



February 12, 2023

# Minutes & Reports

## Friends Meeting at Cambridge

### Meeting for Business in Worship

February 12, 2023

Inside this issue:

<i>Minutes, February MBW</i>	1
<i>Memorial Minute for Chuck Woodbury</i>	5
<i>Letter, Co-Sponsor Indigenous Legislative Agenda Priorities</i>	7

Friends Meeting at Cambridge (FMC) gathered in a Meeting for Business in Worship on Sunday, February 12 at 1:15 pm. The Meeting was convened by Lynne Weiss, Co-Presiding Clerk, filling in for Co-Presiding Clerk Ariel Maddocks due to illness. After a period of silent worship, with 16 people present on Zoom and 22 people in the Friends Room, the Clerk opened the Meeting with a reading from “The Indigenous way of listening to others” by Wahinkpe Topa (Four Arrows) in *Restoring the Kinship Worldview: Indigenous Voices Introduce 28 Precepts for Rebalancing Life on Planet Earth*.

*Of course, open-mindedness and courage to hear what one may not want to hear are obvious listening skills most people know about. Silent praying, however, is one people rarely consider.*

*Respectful listening often involves pausing after a strong declaration to just sit quietly, not only reflecting on what was said, but also seeking a spiritual perspective. I've seen elders even walk to a place outside when the conversation was indoors to find a sacred place on the earth or gaze at a star, as if to get help in understanding what is being communicated.*

*An example of this more spiritual approach to true listening comes to mind. ...I spontaneously started to listen in the old Indigenous ways, with telepathy, compassion, understanding, historical context, fearlessness, with the seventh-generation considerations blossoming in our minds and hearts....*

*[True listening is] listening that keeps us*

*(1) remembering the ultimate, longer-term importance of our decisions and actions;*

*(2) never forgetting our interconnectedness with all;*

*(3) appreciating the nature of feelings and how they often relate to forgetting to accept the unknown;*

*(4) holding on to authentic humility; and*

*(5) remembering who we really are, with great appreciation for those who came before us who did similar work or who have made our work somewhat easier or clearer.*

Betsy Roper, Co-Assistant Clerk, led the Meeting in introductions of all present.

Cornelia Parkes and Kim West then read the Land Acknowledgement we approved at our February 13, 2022, Meeting for Business in Worship.

### ***Announcements***

***2023-005***

Tom Sander, Co-Presiding Clerk, reported that the following people have been named to the HEALthy Reopening Team (HEART): Betsy Hewitt, Jo Ellen Hillyer, Holly Lapp, MaryGrace Menner, Tom Sander, Kim West, and John Zhang, with Gail Rogers, Sandy Sweetnam, and David White serving as consultants.

Lynne Weiss, Co-Presiding Clerk, informed the Meeting that Susan Davies, Jane Jackson, Gail Rogers, and Lynne Weiss have been named to the Bequest Discernment Group.

The Clerk told the Meeting that Kathleen Wooten has resigned from the Facilities Manager position. Notes of gratitude can be sent to the Clerks Team. With Kathleen's departure, facilities issues should be sent to Jan Nisenbaum or the Trustees Committee. A revised Meeting Administrator job description and search are being prepared.

Betsy Roper, Co-Assistant Clerk, requested that the Meeting's Spirit-led listening also include these items:

- We have endeavored to send the documents in what we hope is an accessible format. If you have personal needs that are not met with the documents, please let clerks know after this so that we can do better next time at meeting your needs. The Disability and Accessibility Awareness and Coordination Working Group can assist as well.
- When our Recording Clerk reads Minutes, please raise only substantive corrections, not minor editing concerns. Wordsmithing concerns take up precious time and can be raised after the business meeting with the Recording Clerk directly.
- We need the active discernment of all in Meetings for Business in Worship. Friends, please make allowances for conversations with vision- or hearing-impaired participants who might need something described to them. The clerk will attempt to call on people by name; please consider introducing yourself if the clerk does not identify you or identifies you incorrectly.
- Please actively seek the Light before speaking and listen for the Light in others' comments. Please keep in mind that the topics we consider this afternoon are topics that have brought forth strong feelings in the past. Consider carefully whether you can find your way toward unity despite individual reservations.
- Finally, please hold all of us in this Meeting for Business in Worship, whether physically in the building or on Zoom, and the Meeting as a whole in the Light as we sit together to seek unity.

