



March 12, 2023

Minutes & Reports

Friends Meeting at Cambridge

Meeting for Business in Worship

March 12, 2023

Inside this issue:

<i>Minutes, March MBW</i>	1
<i>LGBTQ+ Working Group Report</i>	4
<i>Letter to Legacy Gifts Committee</i>	5
<i>Proposal to Resume Sit-Down Meals</i>	6
<i>Good Friday Leaflet</i>	7

Friends Meeting at Cambridge (FMC) gathered in a Meeting for Business in Worship on Sunday, March 12, at 1:15 pm. The Meeting was convened by Lynne Weiss, Co-Presiding Clerk. After a period of silent worship, with 35 people present on Zoom and 19 people in the Friends Room, the Clerk opened the Meeting with a reading from “Reflections on Violence, the State, and the Peace Testimony of the Historic Peace Churches” by Elise Boulding in *Quaker Religious Thought* (Vol. 83, Article 3, 1994).

God’s love is not released into human communities by institutions of the state, but by the impulses of the heart, mind, and spirit of individual human beings in their solitudes, in families, in neighborhoods, in community organizations including churches, temples, and synagogues, and in the public spaces of society.

Our calling as a Society of Friends is to increase that flow of love, without which no institutions of governance can function adequately for human well-being. This flow of love, however, should not be thought of simply as a tidal wave of emotion. It involves skill, imagination, and social inventiveness to solve seemingly intractable problems in such a way that the state’s propensity to use force to deal with evil becomes unnecessary.

Betsy Roper, Assistant Clerk, led the Meeting in introductions of all present.

The Clerk reminded Friends to write letters to their state representative and senator to urge them to co-sponsor the five bills included in the Massachusetts Indigenous Legislative Agenda. The Clerks Team wrote to the Representative and Senator representing 5 Longfellow Park. Information is available on the website and from the Friends for Racial Justice Committee.

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

Death of Amaryllis “Amy” Barrett Cooper**2023-010**

The Assistant Clerk announced our member Amaryllis “Amy” Barrett Cooper died on December 11, 2022. Born in Arlington, MA on October 27, 1930, Amy joined FMC on April 10, 1952 when her junior membership was transferred from Worcester (MA) Friends Meeting. She became an adult member of FMC on February 11, 1960. She is survived by her husband Thomas Lee Cooper of Santa Rosa, CA, whom she married in 1954. She had five children, 12 grandchildren, and a number of great grandchildren.

Death of October “Toby” Cullum Frost**2023-011**

The Assistant Clerk announced our member October “Toby” Cullum Frost died on January 22, 2023. Born in New Bedford, MA on March 10, 1933, Toby joined FMC on April 10, 1958. Her husband was Wesley T. Frost whom she married on February 2, 1955. A summer or early fall memorial is being planned in Lincoln, MA. Details will be shared with the community when plans are set.

Announcements**2023-012**

The Assistant Clerk announced that Meetings for Business in Worship are planned for April 16 (the third Sunday in April) and May 7 (the first Sunday in May), as well as on June 11 (the second Sunday in June). In addition, there will likely be adjourned meetings on May 21 and June 25. These dates will be included in the Weekly Calendar.

The Assistant Clerk informed the Meeting 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.

She asked Friends to hold all of us in this Meeting for Business in Worship, whether physically in the building or on Zoom, and the Meeting as a whole in the Light as we sit together to seek unity.

Announcement Regarding LGBTQ+ Working Group**2023-013**

Sandy Sweetnam, Clerk of Ministry & Counsel (M&C), reported the LGBTQ+ Working Group under their care is requesting to be laid down.

Report from LGBTQ+ Working Group**2023-014**

Jane Threefoot and Betsy Roper, for the LGBTQ+ Working Group, reported the Group was created under the care of M&C several years ago, when the issue of pronouns first came up. Over time, its purpose broadened to handling any LGBTQ-related concerns raised in the Meeting.

While the Group has done good work, Group members are tired and attendance has lapsed. The Group simply no longer has the energy to sustain the work of LGBTQ justice and is yearning for queer joy. So, though the Working Group has decided to lay itself down, it is creating a new affinity group—possibly named Queer Friends & Friends—under the care of Fellowship & Outreach with a focus on joy and fellowship. They hope this will bring fresh energy to queer life at FMC, and they hope others will join them.

They want to caution that it would be a mistake to lapse into complacency or self-congratulations, as homophobia and transphobia are NOT solved at, or gone from, FMC. To name just two examples of ongoing concerns, the Friends United Meeting Personnel Policy remains an unresolved, painful topic for many, and there is ongoing, non-malicious misgendering of many trans folks in the Meeting. In addition, there is the rising wave of transphobic and homophobic legislation across the country.

