

Fifth Month Meeting for Business Agenda/Minutes
Asheville Friends Meeting
May 13, 2007

Worship

Attendance: Bryan Freeborn, Phil Neal, Gary Briggs, David Clements, George Gjelfriend, Kristi Gjelfriend, Barbara Esther

Lynnora Bierce—Guest Clerk
Ellen Frerotte—Guest Recording Clerk

Reading:

“There are two elements that go to the composition of friendship, each so sovereign that I can detect no superiority in either, no reason why either should be first named. One is Truth. A friend is a person with whom I may be sincere. Before him I may think aloud. I am arrived at last in the presence of a man so real and equal, that I may drop even those undermost garments of dissimulation, courtesy, and second thought, which men never put off, and may deal with him with the simplicity and wholeness with which one chemical atom meets another...

“The other element of friendship is tenderness. We are beholden to men by every sort of tie, by blood, by pride, by fear, by hope, by lucre, by lust, by hate, by admiration, by every circumstance and badge and trifle, but we can scarce believe that so much character can subsist in another as to draw us by love. Can another be so blessed, and we so pure, that we can offer him tenderness?”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Minutes from 3rd Month—Approved

Minutes from 4th Month—Set aside to give time for more Friends to read them

Friends approved holding sixth month Meeting for Business on 6/3 instead of 6/10, to avoid conflicting with SAYMA.

Reminder there will be no Meeting for Business in July

Membership:

A clearness Committee For Membership consisting of Alice Brown, George & Kristi Gjelfriend, Joy Gosset, and Rusty Maynard met with Bryan Freeborn and Bridget O'Hara on Saturday, April 14. We were impressed by the depth and extent of their spiritual lives and how much they typified the essence of The Religious Society of Friends. Accordingly, we heartily recommended that they both be accepted into membership of Asheville Friends Monthly Meeting.

Respectfully submitted, George Gjelfriend, Clerk and Convener

Discussion:

Friends approved the membership of Bryan Freeborn and Bridget O'Hara in the Asheville Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.

Associate Membership is still up for discussion regarding children of members.

May 27th, sandwich Sunday we'll welcome Bryan Freeborn and Bridget O'Hara. Healthy food will be served.

Correspondence:

From Right Sharing of World Resources:

April 18, 2007

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your contribution of \$200.00 to the Right Sharing of World Resources. Your contribution will help support projects in India. Sierra Leone. Burundi. Rwanda. Uganda, Kenya, and the Philippines. 1/3 of our projects are with Friends, with particular emphasis in Kenya.

Our ability to provide grants - \$242,500 is budgeted for 2007 to approximately 50 different projects per year - is due totally to the faithful giving of Friends such as yourselves. Over 75% of our total income comes from Friends' households, with the remaining 25% coming from monthly meetings and churches, and yearly meetings. The projects supported include women's production cooperatives, sustainable farming research, resource centers, awareness building, support of new employment ventures, and micro-enterprise projects.

2006 was an exciting and very successful year. For the 6th year in a row we increased our income over the previous year, this time by 15%. We are establishing a firmer presence in the areas in which we work, moving towards having RSWR staff and an office in each area of operation (Kenya, south India, Sierra Leone). This will allow us the opportunity to more fully interpret our mission and work, to screen potential partners better, and to be more effective in our work of grant-making to support micro-enterprise in south India, Sierra Leone and among Friends in the developing world. The RSWR Board and I ask that you keep the program in your prayers as we continue to nurture and grow this important ministry among Friends. RSWR remains a ministry of, and increasingly to, Friends.

Right Sharing of World Resources did not provide any goods or services in return for this contribution. We encourage you to retain this letter as a receipt with your tax records.

For a more equitable world, Roland Kreager

Friends accepted the letter from RSWR.

From Friends World Committee for Consultation:

Dear Friends,

Thank you very much for your contribution of \$75.00 for the work and witness of Friends World Committee for Consultation.

Your gift helps us continue the work of bringing Friends together, and keeping FWCC vital and important to Friends worldwide. Without your continuing, generous support of time and money, FWCC initiatives that bring Friends together face-to-face and heart-to-heart would not happen.

Louise Saunas, Associate Secretary

Friends accepted the letter from RSWR.

From Imagine EcoCamps:

Hello Gary,

Thank-you for speaking with me regarding renting the Friends Meeting House for the Imagine

EcoCamps this July. I want to rent the Friends Meeting House for the weeks of July 9-13 and July 16-20 from 9:30 to 5:00pm.

The Imagine EcoCamps will be open to kids in our community who are interested in a camp that centers around their natural world through eco-crafts, science, games...

Imagine is a non-profit organization with a focus on natural learning. To cover the expenses of the camp, we will be charging for the eco-camps and paying instructors for their time teaching as well as the rent for the Friends Meeting House. The goal is to offer an environmental education camp to community youth rather than profit. Any funds remaining will be used for future Imagine workshops. (We are also interested in renting again during the school year 2007/2008)

We already have the required insurance for this location with one million dollar coverage. If you have any questions you may contact me at: 828.253.2267. I appreciate your time and look forward to hearing from you.

