

WITNESS COORDINATING COMMITTEE

November 16, 2013 at Fall Sessions

Present: Mary Eagleson, *clerk*; Helen Garay Toppins, *treasurer, also Black Concerns Committee, Barrington Dunbar Committee and Prisons Committee*; Robin Mallison Alpern, *European American Quakers Working to End Racism Working Group, recording clerk*; Patricia Chernoff, *Earthcare Working Group*; Sarah Faith Dickinson, *European American Quakers Working to End Racism Working Group*; Joe Kulin, *Indian Affairs Committee*; Naomi Paz Greenberg, *Latin American Resource Person*; Fred Doneit, *Earthcare Working Group*; Robert Kazmeyer, *member at large*; Jens Braun, *Bolivian Quaker Education Fund*; Chris DeRoller, *visitor*; Naceo Giles, *Black Concerns Committee*; Sarah Faith Dickinson, *Black Concerns Committee, European American Quakers Working to End Racism Working Group*; Lucinda Antrim, *NYYM Assistant Clerk*; Andy von Salis, *Committee on Conscientious Objection to Paying for War*; Susan Weisfeld, *World Ministries*; Nicholas Rozard, *visitor*; Diane Keefe, *Friends Committee on National Legislation*

Regrets: Suzanne Blackburn, Jane Simkin, Judy Meikle

After a period of centering silence, clerk Mary Eagleson introduced the business.

2013-11-1. We approved sending the **revised Indian Affairs Committee handbook page** to the YM for final approval. The page is attached.

2013-11-2. After conversation following Summer Sessions, we agreed to add to minute 2017-07-01 the specification that our **contribution to the AFSC, New York office**, will be designated “for the Healing Justice Program.”

2013-11-3. For 2014, we will **finance Sharing Fund appeal letters** out of interest on our Sharing Fund endowment, to the amount of \$1000 for 2013 and \$1400 for 2014.

2013-11-4. We approved the following **Witness Activities Fund grants** :

- A) \$150 to Old Chatham MM to support their movie night series.
- B) \$1,200 to Buffalo MM for continued support of the Ramazani family.
- C) \$2,200 to the Chwele task force for travel to Chwele by two AVP facilitators.

The total of these requests is \$3,550.

2013-11-5. We appointed Susan Weisfeld and Helen Garay Toppins to a **working group to study Sharing Fund finances** and return with a recommendation. The working group will consider: how should the endowment interest be used? Also, how should carryover, if any, from the operating budget be used?

2013-11-6. We approved contributing \$1000 to the **FWCC appeal** on behalf of Quakers in the Philippines impacted by the recent typhoon. \$200 will be drawn from the 2013 contingency fund and \$800 from the Sharing Fund endowment interest.

2013-11-7. Naomi Paz Greenberg presented the attached report from the **Peace and social justice working group**. The working group will invite Friends by email to share stories of their activities, to be posted on *Infoshare*.

2013-11-8. We approved **funding for Bill Galvin** to attend Summer Sessions 2014, to continue his visits with JYM to talk about the draft. We will spend up to \$1000 out of our peace concerns line.

2013-11-9. Diane Keefe reported from the working group to prepare a **minute on gun violence and weaponized drones**. The group sought to relate the minute to our peace testimony. The working group requests input from more Friends. Andy von Salis and Susan Weisfeld volunteered to review the draft minute.

We concluded at 8:45pm.

Attachments:

Revised Indian Affairs Committee handbook page

Report from the Peace and Social Justice working group

Revised Indian Affairs Committee handbook page [paste below]

Report from the Peace and Social Justice working group

Saturday, Nov. 16, 2013

1. Place for people engaged in different types of peace/justice work to gather, share their experiences &

provide support.

2. Use of NYYM website, InfoShare, Spark, to share work going on at monthly meetings - communicating

the work that is being done.

3. Funding work of Friends engaged in peace work and new leadings.

4. SOAWatch - Caroline.

Propose to Steve Davison that we have column in next InfoShare.

Global email inviting meetings to share their peace & justice work.

Everyone write about the peace work they do:

Andy - COPW - teenagers

Caroline – SOAWatch

Deadline of December16

Additional things we talked about:

Vigil at Manasquan Meeting

Immigration work and work with Undocumented Immigrants

Interfaith work in Flushing

Worship and Action Letters

Responses from Meetings a year ago on the NYYM website now - ask Steve Davison or Sue Weisfeld for link - I could only find a summary sheet here:

http://www.nyyym.org/sites/default/files/psc_summary_2012.pdf