

Asheville Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business
 Sixth Month 7, 2009

Clerk: Barbara Esther
 Recording Clerk: Pat Johnson

Present: Barbara Esther, Pat Johnson, Joy Gossett, Phil Neal, Raelin Hansen, Alan Robinson, Jim Cavener, Steve Livingston, Kristi Gjelfriend, George Gjelfriend, Gary Briggs, Robin Wells, Laura Maynard, Stephanie Gossett, Kitti Reynolds and Sarah Jane Thomas.

We began with a period of worship at 12:25pm.

Clerk's reading:

Every tree is to be known by its fruits: not by its dead wood, or thorns, or parasites, but by the fruit of its own inner life and nature. We all know the fruits of the Spirit, and recognize the beauty of holiness, in our own ancestral tree. . . The flowers of unselfish living may be found growing in other men's gardens and . . . rich fruits of the Spirit may be tasted from other men's trees. They spring from the same Holy Spirit of Truth, the same Seed of God, whose power moves us through Christ.

Marjorie Sykes, 1957

The clerk also shared a thank you note from Jen Rhode in which she expressed her gratitude for the welcoming potluck when her membership was transferred to Asheville Friends Meeting.

The agenda was accepted without additions.

Minute #1: Fourth Month Revised Minutes have been posted on web for a couple of weeks. They were approved as revised.

Minute #2: Fifth Month minutes were approved as posted.

Financial Report

Adrienne Weir

	Jan 1 - Jun 2, 09	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
4000 · Contribution Income				
4010 · Unrestricted	2 785,02	0,00	2 785,02	100,0%
4000 · Contribution Income - Other	0,00	270,00	-20 270,00	0,0%
Total 4000 · Contribution Income	2 785,02	270,00	-17 484,98	13,74%
7010 · Interest Income	41,91	700,00	-658,09	5,99%
Rental Income	1 807,50	900,00	-2 092,50	46,35%
Total Income	4 634,43	870,00	-20 235,57	18,64%
Gross Profit	4 634,43	870,00	-20 235,57	18,64%
Expense				
Transfers TO Other Funds**				

M&C Needs Fund Transfer**	900,00	800,00	100,00	112,5%
Scholarship Fund Transfer**	0,00	200,00	-200,00	0,0%
		2		
Transfer to H&G reserves**	0,00	000,00	-2 000,00	0,0%
		3		
Total Transfers TO Other Funds**	900,00	000,00	-2 100,00	30,0%

Meeting House

House and Grounds

Supplies	31,92	0,00	31,92	100,0%
Cleaning	197,50	0,00	197,50	100,0%
Maintenance	45,00	0,00	45,00	100,0%
		3		
House and Grounds - Other	0,00	000,00	-3 000,00	0,0%
		3		
Total House and Grounds	274,42	000,00	-2 725,58	9,15%

6180 · Insurance

		2		
Property/Casualty	2 384,00	500,00	-116,00	95,36%
Worker's Comp	0,00	800,00	-800,00	0,0%
		3		
Total 6180 · Insurance	2 384,00	300,00	-916,00	72,24%

6390 · Utilities

Electric	236,28	0,00	236,28	100,0%
Gas	755,30	0,00	755,30	100,0%
6340 · Telephone	270,12	0,00	270,12	100,0%
6410 · Water	89,46	0,00	89,46	100,0%
		2		
6390 · Utilities - Other	0,00	700,00	-2 700,00	0,0%
		2		
Total 6390 · Utilities	1 351,16	700,00	-1 348,84	50,04%

		9		
Total Meeting House	4 009,58	000,00	-4 990,42	44,55%

Meeting Support

Hospitality Committee	18,00	150,00	-132,00	12,0%
Pastoral Care Ctte	0,00	120,00	-120,00	0,0%
Communications Ctte	285,00	400,00	-115,00	71,25%
Advertising				

	Jan 1 - Jun 2,		\$ Over	% of
	09	Budget	Budget	Budget

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

4000 · Contribution Income

4010 · Unrestricted	17 213,46	0,00	17 213,46	100,0%
		20		
4000 · Contribution Income - Other	0,00	270,00	-20 270,00	0,0%
		20		
Total 4000 · Contribution Income	17 213,46	270,00	-3 056,54	84,92%

Transfers FROM other funds**

Transfer from General Fund**	900,00	0,00	900,00	100,0%
Total Transfers FROM other funds**	900,00	0,00	900,00	100,0%

7010 · Interest Income	359,78	700,00	-340,22	51,4%
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4150 · Miscellaneous Income

Coffee Sales	135,00	0,00	135,00	100,0%
Total 4150 · Miscellaneous Income	135,00	0,00	135,00	100,0%

