



WFM NEWSLETTER

July 2022

Worcester Friends Meeting (Religious Society of Friends)

WFM acknowledges that our Meetinghouse sits on the traditional territory of Indigenous peoples now known collectively as the Nipmuc Nation.

901 Pleasant Street, Worcester, MA 01602

508-754-3887

www.WorcesterFriendsMeeting.org

Worcester Friends Meeting offers weekly virtual worship and hybrid (combination of both in-person and virtual worship options) when it is safe to do so. We continue to monitor safety of in-person worship as related to fluctuating community COVID risk. The CDC's color-coded community risk levels provide a guide to respond flexibly and appropriately to changes in COVID prevalence.

- Green = low risk: We will continue hybrid worship, requesting that in-person worshippers mask, and using air purifier in the Meeting room
- Yellow = medium risk: As above, plus noting that higher risk individuals may wish to choose virtual worship
- Orange = high risk: We will suspend in-person worship and continue virtual worship until risk level falls.

Spiritual Life committee members will monitor the CDC site on a weekly basis and provide updates for the Weekly Reminders as to whether our community risk level allows for in-person indoor worship. Friends are urged to monitor community risk levels individually as well and make decisions about their personal attendance. We will try to broadcast any changes in status that may arise between Wednesdays and Sundays, but people may also choose to individually monitor the COVID community risk level using the CDC weblink:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>

Sunday Meeting for Worship 11:00 am.

<https://zoom.us/j/93581663579?pwd=eDFxUjVyL2lISTl2NkxsZWlFUTE0QT09>

Meeting ID: 935 8166 3579

Passcode: 661048

If attending via Zoom, please enter worship in silence and keep audio muted until moved to speak.



Please visit our updated website at www.worcesterfriendsmeeting.org
(where you can donate at the click of a button!)

***No Business Meeting in August.**

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business is held on the second Sunday of the month at 9:00 am. Please contact Daron at daronbarnard@yahoo.com with items for Business.

Zoom Link for Business Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/92774446613?pwd=M2IyeWJjZVpqTHB4bTJNdWRyRnlhZz09>

Meeting ID: 927 7444 6613

Passcode: 253544

Saturday Worship of Worcester Friends Meeting meets now on **Saturdays at 5:00 pm.**

<https://zoom.us/j/98621922427?pwd=S1hKZ1hZQmp0MW5hRW9XMjn3TzdHQT09>

Meeting ID: 986 2192 2427

Passcode: 983394

Friendly Bible Study continues on **Wednesdays 9am-10am.**

<https://zoom.us/j/99835123902?pwd=dGVPRnFCWit4RIUzMUN4c09xc0FLQT09>

Meeting ID: 998 3512 3902

Passcode: 436310

Please contact mjchenaille@yahoo.com for more information.

Registration for 2022 NEYM Sessions is ongoing:

Friends from across New England and beyond will gather for 2022 Sessions from **August 6 through 11, 2022.**

Annual Sessions provides many opportunities to connect with Friends old and new: vibrant youth programs, adult small groups for interpersonal connection, encouragement, and spiritual exploration, discernment of how Quakers in New England are led by the Spirit to act and serve, and guest speakers offering explorations of the Bible and sharing ministry responding to our condition and the challenges of our times.

The Yearly Meeting intends to hold Annual Sessions in person at Castleton University in Castleton, Vermont in August, with an option to participate in some portions via Zoom.

Visit [What Will Sessions Be Like](#) to get important information about participating in Sessions this year, including links to register to attend either in person or online.

Looking to register?

- [Registering for on-campus Sessions](#) includes important information for you to read before you proceed to the registration site (the link to register is on the page).
- [Register for online Sessions](#)

**Worcester Friends Meeting
Meeting For Business
July 10, 2022**

Present: Daron Barnard, Katharine Barnard, Lucy Candib, Tim Lamm, Michael Mallory, Karen Sargent, Richard Schmitt, Matthew Shorten, Ellen Perry, Sheila Brenner, Tom Brenner, Aaron Sakulich, Kathy Boger
Clerking: Daron Barnard

We piloted having a second laptop facing the in-person Friends during Business Meeting. This worked well to allow those in the Meeting room to see those who were attending virtually. The external microphone was needed for those on line to be able to hear comments of those in the Meeting room.

The meeting opened with silence and then a reading from NEYM Faith and Practice, Advices and Queries: “Remember that love is a gift of the Divine, not simply a human emotion. As imperfect human beings we are not always able to feel loving toward one another, but by opening ourselves to the Light Within, we can receive and give love beyond our human capacity.”

