

Fresh Pond Monthly Meeting
Ministry and Worship Committee Meeting
2/6/2018

Notes

Present: Beckey Phipps (co-clerk), Bev Williams, Wally Williams, Cathryn Oliva-Simmons, Kathleen McLeod, Holly White, Callid Keefe-Perry, Lynn Taber, Will Taber, Bruce Neumann, Pat Moyer, Phil Veatch, Mary Hopkins, Susan Zeichner (recording)

Regrets: Andy Foery, Kathleen Wooten, Melody Brazo (co-clerk)

We opened with worship.

1. Callid Keefe-Perry and Will Taber presented a revised edition of the: **Proposal to reconsider the names of clearness committees at Fresh Pond Monthly Meeting** which included changes and edits suggested at our last meeting. Some more basic edits were suggested at this meeting and approved and Callid and Will will incorporate them. There was a discussion of questions about which full committee of the meeting (i.e. Gifts and Leadings or Ministry and Worship) has authority and responsibility to appoint or lay down or check in with clearness committees for personal decisions, and also to some extent, the new support committees, given that there is no separate pastoral care committee. Beckey will reflect on these questions and report back to this committee at a later date.
2. Cathryn Oliva-Simmons presented the draft of the **FPMM 2017 State of Society Report** written by herself and Andy Foery. Some edits and additions were suggested and will be incorporated. The report will come back to M&W at our March meeting for final approval so it can be ready to go to Meeting for Business in April. Many thanks to Cathryn and Andy for carrying out the writing of this report!

3. How best to use the Carey-Harper fund

Beckey Phipps reminded us that our discussion about this topic at last month's M&W meeting of the dovetailing of this topic with the meeting's concern for how to proceed with issues of racial justice including some form of activism. Various people reported on information gained over the past month:

Beckey read Andy Forey's report about trainings for the meeting on being a marshal at political rallies. Robert Dove McClellan has offered to do a three-hour training for the meeting for free. He has experience in this regard.

Pat Moyer reported on Bystander Training. This is for learning how to de-escalate and provide a different perspective on the spot in situations in which one witnesses instances of racist or unfair treatment of others, and provide support to victims. These skills can be taken into all aspects of life. Lisa Graustein would be happy to lead us in such a training, but would not be available for at least 6 weeks. She has other names to suggest if we want it sooner, and other possibilities were mentioned such as AFSC and Martha Yaeger.

Bruce Neumann and Phil Veatch contacted other meetings about how they had used these funds. Two Meetings responded:

- Framingham Meeting donated the fund to the Metrowest Workers Center
- Wellesley Meeting used it for the support a refugee family from Ghana that they have been supporting.

Susan Zeichner had sent out an email to the meeting with information about The Metrowest Workers Center (MWC) to which Mary Hopkins added some comments. (From the email:)

MWC (referred to as "Casa" or "Metrowest") is a Framingham non-profit that works to advocate for and with undocumented immigrant workers, primarily laborers doing roofing and siding of houses. It has 3 main programs:

1. Helping workers who have been injured on the job get workers compensation and navigate the medical system.
2. Helping workers who are victims of wage theft, who have not been paid for their work or who have been ditched by contractors without being paid (which happens a lot with undocumented workers) to get the wages they deserve.
3. In recent times since the current presidential administration, accompanying people to court who are following the law by doing such things as paying parking tickets or renewing their DACA status, and being picked up at court by ICE agents, which is also happening a lot now.

We could donate money directly to MWC to support their work. Also, they have a Neighbor Fund which they use for instance: to help families when the breadwinner has been deported; or to give an 18 year old who has not been able to finish high school because he's had to work so much, \$100/month so he can work less and finish school; and toward lawyers fees.

Beckey as clerk named the sense of the meeting to donate the Rachel Carey Harper fund to Metrowest. It is run by a Quaker whom many of us know. It has served as an internship site for QVS (Quaker Voluntary Service) fellows for three years. It has a real impact in the Metrowest area, but is small so the money we donate will have a real impact. There was, however, discussion about whether all of the money should go to Metrowest, or if we should use some of it for one of the trainings. After consideration Friends were also clear to recommend giving the full \$2,000 to Metrowest and make a commitment to raise whatever money we might need for any trainings we might undertake in the future.

We held a number of people in prayer around pastoral concerns, and closed with worship.

Our next meeting will be March 6 at Lynn and Will Taber's home.