

Yearly Meeting Clerk's Status Report on Directed Work April 2010

In April 2007, the meeting directed the Clerk to forward a minute originating in Prisons Committee about revising parole policy to the New York State Council of Churches, its affiliates, the governor of New York State, and others as recommended by Prisons Committee. Due to the situation at that time in the state government and the De-partment of Correctional Services, Prisons Committee discerned that it was best to hold off on sending the minute. In March of this year, changes in Albany gave the committee the confidence that the time had come, and the minute was distributed as directed along with a cover letter. (NYYM minute 2007-04-06)

In April 2009, a Friend from Central Finger Lakes Meeting was minuted as feeling called to work for peace in the role of chaplain in the Veterans Administration. In endorsing her minute, the Yearly Meeting directed the Clerk to register as required with the VA that we are a "legitimate religious organization." These requirements were met in July 2009 to the satisfaction of the VA. The Clerk is in contact with the Friend, who unfortunately is having difficulties communicating with the VA. At the moment the work is not advancing as hoped. The Clerk will be mindful about ensuring that the registration is renewed in three years, as required, regardless of that Friend's status, in case this leaves way open for another Friend who feels a similar call. (NYYM minute 2009-04-04)

In July 2009, the meeting directed the Clerk and general secretary to forward a minute of concern originating in Prisons Committee about the practice of shackling incarcerated pregnant women during childbirth. The minute was sent with a letter at the end of that month to the governor of New York and the New York State Council of Churches, as directed. (NYYM minute 2009-07-50)

In November 2009, the meeting directed the Clerk to forward a minute of concern supported by Witness Coordinating Committee about accessibility to quality medical care in the U.S. to the monthly meetings and elected officials, and, with the help of the Communica-tions Committee, to the media within the Yearly Meeting area. This

work was accomplished in stages, with the letter going to the elected officials in late December, to meetings in early January, and to the media in mid-March. (NYYM minute 2009-11-39)

Also in November of 2009, the meeting directed Liaison Committee and the general secretary to return with a proposal for a process for the Yearly Meeting to discern who we are, how we are led, and how we support the work of those leadings and needs. Liaison expects to report in our session tomorrow. (NYYM minute 2009-11-36)