

Portland Friends Meeting Newsletter

Sixth Month 2022

Meeting for Worship: 10:45a Sundays



1837 Forest Ave Portland, ME 04103
portlandfriendsmeeting.org 207-200-6544

Connections

Co-Clerks

Rob Levin

coclerks@portlandfriendsmeeting.org

Lyn Ballou

balloulyn@gmail.com

207 838-6717

Recording Clerks

PFM.recordingclerk@gmail.com

Treasurer, Contributions

Jane Mullen, 215-421-5257

jmmaine@aol.com

Treasurer, Operating Account

Kathy Beach, 207-233-2065

katherinegbeach@gmail.com

Treasurer, Special Funds

Special Needs Funds

Elizabeth Szatkowski 207-274-3564

Pastoral Care Coordinator

Christina Davis 518-0784

Childcare Coordinator

Susan Grannell 401-413-5951

pfm-nursery-coordinator@gmail.com

Religious Education

Adult: On Hiatus

Youth: Bart Czyz bczyz@gmail.com

Youth Religious Education Coordinator:

Emily Troll etroll@wesleyan.edu

Use of the Meetinghouse

meetinghouse@portlandfriendsmeeting.org

e-group membership

pfm.email.list.owner@gmail.com

Newsletter submissions

Heather Denkmire

pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net

Address/directory changes

directory@portlandfriendsmeeting.org

“What does authority mean among Friends? How does this sit with you? How would you define “The Quaker Way” or explain what “Quakers” are to non-Quakers? How has this changed or stayed the same over the past few years? How do you see (or not see) yourself in the larger Quaker community?”

—Quaker Voluntary Service Worship Sharing Queries

Calendar

Every Month

Every Sunday: 10:45a Meeting for Worship* on Zoom and at the Friends School of Portland

Every Wednesday: 7p Young Adult Friends Mid-Week Worship
email yaf@portlandfriendsmeeting.org for location

Second Saturdays: 5-8p Youngish adults potluck
Bart Czyz, bczyz@gmail.com, 207 899 5937

Every Weekday: 10:30-11a Meeting for Worship on Zoom*

*contact Clerks for online Meeting for Worship links



Fun was had with the Photo Booth at the Friends School of Portland's middle school dance!



Portland Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business
June 5, 2022

We began in silent worship at 8:49 a.m. on June 5th, gathered in person and remotely, and connected via Zoom. There were 55 members and attenders present for this meeting. Holding the Meeting in the Light was Emily Troll.

Our presiding Co-Clerk, Rob Levin, read the advice and query, "What does authority mean among Friends? How does this sit with you? How would you define "The Quaker Way" or explain what "Quakers" are to non-Quakers? How has this changed or stayed the same over the past few years? How do you see (or not see) yourself in the larger Quaker community?" (Quaker Voluntary Service Worship Sharing Queries)

1. Clerk's Comments – The Co-Clerk welcomed all who were attending both in person and on Zoom. He asked us to hold Luke Hankins in our hearts as he has recently lost his mother Cally Moore.

2. Minutes of April 2022 – The minutes from our April Meeting for Business were accepted with typo corrected.

3. Minutes of May 2022 – The minutes from our May Meeting for Business were accepted as printed in the newsletter.

4. Meeting for Worship Proposal from Co-Clerks and Ministry and Counsel – Rob Levin and Lyn Ballou

The Co-Clerks and Ministry and Counsel provided a report in advance of Meeting for Business regarding the location of Meeting through the coming summer and fall. This was based on the understanding that the pandemic is not waning.

The Co-Clerks and Ministry and Counsel proposed the following Meeting for Worship (MFW) plan:

- A Zoom MFW will continue to be offered every week.

- Whenever Meeting for Business (MFB) is to be held, we will continue to offer a hybrid MFW and MFB that week, with the in-person location at the Meetinghouse.

- Starting Sunday, June 19th, and continuing through the fall (September, October, and November), on all weeks without a MFB, we will hold MFW at the Friends School of Portland. We would be outdoors with masks optional when the weather is favorable, and indoors with masks required in inclement weather.

- As approved at the May MFB, MFW will start at 10:45 a.m., even during the summer months.

- Continuing our spirit of experimentation, Friends are encouraged and invited to offer alternative worship locations (in addition to the Friends School of Portland) on any given week and at other days/times.

The proposal was approved with the understanding that we will be aspiring to have potluck brunch beforehand, or lunch afterward during the summer; that a time will be set in September to evaluate how this is working and, that the Co-Clerks will meet with Friends School to determine if Meeting for Business can also be held in person there instead of at the meetinghouse.

The Covid Health Advisory Group have okayed optional mask use for Meeting for Worship outdoors with no social distancing.

Concerns were raised that the temperatures in October and November could make meeting outside at the Friends School difficult, but the Co-Clerk informed Friends that meeting indoors at the school will be an option.

Concerns had been raised previously to the Co-Clerks that the circle for outdoor Meeting for Worship at the Friends School was too large and didn't foster a sense of connectedness. The seating arrangements will be reconfigured.

