

Fresh Pond Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
April 1, 2018

Friends gathered for Meeting for Worship with attention to Business on April 1, 2018. During opening worship the clerk read the following excerpt from John Woolman's Journal:

The increase of business became my burden, for though my natural inclination was toward merchandise, yet I believed Truth required me to live more free from outward cumbers, and there was now a strife in my mind between the two; and in the exercise my prayers were put to the Lord, who graciously heard me and gave me a heart resigned to his holy will. Then I lessened my outward business, and as I had opportunity told my customers of my intentions that they might consider what shop to turn to, and so in a while wholly laid down merchandise, following my trade as a tailor, myself only, having no apprentice. I also had a nursery of apple trees, in which I employed some of my time - hoeing, grafting, trimming and inoculating.

Present: Robert Dove McLellan, Waly Williams, Bev Williams, Linda Agerbak, Mary Hopkins, Sharon Frame, Gail Charpentier, Will Taber, Lynn Taber, Beckey Phipps, Nancy Shippen, Pat Moyer, Callid Keefe-Perry, Kathleen McLeod, Kristina Keefe Perry, Laura Street, Helen Bassett, Betsy Kantt, John McDougall

Clerk: Phillip Veatch

Recording Clerk: Bruce Neumann

Quarterly Treasurer's Report: Will Taber, Assistant Treasurer, presented the Quarterly Treasurers report. We're in good shape! As of Feb 28, for our 2017-18 fiscal year, we had \$27,640 income against \$22,400 expenses Further income between now and the end of our fiscal year at the end of May, will be assigned to our 2018-19 expenses

First Reading of the Budget: For Administration and Stewardship Committee, Betsy Kantt presented the proposed budget for 2018-2019.

The budget includes an increase in the Childcare budget, given in part our expectation of hiring a new childcare provider as well as making a commitment to paying them for the time they are required to be available.

We are also increasing by \$200 the amount for the Helping Fund, and increasing our contribution to NEYM by 5%.

Our rent for 2018-19 is as yet unresolved, pending a meeting with the school. We expect it to be a 3% increase.

Total increase of 6.2%, to 32,077. The suggested individual contribution per year rises to \$849.

Friends gave provisional approval of the budget, pending clarification of the rent increase and further consideration, as is our practice, at our May Business Meeting.

Friends also expressed their appreciation for Brad Barber's good natured constancy and commitment for such a long time.

State of Society: Beckey Phipps, for the Ministry and Worship committee, presented the State of Society report which had been authored primarily by Cathryn Oliva-Simmons and Any Foeri. The report has also been considered at Ministry and Worship Committee. The report is intended to summarize our spiritual condition through the previous calendar year. Several minor edits were offered, as well as a few changes to ensure the report reflects our condition. Friends approved the minute. The clerks will forward the report to Salem Quarter.

Quaker Dinner Church: Kristina Keefe Perry shared with Friends her journey of exploration and experiments with Quaker Dinner Church.

During seminary school, during a placement at a church, she found great power in well-conceived programmed worship. She learned of the idea of Dinner Church during this placement, and became convinced of the power of its form, and began to wonder if the concept could be adapted to a Quaker context. Experimenting with forms felt like a part of the power.

The leading is to create a Quaker worship and community space that would be welcoming to non-friends. In Kristina's words: "It became clear that the call was not simply to gather Quakers to experience semi-programmed worship. The leading is to semi-programmed worship and to gather people for the building up of an expressively Christian, progressive, Quaker community that worships and learns together, seeking to emphasize the shared work of naming, nurturing and exercising spiritual gifts. The hope is to hold one another accountable to mutual faithfulness as we endeavor to live more fully into the peaceable reign of God."

The first Quaker Dinner Church occurred in Somerville, in December. Another happened in Jamaica Plain, and more recently one on March 30 in Cambridge.

Kristina has applied for a Legacy Grant to support the continued exploration of this ministry. She hopes that this will become a visible and joyful manifestation of Quakerism.

Friends closed in worship, purposing to meet again May 6, 2018.

Financial Report - FPMM
6/1/17-2/28/18

	2017-18 budget	Actual	net for year
INCOME			
Pooled Funds income		73	
UNRESTRICTED			
Donations	\$30,199	29,223	976
Interest income		1	
Total Unrestricted		29,297	
RESTRICTED			
	(carryover)		(w/ carryover)
Carey-Harper	\$2,000		2,000
Helping Fund	\$100	100	200
Helping Fund (carbon tax)	\$500	650	1,150
Helping Fund (Puerto Rico)		2,220	2,220
Keefe-Perry Ministry		1,000	1,000
Pastoral Care	\$2,000		2,000
Spiritual Seed Money	\$400	100	500
Wooten Ministry		7,500	7,500
Total Restricted	\$5,000	11,570	16,570
Total Income w/ carryover		45,867	
EXPENSE			
UNRESTRICTED			
	(budget)		(net)
Administrative	\$220	271	-51
Childcare	\$2,800	1,089	1,711
Earth Care	\$300		300
General Equalization	\$150		150
Hospitality	\$700	470	230
Liability insurance	\$310	300	10
MA Church	\$45	47	-2
Ministry and Worship	\$200	90	110
Misc	\$150	200	-50
NEYM	\$9,300	9,300	0
NEYM Equal Fund	\$200	200	0
Rent	\$13,524	11,270	2,254
Retreat	\$300	100	200
Spiritual growth 1/2 hour	\$200	204	-4
Third Sunday	\$100	100	0
Total Unrestricted	\$28,499	23,641	4,858
RESTRICTED			
Carey-Harper		2,000	
Helping Fund (Quaker)	\$600	600	
Helping Fund (any organization)	\$600	800	
Helping Fund (carbon tax)		500	
Helping Fund (Puerto Rico)		2,220	
Keefe-Perry Ministry		1,000	

