

Minutes
Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business
Ninth Month 13, 2009

Clerk: Barbara Esther

Recording Clerk: Jennifer Rhode Ward

Present: Beth Bates, Gary Briggs, Bobby Carter, Janet Doellgest, Tom Edelson, George Gjelfriend, Kristi Gjelfriend, Joy Gossett, Pat Johnson, Katherine Kowal, Steve Livingston, Laura Maynard, Rusty Maynard, Phil Neal, Edie Patrick, Alice Powell, Kitti Reynolds, Alan Robinson, Gabriel Vincent, Jennifer Rhode Ward, Adrienne Weir, Doug Lane

We began with a period of worship.

Readings

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou anointest my head with oil, my cup overflows.

Psalm 23:5

El shalom bíblico no es suficiencia en el sentido de simplemente tener bastante para no pasar penuria. Es suficiencia en una escala mucho más grande. Es suficiencia con relación a la abundancia, no suficiencia con relación a la escasez.

Anthony Prete

From “Shalom es Mucho Más Que Paz“, an address presented to the 2003 FGC Gathering

Agenda Review

The agenda was accepted as presented.

Minutes of Eighth Month 9, 2009 & Called Meeting of Eighth Month 23, 2009

The Called Meeting minutes have not yet been posted, but they will be posted on the AFM website; approval of those minutes will be on the 10th Month Business Meeting Agenda.

***MINUTE 1: The 8th Month minutes were approved as posted on the AFM website.**

Financial Reports

Pat Johnson

Thus far this fiscal year, expenses exceed contributions by \$4751. Pat noted that, typically, donations are higher near the end of the 4th quarter, but that we are currently operating in a deficit situation. One Friend suggested shifting the AFM Fiscal Year so that the end of the budget and tax years did not coincide. The Clerk suggested that the Finance Committee consider that recommendation, and reminded those gathered that the Yearly Meeting begins its fiscal year in October. The full report follows.

| | <u>Jan 1 - Sep 6, 09</u> | <u>Budget</u> | <u>\$ Over Budget</u> | <u>% of Budget</u> |
|---|------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Ordinary Income/Expense | | | | |
| Income | | | | |
| 4000 · Contribution Income | | | | |
| 4050 · Restricted | 1,650.00 | 0.00 | 1,650.00 | 100.0% |
| 4010 · Unrestricted | 20,094.46 | 0.00 | 20,094.46 | 100.0% |
| 4000 · Contribution Income - Other | 0.00 | 20,270.00 | -20,270.00 | 0.0% |
| Total 4000 · Contribution Income | <u>21,744.46</u> | <u>20,270.00</u> | <u>1,474.46</u> | <u>107.27%</u> |
| Transfers FROM other funds** | | | | |
| Transfer from General Fund** | <u>900.00</u> | <u>0.00</u> | <u>900.00</u> | <u>100.0%</u> |

| | | | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|------------|---------|
| Total Transfers FROM other funds** | 900.00 | 0.00 | 900.00 | 100.0% |
| 7010 · Interest Income | 739.30 | 700.00 | 39.30 | 105.61% |
| 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 | 2,634.50 | 3,900.00 | -1,265.50 | 67.55% |
| Total Income | 26,153.26 | 24,870.00 | 1,283.26 | 105.16% |
| Gross Profit | 26,153.26 | 24,870.00 | 1,283.26 | 105.16% |
| Expense | | | | |
| Transfers TO Other Funds** | | | | |
| Meeting House Improvements Fd** | 0.00 | 10,105.50 | -10,105.50 | 0.0% |
| M&C Needs Fund Transfer** | 900.00 | 800.00 | 100.00 | 112.5% |
| Scholarship Fund Transfer** | 0.00 | 200.00 | -200.00 | 0.0% |
| Transfer to H&G reserves** | 0.00 | 2,000.00 | -2,000.00 | 0.0% |
| Total Transfers TO Other Funds** | 900.00 | 13,105.50 | -12,205.50 | 6.87% |
| Meeting House | | | | |
| House and Grounds | | | | |
| Supplies | 35.62 | 0.00 | 35.62 | 100.0% |
| Cleaning | 430.00 | 0.00 | 430.00 | 100.0% |
| Landscaping | 90.00 | 0.00 | 90.00 | 100.0% |
| Maintenance | 285.00 | 0.00 | 285.00 | 100.0% |
| House and Grounds - Other | 0.00 | 3,000.00 | -3,000.00 | 0.0% |
| Total House and Grounds | 840.62 | 3,000.00 | -2,159.38 | 28.02% |
| 6180 · Insurance | | | | |
| Property/Casualty | 2,384.00 | 2,500.00 | -116.00 | 95.36% |
| Worker's Comp | 0.00 | 800.00 | -800.00 | 0.0% |
| 6180 · Insurance - Other | 195.00 | 0.00 | 195.00 | 100.0% |
| Total 6180 · Insurance | 2,579.00 | 3,300.00 | -721.00 | 78.15% |
| 6390 · Utilities | | | | |
| Electric | 344.07 | 0.00 | 344.07 | 100.0% |
| Gas | 819.72 | 0.00 | 819.72 | 100.0% |
| 6340 · Telephone | 432.40 | 0.00 | 432.40 | 100.0% |
| 6410 · Water | 261.86 | 0.00 | 261.86 | 100.0% |
| 6390 · Utilities - Other | 0.00 | 2,700.00 | -2,700.00 | 0.0% |
| Total 6390 · Utilities | 1,858.05 | 2,700.00 | -841.95 | 68.82% |
| Total Meeting House | 5,277.67 | 9,000.00 | -3,722.33 | 58.64% |
| Meeting Support | | | | |
| Hospitality Committee | 39.98 | 150.00 | -110.02 | 26.65% |
| Pastoral Care Ctte | 0.00 | 120.00 | -120.00 | 0.0% |
| Communications Ctte | 285.00 | 400.00 | -115.00 | 71.25% |
| Advertising | | | | |
| Friends Journal | 94.00 | 0.00 | 94.00 | 100.0% |
| Advertising - Other | 0.00 | 100.00 | -100.00 | 0.0% |
| Total Advertising | 94.00 | 100.00 | -6.00 | 94.0% |
| Finance Ctte | 0.00 | 90.00 | -90.00 | 0.0% |
| Library | 110.00 | 300.00 | -190.00 | 36.67% |

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|--|----------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Ministry and Counsel Ctte | 200.00 | 50.00 | 150.00 | 400.0% |
| 6240 · Miscellaneous | | | | |
| 6120 · Bank Service Charges | 0.00 | 150.00 | -150.00 | 0.0% |
| Coffee Purchases | 136.00 | 0.00 | 136.00 | 100.0% |
| Office Supplies | 0.00 | 100.00 | -100.00 | 0.0% |
| Total 6240 · Miscellaneous | 136.00 | 250.00 | -114.00 | 54.4% |
| 6560 · Payroll Expenses | 0.00 | 200.00 | -200.00 | 0.0% |
| Religious Education Ctte | | | | |
| Childcare | 553.36 | 900.00 | -346.64 | 61.48% |
| First Day School | 0.00 | 900.00 | -900.00 | 0.0% |
| SAYF | 0.00 | 400.00 | -400.00 | 0.0% |
| Total Religious Education Ctte | 553.36 | 2,200.00 | -1,646.64 | 25.15% |
| Scholarships from fund | 7,318.00 | 148.00 | 7,170.00 | 4,944.6% |
| Spiritual Enrichment Ctte | 91.00 | 200.00 | -109.00 | 45.5% |
| Total Meeting Support | 8,827.34 | 4,208.00 | 4,619.34 | 209.78% |
| Outreach | | | | |
| 6140 · General Outreach | | | | |
| Wild South | 250.00 | 0.00 | 250.00 | 100.0% |
| Global Report WPVM | 50.00 | 0.00 | 50.00 | 100.0% |
| Green Opportunities Clean Air | 250.00 | 0.00 | 250.00 | 100.0% |
| Meals on Wheels | 364.00 | 0.00 | 364.00 | 100.0% |
| No More Victims | 300.00 | 0.00 | 300.00 | 100.0% |
| A-B Community Relations Council | 276.00 | 0.00 | 276.00 | 100.0% |
| ABCCM | 364.00 | 0.00 | 364.00 | 100.0% |
| Canary Coalition | 250.00 | 0.00 | 250.00 | 100.0% |
| International Link | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.0% |
| Manna Food Bank | 276.00 | 0.00 | 276.00 | 100.0% |
| Riverlink | 200.00 | 0.00 | 200.00 | 100.0% |
| WNC Alliance | 300.00 | 0.00 | 300.00 | 100.0% |
| 6140 · General Outreach - Other | 0.00 | 2,500.00 | -2,500.00 | 0.0% |
| Total 6140 · General Outreach | 2,980.00 | 2,500.00 | 480.00 | 119.2% |
| Peace and Earth Ctte | | | | |
| Projects | 0.00 | 300.00 | -300.00 | 0.0% |
| Total Peace and Earth Ctte | 0.00 | 300.00 | -300.00 | 0.0% |
| Quaker Outreach | | | | |
| AFSC | 300.00 | 0.00 | 300.00 | 100.0% |
| FCNL | 550.00 | 0.00 | 550.00 | 100.0% |
| FGC | 200.00 | 0.00 | 200.00 | 100.0% |
| Friends Earth Care Witness | 400.00 | 0.00 | 400.00 | 100.0% |
| Friends Journal | 200.00 | 0.00 | 200.00 | 100.0% |
| FWCC | 75.00 | 0.00 | 75.00 | 100.0% |
| Pendle Hill | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.0% |
| Quaker House | 400.00 | 0.00 | 400.00 | 100.0% |
| Ramallah Friends School | 75.00 | 0.00 | 75.00 | 100.0% |
| Right Sharing | 200.00 | 0.00 | 200.00 | 100.0% |
| Quaker Outreach - Other | 0.00 | 2,500.00 | -2,500.00 | 0.0% |
| Total Quaker Outreach | 2,500.00 | 2,500.00 | 0.00 | 100.0% |
| SAYMA Dues | 3,510.00 | 3,510.00 | 0.00 | 100.0% |
| Total Outreach | 8,990.00 | 8,810.00 | 180.00 | 102.04% |