5. Nominating Committee – Chris Beach

Chris provided some background information on Nominating Committee's process. There are a total of about 130 positions and 2/3 of those (about 87 positions) are already filled by people who are continuing in them next year. Several people hold more than one position, so that the total number of individuals who give to the community by their labor in official jobs is about 75 folks.

There are six people who serve on Nominating Committee. A few of the positions are filled by the Committee proposing individuals to serve in them, for example the Meeting Co-Clerks and members of Ministry and Counsel. (Continued on p. 3)

(Minutes continued from p.2)

positions are filled by Friends who volunteer. The Committee will continue through June and into July to try to fill the remaining 23 open positions.

Adult Religious Education Committee was previously laid down several years ago but Mary Tracy and Genna Ulrich have agreed to fill the new positions of Adult Religious Education Coordinators. They will not run a regular set of programs, but rather serve as coordinators with any individual who wants to present a program and help that person set it up.

Nominating is still seeking to identify someone to join Rob Levin as Meeting Co-Clerk and Lyn Ballou spoke about the position she will be leaving at the end of the month.

Chris wanted to thank the other members of Nominating Committee and to add that we are all profoundly grateful to each member and attender who steps forward to help.

The Nominations Committee list of nominations for July 2022 to June 2023 was approved.

6. Steering Committee on Stewardship of Resources Report The following is the Report that was presented:

1. We have decided not to hold the June 19 Threshing Session for a variety of reasons, including many of us on the Steering Committee being out of town.
2. We are already seeing that if we try to hold all-Meeting sessions over the summer, large numbers of Friends won't be able to come (including, often, members of the Steering Committee itself). It's not a good thing for Friends to feel left out of important discernment.
3. We'd like the summer to be a time for Friends to meet in small groups, ideally in person – perhaps before or after Meeting for Worship. These gatherings could be centered around different themes that Friends feel are important to name. Some that come to mind are reparations, supporting immigrants and refugees, working on climate change, sharing concerns about the sustainability of the meetinghouse and our annual budget. Friends don't have to be like-minded about these concerns – in fact, it would be good for Friends to hear each other's different perspectives.
4. Although we recognize these concerns are weighty and sometimes fraught, this summer we'd also like to make room for Friends to share time with each other and even have fun.
5. These groups don't have to be formal or limited to only certain times or places. If you are feeling called to a specific way to use our resources, we encourage you to find other Friends who are also feeling that call. This summer would be a good time to season that calling into ways forward that could be shared with the whole Meeting when we reconvene in the fall.
6. In September we think the Meeting will be ready to get more concrete about where Spirit is calling us. We are also feeling that Spirit might flow more freely if we can meet in person and will try to make that happen, likely in an outdoor space like the Friends School.
7. With time for seasoning in October, we are optimistic that by November the Meeting will be ready to come to unity regarding how Spirit is calling us to use our Meeting's resources.
8. Finally, within the Steering Committee, we are feeling the weight of multiple tuggings of the Spirit from Friends, sometimes seeming to pull in different directions, and ask you all to hold us in the Light as we face this challenge.

The Committee is working on a framework to make decisions around specific actions. A small group have started meeting, members from Buildings and Grounds, the Cemetery Committee and Financial Oversight, to get an overview of buildings needs to assist in the Meetings ongoing discernment around stewardship of the Meetings resources.

7. Report and Request from Velasco Sister Meeting Committee – Ann Dobb-Collins, Fritz Weitz

The Co-Clerk remarked that feelings were tender around this topic. He asked us to invite God and love into the Meeting and that we open our hearts to listen deeply to each other. That this is worship, spiritual work, not just a decision to be made. Friends were invited to be open and honest.

(Minutes continued from p. 3)

Portland Friends Meeting entered into a sister meeting relationship with Durham Meeting in Maine and Velasco Meeting in Cuba two years ago.

In response to an invitation from NEYM's Puente de Amigos committee to Portland and Durham

Friends to visit our sister meeting in Velasco, Ministry and Counsel received letters of interest from Friends from our Meeting offering to be delegates.

A report from the Velasco Sister Meeting Committee was provided to Friends in advance of Meeting for Business requesting the approval of Sue Calhoun, Hannah Colbert, and Fritz Weiss as delegates and was read by Ann Dodd-Collins.

Friends had many questions and concerns. What did it mean that one delegate was noted by their clearness committee as clear to go as way opens? Tom Antonik spoke to this question and said that the delegate going or not would depend on how this trip was supported by the Meeting. That the clearness committee was clear on the rightness of that Friend being a delegate but that there were larger questions involving the corporate discernment of the meeting.

Friends wanted to understand what it meant to approve a delegate, what all was entailed with the approval of a delegate, and what support was being requested from the Meeting.

