

Vancouver Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Minutes: Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
Thursday May 22, 2025, 7:30pm

Present: Rob Hughes (Clerk), Ruth Walmsley (recording Clerk), Tim Bartoo, Maxine Kaufman-Lacusta, Aggie Black, Beth Lopez, Rachel Singleton-Polster, Su-Laine Brodsky

Regrets: Helen Armstrong, Gayle Raphanel

Silent worship out of which the Clerk read: “A good end cannot sanctify evil means; nor must we ever do evil, that good may come of it... It is as great presumption to send our passions upon God’s errands, as it is to palliate them with God’s name... We are too ready to retaliate, rather than forgive, or gain by love and information. And yet we could hurt no man that we believe loves us. Let us then try what Love will do: for if men did once see we love them, we should soon find they would not harm us. Force may subdue, but Love gains: and he that forgives first, wins the laurel.” William Penn, 1693

Approval of agenda

Approval of Minutes - April 20th & April 29th: Approved as distributed.

Membership: none

Committee reports

- Minute 1 [May 2025]: Trustees:
 - i) Incorporation of VaMM: We approve the Trustees working on next steps towards incorporation of Vancouver Monthly Meeting as a Society. The goal is to be prepared to submit incorporation paperwork soon after the charitable status of our Meeting has been reinstated. The Trustees are authorized to spend up to \$3000 from line E9 to cover costs.
 - ii) We accept with thanks the updated **Guidelines for Disbursement of Funds from the Margaret Lorenz Trust**, and thank the Trustees for their work on this.
- Minute 2 [May 2025]: Finance Committee: The report is received with thanks and appended to these minutes.
- Minute 3 [May 2025]: Treasurer - The report is received with thanks and appended to these minutes.
- Minute 4 [May 2025]: Ministry & Counsel: The report is received with thanks and appended to these minutes.
- Minute 5 [May 2025]: Nominating Committee
 - We approve the following names to be appointed to Nominating Committee: Beth Lopez and Bruce Miller. We thank these Friends for their willingness to serve. Beth is willing to be first named.

Business arising from the minutes

Minute 6 [May 2025]: Apartheid Free Communities Pledge: While we have received written communication from two members of Vancouver Meeting who are not present at this M4W4B, to

say they are not in unity with use of the words “apartheid” and “settler colonialism”, those of us present in this Meeting are supportive of Vancouver Monthly Meeting signing the Apartheid-free Communities pledge. This pledge is an initiative of a worldwide movement of Quaker and other faith communities and communities of conscience committed to striving to dismantle Israel's apartheid regime:

WE AFFIRM: our commitment to freedom, justice, and equality for the Palestinian people and all peoples;

WE OPPOSE: all forms of racism, bigotry, discrimination, and oppression; and

WE DECLARE: ourselves an Apartheid-free community and to that end,

WE PLEDGE: to join others in working to end all support to Israel's Apartheid regime, settler colonialism, and military occupation.

By signing the pledge, a community publicly commits to take actions that express their love for equality, justice, and a better world for all people everywhere as a member of the Apartheid-free Communities network, which shares resources, opportunities for action, and support. (see also <https://apartheid-free.org/pledge>)

We ask the Clerks of Vancouver Meeting to write a letter to the Canadian government expressing our deep concern about the need to end the genocide of the Palestinian people. We support CFSC bringing this initiative to CYM.

New Business

- None

Correspondence & Announcements

Next VaMM Meeting for Worship with a concern for business: Sunday June 15, 2025

Closing worship

Trustees Report:

- i) The Trustees, together with Finance Committee and the Treasurer, ask the Meeting for approval to move forward with incorporation of Vancouver Monthly Meeting as a Society. With agreement from the Meeting, the Trustees will work on next steps towards incorporation, with the goal of being ready to submit incorporation paperwork soon after the charitable status of our Meeting has been reinstated.

- ii) **May 2025 – Guidelines for Disbursement of Funds from the Margaret Lorenz Trust Prepared by the Trustees:** Aggie Black, Ruth Walmsley, Jerilynn Prior and Samson Nashon

(Adapted from the guidelines developed by the Standing Finance Committee of VaMM in 1999)

Background: Margaret (Peggy) Lorenz was a devoted and longtime member of VaMM who died in 1990 and left a bequest in her will of approximately \$90,000. Administration of the Margaret Lorenz Trust is the responsibility of the Vancouver Meeting's Trustees.

Guidelines: Disbursement of funds from the Margaret Lorenz Trust shall be under the guidance of the Trustees of Vancouver Monthly Meeting. The Trustees will: 1) prepare an annual budget; and 2) make recommendations to the Meeting regarding disbursement of the funds from the Trust.

