

Minutes for Sixth Month Worship with Attention to Business
Asheville Friends Meeting
June 3, 2007

12:10 Worship

Reading:

“One of the foundations of Quaker faith and practice is the conviction that there is that of the Divine in every person. Convinced of this shared and omnipresent Spirit, we acknowledge the equality of all persons in that Spirit, and we seek to conduct our relations with one another in the Spirit by addressing and answering that Spirit in each other. And so, in the conduct of our business, we eschew dependence on a single person acting as a minister, priest, or leader, and undertake to discern the leadings of the Spirit that is shared among us, resolving to follow those leadings wherever they may take us.

“Each and every one of us who are part of this community of seekers brings into the community our own measure of Spirit, commingling with all others through thoughts, words, and deeds. When we hold the Meeting in the Light, we contribute that measure of Light to the Spirit of the Meeting. When we think well of the Meeting and of one another, we contribute that good will to the Spirit of the Meeting. Similarly, when we speak to the needs of the Meeting, when we address the work that sustains the Meeting, we contribute that concern to the Spirit of the Meeting. When we give our time and energy to serve the Meeting’s needs, when we donate our skills or our money to its wellbeing, those actions become part of the Spirit of the Meeting.

“How does the Spirit move in the Meeting today? Everything that each of us has done has contributed to that Spirit. Every thought, word, and deed that is given to the Meeting by each one of us makes the Meeting what it is.

“Does your contribution to the Meeting well reflect the measure of your inward Light? Is your offering sincerely given in the spirit of mutual support and communal wellbeing? Do you derive a sense of joy and contentment from this giving?”

Worship

Clerk rose and spoke of his own struggles as a member following these queries, with some personal concerns and criticism toward this meeting and for himself.

A Friend arose and said he was not aware of any criticism the Clerk has made towards the meeting, and thanked clerk for his conscientious and kind service as clerk to the meeting.

Attendance (12)

Kristi Gjelfriend, Phil Neal, Bobby Carter, Becca Dion, Barbara Esther, Kitti Reynolds, George Gjelfriend, Raelin Hansen, David Clements, Peter Buck, Ellen Frerotte, Adrienne Weir

Clerk—Steve Livingston

Recording Clerk—Lynnora Bierce

Introductions

Raelin Hanssen attended Business Meeting for the first time, and it has been a long time since Bobby Carter attended Business Meeting.

Review and approval of agenda

Approved

Review and Approval of previous minutes:

4th month 2007

Approved

5th month 2007 (not yet posted—to be approved in August)

Correspondence

FCNL

Quaker House

Transfer of Membership for Jim and Daniel Hood

Dear Friends.

It is with some sadness (but mixed with joy) that I write to request a transfer of membership for myself, and my son Daniel Hood, from the Asheville Friends Meeting to Friendship Friends Meeting here in Greensboro. Our direct association with Asheville Friends was relatively short in duration, but it was extremely important to our family during the time we lived and worked in Mars Hill. The fact that it has taken me this long to seek a membership transfer indicates something of that import.

We will always remember fondly singing before meeting, First Day School activities, Sandwich Sundays, and other activities we were blessed to share with Friends in Asheville. Please communicate our best wishes and greetings to Friends there.

(Jim Hood)

Approved

(Steve took notes here)

Two Friends said that they unite with this request. A Friend asked for clarification as to whether the son an associate member or regular member. If the latter, the Friend suggested it would be in good order for the son to make his own plea for transfer. The Clerk stated that to his recollection the son was an associate member.

Request for Membership

Dear Friends,

I have been attending the meeting for a little over a year now, and feel called to become a member. The Friends Meeting is to me a sanctuary and a warm and unpretentious Family in spirit, and I feel a sense of being at home here I haven't felt in any other spiritual community I've attended before. I feel as well that the Friends commitment to Peace and to sharing and showing the will of the Divine through Love is completely in harmony with my own hopes and beliefs.

Thank you, Raelin Hanssen

Clerk reminded Friends of the practice of asking if any Friends present are moved to serve on the clearness committee after the reading of a letter requesting membership. Phil Neal, Ellen Frerotte, and Peter Buck, offered to serve. Clerk asked the applicant if there were any Friends whom she would like to

have serving, and she requested Joyce Rawlings-Davies. Ellen Frerotte will represent M&C, and Peter will convene.

Friends Approved.

House and Grounds

George Gjelfriend gave the report.

The Asheville fire marshal has ruled that any childcare, which includes children below the age of 2.5 years, must be on the ground floor with unencumbered direct access to the outside. The library qualifies until way opens for a long-term solution.

The fire marshal said that if we intend on renting any of the upstairs rooms after sundown we need to have an illuminated exit sign with emergency lights at the top of the stairs (there already are emergency lights within the staircase itself.) Bob Payne, a frequent attendee some time ago, estimates that installing such an item, plus installing a new ceiling fan in the Meeting Room, would run in the neighborhood of \$500.

Asheville Friends Meeting reaffirms its intention of renting upstairs rooms after sundown and authorizes House & Grounds to hire Bob Payne to install the necessary lighting plus a new ceiling fan in the main Meeting Room.

The fire marshal said that if we intend on having people spend the night upstairs, we need smoke detectors in all the rooms plus the hallway (plus the emergency exit sign previously discussed).

Asheville Friends Meeting reaffirms its intention of hosting SAYF overnight retreats and occasional visitors and direct House & Grounds to proceed with the Fire Marshal's recommendations to install smoke detectors in all rooms and the hallway upstairs.

