

Portland Friends Meeting Newsletter

Eleventh Month 2022

Meeting for Worship: 10:45a Sundays

First Day School: 10:30a Sundays



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

Connections

Co-Clerks

Rob Levin

Peter Woodrow

coclerks@portlandfriendsmeeting.org

Recording Clerks

PFM.recordingclerk@gmail.com

Treasurer, Contributions

Jane Mullen, 215-421-5257

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Treasurer, Operating Account

Kathy Beach, 207-233-2065

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Religious Education

Adult: On Hiatus

Youth: Bart Czyz btczyz@gmail.com

Youth Religious Education Coordinator:

Emily Troll etroll@wesleyan.edu

Use of the Meetinghouse

meetinghouse@portlandfriendsmeeting.org

e-group membership

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Newsletter submissions

Heather Denkmire

pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net

Address/directory changes

directory@portlandfriendsmeeting.org

In worship we have our neighbors to right and left, before and behind, yet the Eternal Presence is over all and beneath all. Worship does not consist in achieving a mental state of concentrated isolation from one's fellows. But in depth of common worship, it is as if we found our separate lives were all one life, within whom we live and move and have our being.

Thomas Kelly, 1941, as quoted in NEYM Faith and Practice

Calendar

November 20

12:30p Called Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business (hybrid)

December 4

9a Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business (hybrid)

Every Month

Every Sunday:

10:45a Meeting for Worship* at the Portland Friends Meetinghouse and on Zoom;
10:30a First Day School/All Ages Youth Programming at the Meetinghouse

Every Wednesday:

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

Every Weekday:

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

*contact Clerks for online Meeting for Worship links



Hybrid Meeting for Worship! If you are available to be the in-person tech person (easy! training is available! coclerks@portlandfriendsmeeting.org) or zoom host, please sign up here: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/13vZY5-VP3-kDY1o-dq2y3PqmK-jLfl1KAclcsbCjFP-g/edit?usp=sharing>

Portland Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business
November 6, 2022

We began in silent worship at 9:02 a.m. on November 6th, gathered in person and remotely, connected via Zoom. There were 49 members and attenders present for this meeting. Our presiding Co-Clerk, Rob Levin, opened the meeting by sharing a quote and a query:

In worship we have our neighbors to right and left, before and behind, yet the Eternal Presence is over all and beneath all. Worship does not consist in achieving a mental state of concentrated isolation from one's fellows. But in depth of common worship, it is as if we found our separate lives were all one life, within whom we live and move and have our being. (Thomas Kelly, 1941, as quoted in NEYM Faith and Practice)

How do we open ourselves to this "one life"? What does it feel like? How does it move you? How might we be transformed today by our togetherness?

1. Clerk's Welcome

Holding Us in the Light during Meeting for Business was Mags Fehr with tech support being provided by Luke Hankins and Heather Denkmire.

Co-clerk Peter Woodward was not present as he was in Cambodia for an AFSC conference on the theory of change on peace making. Friends were asked to hold him in the Light.

Friends were asked hold Sydney McDowell in the Light and to share in prayer support for her during the 14 days she will be traveling to Cuba to meet with Friends from Valasco Iglesia de Amigos Meeting. She will be there during the anniversary celebrations for the creation of their Yearly Meeting and will be bringing greetings from Portland Friends Meeting to all the meetings in Cuba.

Rob shared that this was the last Meeting for Business for Patricia Pyle as Recording Clerk and that Nominating is still looking for a replacement.

2. Minutes of October 2022 – The October 2022 Minutes were approved as published in the newsletter.

3. Covid Health Advisory Group – Maggie Fiori

The Covid Health Advisory Group provided as part of the Advance Materials the Revised Meetinghouse Use Guidelines.

Maggie explained to Friends the changes to the guidelines and the reasoning behind them. Masks will be required in the meeting room during Meeting for Worship, Meeting for Business, and similar large-scale events, but will be optional in other areas of the meetinghouse. That change was made to facilitate fellowship, and sharing snacks or lunch together. Although masks will not be required outside the meeting room, Friends will be able to choose to mask or not, and mask-optional does not mean *no masking*. This will be a consent-based process in which Friends are encouraged to be communicate with each other.

Three factors went into the decision:

1. Covid metrics and the latest science from Sharon McDonnell and Jeff Peterson
2. The comfort of the Meeting
3. What will help nurture the spirit of the community as a whole. We will be balancing risk with the facilitating of a deeper connection in the Spirit.