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|
| 6999 - Uncategorized Expenses | 4.80 | 0.00 | 4.80 | 100.0% |
| Total Expense | 23,999.81 | 35,123.50 | -11,123.69 | 68.33% |
| Net Ordinary Income | 2,153.45 | 10,253.50 | 12,406.95 | -21.0% |
| Net Income | <u>2,153.45</u> | <u>10,253.50</u> | <u>12,406.95</u> | <u>-21.0%</u> |

The Finance Committee's report was accepted as presented.

Request: Clearness Committee for Marriage, Laura Maynard and Doug Lane. The clerk received the following letter:

Dear Clerk of Asheville Friends Meeting-

As we shared with the meeting several weeks ago, we are engaged to be married. We wish to be married under the care of the Asheville Friends Meeting. We look forward to the process of the clearness committee and the support of the meeting as we transition to this next stage of our lives. Thank you for considering this request.

In the Light,
Laura Maynard Doug Lane

The couple requested that AFM Associate Christopher Jayne serve on their committee; Friends Betsy Rose Weis and Barbara Esther have also volunteered to serve.

***MINUTE 2 - The couple's request for and the composition of the Clearness Committee was approved.**

Committee Reports

Communications Committee

Steve Livingston

Communications Committee met after rise of meeting on 9/6/09. Present were Tom Edelson, Neftali Fernandez, and committee clerk Steve Livingston. The purpose of the meeting was to review the tasks that the committee performs for the Meeting and see if those present felt led to take on any of those tasks.

Website: Steve reported that Rylin Hansen had already agreed, and indeed had begun, to do the updates on the Meeting blog. Neftali offered to try his hand at posting the minutes from the monthly meetings for business, once he has acquired the necessary software and gotten oriented on it. Tom said he would consider taking on the task of website maintenance. Steve will continue maintaining the permanent web pages and the posting of flyers and documents.

Listserv: Neftali is interested in at least sharing the responsibility for the weekly e-letter with Steve. Tom is willing to share the role of list administrator. Anyone wishing to be added to the e-letter listserv can still do so by signing the guest register, or by providing Tom or Steve with their email address.

Directory: Gary B has already agreed to complete the work on the directory of active people in the community. Neftali offered to help with that work.

Advertising: Neftali is interested in researching the possibility of public service announcements on radio and doing more outreach in print media.

Steve clarified that writing one's email in the guest book automatically adds a person to the AFM listserv. A Friend said that pooling AFM members' contributions to allow day sponsorship of the local public radio stations

might be used to publicize the Meeting. Steve confirmed that he was still the contact person for posting anything via the Communications Committee. Steve added that we should send items to him for list-serve posting as well. Another Friend thanked the committee for its service and for the detailed website posting about our schedule change.