### ***Memorial Minute for Charles "Chuck" Woodbury***

Wendy Sanford and Jessie Brown, for Ministry and Counsel, read a Memorial Minute for Charles "Chuck" Woodbury, who was born on February 6, 1920 and died on December 20, 2018. After

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hearing the Minute, the Meeting held Chuck and his family in the Light. The Meeting then approved the Minute with gratitude and directed the Clerk to send it to the New England Yearly Meeting (NEYM) Permanent Board. The full text will appear in the February 12 edition of *Minutes & Reports*.

***Marriage Clearness Committee for Phoebe Hogue-Rodley and Conor Burke***      **2023-006**

Sandy Sweetnam, Clerk of Ministry and Counsel, announced that Phoebe Hogue-Rodley and Conor Burke have requested marriage under the care of FMC. Sandy read the names of the following people to serve on their Marriage Clearness Committee: Katy Cullinan, Alasdair Post-Quinn, Tom Sander, and Elise Springuel. Friends approved this committee with joy and emotion.

***Nominating Committee report***      **2023-007**

Chaz Kelsh, Clerk of Nominating Committee, in a second reading, requested approval of the nomination of Nancy Frost to Fundraising Committee through June 2025. Friends approved this nomination.

Chaz also presented a first reading for Camilla Dickinson to serve on the First Day School/Youth Programs Committee through June 2025.

***Financial Reports for FY 2022***      **2023-008**

Jane Jackson, FMC Treasurer, presented the Financial Report for the Fiscal Year ending on June 30, 2022.

She reported that Fiscal Year 2022 was again an unusual year. There was a surplus of about \$516,000, but the surplus was only about \$53,000 if non-recurring income and expense items were removed. The non-recurring items were two bequests, forgiveness of the second Federal Payroll Protection Program loan, a large rebate on medical insurance premiums, and payment for the acoustic treatment of the Meetinghouse ceiling.

Other reasons for the surplus level included the following:

- Contributions were about \$36,000 over budget,
- Investment income was about \$14,000 over budget,
- Salaries were about \$15,000 under budget,
- The \$10,000 budgeted for COVID-related cleaning services was not used, and
- Facilities income was under budget by about \$22,000.

The Pope Fund balance was reduced from about \$15,000 to about \$1,000 in response to the many needs of the community.

Although the book value of our investments rose \$400,000 due to the bequest, the total market value of our investments only increased by \$98,000 because of poor stock market performance.

FMC's Unrestricted Permanent Funds (the accumulated surpluses and deficits over the years) increased by about \$510,000.

Rather than reducing our contribution to the NEYM by 5%, as was decided earlier, the contribution was left at the same level as the previous year since FMC had such a large surplus.

Members of Fundraising Committee noted that while fiscal year 2022 was a record fundraising year, contributions have seesawed in recent years; fiscal year 2021 was the

worst fundraising year in the last 5 years and the current year [fiscal year 2023] is through January running below average. Jane expects our expenses will be increasing in the next couple of years with additional staff expenses.

Friends thanked Jane for her work. She will bring the reports back for acceptance at our next Meeting for Business in Worship.

### *Massachusetts Indigenous Legislative Agenda*

**2023-009**

Nancy Frost, Co-Clerk of Friends for Racial Justice Committee, listed the members of FORJ who participated in discernment on this item and asked the Meeting, in response to a request from a group of Indigenous Leaders, to urge our legislators to co-sponsor this year's Massachusetts Indigenous Legislative Agenda. She feels this is an appropriate next step after the approval of our Land Acknowledgement. She identified the five pieces of legislation on the Agenda as:

- **HD.3026/SD.857:** An Act prohibiting the use of Native American mascots by public schools in the Commonwealth.
- **HD.468/SD.268:** An Act establishing an Indigenous Peoples Day.
- **HD.2237/SD.387:** An Act relative to celebrating and teaching Native American cultures and history.
- **HD.932/SD.1826:** An Act providing for the creation of a permanent commission relative to the education of American Indian and Alaska Native residents of the Commonwealth.
- **HD.1611/SD.1410:** An Act to protect Native American Heritage.

