

20211017MorningsideMonthlyMeetingReport

Morningside Monthly Meeting Report to the New York Quarterly Meeting October 17, 2021

1. Morningside Monthly Meeting continues to hold meeting for worship each first day at 11 a.m. We meet in blended worship, with some Friends attending via Zoom, while others gather in person in Riverside Church, where the meeting room also joins on Zoom. We continue to hold the concern of how we maintain and strengthen our community while separated physically.
2. Meeting for Children is not currently convening.
3. Meeting for Worship with a concern for business was held in blended meeting via Zoom and in person at Riverside Church on September 5th and October 3rd, and a called meeting for business on October 12th (virtual only). The next meeting for business will convene on November 7th.
4. Bible study continues to meet on the second Saturday of each month at 1 p.m., a virtual gathering.
5. Moving with Spirit last met in blended worship in person/via Zoom in June; it will next convene in January 2022.
6. Members of Morningside Meeting participated in the Protect Our Ocean rally and march held on Saturday, October 2nd.
7. The Racial Justice Study Group met on September 26th. The study group is open to all, focusing us on interrogating and understanding ways that white supremacy and structural racism have permeated and driven all aspects of life and history in the United States.
8. Morningside is continuing its monthly workshop series: a year-long exploration of NYQM's *Faith and Practice*, focused with queries on how *Faith and Practice* might challenge the Meeting to be more aware of and committed to dismantling racism within Morningside, and how implicit or explicit racial bias might underpin some of our structures. The overarching goal of this work is to deepen Morningside's commitment to building a beloved learning community.
9. The NYQM working group, Concern for Quaker Living (CQL) has reported on a survey of Quakers across the Quarter. This group, open to any interested person in our Quarter, has been meeting regularly for more than six years in discernment around issues of helping our members stay in NYC if they want to and of fostering conversations of mutual care across Meeting lines. The results of an in-depth survey suggest four areas of concern: a. Create a detailed proposal of what could be developed to support older Friends' housing needs. b. Develop and maintain relationships between monthly meetings and one or two service providers for older people; c. Grow a more cohesive capacity to communicate with individual NYC Friends, and d. Foster a culture of trust.

*Morningside Meeting adds its sympathy and encouragement to the pursuit of these goals. This endorsement does not imply any recommendation for the use of the Quarterly Meeting resources. Bart Dominus is opposed.

10. *Morningside Meeting endorses the following proposal: to ask the Quarter to consider a change in its policies that would allow the Quarter to apportion a part of its budget to the support of Witness to our Testimonies, particularly the Testimony on Equality. It is proposed that a new line be created in the budget for this purpose, with a designated portion of NYQM's annual income assigned to it. While the administrative mechanism would be for the Quarterly Meeting to determine, we suggest that a small committee be appointed to manage the funds' complete dispersal by the end of each calendar year. The amount to be shared would be agreed upon at every January's Quarterly Meeting, based on projections of NYQM's income and needs for the coming year. We also suggest that priority be given to projects in which members and attenders of the Quarter are active.

11. Morningside Meeting records with regret the death of our Friend John Slater.

Jane Alexandre
Clerk
Morningside Monthly Meeting