Fritz, Clerk of the Velasco Sister Meeting Committee responded that the Committee was asking for support in a number of ways:

- in obtaining material donations the delegates will carry to Cuba
- money to support the costs of obtaining donations and for travel expenses
- with logistics, such as figuring out how to get to Holguin, helping purchase blocks of plane tickets to and from, and serving as the delegation's travel agent
- with spiritual support - accompanying the delegation as they prepare, as the group forms, practices Spanish, sorts out how they will function, and learns about the Cuban Churches

There was a question on the process that would take place with Puente de Amigos once the delegates were approved by the Meeting. Ann explained that Puente's representatives would meet with the delegates to determine that this was a spiritual trip to represent NEYM, not a tourist visit, and then send their recommendations to NEYM for approval.

Friends questioned the timing of the trip, why the clearness committees happened in a compressed time span, and whether October needed to be when the visit would take place, rather than at a later date. There was a request for a called meeting around the visit so that the trip could be discussed more fully.

Ann responded that planning for a trip needing religious visas and the trip plans would take time and they wanted to be ready when the delegates were approved. The clearness committees happened quickly because all of the Friends asked to be on the clearness committees were available to meet and she and Jessica Eller were able to shepherd the process along in 2-3 weeks.

The Co-Clerk offered his sense that the March Meeting for Business minuted an endorsement of the trip with some hesitancy, some questions, a sense of tentativeness. He acknowledged that currently there is a background of fatigue in our Meeting, mostly pandemic related, in making decisions and a lot of grief in the world, creating heaviness in our hearts. He noted that there was support for the trip among Friends but there were also questions.

Many Friends spoke strongly in favor of our Meeting supporting the trip. They expressed that the delegates are clear in that they are responding to an invitation from God, and that we needed to trust God rather than focus on the details and support the trip. They felt the delegates were doing something deeply loving.

After lengthy discussion and worship, the Co-Clerk asked the Meeting if we could reaffirm our support for the trip that was initially made in March and approve the delegation. After additional discussion and clarification, the following minute was approved:

Friends approved the delegation and our support as a Meeting for the trip as a whole with the decision around the Meetings financial contribution to the trip to be decided at a later date.

Two Friends appeared not to be in agreement. It was the Co-Clerk's understanding that they did stand aside, although that wasn't clear as they had left the Meeting before we concluded discussions.

10. Closing – Our meeting closed at 11:00 am, purposing to meet again, at 9:00 a.m. at a date to be determined for our summer Meeting for Business

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Pyle, Recording Clerk

Advance Materials sent out to Friends with agenda: Sense of the Meeting Grounding Documents; April and May Minutes; Proposal for Meeting for Worship in Coming Months; Nominating Committee List of Nominations for 2022-23; Velasco Sister Meeting Committee Report; Velasco Sister Meeting Committee - Request for Approval of Delegates; Response of Financial Stewardship Committee to Velasco Sister Meeting Committee Request; Treasurer's Report – Quick Summary; Treasurer's Report – Detailed Budget Report

Co-Clerks and Ministry and Counsel Proposal on Meeting for Worship Presented to Meeting for Business – June 5, 2022

Background: In April we conducted a survey asking various questions about locations for Meeting for Worship (MFW) going forward into the spring, summer, and fall in light of the ongoing pandemic conditions. At our May Meeting for Business (MFB) we reviewed the survey results and discussed the options, and then we referred the matter to Ministry and Counsel for more seasoning. That seasoning has now occurred, and we are ready to present this proposal.

Proposal: The Co-Clerks and Ministry and Counsel propose the following Meeting for Worship (MFW) plan:

- ❖ A zoom MFW will continue to be offered every week.
- ❖ Whenever MFB is to be held, we will continue to offer a hybrid MFW and MFB that week, with the in-person location at the Meetinghouse.
- ❖ Starting Sunday, June 19, and continuing through the fall (September, October, and November) on all weeks without a MFB, we will hold MFW at the Friends School of Portland. We would be outdoors and mask optional when the weather is favorable, and indoors and masks required in inclement weather.
- ❖ As approved at the May MFB, MFW will start at 10:45 a.m., even during the summer months.
- ❖ Continuing our spirit of experimentation, Friends are encouraged and invited to offer alternative worship locations (in addition to FSP) on any given week and at other days/times.

The Co-Clerks and Ministry and Counsel have reached unity on this proposal based on the following factors:

- ❖ Unfortunately, the pandemic doesn't appear to be waning. There are likely to be continued waves for the foreseeable future. Sigh.
- ❖ Children and parents have expressed a clear preference for the Friends School, especially when the weather is nice.
- ❖ Worshipping outdoors allows more of us to be able to attend MFW in person, and the outdoor space at the Meetinghouse is not conducive to worship because of the road noise.
- ❖ The Friends School is eager and enthusiastic to have us as guests, and it will strengthen the connection between PFM and FSP.
- ❖ Most of us dearly love our Meetinghouse, and there is some sadness at the notion of using it less often in the coming months. But the advantages of the Friends School outweighed this consideration in our minds.

