaker meetings and churches. Much more is available on the website [FGCQuaker.org](https://www.fgcquaker.org), and Karen especially recommends the "Deepening" tab, under which we may find resources in the [Spiritual Deepening Library](#). Together, we nurture the spiritual vitality of Friends.

Helen Mullin shared that after hearing Karen's report two years ago, she had joined the representatives, and challenged other Friends to join as well.

The Clerk shared that she had been tremendously helped by the retreats and quarterly calls for clerks and assistant clerks run by FGC.

2021-07-36. Liseli Haines, co-Clerk of the Indian Affairs Committee, read their [Minute in Support of the Truth and Healing Commission for Native Peoples](#). The minute is in support of the bill "Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policy Act," previously introduced as HR 8420 in 2019-2020 and expected to be reintroduced this year by US Senator Elizabeth Warren. Friends are asked to watch for it and support it when it is introduced.

Friends expressed support for the minute and asked how they might obtain information about Quaker Indian boarding schools. Several resources for those wishing to explore the subject further were offered, and these are included in the attached document. A Friend reported seeing in the news that the Bishop of Syracuse has denounced the Doctrine of Discovery, and wondered if it might be an opening for future work, though a former resident of Syracuse noted that the U.S. Conference of Bishops is not doing so.



A Friend noticed how ready Friends are to support actions to help Native Americans, but how difficult it is to work against racism directed against African Americans. She hoped we would be as willing to admit our wrongs against the enslaved people owned by Quakers and their descendents as we are to admit them against Native Americans.

The work of Friends in Butternuts Quarter keeping us informed on the Native Americans was acknowledged, and the hope expressed that eventually we may acknowledge the harm done to children separated from their parents at the U.S. border.

A visiting Native elder, Maureen Lyons, whose father had been in one of the boarding schools, noted that a march with speakers from the Onondaga and other nations is planned for the coming Saturday. She noted that the last Indian boarding school in Canada was not closed until 1996, and although such schools in the U.S. were closed earlier, some New York public schools continued the philosophy of “kill the Native and save the man.” She reminded us that all of us, including those of European descent, have come from trauma and oppression, and that if we cannot look at the past, learn from it, and then let it go, we will not be able to move beyond it.

A Friend shared reminiscence of acceptance by Native youth who, polite at first, were surprised to learn that she knew of the Canandaigua Treaty (links in the attached resources document) and that it was brokered by Quakers. When she told them she was a Quaker, they said, “You’re one of us.”

The minute was approved.

2021-07-37. The minutes of the meeting to this point were approved, pending corrections from various Friends which will be offered by emails.

2021-07-38. Steve Mohlke and Judy Mickle, from the drafting committee, read the attached proposed draft of a [minute on Becoming an Anti-Racist Faith Community](#). The clerk noted that she had expected that we would take time to reflect on this draft statement during this business session but given that a portion of tomorrow afternoon’s antiracism session is devoted to that reflection and that we have limited time for business, we will not comment on its content today but only on the process related to how to consider this draft statement.

Steve prefaced the reading by a reference to a document from Crossroads Antiracism Organizing and Training, the organization hired by FGC to help them with their anti-racism work, showing stages in organizations’ movement from exclusionary toward being fully anti-racist. One step in the progression is making an official statement of intent to become an anti-racist organization. He expressed the hope that at least 100 Friends would take workshops in anti-racism training during the coming year. He and Judy then read the statement.

Friends asked about the mechanics of informing monthly meetings about this proposed statement, about how they might prepare themselves to receive it, and what further steps are envisioned. A member of the drafting group indicated that there will be several ways for meetings to provide feedback and that the group will make available a list of resources for monthly and regional meetings.

In order to be effective, the statement must be approved both by monthly meetings and worship groups, and by quarterly and regional meetings, and those who carry the concern can begin by planting seeds in local groups, making them curious, and inviting them to engage in the process.

A member of the Pastoral Care Subcommittee noted that the M&C meetings organized by that group might be used as a vehicle for helping pastors and local M&C committees prepare their meetings to prepare to adopt the statement. Another Friend suggested that reading the statement could be used in the September M&C gathering.

A Friend suggested that the General Secretary's vision of at least 100 Friends taking anti-racism training might require earmarking funds to support Friends to take such training workshops.

One Friend noted that he heard fear in the voices of many Friends, instead of joy. He suggested that when the draft is presented to monthly meetings, the approach might be "What does this have to recommend it?" rather than "what do we have against it?" Another said that the work of creating an anti-racist faith community in our meetings is one that is transformative. If this work is shared through the clerks or Ministry and Counsel, we will need the support of the working group as we go forward with this transformation with love.