Rental Income	1 807,50	900,00 ³	-2 092,50	46,35%
Total Income	20 415,74	870,00 ²⁴	-4 454,26	82,09%
Gross Profit	20 415,74	870,00 ²⁴	-4 454,26	82,09%
Expense				
Transfers TO Other Funds**				
M&C Needs Fund Transfer**	1 100,00	800,00	300,00	137,5%
Scholarship Fund Transfer**	0,00	200,00	-200,00	0,0%
Transfer to H&G reserves**	0,00	000,00 ²	-2 000,00	0,0%
Total Transfers TO Other Funds**	1 100,00	000,00 ³	-1 900,00	36,67%
Meeting House				
House and Grounds				
Supplies	31,92	0,00	31,92	100,0%
Cleaning	197,50	0,00	197,50	100,0%
Maintenance	45,00	0,00	45,00	100,0%
House and Grounds - Other	0,00	000,00 ³	-3 000,00	0,0%
Total House and Grounds	274,42	000,00 ³	-2 725,58	9,15%
6180 · Insurance				
Property/Casualty	2 384,00	500,00 ²	-116,00	95,36%
Worker's Comp	0,00	800,00	-800,00	0,0%
Total 6180 · Insurance	2 384,00	300,00 ³	-916,00	72,24%
6390 · Utilities				
Electric	236,28	0,00	236,28	100,0%
Gas	755,30	0,00	755,30	100,0%
6340 · Telephone	270,12	0,00	270,12	100,0%
6410 · Water	89,46	0,00	89,46	100,0%
6390 · Utilities - Other	0,00	700,00 ²	-2 700,00	0,0%
Total 6390 · Utilities	1 351,16	700,00 ²	-1 348,84	50,04%
Total Meeting House	4 009,58	000,00 ⁹	-4 990,42	44,55%

Jun 2, 09

Building Fund	64 610,58
Coffee Sales	118,38
College-Age Friends Support Fund	7 459,76
General Fund	21 447,17
H&G Emergency Fund	6 000,00
Junior Business Meeting	
2001-2 Bulb Sales	94,82
2002 AFSC	37,45
2002 Humane society	10,00

2002 Right Sharing	145,00
2004 AFSC Iraq kits	15,00
2006	44,00
Total Junior Business Meeting	346,27
Library	300,00
M&C Needs Fund	900,00
Meeting House Improvements Fund	20 069,20
Memorial Funds and Bequests	
Al Dupree Memorial Fund, 2005	295,00
Alice Brown Bequest. 2009	14 428,44
Total Memorial Funds and Bequests	14 723,44
Outreach Transfer Fund	269,69
Religious Education Fund	
May 2001 celebration	17,33
Playground Equipment 2001	124,00
Religious Education Fund - Other	182,00
Total Religious Education Fund	323,33
Residential Retreats	
Retreat 2008 (Montreat)	423,56
Total Residential Retreats	423,56
Scholarship Fund	566,40
	137
TOTAL	557,78

Friends discussed the meeting's policy on wages. The House and Grounds Committee had already approved a raise for the adult employee of the meeting to \$15.00. An RE committee spokesperson felt that providing a raise for our childcare provider is a decision properly made by the Meeting as a whole.

Minute # 3: Friends approved increasing the wages of our childcare worker to \$12.00 per hour beginning on June 1, 2009.

One friend suggested that committee clerks be emailed to remind them to send in their expenses. Another Friend asked about old Junior Business Meeting balances. This item was referred to RE Committee previously. Robin Wells and Stephanie Gossett will meet to take care of these distributions.

Committee Reports

Religious Education Committee: The committee reported that it felt that a review of the schedule adopted three years ago is needed. It was also suggested we need to post the schedule of RE or SE events on the website and make it clear when we do not have anything planned at 9:30am. One friend suggested we should get input from other adults in meeting before changing the starting time. Several Friends, while not opposed to the idea, think the subject may be need thoughtful consideration before another schedule change is made. The clerk asked for volunteers to be on an ad hoc committee to study the matter.

Minute # 4: Friends approved that Joy Gossett, Alan Robinson, George Gjelfriend, Robin Wells and Stephanie Gossett serve on the Ad Hoc First Day Schedule Committee. The clerk asked everyone to weigh in on this and give the committee ideas and suggestions. Another friend emphasized the importance of caring for children as they are the future of our meeting. Since there is no July Meeting for Business, the clerk suggested using that time to conduct a threshing meeting on the topic.

Robin also stated that a slight change has already occurred. Children who attend meeting are generally going upstairs during worship. She requested that members sign up to help as a backup to help Paola with child care if needed. She will post a sign up sheet.

Communications – Directory: Steve Livingston reread some of the comments from Fifth Month's Business Meeting. Steve feels the need to step aside now from finishing the revision of the directory. At least one other person on the committee, Gary Briggs, is able and willing to help with the directory later this summer. Following a discussion of the inclusion of some who do not usually attend meeting in the directory, the clerk asked that everyone think of one person to call to say they are missed.

