

Minutes of Peace & Social Concerns Committee, 5/28/20

Present: Diane (clerk), Ka (recording), Jane, Sandi Albertson-Shea (C&C liaison)

While waiting for the meeting to begin, we provide background to Sandi, on the problem of P&SC membership.

We begin with silence

1. Search for new clerk of P&SC as Diane is resigning from that role.

Discussion: We agree to wait on this until there are more members.

2. Letter writing rebirth? Should it be resurrected and how?

Discussion: We set this question aside, secondary to the question of membership. If we ask NomComm to provide members, this could allow us to resume letter-writing.

3. Concert series: Diane proposes that the concert series be made a separate committee apart from P&SC and be considered for new members by the nominating committee.

Given that no one on the P&SC besides Diane participates in the management and execution of the concerts, it is logical that the business of the series is overseen by a separate committee of active members.

Initially the new committee would include those members of Mount Toby who already contribute to its operation: John Ridgway, Jack Janssen, Shirley Conant, Brad Archer and Daniel Yalowitz (a member of the Jewish Community of Greenfield). If approved by the P&SC, the proposal will be sent to Meeting for Business in June.

Discussion: We discuss whether this new committee would be under NomComm. We agree that rotating membership would be unsatisfactory for a concert committee. We are unsure how breaking off the concert series from P&SC would affect people's interest in membership. We agree to hold this question pending resolution of membership (see item 4).

4. Our efforts to attract new members to the P&SC have been less than fruitful. Proposed is the request that Meeting include it in the Nomination Committee's roster. This may result in more people joining the P&SC if membership in it were part of the Meeting's service. As it is now, P&SC is viewed as an extra activity on top of the regular committees' duties.

Discussion: Sandi & Jane point out that it's a Quaker tradition to lay down an activity or committee for various reasons. Often it eventually reappears, in improved form. In many ways P&SC is a 'committee of the whole', Mount Toby being a social justice meeting generally. We agree that we should bring the matter to NomComm, asking that they increase P&SC membership. We will ask for 4-6 members total. Diane will call both Patricia Crosby, clerk of NomComm, and Cat to discuss this. Ka will contact Dan and Harvey to learn whether they intend to be active members of P&SC.

This is Ka's last meeting with P&SC, so another recording clerk will be identified once the future membership is worked out.

To-do List:

1. Ka will contact Dan and Harvey to learn whether they intend to be active members of P&SC
2. Diane will call both Patricia Crosby, clerk of NomComm, and Cat to discuss the changes outlined in item 4 above