Nominations for July 2022 – June 2023 (as of 6/5/2022)

Prepared by Nominating Committee, whose members are
Chris Beach (772-2779), beachris99@gmail.com
Elizabeth Szatkowski... (274-3564), eliz.szat@gmail.com
Bart Czyz..... (899-5937), btczyz@gmail.com
Mel Fiori..... (713-5514), melissarosebrown92@gmail.com
Brad Bussiere-Nichols.. (756-5586), bunic5@gmail.com
Stefanie Fairchild..... (272-6500), stefaniefairchild@yahoo.com

Key: Black ink = continuing in position. Purple ink = person is starting in July. Green ink = volunteer needed.
Red ink = Nominating Committee will propose a person for the open position.

Individual Positions of Responsibility

Co-Clerks of Meeting	Rob Levin & _____
Co-Recording Clerks (2)	Patricia Pyle & (David Hingston)
Recorder (Meeting's official records)	Lise Wagner
Treasurer (<i>Operating Account</i>)	Kathy Beach
Treasurer (<i>Contributions</i>)	Jane Mullen
Reviewer of Financial Records	Beth King
Special Needs Fund	Elizabeth Szatkowski & Chris Beach
Youth Religious Ed. Coordinator	Emily Troll
Nursery Coordinator	Susan Grannell
Meetinghouse Use Coordinator	Jennifer Frick & (Back-up) _____
E-group Coordinator	Heather Denkmire & (Back-up) _____

Ministry & Counsel (full)

Ann Dodd Collins ('23)	Peter Woodrow ('24)	Beth Bussiere-Nichols ('25)_
Fritz Weiss ('23)	Chris Beach ('24)	Maggie Fehr ('25)
Maggie Nelson ('24)	Jessica Eller ('24)	Sally Farneth ('25)

PFM's Resource Committee for Friends School of Portland

*Mary Tracy ('24), Mettie Whipple ('24), Nipper Harding ('23), Stan Scott ('23) Theresa Oleksiw ('25),
_____ ('25)

Financial Oversight Committee (full)

Jo Linder* Emily Silevinac Sue Nelson Becky Steele Alan Farneth Dick Stratton Muriel Allen
Kathy Beach (*ex officio*) Jane Mullen (*ex officio*)

Building & Grounds Committee (full)

*Karin Wagner, Syl Doughty, Peter Raszmann, Wayne Cobb, Bill Diffenderfer, Liz Maier, Jim Maier
Helping Hands = Kathy Beach, Chris Beach

Library Committee (full)

Sally Farneth, Mia Bella D'Angelli, Kate Winger, Muriel Allen, Autumn Gusto

Special Events Coordination Committee

Kiya Smith, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____

Individual Communications Positions

NEWSLETTER

Heather Denkmire (editor)

Liz Maier (mailing help)

Database Maintainer: Denis Redfield

E-group Coordinator: Heather Denkmire; (Back-up person): _____,

WEBSITE

Rich Nagle

DIRECTORY

Sarah Cushman

Cemetery Committee

Anne Payson,* Bob Massengale, Doug McCown, **Autumn Gusto**, _____,

Pastoral Care Committee (full)

*Stef Fairchild, Barbara Rose McIntosh, Theresa Oleksiw, Joyce Blossom, Kristina MacCormick, **Maggie Fehr**, **Muriel Allen**

Welcoming & Hospitality Committee:

Paula Rossvall, Sarah Cushman, **Doug Malcolm**, **Hannah Colbert**, _____, _____,

Greeters (Sunday Mornings)

1st Sunday: Kristina MacCormick & _____,

2nd Sunday: Mary Tracy & _____

3rd Sunday: Genna Ulrich & Hannah Colbert

4th Sunday: Fritz Weiss & _____

5th Sunday: _____ & _____

Youth Religious Education Committee

Bart Czyz,* Chris Fitze, Mary DeSilva, Sue Calhoun, **Valerie Todd**, _____, _____,
Emily Troll (YRE Coordinator) Susan Grannell (Nursery Coordinator), J.Ewell (teacher)

Clean & Close up After Meeting for Worship

1st Sunday of the Month: Chris Beach & Kathy Beach

2nd Sunday of the Month: Peter Raszmann & **Karin Wagner**

3rd Sunday of the Month: Denis Lachman & Kiya Smith, sharing w/Liz and Jim Maier

4th Sunday of the Month: _____, _____

5th Sunday of the Month: Julie De Sherbinin, _____

Velasco Friends Meeting Sister Committee (w/ Durham Friends Meeting)

*Fritz Weiss ('24), Ann Dodd Collins ('24), Sydney McDowell ('23), **Theresa Oleksiw**, _____
From Durham Friends: Nancy Marstellar, (co-clerk).

