

## SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING

### MEETING FOR WORSHIP FOR BUSINESS – April 23, 2017

Twenty-four Friends met at Friends Meeting at Cambridge on a spectacularly beautiful spring day for the quarter's spring business meeting, which followed worship, lunch, and an FMC panel presentation on immigration issues. Clerk James Gray began the meeting with a worshipful silence.

2017-04-01 – The minutes of the October 23, 2016 meeting were approved. Friends approved Martha Schwope to serve as interim recording clerk.

2017-04-02 – With eight **memorial minutes** submitted for the Quarter's consideration, Friends agreed to read them at the end of the meeting and to then post them on the Quarter's website. They will then be sent to the Yearly Meeting.

2017-04-03 – In the absence of the treasurer, Friends accepted the Treasurer's Report, as presented by Shearman Taber and considered the proposed FY 2018 budget. **Friends accepted the report and approved the proposed budget.** Shearman reported that while the return on investment for our finds in NEYM's Pooled funds is healthy, our income is less than half what might be expected because return is calculated on the basis of dividends, income and growth of principal, while our income consists only of dividends and interest. The SQM treasurer, Sarah Spencer, has written to the Board of Managers of the Pooled Funds to ask that they consider modifying the distribution policy to include a portion of the growth.

2017-04-04– Holly Lapp presented the recommendations of the **Funds Allocation Committee** . Friends approved a donation of \$750 for Martha Schwope to attend a three-week program at the Orphan Care Centre in Kakamega this summer. With a request to Lisa Graustein to report on the use of their fundings to the Quarter in the fall, Friends approved a grant of \$500 to the Wampanoag Language Reclamation Program.

In October 2013 Friends approved revised guidelines for distributing grants, with a recommendation to review the process this year. The committee plans on improving the application page, accountability issues, and the need to widely publicize the availability of the funds. Friends are urged to apply for grants through the Quarter.

2017-04-05 – Ken Dyke-Glover presented **Ministry and Counsel's** State of Society report. Friends approved with appreciation.

2017-04-06 – Friends considered Friends Meeting at Cambridge's January 16 minute on the **US Role in Israel/Palestine** . At our fall meeting a previous version was discussed with tension and deep prayer. Cambridge Friends continued to season, refine, visit Monthly Meetings, rewrite, and eventually approve the revised version. Discussion of the proposed minute included a concern about our current US administration's interest in extending a wall on our border with Mexico, comparing it to the wall between Israel and Gaza with a warning about other similarly repressive Israeli actions that our government may be open to. How do we explore the ways our own anti-Semitism affects our opinions? How can we be more welcoming and inclusive towards people from cultures where typical Quaker "staidness" can limit conversation with people – such as Jews – who tend to be more animated? Can we live up to this minute? **With great appreciation Friends approved the minute and will distribute it as widely as possible, encouraging Monthly Meetings and all NEYM Quarters to do the same.**

#### Text of minute:

Responding to the Spirit, as reflected in the Friends Meeting at Cambridge statement

regarding the Israeli/Palestinian conflict (January 11, 2016), Salem Quarterly Meeting united on the following statement and call to action:

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) testimony on peace, justice, and nonviolence is based in our experience of the divine in all of creation and within all persons. Thus, we are deeply troubled by the suffering and injustice caused by the Israeli/Palestinian conflict and we are concerned that our government perpetuates that violence by continuing to send billions of dollars of military aid to the region.

**We ask that we as a nation:**

- Cease sending United States military aid and selling weapons to the entire Middle East.
- Continue diplomatic efforts with all parties and remain in dialogue even with those who have acted violently.
- Join the international court system and accept its jurisdiction.

**We ask that we as the world's people:**

- Work with the United Nations Security Council to end military aid and arms sales from all outside countries to all parties in this conflict.
- Support the United Nations' efforts to bring justice, peace, security, and reconciliation to all parties in the conflict.
- Take measures to assure that international laws are applied universally.

**We ask that we as individuals and as communities:**

- Support and learn from the many organizations that bring Israelis and Palestinians together for justice and peacemaking.
- Examine how anti-Semitism, racism, and privilege affect our understanding of the conflict.