Maggie also shared the Survey results around the question of masking being optional during Meeting for Worship and Meeting for Business (this is a correction shared by the Co-Clerk after Meeting for Business. The survey questions were not about the building as a whole but were specific to Meeting for Worship and Meeting for Business):

Approximately 60% said that mask-optional would not affect their decision to attend

Another 30% said that mask-optional would change their decision to attend, with about half of those saying it would lower the likelihood of them attending in person, and the other half saying it would make them more likely to attend)

(Continued on p. 3)

(Minutes continued from p.2)

The guidelines will be revisited in the Spring. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to the Co-Clerks or Maggie.

4. Leadings Committee – Kathy Beach

The Leadings Committee Report was provided as part of the Advance Materials for Meeting for Business.

Kathy Beach shared with Friends that the Leadings Committee had received six requests for funding. Three were for Friends traveling to Cuba to visit with the Velasco Meeting, as well as three other requests, as stated in the Report.

A question was raised about the proposed grant to assist with the payment of fines related to climate change disobedience. The concern was that the Leadings Committee historically has not given grants after an event has occurred, but rather for Friends to follow leadings prospectively. Kathy and others explained that the Friend who requested the funding has an ongoing leading, was not asking the Meeting to bear the full payment, and has a Ministry Care Committee through our Ministry and Counsel Committee. Friends were asked to trust the work of committee. Kathy shared that the Committee is currently reviewing its procedures and goals.

Friends requested that the names of recipients be included in the report. Kathy Beach provided an updated copy of the Leadings Committee Report to the Recording Clerk which will be made available in the newsletter.

Minute: Friends approved the funding of the six requests the Leadings Committee recommended.

5. Discernment Steering Committee – Emily Troll

The Discernment Steering Committee Report was provided as part of the Advanced Materials for Meeting for Business along with the Decision Tree Regarding Use of Invested Funds.

Emily Troll began with expressing the understanding that this was not a perfect process, and asked Friends to enter into this discussion feeling held and trusting in God's forgiveness. Gratitude was expressed to all who have held the process in the Light, brought us deeper into the depths, details, and asked big questions.

Decision Tree Proposed Minute:

"Up to this point, the Meeting has used a portion of our annual budget to support a variety of mostly Quaker organizations. And we have used our invested funds primarily to support our buildings and grounds, our annual budget, and Leadings grants.

Following a year of earnest and tender discernment, the Sense of the Meeting is to expand the use of our invested funds and other resources to support other faithful Work in the World.

As guided by Spirit, such Work in the World might take a variety of forms, and include not only the sharing of financial resources, but also an opening of our hearts and our time, and the building of relationships with allies in the wider world. Furthermore, some of our Work in the World may be conceived not as traditional charity but as reparations, a way of trying to repair damage to Indigenous people and communities of color, caused directly or indirectly by Quakers."

Friends expressed concerns that language regarding care of the meetinghouse and grounds was not more explicit. Other Friends felt that the focus should be on the community.

Emily asked Friends to see this as a process of approaching unity, not as an end point. That this was not a question of either/or but both/and, loving concern for our meetinghouse and programs while stepping up for issues in the wider world. There was gratitude expressed by some Friends that we are fortunate to have the funds to do both.

Friends expressed the importance of Faith. That there are doubts and uncertainty when facing unknown risks and the importance of relying on a deeper certainty in the face of doubt and on the wisdom of the Spirit leading us.

After robust and passionate sharing of different views, we realized we were not yet ready to approve the proposed Minute. Rob let Friends know that there would be a Called Meeting for Business in a couple of weeks during which time there would be seasoning of the Minute by the Steering Committee and with hope that Friends would see their way through to approving a Minute at that time.

(Minutes continued from p. 3)

Rob asked if Friends had any thoughts or concerns regarding the Minute to please reach out to the Co-Clerks, Emily or the gmail account for the Committee.

6. Rising Concerns of Members and Attenders – Rob asked Friends to bring any rising concerns to himself or Peter Woodrow.