2021-07-39. The reading clerk read the revised [Minute on release of radioactive water from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant](#), which is attached, along with the revised June 5th [letter](#) referenced in the minute.

In response to a question about the minute, Pamela Wood explained that the release is expected in 2023, but that the planning is expected to begin this September, 2021, as it is more effective to protest before the plans are well underway or completed.

A Friend commented that the proposed minute accords very well with the minute on Earthcare approved earlier this year (minute 2021-04-28.)

The minute was approved.

2021-07-40. The remaining minutes were approved.

**Online via Zoom**  
**Thursday, July 29, 2021**

*Gloria Thompson (Manhattan), Clerk*  
*Elaine Learnard (Conscience Bay), Assistant Clerk*  
*Laura Higgins (Wilton), Recording Clerk*  
*Annemarie (Dawn) Pozzi (Rochester), Reading Clerk*

2021-07-41. Friends remained gathered in worship, seeking God’s guidance. Clerk quoted from Barrington Dunbar: “If you love people, you can accomplish almost anything.”

2021-07-42. The clerk welcomed Friends, introduced the clerks table and tech team. Zoom host:Lu Harper; Audio Support: Kenn Harper; Visual Support: Jennifer Swann; Chat Support: Jill McLellan. The number to call for help was posted in the chat.

2021-07-43. The clerk welcomed visitors from outside NYYM. No new visitors introduced themselves.

2021-07-44. Clerk reminded Friends of Zoom protocols for meetings for business.

Clerk asked Friends to be patient. To err is human; to forgive divine. Clerk said she may err tonight because she is grieving as a friend transitioned earlier today. But, she is fulfilling her call to serve NYYM by clerking tonight.

2021-07-45. Beatrice Beguin offered the first reading of the Epistle. Comments and thoughts should be sent to [juliaAgiordano@gmail.com](mailto:juliaAgiordano@gmail.com) by noon Friday (tomorrow).

2021-07-46. Elaine Learnard (Conscience Bay) explained the Seasoned Business Items process. In accordance with our practice with the Seasoned Business Items (SBI) List, the clerk asked for approval of previously posted content since no removals were requested.

Friends approved:

2021-07-47. Previously posted nominations for appointment to service.

2021-07-48. Second Reading of the revised Handbook page for the Committee on Sufferings

2021-07-49. Jill McLellan (Buffalo), Clerk, Nominating Committee shared additional nominations not on the SBI list. The Fall nominations list is already starting.

**Friends approved the following nominations:**

**Friends General Conference Representatives**

Laura Higgins	Wilton	Class of 2024
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**Sessions Committee**

Robin Mullaney ('18)	Old Chatham (attender)*	Class of 2024
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*\*Incorrect meeting in advance roster*

**Witness Coordinating Committee at large members**

Judy Meikle	Wilton	Class of 2024
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Peter Murchison	Wilton	Class of 2024
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**Indian Affairs Committee**

Jeffrey Barr	Fredonia	Class of 2024
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**National Religious Campaign against Torture representative**

2021-07-50. Jill McLellan shared that Jill Nanfeldt from Chatham-Summit, class of 2022, requested release as Friends General Conference representative.

2021-07-51. Dawn Pozzi (Rochester) announced the Book Table process. The Quaker Books website has a page for NYYM Summer Sessions and a discount code for registrants.

This year, meetings and individual Friends are asked to consider donating books to Prison Worship Groups by sending monetary donations to NYYM designated for Prisons Committee to provide new books to Prison Worship Groups.

2021-07-52. The New York Quarterly Meeting (NYQM) Africa Education Committee Report was presented by Marna Herrity (Brooklyn).

Four monthly meetings in NYQM are represented on the committee that fundraises for students in Tanzania and Kenya. Twenty-one years ago the plight of the schools in Kisangura, Tanzania came to the attention of Jim Morgan who met Emanuel Kagora, former Kisangura Primary School Headmaster, at a FWCC meeting. A school in Davanga Village, Kenya, was subsequently built. One hundred twenty five students are sponsored at both primary and secondary school levels. The committee started a Guardian Teachers program (two at each school) who provide advice and academic support to the sponsored students. Seventeen students are currently enrolled in higher education. The committee promises support for all students who qualify for higher education. That number next year is expected to grow to 30 students.

Donations may be sent to [nyqm.kisangura@gmail.com](mailto:nyqm.kisangura@gmail.com). Annual cost for students is \$100 in primary school; \$200 in secondary. As more students qualify for higher education, the committee expects their annual budget of \$17,000 to grow two and three times.

