New York Yearly Meeting
Witness Coordinating Committee
July 29, 2016

Present: Robin Alpern (EAQWER), Suzanne Blackburn (visiting), Emily Boardman (IAC), Jens Braun (BQEF), Sue Clark (visiting), Fred Dettmer (FCNL, AFSC, NCPTF),   Mary Eagleson (Clerk, At-Large), Naiomi Paz Greenberg (Latin American Concerns), Robert Sunfire Kazmayer (Recording clerk, At Large), Diane Keefe (Earthcare Working Group / FCNL), Evy Kennenwood (EAQWER), Jill McLellan (Prisons / AVP), Margaret McCasland (Earthcare Working Group), Alice McMechen (Earthcare Working Group), Judy Meikle (Prisons), Marianne Morton (visiting), Andy von Salis (At large / COPW), Janet Soderberg (Earthcare Working Group), Shirley Way (AVP), Pamela Wood (At Large)

The meeting opened with silent worship

2016-07-07: The Nominating Committee reported the following nominations
Mary, Clerk; Helen, Finance Clerk; Andy and Fred, co-recording clerks; Sunfire, Representative to Sessions. The nominations were approved. The Nominating Committee will look for an assistant clerk to be approved at Fall Sessions.

2016-07-08: The NYYM Finance Committee has recommended that the Yearly Meeting work with a professional for all financial campaigns. All members of the Coordinating Committee are charged with going back to their home meeting to look for a people to form a task group to work with this professional. Jens Braun made a suggestion for Cafe Night of having a series of presentations on work supported by the Sharing Fund during that event. It was agreed that we would do this. Sunfire will videotape this to make a video to promote the Sharing Fund. Jens Braun will coordinate the participation.

2016-07-09: A suggestion was made that we have something about Witness in every issue of SPARK. "Sharing-Funded Witness" was suggested as a title. Pamela Wood will coordinate the editing. FCNL, Indian Affairs, Earthcare, Prisons, and EAQWER will be the five committees/working groups featured. Deadline for September SPARK is second week of August, and Diane Keefe will write about FCNL as the first of these. Pamela will get the approval of Sarah Way for this proposal.

2016-07-10: Shirley Way will edit the next fund raising appeal letter, based on a draft already written.

2016-07-11: Sunfire will bring to Sessions a request to have Cafe Night on Thursday night

2016-07-12: Minutes approved to this point.

Mary Eagleson proposed a question for discussion: What witness is rising among us that we should name? Here are the responses:

Andy von Salis: More emphasis on the political aspect of our work – political overtones to an issue, promoting legislation, how the general public receives our messages.

Naomi Paz Greenburg reported on Interfaith Work. We have agreed to focus on cases of Freedom of Religion, Freedom of Conscience,

Jens Braun: Trying to operate with greater professionalism, integrity and right order.

Alice McMechen: Looking at the intersection of what we're doing in each committee and how we can work together.

Margaret McCasland spoke of Quaker ways as being something to bring into the larger world. She gave an illustration of how her following the processes of being a Quaker modified the atmosphere in a non-Quaker group that was experiencing a lot of tension.

Pamela Woods raised an issue from for Brooklyn, 15th Street and Morningside, about an executive order from the governor's office. Mary recommended the three meetings come together with one minute for WCC to season a minute to go before NYY at Fall Sessions. Jens suggests contacting the New York State Attorney General about this executive order being a violation of basic constitutional rights.

The Prison Committee reported on creating a fund to provide dollars to newly released prisoners.

Diane Keefe reported on new blood in the FCNL committee.. She also asked if we who have white skin are doing our work through the lens of racial justice?

We are encouraged to ask our meetings for financial support of the Sharing Fund.

[The above responses were not approved as minutes; they were offered in the spirit of worship sharing.]