

**Fresh Pond Monthly Meeting
Ministry & Worship Committee
2 January 2018**

Home of Beckey Phipps

Present: Beckey Phipps (convening); Bev Williams (recording clerk pro-tem); Andy Foery; Bruce Neumann; Callid Keefe-Perry; Cathryn Oliva-Simmons; Helen Bassett; Kathleen McLeod; Lynn Taber; Mary Hopkins; Pat Moyer; Phil Veatch; Sharon Frame; Susan Zeichner; Will Taber

Regrets: Melody Brazo (clerk)

STATE OF SOCIETY. Cathryn and Andy offered to prepare an initial draft of our annual report and bring that to the February 6, 2018 meeting of Ministry & Worship for a review.

CONSIDERATION OF THE RACHEL CAREY HARPER \$2,000 gift to Fresh Pond Meeting. Much of the meeting was spent in discussion of how to use this gift to the greatest effect. The original letter was read so that Friends understood the spirit in which Rachel made the gift. The letter and additional information clarified that Rachel entrusted each meeting to discern how best to use the funds.

Key questions:

1. How have other monthly meetings in NEYM used their gifts? Might we learn something from them? Might we combine our gift with other meetings to maximize the benefit?
2. Dovetailing with this conversation and discernment was another key agenda item for the evening: how are we at Fresh Pond being led to respond to racial and social injustice in a manner that reflects our goals, increasing awareness and sense of responsibility, and our continuing commitment to be God's agents for change. We are clear that we want to 'follow the money' with our personal efforts, not just pass on these funds as a hand-out where we then have no further investment.

Possible uses of the fund and next steps:

- Becoming trained as a marshals for public gatherings and acts of resistance. Andy Foery will investigate what is involved in receiving training as a meeting, and at what cost, and will report to us in February.
- Linda Agerbak has offered to host a book discussion group at her home on The New Jim Crow.
- Use funds to support a Quaker Voluntary Service fellow?
- Might \$2,000 in funds be of significant benefit to a single family or individual facing deportation, or in need of funds as a refugee/asylum seeker?
- Might we contribute the funds to a locally based organization where it would make a greater impact than donating it to a larger, more widely funded group/effort?
- Pat Moyer will research bystander training and report to us in February.

- Bruce Neumann and Phil Veatch will investigate what other Salem Quarter meetings are doing with their gift and report to us in February.

CLARIFICATION OF COMMITTEE NAMES AND ROLES

Callid Keefe-Perry and Will Taber presented their suggested edits to a recommendation brought by Gifts & Leadings Committee (December 2017) to change the names of certain committees at Fresh Pond Monthly Meeting to more accurately reflect how they are purposed. These committees are already established practices at Fresh Pond; the proposed names and descriptions serve to clarify the work of Clearness Committees, Support Committees, and Care & Accountability Committees. Friends were grateful for their edits and asked Callid and Will to further refine the document. They agreed to bring the revised report back to the February 6, 2018 Ministry & Worship meeting.

PASTORAL CARE. The meeting closed after a period of worship and prayers for the pastoral care of our members and attenders.

Next meeting: February 6. Home of Melody Brazo and Joanna Rohrbaugh