Business Items:

1. **Scheduling Fall Market Day.** The business meeting approves September 10, 2022, for Fall Market Day.
2. **Care for the Exterior of the Building.** In light of multiple other projects that have required attention and funding this year, Practical Committee asks to defer maintenance on the exterior of the building until next year. The exterior of the Meetinghouse is shabby, a combination of natural wear and tear and marks left from the blown-in insulation work. Most likely, the next step would be re-painting though there has also been discussion about re-siding. The Brenners have a painting company that they recommend (New Creations). The cost would likely be approximately \$15,000, which could be raised through an appeal letter, or taken from the NEYM Pooled Funds. Practical Committee asks for the Meeting’s commitment to this project in 2023 and will gather estimates this fall to incorporate into the annual budget. The plan would be to get this done in Spring 2023.
3. **Appeal Letter.** The Meeting has both practical and outreach efforts that need funding. There are two PSCO projects specifically. One is the land acknowledgement which may need about \$3000. The other is our ongoing support of Ugandan Friends. Practical needs include replenishing funds used to pay for the heating system, and future work on the exterior of the building. There is agreement to express all of these funding needs in the letter, and that donations would not be designated to specific projects. Once funds are raised we can determine how best to allocate them to these different needs.
4. **Alternative Investment Account.** Matthew Shorten brings us information about a potential alternative to investing our money in the NEYM Pooled Funds. Friends Fiduciary is a not-for-profit investment organization with a Quaker board of directors.

Advantages to investing with Friends Fiduciary include their stability due to the large size of the organization. Their funds are filtered for social responsibility. They have different funds available (for example: long term, short term, “green” funds) which we could invest in singly or in some combination. They have financial advisors available for consultation, and there may be greater ease of managing our funds and donations. We might benefit from their flexibility, as they have the option to withdraw funds at any time (rather than quarterly as is our current arrangement with NEYM Pooled Funds). While the organization is not-for-profit, there is a 0.7% fee. There is interest among the Meeting in further exploration of investing with Friends Fiduciary, and Matthew can coordinate an informational meeting involving others from Practical Committee. It would also be helpful to talk with Cambridge Friends or other area Meetings about their decision to invest with Friends Fiduciary. There is curiosity about what it means to NEYM to have Meetings investing in the Pooled Funds. Karen Sargent will be meeting with Frederick Martin, NEYM Treasurer and can bring him these questions:

- How did Cambridge Meeting decide to invest with Friends Fiduciary (instead of NEYM Pooled early Meeting)?
- What has their experience been with Friends Fiduciary?
- In terms of NEYM Pooled Funds, does the Yearly Meeting benefit in any way from those funds? Will our pulling out of the Pooled Funds affect the Yearly Meeting?

Committee Reports

Practical: Karen Sargent reports that the water and plumbing in the Meetinghouse are again working. Appreciation for Daron’s work with the plumbers on this. The bathroom in the basement needs cleaning and the floor needs mopping.

Spiritual Life: No additional items are brought by the Committee.

Peace, Social Concerns and Outreach: In the context of discussion of the appeals letter, Lucy Candib elaborated on two ongoing projects of the Committee.

Land Acknowledgement. PSCO has long been working on a land acknowledgement monument for the Meeting. This has been approved by the Meeting, but the process has been complicated. The initial idea was a natural stone with an affixed plaque that would be placed in front of the Meetinghouse. The committee has proposed text for the monument. The main sticking points currently are (1) the form of the monument and (2) wishing to proceed in relationship with Nipmuc people. In terms of the physical monument, the committee has been working with Peppin Monument Company in Leicester, which was recommended by Clarence. Their vision of the stone seems to be different than ours, so the committee continues to work on the options with the company. They are looking into engraving the message onto the stone versus attaching a plaque, each has pros and cons. There are also still underlying concerns within the committee about how to proceed with the land acknowledgement in a collaborative fashion with the Nipmuc people. The committee continues to work on relationship-building though it has been a slow process.

