

Asheville Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship for Business
4th Month: 13 April 2008

Clerk: Adrienne Weir

Recording Clerk: Jen Rhode (jmrhode@yahoo.com)

Present: Margaret Normile, Katherine Kowal, Steve Livingston, Bobby Carter, David Clements, Alan Robinson, Rylin Hansen, Jim Cavener, Peter Buck, Philip Neal, George Gjelfriend, Kristi Gjelfriend

Settle

We gathered and settled in silence.

Adrienne Weir welcomed all participants and asked for amendments to the agenda. Peter Buck asked to make a brief report from the SAYMA Representatives' Meeting. Adrienne corrected her phone number in the directory; the correct number is 299-7322.

Review Minutes: 2nd Month

We are reviewing the 2nd month minutes in 4th month, since their publication was delayed (and thus, we were not able to review them in the 3rd month's Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business). **Minutes were approved and accepted as written.**

Review Minutes: 3rd Month

Minutes were approved and accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report

Adrienne Weir provided a Treasurer's Report for the first quarter of 2008 (January 1 – March 31; see below). She notes that we might have up to \$1000 more in contributions, as that budget line has yet to be fully updated. Note that the \$7575 value for Peace and Earth reflects the expenditure of all of last year's (2007) budgeted monies, plus spending half of this year's (2008) budget. **The Treasurer's Report was approved.**

Budget Vs. Actual

	Jan. 1 – March 31, 2008	Budget	%
REVENUE			
Contributions	\$2,706.77	\$21,905.00	12.36
Dividends and Interest	\$919.44	\$1,200.00	76.62
Rental Income	\$1,045.00	\$4,200.00	24.88
TOTAL	\$4,671.21	\$27,305.00	17.11
EXPENSES			
House & Grounds	\$333.26	\$5,000.00	6.67
Utilities	\$862.22	\$2,900.00	29.73
Insurance	\$0.00	\$2,800.00	0.00
Pastoral Care	\$0.00	\$120.00	0.00
Communications	\$11.60	\$635.00	1.83
Advertising	\$0.00	\$100.00	0.00
Finance	\$20.00	\$90.00	22.22
Library	\$132.85	\$400.00	33.21

Ministry & Council	\$0.00	\$300.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	\$831.02	\$2,300.00	36.13
Payroll Expense	\$0.00	\$550.00	0.00
Religious Education	\$283.41	\$2,800.00	10.12
Spiritual Enrichment	\$0.00	\$300.00	0.00
*Peace and Earth Outreach			
General Outreach	\$2,975.00		
Quaker Outreach	\$4,600.00		
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P & E Outreach Subtotal	\$7,575.00	\$5,000.00	151.50
Peace and Earth Projects	\$0.00	\$500.00	0.00
SAYMA Dues	\$0.00	\$3,510.00	0.00
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	\$5,049.36	\$27,305.00	18.49

Nominating Committee

Jim Cavener gave a report from Nominating Committee, stating that the committee is relatively inactive, as it was in January. Jim and Jen Rhode determined (via email and meeting this morning) that they had a quorum to bring a nomination of Margaret Normile to join (and maybe clerk) the Hospitality Committee. Jim asked for nominations of additional members to the Hospitality Committee. He also asked that Nominating Committee be made aware of other committees' current needs, concerns, and vacancies. Jim reported that Pat Johnson is now performing some of the bookkeeper tasks for the Meeting's Finance Committee and thus brought a nomination for her as member of the Finance Committee.

We approved the nomination of Margaret Normile to the Hospitality Committee.
We approved the nomination of Pat Johnson to the Finance Committee.

David Clements asked for a list of other Hospitality Committee members. Jim reported they were as follows: Alice Powell, Bob Smith, Phil Neal. David encouraged the Hospitality Committee to propose a budget, as they currently have none.

SAYMA Representatives' Meeting

Peter Buck gave the following report, from last week's Representative's Meeting in Atlanta:

Liz Perch, SAYMA's Administrative Assistant, mentioned that she was helping to organize a January 2009 "Gathering for Peace". She is hoping for 1 representative for every 1000 members from all the varieties of Quakers and Quaker organizations – so SAYMA would get 1 rep. She is thinking big. Please contact her for more info.

Liz also indicated that Ashville has already sent in its Census Report and its State of the Meeting Report. Only half of other meetings have done the former and only one other had done the latter.

Treasurer David Ciscel indicated that the system of quarterly payments of the SAYMA assessment was working well and creating greater ease, as opposed to the annual payment of a few years ago. Right now we are doing well. Given national economic factors we'll need to stay conscious about SAYMA's financial status in the future.

Traveling minutes were approved for Mary Ann Downey of Atlanta MM and for Julia Sibley-Jones of Columbia SC MM

SAYF is well organized and using their budget responsibly and clearly.

Free Polazzo urged Friends to “think about getting into the soup. There are local positions in politics that are important and sometimes candidates are running un-opposed.

Kristi Estes mentioned doing a “Carbon-Neutral” exercise at a meeting she attended in Philadelphia. They estimated miles of travel and assessed \$10 for every 1000 miles – to be invested in tree planting and/or green energy sources. They assessed the meeting \$550 – which was willingly paid. . Everyone took an equal share vs. e.g., charging the folks from Alaska for their entire portion of travel. It was an interesting model, possibly useful in many contexts.