7. Closing – Our meeting closed at 10:48 am, purposing to meet again at a called Meeting for Business, at 12:30pm on November 20, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Pyle, Recording Clerk

MEETINGHOUSE USE GUIDELINES
PORTLAND FRIENDS MEETINGHOUSE

Last Revised: November 3, 2022

Subject to change as conditions allow

- If you feel even the *slightest bit* unwell, please stay home and join us on zoom when that option is available. This includes sniffles, runny nose, sore throat, headache. Don't assume it's not COVID just because it seems mild. And even if it's just a cold, let's not spread those around, either.
- If you have not already done so and are eligible, please do get vaccinated, including any available boosters. If you are unable to be vaccinated, then you must take an over-the-counter rapid test (available at most pharmacies) that same day and receive a negative result prior to entering the building.
- **Masks are required in the Meeting room** including during Meeting for Worship, Meeting for Business, and other meeting-wide gatherings. We encourage KN95 or N95 masks over surgical masks, and surgical masks over cloth masks. We will have a supply of surgical masks available at the entrances to the Meetinghouse. Friends are encouraged to pull their mask aside when delivering a message during worship or speaking during Meeting for Business.
- Fellowship before and after Meeting for Worship is encouraged, and we may start to experiment with refreshments at the Rise of Meeting. During and after Meeting for Worship and during fellowship, masks will be optional in all other indoor and outdoor spaces but will remain required within the Meeting room. Friends are advised to take note of this and make personal decisions accordingly.
- There are five portable air purifiers in the Meeting room that will be on during Meeting for Worship. Please use them for other meetings and events, and feel free to temporarily remove one from the Meetingroom to another room that you are using for a smaller meeting.
- As weather permits, open windows in any room that you are using, including the bathroom (curtain will block the view). Turn on the overhead fan in Meeting room. Keep windows open for at least 20 minutes after use, to replace air flow. But please remember to close windows when you leave.
- To schedule an event, even a small group meeting, be sure to check the Meetinghouse calendar at www.portlandfriendsmeeting.org, and contact Jennifer Frick at meetinghouse@portlandfriendsmeeting.org.
- For smaller group meetings, you may choose to take off masks and not socially distance.
- Families or groups seeking to hold memorial services and similar large events will be asked to follow these Guidelines.

Thank you!

Health Advisory Group (Peter and Rob, Maggie Fiori, Jeff Peterson, Sharon McDonnell)

Questions? Contact Peter and Rob at coclerks@portlandfriendsmeeting.org

Report to Meeting for Business from Leadings Committee, November 6, 2022

We received six applications this cycle for Leadings Grants, ranging from requests for \$250 to one for \$1500. Three Friends submitted applications so that they may travel to Cuba to visit with Friends at Velasco Meeting.

Three additional applications were submitted, one for continuing literacy efforts in East Africa, through the Sparkler program, one for payment of fines related to Climate Change disobedience, and one for the work that will go into an online pamphlet about the Life Cycles of Friends Meetings, both nationally and internationally.

The descriptions and more details about these spiritual Leadings are in the library, in the Leadings Notebook, if anyone would like to know more details about each of these projects.

We had anticipated the three applications from Friends who are planning to travel to Cuba, but we were pleasantly surprised to receive three additional applications. We felt as though all three applications are for very worthy causes, and we know that the Meeting enthusiastically supports the work of Friends who are in relationship with our sister meeting in Velasco. We very much want to support those Friends and their commitment to establishing some personal connection to Friends in Cuba.

At the same time, we want to support the three Friends who are doing excellent work in the world, from concerns about climate change to literacy for children in East Africa, to examining the life cycle of Meetings. We therefore ask Portland Friends Meeting to approve funding for these 6 requests. This will entail the spending of \$1200 more than we had budgeted this year for Leadings Grants, but it will not be a financial burden to fund all six requests.

The Meeting approved of this recommendation from the Leadings Committee. The six Leadings that have been approved are the following:

Sydney McDowell: Trip to Cuba with FUM beginning on November 10, 2022.

Sue Calhoun: Trip to Cuba to visit Velasco Meeting in February 2023

Fritz Weiss: Trip to Cuba to visit Velasco Meeting in February 2023

Dorothy Grannell: Continuing work with the Life Cycle of Meetings. Dorothy is working with Heather Denkmire and Emily Provance to create an online pamphlet that will be used in conjunction with an international zoom conference about the Life Cycles of Friends Meetings on November 7th and 14th, 2022.

Jay O'Hara: Continuing work on climate disobedience; Jay will use the nominal grant that was given to pay partial fines that have been levied due to his climate disobedience work.

Sally Farneth: The Sparkler Project continues to educate children in East Africa who are using books that have been developed over many years, with Quaker testimonies in mind, teaching English as well as Quaker values to school children. Sally has been an integral part of this program and continues to be involved. This grant is to help with the printing and binding of books to be used by Judith Nandikova in Nairobi, Kenya.



