

**Fresh Pond Monthly Meeting**  
**Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**  
**January 7, 2018**

Friends gathered in worship with attention to Business on January 7, 2018. During the opening worship the clerk read the following excerpt from “Encounter with the Taproot” by Lloyd Lee Wilson:

*Bible study reminds us that our story, yours and mine, did not begin with our birth, and will not end with our death. Our story did not begin with George Fox's birth, it did not begin with Jesus Christ's birth. Our story begins with God. Just as there is one God, eternal and unchanging, there is one story about the relationship between God and God's creation: the big story, of which Moses, and George fox, and you and I are little sub-stories. For those with eyes to see and ears to hear, each of these stories proclaims the truth of the big story of creation's repeated encounters with its taproot.*

**Present:** Kristina Keefe-Perry, Callid Keefe-Perry, Brad Barber, Will Taber, Lynn Taber, Melody Brazo, Sharon Frame, Holly White, Kathleen Wooten, Bev Williams, Wally Williams, Catherine Oliva-Simmons, Anne Fisher, Mary Hopkins, Susan Zeichner, Nina Fisher.

Clerk: Bruce Neumann

Acting Recording Clerk: Patricia Moyer

**Pat Moyer** was appointed recording clerk for this meeting, in Phil Veatch's absence due to illness.

**For Gifts and Leadings**, Anne Fisher reported that Becky Phipps was put forward for co-clerk of Ministry ands Worship, and Helen Bassett for clerk of Gifts and Leadings. Friends approved these appointments.

**Salem Quarter will be hosted by us** on Sunday, 1/28/18. Kathleen Wooten reported that the program will be “Quaker Outreach in a Digital age.” She is hoping for a message and discussion about sharing what we as Quakers have to share with the world today. FPMM's working group on outreach will be leading the discussion. Kathleen Wooten will bring her own projector. Kristina K P suggested we have name tags and she will bring some. Catherine OS will take care of a sign for the entrance of the building to direct people. Mary Hopkins reminded us that the hosting meeting usually provides soup, bread, coffee, tea, and beyond that, attendants are encouraged to brown bag. Kristina will bring a tea urn. Catherine will bring tea bags, and Bruce will bring coffee. Brad will notify school of our need for extended time at the school. Kristina and Bruce will make soup. Mary will bring bread.

That date being fourth First Day, we will have Cornerstones, directly after meeting for worship, in our worship room at 11:15, after setting up tables for lunch. Women's group, also a fourth Sunday event, will meet in a different room. There will be no snack for after-meeting that day. Lunch will occur at 11:45, and the program will start about 12:30. Kathleen will check with clerk of the Quarter about when this event will end, and notify Brad.

**Kathleen Wooten, member of the working group on Outreach,** presented an idea the group has had, about having a Facebook page. Other members of Outreach present include Holly White, Kristina Keefe Perry, and Mary Hopkins. Many religious communities reach out with FB. Seekers of different types, not necessarily Quakers, will find it easier to find us with FB, as it may link us with those interested in peace activities, worship activities, immigration, AVP, etc.

Kathleen set out learnings from her experience as NEYM Social Media Coordinator.

- a) FB can serve as a virtual space which is more interactive—sends out reminders to people to come to things, for instance.
- b) FB Page different than FB group.—the latter is more internal—we already have a Google group, and don't want to confuse ourselves—so FB group not currently recommended.
- c) Management done by administrators, who set up rules for openness and closedness.
- d) Kathleen would recommend a social media policy to deal with people's tendencies to inappropriate behavior.
- e) This would be just one next step in our outreach process

Concerns, questions and attributes were discussed. A Friend did not want to encourage more time on social media. A FB page allows for contemporaneous updating, which depends on the moderators to ensure timeliness. We want to be able to appeal to those familiar, and not familiar with, FB, those who use it, and those who do not. If used properly for notification, it will engender some duplication (for instance with our google groups).

There was a general approval from those gathered. Next step recommended by Kathleen Wooten would be to name administrators and engender a social media policy. Kathleen offered the outreach working group as the body that would do that. KW offered to do a mockup of the page, and also send us some examples of NE Quaker FB pages. These recommendations will come back to an upcoming business meeting.

We thanked the Outreach working group for their work to date, and for bringing this to our attention.

We may want to revive our phone tree—to notify of us of closings due to snow emergencies, etc.

**The clerk read Minute 2017-42**, adopted in August, 2017, by NEYM at Sessions, (see attached), concerning our “support for the wellbeing and protection of all threatened individuals”, especially undocumented immigrants and Muslims. The clerk opened the minute for our consideration and discussion.

There was concern that “peaceful” refugees and immigrants mentioned in the minute were singled out for welcome and our sense of those who possessed that of God.

We were reminded that the current problem is so immense that we must not focus on words in the minute, but instead on the vast needs and issues facing those who may be deported. One Friend reminded us that saying the words in this minute, as Friends, means that there are some actions we need to take, some bending of our minds and bodies towards the problem.

The clerk shared the movements that occurred in our Ministry and Worship on 1/2/18, as we considered our next steps on White Supremacy culture, and also on what to do with the RC Harper donation. Bystander training, marshal training, and working with Metrowest Workers Center were all considered. This topic will continue to be sifted both here in Business meeting, and at Ministry and Worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Moyer  
Acting Co-Clerk (for the day)

Minutes from NEYM Sessions 2017:

**2017-42** Friends gathered at New England Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions at Castleton, Vermont, August 6-10, 2017, approve the following:

As members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quaker), we believe that the human family is one family; that there is that of God in every member of this family; and that generosity of spirit toward all the members of the human family

is of overriding importance.

As Quakers, we reaffirm our unconditional support for the wellbeing and protections of all threatened individuals in our community, including, especially at this troubled time, Muslims and undocumented immigrants.

We urge our government to reaffirm our country’s founding values, especially freedom of religion; to affirm our welcome to peaceful refugees and immigrants; to reject bigotry and xenophobia; and to adopt laws and policies that respect the humanity and dignity of all people.

We call on our fellow community members to join us in defending human rights for all, working toward nonviolent religious and civic sanctuary that protects all who are vulnerable, and striving together for compassion, dignity and safety for everyone.

**2017-43** Based on recommendations from Northwest Quarter, we also approved the following:

We encourage each monthly meeting and quarterly meeting within NEYM to share minute 2017-42 with local faith communities and publish it in local papers, and to discern further how they are led in this issue.