

New York Yearly Meeting
Witness Coordinating Committee
July 27, 2016

Present: Robin Alpern (EAQWER / WPC Task Group), Suzanne Blackburn (visiting), Emily Boardman (IAC), Jens Braun (BQEF), Sue Clark (visiting), Fred Dettmer (FCNL, AFSC, NCPTF), Mary Eagleson (Clerk, At-Large), Naceo Giles (Barrington Dubar), Ian Hansen (At Large), Robert Sunfire Kazmayer (Recording Clerk, At Large), Jill McLellan (Prisons / AVP), Alice McMechen (Earthcare Working Group), Arlene Reduto (World Ministries), Helen Garay Toppins (Black Concerns / Barrington Dunbar), Andy von Salis (At large, COPW), Shirley Way (AVP), Pamela Wood (At Large)

The meeting opened with silent worship

2016-07-01: Clerk's reminders: Budget requests to the Sharing Fund are due in November first. It is helpful if your committee prepares a budget. The Yearly Meeting Treasurer's reports show us the amounts that comes from the Trustees (for those committees that receive Trustee income as well as Sharing Fund income). The reports also show how much each committee has in its Sharing Fund line – how much it has spent, and how much has been allocated from its SF percentage. The Treasurer's reports are available on the NYYM website.

Each committee is expected to fill in a set of questions known as the Accountability Queries.. Mary Eagleson will help the committee clerks make their reports, if needed. These reports will be forwarded to the to the Leadings and Priorities Support Working Group

2016-07-02: A written Report from EAQWER will be submitted. EAQWER has in the past year reviewed a 2012 response from the Otisville Prison Worship Group to a draft of the Apology to Afro Descendents, to consider the proposed action steps that are contained in this response. The proposed actions were read. EAQWER is looking for ways to follow through on these and encourages other committees under Witness to consider whether they will take any actions on these requests.. The full response will be in the written report. The report was received.

2016-07-03. Andy Von Salis presented a recommendation for supporting Sarah Niccoli in support of her right of conscience to refuse to say the United States Pledge of Allegiance. Mary has created a statement which will be fine-tuned by Fred and Andy with Sarah's input and then submitted by Mary to the clerk of Yearly Meeting for further action. We approved the sense of the statement. [The statement was approved by the body.]

2016-07-04. Mary spoke of the problem of diminishing contributions to the Sharing Fund. One member spoke of the need for a person with some expertise in fundraising. Other elements of fundraising were discussed. Mary's sense is that we need an advisor with fundraising expertise, and three members to be on a sharing fund working group with the task of organizing and developing the fund raising. We will go back to our committees and to our monthly meetings to look for people who are willing to work as and consultant and on the working group.

2016-07-04. Mary spoke of the necessity of a nominating committee for officers for WCC. Fred Dettmer and Emily Boardman will be on a nominating committee and they will bring nominations on Friday for consideration

2016-07-05: Robin noted that the White Privilege Conference task group whose report had already

been presented to the yearly meeting had been appointed by WCC. Their report was attached to the NYYM meeting minutes. WCC recognizes the laying down this committee.

2016-07-06: The minutes were approved.