Old Chatham Monthly Meeting
Of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

P.O. Box 165
Old Chatham, NY 12136
USA

July 15, 2025

Dear Friends,

Regina Baird Haag was recorded in the ministry by Wilmington Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends in July 1996. Currently Old Chatham Meeting, where Regina has membership, holds that recording. Old Chatham Meeting has the responsibility to care for and nurture her ministry wherever that takes her.

We introduce Regina to you and commend her to your care as she travels outside our Meeting to other communities in which she is called to serve. Over the years, Regina has faithfully followed the call to serve as a pastor both among Friends and outside our religious society. In addition, for eight years she served New York Yearly Meeting as Executive Director of our conference and retreat center, Powell House. To this work, she has brought numerous gifts of the Spirit and of a practical nature. She has a special way of creating Spirit-filled spaces in which people of diverse backgrounds can gather, build deep connections, and find support and inspiration for their spiritual journeys.

In our Monthly Meeting, we have valued Regina sharing her gifts in vocal ministry, holding deep and healing space, ably clerking committees, undertaking pastoral care with faithfulness and skill, and supporting religious education in our community.

We trust that you, too, will experience and appreciate the special gifts that Regina has brought to each spiritual community she enters.

In Faith,

Spee Braun, Clerk
Old Chatham Monthly Meeting, New York Yearly Meeting

Enclosed: Excerpts from New York Yearly Meeting's Faith and Practice

NYYM Faith & Practice excerpt - Minute of Travel

MINUTE OF TRAVEL. Where a member proposes to travel under the weight of a concern, the monthly meeting may issue a minute of travel releasing the Friend for a particular service. The minute of travel is a certificate endorsing the Friend's concern, indicating that the meeting is in unity with and in support of this venture.

The service undertaken may include arranging public addresses, informal conferences, visiting in families, appointing meetings, or making group visits, prompted by a desire to deepen the religious life of the Society or promote a specific form of social action. At the business meeting where the proposed minute is taken up, and in advance of that meeting, where possible, Friends should give counsel and sympathetic consideration to the individual and the concern.

Discretion and sensitivity to divine guidance, as well as to the conditions of those who will be met, are vital qualifications for visitors. A minute of travel should not be granted lightly, and the monthly meeting's preparers should so phrase it that there can be no doubt of the purpose for which the monthly meeting issued it or any basis for confusion with a letter of introduction.

When a monthly meeting approves a minute of travel under specific concern that involves visitation among non-Friends or Friends outside the limits of the yearly meeting, the monthly meeting clerk should forward the minute of travel to the next succeeding Session of the yearly meeting for further consideration and endorsement before delivery to the traveling Friend. Similar treatment should be accorded a minute of travel originating in a quarterly or equivalent meeting. The yearly meeting may originate minutes of travel at any of its Sessions.

It is desirable that Friends traveling under a concern to other yearly meetings consult the Friends World Committee for Consultation, Friends General Conference, Friends United Meeting, and the office and appropriate committees of this yearly meeting (where their scope is related to the purpose of the visit). Helpful suggestions and literature are also available from the Friends World Committee for Consultation. Persons who have been granted minutes of travel should return them to the issuing meeting within a reasonable time after the service is completed. Minutes for an extended period of service should be considered to have expired after one year unless renewal has been requested and granted.

Friends are advised not to let the prosecution of any proper spiritual concern of a member be hampered by lack of funds. The meeting issuing or endorsing a minute of travel should consider whether it is under obligation to aid in the accomplishment of the service and contribute toward the expense, if necessary.

NYYM Faith & Practice excerpt - Recording in the Ministry

CARE OF MINISTRIES AND RECORDING OF GIFTS IN MINISTRY. In cases when a member has given public ministry that is sustained, consistent, and enlivening and has rendered this service to such an extent as to afford a basis for discerning the nature of those gifts and calling, the monthly meeting on ministry and counsel should carefully consider whether there is evidence of a gift in the ministry that should be officially named or recognized. Friends should bear in mind that such recording of gifts of ministry is a recognition of the gift of the Spirit to the community and a recognition of the need for care and nurture of that gift.

When the monthly meeting on ministry and counsel is satisfied that a member carries a gift in the ministry that they consider to be of suitable character, they should consult with the member about officially recognizing his or her gift and then report this to the monthly meeting. If the monthly meeting approves, the monthly meeting's ministry and counsel should prepare a minute for the consideration of the yearly meeting's Ministry Coordinating Committee, with a copy to the regional or quarterly meeting ministry and counsel for their information. Ministry Coordinating Committee should refer the proposal to a designated committee for examination and recommendation. If, after due consideration, the way seems clear, the designated committee shall forward their recommendation to the Ministry Coordinating Committee, who may approve the recording and furnish a copy of its minute to the monthly meeting, the individual, and the region of which the individual is a member. The action should also be reported to the yearly meeting for record. If Ministry Coordinating Committee does not approve a proposal to record, they should so inform the individual and the originating meeting.

The recording of an individual's gifts in ministry carries a responsibility on the part of Friends in the monthly, regional, and yearly meetings to nurture, support, and hold accountable the individual in the exercise of those gifts, including by being present during the exercise of the gifts, knowing the spiritual condition of the individual, hearing reports of the ministry, etc.

In naming the gift of ministry, the monthly meeting carries the primary responsibility for nurture and oversight of the gift throughout its life cycle, including naming changes in the gift and its possible withdrawal. Care committees, peer groups, etc. may provide structures for this work, which may also be carried by the regional meeting….