

Agenda Ninth Month, 14th Day, 2008
Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business
Asheville Friends Meeting

Clerk: Barbara Esther
Recording Co-Clerk: Jennifer Rhode

Present: Bobby Carter, Barbara Esther, Ellen Frevotte, George Gjelfriend, Joy Gossett, Rylin Hansen, Pat Johnson, Katherine Kowal, Steve Livingston, Laura Maynard, Jennifer Rhode, Adrienne Weir, Robin Wells.

Opening Worship at 12:15

Reading:

I felt as though I led a double life. All week I interacted with folks for whom it was glaringly obvious that the end was near, and that it was the fault of gay marriage and pornography and liberals. Then on Sundays I went to meeting and interacted with people who also thought we were going to hell in the proverbial handbasket, but who were sure it was the fault of the Religious Right and the Republicans. I came up with a name for it: worldview whiplash! . . . As anyone who wears bifocals can attest, while they are an improvement over single lens glasses or no glasses at all, they are still an imperfect solution to flawed vision. . . I learned that there is a single lens. It is not the lens of the “Religious Right” or “Liberal Quakerism.” It is not a lens that has received the exclusive seal of approval from any denomination. It is a lens formed through a deeper prayer life and deeper dependence on the Holy Spirit than most of us manage. My vision is not yet adapted to this lens – I am full of spiritual astigmatism, and suspect I always will be. But the headaches and sense of whiplash are much diminished, so maybe I am on the right path.

*From Conversations from the Heartland or,
The Education of “One Confusing Chick” on the Frontlines of the Culture Wars
by Kat Griffith
Friends Journal October 2006*

Amendment and Acceptance of Agenda for Ninth Month

Approval of the Minutes from Sixth Month 2008

Minutes approved as written

Approval of the Minutes from Eighth Month 2008

Note that the amended Treasurer’s Report appears in future Minutes.
Minutes were approved.

Treasurer’s Report

Adrienne Weir

Current income is at ~50% of the full year amount. Rental income is going well; savings account income is going better than expected, and there is some dividend income. The income does not reflect retreat income or expenditures, as they are in a separate fund.

	TOTAL		
	Jan - Jul 08	Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
4000 · Contribution Income	8,087.98	21,905.00	36.92%
7020 · Dividends	86.02	0.00	
7010 · Interest Income	1,433.75	1,200.00	119.48%
4150 · Miscellaneous Income - Coffee Sales	109.00	0.00	
Rental Income	<u>2,673.00</u>	<u>4,200.00</u>	<u>63.64%</u>
Total Income	<u>12,389.75</u>	<u>27,305.00</u>	<u>45.38%</u>
Gross Profit	12,764.75	27,305.00	46.75%
Expense			
Meeting House			
House and Grounds	534.82	3,000.00	17.83%
6180 · Insurance	2,405.00	2,800.00	85.89%
6390 · Utilities	<u>1,692.46</u>	<u>2,900.00</u>	<u>58.36%</u>
Total Meeting House	4,632.28	8,700.00	53.25%
Meeting Support			
Pastoral Care Ctte	0.00	120.00	0.00%
Communications Ctte	534.80	635.00	84.22%
Advertising	80.00	100.00	80.00%
Finance Ctte	20.00	90.00	22.22%
Library	132.85	400.00	33.21%
Ministry and Counsel Ctte	0.00	300.00	0.00%
6240 · Miscellaneous			
6120 · Bank Service Charges	8.00	0.00	
Coffee Purchases	12.28	0.00	
Office Supplies	0.00	300.00	0.00%
6240 · Miscellaneous - Other	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,000.00</u>	<u>0.00%</u>
Total 6240 · Miscellaneous	20.28	2,300.00	0.88%
6560 · Payroll Expenses	258.25	550.00	46.95%
QLSP Scholarship	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Refreshments	75.74	0.00	
Religious Education Ctte			
Childcare	607.66	1,200.00	50.64%
First Day School	861.17	900.00	95.69%
SAYF	<u>260.46</u>	<u>700.00</u>	<u>37.21%</u>
Total Religious Education Ctte	1,729.29	2,800.00	61.76%
Spiritual Enrichment Ctte	<u>0.00</u>	<u>300.00</u>	<u>0.00%</u>
Total Meeting Support	2,851.21	7,595.00	37.54%
Outreach			
6140 · General Outreach	125.00	0.00	100.00%
*Peace and Earth Ctte	96.50	500.00	19.30%
Quaker Outreach	5,000.00	5,000.00	100.00%
SAYMA Dues	<u>2,632.50</u>	<u>3,510.00</u>	<u>75.00%</u>
Total Outreach	<u>7,854.00</u>	<u>9,010.00</u>	<u>87.17%</u>
Total Expense	15,337.49	25,305.00	60.61%

Religious Education is over budget (\$1107.43 spent, \$900 budgeted). Barbara asked if additional monies could be requested. Adrienne said that Miscellaneous monies could be reallocated, if a request were made at Meeting for Worship for Business. Robin asked to see a report of where those monies had been spent; Adrienne will send the line item report to Laurel Wells, in-coming clerk of R. E. Some Friends questioned whether the purchase of a gas grill should not be shared by the meeting at large instead of coming under the R. E. budget.