Nancy reported that the Commission on the State Flag and Seal has been set up and is continuing its work.

After some discussion, the Meeting approved the request. The Clerks Team will send a letter on behalf of Friends Meeting at Cambridge to the state legislators who represent the district in which 5 Longfellow Park is located. Friends are also encouraged to send letters as quickly as possible to their state representatives and state senators. FORJ has provided a sample letter and will help Friends in this effort.

The sample letter will be distributed to the FMC community and will appear in the February 12 edition of *Minutes & Reports*.

### *Closing Worship*

Meeting for Business in Worship adjourned at 3:17 pm, with Friends intending to gather next in a Meeting for Business in Worship on Sunday, March 12, 2023, at 1:15 pm on Zoom and in the Friends Room.

Lynne Weiss, Co-Presiding Clerk

Ian Harrington, Recording Clerk

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## Memorial Minute for Chuck Woodbury, 2/6/1920 - 12/20/2018

*“When I think of Chuck, I think of faithfulness — an active faithfulness, something lived.”*

Our beloved member Charles “Chuck” Woodbury died on December 20, 2018. A treasured friend, Chuck let his light shine at Friends Meeting at Cambridge and beyond. One-time clerk of our Meeting, he also inspired in countless other capacities. In the words of a tribute from the Farm and Wilderness Camps, where he was involved for decades, Chuck “lived a productive and full 98 years; as a clinical psychologist, a husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, Quaker, voice for social justice, musician, birdwatcher, square and contra dancer, lover and protector of the outdoors.”

Chuck’s presence in worship, deepened by his daily practice of walks, reading and meditation, felt grounding to many of us. Although he seldom spoke in Meeting, his messages reflected a sense of being touched. Once, distracted by leaves drifting through our open door, he spoke of his own dependence on the winds of the spirit. Another time, he marveled that the love of truth was beauty, and that the truth of beauty was love.

His quiet constancy in Meeting hid an exuberance that bloomed in other arenas — in his unexpected puns, in witty tales, in his love of poetry, and his passion for music and contradancing. Throughout, as one Friend remembers, “Chuck had a twinkle in his eye.” After one especially talkative Meeting, he confessed to a friend, “Some popcorn is tastier and more nourishing than others.” Chuck danced and played violin into his nineties, and when asked “Have you been dancing all your life?” he famously replied “Not yet!”

Chuck grew up in Washington, D.C. It was while attending Oberlin College in Ohio that he met his future wife, Betty. He went on to study psychology at Yale, and he and Betty became engaged. Chuck then served a stint in the Army; after training in personnel psychology he was assigned to a travel team evaluating army recruits. He and Betty married on December 26, 1943, on his Christmas leave. After the war, Chuck returned to Yale for his Ph.D.

Chuck and Betty joined Friends in 1953 at the Oberlin Friends Meeting while Chuck was teaching at Oberlin College. In 1955 they settled in Newton, MA, for Chuck’s job as psychologist at Boston’s Judge Baker Guidance Center and transferred their young family’s membership to Friends Meeting at Cambridge. Thus began decades of worship and service in our community, including Chuck’s years as presiding clerk from 1967-1970, and Betty’s role in Yearly Meeting and women’s retreats. Their children—Steven, Phil, Gail and Peter—grew up in the Meeting.

Chuck and Betty also helped all their children attend the Quaker-based Farm and Wilderness Camps, in Vermont, where the celebration of outdoor skills and living in community, not to mention story and song, reflected their own joys. Chuck’s children recall how he would read aloud to them by the fireplace, “with different voices for each character (Winnie the Pooh, The Wind in the Willows, The Hobbit, Just So Stories ...).” Theirs was a home filled with books — “history, anthropology, natural science, progressive politics” as well as music — “hundreds of records, from classical to folk to Gilbert & Sullivan.” Of course, there was plenty of singing in the car.