It is planned to reduce the Rep Meetings from 3 to 2 per year (outside of YM)...

*2008: YM June 11-15
September 27 Rep mtg.
December – no meeting (maybe just Finance Com.)*

*2009: March 7 (this gives more time for YM preparation)
June 10-14 YM (Warren Wilson College)
September 26 Rep mtg.
December – no meeting*

It is hoped that more people will participate if there are fewer meetings. Committees can still meet. Ministry and Nurture e.g., would still meet quarterly.

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee was commissioned to produce a draft minute on torture that the YM might be able to approve. While this is a different procedure from the one Peace and Social Concerns is usually to follow, the issue was deemed timely and Quaker opposition to torture is found in our very Testimonies. It is the sense of the SAYMA reps that we may already be of one accord on this issue.

There will be more to consider re our Faith and Practice. It is always possible to see what has been approved of our work-in-progress by going to the SAYMA website. In particular there will be an opportunity to thresh some of our insights about what F & P can say about how meetings address marriage. Since marriage can be a charged topic, a genuine effort is being made (re this threshing session) to help us focus on what our Monthly Meetings do and what SAYMA as a whole is lead to say. F & P is about MM's and the Yearly Meeting, not just what any one of us might say.

Kristi Estes asks: Does anyone feel called to sit at the table with Bob McGahey (who is going to clerk the session)?

Specific Charge to AFM:

Communicate to the City Church pastors et al that SAYMA is sympathetic to their situation and supportive of them. SAYMA would welcome their presence at the yearly meeting at Warren Wilson College. - The normal registration procedures would apply.

Errol Hess (from SAYMA) reported a list of positions that the SAYMA Nominating Committee is looking to fill. These include: Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Assistant Treasurer, Archivist, SAYF AA Supervisor, SAYF Steering Committee Co-Clerk, SAYF Steering Committee Member (2), Co-Registrar (2), Bookstore Manager, Assistant Bookstore Manager, YMPC Worship Coordinator, AFSC Corporation, FCNL, GCG, FWCC, Friends Peace Teams, Quaker Earthcare Witness, RSWR, William Penn House, Peace and Social Concerns, and Ecological Concerns Network co-clerk. There will be a paper copy of this vacancy list available at the Meeting House; contact Errol if you are interested in a position. Also note that active attempts at recruitment will happen during Yearly Meeting at Warren Wilson.

Phil asked about the location of future SAYMA meetings. Steve Livingston noted that, for the next 3 years (2008, 2009 and 2010), we would meet at Warren Wilson. Therefore, there is no search committee for a meeting site this time. There is a rumor that Warren Wilson hopes to find a larger group for their meeting site for future summers, but as of now this remains a rumor.

Alan Robinson and Jim Cavener reported that they (and Gary Briggs) have been to City View Quaker Church and have communicated with their pastor (Jimmy Vestal). Members of City View Quaker Church are now meeting at 6 pm on Saturday nights.

Phil Neal said that Kristi Estes asked FCOR (Friend's Committee on Outworld Relations) to give a report. Phil said that FCOR will do so.

David Clements asked if we thought it would be useful to send our marriage policy to SAYMA, to help them in developing theirs. A concern was raised that this be sent to yearly meeting, and all agreed we should do so. Alan said he thought that this had been done, and we will check with Barbara to see that this has been done.

Steve Livingston raised a concern that the completed marriage policy had not been distributed among our own community. He asked that this be done before it is disseminated to larger (SAYMA) community. Alan said that this ad hoc committee had distributed the policy (in 3 parts) via email. Adrienne said that this document had been approved; Steve said that it had been approved with changes. Steve said that he expected that the final, complete, revised, approved document would be created for our records and for distribution to community. Steve would like to receive this to be able to post this on the web site. David reported that Evan and Gary are responsible for this. He will be happy to convey a message about this to Evan.

Personal Concern

George Gjelfriend said that the building had last been cleaned 5th April by Sarah Jane. He was concerned that it needed cleaning. Adrienne agreed to be backup for Sarah Jane in the event that she needed someone to do housekeeping. [Note: Sarah Jane ended up doing the cleaning].

Phil Neal said the matter of the Quaker church that had settled itself in this area was of concern as we determined how to present a Friendly countenance to City View Quaker Church. He says that sometimes Quaker couples come to Asheville specifically to proselytize. He pointed out that this approach was different from that of SAYMA, which was non-programmed and non-pastoral. He encouraged us to think carefully about the degree to which we feel that we must be loyal to this Quaker church. He cautioned that we not "overflow with the milk of human kindness and go headlong into a relationship" between SAYMA and the Quaker church. Instead, we should think about it carefully to avoid complications.

Peter Buck said that Phil spoke his mind. His discernment was that the SAYMA Representatives' Meeting comment was just a communication of sympathy and support with no particulars. Instead, it was to note something that had happened in the region and that it was something of which the larger community was aware. Peter offered this as clarification but noted the correctness of Phil's observations.

Jim noted with appreciation the entertaining and substantive report from Peter from the SAYMA Representative's Meeting.

Adrienne thanked all for making this a relatively simple meeting, and she said we would welcome back Barbara next month.
