

Minutes
Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business
Tenth Month 11, 2009

Clerk: Katherine Kowal
Recording Clerk: Barbara Esther

Present: Laura Maynard, Phil Neal, Joy Gossett, Steve Livingston, Margaret Normile, Neftali Fernández, Gary Briggs, Adrienne Weir, Bobby Carter, George Gjelfriend, Kristi Gjelfriend, Rusty Maynard

Worship

The Clerk offered the following parable: A person was passing a construction site and saw three workmen doing the same job. She asked the first workman, "What are you doing?" He answered, "I'm taking this pile of rocks here and moving it to that pile over there." She asked the second workman, "What are you doing?" and he said, "I'm earning a living." When she asked the third workman "What are you doing?" he said, "I'm building a cathedral."

The clerk then commented that our work as a meeting is sometimes tedious and she wonders whether God cares whether we meet at 10 or 10:30, but that we have as the important work the building of the blessed community.

Approval of Minutes

Called Meeting

Minute #1- The minutes from the called meeting on August 23, 2009, were approved as posted.

Meeting for Business 9th Month 2009 - To give Friends a chance to review the minutes, we will delay this approval until Eleventh Month.

Report of Asheville Friends Meeting Finance Committee, 10/11/09

1. Pat Johnson will be making a report on finances to date. We have received in contributions to date about 1/2 of what we received last year. Other years' receipts are noted below.

Year	Contributions received as of 9/30 (to nearest \$100)
2009	\$6,500.00
2008	\$11,200.00
2007	\$13,400.00
2006	\$14,300.00
2005	\$17,200.00
2004	\$17,900.00
2003	\$16,800.00
2002	\$18,700.00
2001	\$20,000.00
2000	\$18,600.00

2. The Finance Committee was asked to consider changing Meeting's fiscal year to other than the calendar year. We have discussed this. We remind Meeting that the Finance Committee has previously proposed a budget policy which would achieve a similar end. By that policy, we will defer final decisions on the budget until January or later, when we will have the final numbers for the previous year. The policy is reprinted below for reference:

1. Asheville Friends Meeting Policy on Budget Process.

(a) Proposed Policy on Budget Process:

i. A draft budget will be presented in December of each year, using requests supplied by committees. The budgeted income will be limited to the income received in the previous year.

ii. In January the final budget will be presented for approval by meeting. Budgeted expenses will not be more than budgeted income. Revised budgeted income may be determined based on income for the just-completed year. At that time meeting may make a final determination about allocation of any surplus for the just-completed year, including additional funding for General and Quaker Outreach.

iii. Until each year's budget is approved (ideally in January), committees will be authorized to spend assuming continuation of the previous year's budget, except that no expenditures will be made from the General and Quaker Outreach and SAYMA budget lines. This will allow the various committees to remain functioning without having to ask meeting for expenditures one by one.

iv. Each budget line will be supervised by a specific committee, whose clerk will approve any expenditures from that line. The miscellaneous budget line will be spent at the request of meeting (requests will be approved by the Clerk of Meeting).

v. During the year committees will be able to spend up to 110% of any budget line under their supervision after they have received permission of the Finance Committee. Exceptions to this provision will be the General and Quaker Outreach and SAYMA budget lines. The Finance Committee or Treasurer will report to the subsequent Business Meeting any such extra expenses. Any committee wishing to spend more than 110% of a particular budget line must receive approval from meeting. This provision will prevent relatively trivial overspending from having to be approved at meeting for business.

3. We have noticed that meeting minutes from 2004 to 2007 are no longer available on our website. As these contain important policy decisions, and access and reference to these is facilitated by on-line accessibility, we request of meeting that these records be restored to the website. We will also ask the Communications Committee to help us develop a place where meeting financial policies can be accessed.

4. We have heard from Adrienne that she will be requesting to be relieved of the position of Treasurer, although she will be staying on the Finance Committee.

Respectfully Submitted by David Clements, Assistant Treasurer

Friends asked whether there was a significant decrease in membership/attendees, but it was noted that the decrease in funds received is great than the decrease in attendance would reflect. Because the figures are as of the same quarter of the year, this decrease in income is significant. The process was left to the Finance Committee for the manner in which the budget is set. The Communications Committee will be following up on the posting of reports from 2004 through 2007. A Friend asked whether the expenditure of outreach funds would be on hold. Adrienne responded that the meeting had put our support of both Quaker outreach and local outreach as a high priority. Another Friend added that as one's income is cut in half, for example, that the expenditures will need to be cut after careful consideration. December 30th contributions may make up some of the difference, but because the figures brought today are from September, this may not be sufficient. Another Friend reflected on the manner that he has to cut spending as a self-employed person. Frugal saving and borrowing can be a way of getting through the hard times. He reminded us that may we want to use our savings to be able to support the budget that was approved for 2009.

Adrienne described the work that a replacement treasurer would need to do, specifically, the technical aspects of the job.

Minute #2-Friends expressed deep gratitude to Adrienne Weir for her diligence and competence in service as our treasurer.

Report of Asheville Friends Meeting Board of Directors, 10/11/09

1. The Board of Directors request that the minutes of its 2009 annual meeting be incorporated into the meeting minutes.

(a) The annual meeting of the AFM Board of Directors took place at the meetinghouse on 10/04/09 at 9 am. Present were board members Katherine Kowal (member of the Board ex officio as Clerk of the Meeting), Adrienne Weir (member of the Board ex officio as Treasurer of meeting), and David Clements (member of the Board ex officio as Assistant Treasurer of meeting), Pat Johnson, and Bob Smith. The meeting had been rescheduled from 10/11/09.

