



Middlebury Friends Meeting

December/
January
2021-22

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Calendar of Events

Minutes of Nov 21, 2021

Covid Policy Statement

DECEMBER 2021

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4 ●
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 ○
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

JANUARY 2022

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
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2 ●	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 ○	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

“We but mirror the world. All the tendencies present in the outer world are to be found in the world of our body. If we could change ourselves, the tendencies in the world would also change. As a man changes his own nature, so does the attitude of the world change towards him. This is the divine mystery supreme. A wonderful thing it is and the source of our happiness. We need not wait to see what others do.”

— MAHATMA GANDHI

QUAKER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Every First Day (Sunday)	9 - 9:45 AM 10 AM	First Day School Meeting for Worship via Zoom If you need the Zoom link, contact Ed at edmund.m.harris@gmail.com
Sat/Sun Dec 4 & 5		Quarterly Meeting hosted by Zoom by the Putney Friends
Sun Dec 5	1:30	Friendly Forum on Spiritual Hospitality facilitated by John Cook and Leigh Harder (Worship and Study Committee)
Mon Dec 13	4 PM	Earthcare Committee via Zoom
Wed Dec 15	7:30 PM	Quaker Women's Group via Zoom — All Quaker women welcome
Sun Dec 19	2 PM	Sunday, Holiday Celebration outside at the Rosenberg's, bonfire, singing and exchange of baked goodies
Sun Jan 23	3 PM	State of the Society Meeting - via Zoom
Sun Jan 30	11:30 AM	Friendly Forum on Elements of Quakerism class (discussion and follow up, open to all)

Middlebury Friends Meeting

Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

21 November, 2021

Zoom and in person

Clerking: Joe Garren

Recording Clerk: Leigh Harder (for Grace Seale)

Present were Joe Garren, Ruah Swennerfelt, Louis Cox, Karen Way, Douglas Way, Grace McGrath, Laura Assemily, Karen Nawn-Fahey, Jean Rosenberg, Molly Anderson, John Cook, Don Peabody, Lianna Tennal, Fran Putnam, Spence Putnam, Cheryl Mitchell, Brud Leedam, and Leigh Harder.

21:11:01 Opening Worship

Following a time of silence, Joe Garren read a selection from *Friends for 300 Years* by Howard Brinton.

21:11:02 Agenda Review

The agenda was briefly reviewed and accepted.

21:11:03 Review of Minutes

The minutes for the 17 October Meeting for Business were reviewed and approved.

21:11:04 Co-Clerks Report

1] Passage of the Month

Joe shared a portion of the passage of the month from the draft chapter of Ministry and Counsel (NEYM, *Faith and Practice*). This is for our monthly meeting and applicable to the Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business, the Worship and Study Committee, and the Pastoral Care Committee.

From paragraph 12:

“In Friends’ worship there is an interplay between gathered silence and vocal ministry. M&C encourages spiritually-grounded ministry and engages with Friends in whom it is a consistent gift. It may need to offer loving personal reminders to Friends of the purpose of space between messages, the importance of silence to Quaker practice, or of too-frequent speaking or singing by an individual. Ministry & Counsel can guide the community in becoming sensitive to cues that an offering of sung ministry may or may not be an invitation for other worshippers to join in. It also encourages Friends who may be reticent to speak to respond to the Spirit’s prompting to offer vocal ministry.”

2] NEYM Bayard Rustin Fund for Support and Action (approved Sessions 2021)

The intention of the new fund is to “support LGBTQIA+ organizations in East Africa, Central and South America, India, the Caribbean, and North America.” The body also

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approved allowing monthly meetings to redirect (to this fund) the portion of their Yearly Meeting contribution which would otherwise go to Friends United Meeting. This redirection will “assist monthly meetings in their witness as well as target support to initiatives that resist current anti-trans youth legislation by increasing the visibility of efforts and opportunities for collaboration across NEYM.” The Fund is open now and ready to receive contributions from monthly meetings and individuals. Do we want to send our FUM contribution to this Fund

There was discussion and clarification about MFM response to this fund as well as individuals options for support and contribution. This fund was approved at sessions 2021. From this time forward, monthly meetings who wish to prevent any part of their contributions to the Yearly Meeting from going to Friends United Meeting should now send in their full contribution, but indicate in a letter to the Treasurer and Accounts Manager that they wish to have the applicable percentage (currently 1.4%) redirected to the Rustin Fund. After discussion, it was the sense of the meeting that this issue should be brought back to the January business meeting for further discussion. Jean requested that Joe send out information about this fund to the listserv prior to the January business meeting.

