

Midcoast Monthly Meeting For Business

December 18, 2011

Following a period of silent worship, Clerk David Cadbury opened the meeting. Twelve Friends were present. Minutes of the November 20th Meeting for Business were approved. A report from Pastoral Care was added to the agenda.

Gifts and Leadings: An updated list of Officers, Representatives, and Committees for 2012 was distributed. Discussion followed concerning the duties and membership of some of the committees. The report was accepted as presented with further discussion of items in question to follow at the January Meeting for Business.

Hospitality: A New Year's Day observance and potluck is planned. Judith Imm and Suzy Hallett have been active in implementing this event. Members and Attenders are urged to participate. There will be a candle lighting ceremony during Meeting for Worship that day and this will be explained at the beginning of the Meeting so that those present will be comfortable with the observance.

Finance: Martin Imm reported that all committees are within their budget except for the operating expenses category of Finance and Administration. This was caused by a number of unexpected small expenditures. The budget allocation for this category may need to be increased for the next budget year. Pledges are being fulfilled at the expected rate at this point in the fiscal year. Deb Haviland reported a request from Quarterly Meeting to support their scholarship fund for a Ramallah student. It was decided that individual members of the meeting should be made aware of this need but that the Midcoast Meeting would not make a contribution.

Peace Center: A grant from the Maine Humanities Council was instrumental in making possible the four programs presented during the past year. The overall theme was Cultures and Conflicts. Between 30 and 36 people attended each event and the committee feels that it was successful in bringing awareness of these issues to the greater community. They hope to work with other groups, as with CONA this year, and have applied for another grant.

Pastoral Care: Carmen Lavertu reported about her contacts with several members and attenders who are in our thoughts at this time. Cynthia Thomas celebrated her 90th birthday and had planned to attend Meeting for Worship today but was not present. We hope to celebrate with her on January 1, 2012. Guy Marsden spoke movingly of his father at Meeting for Worship today and the possibility of suggesting this kind of expression for all who might wish to use it was discussed. George Waldman's mother died recently. Betty Zisk recently lost a daughter to cancer. Carmen is in contact with John Lacy and encouraged those present to take pictures of activities at the meetinghouse to share with Ernie Foust and Alice Lacy. Jean Crawford has undergone a second hip surgery and complications have occurred in her recovery. Deb Haviland suggested that we consider adding a "News and Notes" paragraph to the newsletter to keep everyone abreast of events in the lives of members and attenders. Karen Cadbury reported that several people left comments about Friendly Eights gatherings but no one had signed up. The possibility of having larger group gatherings at the meetinghouse, with small groups at separate tables, was discussed if Friendly Eights is not an appealing way to gather informally.

It was noted that Coastal Kids will be moving out of the meetinghouse on December 27 or 28. Possible ways to acknowledge our association with them were discussed. It was suggested that the Clerks write a letter to Coastal Kids expressing our appreciation for their cooperative attitude and conscientious use of our space. A version of this letter could also be sent to the Lincoln County Times as a public expression of our pleasure in the relationship.

The meeting closed with a period of silence.