

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting for Business of the Midcoast Friends Meeting
November 22, 2015.**

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. The topic of VQM's appeal for support for its annual scholarship for a student at Ramallah Friends School was added to "other business/concerns" and the agenda was approved with this addition. It was explained that due to the absence of a newsletter this month, that the Minutes of the October Meeting for Business, together with those of this November Meeting for Business, will be posted on the web site and distributed electronically for review and approval at the December 20, 2015 Meeting for Business. Deborah Haviland asked if comments could be submitted by those who cannot come in December, and Matlack said these could be sent to the clerk for review at the December meeting.

2. Committee Reports.

A. *Pastoral Care.* Jean Crawford reported on on-going projects: (1.) Visits with meeting for worship with Claire Darrow and her family at the Highlands. (2.) The third listening workshop was held this past Thursday and the next will be December 17th. (3.) The need to have contact maintained with elderly members unable to get out of the house easily was discussed. Nancy Booth and Cynthia Thomas both will continue to require support and members are encouraged to visit with them. With respect to the status of the Emergency Fund, its budget and financial goals were discussed and Jean distributed a report prepared for the Meeting's consideration. The distinction between extreme emergencies facing individuals, and emergency expenses for unanticipated meeting requirements such as the recent failed pump, was explained. Bruce Rockwood offered to have the finance committee meet with the emergency fund committee in the near future to discuss fundraising strategies for the short term, while we work on longer term preparation of a sustainable budget for the meeting as a whole in the next fiscal year.

B. *Finance Committee.* Bruce Rockwood reported on the work of the Finance Committee that met Friday, November 20, 2015 at the Meeting House. The deficit of \$3,811 in the revised budget for the current fiscal year that was approved in October will be covered from the \$5,000 returned from the 4 Winds Development Fund, as approved in the July, 2015 Meeting for Business. The balance from 4 Winds will be retained in the Meeting checking account until we complete the plans for the FY 2016-17 budget, after which we will either reinvest it or apply it to the current needs of the Meeting. David Cadbury, Treasurer compared pledges and receipts from the prior two years at this time with where we are now; receipts are running about \$2,000 behind where we were in the past at this time. We ask that members make an effort to fulfill their pledges or make contributions to help with cash flow and ensure our sustainability. Karen Cadbury noted that the annual pledge letter went out in June, the MOPC annual pledge letter will go out in early December, and we will send a reminder letter to the Meeting in March to help finish out the current fiscal year. MOPC's budget report together with its two year program report will be submitted at the December Meeting for Business. Receipts and expenditures for MOPC are in balance, and Karen will present a detailed report in December. Other issues discussed included the concerns of the emergency fund; the

annual assessment for support of New England Yearly Meeting; and requests for contributions from various charities, such as FCNL, AFSC, the Ecumenical Food Pantry, and Friends Camp. The finance committee noted that the revised budget includes the annual payment to NEYM, which we will make, while the committee plans to write the NEYM to ask them to take steps to achieving a balanced budget, since the plans on their webs site indicate their current projection of a deficit budget for the next five years. Members are encouraged to support these other groups individually to the best of their ability and according to their leadings. Sue Rockwood said she would put the requests we receive in a basket on her desk for members to review as they see fit.

C. Meeting House and Grounds. Steve Gorry and Guy Marsden reported. Bill Hallett has had to resign from the committee, and volunteers are welcome to join. Steve plans to put together a binder or notebook with what they have learned about the regular maintenance and longer term projects or repairs that need to be addressed, so that new members do not have to "reinvent the wheel" when they join the committee. He suggested a copy of it could be kept in the Meeting, perhaps with the archives. Guy pointed out a lighting fixture that was failing in the room as we met as an example of the kind of minor regular repairs he takes care of. The meeting thanked Guy for this work, and Steve for his work in preparing the Peace Pole. Steve has met someone who has provided with him the Wabanaki language for "May Peace Prevail on Earth" to add to our Peace Pole.