The Communications Committee Report was accepted as given.

Spiritual Enrichment Committee

Steve Livingston

Steve appealed to the Meeting for an adult Spiritual Enrichment Program.

It has been my experience that our Meeting enjoys greater vitality, community, and sense of commitment when we are actively engaged in adult spiritual enrichment exercises. I am not convinced that the one is the cause of the other, but I do believe that the presence of an adult spiritual program is a sure barometer of the Meeting's spiritual health.

I hope that there are other Friends among us who share my concern for sustaining our adult spiritual enrichment program and nurturing its growth. I have agreed to clerk the Spiritual Enrichment Committee, but at this moment the committee has no members. I hope we may remedy that condition by exploring the ways in which we are led to share our spiritual journeys with one another, and that from such exploration, a leading may arise in some Friends to support and shepherd our communal journey.

Our Meeting has just now begun a revised First Day schedule, which allows for spiritual enrichment exercises to take place after rise of meeting on two or three First Days each month. The first such opportunity will be next week, on 9/20. I invite Friends to join me at that time to bring forward our ideas for revitalizing our adult spiritual enrichment program. We have many examples from past experience to draw from: topical discussions of Friendly concerns, sharing of spiritual journeys, inspirational readings, guided meditations, book discussions, or presentations by Peace and Earth Committee or by invited guests.

At its best, our spiritual enrichment program would include opportunities for smaller groups of Friends to meet outside of the confines of our First Day schedule. Examples include Friendly Eights groups, spiritual friendships, special interest groups, or age-specific groups such as Young Adult Friends, or the Older Men's and Women's groups.

If these ideas appeal to you, if you attach importance to our Meeting's adult spiritual enrichment, please join me next week to discuss these opportunities, and discern a way forward for our Meeting. Until such time as our Spiritual Enrichment Committee actually has members, it seems to me most prudent for the committee's work to be accomplished on such an ad hoc basis. My hope is that out of next week's meeting will come a viable spiritual enrichment program for the next several months.

A Friend suggested that asking members to speak about their own spiritual journeys might be a good idea. Steve said that these and other ideas would be discussed at the rise of meeting next week [Sept. 20, 2009]. Another Friend expressed appreciation that Steve was continuing this important work within our Meeting.

The Spiritual Enrichment Committee's report was approved as given.

Alan Robinson said that he was asked if AFM wanted to be included in a regional directory for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered community as a GLBT-friendly faith community. He is bringing this item before Business Meeting for approval. Friends approved the following minute:

*** MINUTE: Friends approved the inclusion of Asheville Friends Meeting's information in a new directory of GLBT(gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered)-supportive faith communities in the**

region.

Nominating Committee

George Gjelfriend

The nominating committee is revisiting the SAYMA Yearly Friends Meeting policy that non-members not serve on the Ministry & Counsel Committee. The Clerk reminded us that time in this Business Meeting had been put aside for brief discussion of this matter, but that no decision should be made today. The Clerk clarified that the present policy was that only members of the Religious Society of Friends serve on Ministry & Council (which includes the Clerk as one of its *de facto* members).

One Friend noted that keeping non-recorded-members from serving in certain roles (as Clerk, or as members of Ministry & Council) was a longstanding policy of the Religious Society of Friends. He noted that most SAYMA Meetings, not just AFM, had allowed exceptions to this policy. He said that he thought it unwise to allow non-recorded-members to serve in these roles, because this would set a precedent and could allow less qualified persons to serve in such roles in the future.

A Friend said that, when she served on Nominating Committee, she noted that many integral members of our AFM community were not official members of the Religious Society of Friends. She said that every decision made by Nominating Committee tried to match talents with open roles, and that Nominating Committee could be trusted with making decisions about M&C membership be made on an individual basis.

A Friend noted appreciation for the work of M&C, and then asked that the concept of membership be revised to better reflect the level of activity among attenders and members. He asked that M&C consider these issues.

A Friend reminded us of a passage within Acts, when Peter understood that God would bestow on everyone alike, according to their own faithfulness and deeds. The Friend reminded us that Friends are marked by the experience of the Inner Light, and that our Inner Light will help us, as a Meeting, choose the appropriate persons to fill roles. He said that the Inward Light would choose who should be members of committees, as this is the process by which we should live, and that we should let the Inner Light guide the work of the Meeting.

