

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting for Business of the Midcoast Friends Meeting
December 18, 2016. [The 18th Day of the Twelfth Month].**

1. James Matlack, Clerk, opened the Meeting for Business with a brief period of silent worship at 11:30am. He distributed an agenda and asked for any additions; the agenda was approved by consensus. 13 people attended Meeting for Worship this morning, including 2 children, and 9 participated in Meeting for Business.

2. The Minutes of the November Meeting for Business were approved.

3. Committee Reports.

A. Pastoral Care. Jean Crawford indicated that the minimum cost of flowers for ill members is \$50 including delivery, and with illnesses recently their budgeted amount for this purpose has been exhausted. Bruce Rockwood reported that at the present time there were sufficient funds in the Meeting checking account to allow us to authorize an additional \$50 for pastoral care at this time. It was suggested we also ask for contributions for this purpose should further circumstances require.

B. Hospitality. Rachel McGinness. Rachel requested that she be able to purchase a broom for cleaning up crumbs etc. after the Sunday social hour, etc., and this was approved. She mentioned that Anne Burt came last Sunday at Noon as scheduled and helped make cookies with those who remained after the social hour and her grandchildren. It was noted that Guy had sent out a notice that she would arrive at Noon but many of us forgot this, so we wish to acknowledge that and thank Anne for her help with this project and hope that future social activities like this will be better communicated.

C. Meeting House and Grounds. Guy Marsden. In Guy's absence, Bruce Rockwood reported that the Damariscotta Planning Board public hearing and possible action on the Meeting's solar farm project has been rescheduled from January 2 to January 9, 2017 at 7pm in the Damariscotta town hall. Hans Albee of ReVision Energy has sent letters to our neighbors as required by the site plan review process in town, and Bruce also delivered a copy to the Mormon Church next door since their only mailing address is in Utah.

D. Finance Committee and Treasurer Reports. Bruce Rockwood. Jim and Bruce have successfully completed the process of being able to review our records on-line at *The First*. He read out the current debits, credits and total balances in the checking account, and pointed out that pledges and other donations dated and posted before the end of the year would count as tax deductible contributions for the current tax year. He reported he had met last week with a potential new, local accountant, and has asked members of the committee to check her references provided. Her fees seem reasonable and if we go with her she would enable us to finally fulfill our objective of making monthly reports. She uses QuickBooks Online, and asks that if we employ her that our former accountant transfer records in that format to her. As David has stepped down as Treasurer and Jim has been acting treasurer until now, Bruce indicated he had agreed to serve as Treasurer

in the new fiscal year if that is acceptable to the Meeting. Karen Cadbury, Brewster Grace and Patty Seybold have agreed to join the finance committee in the New Year.

E. Ministry and Counsel. Sue Rockwood distributed a copy of the preliminary signups for 2017 committees, and pointed out where volunteers are needed for certain roles. Guy continues to distribute "e-blasts" periodically about events to compensate for the lack of a newsletter, so we thank Guy for that while encouraging someone to take up the newsletter if they feel able. Someone asked how many members and attenders do not have access to email at home, and Nancy Booth was mentioned as one so it was agreed someone should print and drop off or mail Guy's emails to Nancy's house. (If you know of others who lack email access please let us know.)

Christmas and New Year's Day are both on Sundays this year and we will have meeting for worship as usual, with the traditional lighting of candles at the New Year's Day meeting for worship.

We are continuing with the experiment of having volunteers prepare two soups on the first Sunday of each month so that soup and bread can be provided for all who attend as a social event after the rise of meeting, in lieu of a pot-luck meal. This makes it easier for people with families or busy schedules to be comfortable in staying for the monthly meal and social time together. **We still need volunteers for soup for New Year's Day (January)** and subsequent months.

Sue reported that she is coordinating with a local interfaith group of churches to prepare a joint program for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day at 7pm. Jim Matlack has agreed to speak for the Meeting at this event, and details on the program and venue will be posted on the calendar. Sue reminded people that when they add committee or other events to the posted calendar on the bulletin board, they should also notify her by email or phone so that she can post it on the on-line community calendar and make sure conflicts with renters or other users are avoided.

F. MOPC. Brewster Grace and Bill Hallett presented the film "Conspiracy" and a discussion of the historical context of the holocaust on November 30th at 7pm at the Meeting House. About 19 people attended and it was very well received. Polly Ulin suggested we show the film "Diplomacy" as part of this series of films on the theme of "War is Not the Answer." Sue has followed up on discussion in November by obtaining a large poster created by Zazzle for FCNL: "Love Thy Neighbor (No Exceptions)" and Guy is framing it for installation at the Meeting. Bumper stickers from FCNL with this phrase are available from her while supplies last, or can be ordered from FCNL: <https://www.fcnl.org/updates/love-thy-neighbor-376>

Coastal Senior College has two hosted two brown-bag luncheon discussions of serious recent films: "Denial" and "Moonlight" at the Meeting in December, and plans on doing so in the future, and Meeting members and attenders are welcome to attend these free CSC Events.

G. Other Business: As attendance today is small and we do not know yet what the new administration will do concerning the status of refugees and immigrants in the New Year, Jim suggested we put off discussion of proposals for sponsoring "sanctuaries" with other churches and groups until January or February. As Guy distributed in November with the

November Minutes, Sue Rockwood has provided links that help answer some questions about what sanctuary would entail, which are included here for your consideration: a religious news article about the call for sanctuary in schools and churches in reaction to the election: <http://religionnews.com/2016/11/18/sanctuary-churches-vow-to-shield-immigrants-from-trump-crackdown/> ; a petition https://action.groundswell-mvmt.org/petitions/we-pledge-to-resist-deportation-and-discrimination-through-sanctuary?e=midcoastcenter%40gmail.com&j=996726&jb=395&l=1128_HTML&mid=7225083&source=gsnov15&u=67173420 ; and here is a "sanctuary 101" article from Groundswell which explains more details and includes risks <http://www.groundswell-mvmt.org/sanctuary-101-how-churches-and-synagogues-are-stopping-deportations/>

4. ***Closing Worship*** Meeting for Business closed with a brief period of silent worship at 12:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce L. Rockwood,
Recording Clerk
12/21/16