

MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS

SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

Clerk Guy Marsden convened the on-line meeting with a period of silent worship. The Agenda was reviewed the the Minutes of the August Business Meeting were approved.

PASTORAL CARE Jean Crawford reported on the ongoing Book Group which is reading John Meacham's His Truth Is Marching On, a study of the life and service of John Lewis. Sharing among participants has been deep and meaningful. After one more session on the Meacham book a new one will be chosen, possibly Caste by Isabell Wilkerson. Friends are invited to join in further meetings of the group.

Listening Sessions have been rewarding for those taking part. Leadership in the coming sessions will rotate among participants.

Pastoral Care Committee will meet on Thursday, September 24th.

MEETING HOUSE AND GROUNDS Guy Marsden shared an estimate from a gardener Tonia Clark for the cost of preparing garden areas around the meeting house for the coming winter. Nancy Holmes has been the major caretaker of the gardens through several years of dedicated labor. She expressed a concern that self-seeding herbs and other varieties that she has tended not be uprooted in preparation for winter. After discussion it was decided to have professional help to "put the gardens to bed" but under Nancy's guidance. Further decisions about care of the gardens next year will be made as Spring, 2021 comes on. Deep appreciation was expressed for Nancy's caring labors and successful cultivation to improve garden areas.

MINISTRY AND COUNSEL Zoom worship sessions are likely to continue for months. Guy has asked for volunteers to take turns "clerking" the on-line sessions—e.g. recognizing speakers in the social hour after worship. Guy was praised for his leadership in the new format for worship together.

Committee Sign-ups As was done last year, a full committee list will be sent out to all members with a request to indicate in response whether the member is willing to continue to serve in their present assignments and/or whether they seek a change. Friends will be encouraged to serve as led. This survey will be sent out in October.

In-Person Worship at the Meeting House A full discussion was held on this topic as informed by the Ministry and Counsel Meeting Minutes. A variety of schemes to enable six attenders to gather for worship in the meeting room were considered. The idea that small committees might also meet face-to-face in the meeting house was also mentioned.

One factor in all cases of in-person sessions is that our elderly cleaning person will have to do additional work to sanitize the interior and will need suitable Personal Protective Equipment to ward off infection.

There are a number of requirements to enable a six-person portion of Sunday worship to be in the meeting room. Participants will have to sign up in advance and abide by mask and spaced seating guidelines. Guy will be one of the six so that he can set up the sound system and remote

computer/projector. Sue will work the zoom controls. A volunteer by rotation will “clerk” the overall worship and social time. One strong reason to attempt the split zoom/in-person worship is to be able to include a number of Friends who prefer not to join on zoom. It is hoped that they may be lured back to corporate worship on Sundays. A broad invitation should be sent out to encourage the widest possible participation.

Clarity emerged to experiment with the split session for Sunday worship and to learn from the experience before making a long-term commitment to it. The first worship session to be held in the shared zoom/in—person format will be on October 18th.

NEW CLERK A message will go out to all members indicating that Guy wishes to step down as Clerk of the meeting. Members will be asked to respond suggesting both what qualities they look for in a Clerk and, most important, who among current meeting membership should be considered for service as the new Clerk.