

Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business

Tenth Month 10, 2010

Clerk: Katherine Kowal

Recording Clerk: Barbara Esther

Present: Bobby Carter, Jim Cavener, David Clements, George Gjelfriend, Kristi Gjelfriend, Raelin Hansen, Steve Livingston, Margaret Normile, Alan Robinson, Adrienne Weir, Robin Wells

We began with a period of worship. From the silence the clerk read the following:

We join with the earth and with each other

To bring new life to the land

To restore the waters

To refresh the air.

We join with the earth and with each other

To renew the forest

To protect the plants

To care for the creatures.

We join with the earth and with each other

To celebrate the trees

To rejoice in the sunlight

To sing the song of the stars.

We join with the earth and with each other

To restore the human community

To protect justice and the peace

To remember our children.

We join with the earth and with each other

We join together as many and diverse expressions of one loving mystery: for the healing of the earth and the renewing of all life.

U.N. Environmental Sabbath Program

Minute #1 Minutes from Ninth Month were approved with the correction of the amount of income reported.

Finance Committee Report:

Adrienne Weir reported for Pat Johnson. Not reported in the print-out are some disbursements for needs within the meeting community. A Friend asked that we explore whether it is cost-effective to continue having an interest-bearing account which is charged a fee periodically. It was pointed out that our particular account has the capacity to sell stock, a feature that may or may not be valuable to the meeting in light of the fee attached. Due to some problems with QuickBooks, no electronic report was sent this month.

Religious Education Committee Report:

The Religious Education Committee anticipates a budget shortfall due to a low estimation of childcare costs. However, expenditures have been low for First Day School and are estimated to be approximately \$250 for the year. With this in mind, the committee would like to request an increase in the Religious Education budget of \$300. The SAYF budget line item is expected to match expenditures for the 2010 calendar year.

Robin Wells reported that the childcare portion of the budget was under cost. The RE budget includes the following: childcare, First Day School and SAYF expenses. The committee requests an increase of \$300 for the committee expenses, with more going towards childcare than was budgeted, and some funds being reallocated from First Day School expenses to childcare expenses. One Friend questioned the generous funding provided for the Religious Education Committee for a relatively low number of children. He supports the spending of money, but wishes we had better attendance of children involved. Publication of activities and curriculum is difficult when a lesson/activity has to be postponed when attendance is lacking. Another Friend suggested that a short report from the perspective of the children on recent activities be included in our business meeting minutes each month to inform families of the fun and learning that takes place in our meeting. A parent who has invited friends of her own children told us that the kids themselves are the best advertisement for the program. The meeting blog may also be a way of sharing information. Robin requested information on when the committee should report to the meeting. The clerk reminded us that reports generally come to our business sessions only when it is necessary or when approval is sought. Regarding the request for \$300, a Friend noted that the RE budget can be a bottom line budget, rather than be broken down into three categories.

Minute #2 Friends approved the addition of \$300 to the Religious Education budget for 2010 so that the higher cost of childcare than what was originally budgeted can be covered.

Additional Contribution of \$660.00 to SAYMA

The clerk explained that the budget needs of our yearly meeting are rising. One Friend cautioned us about spending someone else's money when we are not meeting the budget we approved for our monthly meeting. The yearly meeting plans to increase the SAYMA assessment for the coming year. Because the SAYMA fiscal year runs from October 1 to September 30, and because the reserves have been purposely spent down in recent years, a need for a higher level of revenue from monthly meetings is anticipated. The census does not reflect a shrinking in population, but the assessments paid did not reflect either stasis or growth. A Friend suggested that we appeal to individual Friends to earmark an extra contribution to SAYMA and plan for next year's assessment to be larger. With the assessment based on 44 active community members, an additional \$15 per person would cover the increased contribution.

Minute #3 After some discussion, Friends are not in unity to increase our assessment contribution by \$660 this year. However, Friends are encouraged to make additional contributions designated to SAYMA by the end of 2010.

Hospitality Committee Report:

For the past year AFM Hospitality Committee consisting of Margaret Normile, Pat Johnson, Edie Patrick, Alice Powell and Bob Smith has been providing the opportunity for members and attenders to bring snacks for after the meeting for worship in order to provide nourishment before the spiritual enrichment programs and to encourage fellowship among those present. Detailed instructions for the hospitality helpers were posted in the kitchen and a weekly sign-up sheet for volunteers was circulated. A system for providing greeters before the meeting for worship was also initiated. The meeting has provided coffee and tea and many have volunteered to bring snacks and to clean up. Food

was purchased to supplement offerings on Sandwich Sunday. The canned goods that have not been used this year will be donated to Manna. Many have offered to be greeters. A survey was presented to members to make suggestions and to rate how the hospitality project was working out. There were many favorable responses and a few suggestions that were implemented. The Hospitality Committee now recommends that a committee be formed to make a study of what improvements could be made to our kitchen. This would include a survey of what appliances might need to be replaced and what new ones might be purchased. The committee would also recommend any new systems that would make the kitchen more efficient.

Pat Johnson has withdrawn from the committee because of other meeting obligations and we thank her for all of her attention to the details of setting up and implementing what was needed to help make this project a success. We welcome our newest member, Ruth Baldwin, and look forward to working with her.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Normile, clerk

Minute #4: Friends approved the formation of an ad hoc committee to plan for the renovation of our kitchen to make it more user-friendly and hospitable to visitors and to our own community. The following volunteered: Ruth Baldwin, Raelin Hansen, Alan Robinson, Edie Patrick and Barbara Esther. Margaret Normile will ask Ruth whether she is willing to serve as convener.

Nominating Committee Report 10/10/10

The Nominating Committee would like your approval for Rylin Hansen to join the Spiritual Enrichment Committee. She has already been serving for several months and has the enthusiastic approval of the clerk, Steve Livingston.

The Nominating Committee would like your approval to release Pat Johnson from the Hospitality Committee. Pat feels over-extended and needs to do a bit of load shedding.

Respectfully submitted, George Gjelfriend, clerk

Minute #5 Friends approved the service of Raelin Hansen to the Spiritual Enrichment Committee.

Minute # 6 Friends approved the release of Pat Johnson from Hospitality Committee with appreciation for her service.

House and Grounds Committee Report

We have had a couple of people parking in our lot without permission. A Friend suggested that a note be attached to the windshield saying that our parking lot is reserved for the attenders at our meeting and that we look forward to meeting them next Sunday at our meeting for worship at 10:00 a.m. Hopefully, that will resolve the problem. Attempts to reach the owner of one particular car have not been successful. In the case of another car, the owner did remove the car.

We concluded the meeting for worship for the conduct of business with a short period of worship to meet again on Ninth Month 14, 2010, as way opens.