Metrowest
Worker

Salem Quarter

Spiritual seed money.	\$300		
Pastoral care	\$200		
Wooten Ministry		7,500	
Total Restricted	\$1,700	14,620	
(Unrestricted income-expense-restricted)		5,156	
Total Expense	\$30,199	38,261	

BALANCE SHEET			
ASSETS			
Cash (Cambridge Savings)		\$16,740	
Reserve 40% of budget (NEYM Pooled Funds)	12,080	13,131	6/1/2017 11,265
Total Assets		29,871	
Carey-Harper		0	
Helping Fund		0	
Helping Fund (carbon tax)		650	
Keefe-Perry Ministry		0	
Pastoral Care		2,200	
Rent		2,254	
Spiritual Seed Money		800	
Wooten Ministry		0	
Total Liabilities		5,904	
Net Assets		23,967	

Transferred
\$1000

	checking act	donations
11/30/15	\$13,405	12,981
2/29/16	\$10,902	23,377
5/31/16	\$8,625	27,001
8/31/16	\$9,151	4,917
11/30/16	\$10,593	10,661
2/26/17	\$17,943	28,945
5/31/17	\$13,247	30,523
8/31/17	\$11,226	3,565
11/30/17	\$14,966	11,660
2/28/18	\$17,754	27,565

Households contributed- 31 (approx 37 households total)
Brad Barber, treasurer

Suggested donation FY17-18 \$811/adult member or attender/year depending on financial circumstances.

Send contributions to Brad Barber, FPMM, 74 Spy Pond Pkwy, Arlington, MA 02474

FRESH POND MONTHLY MEETING BUDGET

Proposed Budget 2018-19					
EXPENSES	FY 15/16	FY 16/17	FY 17/18	FY 18/19	Comments
Administrative	150	200	220	270	Includes ad in Friends Journal, mailings, and printing
Child Care	2400	2800	2800	3618	Based on 1.25 hr (during Mtg) 52wks - \$34/hr for 2 workers; 2 hrs after Mtg - 34wks --\$34/hr for 2 workers (minus 20%)
Earth Care		300	300	300	For workshop and expenses
General Equalization	100	100	150	150	To be used for child/adult member/attender to attend Quaker workshops
Helping Fund - Quaker	600	600	600	600	For Quaker organizations.
Helping Fund	600	600	600	800	open to all organizations.
Hospitality	690	775	700	700	hospitality reimbursement - 9 summer weeks at \$20 and 31 winter at \$25. Reduced for those who request no reimbursement. (Potluck once a month)
Liability Insurance	350	310	310	310	FY 17/18 \$308.
Mass. Council of Churches	42	41	45	47	There are 47 adult resident members. Suggested amount is \$1 per adult member.
Ministry and Worship	200	200	200	200	Faith and Practice for new members. Books for graduating 8th and 12th graders.
Miscellaneous	50	150	150	150	For unanticipated expenses of the meeting
NEYM	8500	8700	9300	9800	For New England Yearly Meeting (5%)
NEYM Equalization	100	200	200	200	NEYM fund which provides financial help for people wishing to attend sessions.
Pastoral Care		200	200	200	For concrete support of members and attenders (rolls-over to \$2400)
Rent	12480	13104	13524	13932	3% increase (\$1161/monthly)
Reserve	0	0	0	0	FPMM keeps a 40% reserve (\$12,831) of budget in NEYM Pooled Funds.
Retreat	300	300	300	300	Fresh Pond Meeting retreat
Spiritual Growth Half Hour	100	100	200	200	For expenses.
Spiritual Seed		300	300	200	For members/attenders (rolls-over 1000)
Third Sunday	100	100	100	100	For honorariums, pamphlets, supplies.
TOTAL	26762	29080	30199	32077	18/19 6.2%, 17/18 +3.8%, 16/17 +8.6%, 15/16 +3.4%, 14/15 +2.7%,13/14 +5.7%
	adult resident members	active adult attenders	donating hseholds		
2007/08	32	30	33		
2008/09	32	30	36		
2009/10	38	25	34		34/36 active households (95% participation)
2010/11	38	27	36		36/38 active households (95% participation)
2011/12	41	26	37		37/39 active households (95% participation)
2012/13	39	26	31		31/40 active households(77%)
2013/14	39	15	32		32/40 active households (80%)
2014/15	42	11	35		35/40 active households (88%)
2015/16	41	10	33		33/35 active households (94%)
2016/17	45	10	37		37/38 active households (97%)
2017/18	44	12	31		31/37 active households (84%)
Suggested donation \$849/adult member or attender/year depending on financial circumstances.					