Rummage Sale Success!

I want to appreciate all the folks who helped with the book and rummage sale! The Library Committee with Andy Grannell in the lead collaborated with the Sister Meeting Committee to make it happen. We raised over \$500.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with publicity, set-up and sorting books, stacking chairs and bringing up tables from the basement.

Thank you to all the helpers on Saturday with sales, and especially with clean-up, which was startlingly quick. Many cars were filled to bring books and items to Goodwill. And thanks for bringing the tables back downstairs and setting up the chairs for Sunday.

The Sister Committee and I are very grateful for the support. —Sue Calhoun



Report from Discernment Steering Committee

Submitted to Meeting for Business November 6, 2022

Beginning in January 2022, our Meeting has held a series of threshing sessions focused on the use of our invested funds. At the same time, several groups of Friends have been seeking together on a range of specific questions or concerns, especially over the summer.

We have been moved by the dedication of Friends throughout this process. After a busy winter and spring of coming at these questions from a higher, open-ended perspective, we asked you to spend the summer thinking through some of the details of how we might move forward. We as a body answered the call by forming workgroups, engaging in deep dialogue, and coming up with specific and creative proposals. Our collective labor in this endeavor speaks to a love of our Meeting community.

Throughout our exchanges, Friends have treated each other with respect, while also acknowledging differences in perspective or perhaps different ways of ordering priorities for use of the Meeting's resources (human and financial). Some clearly wish to ensure that we steward the Meetinghouse and grounds well—and have funds set aside to do that. Most appear to be open to expanded Work in the World, so long as we can assure support for the Meetinghouse and vital programs (especially for young people). Others come at it from the other direction—prioritizing Work in the World as essential to our purpose, while also wishing to fulfill commitments to the Meetinghouse.

While some of these views were evident during our conversations throughout the winter and spring, this emerged most clearly during the September 18 session. That meeting, facilitated by Elizabeth Reuthe, promoted direct dialogue across differences, even allowing people to move to different places (literally) to experience what it feels like to speak other truths. Hearts were open and opened in the process, as people listened deeply to one another and probed the complexities of our multiple perspectives. We received many messages. Some about abundance, and our ability to serve in multiple ways at once. Others about our role in the world as Quakers, and ways that we might continue to listen to Spirit.

From the September 18 session, there was convergence on a “both-and” direction: affirming our loving concern for our Meetinghouse and core programs, while also moving boldly together to expand our Work in the World. We feel that we are now ready to test whether we have reached a Sense of the Meeting around this notion of expanding our Work in the World.

In this light, the Steering Committee is presenting a Decision Tree for the Meeting's consideration. In particular, we are asking the Meeting to consider approval of the first item on the Decision Tree. In addition, we are looking for overall feedback on the rest of the Decision Tree from a process perspective. We are not looking to start weighing the merits of questions 2 through 5, but rather are looking to hear from the Meeting if these are right questions to be asking, and whether we might be missing anything integral to the process.

Discernment Steering Committee

Heather Denkmire, Julia Fitzgerald, Dorothy Grannell, Rob Levin, Becky Steele, Emily Troll, Peter Woodrow

Decision Tree Regarding Use of Invested Funds

Presented to Meeting for Business November 6, 2022

Process overview: The following is a series of decisions and policy questions that the Steering Committee has crafted as the proposed way forward for our discernment as a body. We are asking the Meeting to consider approval of the first item at today's Meeting for Business. There has been an informational session on Question 3 regarding capital projects, and we anticipate an informational session soon on Question 2 (Energy Conservation/ HVAC). The Steering Committee will be organizing a threshing session to consider the other questions, hopefully in late November. Through that session, the Steering Committee will listen for emerging unity regarding these issues and come to the Meeting with a series of proposals for each of the questions. Depending on the timing of how these steps unfold, it is possible we will be ready to present proposals at the December Meeting for Business, or we may have to push that back to the January Meeting for Business.

(Decision Tree continued from p. 6)

MINUTE:

Steering Committee Proposal for Approval of Minute at Meeting for Business on November 6. Up to this point, the Meeting has used a portion of our annual budget to support a variety of mostly Quaker organizations. And we have used our invested funds primarily to support our buildings and grounds, our annual budget, and Leadings grants.

Following a year of earnest and tender discernment, the Sense of the Meeting is to expand the use of our invested funds and other resources to support other faithful Work in the World.