Thank-you!
Debi Athos
Imagine - a world of learning!

Discussion:

Imagine Eco Camp rental- \$560 in rent for two weeks

Question raised about their charging for camp attendance as guideline #1 states "all meeting at MH should be free of charge".

Possible change to something like "all meetings or schools held must be nonprofit". Many groups ask for/expect a donation

Is legal review needed to protect our nonprofit tax status?

Gary will put together a draft of new guidelines. It will then go to House and Grounds

Friends approved Imagine EcoCamp's use of the Meetinghouse for July 9-13 and July 16-20.

House & Grounds:

House and Grounds put out a request for proposals to four local Tree Services, three of which showed up to survey the tall, dead pine tree immediately to the east of our parking lot. The bids were \$500, \$900, and \$950. The low bid came from a young fellow just starting out and (presumably) hungry for business. He is insured. Accordingly, H&G asks the meeting to approve of \$500 for tree and vine removal.

Friends approved House and Grounds recommendation for low bid for the dead tree removal.

First Day Structure:

First Day Schedule Survey Results

Number of respondents: 20 (as of 4-22-07)

Number who say:	Yes, we should continue:	12
	No, we should not:	3
	No commitment either way:	3
	Change (switch) hours:	2

Advantages:

- Worship with own children*
- Community worship*
- Less rush (arriving at 10:30)
- RE for adults* especially
 - Sharing our Spiritual Journeys
 - Getting to know one another
 - Variety
 - Singing
- Sleeping in (arriving at 10:30 or not coming)
- Earlier end to First Day activities (no forums)
- Preparation (time to get ready) for worship
- Ability to do both RE and worship*
- Better timing* (no explanation)
- Meeting for Business ends earlier

Disadvantages: (9 responded)

- Poor attendance in children's RE* (fewer than before, always erratic)
 - Especially missing Young Friends
- Singing overlapping worship hour*
- Long day (2 full hours)*
- Not enough outdoor play-time for kids
- Timing not smoothed out yet
- Need a break between hours
- Getting to the meetinghouse on time
- Skipping First Day School altogether
- Partner will not come to 9:30 hour
- Was RE sacrificed for worship?

Number who said "none" or left disadvantages blank: 10 (regarding self)

* Several people made this observation.

Items that were not addressed in the survey, but which come up in conversation:

- Split meeting for business – This is the clerk's choice
- Singing and how it is handled – Will be addressed by the Spiritual Enrichment Committee
- Summer schedule – See recommendations

Ad Hoc Nuts and Bolts Final Report

(The committee is ready to be laid down at the conclusion of this report.)—**Action—Approved**

In addition to the results on the attached page gleaned from the survey, the Religious Education Committee (RE) surveyed families to see how they viewed the RE program as well as the schedule change. Results, not tallied by number, indicate that families have a desire for RE to provide training in what meeting for worship is about, what to do during our practice of stillness and listening; sharing of stories and values as well as lessons on our Quaker testimonies and history. They suggested the following improvements: more fun time, a shorter time period, and having worship first, followed by First Day lessons. Families with Young Friends had the following to say: more multigenerational times, fun activities and revival of the Open Circle would be appreciated. The 9:30 a.m. hour is too early for them and only a few teens are part of our meeting families this year, leading to a lack of critical mass. At present, teens are asked to request an adult be with them or no adult attends the YF group on First Days. Often only one teen is there. SAYF retreats are regularly attended by three youths, only one of whom is a member of a family that has a link to our meeting. Whether the dynamic of low attendance in First Day School (FDS) is related to the schedule change, or whether other factors are either more influential and/or

present is not clear.

The committee offers the following six recommendations:

- Continue to separate the worship hour from the RE hour
- Increase community building activities: sharing; playing around with intergenerational activities such as gardening in pairs, with a younger & older Friend paired; develop a photo album of who's who; use name tags more faithfully; offer/accept the request of parents to be the adult presence for a child or children in the Family Worship in the library; worship in the library to support the families.
- Plan more active RE hours, whether for age-separated groups or intergenerational activities
- Fine tune transition between hours
- Give singing in the meeting more thought (Our first opportunity for this will be on May 20th.)
- Have summer worship at 10:30 with no organized classes for adults, youth or children. Renew First Day classes after Labor Day, with RE and Spiritual Enrichment committees meeting jointly in July or August to plan the year's overview, especially intergenerational and musical activities.

Respectfully submitted by the Nuts & Bolts Committee and Friends, including RE committee folks.

Friends accepted the report.

Friends approved having summer worship at 10:30 with no organized classes for adults, youth or children.

Friends approved the laying down of the Nuts & Bolts Comm.

The Meeting Clerk sent a concern that there would be no one to address ongoing concerns. Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, there will only be 10:30 Meeting for Worship although Friends are encouraged to arrange their own sharing through the summer months.