We have not yet received the Fire Marshal's opinion on repairing or replacing the staircase leading from the back porch. This may have some bearing on the suitability of the space for overnight guests.

The Meeting House desperately needs to be repainted. H&G received three bids for \$12,500, \$10,500 and the lowest bid for \$9,900 from Asheville Remodelers. We believe that the meetinghouse was originally painted with lead based paint and the cost to remove it would be prohibitive. Adrienne Weir has stepped forward to do a lead paint inspection on Monday, June 4. Rather than wait at least a full month to start this project.

Asheville Friends Meeting approves the bid from Asheville Remodelers to paint the meetinghouse for \$9,900. The costs will be paid out of the Meeting House Improvement Fund that currently stands at \$19,000 - \$20,000. If the cost of incorporating the recommendations of the Lead Inspection inspectors is less than \$600, Friends authorize House & Grounds to approve that expenditure. If, however, the amount is greater than \$600, we ask H&G to further season the project and return to the next MFB with a revised proposal.

A Friend asked for assurance that the lowest bidder would do a good job. George informed the Meeting that the low bid came from attendee Scott Evans, and he was asked the same questions as the other bidders, is insured, and will use quality materials. House & Grounds felt confident that his work would be satisfactory.

Adrienne Weir informed the Meeting that she was not qualified to do a lead risk assessment, only an inspection, and so this was changed in the record.

Clerk expressed that some of the maintenance of the meetinghouse is being handled with care from volunteers who are members of the meeting.

A Friend asked about the downed tree in the parking lot. George informed the Meeting that the contractor who cut the tree down had agreed to remove the carcass, and that he had not yet billed us for the work.

A Friend reminded Meeting that the upstairs hallway needs to be cleared of bookshelves. One solution could be to move the bookshelves into the youth room and have a proper children's library. Another possibility would be moving them downstairs in the back entry way. Religious Education Committee will meet later this month and figure it out. In response to a Friend's question, George clarified that we were speaking of just the exterior of the meetinghouse. Friends noted that the interior was painted recently and looks beautiful.

Request for release from Finance Committee

George Gjelfriend asked to be relieved of his membership on the Finance Committee. He finds that Clerking House & Grounds and serving on Ministry & Counsel occupies much more of his time and attention than he had anticipated.

Approved with Thanks.

Memorial Minute for Miriam Lindley Griest Hearne

Miriam Lindley Griest Hearne was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana on April 4, 1914, to a Quaker family with ancestors, known to have traveled in Quaker ministry and to have attended Earlham College. Miriam herself was graduated from Swarthmore College. Swarthmore was also where she met her future husband, Charles Hearne. In 1935 they were married and settled near Cochranville, Pennsylvania on a dairy farm they called Heroncrest. There, in an old stone house, they raised six children who developed her love of nature and respect for hard work and adventure. Their spiritual home there was London Grove Meeting. Two of the Hearne girls, Kate and Ray Constance, were married under the care of that meeting. As the children grew up and began to leave the farm, Charles and Miriam began to dream of a move to the mountains of North Carolina. Meanwhile, Miriam earned a master's degree in library science from Villanova University. She was a reference librarian at Lincoln University and later, librarian for Chester County, Pennsylvania.

In 1968, the Hearnese packed up and made the move to Willow Cove in Big Sandy Mush, near Asheville, North Carolina, where they loved the community, valued the heritage in arts and crafts and music, and were stewards of the land. Miriam became a faithful attender at the Asheville Friends Meeting. She continued her birthright membership in Indiana, but served the Asheville meeting as a regular part of our meetings for worship and those with attention to business. She served on the Ministry and Oversight Committee for many years, listening carefully and speaking wisely, until her age and mobility problems kept her from us. One of the Hearne boys, Charles Eugene, and a granddaughter, Ariel Hearne, were married under Asheville Friends Meeting's care.

Miriam died peacefully at home on April 18, 2007, at age 93. Her family shared time

with her, cared for her, and was present at her side when she died. She will be missed, but leaves us all with a challenge to love and explore the planet and its people, and to experience life fully and deeply.

Barbara expressed that she had never written a memorial minute before and so felt unsure that her work was adequate. Clerk commended Barbara for expressing very much with very few words. Friends concurred that this was a very good memorial minute and that Barbara was in a unique position, being the daughter-in-law of the departed, to be the author of this minute. A Friend asked if there could be a listing of Mimi's survivors who are associated with the meeting. Friends agreed that the minute could be extended to include more of Mimi's family's information. Barbara said she could borrow more from Mimi's obituary, and Friends felt comfortable with these additions.

Friends approved the memorial minute for Miriam Hearne with changes and additions suggested and without further review.

The Memorial Meeting will be held on July 14th at the meetinghouse. The family requested that Phil Neal, Robin Wells, and Barry & Marcia Master serve on the Memorial Committee. **Friends Approved.** Phil will convene the committee.

Personal concerns

Phil Neal asked if we might obtain a few new tables, and get rid of the damaged and decrepit ones. Another Friend asked that we find some that are more lightweight.

Becca Dion said that on the occasion that the young people are waiting for adults in the youth room, they could watch videos on the lovely TV, but the VCR is broken. Could we find a used DVD player for them to use? Steve L said that he would speak to her after the meeting regarding a solution.

(1:23) Closing worship