As guided by Spirit, such Work in the World might take a variety of forms, and include not only the sharing of financial resources, but also an opening of our hearts and our time, and the building of relationships with allies in the wider world. Furthermore, some of our Work in the World may be conceived not as traditional charity but as reparations, a way of trying to repair damage to Indigenous people and communities of color, caused directly or indirectly by Quakers. The question of what level of financial Work in the World giving will be addressed in Question 4 of the Decision Tree, after we have a fuller picture of our financial capacity and other spending wishes. And the question of how Work in the World decisions would be made will be addressed at Question 5 of the Decision Tree.

1. **Energy Conservation/HVAC.** How much do we wish to spend on carbon footprint and energy conversion projects (HVAC systems, etc.)? And should this amount come entirely from invested funds or come from a combination of invested funds and fundraising?

2. **Capital Reserve Fund.** Does the Meeting wish to set aside a Capital Reserve Fund for other major capital expenses?

a. If yes, at what level?

b. Should the Meeting annually replenish the Capital Reserve Fund through the budget process, to ensure its sustainability?

c. Should the Meeting also raise funds for capital projects as they occur, in addition to relying on the Capital Reserve Fund, to ensure its sustainability?

d. How often and by what process do we revisit the Capital Reserve Fund performance and assumptions?

3. **Expand Work in the World.** If we as a Meeting agree to the proposal in Item 1 of this Decision Tree to spend invested funds on expanded Work in the World, at what amounts?

a. A percentage of income from remaining invested funds (after Capital Reserve Fund set aside, if applicable)?

b. A fixed amount annually, increasing by increments over time?

c. Should some portion of Work in the World funds be raised by Meeting members through the budget process, in addition to relying on the invested funds, to ensure sustainability?

d. Depending on the answers to these questions, we may need to formally revise our existing policy to limit expenditures to no more than 4% of the invested funds annually.

e. How often and by what process do we revisit these amounts?

4. **Process for Work in the World Proposals.** Do we want to establish a standing committee to consider proposals for Work in the World (based on an annual amount determined by the policies outlined above)?

Assumptions relevant to this Decision Tree:

1. Leadings Grants continue

2. Continue to fund Quaker organizations through annual budget

3. Operating budget will receive an amount to be determined annually from invested funds

4. Jones Fund set aside to support youth work and included in annual budget



1837 Forest Avenue—Portland, ME, USA 04103— (207) 619-0953

10/18/22

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Velasco Friends Meeting,

We are so grateful for this opportunity for Sydney McDowell to personally carry our greetings to you. Although we are distant from each other we know that we are together in God's love. May you feel our love for you in these challenging times. We remember Paul's counsel that although we are many, we form one body and each member belongs to all the others.

The Bridge of Love between New England Friends and Cuban Friends is over thirty years old. Portland Meeting has felt this connection. Now we are excited at this new chapter as our relationship with Velasco Friends becomes in-person and more intimate. Now we are able to send our greetings and love directly. In February four more Friends from Southern Maine will be visiting with you. God willing, we will soon be able to host Friends from Velasco in our meeting and in our community when you are able to come to Portland Maine.

Our hope is that this is the start of a new chapter in the story of the Bridge. We know that with God all things are new again, and that the love between us will persevere. We are so blessed to be a sister meeting with Velasco Friends.

With the love and prayers of Portland Friends Meeting,

Rob Levin, Co-Clerk

Peter Woodrow, Co-Clerk

Queridos hermanas y hermanos de la Junta Mensual de Velasco,

Les agradecemos tanto por esta oportunidad para que Sydney pueda llevar personalmente nuestros saludos a Uds. Aunque estamos lejos nosotros de Uds., sabemos que estamos juntos en el amor de Dios. Esperamos que se sientan nuestro amor durante estos tiempos difíciles. Recordamos el consejo de Pablo, que aunque seamos muchas personas, formamos un solo cuerpo, y que cada uno pertenece a todos los otros.

El Puente de Amor entre los Amigos de Nueva Inglaterra y los de Cuba ha existido por más que 30 años. La Junta de Portland ha sentido esta conexión. Ahora estamos emocionados que, con este nuevo capítulo, nuestra relación con los amigos de Velasco se haga cara a cara y más profunda. Ahora podemos enviar nuestros saludos y amor directamente. En febrero cuatro más Amigos de Maine les visitarán. Con la gracia de Dios, quizás pronto podamos albergar a Amigos de Velasco en nuestra Junta y comunidad, cuando puedan venir a Portland.

