

**FIFTEENTH STREET MONTHLY MEETING
RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS**

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April 15, 2018

Dear Friends,

In the last quarter, Fifteenth Street Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met every First Day for two Meetings for Worship, one at 9:30AM and the other at 11AM. We continue to hold First Day School every First day at 11AM. We also have Bible Study every second First day at 11AM. We continued our new time and transition from Meeting for Worship to Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business starting at 12PM holding meetings on Second Month 11, 2018 at 12 PM, Third Month 11, 2018 at 12PM and Fourth Month 8, 2018 at 12PM.

Although Since our last report, our membership has not changed, we have had a number of Friends related to the meeting pass, including members of the meetings parents and children. We note that our community is suffering from a number of losses, which way heavily on the community.

In February, we hosted the Meeting for Discernment with an attendance of over 70 Friends. In March we the Peace and Social Justice Committee and the Arts committee Co-sponsored the play "This Evil Thing" A One-Man Play by Michael Mears. The play was well attended.

Much of our work in our Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business focused on the situation Friends Seminary and Ben Frisch. In March we hosted a listening session for 15th Street members of the Care Relationship Committee. We sent two minutes to Friends Seminary and the Care Relationship Committee. We will host a Meeting for Worship on April 27 at 6:30 members of the Quarter and the School Community are invited as noted in the following minute.

2018-4-11: The Clerk reads aloud a five-page summary of the Friends' Seminary Care-Relationship Committee's deliberations and explanations around the dismissal of Brooklyn Friend Ben Frisch as well as minutes from the Friends' Seminary Board of Trustees' executive committee, and the Morningside and Brooklyn Monthly Meetings.

The Meeting understands the difficulty of all involved. We note that the care-relationship committee and the Friends' Seminary Board of Trustees are comprised of many members of the Friends community and work with all members of the school community to institute Friends' values at the school.

In an effort to support the employment of our values at the school, we shall hold a meeting for worship. We invite students, parents, faculty, and quarterly-meeting members to attend a worship concerning the Ben Frisch situation, as we wish to build stronger ties between our communities. We invite those in support of Ben as well as

those who feel victimized by the event to attend. We note the difficulties that have preceded the relationship but wish to work to improve it. Individual Friends are encouraged to follow the EPPP's to have their concerns heard.

We also ask all members of the Friends' Seminary Board of Trustees, especially the Friends on the board, to attend the New York Quarterly Meeting next week to best explain the Ben Frisch release from employment and tangential events around the matter to the quarterly meeting.

We ask the Friends' Seminary Board of Trustees to ensure that the students, faculty, and alumni petitions are heard and responded to in a timely manner, noting that many students will graduate and become alumni in two months.

We ask the Friends' Seminary Board of Trustees to articulate guidelines for how self-expression may be fostered without injuring others and how those statements will be governed if broken and to ensure restorative justice and reconciliation practices are employed before releasing faculty from service and students from school.

We join with Brooklyn Monthly Meetings and re-request that the Friends Seminary Board of Trustees share with the Care Relationship Committee, in a confidential manner, the full rationale and underlying facts justifying the release-from-service of Ben Frisch. If necessary, we request that the members of the Care Relationship Committee sign a non-disclosure agreement. It is our expectation that the full Friends' Seminary Board of Trustees exercise the appropriate oversight for major decisions in accordance with Friends' values and the Essential Principles, Practices, and Procedures.

We ask all members of the 15th Street Meeting, the Quarterly Meeting, and the School community to be cautious of how we speak, so as not to slander and injure others.

We ask all members of the meeting and the school community to hold each other and Ben Frisch in the light as we deal with this difficult situation.

One Friend stands aside.

In Friendship,

Glenn Josey
Clerk, Fifteenth Street Monthly Meeting, 2018