Friends are grateful for such a fulfilling project growing from one person's leading. Jim's email is [iagomorgan5@gmail.com](mailto:iagomorgan5@gmail.com). Committee Clerk Marna Herrity shared her excitement about her trip to Tanzania.

2021-07-53. Minutes approved to this point.

2021-07-54. Bridget Bower, Clerk of the General Services Coordinating Committee, gave a report on three threshing sessions, which happened in June. The three sessions were held at different times of the day and week. Friends gathered in small groups and in a larger group to consider the queries (below) and to reflect on how New York Yearly Meeting spends money, how we hope NYYM will spend money, and how we decide what to spend money on. Between 30 and 40 people attended each three hour session, with a number of those attending all three sessions.

Friends responded to these queries:

- In what ways do you observe/experience financial abundance in our yearly meeting body?

- In what ways do you observe/experience financial limitations in our yearly meeting body?
- How can NYYM come to unity in addressing any financial limitations?
- How well do our financial decisions follow the guidance of the Spirit?

The Financial Service Committee and the rest of the group that planned the threshing sessions is interested in hearing from Friends who may still have questions and comments of NYYM financial matters. Please send additional thoughts and comments on the queries to Bridget at [general-services-clerk@nyym.org](mailto:general-services-clerk@nyym.org).

Link to the complete report is at:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KjbToPWxzBMooGq8X9CWmhmKr69wjzM\\_d\\_D\\_Qyjv8SU/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KjbToPWxzBMooGq8X9CWmhmKr69wjzM_d_D_Qyjv8SU/edit)

2021-07-55. Marissa Badgley gave the Young Adult Field Secretary Report. She noted 20 young adults were present at the meeting. The past year was quite hard on young adults. It took a lot of listening to ascertain what the group needed.

The program growth this year was:

- +24 YAFs on mailing list (9% growth)
- 15 brand new to Quakerism (0-12 months)
- Engagement from four other YM (New England, Philadelphia, Canada, Pacific)
- > 550 learning hours by > 75 individuals
- New Young Adult Friends Advisory Group

The Young Adult Field Secretary acts as “Being a Sanctuary for Young Adults (18-35-ish) where Spirit Dwells.” Sometimes it was not a sanctuary for all as reflected by the young adult “wonderings.” New participants have not attended Quaker worship. Yet, Spirit dwells here. The young adult program provides sanctuary through vocational support, worship, play, pastoral care, learning, and mentoring. A second wave of mentoring occurred among 47 friends in 24 matches.

Then, Marissa introduced three YAF participants:

- Mattie Johnson (YAF Program) who described the YAF program as a huge door to the world of Quaker participation. She was given a space that no other aspect of her life has offered. She has great pride in the NYYM community despite not having a clear understanding of it.
- Columbine Loza (Brooklyn) said she was intrigued by YAF events as a JYM child. She participated in the mentoring program that opened greater comfort in her spirituality. She thanks Marissa for all her work and support.
- Patrick Shelton said he is a post-pandemic Friend, attracted through Instagram. His involvement in many learning programs deepened his faith, his relationship with God,

and Quakerism. He will carry the experience of the mentoring program with him for the rest of his life and it changed the course of his life. He lifted up gratitude for Marissa's anchoring effect. He is grateful to NYYM for creating the space for young adults to be what they need to be.

Marissa said she and Powell House are intentionally building bridges to support continued work. One adult who participated in the mentoring program spoke of how much she learned about herself and her exclusions. We adults need to actively nurture our young adults, and engage them to learn from them. A Friend said the adults need to learn from the young adults their perspectives on racism. Friends agreed on the importance of coming together against racism with guidance from the young people. A young Friend responded that the capacity for all of us to grow together exists here. One Friend reminded young Friends without a connection to a local meeting that they can explore the available at-large membership through NYYM. A Friend reflected on the importance of the YAF program as someone who did not have that support growing up. Having the wider breadth of experiences from young people on YM committees is extremely enriching.

2021-07-56. Minutes approved to this point.

2021-07-57. Clerk adjourned meeting at 9:24 p.m. with thanks for staying late. Friends reconvened into silent worship. Clerk closed meeting with these words, "Choose to honor each other in love and experience inner sanctuary where Light shines and Spirit dwells."

**Online via Zoom**  
**Friday, July 30, 2021**

*Elaine Learnard (Conscience Bay), Clerk*  
*Matthew Scanlon (Scarsdale), Assistant Clerk*  
*Laura Higgins (Wilton), Recording Clerk*

2021-07-58. Friends continued silent worship as the body gathered.

2021-07-59. The Clerk welcomed Friends, noting this is our last meeting for business of our Summer Sessions, and introduced the clerks table and tech team. Clerk reviewed the agenda.

