

Minutes for People of Color Worship & Reflection Group
Breakfast & Business Meeting
April 19, 2025
15th Street Meeting House

Announcements:

- a. POC Meeting for Worship is cancelled for May 11, 2025 (Mother's Day). Meetings resume June 8, 2025.
- b. Nova Sturup is in urgent need of a kidney donor and financial support at this time. You can find the GoFundMe appeal at: <https://gofund.me/9a8e2148>. We urge everyone who can to help them in this very critical time.
- c. The charges brought against John Choe in Athens, Georgia were not dropped at his arraignment on April 15th. John was a minister traveling on a Leading recognized by the NY Quarter on his way to a Friends Meeting when he took shelter in his car at a Murphy's USA gas station during a storm. Without notice or warning he was confronted by Sheriff's deputies who arrested him for failing to provide his identification. He has a GoFundMe appeal (search for John Choe) to help with legal expenses. More information to follow.
- d. John Choe drafted a petition for those concerned with Quaker investments in Friends Fiduciary and profits generated by military contractors complicit in genocide: <https://www.change.org/friendsfiduciary>.
- e. New Sanctuary Coalition is meeting at Brooklyn Meeting House on Thursday evenings - 5-7 pm. There will be dinners, trainings, and other events. POC website now has an offer in Spanish if people need help.
- f. Power-Mapping Workshop: Quaker Coalition for Uprooting Racism invites attenders to a half-day community zoom event workshop on May 10, 2025 1-5 pm ET via Zoom. Power-mapping is an interactive, strategic tool for identifying and analyzing where and how power is being held and used around a specific issue. It allows groups to develop effective strategies for leveraging power to make constructive change. Register at lu.ma/QCURPower
- g. Ernestine Buscemi, serving on the Nominating Committee for NYYM, is making a request that people of color make an effort to serve on NYYM committees. Our voices need to be heard.

Minutes

In Attendance: Helen Garraay Toppins (Clerk), Ernestine Buscemi, Linda Shirley (Treasurer)

1. Community Agreements - Discussion of community guidelines for POC events and meetings. There was general agreement on using the AVP Landing Strip Community

Agreement as a guideline with the addition of some form of attendance to any immediate needs - to be further discussed. HGT to draft and send around.

2. Discussion on support for John Choe. After discussion it was agreed that further discernment will be ongoing in order to determine how best to support John in his court case in Georgia.

3. Care and Accountability under Manhattan Meeting. HGT will coordinate with Manhattan Meeting to schedule a meeting/worship and further discussion on our relationship with them.

4. Recap and Update on Faith & Practice Translation into Chinese: We have finished the first 28 pages of the translation and paid Eriksen Translations their \$1,970.20 fee. We have had a dedicated reader - Ling Zheng - who is a Librarian with the Queens Public Library, a native mainland speaker and who has two masters degrees. She made corrections which we have added and the work has gone out to several people at Brooklyn, Queens and Hong Kong for feedback, which has been generally good. Linda paid Ling \$50. for her work on the first part (from her own money) and has offered her (from her own money) another \$300 for the final installment reading when that occurs. Linda to get from Eriksen's a more detailed breakdown for further translation services. We will translate the rest of the Faith section, the Advices and Queries, and the Glossary. Practice Section will be left for later as financial pressures have increased on the Quarter and there may be future revisions to this section. [Note we are not doing the Index or the current Introduction or the historical statement. We continue to collect quotations from people of color to add to a new POC Introduction to Faith and Practice].

6. Quarterly Financial Report: The Found Account has been closed and an Association Account has been opened at Ridgewood Savings Bank. Linda and Helen signatories. From January - April 2025 our only expense was a payment of \$1,970.20 to Eriksen's Translations paid with the \$2,000.00 we received from the NYQ Witness Fund, and a \$25.00 wiring fee. Linda has paid \$78.00 of her own money for a two year renewal of the Wordpress website and donated \$2,500.00 (which includes the previously pledged \$700.) to the POC account. We earned .15 cents in interest.

- As of April 19, 2025 we have \$5,028.02 in our bank account.
- \$29.80 remains from the NYQ Witness Fund allocated to the Translation Project, and
- \$2,502.46 is left in our 101 Quakerism Witness Fund allocation from the NYQ Witness Fund.
- \$2,495.76 is unallocated and discretionary. .

7. No Service Project will be attempted this Quarter.

8. Quakerism 101 Update.

- a. Its been proposed that John Choe combine his report to the Witness Committee on his experience in Georgia with his experience at QCUR supported by the Witness Fund grant under Each One Teach One.
- b. We have now taught all twelve lessons of the POC curriculum. Linda will finish proofing and offer it to CSWAC (Robin Alpern) for review. We plan to publish the whole curriculum on our POC Website and bind a number of hard copies for distribution.