21:11:05 Treasurer’s and Finance Committee Reports

1] Laura Assermily reported:

All statements in this report are as of Nov 21, 2021. From Oct 18, 2021 through Nov 21, 2021, the Meeting had robust member donations of \$6,125 in response to our call to for end of year donations on which we depend to meet benevolences paid in Nov. We also had \$14 in book sales organized by our librarians to cull our collection. From Oct 18, 2021 through Nov 21, 2021 the Meeting expenditures totaled \$4,404.70 including \$3,925 for the bulk of our benevolences, \$133.33 for Children’s Program Coordinator, \$158.89 for Zoom, \$24.37 for First Day materials, \$38.11 for worship and study materials, and \$125 for the 2021 directory printing (50 copies). When these checks clear, the balance in the checking account will be \$15,687.11 The meeting will need to determine how it wants to designate the \$200 allocated as a 2021 benevolence for “warming shelter/transitional housing.”

Discussion was had about \$200 benevolence that would have gone to the warming shelter which is no longer housed at Memorial Baptist Church. Charter House has absorbed the function of the warming shelter. After discussion, it was the meeting’s sense that \$200 should be sent to the John Graham Shelter to support ongoing emergency/transitional housing needs.

2] We will also need to review and approve a budget for 2022 as proposed by the Finance Committee. A separate email was sent out in advance explaining it. You can

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compare it to the current budget and see we are proposing one very similar to the last one. Expenses have been adjusted with the net result being almost identical to last year. We are presenting a level funded budget. We can decide how the Meeting would like to allocate benevolences. Our approach has been to support Quaker organizations and local ones, especially those with ties to our attendees. Ruah is recommending adding Abenaki Helping Abenaki (<http://www.abenakitribe.org>) and I am recommending adding Turning Point Center of Addison County (<https://turningpointaddisonvt.org>). We made a decision to allocate the \$100 for End of Life Services to Bolivia Friends. We can decide if we want to carry this over as an annual benevolence.

The 2022 budget will be brought back to the January Business Meeting for approval.

Current balance of Vision for Vermont Funds: \$324.85

Current balance of Rachel Carey Harper Funds: \$5,000

Discussion was had about the 2022 proposed budget. Laura explained that the new budget is almost identical to the 2021 budget.

Remaining 2021 Vision for Vermont funds will go for support of the Abenaki people.

Remaining 2021 Rachel Carey Harper Funds will be spent on Bolivian End of Life Services. This fund will also be used in the future for unbudgeted activities and concerns that fall within the criteria of the fund (e.g., start locally and go global).

Proposal Ruah recommended that MFM continue to support Abenaki people with a benevolence of \$150.

Discussion about Middlebury Area Clergy Association dues - Laura will retain a line item for this in the next budget.

Discussion about the MFM directory and costs associated with it. There are funds within the proposed 2022 budget to cover printing costs, whether it is reprinted annually or biannually.

Proposal Laura recommended that \$150 be allocated for support of the Turning Point organization.

The Finance Committee is open to receiving additional benevolences. Individuals with a concern should contact Laura or any member of the Finance Committee with their ideas.

21:11:06 Committee Reports

Nominating Committee Report: Tom Baskett reported that Karen Way has accepted the nomination to be the rising co-clerk. She has been a member of the New Brunswick Meeting for 40 years as well as belonging to the NY Yearly Committee. She was approved.

Worship and Study Committee Called Meeting Report on Covid 19 Protocol

Cheryl Mitchell reported on the draft document for the protocol for meeting in person with Covid 19 transmissibility and weather in mind. (See following article).