Should a specific LGBTQ-related problem arise that calls for dedicated focus, it will be taken to M&C. If something comes up, please reach out to Jane who will serve for now as a contact person for the community.

Jane listed the other members of the Working Group (Leo Bray, Chris Cucchiara, Elizabeth Dyer, Jane Jackson, Manou Joassaint, Chaz Kelsh, Richard Ristow, Charlie Silberstein, and Kim West). Friends shared appreciation for the Working Group and announced a concert to support the Queer Youth Assemble to be held at FMC on April 8 and that March 31st is the International Transgender Day of Visibility.

The Meeting accepted the report. The full report will appear in the March 12 issue of *Minutes & Reports*.

Cambridge Friends School Board of Trustees Request

2023-015

Patricia Huff, for the Cambridge Friends School (CFS) Board of Trustees, asked Friends for approval of a letter endorsing an application for a grant of \$3,000 from Salem Quarter Funds (administered by the Legacy Gifts Committee of New England Yearly Meeting) to Cathryn Oliva-Simmons, a member of Fresh Pond Monthly Meeting and Clerk of the Quaker Life and Outreach Committee of the CFS Board of Trustees. The funds would be used to continue an endeavor begun in 2021 to provide training for CFS staff, faculty, and families in Quaker faith and practice.

The Meeting approved the letter. It will be presented in the March 12 issue of *Minutes & Reports*.

Nominating Committee Report

2023-016

Chaz Kelsh, Clerk of Nominating Committee, announced Otavia Propper has resigned from her position of Co-Assistant Clerk of FMC.

Chaz in a second reading, also requested approval of the nomination of Camilla Dickinson to the First Day School/Youth Programs Committee through June 2025. Friends approved this nomination.

Second Reading of Financial Report for year ending June 30, 2022

2023-017

Jane Jackson, FMC Treasurer, presented the Financial Report for the Fiscal Year ending on June 30, 2022, at our February 12th Meeting for Business in Worship. Jane presented a summary of the Financial Report for its second reading. The Meeting accepted the Financial Report.

Seated Meals Proposal

2023-018

Ariel Maddocks, Co-Presiding Clerk, presented the Clerks Team's proposal for seated meals for some initial discernment to see if Meeting was ready to make this change, with the plan to set up a discernment process if there was not clear acceptance.

The proposal calls for the resumption of sit-down meals indoors (with an outdoor option if weather permits) if there is a sufficient number of volunteers. Initially, the goal would be to hold at least one simple lunch a month, with other groups or committees possibly holding other sit-down meals. The HEALthy Reopening Team (HEART) would work out the details for such events. Potluck meals would not be included for now, but HEART is asked to discern the right timing for reintroducing potlucks.

Friends approved this proposal. One Friend asked Meeting to include Zoom users at these meals. A member of HEART asked Friends' patience in implementing this plan, as several issues, including making sure we have a working dishwasher, need to be worked out. The Clerks Team's proposal will appear in the March 12 issue of *Minutes & Reports*.

Peace and Social Justice Good Friday Witness for Peace and Justice leaflet

2023-019

Michael Carey, Co-Clerk of the Peace and Social Justice Committee, presented a draft leaflet for distribution at this year's Good Friday Witness for Peace and Justice. Michael reported the vigil will begin in the Beacon Hill Friends House (BHFH) at 10 am on April 7, proceed to the Boston Common (this year near the Visitors Center and the new sculpture *The Embrace*) at 11 am, and return to BHFH for closing worship at 1pm, with a simple meal following.

He then presented the leaflet, which is focused on *The Embrace* sculpture and the activism of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King, for approval.

Michael listed the other members of the committee (Ray Aucoin, John Bach, Elizabeth Claggett-Borne, Suzanne Cooper, Peter Durigon, Don Gianniny, Ian Harrington, Skip Schiel, Charlie Silberstein, Jack Snyder, and Kim West), and the Meeting held them in the Light.

Friends made a few editing suggestions for the leaflet and encouraged the Committee to publicize the event. Meeting approved the leaflet with these changes. The text of the leaflet will appear in the March 12 issue of *Minutes & Reports*.

Peace and Social Justice Committee Query

2023-020

Elizabeth Claggett-Borne, for the Peace and Social Justice Committee, posed the following query to the Meeting for consideration:

Friends have a long tradition of witnessing to God's love in public. How do you imagine letting your life speak? In a world of perpetual militarism, racism, and climate destruction, how do we live out our 'active hope'?

Friends shared their responses to the query.

Closing Worship

Meeting for Business in Worship adjourned at 3:03 pm, with Friends intending to gather next in a Meeting for Business in Worship on Sunday, April 16, 2023, at 1:15 pm on Zoom and at 5 Longfellow Park.

