

## 2023.1.15 Brooklyn Monthly Meeting Report

We have continued to gather for worship at our regular times via zoom technology and in person. We have two distinct meetings on Sundays at 9:00am - one in person and one on zoom. We have a hybrid meeting on Sundays at 11:00am. We meet via zoom on Tuesdays at 6:30pm. We are all grateful to gather in worship in the ways that we can. In person worship at 11am has a special seating section seating for masked folks. The rest of the seating is mask optional.

The introduction of equipment to enable hybrid meetings has made plain there are strong attachments to the various ways we work and at times has felt divisive. Conceived as an attempt to bring together our on-line and in-person worship communities, we are now in a trial period to test those waters. A trio of older Friends is combining with a trio of younger Friends to make this happen.

To discern way forward we created an ad hoc committee convened by Ministry and Counsel, with appropriate participation by other committees or friends who want to assist in guiding us to clarity on the difficult questions raised by the use of technology in our Meeting, especially questions relating to spirituality. We continue to discern on this topic.

We held three hybrid meetings for worship with a concern for business this past quarter.

Brooklyn Monthly Meeting is pursuing separate incorporation from the Quarter.

We embarked on a different clerking model this year, establishing a committee of co-clerks to manage the task of clerking Brooklyn Meeting. Jolene Festa, Jonathan Fluck and Julie Glynn began as co-clerks in January 2022, shepherded by Joan Malin, former clerk. Marna Herrity was nominated and approved as a fourth co-clerk in September 2022. Andrew Moran was nominated and approved in December 2022.

In November our Treasurer noted that our Meeting's financial situation merits consideration by the community as a whole, and held a called meeting to discuss the issue in December. Some recommended steps were set forth.

Friends gathered on December 17<sup>th</sup> for a wonderful holiday celebration event that included decorating cookies, a scrumptious meal, Santa distributing gifts to children in attendance, and a beautiful harp performance.

Heather Buchan's membership was approved in December.

We support the Quarter's minute to establish a Witness Committee and look forward to this committee beginning its important work. Jonathan Fluck will serve on this committee for our Meeting.

Our ongoing activities, including Community Dinner, and our newsletter, continue. We thank the Mary McDowell Friends School students for making a beautiful welcome sign and hand decorated

goody bags to give to our guests at the December 25<sup>th</sup> Community Dinner. Our Adult Education Committee held several in-person seminars this summer and fall. First Day School and Childcare are up and running again; Social Hour was in the playground area through the summer, but is now taking place again in the social hall. Many friends are also participating in Quaker activities across the NY Yearly meeting.

Throughout all of these changes our communications committee has done yeoman's work to keep us all informed of the changes and the happenings of our beloved community

In spirit,

Jolene Festa, Jonathan Fluck, Julie Glynn, Marna Herrity, Andrew Moran, co-clerks

January 2023