

## **MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS JUNE 17, 2012**

After a period of silent worship Clerk Suzy Hallett opened the meeting with sixteen Friends present. Following an agenda review it was reported that John Lacy is moving to North Carolina.

The FINANCE COMMITTEE report was shared by Deb Haviland, Martin Imm, and Bill Spock. In the 2011-2012 budget year 100% of pledges by meeting members were paid in full. When the budget year ended on May 31<sup>st</sup>, overall contributions were down by roughly \$500 but the total budget had a surplus of \$1,100 for the year.

In the proposed BUDGET for 2012-2013 \$2,000 will be drawn from Reserves representing 1.7% of the corpus. Some small changes were noted—e.g. AFSC will receive \$400 rather than \$600. Considerable discussion focused upon the annual contribution—some regard it as an assessment--given to New England Yearly Meeting. Uncertainty as to how this contribution should be computed arose from the varied definitions as to who should be counted as “current members” or “active members” or “resident members” of the meeting. Budget Committee settled on a figure of \$4,200 for the coming year—down from \$4,800. In the end the proposed budget for 2012-2013 was APPROVED.

A letter to solicit annual donations will soon go out to meeting members with a footnote noting that bequests to the Midcoast Meeting would be welcome and if given, will be handled as Endowment Funds in future years.

A request for financial support from Ramallah Friends School in Palestine will be taken up more fully at the July meeting for business.

A notice from New England Yearly Meeting alerted everyone to the scholarship support available to meeting members who attend annual sessions August 4-11 in Rhode Island.

The balance of the meeting was devoted to discussion of an informal proposal that the meeting explore the possibility of sharing the meeting house with the local Unitarian Universalist congregation so that their worship services might also be held at the meeting house. The UU's lost their building to fire and currently gather for their services in cramped, borrowed space.

A range of views and concerns were expressed regarding such a possible sharing scheme. Many Friends welcomed in the abstract the goal of sharing the meeting house with a local group of like-minded Unitarians who have many values and issue concerns in common with Friends. On the other hand practical arrangements for time-sharing in the meeting house seemed a formidable challenge—especially if both services were intended to be held on Sunday morning. Perhaps the Unitarians would consider holding their service on Sunday afternoon or Sunday evening.

In the end it was agreed to invite the Unitarians to join Midcoast members at our next regular pot-luck lunch (July 1). This would enable the UU's to get acquainted both with meeting members and with the meeting house. The shared meal would be followed by a focused discussion at which potential arrangements for accommodating the Unitarian services at the meeting house can be examined in detail—especially whatever cautions and concerns members of the meeting wish to bring to the conversation.

SUZY HALLETT --- Clerk JIM MATLACK --- Recording Clerk