Lynne Weiss, Co-Presiding Clerk
Ian Harrington, Recording Clerk

LGBTQ+ Working Group Report

The LGBTQ+ Working Group was created under the care of M&C several years ago, when the issue of pronouns first came up. After initial work, M&C realized that there were other issues that came along with this and ended up at an impasse. The LGBTQ+ Working Group was created to take all of that work up. Over time, its purpose broadened to handling any LGBTQ-related concerns raised in the Meeting.

While the Group has done good work, at this point, Working Group members are tired. Attendance has lapsed, and those who can still attend have little energy to push any new work forward. The lack of clear focus does not help - the Working Group either has to field random

requests, or it has to go search for problems to solve. And there are problems. Finding the places that hurt is painful work, especially for the many members who are ourselves queer.

Having everything LGBTQ-related shunted to the Working Group has also resulted in a muddle of inreach and outreach. On a given meeting of the Working Group, we may find ourselves both welcoming new queer attendees to FMC, and then immediately delving into FUM and other painful topics.

The Working Group simply no longer has the energy to sustain the work of LGBTQ justice. Also, we find ourselves yearning for queer joy. So, though the Working Group has decided to lay itself down, we are also creating a new LGBTQ+ Affinity Group - working name Queer Friends & Friends - under the care of Fellowship & Outreach. We hope that a focus on joy and fellowship will bring fresh energy to queer life at FMC. The details are still in progress, but we plan to announce some initial events soon, and we hope you will join us!

While we hope you are as excited for the new affinity group as we are, we want to caution that it would be a mistake to lapse into complacency or self-congratulations, as homophobia and transphobia are NOT solved at, or gone from, FMC. To name just two examples of ongoing concerns, FUM remains an unresolved, painful topic for many, and there is ongoing, non-malicious misgendering of many trans folks in the Meeting. And outside of our Meeting, there is the rising wave of transphobic and homophobic legislation across the country.

Should a specific LGBTQ-related problem arise that calls for dedicated focus, it would be taken to M&C for the creation of a new working group comprised of affinity group members and others. Additionally, for now, Jane Threefoot will serve as a contact person for the community. If something comes up, please reach out to them, and they will work with M&C on it.

Letter to Legacy Gifts Committee, March 12, 2023

Dear Members of the Legacy Gifts Committee, New England Yearly Meeting;

Friends Meeting at Cambridge supports Cathryn Oliva-Simmons' leading to provide training for Cambridge Friends School staff, faculty and families in Quaker Faith and Practice. She is submitting a second application for \$3,000 for the 2023-24 year from Salem Quarter funds to continue this endeavor begun in 2021. Cathryn is a member of Fresh Pond Meeting and currently is Clerk of the Quaker Life and Outreach Committee of Cambridge Friends School Board. Two members from Friends Meeting at Cambridge, Patricia Huff and Deborah Colgan, also serve on the Quaker Life and Outreach Committee and are active in this endeavor.

With the first grant Cathryn led the Quaker Life and Outreach Committee in presenting interactive forums on Quaker history, testimonies, and clerking practices. Supplementary reading materials for staff and prospective parents as well as library resources for faculty, families, and children were provided. In process is an expansion of information on Quaker practices and organizations on the school website and joint events with the CFS Family Association. The next step is to focus on the application of knowledge and understanding into daily practice.

The Quaker Life and Outreach Committee works very closely with David Tierney, Head of School, and the Cambridge Friends School Board of Trustees. Feedback is that staff and faculty are ready to implement what they have learned. Seasoned Friends Bruce Neumann from Fresh Pond Meeting and Frederick Martin from Beacon Hill Friends Meeting have served as trainers to increase staff and faculty awareness of the diversity of thought and practice among New England Friends.

All of the members of Friends Meeting at Cambridge are members of the Cambridge Friends School Corporation. Currently eight members of Friends Meeting at Cambridge serve on the Board of Trustees for Cambridge Friends School.

This letter of support was approved by Friends Meeting at Cambridge Monthly Meeting on Sunday, March 12, 2023.

In the Light, Friends Meeting at Cambridge Clerks Team: Ariel Maddocks, Thomas Sander, Lynne Weiss, Betsy Roper, Ian Harrington

Proposal to Resume Sit-Down Meals

Clerks Team is bringing a proposal to resume allowing sit-down meals to Meeting for Business in Worship. This proposal comes in response to an oft-stated desire to restore opportunities for strengthening our community through fellowship and as a result of numerous conversations and observations indicating a growing level of comfort with optional masking and with people eating and drinking in indoor settings. For example, we have often seen as many as forty to forty-five people attending coffee hours.