(b) We approved Adrienne Weir as Chairperson and David Clements as Secretary.

(c) We reviewed the bylaws and structure of the Corporation.

(d) We will ask to have the minutes of this meeting recorded in the Minutes of Business Meeting.

(e) There being no new business, the Annual Meeting concluded at 9:30 am. The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors will be October 10, 2010 at 9 am.

Respectfully Submitted, David Clements, Secretary of the Board of Directors

Nominating Committee Recommendations

George Gjelfriend offered three names for service on the Spiritual Enrichment Committee.

Minute #3-Pat Johnson, Kitti Reynolds and George Gjelfriend were approved for service on the Spiritual Enrichment Committee.

Spiritual Enrichment.

Spiritual Enrichment Committee has held two forums in the past month, and met as a committee on 10/4/09. Prior to the first forum there were no members on the committee, only the clerk, Steve Livingston. Since that time, three Friends have felt led to join the committee: Pat Johnson, Kitti Reynolds, and George Gjelfriend.

At the first forum, about fifteen Friends joined in a brainstorming session to identify what we want to get from our Spiritual Enrichment program, and what we are willing to contribute to it. Friends were in unity that our goal is to build our sense of community at the same time as we grow spiritually from our shared experiences. Friends also united on our wish to have a Quakerism 101 series as part of our upcoming Spiritual Enrichment agenda. Numerous other ideas came up, both for second hour offerings and for activities in which smaller groups of Friends can engage outside of the First Day schedule.

At the second forum, we considered the suggestions that had been made previously to see which ones Friends were ready to move forward with, and if there was a Friend or Friends willing to coordinate. We discovered that there were quite a few, and we have begun passing around a sign up sheet to help get them going. Participants and coordinators can decide when and where they will meet. These are the activities and the person who has come forward to lead them: 

1. Friends Journal discussion group: Jim Cavener will host a monthly discussion of one or more articles in the FJ.
2. Barclay's Apology study group: Alan Robinson will facilitate an examination of this Quaker classic.
3. Film Group: Pat Johnson will occasionally host a group to view and discuss various art films and documentaries.
4. Pendle Hill pamphlets: Neftali Fernández is looking for Friends interested in discussing Pendle Hill pamphlets.
5. After Meeting hikes: Gary Briggs will occasionally organize a hike.
6. Bible study: George Gjelfriend will lead a Bible study group.

At our committee meeting, we mapped out our second hour Spiritual Enrichment offerings for the remainder of 2009 and into 2010. Here is the schedule we worked out:

10/18 (next week): sharing of spiritual journeys, hosted by George Gjelfriend. The format will be slightly altered from our previous practice: instead of only one Friend presenting for the entire hour, the time will be split between two Friends.

10/25 (Sandwich Sunday): table discussions. Friends are invited to share with their table mates on the questions "Where are you from?" and "What brought you to Quakerism?" In the middle of each table we will place a placard with the questions printed on it. We will set aside at least one table in case some Friends don't want to participate in the exercise, designated by the absence of a placard.

11/1 Kitti Reynolds will talk about "Fit for Freedom, not for Friendship", the book by Vanessa Julye and Donna McDaniel, with an emphasis on the experience of people of color in North Carolina.

11/15 Forum on right livelihood and right sharing. Format and facilitator(s) tba.

11/22 (Sandwich Sunday): table discussions on the question "What volunteer service(s) are you led to do?"

11/29 Friendly Singing: a full hour of song. Facilitator tba.

12/6 Quakerism 101 series begins. Since Q101 typically starts with the roots of Quakerism and often fails to reach all the way to modern times, we will begin our series in the present day and work our way back to the beginning. 🔄

12/20 spiritual journeys

12/27 (Sandwich Sunday) table discussion: "What does Jesus mean to you?"

As far as 2010, Quakerism 101 will be offered again on 1/17, 2/7, and 3/7, with subsequent dates tba. Friendly singing will be repeated on 1/31.

One Friend wondered whether there would be room for a holiday gathering in this schedule. George Gjelfriend offered to relinquish his planned spiritual journey time on 12/20. We could also plan it for a different day of the week. It was suggested that an Ad Hoc Committee might be appointed today so that we have adequate time for planning holiday events. It was also mentioned that Friends needing transportation after dark will need our help. Kristi Gjelfriend, Adrienne Weir and Barbara Esther will serve as an Ad Hoc Committee for the holiday party. Steve Livingston and Adrienne Weir will plan the Orphan's Thanksgiving. There was also some discussion of singing Christmas carols on Christmas Eve.

Personal Concerns

Margaret Normile thanked all those who have volunteered to provide the refreshments and greet Friends on First Days up to now, and reminded Friends to consult the sign-up sheet for future First Days. A Friend thanked the Hospitality Committee for their able coordination.

A Friend reminded us that Meeting was asked to consider the service of non-members on Ministry and Counsel Committee. He asked that we continue to ponder the meaning of membership in our community. He stressed that the growth of our community is revitalized by the work of our membership of late. Another Friend asked whether there might be a topic or a Saturday event that would entice those members who are not here in our midst. The idea of asking those who do not attend, even though they are still recorded as members of the meeting, how they are, was suggested. The question of who will carry out this outreach was not directly decided.

Announcements

A letter of thanks was received from Becky Phipps for the hospitality that was extended to the FGC Traveling Ministers Program Retreat.

A SAYF (Southern Appalachian Young Friends) retreat will be held in our meetinghouse next weekend, with a few Young Friends in our own community considering attendance. We recall that several of our young adults were profoundly affected by the experiences they had as SAYFers.

We concluded the meeting with a period of worship.