

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting for Business of the Midcoast Friends Meeting
January 17, 2016.**

1. Clerk James Matlack opened the Meeting for Business with a brief period of silent worship at 11:30am. He distributed an agenda and asked for any additions, there were none and the agenda was approved by consensus.
2. The Minutes of the December Meeting for Business as previously posted on the web site were approved by consensus.

3. Committee Reports.

A. Pastoral Care and Emergency Fund Committees. Jean Crawford. The next Listening Session will be Thursday, January 28, 2016 from 3:30-5pm in the Meeting House, and is noted on the Meeting's web calendar. There will be a Meeting for Worship with Claire Darrow at her home in the Highlands in Topsham on Wednesday, February 10, 2016 at 10am. Let Jean Crawford, Carmen or Bruce know if you need directions or wish to car pool. The Book Sale to raise funds for the Emergency Fund will be 11 to 3pm on Saturday February 13th at the Meeting House. Donations of books, children's books and toys can be left in the Meeting House until then and volunteers are asked to come in to sort the donations on Friday, February 12th. Judith Imm and Carmen Lavertu are coordinating this. A sign-up sheet for volunteers to help out with this event was passed around during the Meeting for Business. We are seeking donations of breads and soups for a lunch during this book sale, for which donations would be requested, all to help the Emergency Fund. While the chair or co-chairs of Pastoral Care also serve on the *Emergency Fund Committee*, it is a separate committee of the Meeting, and as Carmen Lavertu is standing down from the *EFC* she asked that we seek volunteers from the Meeting at large to serve on the *EFC* in the future. Pastoral Care itself could do with additional members, and it was agreed that the Minutes would record this request so that members and attenders could be made aware of the request. Jean reported that George Chappell has moved but has the same email and phone number.

B. Finance Committee. Bruce Rockwood asked David Cadbury, Treasurer, to distribute a report he had prepared which listed the revised budget, revenue received to date as of December 31, 2015, and expenditure categories which are being used to document our finances. David is working with the bookkeeper to itemize receipts and expenditures in this format for future submission to the Meeting for Business on a regular basis. We will use this format as we review committee requests and plan for the new fiscal year. The committee is reviewing our concerns about the deficit budgets of the NEYM and how to approach them about this concern. We will provide a 1099 form for the contractor who provides our cleaning services, and are preparing thank you letters for contributions to the Meeting for IRS documentation purposes.

C. Ministry and Counsel. Sue Rockwood reported that M&C met on Friday January 15th and had a productive meeting. She distributed the preliminary list of committee members, asking that additions, corrections, and committee clerks be submitted to her so she can update the list. The Archive Committee was left off the initial sign-up lists, so volunteers

for that are also needed. Carmen Lavertu asked if we had a volunteer for the newsletter, and suggested a volunteer to be our representative to VQM would also be welcome. Diane Kirkman does not wish to do the newsletter but is willing to help someone else with getting started on producing it. Meanwhile, Minutes will continue to be submitted to the Clerk for review and then posted on the website by Guy Marsden.

The committee had a lively discussion and is still working out some details around a *worship sharing* session for the purpose of building community, which we had hoped to bring forward this month but we now expect to have details worked out by next Business Meeting. Sue pointed out that our worship sharing last year around the quality of worship was deep and fruitful. She promised the following links to descriptions of current worship sharing practice which Ministry & Counsel has found helpful and Guidelines for Worship Sharing by Patricia Loring, author of *Listening Spirituality*:

<https://www.quakercloud.org/cloud/maury-river-friends-meeting/pages/e-worship-sharing>

and Friends General Council's Worship Sharing Guidelines

http://www.fgcquaker.org/sites/www.fgcquaker.org/files/attachments/Worship%20Sharing%20Guidelines_1.pdf

We have found there are enough new members and attenders who have expressed an interest for us to begin organizing a *Quakerism 101* style of class. We are talking about when to hold it and ask anyone interested in helping to lead in some way to contact anyone on the committee (Patty, Polly, Sue, Brewster).

Sue has developed a children's program and curriculum for the First Sunday of each month when we also have potluck as a part of her MOPC Outreach, and parents are very supportive of this. We are organizing weekly child care for the other weeks of the month and it has a few gaps. We could use one more volunteer to cover one Sunday a month. We can revisit the needs of the program if families with children come more regularly. At present signing up to volunteer does not guarantee your help will be needed, but your willingness to help is welcome.

NEYM sent the Meeting a notice of a student grant program for students planning to attend college or graduate school who have a connection with Quakers. She has the application form and information and will make it available for anyone who is interested.

D. *Midcoast Outreach and Peace Center (MOPC)*. Karen Cadbury reported that the MOPC budget is on track with what was planned in terms of contributions and expenses, and she believes we will meet our budgeted goal for the MOPC annual appeal. She will have a complete report at the next meeting. Heather Burt has joined the Program Committee of MOPC. Brewster Grace reported that they have completed the complex application process for a grant to fund two human rights presentations for MOPC to the Maine Humanities Council. We are seeking \$1000 and will have to match that with our own funds. Planned are programs on the plight of refugees, focusing on Somali refugees in Maine, and on the plight of indigenous people globally, including those in Brazil and also the Penobscot people in Maine. Funding has been found for Sue Rockwood and one

other person to attend a weekend workshop on Outreach coordinated by NEYM at Woolman Hill, April 29 to May 1, 2016. Alex Ulin is back at Bates College and is interested in talking to the Meeting about her experiences in Nepal and elsewhere that the Meeting supported last year, and a Sunday presentation is being planned.

E. **Meeting House and Grounds.** Guy Marsden thanked Sue Rockwood for informing him of when general maintenance issues arise. Jim Matlack noted a donor had provided a working snow shovel for the Meeting.

F. **Hospitality.** Rachel McGinness has occasionally purchased cleaning supplies for the contractor when asked, using her Meeting credit card.

G. **Other Business/Concerns.** As the annual Camden Conference is the weekend of February 21, the next Meeting for Business will be February 28, 2016. On that date Jim Matlack during the social period after rise of Meeting will put up posters listing the major choices of issues being considered for priority by the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) and ask that members and attenders use gummed stars to mark four priorities they think are most important, in order to build a sense of this Meeting's view on these priorities for him to bring to the national FCNL priority determination meeting. Then after the social period we will convene for Meeting for Business.

Carmen Lavertu brought up the successful climate change discussion and how local efforts to address it can be pursued that Patty Seybold led after the Meeting social period last week, and which is planned for the second Sunday of each month. Ideas included the possibility of having the Meeting sponsor a solar farm, making use of our roof and/or fields. Sue Rockwood asked that any plans take into account the walking area and flowers. Bruce Rockwood has materials from his Environmental course with the Coastal Senior College on climate change which he will share with anyone interested, including links to web sites, just email him at clan.rockwood@gmail.com. *Friends Journal* this month focuses on topics related to Quaker participation in the political process from a number of viewpoints: <http://www.friendsjournal.org/2016/january-2016/>.

4. **Closing Worship** Meeting for Business closed with a brief period of silent worship at 12:50pm. The next Meeting for Business is scheduled for Sunday, February 28, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,
James Matlack, Clerk
Bruce L. Rockwood, Recording Clerk