

Midcoast Friends Meeting Minute. January 26, 2020

We at Midcoast Monthly Meeting reaffirm our Minute of April 21, 2019, which states:

“MINUTE REGARDING NEYM WITHHOLDING FUNDS TO FUM ON THE ISSUE OF DISCRIMINATION

At Midcoast Meeting of Friends we believe that the central premise of Quakerism is that the Light shines in every person. We fully support equality in all forms. It distresses us that FUM has a policy of discriminating against LBGQTQ persons and do not wish to support an organization that discriminates in any form. While acknowledging that in Africa the socio-cultural history is quite different, we nonetheless hold to our core values of equality as espoused by George Fox. We ask whether Listening Sessions might form the beginning of a reconciliation of this issue and hope to see change. Therefore we choose to support withholding funds from FUM as a symbolic gesture.”

We request that the FUM Board excise the language in its personnel policy regarding sexual ethics, namely, “It is expected however that intimate sexual behavior should be confined to traditional marriage, understood to be between one man and one woman,” and that FUM stop supporting discriminatory behavior.

Acknowledging the moral frailty of all of us, nonetheless we believe that doing otherwise causes grievous harm, moral injury, and imminent danger to LBGQTQ+ persons and their communities. Unless FUM changes its policy, we ask NEYM to withdraw from membership at its 2020 Annual Meeting. Our energy is best invested by partnering elsewhere, and working on behalf of the LBGQTQ+ community.

*Historical note: Colonization brought with it many harmful prejudices, including homophobia and discrimination against the existing LBGQTQ community. African history actually supported lgbtq societies and in Uganda late 1800’s the king was gay (King Mwangali Bugunga 1890s). Like other indigenous peoples they actually revered people of two spirits. Africa was colonized and that’s when “the norm” changed and prejudice started.