Support for Ugandan Friends. The committee (specifically Lucy and Richard) have continued to maintain a relationship with Friends in Uganda. The Bulungi Tree Shade Meeting in Jinja, Uganda was established in 2016 through support from Friends from Olympia (WA) Meeting. The Meeting is the only welcoming meeting in East Africa. Olympia Friends also recognized the need to support LGBT people, who are persecuted in Uganda for their sexual orientation and identities, to leave the country. Friends Uganda Safe Transport (FUST), has helped >2500 people leave Uganda. In addition to the Meeting, which is a safe space for LGBT people, and the work of FUST, the same Friends in Uganda are in care of 19 children rescued from sexual trafficking. These children came to the Meeting through the Rape Hurts Foundation. Hellen Tanyinga (a Friend from Bulungi Tree Shade Meeting) is also a leader of Rape Hurts. Current stressors to all of these efforts include the COVID pandemic which decreased free movement of people, and the Ukraine war which has caused extreme food shortage in East Africa. It has been a great hardship for the Bulungi Friends to care for all of the LGBT asylees and the rescued children. The committee would like to provide both one-time support for Ugandan Friends and their work, as well as consideration of an increase in the quarterly donation to FUST (currently \$100/quarter). In terms of one-time support, it is noted by the Treasurer that we do have \$2026 in our budget earmarked for PSCO to donate to other organizations. This money remains from 2020 fundraising efforts. The committee will meet to determine how to direct this money and contact the Treasurer with the specifics. However, there is still a desire to raise funds to support PSCO efforts on an ongoing basis, and as such, will include these efforts in the appeal letter.

Announcements:

1. The Buddhist group would like to restart Wednesday evening use of the building starting in September. We will not request rent for some time due to their having continued paying rent during the pandemic even when they were not using the building.
2. Business Meeting will be suspended in August unless there is pressing business.
3. Friend Sam Politz is currently hospitalized. He is improving day-to-day. Betsy will keep us apprised of any needs though currently the greatest need is for holding them in the Light.

Katharine Barnard
Recording Clerk



Summer is speeding along and before you know it will be September 24 and time for our annual [gala fundraiser](#)! This is where we raise over a quarter of our yearly income.

We need your help to make it a success!

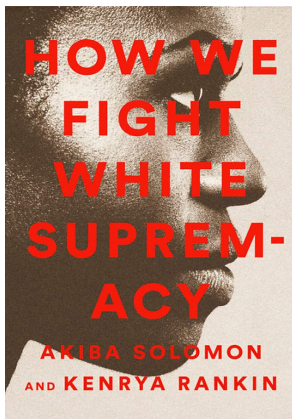
You can help by [visiting our website](#) and:

- Inviting businesses that you interact with to purchase ads
- Asking your company to become a sponsor
- Signing up to volunteer at the event
- Donating items for the silent auction
- Purchasing tickets and tables

The number of pleas for help and folks in our housing has increased by 50% since the start of the year! Your help is needed now more than ever.

Thanks as always for stepping forward!

Forever Grateful,
Al Green
Ministry Director



Next **Facing Race Reading Group** meets on Friday August 19, 7:30 pm. Reading: *How We Fight White Supremacy*, a collection of articles by Black activists, collated around themes. Edited by Akiba Solomon and Kenrya Rankin. Contact Lucy at lmcandib@gmail.com for Zoom info.

NIPMUC NATION

POWWOW

**Paomoonk Nesasuk Tahshe Pome Tuonk
"Future Seven Generations"**

**Nipmuc Nation
Tribal Offices
25 Main St.
South Grafton, MA**

**HOST DRUM
Iron River Singers**

**Co-HOST DRUMS
Blackstone Valley Singers
Walking Bear Singers**



**HEAD STAFF
Master of Ceremonies
Don Barnaby
(Listuguj, First Nation)**

**Head Woman
Kerri Helme
(Mashpee, Wampanoag)**

**Head Male
Tommy Ninigret
(Hassanamisco, Nipmuc)**

**Veteran Representative
Ron Noel (Nipmuc)**

**July 31, 2022,
Gates open at 10:00 AM
Grand Entry at 12 PM**

**Vendors Must Register Contact: candia2001@gmail.com or
nipmuclove@gmail.com for any questions.**

Parking Available

NO pets, drugs or alcohol

***Free Event * Everyone is Welcome!**

WORCESTER NAACP
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE



Community Cookout



FREE FOOD - OPEN TO ALL

Charles Ketter Open Mic Spoken Words

DJ Chuck Chillin



DJ KB Barnes

SATURDAY

6

AUGUST

12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

RAIN DATE
AUGUST 13

INSTITUTE PARK

WORCESTER
82 SALISBURY ST.