As Quaker parents, Chuck and Betty made their home a welcoming place. They often had young people to live with them — a black high school student from the Deep South, during the Civil Rights movement; a Kenyan college student; an art student from Costa Rica; a young man just

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out of prison. The whole family demonstrated against *de facto* segregation in the Boston public schools, against the Vietnam War, and for nuclear disarmament. His children remember Chuck as a "doer, not a preacher.... He valued living a moral life, where you did as much good as you could."

When their children were grown, Chuck and Betty were drawn to community living. They helped establish the Friends Community in North Easton, MA, where they lived for nine years until the ambitious project folded. Sadly, Betty died in 1989, and Chuck moved to Brookhaven, the retirement community they had chosen, alone. Active as ever, he supported the small Quaker worship circle there, and organized regular Brookhaven donations to the Cambridge Material Aid and Advocacy Program. He walked the nature trail most days, watching wildlife and the changing seasons. Chuck documented the vernal pools at Brookhaven and was instrumental in their designation by the State as protected places.

Much of Chuck's service to FMC, although quiet and behind the scenes, drew others together. Friends remember Chuck's special concern for young people in the meeting, and his "one-person campaign of outreach to junior members." On Marriage and Family Life, Chuck and Wendy Sanford held gatherings for friends who were divorced, to explore how the Meeting could better support them. On Membership, he and Sara Sue Pennell visited many applicants together. Meanwhile, he became known for the thoughtful (and often humorous) notes he wrote to friends whose acts of service caught his attention. For years he volunteered at the Cambridge material aid program, often re-knitting sweaters. An accomplished violinist in the Concord Symphony, Chuck also took to the balcony for the Meeting's Christmas Pageant every year, anchoring the all-ages orchestra that gathered for the occasion.

Chuck truly cherished that of God in everyone and worked from this foundation during the meeting's ten painful years of threshing around same-sex marriage. Polly Attwood and Wendy Sanford remember his steady service on their clearness and care committees for their marriage under the care of the Meeting. Chuck was someone they wanted close at their side as they took this step.

In his later years, Chuck experienced increasing deafness. He attended worship prayerfully, although cut off from the vocal ministry. Soon, Jessie Brown began to sit beside him to transcribe messages for him. As one Friend recalls, "This itself was a beautiful ministry and relationship to behold. Chuck's response when reading these transcriptions conveyed curiosity, openness, and gratitude. This modeled a way we all might receive ministry."

Chuck's life, a Quaker life, continues to burn bright for all who knew him. "When I think of Chuck, I think of his very ready smile — a sense of gentleness that characterized all his interactions." Wise as well as generous, he never reproached others for oversights — "He wasn't that type! He left us with nothing but good wishes." "The essence of graciousness." "He had such a warm presence, and an inviting nature. I would love to carry that kind of welcome forward."

When a Friend asked Chuck once at coffee hour the secret to his long and healthy life, his response was "Be sure to have music in your life, and to dance!"

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## *Letter Requesting Co-Sponsorship of the Indigenous Legislative Agenda Priorities*

February 13, 2023

Dear [Insert State Senator] [Insert State Representative],

As a member of the Friends Meeting (Quaker) at Cambridge community I/we am/are writing to request that you co-sponsor the five bills included in the Massachusetts Indigenous Legislative Agenda. Our Friends Meeting has acknowledged that we meet on land taken from its rightful Indigenous caretakers. We have committed ourselves to listen and “follow the leadership of Indigenous teachers as we work diligently to undo the harms of the past and present. We pledge our time and resources to work for healing the wounds of colonialism, advancing Indigenous self-determination and working for equity and right relationship.” We believe that these five proposals are important steps toward achieving these goals and strongly support their passage.