Nuestra esperanza es que hemos empezado un capítulo nuevo en la historia del Puente. Sabemos que, con Dios, todo es nuevo otra vez, y que el amor entre nosotros persistirá. Estamos tantos bendecidos que seamos una Junta Hermana con los Amigos de Velasco.

En la Luz y Amor de Dios,

Rob Levin, Co-Clerk

Peter Woodrow, Co-Clerk

Quick Summary of Income and Expenses for PFM
Through October 2022
(10th Month, 83% of the year)

| | Year-to-Date | % of Budget |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| INCOME | | |
| Donations | \$36,905 | 58% |
| Rent | \$175 | 18% |
| Endowment | \$15,000 | 83% |
| Other | | |
| TOTAL | \$52,080 | 63% |
| | | |
| EXPENSES | | |
| Meetinghouse Expenses | \$17,819 | 60% |
| Meeting Community | \$31,085 | 68% |
| Meeting Monetary Contributions | \$7,700 | 100% |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$56,604 | 68% |
| Balance | (\$4,524) | |

**Portland Friends Meeting
Email Lists**

Our Meeting has two email lists, also sometimes referred to as "e-groups" or "Google groups:"

1) Life of the Meeting:

Announcements about Meeting for Worship, committee work, Quaker business or events, and gatherings for the Portland Friends Meeting community. To send an announcement to this list, email: pfm-life-of-the-meeting@googlegroups.com.

2) PFM Wider Community: Everything else!

To send an announcement to this list, email: pfm-wider-community@googlegroups.com.

For any questions related to the lists, including requests to add yourself to one or both: pfm.email.list.owner@gmail.com.

Operating Budget Process

Portland Friends Meeting Financial Stewardship Committee is beginning the 2023 operating budget development process which will establish the Meeting's budget for next year's day-to-day operating income and operating expenses.

For those who are unfamiliar with this process, the basic steps include:

- Asking the Clerk(s) of each PFM Committee to provide their committee's proposed 2023 budget.
- Consolidating these proposals as the starting point for the expense elements of the 2023 operating budget.
- Additionally considering and incorporating non-committee-based expenses, and income projections, in order to draft a complete income/expense budget.
- Once the Financial Stewardship Committee feels clear to recommend the draft budget for meeting-wide approval, it will propose the budget at the December Meeting for Business, for review and discussion.
- As directed by the outcome of the December review/discussion (i.e. with or without changes), the proposed budget will be presented for approval at January Meeting for Business.

The meeting's operating budget and funds are separate from its invested funds:

- The meeting's operating budget relies heavily on donation income received from our members and attenders throughout the year, which funds the vast majority of the operating expenses incurred during the year, which in turn enables the meeting to run smoothly.
- In contrast, the meeting's invested funds have been gifted to the meeting over many years, have been invested for growth in value rather than spent, and have been drawn on conservatively. The meeting's approach to its invested funds is a major focus of this year's resource discernment series of threshing and information sessions.

If such topics interest you and you don't already do so, you may want to regularly attend the monthly Meeting for Business as a way to learn more about how the meeting considers its financial priorities, makes financial decisions, and carries out its operating budget process.

In the light,

Financial Stewardship Committee members



Volunteer for Christmas Eve Meeting for Worship?

As Advent approaches, I'm thinking about the Christmas Eve Meeting for Worship that many of us have enjoyed over the last few years. We hear the Bible's telling of the prophecy of the coming of Jesus, and the story of his birth. We sing hymns and carols. And, we celebrate our anticipation of the Light by lighting candles in the dark room. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, we held this at the Meetinghouse. In the last two years, some of us tried it on zoom. This is something I have volunteered to coordinate each year; a group of people always has stepped up to take on different jobs (reading, greeting, snacks, candle distribution, Clerking,

music accompaniment, setting and cleaning up, and more).

Now that so many people are going back to the Meetinghouse, I wonder if there is someone who might want to take on the task of gathering volunteers to host a hybrid Meeting for Worship on Christmas Eve similar to what we have done in the past? I'd be happy to share the all the info from previous years. I'd gleefully be willing to host the zoomers — and, oh! being a part of an in-person worship service even virtually would be so lovely!

If you might be interested and available, please let me know heather@grantwinners.net and/or reach out to the coclerks@portlandfriendsmeeting.org. Thank you for considering it! —Heather Denkmire

Portland Friends Meeting
1837 Forest Ave
Portland, ME 04103

Address Service Requested

Next newsletter deadline:
December 6, 11:59pm

submissions: pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net