FREE BURGERS & DOGS

Quaker Religious Education Collaborative 2022 Annual Conference

August 12-14, 2022

In-person and online

Catholic Conference Center, Hickory, NC

Finding Our Footing on the Path Ahead

Come explore how to:

- Strengthen and revitalize your local community of practice
- Make your lessons more experiential and interactive
- Engage families by weaving Quakerism into home life
- Design intergenerational programming
- Walk with youth as they come of age and into relationships
- Update existing Quaker curricula for these times
-

Conference Highlights

PLENARY: Seeding Cultures of Peace and Justice: Quaker RE Ideas

with Nadine Hoover (Buffalo Monthly Meeting, NYYM and Friends Peace Teams)

Nadine Clare Hoover is also the author of [Walking in the World as a Friend: Essential Quaker Practices](#) produced in collaboration with QREC.

- Worship: Semi-Programmed and Unprogrammed
- Workshop 1: “Human Relationships and Sexuality: The Spiritual Work of Adolescence” A new curriculum by Durham (NC) Friends Meeting, Presented by Andrew Wright.
- Workshop 2: “A Curriculum Writing Lab on Intergenerational Program Design”
- Regathering Our Local/Regional Communities of Practice: Resources for local gatherings you can host
- Tote Bag Café: Intentional Shop Talk with a Theme.
 - Saturday: Working with ages 3-8
 - Sunday: Don’t Throw Out Your Old Curricula—Update them!
- Displays highlighting the work of QREC practitioners.
- Connect with RE Practitioners.

Register and find more information at <https://quakerrecolaborative.org/2022-annual-conference>

Fair Share Amendment is on the MA ballot in November and community support is needed!

**Sunday July 24th 2:30 - 7pm
Green Hill Park Worcester**

Discussion on the Fair Share Amendment, relationship building, canvassing together, and a celebratory dinner



The proposed amendment - Article 44 of the Massachusetts Constitution is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph at the end thereof:

To provide the resources for quality public education and affordable public colleges and universities, and for the repair and maintenance of roads, bridges and public transportation, all revenues received in accordance with this paragraph shall be expended, subject to appropriation, only for these purposes.

In addition to the taxes on income otherwise authorized under this Article, there shall be an additional tax of 4 percent on that portion of annual taxable income in excess of \$1,000,000 (one million dollars) reported on any return related to those taxes.

To ensure that this additional tax continues to apply only to the commonwealth's highest income taxpayers, this \$1,000,000 (one million dollars) income level shall be adjusted annually to reflect any increases in the cost of living by the same method used for federal income tax brackets. This paragraph shall apply to all tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2023.

The Fair Share Amendment, or Question 1, would create a 4% tax on the portion of a person's annual income above \$1 million and dedicate the funds raised to transportation and public education.

The amendment, featured on the November ballot, will allow Massachusetts to improve our transportation and public education systems by making the very rich pay their fair share.

Only people who earn more than \$1 million annually will pay this additional income tax; 99% of us won't pay a penny more. And we'll all benefit from better schools, roads, bridges, and public transportation.

On November 8, vote YES on 1.

Scheduled Meetings

- **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Second Sunday, 9AM (no August)**

All are invited via Zoom.

<https://zoom.us/j/92774446613?pwd=M2lYeWJjZVpqTHB4bTJNdWRyRnlhZz09>

Meeting ID: 927 7444 6613 Passcode: 253544

- **Practical Committee-Karen Sargent** All are invited via Zoom.

Time: This is a recurring meeting **1st Sunday at 9:30 am** Join Zoom Meeting

<https://wpi.zoom.us/j/94987779468> Meeting ID: 949 8777 9468

- **Peace, Social Concerns and Outreach-Lucy Candib & Richard Schmitt** All are invited via Zoom. **Fourth Sunday, 9:30 AM** PASCO Meeting

Time: This is a recurring meeting 4th Sunday at 9:30 am

<https://zoom.us/j/94128999438?pwd=NkM3TmRoQ2JZSDhtKzltSUI2eFRxdz09>

Meeting ID: 941 2899 9438 Passcode: 948220

No WFM Newsletter in August, 2022. See you in September.

Clerk of Worcester Friends Meeting-Daron Barnard

Recording Clerk-Katharine Barnard

Corresponding Clerk-Mary Chenaille

First Day School-Michelle Flint, Matt Shorten

Newsletter-Sheila Brenner

Please send general correspondence to info@worcesterfriendsmeeting.org.

Donations are appreciated and can be given via our online website or mailed to Worcester Friends Meeting

901 Pleasant St.

Worcester, MA 01602.