

**Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business
Eighth Month 8, 2010**

Clerk: Katherine Kowal

Recording Clerk: Jennifer Rhode Ward

Present: Bobby Carter, Jim Cavener, Tom Edelson, Barbara Esther, Gjeorge Gjelfriend, Kristi Gjelfriend, Joy Gossett, Rylin Hansen, Pat Johnson, Laura Maynard Lane, Steve Livingston, Rusty Maynard, Margaret Normile, Edie Patrick, Kitti Reynolds, Alan Robinson, Adrienne Weir

Opening Worship

Reading:

"We have to earn silence, to work for it; to make it not an absence but a presence; not an emptiness but repletion. Silence is something more than just a pause; it is the enchanted place where space is cleared and time is stayed, and the horizon itself expands. In silence, we often say we can hear ourselves think; but what is truer to say is that in silence we can hear ourselves not think and so sink below our selves into a place far deeper than mere thought allows. In silence, we might better say, we can hear someone else think."

- from "The Eloquent Sound of Silence", by Pico Iyer

8th Month Agenda

A Friend requested that more explicit information be added to the clipboard for the rise of Meeting. Another Friend said that she would be sure this was done. The revised 8th Month Agenda was then accepted as presented.

Review of Minutes: 6th Month

A Friend suggested several changes to the 6th month minutes; these changes were approved. The 6th month minutes were accepted as corrected.

Finance Committee – Pat Johnson

The Finance Committee reported that contributions were still down compared to previous years, and that (as of 5 August) AFM had received 38% of the total budgeted expenditures for this fiscal year. Summer is traditionally a slow month for contributions, and this year is following that trend (including one Sunday with no contributions). Pat noted that our casualty insurance payment had been made, and that its absence from the general report was a software error. The general balance fund as of 5 August 2010 is \$22,741.96

The Treasurer's Report was accepted as given.

In June, some AFM members suggested that we increased AFM's contribution to SAYMA (or other worthy organizations). The Finance Committee has since considered this request. The Finance Committee feels that it is not qualified to assess the worthiness of other organizations, so such non-SAYMA contribution requests should go through the Peace & Earth Committee.

Adding \$15 per active AFM participant (over the current \$65 SAYMA assessment per active

meeting participant) would add \$660 and bring our total AFM yearly contribution up to nearly last year's donation. The Finance Committee noted that the budgeted amount for AFM's SAYMA contribution has already been spent for this year, but since SAYMA is particularly hurting for funds this year, AFM is considering an additional one-time, non-assessment based donation. A Friend suggested laying this matter aside until after the 11th September SAYMA representative meeting (in Knoxville), when this matter would be discussed in more detail, and noted that SAYMA's need for funds is not immediate (though it will be an issue in the next year). Another Friend expressed concerns about AFM's reduced donations (which are given voluntarily) and our ability to donate additional funds (on top of a per capita assessment). One Friend suggested recommending that SAYMA increase its assessment amount. A Friend suggested delaying a decision on this, and perhaps asking individual AFM Friends to consider donating monies for this specific expenditure. This Friend also pointed out that the way in which AFM censused its members might not reflect accurately the number of Meeting participants, so making the separation between donations and an assessment-based payment even more clear would be wise.

Another Friend suggested using a questionnaire to ask members of the AFM community to self-determine their membership status, then have each person pay the SAYMA assessment independently if s/he was able to do so. This questionnaire would also serve as a gentle reminder for AFM that we do have fiscal responsibilities to the Yearly Meeting. The Clerk asked that this suggestion be referred to Ministry & Counsel.

Minute: Friends agreed to defer decisions about additional SAYMA donations, and whether we should suggest changes in SAYMA assessment amounts, until the October Meeting for Business. The Clerk asked that the Finance Committee and SAYMA representatives bring this matter to the 10th Month Business Meeting.

Spiritual Enrichment Committee – Steve Livingston

Steve noted that Spiritual Enrichment offerings would begin again on 19 September. A brainstorming session about this year's Spiritual Enrichment offerings will be held after the rise of Meeting on 15 August. The committee plans to meet again 28th August, reiterates that its meetings are open to all, and seeks 1-2 additional members.

The committee asked that the Meeting consider whether we should hold our retreat on 28th August to include Dan Snyder, or whether, given the time constraints that Dan expressed in his communications with Steve, we should put the retreat on hold (planning all other details except for the exact date). The sense of the Meeting is to try to engage Dan as a retreat convener at a time that is mutually convenient (for him and for AFM).

Report of Clearness Committee for Edie Patrick – Barbara Esther

The committee (Barbara Esther, Joy Gossett, Alan Robinson) met with Edie on 18 July 2010 after the rise of Meeting. The committee recommends Edie's transfer from Foxfire Friends Meeting to Asheville Monthly Meeting.

Minute: Friends approved the transfer of Edie Patrick's membership from Foxfire Friends Meeting to AFM.

Jim Cavener and Steve Livingston volunteered to plan a celebration for Edie. A Friend noted that we are working on a similar celebration for Laura Maynard Lane and Doug Lane (who were married last month under the care of our Meeting).

House & Grounds Committee – Gjeorge Gjelfriend

The committee will meet next week (15 August) after the rise of Meeting, if members are interested in discussing aspects of the Meeting House climate (air conditioning, fans, room temperature, etc.) then. Gjeorge will also accept comments via email before their next committee meeting.

AFM's rental guidelines require that we only rent to non-profit entities. Adrienne is now doing lead poisoning prevention training as a for-profit enterprise, and she would like to use the Meeting House space to do such training. This training would involve ~12 participants, and the space would be used once or more, and sessions would be planned ~6 weeks in advance (on Thursdays or Fridays). Adrienne, who is also rental coordinator, said that the Meeting House was currently open most weekdays, and she noted that other renters or potential renters had ambiguous non-profit status (taking voluntary offerings but keeping those monies, etc.).

The Clerk asked those gathered to consider whether the rental guidelines should be changed, or whether an exception should be made for this particular case. A Friend will check with an attorney about the legal implications of renting our space to a for-profit organization, then will report back to Ministry & Counsel. A Friend suggested that potential policy changes be set aside for further consideration, and that this be considered as a single-case exception.

Minute: The Meeting approves rental of the Asheville Friends Meeting House for Adrienne Weir's lead prevention training program, contingent on the advice of an attorney.

This minute was approved by the Meeting. House & Grounds will further consider amending the official AFM rental policy.

Nominating Committee – Gjeorge Gjelfriend

Minute: Friends agreed to release Peter Buck as our SAYMA representative, with thanks to him for his service. Friends then approved Steve Livingston as our new SAYMA representative.

A Friend noted that attendance at SAYMA Meetings is not limited to SAYMA representative, and that all are welcome to go.

Peace & Earth Committee – Kitti Reynolds

Kitti noted that if people contributed cash for the Pritchard Park breakfasts, we could use those funds to purchase additional sausage biscuits (which were in short supply). A Friend suggested a Saturday sausage-making party before the next breakfast. The committee reminded Friends that we continue to collect food for MANNA food bank.

Announcements

- An open house for the new AFSC office in Atlanta will be held on 1 October.
- SAYMA minutes are now available on the SAYMA website.
- The SAYMA directory is now available – online, in disc version, or in print.

Closing Worship