Leadings Committee (full)

*Kathy Beach, Wayne Cobb, Mary Tracy, Sandi Jensen, Stef Fairchild

Adult Religious Education Coordinator(s) (full)

Mary Tracy, **Genna Ulrich**

Peace and Social Concerns (currently laid down)

Sister Meeting Committee
Presentation to Meeting for Business June 5,2022
Regarding Delegation Traveling to Cuba for World Quaker Day, October 2, 2022

Background:

New England Yearly Meeting (NEYM) and Cuba Yearly Meeting (CYM) have been in the relationship known as Puente de Amigos, or Puente de Amor for more than 30 years. CYM asked NEYM to join with them after decades of isolation from the world Quaker community. CYM specifically asked for our presence, not our money. This is a spiritual relationship between two spiritual communities – one with centuries of Quaker experience and one with a passionate commitment to their faith that has survived in a country which actively tried to suppress religion. The relationship has borne fruit for both bodies – NEYM has learned more about deep commitment to our path and the, at times, ecstatic experience of encountering the inward light, and CYM has become more deeply grounded in the historic Quaker testimonies and wisdom. NEYM has helped form the Cuba Peace Institute which is a significant resource to the Latin American Church.

Portland Friends Meeting entered into a sister meeting relationship with Durham Meeting in Maine and Velasco Meeting in Cuba two years ago. At the time, travel in either direction was impossible, so the relationship has been nurtured through WhatsApp and Facebook. This relationship has been held by a joint Sister Meeting Committee of Durham and Portland meetings, composed of Fritz Weiss, Ann Dodd-Collins, Sydney McDowell, and Nancy Marstaller. This January, the two Meetings hosted and recorded a whole-community bilingual worship service that was shared with Velasco.

In November 2021, Cuba opened their borders to international travel after two years of the pandemic. CYM asked NEYM to begin sending delegations to Cuba again. Cubans are not able to obtain visas to travel to the United States as the Embassy in Havana is still essentially closed. In order to apply for a visa, Cubans would have to travel to a third country. In February, NEYM sent a three-person delegation to CYM's annual sessions. Portland and Durham were offered the opportunity to send the next delegation this fall. In January 2022 both Portland and Durham endorsed forming and sending a delegation.. Portland's minute reads: "Portland Friends Meeting endorses the project of a trip to Cuba to include visitation with Friends in Velasco Church, our sister meeting. The Velasco Sister Meeting Committee is encouraged to continue to explore arrangements for the delegation and to bring a further detailed proposal back to the meeting for approval, including consideration of forms of support that will be needed and consideration of any financial commitments, in consultation with Financial Oversight." In March, Durham authorized up to \$8,000 to support this delegation. The delegation that will be formed and approved will travel as Durham and Portland Meetings visiting Velasco Meeting. This is not simply individuals traveling to Cuba.

Since January, the Sister Meeting Committee has invited interested Friends to consider travel, has hosted an information session with the NEYM delegation which traveled in February and has set up the clearness process for the delegation. Travelers to Cuba will travel on Cuban religious visas as named representatives of NEYM. This requires clearness and endorsement by both the local meetings and NEYM. We explored with CYM the best time to send a delegation and have agreed to send Friends to celebrate World Quaker Day on October 2,2022. The delegation is expected to be in Cuba for one week.

The Sister Meeting Committee has researched and shared with the Financial Stewardship Committee a draft budget for an individual to travel. The budgeting is complicated by the US embargo which has isolated Cuba from the international financial system, and by recent currency reforms in Cuba. The draft budget is shared in detail later in this presentation. The Sister Meeting Committee has also begun the conversation with Velasco about what service or program Velasco would like us to bring and with CYM about what material donations CYM would most value.

Two members of the delegation are being brought to Portland MFB today for approval, two others, one from Portland and one from Durham, are in process. The delegation has not yet had an opportunity to start meeting together and begin the work of preparing for to travel, including the work of considering how funds may be raised. The expectation is that upon approval, the delegation will start meeting regularly.

Request for Volunteer Support

The delegation also will need to do the necessary work of: gathering and submitting materials to Cuba for a religious visa; preparing the program or service for Velasco; practicing speaking Spanish; earning the vocabulary of Cuban Quakers in talking of the experience of worship and faith; and, group formation.

The Sister Meeting Committee is asking Portland and Durham for support in a number of ways:

- i.) In obtaining the material donations we will carry to Cuba (Two people have offered to help so far)
- ii.) In seeking money to support the costs of obtaining donations and for finding any additional funds to support the travel
- iii.) In logistics, such as figuring out how to get to Holguin, helping purchase blocks of tickets to and from, serving as the delegation's travel agent
- iv) In spiritual support - accompanying the delegation as we prepare - as the group forms, practices Spanish, sorts out how we will function, learns about the Cuban Churches (Two people have offered to help so far)

We are asking the meeting to name individuals to help the delegation both with fundraising, spiritual support, and travel logistics.

Request for Financial Support

The Sister Meeting Committee submitted a request to the PFM Leadings Committee to set aside some funds to support the cost of travel. This request was denied, primarily because the request was not made on behalf of any particular individuals and was much larger than a typical Leadings grant. The Sister Meeting Committee then asked the Financial Stewardship Committee to match the commitment that Durham has made of making up to \$8,000 available to support the travel.