Discussion was held about this. Concerns were expressed about whether or not to include a Zoom link online in the MFM website. This will be addressed at a future business meeting.

Ruah Swennerfelt and Jean Rosenberg are the current contacts for information regarding in-person or remote worship (and other questions about MFM)

Discussion was had about having a scan code as well as a URL code on signage in the entry of Havurah House to make sure visitors have access to the Zoom link for worshipping remotely. (With the inclusion of the URL the signage was approved)

John Harris is the tech contact for MFM (clarification as to who is in this role). This pertains to the risk of possible Zoom bombing and access/visibility of the Zoom worship link.

John Cook will do further research on the use of fans and air purifier systems for in-person meeting for worship.

21:11:07 - Due to time constraints, the following committees did not have time to report out in this Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business: Ad Hoc Committee on Reviewing Draft Texts of NEYM F & P on Ministry and Counsel, Called Committee on the Urgent Call to Loving Action for the Earth and Her Inhabitants, Earthcare, Technology Committee, Fellowship, Pastoral Care, Library.

Fran Putnam recommended that in the future MFM should have a separate meeting for the annual budget review. Worship and Study will review this idea in the January meeting.

Other concerns, reports and matters were not heard due to time.

21:11:08 **Closing Worship**

We closed in silence.



MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING

DRAFT COVID PROTOCOL: 11/21/21

[Note that currently Middlebury Friends are meeting on Zoom only]

Friends wish to have something clear, caring, welcoming, respectful, and consistent, with the option of being flexible as conditions change.

On the door will be a sign:

Welcome to Quaker Meeting.

Virtual meetings Sunday at 10:00 Wednesday at 7:00, first day school Sunday at 9:00.
(Include a scan code with the link for those who are new.)

In person gathering Sunday at 10:00

Please follow CDC guidelines

(Image of a mask like the one we usually see on businesses)

In the meeting house:

- A station with extra masks, hand sanitizer, and a small trash can.
- A small card for the greeter to hand out:

We respect that friends have different levels of risk aversion and need for social contact. Please make your own wise decisions based on the most recent data from the Vermont Department of Health. We protect one another as fully as possible. If you choose to attend in-person gatherings please be fully vaccinated, wear a mask, and arrange your chairs so that family/friendship pods leave distance between other people/groups. Be safe and please worship with us as often and in as many ways as you desire.

Website:

On the web site will be the notice of virtual meetings and a phone number for people to call if they would like the zoom link. We suggest it be directed to Ruah and/or Jean.

Other recommendations:

Messages in meeting: please stand as you are able and face the screen/microphone

Singing: The birthday song will be played on the piano or sung by one person.

We may sing along on mute or hum under our masks.

Hospitality: we have discontinued sharing food for the time being

Temporarily suspending in-person worship is at the discretion of the clerks or their designees. They may choose to do so for extraordinarily high Covid rates or dangerous road conditions. If Havurah House is closed, MFM will be also. A notice will go out on the list serve on Saturday.



MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Editor: Win Colwell

Co-Clerks

Joe Garren (610) 324-8185
Ruah Swennerfelt (802) 922-2259

Recording Clerk

Jan Grace Seale
mrs.seale@gmail.com

Treasurer

Laura Asermily
PO Box 1026
Middlebury, VT 05753

Pastoral Care Committee

Caring for one another in a loving community is an important part of our life as a Meeting.
Call any member of Pastoral Care to share a concern or need.

Wendy Goodwin (385-1900)
Norm Tjossem (388-0338)

Brud Leedom (558-1005)
Grace McGrath (388-6576)

Debbie Ramsdell (453-2027)
Meg Langworthy (877-3217)

We welcome your submissions! — winslow.colwell@gmail.com
News of Quakerly Interest — lucym@shoreham.net

MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING

PO Box 1026
Middlebury, VT 05753

Meeting for Worship 10 AM every First Day via Zoom

www.middleburyquakers.org

Please send newsletter submissions to the address above or to
maxine.fidler@gmail.com