

**Minutes People of Color Worship & Reflection Group
Breakfast & Business Meeting
Held July 19, 2025
Flushing Meeting House**

Present: Linda Shirley (Treasurer), Helen Garay Toppins (Clerk), John Choe

Announcements:

- a. 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 critical time.
- b. John Choe's case in Athens, Georgia is scheduled for later this summer. He has hired a new attorney who has been taking a much more proactive approach to the matter. You can find John Choe's appeal on GoFundMe to learn more and help with legal expenses. Letters of support have been sent via the Athens Georgia Friends Meeting website at athensquakers.org.
- c. 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>.
- d. New Sanctuary Coalition is meeting at Brooklyn Meeting House on Thursday evenings - 5-7 pm. There will be dinners, trainings, and other events. Please check for more information at nycquakers.org.

1. Quarterly Financial Report: As of July 13, 2025 we have \$ 4,928.64 in our Ridgewood Bank account. Our only expense this quarter was a \$100. Withdrawal from our Quakerism Curriculum Fund as a donation to Green Earth Urban Gardens for Maureen Regan teaching Lesson 1 on June 8, 2025.

- \$29.80 remains from the NYQ Witness Fund allocated to the Translation Project.
- \$2,402.46 is left in our Quakerism Curriculum Fund
- \$2,496.24 is unallocated and discretionary

3. Community Guidelines. The Clerk presented proposed community guidelines. With some minor edits the Clerk will revise and present at the next business meeting.

4. Field Trip to Hudson River Museum: Smoke in Our Hair. The Clerk proposes a weekend field trip to the Hudson River Museum, located at 511 Warburton Avenue, Yonkers, NY to view the new Native American exhibit: Smoke in our Hair: Memory and Unsettled Time. The show closes on August 31, 2025. (hrm.org) The museum is a Metro North Railroad - Hudson Line trip from Grand Central to Glenwood Station.

Admission is \$15. for adults, \$9. for seniors. Attenders of POC are eligible for financial assistance. Please contact Linda Shirley (cenhessepoc@gmail.com) if you would like to participate.

5. Update on Faith & Practice Translation into Chinese: The Erikson Translations new proposal is approved and will be presented to the Witness Fund for a request for funds by August 15th. An outline of where the Chinese translation will be distributed to be included along with our last annual report.

5. Update on Inclusive Faith and Practice project. Linda will cobble together a rough first draft for the inclusive F&P introduction. We have our own funds to translate this introduction into Chinese as soon as it is finished.

7. Friends Journal Article. John Choe has submitted a proposed article regarding our POC affinity group to the Friends Journal and has received positive interest from the editors.

8. Introduction to Quakerism Curriculum Update.

a. John Choe's report to the Quarter (and perhaps offer to Spark) on his QCUR experience supported by the Witness Fund grant under Each One Teach One is on hold for now as he deals with the issues of his upcoming court case.

b. After today we are up to our third lesson of the POC Curriculum, Truth, which will be taught on August 10, 2025.

c. Linda has prepared four folder editions of the curriculum to be offered to each of the NY Quarterly Meetings and given a fifth folder to the Clerk to present at summer sessions. We are waiting on a review of lessons 6 (Equality) and 7 (AntiRacism) by CSWAC which should be finished on or around July 28, 2025. Linda will pay them \$200. of her own money for this review. The curriculum has now been uploaded to the website.

d. Next year we will offer to the local Flushing Alliance of Youth Leaders in the United States scholarships for summer school at QUNO (\$250.). This is a local Chinese youth organization committed to fostering leadership and integrity in young people.

