



November 13, 2022

Minutes & Reports

Friends Meeting at Cambridge

Meeting for Business in Worship

November 13, 2022

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Friends Meeting at Cambridge (FMC) gathered in a Meeting for Business in Worship on Sunday, November 13, at 1:15 pm. The Meeting was convened by Lynne Weiss, Co-Presiding Clerk, after a period of silent worship, with 11 people in the Meetinghouse and 33 people present on Zoom. The Clerk opened the Meeting with a quote from George A. Selleck's *Principles of the Quaker Business Meeting*.

Quakerism has always had within it a strong centrifugal force of individualism, but likewise there always has been a centripetal force of corporate life in tension with it. From the fruitful interaction of these two have come the decisions of the Society. The visions and concerns of individuals prevent the Society from becoming over-traditional and static; the insights of a gathered group prevent it from moving over-hastily in unconsidered enthusiasm.

Tom Sander, Co-Presiding Clerk, led the Meeting in introductions of all present.

Announcements

2022-068

The Clerk read an abbreviated version of the Land Acknowledgement we approved at our February 13, 2022 Meeting for Business in Worship.

The Clerk asked Friends to follow these guidelines during our Meetings for Business in Worship:

- When our Recording Clerk reads Minutes, please only raise substantive corrections, not minor editing concerns. Wordsmithing concerns take up precious time and can be raised after the business meeting with the Recording Clerk directly.
- We need the active discernment of all in Meetings for Business in Worship. Please make allowances for conversations with vision- or hearing-impaired participants

who might need something described to them. The Clerk will attempt to call on people by name; please consider introducing yourself if the Clerk does not identify you or identifies you incorrectly.

- Please love deeply that of God in each of us and care for each other with a tender heart and soul.
- Please actively seek the Light before speaking and listen for the Light in others' comments.
- Finally, I hope you will hold me, all of us in the room and on Zoom, and the Meeting as a whole in the Light as we sit together to seek unity.

Ad-Hoc COVID Response Listening Group Report

2022-069

The Clerk asked the Meeting to hold the current and former members of the Facilities ReOpening Group (FROG) (John Bach, Deborah Colgan, Susan Davies, Larry Dudley, Guillermo Hamlin, Ian Harrington, Jo Ellen Hillyer, Holly Lapp, Liz Moore, David Myers, Jan Nisenbaum, Alasdair Post-Quinn, Gail Rogers, Joe Sternfeld, Sandy Sweetnam, Rick Talkov, Joe Tierney, Mark Webster, Kim West, Maria West, David White, Izabelle (Izzi) Everwoods, and Kathleen Wooten) in the Light for working through the most difficult days of the pandemic to hold the FMC community together.

The Clerk then introduced the Ad-Hoc COVID Response Listening Group (Jo Ellen Hillyer, Ariel Maddocks, David Myers, Alasdair Post-Quinn, Tom Sander, Elise Springuel, Lynne Weiss, and Kim West). The Committee planned and held three listening sessions on FMC's COVID policies and presented a summary of the results on October 20th.

The Committee hopes that, as we gather in Meeting for Business in Worship, we will recognize that we have all had the chance to express our views and it is time to seek a way forward as we sit together to listen to each other as we corporately express the voice of Spirit.

Ariel Maddocks shared that the Ad-Hoc COVID Response Listening Group is trying to protect against both COVID and social isolation and tried to balance the range of concerns and desires in a manner that focuses on Simplicity with a solution that is clear and consistent, offers a solution that helps us be at Peace together, that considers the Integrity of how we care for one another in Community, and that creates more Equality for those in the community whose needs are not met if we make no changes and those who will be affected by our proposed changes.

The group presented a set of COVID-related proposals for discernment, planning to bring a possibly revised set to next month's meeting for consideration of approval. The current set would do the following:

- Urge members of the FMC community who can receive vaccinations and boosters to do so.
 - Continue the mask requirement for Forums, Afterthoughts, and Family Worship for All Ages in the Friends Room and Parlor.
 - Create mask-optional seating in the Balcony and a bench in a corner of the Meetinghouse for those who cannot access the Balcony for Meetings for Worship and Meetings for Business in Worship.
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- Resume Coffee Hours in the Friends Room with a mask-optional policy when weather does not permit it to be held outdoors.
- Add the Selleck Room and Committee Room to spaces in which small groups can meet, with masks optional if they choose.