The Financial Stewardship Committee has not been able to meet in time for Meeting for Business. The Co-Clerks report that they have heard from individuals a number of concerns about this request. However, the Sister Meeting Committee has only heard that the timeline of bringing a proposal to the June Meeting for Business is too tight. Because the next Meeting for Business will not occur until late

July and there will be some expenses incurred, the Co-Clerks have asked the Sister Meeting Committee to bring a request for financial support to the June Meeting for Business. It does not feel appropriate to address concerns expressed by individuals and shared with the Co-Clerks.

A draft budget for an individual to participate in this trip based on the best available information we currently have is outlined at the end of this document. The bottom line is that it is reasonable to expect that the cost for each traveler will be about \$4,000.

As of now we expect four travelers in the delegation. This results in a total cost for travel (excluding costs of acquiring the material donations for Cuba) of \$16,000. \$4,000 of this is a contingency fund to cover a possible two-week quarantine if travelers contract COVID. This money will be returned if it is not used.

NEYM has \$3,000 which is available for the contingency fund if a traveler contracts COVID and is required to remain in Cuba for two weeks quarantine.

As the delegation is only being named today, we have not asked how much individuals might contribute towards the travel. The Sister Meeting Committee's conservative guess is that individuals can contribute a total of \$3,000.

Once formed, the delegation will need to find funds for the material donations, and may also raise extra funds, which could cover some travel costs.

As this is a joint Durham/Portland delegation, we ask Portland Friends Meeting to match the commitment Durham made. The Sister Meeting Committee does not expect to require more than \$5,000 from each meeting, and probably even less than that figure. Thus, we are currently requesting that Portland Friends Meeting authorize up to \$5,000 to support the travel costs for the delegation, with the understanding that the amount ultimately needed may be less.

Thank you for your consideration. Please if there are questions or concerns, please direct them to the Co-Clerks and the Sister Meeting Committee.

Submitted by Sister Meeting Committee: Fritz Weiss, Clerk, Rossvall.weiss@gmail.com; Sydney McDowell, mcdowell.sydney@gmail.com; Nancy Marstaller, marstallern@gmail.com; Ann Dodd-Collins, doddco@gmail.com

Durham & Portland Delegation		Draft BUDGET for individual traveler		
Category	Formula	Notes	USD	NOTES 4/22
IN CUBA				
room & board @ CYM excursion?	60 euros per day x 7	For one week beach, hike, etc.	465.5	Not certain what the Velasco Meeting arrangements will be travel in Oriente area possible, TBD
contingency & pocket money		postcards, souvenirs.	70	artisanía, airport food, church offerings.
group emergency			1,000.00	Covid contingency and other. Obligatory to bring but may not be
Cuban visa			150	visa cost and admin time and travel
COVID test in Cuba to depart			50	
In country travel			400	per Odalys, (former presiding clerk)
Data charges for internet				extra costs for internet, printing, etc (any internet communications will have data charges and may be impossible anyway)
SUBTOTAL BRING TO CUBA			2,135.50	
STATESIDE				
Transportation to airport			60	RT from Portland to Logan
Overnight hotel in Montreal *2 coming and meals			180	Fairfield Inn & Suites - 50% 2 bedroom suite
tips			80	2 days meals
checked bag		Boston to Montreal	50	
RT air fare Montreal to Holguin		Montreal to Holguin	1,100.00	
ArriveCan - required registration			??	
Incidental, photo processing		Photo processing to take to Cuba.	25	(preparing and bringing photo's of PFM and DM to share/ leave with Velasco
medical supplies			25	Rx, shots, OTC supplies, sunscreen, glasses, etc.
health and travel insurance			117	
Pre- and Post-trip U.S. travel				
Misc.				
COVID-related personal expenses (shots/pcr/masks)			200	test in Montreal airport for return to US
SUBTOTAL STATESIDE EXPENSES			1,852.00	
TOTAL ALL EXPENSES			\$3,988	
Note: we will need to convert dollars to Euros for in Cuba expenses, all figures will be impacted by the exchange rate which is impacted by current events and has been somewhat volatile. The calculation is made more complicated as expenses in Cuba are in pesos, so the exchange rate between Euros and Pesos is also a factor.				

Financial Stewardship Committee recommendations in response to request from Velasco Friends Committee re: Cuban Friends Travel Meeting, Fall 2022

Queries from Fritz Weiss on behalf of Velasco Friends Committee

1. Would Portland approve committing an "up to" figure of \$8,000 to support the delegation to match Durham's commitment?
2. Would Portland be able to hold funds and write checks for expenses leading up to the arrival in Cuba from the bundled funds? The delegation will name a treasurer who can work with PFM's treasurers. The delegation will carry all in-person expenses to Cuba in cash; once in Cuba these funds are delivered to CYM who manages all expenses in Cuba.