These five bills work together to eliminate ongoing harms and to build stronger relationships with Indigenous communities within the Commonwealth. The bills included in this request are:

- **HD.3026/SD.857:** An Act prohibiting the use of Native American mascots by public schools in the Commonwealth. (Fluker Oakley/Comerford). Currently about 25 public high schools in the state use Native American mascots. This bill would task the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education with establishing regulations to prohibit Native American mascots in MA public schools.
- **HD.468/SD.268:** An Act establishing an Indigenous Peoples Day. (Barber/Comerford). This bill replaces Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day in the Massachusetts General Laws.
- **HD.2237/SD.387:** An act relative to celebrating and teaching Native American cultures and history. (Lewis/Rausch). This bill addresses the current lack of Indigenous curriculum in Massachusetts public schools.
- **HD.932/ SD.1826:** An Act providing for the creation of a permanent commission relative to the education of American Indian and Alaska Native residents of the Commonwealth. (Miranda/Comerford, Montaña). This bill would require the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, as a State Education Agency, to engage in timely and meaningful consultation with stakeholders. Representatives of Indian tribes located in the state are explicitly identified as stakeholders.
- **HD.1611/SD.1410:** An Act to protect Native American Heritage. (Rogers/Biele, Collins). This bill would ensure that Native American funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony (those of cultural, traditional or historical importance to their heritage) held in governmental, municipal or non-profit collections are not sold for profit.

In 2020, after almost four decades, Massachusetts legislators voted to establish a commission to change the state flag and seal. That vote was an important first step towards honoring the thousands of Indigenous people living in the Commonwealth and listening to the overwhelming desire to retire these racist symbols. I/We urge you to deepen this commitment to right relationship with Massachusetts Indigenous Peoples by co-sponsoring the Massachusetts Indigenous Legislative Agenda. I/We look forward to hearing from you about your decision.

Respectfully,

Individual sender/Presiding Clerk(s) of Friends Meeting at Cambridge

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# Friends Meeting at Cambridge

5 Longfellow Park, Cambridge, MA 02138-4816 [www.FMCQuaker.org](http://www.FMCQuaker.org)

Co-Presiding Clerks: Ariel Maddocks, Tom Sander, Lynne Weiss

[clerks@FMCQuaker.org](mailto:clerks@FMCQuaker.org)

617-876-6883

Interim Coordinating Team: Deborah Colgan,  
Jan Nisenbaum, Tom Sander, Jonathan Vogel-Borne

[ict@FMCQuaker.org](mailto:ict@FMCQuaker.org)

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617-876-6883

Jan Nisenbaum, Staff Supervisor

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617-354-3383

Patricia Wild, Interim First Day School/Youth Programs Coordinator

[fdsypcoordinator@FMCQuaker.org](mailto:fdsypcoordinator@FMCQuaker.org)

413-251-6512

To receive links to publications or to join the community listserv, email: [office@FMCQuaker.org](mailto:office@FMCQuaker.org)

## Meetings for Worship at FMC

### 5 Longfellow Park, Cambridge

Sundays 10:30 am

Wednesdays 8:30 am to 10 am

### South Shore Preparative Meeting

155 Washington St. (Rt. 53), Pembroke

Sundays 10:00 am

Jim deVeer

781-982-0653

### Worship Group at Brookhaven

1010 Waltham Street, Lexington

Sundays 10:30 am

Elisabeth Cotten

781-862-7578

## Other Nearby Worship Opportunities

### Acton Friends Meeting,

Contact Clerk, [acton@neym.org](mailto:acton@neym.org)

### Amesbury Monthly Meeting, 120 Friend St., Amesbury

Sundays 10:00 am

### Beacon Hill Friends Meeting, 6 Chestnut St., Boston

Sundays 10:30 am

### Cambridge Friends School, 5 Cadbury Rd., Cambridge

Tuesdays 8:30 to 9:00 am

### Framingham Friends Meeting, 841 Edmands Rd., Framingham

Sundays 10:00 am

### Fresh Pond Monthly Meeting, CFS Cambridge

Sundays 10:00 am

### Lawrence Monthly Meeting, 15 Forest St., Methuen

Sundays 6:30 pm

### Mill City Quakers, [millcityquakers@gmail.com](mailto:millcityquakers@gmail.com)

### Nashoba Worship Group, [nashobaquakers@gmail.com](mailto:nashobaquakers@gmail.com)

Sundays 10:30 am

### North Shore Monthly Meeting, 74 Hart St., Beverly Farms

Sundays 10:00 am

### Three Rivers Worship Group, [info@threeriversmeeting.org](mailto:info@threeriversmeeting.org)

Alternate Thursdays 9:30 am

### Wellesley Friends Meeting, 26 Benvenue St., Wellesley

Sundays 10:30 am