Fresh Pond Monthly Meeting 2017 State of Society Report

In 2017 Fresh Pond Monthly Meeting focused on harvesting seeds that were planted in previous years, including our community's spiritual growth as well as reaching out into our larger community.

The Fresh Pond Monthly Meeting community is blessed with members and attenders who have gifts in ministry and love. This has been a fruitful year of supporting the ministry of individuals within our meeting. Those members, who have named and supported ministries, provided reports of their outside works to the community. Three of our members received a New England Yearly Meeting Legacy Grant to carry out their ministry. Two new letters of introduction for ministry were approved. The community's support of these ministries is a vital part of Fresh Pond's spiritual life and identity. Fresh Pond Monthly Meeting is committed to continue naming, supporting, and encouraging ministry in all of its forms.

One of our members retired this year after many years as core teacher for the School of the Spirit's *On Being a Spiritual Nurturer* program; and another member completed that two-year program.

We joyfully welcomed three new members to our community this year.

Our meetings for worship are deep and settled, with a vocal ministry that is spirit-led, and with space for prayerful reflection. When First Day School ends and our community's children join us, their young voices provide the community great joy. The number of younger attenders is slowly increasing. Our First Day School curriculum, which was introduced last year, has been successful, although we sometimes struggle to find enough teachers. We continued our practices of baby welcoming, monthly potlucks, teen breakfasts, and secret friends, which have allowed us to deepen our commitments to each other and our larger community.

We have continued to explore and define who we are as a community. We spent extensive time looking inward and deeply examining white privilege and systemic racism. This is an on-going leading for the meeting. We hope that this will help us to be a more inviting meeting and community.

We continue to examine our committee structure and how it fits our needs. We considered whether to make the Earthcare Group a standing committee, but discerned that it should remain an interest group. We formed three ad-hoc groups: Criminal Justice, In-reach Out-reach, and a List Serve Committee.

The Criminal Justice ad hoc committee was formed to write a minute on criminal justice that was approved by Business Meeting and to sent to Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker to affect upcoming legislation.

The In-reach/Out-reach group was established to examine specific ways to make our meeting more visible and welcoming, and to improve our sense of welcome and accessibility to all meeting members, attenders and new visitors. This group updated the ways we communicate among ourselves, making small changes to make our conversations more welcoming (e.g. announcing our

names before we speak). They did mammoth work improving our website to be inviting and sharing of meeting information among ourselves and the wider community of seekers. In-reach/Out-reach continues to discern the many avenues of growth for our community.

An ad hoc committee was formed to transfer our list serve from Yahoo to Google. In the process, this group also created two accounts in Google to manage the overflow of information: one group for meeting announcements and one group for general items of interest.

As a community we desire to participate in actions that make a difference to the world. Through our helping fund we provide support to small organizations where our donation will make a difference. As a community we provided monetary support in responding to the devastation of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico. Two members of our meeting are hosting an asylum seeker. Our meeting provided funds for this person's education.

Members participated in a number of marches and actions in the community such as:

January 21 2017 - Boston Women's March

February 19 2017 Rally to Stand Up For Science

April 14 2017 - Good Friday Peace Witness (with Cambridge Friends, at Beacon Hill Friends House)

May 14 2017 - Mother's Day Walk for Peace

June 10 2017 - Boston Pride (Marched with Cambridge Meeting and Cambridge Friends School)

August 19 2017 - Witness against "free speech rally" in Boston

We bring our banner to increase our visibility. We bear witness to our faith in troubled times via demonstrations, donations, phone calls, and living our lives as Friends witnessing our values.

2017 was the second year of our experimental practice of Fresh Pond Circles. Five circles were formed to provide opportunity to come to a more intimate relationship both socially and spiritually with other members of the community and to assist with providing pastoral care to each other. Ministry and Worship laid down the responsibility of formulating these groups. Some of the circles continue to meet.

A number of our members provide support to the Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS). Our community welcomed the group of eight young QVS fellows at our November potluck.

On the climate crisis, members have begun to participate in a voluntary Carbon Tax. Our Earthcare Concerns group has led us all to faithfully examine environmental issues in national and local contexts, and we have given financial support to a number of local conservation organizations.

The Fresh Pond Community is ever grateful to the Cambridge Friends School for providing us the rental space where we can gather, grow, and experience the spiritual bounty of our community.

Moving forward into 2018, we hope to open ourselves more as a meeting. We are establishing ourselves online and developing our website to reach out to visitors, and we are learning about

digital ministry. We also will continue to follow the calling to serve in solidarity and support for those whose lives and livelihoods are endangered in our current political climate.

This year we have felt blessed to be engaged in the Community of God and it is our hope that we will continue to be able to tie together the inward and the outward in service of the Spirit. We wait in eager anticipation for how we will be further led.