- All decisions concerning the use of the income from the Trust should be made with due regard for the memory of Peggy Lorenz.
- The income from the Trust should be used for carefully considered purposes.
- The Meeting is not required to spend within a given time all the income from the Trust, but on the other hand should not hoard the money.
- The financial year for this fund is Jan 1 through Dec 31.
- The Meeting shall widely disseminate information about the availability of funds from the Trust.

Acceptable Projects:

- **Books.** Purchase of Quaker books for donation to public libraries and/or to be added to the VaMM library.
- **Outreach activities.** Including direct support of Vancouver-area worship groups.
- **Travel to Quaker Gatherings.** Payment of travel for Friends, especially young Friends, to attend Quaker gatherings, such as CYM and WHYM, including attending CYM and WHYM sessions and committee meetings.
- **Travel on behalf of VaMM.** Payment of travel expenses for Meeting members or attendees travelling on behalf of the Meeting. Prior approval at Business Meeting is required.
- **Donations to individuals or organizations for social concerns.** Preference should be given to Quakers and Quaker organizations who have a personal relationship with VaMM or a member of the Meeting, and a report on use of the funds should be requested. Social concerns may include projects focused on the environment, Indigenous reconciliation, justice, education and human rights.
- **Other Meeting expenses.** Income not spent on the projects listed above is to be reserved for future Meetinghouse-related expenses, such as purchase of land or building for a new Meetinghouse, a new heating system, or automatic sprinkler system.

These guidelines should be periodically reviewed and amended as needed.

Finance Committee report to Vancouver Monthly Meeting, May 14, 2025

Finance Committee – Gayle Raphanel (recording clerk) and Tim Bartoo (Treasurer) met by telephone on May 14, 2025.

The Treasurer reviewed the April **treasurer's report** with the Committee and we support him presenting it to the May meeting for worship with a concern for business.

Gayle and Tim are preparing the 2024 Tax Return for CRA and will ensure it is filed online in advance of the June 30, 2025 deadline.

There is nothing to report on the application for reinstatement of charitable status but since the previous two contacts from CRA were to ask for additional input from us, which we have provided, we think that in this instance no news is good news. We hope that the filing of the 2024 tax return will serve as a reminder to CRA that our application is outstanding.

Next meeting of the Finance Committee will be Wednesday June 4, 2025, at 5:30 pm by Zoom.

**Vancouver Monthly Meeting
Meeting on Ministry & Counsel
Minutes 8 May, 2025**

Members present: Graham Entwistle, Eric Kristensen, Catherine Smith, Phoebe Titus
Meeting was preceded by members' check-in.

New Business

Alan Patola Moosman passed away on April 26 at home with his family. We thank his Committee of Care for their service. M&C will begin to compile a Memorial Minute. Friends who wish to contribute to the minute should get in touch with any member of Ministry & Counsel. We will work with his family to plan the best time for his Memorial Meeting and will share details as they come together.

It is time to start to plan for the Annual Harry Appleyard Memorial Strawberry Tea. It will be held on **June 29** this year. Volunteers are needed to help prepare fruit and procure ice cream. Please contact M&C if you are able to do either.

Business arising from previous minutes

Marriage of Arwen Brenneman and her partner Sam: Eric has begun to organize a Clearness Committee and an Oversight Committee for Arwen and Sam, who are planning to get married under care of Meeting next October. Eric has a list of people to contact.

CYM's Continuing Meeting of Ministry and Counsel has asked for responses to its questions regarding "Caring for Carers". M&C is preparing a response that we will send to Sarah. The event is on May 31st.

An updated version of our handout for new attenders is ready to be printed and folded. It will be at the Meetinghouse soon.

Child care at the Meetinghouse: We have contacted attenders who may need this and await responses.

We continue to put out a call to members to bring in toys for our children's area. Soft toys, quiet toys/activities, and items for a variety of age groups are coming in, thanks to Friends. We will keep some quiet toys and activities upstairs for those times young children stay in the Meeting Room. We also want a list of volunteers who will be willing to step in for ad-hoc childcare. **Volunteers so far are Ruth, Catherine, Graham and Jerilyn.**

Over the course of 2025, M&C will more formally re-establish a childcare system. Part of this will involve setting up procedures to ensure safety, including best practices like getting background checks for those who will mind children, and finding ways to have more than one person present for childcare.

Religious Education

Podcasts: Tim, Patrick and Phoebe did a test run. Next steps: plan some events and some interviews about different individuals' journeys.

Memorial Minute for Joyce Todd – Eric has done work gathering material, but has also found very limited interest in composing a memorial minute. M&C will ask one last time for contributions to this minute and will compile what has been gathered. Eric will gather all the input we have received and begin to compose the minute.

