

WITNESS COORDINATING COMMITTEE

November 10, 2012 at Fall Sessions

Present: Naomi Paz Greenberg, COPW and Meeting for Discernment Steering Committee; Diane Keefe, FCNL; Patricia Chernoff, Earthcare Working Group; Helen Garay Toppins, Black Concerns, Barrington Dunbar and Prisons; Paddy Lane, Earthcare Working Group; Suzanne Blackburn, at large; Greta Mickey, visitor; Robin Alpern, EAQWER; Gloria Thompson, FWCC; Jeff Hitchcock, YM clerk; Ruth Ann Bradley, YM Nominating Committee; Sue Clark, EAQWER; Pat Beetle, Earthcare Working Group; Lucia Pascone, visitor; Fred Doneit, Earthcare Working Group; Jens Braun, BQEF; Steven Davison, visitor; Christopher Sammond, YM staff; and Mary Eagleson, clerk.

Regrets: Nadine Hoover, Susan Wolf, Jonathan Collett, Shirley Way, Pamela Wood, Ann Schillinger, Susan Weisfeld, Karen Reixach, Lyle Jenks, Judy Meikle, Andy von Salis

1. Out of the opening silent worship, Clerk Mary Eagleson read Matt 25:37-40: Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?" The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers [and sisters] of mine, you did for me."

2. Mary Eagleson reviewed the structure of our budget, entailing monies from the Sharing Fund and funds from the operating budget. Committee clerks in this section are asked to submit their budget request for the Sharing Fund by January 20, 2013.

3. We approved Diane Keefe and Patricia Chernoff for an internal nominating committee to bring nominations for an assistant clerk, another recording clerk, an appointee to NYYM Nominating Committee, and someone to serve on the Priorities Working Group.

4. There is currently about \$6,800 in the Witness Activities Fund. There have been applications for funds, dating back to February. Mary reviewed the requests:

[Buffalo - \$1,500 to support a Congolese Quaker family in Buffalo

Morningside - \$350 to buy gifts for residents in transitional housing for women returning from prison and their children

Purchase - Lechner - \$2,500 - to continue peacebuilding in Central America

Ithaca - Friends Bike Clinic - \$1,160 - to expand the operation of the clinic which teaches people how to make simple repairs to their bicycles

Flushing - Undoing racism in Flushing - \$400

Ithaca - Undoing racism movie series - \$1,200 - \$2000

Scarsdale - Socks and underwear for homeless shelter residents - \$500

Summit - Conflict Transformation seminar - \$980.]*

The Black Concerns Committee will fund the application from Flushing and part of the application from Ithaca, both of which are offering community-wide anti-racism programs, thus reducing the requests to WCC. Friends approved funding the following requests: Buffalo, \$1,500; Morningside, \$350; Purchase, \$2,500; Ithaca, \$1,160 for Friends Bike Clinic and \$1,000 for Undoing Racism; Scarsdale, \$500. The total approved is \$7,010. The committee approved waiting to fund the full \$1,000 for Ithaca's Undoing Racism workshops until the money becomes available. [The next day, the clerk learned that Indian Affairs Committee will be returning an unspent \$200 from their WAF grant for the youth trip to Akwesasne.]*

Money for the Conflict Transformation seminar will be taken from the Peace Concerns line.

5. Friends approved the clerk asking the clerk of World Ministries Committee to take action on a request of three years standing, to fund installation of a pump for the well at Davanga School, built by Manhattan Meeting in Kenya.

6. We received a request from Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting to carry a concern about horizontal hydraulic fracturing (hydrofracking) to the Yearly Meeting. Several different minutes on this topic, approved by various monthly meetings, accompanied the request. After hearing a few of these minutes, and considering what actions could be taken by the YM, the committee approved Greta Mickey, Suzanne Blackburn, Diane Keefe, Paddy Lane and Christopher Sammond working together to draft a minute to bring to the business meeting tomorrow. Suzanne will present the minute. We agreed that if it is approved, we will ask the YM clerk to send press releases to interested parties. It is also vital to underscore the spiritual basis of this concern. As a community, we need to be developing and working toward our vision of the world we wish to live in, not just the damages we oppose. The clerk will remain in touch with the group drafting the minute, to create a nucleus of Friends who will continue to carry the concern. Christopher Sammond invites Friends to add our names to a list of people who are willing to undertake nonviolent resistance. We ask our committee clerk to encourage the NYS Council of Churches to put this concept on the agenda when they meet with our senators and governor.

*The information in brackets is not part of the approved minutes, but was added later for the sake of those who were unable to be present.

Robin Alpern, recording clerk