D. Hospitality. Rachel McGinness. Rachel said she has one new member and otherwise had no report this time.

E. Ministry and Counsel. Sue Rockwood. Sue reported that committee sign-up sheets have been available for several weeks and remain available. Those in other positions will be contacted by Jim Matlack. In January each committee will be contacted and asked to meet and choose a clerk. Sue has been volunteering for the Diaper Drive coordinated among the supporting churches of the Ecumenical Food Pantry. So far 42 children are receiving diapers through this process. Also connected with this church group is a social worker who comes each Tuesday to the Food Bank, and who would be available to help screen people in need from our Meeting and connect them with resources available in Lincoln County and Maine. This might be one way to meet some of the challenges that our emergency fund committee tries to address. The process leaves it up to each church whether to contribute a set amount of money each year, or simply participate in considering emailed requests for support if a short term emergency comes up such as preventing someone from becoming homeless by providing short term support such as a first and last month's rent and deposit. This is something the emergency fund and finance committee members can look into in developing future plans.

Sue noted that the Meeting needs to decide on how to handle the newsletter, either by a volunteer, or hiring someone, or by replacing it with an email and posting of monthly minutes with appended announcements.

Ministry and Counsel have received a letter of transmittal of membership of Bruce, Susan and Alexander Rockwood from the Millville Monthly Meeting in Pennsylvania. Alianne's

membership will remain in Millville until she turns 18 and decides whether to remain a member there or here, as she has been active in Young Friends in PYM for many years. The Meeting for Business accepted and approved the letter of transmittal and welcomed the Rockwoods as members of the Midcoast Friends Meeting.

Addressing communication and trust issues troubling the Meeting, M&C is in the process of thinking about ways to move forward. One of their early leanings is to begin this by having a called worship sharing program for the entire meeting. Because of the holidays, they plan to hold this sometime in January. M&C will engage others in planning this. Deborah Haviland asked about the idea of having a facilitator, and Sue Rockwood indicated that M&C had heard this suggestion and was considering it. It was pointed out that NEYM has several possible facilitators who might be available.

F. *Midcoast Outreach and Peace Center (MOPC)*. As Karen Cadbury is out of town this week, Sue Rockwood reported that we had several rentals last week, and a family is renting the Meeting House for its Thanksgiving dinner this Thursday because it is handicapped accessible. The two year review report for MOPC will be presented at the December Meeting for Business. On December 12 a small local preschool will conduct a program around a spiral made of winter greens in the worship room, and invites members of the meeting to attend. Last year they left us some greens for Christmas decorations, and they plan on doing so again this year. Sue also reported that she has put tic-removal spoons in the First Aid Kit, and extra spoons are available on her desk for anyone who wants to take one.

G. *Other Business/Concerns*. Clerk Jim Matlack distributed printed copies of the NEYM statement on the Paris attacks. It is available on-line here:

<http://neym.org/news/choosing-love-season-fear-new-england-quakers-respond-paris-attacks> The letter requesting support for Ramallah Friends School will be available on Sue Rockwood's desk with other fund requests. Andy Burt, Carmen Lavertu and others discussed the sadly misguided and fearful response of some in positions of power in this country about the needs of Syrian refugees. There will be a vigil in Augusta this coming Wednesday to indicate support for welcoming refugees in this country. Concerned residents of Maine from various organizations and backgrounds of faith, class, race, gender, ability, age, and political leaning are invited. It will be November 25, 2015, 12PM - 1PM on the sidewalk in front of Blaine House and State Capital Building, Augusta, Maine. For those interested in helping Syrian refugees in particular, there is a non-profit called NuDay Syria that is available: <http://www.nudaysyria.net/home.html> ; <https://www.facebook.com/MaineSyriaRelief/> ; and <http://bangordailynews.com/2015/09/20/news/midcoast/maine-woman-helps-syrians-by-collecting-items-for-relief-work/> .

3. **Closing Worship** Meeting for Business closed with a brief period of silent worship. The next Meeting for Business is scheduled for Sunday, December 20, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

James Matlack, Clerk

Bruce L. Rockwood, Recording Clerk