SAYMA Representative Meeting:

Report of the SAYMA Representative Meeting
Held at Nashville Friends Meetinghouse, April 14, 2007

The treasurer, David Cisel, reports that the yearly meeting is in fairly good shape, thanks, in part, to individual contributions made after an appeal. Quarterly contributions on the part of monthly meetings and notification to the Finance Committee of SAYMA of the amount planned to be sent and when the checks will be sent (e.g. March, June, Sept. and Dec.) is also very helpful to the treasurer and Finance Committee.

The updated SAYMA directory is now available for Friends to consult. If there are errors or omissions in that directory, please let me know so that they can be corrected for the 2008 edition.

The second QUIT conference is planned for June 1-3 in Greensboro. Friends who want to attend can get more information at www.quit-torture-now.org. One scholarship is being made available by Kristi Estes, clerk of SAYMA, who attended the first QUIT conference. A workshop to be offered both Friday and Saturday by Chuck Fager at SAYMA on the topic of Torture Awareness will be another opportunity to become active against the use of torture.

Tim Lamm, the web manager for sayma.org is interested in redesigning the layout of the

website. Anyone with experience and knowledge of that work, interested in working under Tim's care, can contact him to apply.

Several revised sections of the SAYMA Guide to Our Faith and Practice will be presented for approval at yearly meeting this June. Copies are available for Friends to read in advance. All meetings and worship groups had the opportunity to propose revisions in the fall of 2006. The committee's subsequent work on these sections in 2007, was sent to meetings in March, to allow ample time for review prior to the business sessions at Warren Wilson College.

The SAYMA Handbook Committee asked that any clerks of SAYMA committees submit an updated description of the committee's activities and the number of times they meet or other pertinent information. A minute was approved saying that Friends or committees seeing a need for an item in the handbook should complete a draft of that item and submit it to the Ad Hoc Handbook Committee.

It was approved that next year's state of the meeting reports be submitted about a month earlier, by May 1st, to the Ministry and Nurture Committee. That would allow that committee to prepare to be more useful to meetings at yearly meeting and perhaps to be able to formulate a state of the yearly meeting report. Some guidelines for writing a state of the meeting report were offered, from Baltimore Yearly Meeting's Faith and Practice Guide. Friends were reminded that Hannah McDermott will be giving a workshop at our yearly meeting entitled "Naming and Nurturing Emerging Gifts of Ministry" with information she gleaned from the FGC consultation.

Our two personnel at SAYMA are Liz Perch, a Friend who recently moved to Savannah, Georgia, the Administrative Assistant; and Therese Hildebrand, the SAYF Administrative Assistant. We approved that Therese be given a 3.3% merit raise this year. Liz is a new employee, doing a very thorough job.

The Nominating Committee hopes that Friends come to yearly meeting with an eye to how they might serve the yearly meeting. There is an urgent need for a yearly meeting planning committee clerk and workshop coordinator for 2008, to begin service this June.

Several visitors will be with us at Warren Wilson this year, including Peterson Toscano, who will share his spiritual journey on Thursday evening; Jan Hoffman, who will be the key presenter on Friday evening; and Dave MacInnes, who will lead us in the Hibbard Thatcher Celebration Dance on Saturday evening at the gym. Each will offer a workshop or two as well. We will also have Jackie Stillwell from NEYM, Jane Berger from FGC, Jackie Speicher from RSWR, and Nancy Evans from AVP among our visitors.

Our clerk, Kristi Estes, asked that any representatives to wider Quaker organizations please write one report per organization, and submit it by May 1st or as soon as possible, to her, for presentation or sharing on the yearly meeting agenda.

We are one of two meetings located in the "backyard" of Warren Wilson College, where our yearly meeting has been held for several years. I hope that this year we are able to attend in larger numbers than ever. The experience is broadening, deepening and fun! If financial assistance is needed, our monthly meeting can offer some help, as can the yearly meeting if monthly meeting help is not enough. We are asked by the registrar to be clear about who is awarded scholarship and in what amount, with checks either issued individually, and noted as scholarship funds for a given person, or as a lump sum with an attached list explaining how to allot the funds.

Friends accepted the report

Budget 2007:

Attachments in PDF form

Set aside approval of "Budget Policy" for further review.
Hospitality Committee request.

Discussion:

- Finance - Budget – Last years report, 2006, was presented although there are errors that still need corrected. We collected \$29,500 last year so that is the beginning point for our 2007 Budget.
- The only changes from last month are Spiritual Enrichment clarified their \$300 which now includes give-away literature and Communications clarified their \$500 for a computer for the Meeting House. If all goes as expected, we should have \$2400 for outreach this year.
- 2007 Budget approved.
- All committees need to be mindful to get their budget requests to Finance by Nov. to help speed the process along.
- Finance also presented the Draft Policy on Budget Supervision. After discussion it was determined that it will go to a Committee Clerks meeting for review.
- Friends accepted the Finance Committee report.

Friends approved the 2007 budget as presented.

Personal Concerns:

Personal Concerns – Phil reported that Mimi Hearn’s memorial will be Sat. July 14th. The family has requested Barry and Marsha Master, Robin and David Wells, Jim Cavener, and Phil Neal to serve on the memorial Committee and that the Memorial be under the care of the Meeting. This will go to M&C for approval.

Worship