Our goal in bringing this proposal is to take the temperature of the community regarding resuming allowing people to sit at tables and eat together in the Friends Center. If it becomes clear that this proposal requires significant discussion, we will set it aside and consider a process to allow greater discernment, but we are bringing it forward this way at this time because we have several other questions that will require listening sessions in the months ahead. We recognize that time and energy to participate in multiple sessions for listening and discernment this Spring may be limited.

PROPOSAL: Does the Meeting support resuming sit-down meals indoors (with an outdoor option if weather permits) if there is a sufficient number of volunteers able and willing to take care of the planning, set up, cooking and clean up? Our goal initially would be to hold simple lunches at least one Sunday a month; other groups or committees might wish to hold other types of gatherings such as breakfasts, or dinners prior to Sunday evening events. If this proposal is approved, it will be up to HEART (HEALTHY Reopening Team) to work out the details regarding such events. Once the proposal is approved, HEART will begin working through the details and implementation can take place within a few weeks. These sit-down meals would NOT include potlucks for now but we would request that HEART discern the right timing for reintroducing potlucks.

Good Friday Witness for Peace and Justice Leaflet



Please join in our
**Good Friday Witness for
Peace and Justice
April 7, 2023**

The new sculpture (*The Embrace*) on the Boston Common reflects the commitment to spiritual values in our personal and social relationships. It echoes the sentiments of our annual Silent Vigil for Peace and Justice.

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King were activists throughout their lives. One of the most prominent leaders of the civil rights movement, Martin spoke about "*the giant triplets of racism, economic exploitation, and militarism*". He stated these are all interrelated and could not be separated. Coretta was one of the founders of the Committee for Sane Nuclear Policy in 1957 and a delegate for the Women's Strike for Peace to the seventeen-nation Disarmament Conference in Geneva, Switzerland in 1962. She spoke out against the war in Vietnam before her husband did, and she was active in the anti-apartheid movement in the 1980's.

She also reminded us that, "*Martin Luther King, Jr. said, 'Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.' I appeal to everyone who believes in Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream to make room at the table of brotherhood and sisterhood for lesbian and gay people.*"

Peace is not just between different nations, it is also within a family, a neighborhood, between different groups of people, and begins with the recognition of our common humanity.

Following the Kings, let us lead with love as we engage with issues of our time such as:

- Pressing for a negotiated peace in Ukraine and other wars,
- Reducing the military budget,
- Increasing social support for ending poverty,
- Ending racism,
- Eliminating discrimination due to sexual orientation or gender identity, and
- Continuing the work of healing and reparations for Indigenous People and descendants of formerly-enslaved people.

This witness was planned and organized by
Friends Meeting at Cambridge
(617-876-6883 • fmcquaker.org)

Here are organizations you can support to help peace and justice grow!

Racial Justice Organizations:

Black Lives Matter: BlackLivesMatter.com
BMA Ten Point: 617-445-2737
Boston Ujima Project
Community Change Inc: 617-523-0555
Jobs Not Jails: 617-491-3729
Union of Minority Neighborhoods: 617-942-7577
YMCA Cambridge: 617-661-9622
YWCA Boston: 617-585-5400

Environmental, Peace, and Justice Organizations:

350.org
Extinction Rebellion Massachusetts: XRMass.org
Global Zero: GlobalZero.org
Massachusetts Peace Action: 617-354-2169
Mothers Out Front: 617-520-4970
Sunrise Movement Boston: Facebook.com/SunriseBoston

Religious Organizations:

American Friends Service Committee: 617-661-6130
Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries: 617-244-3650
Fellowship of Reconciliation: 845-358-4601
Greater Boston Interfaith Organization: 857-350-2373
Jewish Peace Fellowship: 845-358-4601
Muslim Peace Fellowship: 215-635-0636
Pax Christi Massachusetts: 774-270-2442

We grieve for all violence in the name of religion and are mindful of the historic use of Good Friday as a day of violence against Jews.

Friends Meeting at Cambridge

5 Longfellow Park, Cambridge, MA 02138-4816 www.FMCQuaker.org

Co-Presiding Clerks: Ariel Maddocks, Tom Sander, Lynne Weiss

clerks@FMCQuaker.org

617-876-6883

Interim Coordinating Team: Deborah Colgan, Jan Nisenbaum, Tom Sander, Jonathan Vogel-Borne

ict@FMCQuaker.org

Amy Mercure, Office Manager

office@FMCQuaker.org

617-876-6883

Jan Nisenbaum, Staff Supervisor

facilities@FMCQuaker.org

617-354-3383

Patricia Wild, Interim First Day School/Youth Programs Coordinator

fdsypcoordinator@FMCQuaker.org

413-251-6512

To receive links to publications or to join the community listserv, email: office@FMCQuaker.org

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