Several Friends shared reactions to these proposals. Some expressed appreciation for the work of the Committee, and many spoke out of their love for the community. Some questioned the effectiveness of vaccinations and masks as protective measures. How do we respond to the risks of wearing masks and not wearing masks? How do we deal with the losses we face from isolation and keep our community safe? The Listening Group will consider the meeting's thoughts and bring another proposal back to next month's Meeting for Business in Worship.

Appointment of Temporary Recording Clerk

2022-070

The Clerk asked the Meeting to approve David L. Myers as Temporary Recording Clerk for the next item on the agenda, as the Recording Clerk will be making the presentation. Friends approved.

Facing Our History: Indigenous Boarding Schools Proposal

2022-071

The Clerk introduced this item by reminding us of our intention, expressed in our land acknowledgment, to learn more about Indigenous People and our historical and present relationship with them.

Ian Harrington, for Friends for Racial Justice Committee (FORJ) and Peace & Social Justice Committee (P&SJC), informed Friends of an event entitled "Facing Our History: Indigenous Boarding Schools" scheduled for Tuesday, November 15 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the Beacon Hill Friends House (BHFH) and on Zoom. Planned by the New England Yearly Meeting (NEYM) Right Relationship Resource Group, Friends Peace Teams, and BHFH, the event is part of a program approved at the NEYM Sessions in August. FORJ and P&SJC urge Friends to support the Indigenous Boarding School program and attend the event. The two committees also request FMC to make a \$100 contribution to the program from the Outreach/Committee Projects line of the budget. Registration information is to be found on our Weekly Calendar. Friends are asked to pay-as-led, with a suggested fee of \$15. It was noted that a recording of the presentation will be available from the Yearly Meeting.

The Meeting approved making the contribution after hearing the essential question: what were Quakers thinking when they set up and ran these schools, and how can we learn from their actions?

Nominating Committee report

2022-072

Chaz Kelsh, Clerk of Nominating Committee, asked Friends to approve Deborah Colgan as a member of the Membership Committee through June 2025. This is the second reading of this nomination, and Friends approved.

Chaz also asked Friends to approve Elizabeth Moore as a member of the Nominating Committee through June 2025. This is the second reading of this nomination, and Friends approved.

IFSWG Report

2022-073

Patricia Wild, Clerk of the Imagining Faithful Structures Working Group (IFSWG) remarked on how the love Allan Kohrman, a former member who recently passed away, had for Friends transcended the arguments he had with Friends. She then reported IFSWG's discernment on defining a proposed new Meeting Administrator position is centered on how supervision will occur. She asked Friends to contact the Clerks Team (clerks@fmcquaker.org) or IFSWG (faithfulstructures@fmcquaker.org) if they have suggestions. The group will likely bring a proposal for this position to the December Meeting for Business in Worship.

Closing Worship

Meeting for Business in Worship adjourned at 3:29 pm, with Friends intending to gather next in a Meeting for Business in Worship on Sunday, December 11, 2022, at 1:15 pm on Zoom and in the Meetinghouse.

Lynne Weiss, Co-Presiding Clerk

Ian Harrington, Recording Clerk

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Friends Meeting at Cambridge

Return Service Requested

Meetings for Worship at FMC

5 Longfellow Park, Cambridge

Sundays 10:30 am

Wednesdays 8:30 am to 10 am

South Shore Preparative Meeting

155 Washington St. (Rt. 53), Pembroke
Sundays 10:00 am
Jim deVeer
781-982-0653

Worship Group at Brookhaven

1010 Waltham Street, Lexington
Sundays 10:30 am
Elisabeth Cotten
781-862-7578

Other Nearby Worship Opportunities

Acton Friends Meeting,

Contact Clerk, acton@neym.org

Amesbury Monthly Meeting, 120 Friend St., Amesbury

Sundays 10:00 am

Beacon Hill Friends Meeting, 6 Chestnut St., Boston

Sundays 10:30 am

Cambridge Friends School, 5 Cadbury Rd., Cambridge

Tuesdays 8:30 to 9:00 am

Framingham Friends Meeting, 841 Edmands Rd., Framingham

Sundays 10:00 am

Fresh Pond Monthly Meeting, CFS Cambridge

Sundays 10:00 am

Lawrence Monthly Meeting, 15 Forest St., Methuen

Sundays 6:30 pm

Mill City Quakers, millcityquakers@gmail.com

Nashoba Worship Group, nashobaquakers@gmail.com

Sundays 10:30 am

North Shore Monthly Meeting, 74 Hart St., Beverly Farms

Sundays 10:00 am

Three Rivers Worship Group, info@threeriversmeeting.org

Alternate Thursdays 9:30 am

Wellesley Friends Meeting, 26 Benvenue St., Wellesley

Sundays 10:30 am