

# MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING FOR CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

MARCH 15, 2026

Thirteen Friends gathered in silent worship when Clerk Guy Marsden opened the session. MINUTES for the February Meeting for Business were approved.

We have installed 3 new Nest “smart” thermostats that allow Guy to set the thermostats remotely and adjust timing as needed for special events. If you have plans to use the Meeting House in the cold months – check in with Guy so he can have the relevant room(s) warmed up for you.

SUE ROCKWOOD summarized the results of the “JUBILEE YEAR” threshing session. Meeting committees have faltered at times with too few members and are prone to spurts of activity. The meeting will try having decisions made by the whole membership for a test period. Some specific activities in the various committees will continue—e.g. Bruce Rockwood will continue as Treasurer. Pastoral Care concerns should be shared with Jean Crawford, Sally Tukey, or Guy Marsden. Workdays for collective projects may be arranged. Several members should be competent in setting up the computer and sound system for worship sessions. The guidelines for dealing with a potential ICE visit are posted in the lobby. The idea of setting up a workshop for caregivers will await Andy Burt’s return. This proposal has complexities especially in securing a qualified leader as well as dealing with confidentiality issues. The meeting community will have to find ways to call upon our resources and capacities to meet the needs of our members. Appreciation was expressed for how often volunteers respond when a concern becomes known. The issue of confidentiality can at times be an obstacle to sharing a need for assistance. A new multi-issue flag will be sought to replace the “Black Lives Matter” flag that has worn out.

A sign-up list for soup volunteers was circulated.

## **DIANE DICRANIAN - ORPHANAGE IN UGANDA**

Diane shared background information on the perilous situation in Uganda for LGBTQ persons. She has joined in a program to help persons at risk to get out of Uganda. She now asks for meeting support for an orphanage in Uganda which is attached to a school run by local Quakers. They need everything to care for destitute children. Diane agreed to provide a MINUTE to express approval for fund-raising to aid this orphanage:

**Midcoast Friends Meeting agrees to support Diane Dicranian and Alex Lippitt of Oak Park Monthly Meeting (Illinois Yearly Meeting) in raising funds to assist Children's Care Academy Orphanage in Uganda.**

PASTORAL CARE Friend P. is in need of fellowship and support. She welcomes calls, text messages, emails and visits.

CYNTHIA HARKLEROAD As Treasurer of Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting, Cynthia told

**Friends the annual budget is only about \$ 2,500 and appreciated the annual contribution from Midcoast Meeting now that their Jubilee Year of reduced contributions is over.**

**FINANCE - Bruce Rockwood informed Friends that the requested grant from the Obediah Brown Fund to help repay a loan from Quarterly Meeting has been approved. The current year's BUDGET was handed out and explained in detail.**

**STATE OF SOCIETY REPORT** Patty Seybold asks Friends to return their responses to her questionnaire.

**LIBRARY COMMITTEE** Bruce will purchase recommended books, including some for children. The little library box on the front porch does have free books taken.

**SUE ROCKWOOD** suggested that MOPC be set aside for the "sabbatical year." The Peace Center could be rejuvenated after a year's experience. Meanwhile she will have less regular and burdensome chores in the Meeting House. Cleaning should be a shared responsibility or perhaps a paid cleaner should come in at regular intervals. Guy Marsden indicated that he frequently attends to cleaning and trash removal in addition to Sue's work. Larger projects (e.g. on the grounds) could be taken on by "work days" when "everyone pitches in."

**JIM MATLACK** urged Friends to return their Priority Choices for FCNL Lobbying in the new 2027 Congress. He can receive them either by e-mail or surface mail.

**JONAH SUTTON-MORSE** volunteered to lead a Book Group in reading selected Quaker Books. He has prior experience in guiding such shared reading groups.

It was noted with deep concern that the Trump Administration requires their passport to reflect their gender at birth. Under [8 U.S.C. § 1182\(a\)\(6\)\(C\)\(i\)](#), a foreigner who is found to have obtained a visa either "by fraud or willfully misrepresenting a material fact" will have their visa revoked and face deportation.

**James Matlack**  
**Recording Clerk**