

**People of Color Worship and Reflection Group
("POC Quakers")
Business Meeting Minutes for January 31, 2026**

Present: Helen Garay Toppins (Clerk), Linda Shirley (Treasurer), John Choe (Working Group), Ernestine Buscemi (Working Group), Gessie Perez

1. **Financial Report.** As of December 31, 2025 we have \$4,929.88 in our bank account. All expenses this month were paid by donations, so there were no drawdowns from the account.
 - \$29.80 remains from the NYQ Witness Fund allocated to the Translation Project.
 - \$2,402.46 is left in our Quakerism Curriculum Fund
 - \$2,497.62 is unallocated and discretionary
2. **Governance and Advancement.** The question of membership in the POC (or not) is being deferred. Its felt that we need to recruit more interested attenders in order to get more feedback. Linda will add to our contact list the new email addresses provided by Helen from the NYYM Affinity Group attenders interested in the POC Quakers. A retreat will be scheduled on a Saturday at 15th Street Meeting in order to build community. The date to be determined once the threshing session with a concern for activism and witness at Pennington is scheduled. (see below).
3. Linda as Treasurer and Helen as Clerk were approved for another term of POC. It was agreed that a more concerted effort to develop leadership for the POC Quakers should be undertaken given Linda and Helen should be replaced next year (3 years being the most a person should serve consecutively.)
4. **Field Trip.** Date for trip to Harlem's Studio Museum is deferred to sometime in March given the weather and their current closure for repairs.
5. **Clerk's Report on NYYM Affinity Group.** The NYYM Affinity Group is proceeding apace. John Choe cautions us to remember to view "POC" as a diverse group with widely differing views and opinions. The sense of the Meeting was that POC Quakers should continue as a separate, albeit supportive, organization given its emphasis on the NY Quarterly area. POC will be using its contact list to alert those on it to NYYM Affinity Group information.
6. **Possible POC Actions regarding ICE:** John Choe advises us that we should join existing networks and work with the community at large as part of a

movement. Helen and Ernie advised us that ACLU has excellent training and Linda will look into this for Flushing Meeting. It was agreed to have a separate threshing meeting to address this most important issue and determine future action. This Meeting, open to all, will (hopefully) be at Pennington House and Helen will explore this with Tod Drake and get back to us on the date.

7. **Curriculum.** The curriculum has been uploaded to our POC website, POCQuakers.org and the most current editions can be found there. Next lesson February 8, 2026 “Equality”. Helen and Linda to determine how to send the curriculum out to the NYYM Affinity Group.
8. **Chinese Translation of Faith & Practice.** The Erikson Translations proposal was presented to the NYQM Witness Fund and we await further developments. A very sketchy draft of a new inclusive introduction has been distributed. (Reminder this will be translated into Chinese with our own funds.)
9. **Friends Fiduciary.** John Choe’s concern regarding Friends Fiduciary was mentioned at the last NY Quarterly Business Meeting and Dan Seeger, Clerk of Trustees, said they will be reporting on their conversation to Friends Fiduciary next quarterly meeting. John Choe will be reaching out to the NYQ Monthly Meetings to try and develop momentum to get Friends Fiduciary to address the concern that they are investing in companies that promote war and violence.

Announcements:

A. Nova Sturup is in urgent need of a kidney donor and financial support. You can find the GoFundMe appeal at: <https://gofund.me/9a8e2148>. We urge everyone who can to help them in this critical time.

B. Linda will send out a reminder to POC Quakers that the NY Quarter is meeting this Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at 6:00 pm to wrestle with the question of Witness at this time.