"On behalf of the Meeting, the Financial Stewardship Committee has received requests from the Velasco Friends Meeting Committee for two types of support for the travelers to Cuba, one financial and one administrative. Following much consideration and discussion, the Committee makes the following recommendations to the meeting:

Regarding the request for financial support: The timing is unfortunate for this or any other new, significant, and non-urgent financial request. We as a Meeting are engaged in a thoughtful process of discerning/clarifying our purposes as a meeting and how best to use our resources (both financial and non-financial) in harmony with these purposes.

The Financial Stewardship committee believes that it would be premature to consider/act on this request for significant, new, non-urgent financial support before this meeting-wide discernment process is complete.

While the Committee recognizes that the trip to Cuba is planned for later this year, it does not believe that this timing is a cause for cutting short or circumventing our Meeting-wide discernment process. As a result, the Committee does not recommend providing travel expense support to the travelers to Cuba.

Also, we recommend that the Meeting thoughtfully develop a process for considering future requests (received from any source) for travel expense support, in order to avoid being asked to consider requests such as this on an ad hoc basis in the future.

Regarding the request for administrative support: Both of PFM's Treasurers feel that this work is the responsibility of the Velasco Friends Meeting Committee, rather than of PFM."

Request for Approval of Delegates to visit our sister meeting in Cuba for World Quaker Day in October 2022

Intervisitation has been crucial in preserving Friends' identity as a religious community, and the simple wish to be among other Friends, to learn their experience of God, to share one's own experience, and to strengthen in that way the bonds of love among us is motive enough for Friends to travel to other meetings.

Gordon Browne letter, "Friends Tradition of Travel"
Reprinted from Spring, 1995 Puente de Amigos Newsletter

In response to an invitation from NEYM's Puente de Amigos committee to Portland and Durham Friends to visit our sister meeting in Velasco, Ministry and Counsel received letters of interest from Sue Calhoun, Hannah Colbert, and Fritz Weiss. Jessica Eller and Ann Dodd-Collins agreed to facilitate the clearness process, and that began with an email to Sue, Hannah, and Fritz on May 22.

Sue Calhoun's clearness committee met on Friday, May 27. Her clearness committee included Lea Sutton, Muriel Allen, Jessica Eller, and Ann Dodd-Collins.

We recommend that Sue be approved as a member of the delegation visiting our sister meeting in Cuba. Sue has been holding a leading to visit in Cuba since the 1990s. She is fluent in Spanish (having been a Spanish teacher for many years). She has experienced and is comfortable with programmed worship and with speaking about what drew her to Quakerism. Her visit to Cuban Friends will be a blessing to them and to us, and we joyfully recommend her as a visitor to Velasco Friends.

Hannah Colbert's clearness committee met on Wednesday, June 1. Her clearness committee included Jennifer Frick, Sydney McDowell, Jessica Eller, and Ann Dodd-Collins.

We recommend that Hannah be approved as a member of the delegation visiting our sister meeting in Cuba. Hannah has been interested in our sister relationship with Velasco since it was formed and has served on the Velasco Sister Meeting Committee. She is fluent in Spanish. The question "Do I have a strong interest in spending time with Cuban Friends, to feel and understand their life, and to share with them in the life of the Spirit" speaks to Hannah. We feel that Hannah is being called to this delegation and it is our pleasure to recommend her as a visitor to Velasco Friends.

Fritz Weiss's clearness committee met on Saturday, June 4. His clearness committee included Tom Antonik, Jennifer Frick, and Ann Dodd-Collins

We recommend that Fritz be approved as a member of the delegation visiting our sister meeting in Cuba. This will be Fritz's fourth trip to Cuba. He wrote, "I have consistently found myself visualizing myself in Cuba again. Sometimes I hoped to see Odalys again, sometimes I longed for the experience of the passionate worship of the Cuban Church, sometimes it was because I do hope that this relationship becomes important to the larger community of Portland Friends. We would be enriched by this." We note that Fritz is clear to go as way opens and we recommend him as a visitor to Velasco Friends.

All three members are aware of the difficult relationship between the United States and Cuba and understand the need to be careful in their conversations, to listen, and to refrain from making political statements that may get our Cuban Friends into trouble.

We ask that Portland Friends approve these three members to serve on the delegation from Portland and Durham Friends to our sister meeting in Velasco, Cuba. We also ask that our co-clerks write Letters of Introduction for each member. These letters of introduction as well as Sue, Hannah, and Fritz's letters of interest will be sent to the Puente committee for the next step in the process of preparing to visit Friends in Cuba. These letters are necessary documents for obtaining a religious visa.

Touching the Spirit in the Sixth Month of 2022



Clear the Calendar

Make no promises in May,
nothing to distract the eye and ear.
Spring is now the scheduler here –
throw appointment books away!

Woods walks differ with each visit.
Buds bloom seemingly overnight.
Birds sing out to tease your sight –
colors flash to hint who is it?

Do you strive to do what's right?
Give over to the higher powers,
Walk the path in sun and showers.

Forget about your human fights!
Blend with nature while you can,
you are part of springtime's plan.

Muriel Allen

These birds are all in the poem but not necessarily in this order. The two who were not named in the poem are Chestnut-sided and Yellow Warbler!