There will be residual funds left from SAYMA dues.

Adrienne asked for guidance about how to budget for Hospitality Committee. They do not have a budget line. In notes from May's Meeting for Worship for Business, an approved minute said that \$150 from Miscellaneous would be allocated to the Hospitality Committee until a further request is made by the committee.

The Treasurer's Report was approved.

Committee Reports

Communications Committee Steve Livingston (with Minute for approval)

Communications committee met at Gary Briggs' home. Committee members Kieron Mann, Gary Briggs, and Steve Livingston were present. The committee is burdened by a long list of tasks and a small membership with many other responsibilities. We reviewed many of our tasks to determine which could be addressed, which could be reduced, and which would have to be deferred.

We viewed the loss of our Meeting Newsletter with regret, and sought ways to combine efforts in producing at least a simple monthly publication. We decided to explore some online options that would combine a Meeting news blog with a ready-made template for a monthly digest that would include the requisite synopsis of business meeting and the much-requested Tidbits column. We seek a willing Friend to write the business meeting synopsis each month, welcoming but not requiring any additional involvement with the committee. We also seek a volunteer to type or copy/paste new items from our weekly AFM listserv news to the calendar on our website. These tasks do not take much time or computer expertise, but would help our small committee immensely; we will happily provide all the "how to" needed.

We were unable to meet our self-imposed goal of publishing a revised Meeting Directory this summer. We resolved to set a new target of publication by the end of the calendar year. In order to accomplish this goal, we felt we had to set parameters for people in the Meeting who wanted to be included in the Directory. We agreed to pass around a copy of the 2007 directory in Meeting to receive updates, additions, and corrections to listings, and to contact Friends not present at Meeting twice via email and twice via telephone. Any Friend whose contact

information cannot be verified by any of these methods, will not be included in the directory.

We remind Friends that the listings in the directory are intended to be for those who are active in the Meeting, and our sense is that anyone who is active in the Meeting will be reached by the above named efforts. Gary Briggs has agreed to oversee this part of the project. Steve Livingston will support him on the clerical level.

We reviewed the results of last year's survey regarding the use of our meeting's listserv, friends at asheville friends dot org, with the intention of settling on a policy for content. We noted that respondents agreed that the frequency of messages was "about right", and that Friends agreed that all events and activities directly related to the Meeting should be included, but responses to the other survey questions were not nearly unanimous. Assimilating the various responses, we settled on offering the following recommendation as a policy for inclusion of information in the listserv (SEE BELOW)

We continue refining and improving our new website and hope to have it online within the next month.

The Committee invites any interested Friend to attend our next Committee meeting on Oct. 7, or to talk to any one of us about ways to serve the Meeting through this Committee's work, without necessarily participating in committee meetings. We have much to do!

MINUTE

Our Meeting listserv, friends at asheville friends dot org, is intended to disseminate weekly information about events/activities relating to the Meeting Community as a whole, as well as urgent news directly impacting our community. Weekly messages will be limited to brief descriptions and the most important details of such events (i.e. who, what, where, why, and when), with links to further information. Additional events in accord with Quaker values will be mentioned with links to further information provided that one or several persons active in the Meeting are directly involved in them (e.g., organizing, performing, etc.).

Robin and Joy asked that the first phrase be re-written to make it more clear. It was amended to:

"The purpose of our Meeting listserve, friends at asheville friends dot org, is to disseminate information about events/activities relating to the Meeting Community as a whole, as well as urgent news directly impacting our community. Weekly messages will be limited to brief descriptions and the most important details of such events (i.e. who, what, where, why, and when), with links to further information. Additional events in accord with Quaker values will be

mentioned with links to further information provided that one or several persons active in the Meeting are directly involved in them (e.g., organizing, performing, etc.).”

The amended Minute was approved.

House and Grounds Committee George Gjelfriend

Marc Peterson helped H&G by installing a new 4 foot fluorescent light bulb in the main meeting room. Bob Smith contributed by installing a new pull-cord on an overhead fan. H&G, in the name of the Meeting, thanks them both.