Another Friend noted the importance of the ongoing historic role of the Religious Society of Friends, and noted the relationship between membership and commitment.

A Friend, noting calls for adherence to both regulations and to the light, asked that we consider practical matters for AFM as well. He noted that Nominating Committee often had trouble filling essential roles, and that perhaps there was room for compromise (ex., to have a plurality of M&C composed of members).

Another Friend recalled the past service of RSoF members who were not AFM members on M&C. He said that such service was approved by Business Meeting as an exception, and that such exceptions were appropriate under exceptional circumstances. The Nominating Committee could make an argument based on such circumstances. He reminded the group that the RSoF had practice, not doctrine, and that perhaps the rule should be let stand.

Remaining Questions

What are the roles of members and non-members in our community?

What meaning does membership have in this community?

How did the practice of membership begin?

Is this still our guidance from God, or would a change in this practice be following God's will?

Is the Friend considered for service on the Ministry and Counsel Committee steeped in Quaker practice and faith?

Are our members at present following their commitments?

These and other relevant questions will be forwarded to Ministry and Council for seasoning and for

recommendation. Friends approved this process.

House and Grounds Committee

George Gjelfriend

The Meeting House's gutters and downspouts need cleaning. After contacting 5 local companies, George found that our downspouts were not up to code. The committee will proceed with cleaning the gutters and replacing the downspouts, and such actions will be done within the H&G budget.

One Friend noted that cleaning would allow the substandard downspouts to work, and that the downspout replacement might be delayed. George invited further discussion of this item during H&G committee meeting.

The House and Grounds Committee Report was accepted as given.

Ad Hoc Retreat Committee

Barbara Esther

The Committee has not had opportunity to meet to take care of last minute planning details since Katherine Kowal's return, but member Steve Livingston has sent out an email invitation to area meetings and is receiving registration information. It is our hope that members of the Asheville Friends community will take advantage of Mary Ann Downey's gift to our meeting in leading the Clerking with Joy and Faith retreat on October 3, 2009, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. We do not anticipate needing to charge a registration fee, but will accept donations. At this time a shared lunch is advertised as brown bag, but we may be able to offer a lunch that is provided once the committee has met. To register, contact Steve at nc_stereoman@charter.net

Peace and Earth Committee

Donna McDaniel, author of the book "Fit for Freedom, not for Friendship", will be reading and talking about her book at Swannanoa Friends meeting on [Sunday] October 25th at 11 AM. This will be followed by a potluck, and Asheville Friends are invited to attend. She will be talking about racism in Quaker circles. She will do a presentation about her book at our Meeting House on Oct. 27, hosted by Peace and Earth. If Friends are interested, we might do discussions of her book later in the fall.

Susan O. volunteered at the Goombay Festival in downtown Asheville, in support of the Moratorium against the death penalty.

P and E discussed Rylin's request to sponsor her program for sustainability presentations at the Meeting House and open to the community. We agreed that Rylin would be in charge of scheduling and arranging the programs. However, we didn't feel that we could support her request for money to fix or buy sewing machines.

Thanks to all who have been bringing nonperishable food for MANNA Food Bank.

The Peace & Earth Committee Report was accepted as given.

Other

The Meeting thanks the Hospitality Committee for the organization and presentation of snacks and drinks. Pat Johnson reminded the Meeting that the Hospitality Committee will need all attenders' help to sustain these efforts.

Alan Robinson noted that many faith communities are coordinating the provision of breakfast for the homeless in Pritchard Park each First Day morning. AFM was asked if they were interested in being involved. This item has been forwarded to the Peace & Earth Committee for consideration. Susan Oehler is looking into getting donations from Atlanta Bread Company to support this work.

The SAYMA 2010 theme will pertain to clearness and discernment. A likely plenary will include a panel one evening and possibly a drama involving conflict another evening. Interesting actors and actresses should

contact John Potter at doctorbitmap@bellsouth.net.

Closing Worship

The clerk offered an additional quote from *The Top Ten Reasons I'm a Quaker*, by Greg Koskela

Reason 7: 86.7% of the most influential people in my life are Quakers. (And 98.4% of statistics are made up on the spot.) Seriously, out of the people who have most shaped my life, the ones I admire and respect, the people I would most like to model my life after, a huge percentage of them are Quakers. I choose Quakers because it's a community of people who have changed me.

The meeting closed after further worship to meet again as way opens on Tenth Month 11, 2009.