**Quick Summary of Income and Expenses for PFM
Through May 2022 — 5th Month (42% of the year)**

	Year-to-Date	% of Budget
INCOME		
Donations	\$25,265	40%
Rent		
Endowment	\$7500	42%
Other		
TOTAL	\$32,765	40%
EXPENSES		
Meetinghouse Expenses	\$10,825	37%
Meeting Community	\$14,962	33%
Meeting Monetary Contributions	\$4,450	58%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$30,237	37%
Balance	\$2,528	

Month of May

Income from Donations: \$2,635
 Income from invested funds: \$1500
 TOTAL: \$4,135
 Expenses: \$8,435
 Balance: (\$4,300)
 Friends Fiduciary Corporation
 balance as of May 31: \$809,000
 Checking Account: \$12,980
 Savings Account: \$15,14



Hope Lingers Here
Sea Change Chorale
Spring Concert

To benefit:
Greater Portland Family Promise
Sunday 4:00pm June 12, 2022
Williston-Emmanuel United Church
156 High Street, Portland, Maine

Portland Friends Meeting Email Lists

Anyone is welcome to join our email lists! Announcements about worship, documents for Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business are sent via the "Life of the Meeting" list. To join/subscribe to these email lists/e-groups, simply email pfm.email.list.owner@gmail.com.

Once you have joined, to send a message to "Life of the Meeting" use pfm-life-of-the-meeting@googlegroups.com and, to send a message to "Wider Community" use pfm-wider-community@googlegroups.com.

Portland Friends Meeting
How We Got to Here (video)

The video created for the Portland Friends Meeting's May 2022 threshing session on discerning the use of our financial resources is available here: <https://youtu.be/FrxPM8a9WLU>

"Nothing, I believe, can really teach us the nature and meaning of inspiration but personal experience of it. That we may all have such experience if we will but attend to the divine influences in our own hearts, is the cardinal doctrine of Quakerism."

Caroline Stephen, 1834-1909

Touching the Spirit

Hello, friends, art lovers and art makers,

We invite you to send a photo of something you have created, or if you write or love a piece of published writing by another author, send a poem or short text (100 words or so) to me, Mary Tracy.

Together, Muriel Allen and I select one offering each month to put in the newsletter, under the heading of Touching the Spirit. Kids' art and writing welcome!

Questions? Ask Mary Tracy marytracy126@gmail.com or Muriel Allen murielpfm@gmail.com



Portland Friends and Family Promise



May was a busy month at Greater Portland Family Promise and for Portland Friends who have joined various teams. The family who had been living at Clark House moved into an apartment in South Portland, and another family moved into Clark. There were other moves as well, and on May 21 GPPF coordinators and directors hosted a picnic for our Family Promise families at Clark.

Our monthly food distribution was on May 25. Sue Nelson and Paula Rossvall helped with packing and distributing food for 35 families. It was our usual chaotic event with two separate packing groups – one group packing food for families who are housed and one packing ready-to-eat food for families in motels. I was reminded to be careful what you ask for when I contacted Trader Joe's and asked if I could pick up 140 paper bags instead of our usual 100. I was given a whole bale, which was so heavy I didn't think I was going to be able to lift it out of the cart. I did, though, and then I rolled it from my car to the cellar at Clark House.

Doug Malcolm has joined the moving team and spent the morning of June 1 helping Rich Hughen and others clean out the garage at the Clark House. The furniture that is left in the garage is furniture that is in good shape and items our families can use. The rest is being repaired by another volunteer or has found other homes.

On Saturday I took Celina and her children to Gear Hub to get bicycles. Ossande had already gotten his bicycle, but Celina, Serena, and Kayla got their bicycles on Saturday. We had such a good time at the event. When I went back to Celina's in the evening to give her quarters for laundry, Ossande and Serena were racing (safely) through the parking lot of their apartment building. Celina reported that Kayla was still wearing her helmet, that she wouldn't even take it off for her bath.



With the school year ending soon I have been thinking about ways to interact with the families we support. Two ideas are a trip to the Children's Museum and a beach day. So I have two requests.

1. Assuming we can borrow the Family Promise van, is there anyone who would feel comfortable driving it to the museum or to the beach?
2. Is there anyone – a family would be great – who would like to join our families at the museum or on a beach day? One of our families is pretty comfortable speaking English. The other family speaks Spanish/Portuguese.

As always, I am so grateful for your support. —Ann



Spring beginning to spring at the Meetinghouse...



NEW ENGLAND
YEARLY MEETING
— OF FRIENDS —
QUAKERS



Friends around New England and beyond—you are invited to the 362nd annual sessions of New England Yearly Meeting, August 6-11, 2022!

Visit <https://neym.org/welcome-2022-sessions> for more information.

Portland Friends Meeting
1837 Forest Ave
Portland, ME 04103

Address Service Requested

Next newsletter deadline:
late July or early August (tbd)
see e-group announcements for date

submissions: pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net