Memorial Minute for Sheila Brown- Graham will get in touch with Ellen Pye to see what insights she may have. Ruth may also have thoughts or memories. Eric received some feedback from one Friend.

Care of Meeting

- May 11 Catherine
- May 18 Graham
- May 25 Eric
- June 1 Phoebe
- June8 Catherine
- June 15 Graham

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be by Zoom on Tuesday June 3 at 7 PM.

Financial Report: Vancouver Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

2025	April			
	Committees / Expenses	April	Year-to-Date	Budget
A1	Children's Meeting Committee	0.00	0.00	100.00
A2	Ministry and Counsel	0.00	0.00	300.00
A3	Hospitality Committee	0.00	192.86	600.00
A4	Adult Education Committee	0.00	0.00	100.00
A5	Newsletter	0.00	0.00	0.00
A6	Library Committee / Books for new members	0.00	13.08	500.00
A9	Building Maintenance	0.00	0.00	1000.00
A10	Expenditures minuted by Business Meeting	0.00	0.00	1000.00
A11	Young Friends	0.00	0.00	200.00
A12	Non-CYM Travel	0.00	0.00	1200.00
A15	Environmental & Social Justice Committee	0.00	0.00	100.00
A16	Child Care	0.00	0.00	1500.00
A17	Reconciliation Committee	0.00	0.00	1000.00
A18	Website Development and Maintenance	0.00	0.00	300.00
A19	Outreach/Worship Group Support	0.00	0.00	100.00
A20	Refugee Committee	0.00	170.80	2000.00
	Operating Expenses	April	Year-to-Date	Budget
E1	City of Vancouver Rates	0.00	1120.00	2400.00
E2	Insurance	0.00	0.00	7000.00
E3	Bank Charges	14.18	60.16	175.00
E4	Telecommunications	67.27	269.08	750.00
E5	Hydro and Gas	70.00	706.93	2050.00
E6	Building and Grounds (materials)	0.00	452.58	1500.00
E7	Building and grounds (labour)	325.00	1200.00	5000.00
E8	Printing, Postage, Stationery	0.00	65.10	100.00
E9	Legal and Accounting	0.00	385.65	3000.00
E10	Lift: License, Maintenance, Inspection	0.00	0.00	1200.00
E11	ADT Security (Price)	31.49	125.96	400.00
	Donations by the Meeting	April	Year-to-Date	Budget
D1	Canadian Yearly Meeting	0.00	7000.00	7000.00
D2	Canadian Friends Service Committee	0.00	1000.00	1000.00
D3	Friends World Committee for Consultation	0.00	200.00	200.00
D5	The Canadian Friend	0.00	775.00	775.00

2025	April				
	Donations by the Meeting (continued)		April	Year-to-Date	Budget
D6	Quaker Indigenous Rights Committee		0.00	200.00	200.00
D7	Saint Augustine's Parish- Community Meals		0.00	0.00	0.00
D8	Helping Spirit Lodge		0.00	0.00	0.00
D9	Society Promoting Environmental Conservation		0.00	0.00	0.00
D10	Communities Embracing Restorative Action Society		0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total Budget				42750.00
	Revenue		April	Year-to-Date	-
R0	Transfer From Trustees		0.00	4000.00	-
R1	General Donations		1095.00	7963.33	-
R2	Cash Donations		0.00	150.00	-
R3	Use of Building		1520.00	4440.00	-
R4	Interest Income		0.00	0.00	-
R11	From Margaret Lorenz Trust		0.00	0.00	-
	Total Revenue		2615.00	16553.33	-
	Margaret Lorenz Trust				Available
MLB	Margaret Lorenz Bequest (funds available to Meeting)		-	-	1750.00
MLA	Young Friend CYM Travel (up to 20% of total)		-	-	350.00
MLC	Social Concerns (up to 15% of total)		-	-	262.50
MLE	Non-CYM Travel (up to 15% of total)		-	-	262.50
MLF	CYM Travel (up to 50% of total)		-	-	875.00
MLG	Meetinghouse Related (accumulated unspent money)		-	-	

2025	Bank & Reserved Funds	April		Year-to-Date		Balance
		Income	Expense	Income	Expense	
OP	Operating	2535.00	507.94	16253.33	15087.20	6397.11
F3	M&C Discretionary Fund	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	318.75
F4	Building Maintenance Fund	0.00	0.00	1000.00	0.00	2000.00
F9	Refugee Fund	80.00	0.00	320.00	983.41	1783.39
F12	Renovation Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F16	Library Purchase Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	80.25
F18	Ramallah Friends School Fund	0.00	0.00	15.00	0.00	45.00
F22	Chatamilu Scholarship Fund	0.00	0.00	15.00	0.00	5823.48
		2615.00	507.94	17703.33	16070.61	16447.98