2021-07-60. Clerk reminded Friends that there are many activities occurring in the Fall. She encouraged Friends to read the weekly NYYM newsletter sent out by Communications Director Sarah Way. Send a request to [walter@nyym.org](mailto:walter@nyym.org) to receive the email.

2021-07-61. Clerk invited visitors to introduce themselves. She observed that elders from indigenous nations had joined the body during other activities.

2021-07-62. Consideration of the final minutes from the Tuesday, July 27 evening meeting for business. Clerk explained the purposes of a minute of exercise (also known as a process minute). Such a minute is a summary of an issue on which the meeting could not come to unity.

Lu Harper (Rochester) read a portion of the minutes 2021-07-27, 2021-07-28, and 2021-07-29 from Tuesday. These minutes up to the minute of exercise were approved.

2021-07-63. Friends approved the minute of exercise as revised. A question about the chronology of events will be reviewed by the recording clerks and the clerks present that night. One Friend expressed that, although factual, this minute loses expression of the growth and ministry experienced by the body that evening. Clerk reminded the body that Friends whose words or actions are referenced in the minute of exercise did have an opportunity to comment on the minute of exercise before this meeting. The revised minute will become part of the record for Tuesday, July 27.

2021-07-64. Chase Baldwin (NYYM YAF community) read a minute from Young Adult Friends who gathered last night.

A group of ten young adult Friends gathered informally following Thursday's meeting for business at which the Young Adult Field Secretary offered a report to New York Yearly Meeting Friends. These YAFs came together in gratitude for the care of the body and concern about some of the ministry and assumptions that seemed to be being made in the space following the report. In the spirit of opening dialogue and inviting multigenerational conversation and discernment, the young Friends presented a minute available at [this link](#).

Friends gave ministry about prior intercommunications initiated between older and younger Friends. We Quakers all look forward to learning together and nurturing each other without fear, remembering that we seek to be a sanctuary where Spirit dwells.

2021-07-65. Callie Janoff (NYYM ARCH Director and Brooklyn Meeting) gave the reports on ARCH, and Parent, Children, and Teen (PCT) projects. A full report with project details is available at [this link](#).

Callie is a facilitator for the PCT projects. For ARCH, Callie recognizes some changes that will support people on the journey of aging. New topical workshops will be offered starting in the Fall. They are listed on the Powell House website.

Callie named the ARCH Regional Coordinators and the regions served. They work 10-15 hours/month holding workshops, coordinating on-line discussions, and supporting mutual accompaniment opportunities:

**Martha Gurvich** serving Purchase Quarter

**Marna Herrity** serving New Jersey's meetings

**Mahayana (Yana) Landowne** serving New York Quarter

**Kevin Lovelady** serving North Eastern Regional Meeting

**Judy Meikle** serving prison worship groups and isolated incarcerated Friends

**Helen B. Mullin** serving Long Island's meetings

**Rebecca Schillback** serving Farmington Scipio Regional Meeting

Friends extended gratitude to Callie for all her work.

2021-07-66. Friends approved the minutes to this point.

2021-07-67. Roger Dreisbach-Williams (Rahway & Plainfield) gave the second reading of the New York Yearly Meeting Epistle. Friends approved the Epistle with the understanding that revisions will be made in response to ministry received.

2021-07-68. Dawn Pozzi, Clerk, Sessions Committee reported from the committee that 250 Friends registered for Summer Sessions held July 25-31 with 54 first-time attenders. Given many children's Zoom fatigue and our experience last year with JYM, no on-line children's program was held but activity packets were sent out to registered children.

Frederick (Fred) Dettmer gave a rundown of the interest groups held in advance of Summer Sessions from July 5-24 with a total of 78 sessions, offered in various configurations. Participation totaled over 230 Friends from 41 monthly meetings in NYYM and 12-15 Friends from five other yearly meetings. They got to learn about and share the passions, leadings, concerns, joys of 67 Friends who conceived, prepared and presented the 47 different Interest Groups. Fred thanked those 67 Friends for opening their hearts to our community and for opening their virtual doors to him. Critical to the success of the interest groups were the 24 or more folks who provided tech support. One concern that emerged over the course of the 20 days was no shows — Friends who registered for an interest group, did not attend, and did not send regrets. Missing participants can greatly impact small groups.

Fall Sessions is on-line from December 3-5, 2021. Spring Sessions is at Oakwood School from April 1-3, 2022. Summer Sessions will be held at Silver Bay from July 24-30, 2022.

2021-07-69. Minutes approved.

2021-07-70. Our business concluded, the clerk invited Friends to return to unprogrammed worship. Friends remained gathered for a time, sharing silence and ministry.