Gary Briggs, who is not on the H&G committee, stepped forward to organize a “work day” following Sandwich Sunday on October 26. The tasks have not yet been defined, except that Adrienne Weir has volunteered to remove the lead paint from all our chewable surfaces.

Two newcomers, Juno and Dominey, stepped forward to attack our overgrown flower beds. Hopefully this will spur other Friends to lend a hand.

The report was accepted as given.

Ministry and Counsel Committee Katherine Kowal (with Action Item)

M&C met on August 28 with all members present.

In addition, Phil Neal was present to give his request for help in bringing the recorder’s records up to date. Ellen Frerotte had already gone through the Meeting minutes for the last five years and had a list of new members and those released from membership. Phil reported that Gary Briggs had also volunteered to help. Steve Livingston will act as unofficial assistant to the recorder.

We discussed ways to remember Alice Brown in light of her explicit request that we not have a memorial service. It was decided that some kind of informal gathering would be most appropriate. We would like to reserved the RE time on October 26th to have some kind of work project – perhaps assembling kits for AFSC or planting a tree in her honor – as a time when we can gather and remember Alice.

It was decided not to send anyone to the clerking workshop this November since no one came forward in response to efforts to recruit someone.

We decided to postpone the Clerks’ Meeting scheduled for August and to reduce the number of Clerks’ Meetings from 4 to 2 per year.

We discussed the current absence of members of the Naming Committee and concerns presented by the Nominating Committee. We continue to work on assembling a handbook of Meeting Policies and Procedures.

MINUTE

M&C recommends that the Naming Committee be laid down. Barbara clarified that this committee (and its members) has already been laid down. We are considering laying down the *practice* of having a Naming Committee. Thus, Nominating Committee would nominate its own members, as well as those of all other committees.

Robin said that this action seems unwise, as Nominating Committee is currently clerk-less. She said that the Nominating Committee should discuss this.

Steve recommended that M&C meet with Nominating Committee to determine a solution this problem.

Robin suggested that the Clerks Committee could act in a Naming Committee capacity.

The Nominating Committee will discuss this, then meet with Ministry & Council to reach a solution to the Naming Committee issue.

Suggestions for Alice Brown's non-memorial service: stitching, planting trees, pulling weeds, painting bird houses with kids.

The report was approved as given.

Scholarship Committee Katherine Kowal (with Action Item)

Many requests for scholarships have been received (for SAYMA, Pendle Hill, our own retreat, etc.). The committee has spent approximately \$880 of their entire budget and is near exhausting its budget (which is not renewed annually). The committee will meet after the Retreat to determine how to replenish this fund.

Action Item

The Weir family requested \$312.50 for to attend our upcoming AFM Retreat. Because it is \$12.50 above the \$300 limit, it needs to be approved by the Meeting.

Meeting approved this allocation of funds.

This fund is paid for by designated contributions. Donations are encouraged.

The committee report was approved.

Nominating Committee Robin Wells (with Action Item)

We are in the process of communicating with a number of people interested in serving on our Meeting's committees. At this time we are delighted to bring a number of nominations for the Religious Education Committee.

We expect to have more nominations at the next Business Meeting. If anyone here is interested in serving on a Meeting committee, please see one of the Nominating Committee members.

Steve reminded the Meeting that terms of service should be stipulated during nominations. Each nomination will be for a term of 2 years, renewable for a second term (Fall 2008 - Fall 2010).

The following were approved:

Laurel Wells, RE

Rylin Hansen, RE

Lee Kube, RE

Pat Johnson, RE (SAYF committee)

Other

SAYMA Theme

Steve spoke glowingly of his trip to West Knoxville Friends Meeting and experience with the gathered Meeting there. The SAYMA theme will be "Spirit Woven in Our Lives: A Tapestry of Light."

Presentation of Hat to Nicholas Wells

Barbara gave an AFSC hat to Nicholas and shared pictures of him in his Boy Scout uniform, taken when he earned a merit badge for exploring his faith, with the Meeting. She commented that she was proud of his work with the Boy Scouts and at the last Yearly Meeting when he was one of the presenters in the Thursday evening plenary.

List of Items

Rylin is preparing to move and has some things to unload. She thought that some items would be of use to the Meeting:

- tabletop miter saw
- orbital sander
- jigsaw
- 6" blade circular saw
- scroll saw

She would like to retain access to these items. Steve suggested that we store items for Rylin so that she could retain ownership and use of the items. House and Grounds can determine the best storage spot for these.

The meeting closed with a period of worship at 1:30.