Nominating Committee:

Jim Cavener

Most committees are working well and have enough people. Jim suggested if committees need more help to let them know. Nominating Committee has been meeting regularly. Friends were delighted that Jen Rhode will continue as Recording Clerk. Katherine Kowal has agreed to be our next clerk for one year with the opportunity to extend that time if she is able. Barbara is willing to continue as clerk through September since Katherine will not be back until September from her summer abroad.

Some members of Spiritual Enrichment requested several months ago to be released from that Committee. This committee has not been meeting and was not formally planning activities. Nominating Committee will consider the matter, consult with those Friends, and bring a report to meeting in August.

Minute #5: Friends approved with thanks Katherine Kowal's service as clerk for one year, from Tenth Month 2009 through June 2010.

Requests for Clearness for membership:

Clearness Committee for Neftali Morales: The Ministry & Counsel Committee selected a clearness committee of three members from the six who had volunteered to serve. A Friend requested that Neftali's letter requesting membership be included into the minutes.

Good afternoon Ms Esther,

My name is Mr Neftali Fernandez and I would like to apply for formal membership in the Asheville Society of Friends Meeting. 

I have been studying Quakerism and the Society of Friends now since 2006 while living in Florida. I am currently reading Friends for 350 years and also receive "Friends Journal". My partner and I moved here to Asheville late October 2008 and I started attending the Meeting about 5 weeks ago after I contacted Steven Livingston.

I was first drawn to Society of Friends by my interest in silent communication with God and the ability to seek Divine intervention and God's light not just individually but with my fellow human beings in the Society.

A former Catholic and sinner I always felt the Catholic Church spent too much reminding of this and I never, even as a child felt that another person could absolve me of sin. God can only absolve me of sins and I never felt that I needed a "pastor" to better communicate with the Divine.

I hope I've made sense and look forward to the next step in the process in becoming a permanent member here in Asheville.

Yours in Christ,

Neftali

828-505-3272, 8 East Shore Drive, Asheville, NC 28805

Minute #6: Friends approved the formation of the clearness committee for membership for Neftali Fernández to consist of Steve Livingston, George Gjelfriend and Jen Rhode.

Barbara reported that Marcos Morales is not able to attend yearly meeting with Friend Elizabeth Roebing this year, but that he is very interested in establishing some email communication with Friends in our meeting. In this way he can advance his interest in being a Friend. His first language is Spanish, but he is also able to communicate in English.

Request from FGC Traveling Ministries for use of our meetinghouse :

Friends General Conference Traveling Ministries is planning to hold a regional retreat for 12 to 20 participants on the topic *Supporting Emerging Gifts and Ministry*. They request the use of our meeting house with hospitality provided for the out of town participants on either Sept. 18-19 or Sept. 25-26, 2009. Individual participants will be invited to attend. Some of them may be staying both Friday and Saturday nights to join us for worship the following day. The contact was made by Kristi Estes, former SAYMA clerk. No mention of meal needs was made, specifically, but we would probably provide the lunch on Saturday as we would for Representative Meeting, and hosts would provide bed and breakfast. We may want to host a potluck on Friday evening in order to meet and welcome Friends attending the retreat. More details will follow if we are able to host them.

One Friend suggested that guest rooms at Highland Farms would be available and he would reserve them.

Minute #6: Friends approved offering our Meeting House for an FGC Traveling Ministries regional retreat for 12 to 20 participants on the topic *Supporting Emerging Gifts and Ministry*, to be held on a weekend in September 2009.

Support Committee. A request was made to form a committee to support Stephanie Gossett as she will be studying in Tanzania, Africa during the fall semester.

Minute #7: Friends approved the formation of a support committee to include Barbara Esther, Phil Neal, Gary Briggs and Beth Bates to explore needs with which the meeting might be helpful.

Request for Traveling Minute:

Gary Briggs

Gary Briggs asked that a traveling minute be sent with him and others going to the FGC Gathering to continue a Quaker tradition of including such a minute for presentation during the meeting for worship for the conduct of business of the FLGBTQC.

Minute #8: Meeting approved sending a Traveling Minute, written by the clerk, with Asheville Friends attending Friends General Conference Gathering to Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns (FLGBTQC).

Other

The clerk brought up the question of who will be able to open the meetinghouse and be the worship closer/lock up on June 14, while many Friends will be at the SAYMA meeting at Warren Wilson College. Raelin Hansen agreed to take on this responsibility. Kitti Reynolds, Bobby Carter or Rusty Maynard may be here as back up.

Minute #8: Friends wish to minute our appreciation to Rusty Maynard and Gary Briggs for having refinished the floors so beautifully and for Rusty having replaced the protectors on the chair legs so that they do not mar the floors.

The meeting closed with a period of worship at 2:08 p.m., to meet again on Eighth Month, 9, 2009.