

MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS

MARCH 17, 2019

Ten Friends were gathered when Clerk Guy Marsden asked to open the meeting with a period of silent worship. The Minutes of the February Meeting for Business were approved.

MINISTRY AND COUNSEL A request from Winthrop Center Meeting for a transfer of membership for Diane Dicranian and Jacquie Powers was approved.

The State of Society Report for 2018 is in preparation. Brewster Grace will send reminders to committee heads who have not yet submitted text. A full text should be ready by March 29th.

The experiment with Name Badges seems to be a success so far. There was discussion about remounting a painting by Eberhart Schmit in the social room. This led to consideration of preparing a history of the meeting membership to complement the documentation of the building of the meeting house.

The 2018 Statistical Report on meeting membership was submitted by Diane Kirkman. Deep appreciation was expressed for Diane's faithful service as Recorder as she lays down the role. A volunteer is urgently needed to take up the tasks of Recorder. Responsibilities of the position will be put out in the newsletter. Discussion followed about non-resident members, some of whom have lost connection with the meeting but still remain on our records. Efforts will be made to connect and/or remove them from the statistical report.

FINANCE Bruce Rockwood presented and explained a Budget Report as of March 15th. A shift in the software used to track the budget will reduce the cost of doing so. Gratitude was expressed to Barb Gibson for handling the Quick-Books record keeping. Expenses in the current budget were consistent with estimates except for higher outlays for the building due to the energy audit. The meeting is in good financial health. Committees are asked to submit budget estimates for the coming year.

A discussion ensued about having an Contingency Fund in the budget. At present there are occasional withdraws from Savings and specific fund-raising to meet special needs. Larger overall contributions from members would be most welcome.

One book: "Silence and Witness: The Quaker Tradition" lent out for the Quakerism 101 series has not yet been returned. The first showing of the "Quaker Speaks" video series was well attended and will continue on the second Sundays of each month.

Erin, our Sunday child-care helper may not continue in the coming year as she starts her senior year. If she cannot do so, a gift should be given to convey our appreciation.

PASTORAL CARE Outreach to several meeting members was noted. In one case there is a need for immediate financial assistance. The meeting previously had an Emergency Fund for such contingencies. After being depleted twice it was not renewed as a Budget item. Some \$300 is now available. After discussion it was agreed not to put an Emergency Fund line in the budget. Focused fund-raising will be held to meet special needs as they arise. The \$300 may also be distributed by the Pastoral Care Committee. Sue Rockwood explained that a local ecumenical

Committee to Prevent Homelessness has funds available upon request as well as a Social Worker who can assist with further referrals.

MIDCOAST OUTREACH AND PEACE COMMITTEE Sue Rockwood noted that the Ecumenical Food Pantry will now open two evenings each month. Volunteers to staff these sessions are needed.

The New England Yearly Meeting Legacy Committee has an application for funding from Andy Burt. Gretchen Hull has applied for a grant from the Lyman Fund.

Daniel Hall proposed that the meeting sponsor a Racism Skills-Building Workshop . He has training and experience to lead such a session. It would help participants confront the legacy of white-supremacy in our history and culture. Attention would be given to concerns of the Native Americans in Maine. The workshop would be intended for Quakers but might be expanded to include Vassalboro and Falmouth Quarterly Meeting Friends. A likely time for the workshop would be May or June. Planning will go forward with Daniel in consultation with other Friends.