

Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business
Eleventh Month 14, 2010

Clerk: Katherine Kowal
Recording Clerk: Jennifer Rhode Ward

Present: Bobby Carter, Jim Cavener, David Clements, Barbara Esther, Gjeorge Gjelfriend, Kristi Gjelfriend, Rylin Hansen, Laura Maynard Lane, Steve Livingston, Edie Patrick, Alan Robinson, Landon Ward

Opening Worship

Reading:

They walk in all humility and kindness and falsehood is not found among them, and they love one another. They despise not the widow, and grieve not the orphan. He that hath distributeth liberally to him that hath not. If they see a stranger, they bring him under their roof, and rejoice over him as if he were their own brother, for they call themselves brethren, not after the flesh but after the Spirit of God; And if there be among them a man that is poor and needy and they have not an abundance of necessities, they fast two or three days that they may supply the needy with their necessary food. from the Christian philosopher, Aristides (125 A.D.)

11th Month Agenda

The 11th Month Agenda was accepted as presented. 10th Month Minutes have not yet been posted but will be reviewed at the 12th month Meeting for Business.

Finance Committee Report – David Clements

David noted that Ruth Baldwin attended the last Finance Committee meeting and will help the committee do a Reserve Study, to project future AFM expenditure needs.

\$12500 of the \$19450 budgeted amount have been raised to date. We have overspent by \$900 to date. Large expenditures are coming up including \$1600 of outreach monies, \$1000 for Religious Education, and \$2000 for House and Grounds. The committee noted that reserve funds are in place to cover deficits if needed. A Friend asked about sending a letter to Members who had not attended regularly to ask for donations to cover SAYMA dues; this matter had previously been referred to Ministry & Counsel during the 8th month Business Meeting. Finance Committee will send a reminder via the list-serve that donations remained below our projected budget amounts and that additional monies are required to meet our budgetary obligations.

A Friend said he was uncomfortable with having so many matters not based in ministry needs referred to Ministry and Counsel, and said that he felt that this matter should be decided during Meeting for Business. Another Friend said that the nature of this matter made it difficult to keep the business of Finance Committee and M & C separate. Friends felt that M & C should do outreach to Friends who had not attended Meeting for Worship in a bit, and that Finance Committee could solicit funds in a letter or telephone call. A Friend noted that the Meeting's financial situation had been relatively stable for the past decade without the explicit solicitation of donations from specific Friends; he would rather avoid soliciting funds from specific Friends.

AFM asks Ministry & Counsel to determine whether a letter should be written to Friends who have not attended in a bit, and to make recommendations for the content of such a letter. AFM asks M&C to

report back in 12th Month.

Board of Directors Report – David Clements

Current Board of Directors members include Clerk Katherine Kowal, Treasurer Pat Johnson, Assistant Treasurer David Clements (serving as BOD Secretary), and Friend Bob Smith. Adrienne Weir has already been nominated and approved by both AFM and the committee, and she will be the 5th member of the Board of Directors. The BOD will elect a chair before its next meeting (11 October 2011). Future Board of Directors minutes will be incorporated into Business Meeting Members.

Nominating Committee* - Gjeorge Gjelfriend

* **Friends approved Ruth Baldwin as a member of the Finance Committee.**

* **Friends approved Edie Patrick as a member of the Pastoral Care Committee.**

Ad Hoc Kitchen Committee* - Barbara Esther and Alan Robinson

Committee recommendations include:

- a) acquiring a new, more energy-efficient refrigerator (\$500 - \$800), perhaps from Habitat for Humanity
- b) installation of an already-donated microwave oven
- c) addition of a shelf on the east wall of the kitchen (a few dollars)
- d) have larger cooking pots and baking dishes donated for times when large groups might be accommodated

The committee plans to meet a few more times to discuss additional matters before this ad hoc committee is laid down. Contact a member of the committee (Ruth Baldwin, Barbara Esther, Rylin Hansen, Edie Patrick, Alan Robinson) if you have suggestions or concerns.

A Friend suggested that the Kitchen Committee use monies from the Meetinghouse Improvement Fund (\$20,069) for refrigerator purchase. A Friend suggested that \$800 might not be enough funds to get a very efficient refrigerator; he was concerned that such an appliance might not be available through Habitat for Humanity. Another Friend noted the availability of rebates for energy-efficient appliances and environmentally-friendly ways to dispose of the current refrigerator.

* **Friends approved the expenditure of up to \$1500 from the Meetinghouse Improvement Fund for purchase of an energy-efficient refrigerator.**

Ministry and Counsel – Kristi Gjelfriend

Some Friends have suggested that M & C consider the formation of a Long-Range Planning Committee. M & C solicits ideas about the need for, or goals/formation of, such a committee; they will report back to Business Meeting about this at a later time.

A Friend said that such a committee might provide important guidance for the Finance Committee, particularly in regards to the Meetinghouse Building Fund. A Friend suggested that a long-term planning committee might begin as an ad hoc group and address AFM goals including mission, membership, service to the AFM community, service to the larger community, etc. A Friend wondered if the work of long-range planning and vision might be realized outside of a committee structure; this might avoid making a heavy burden on a small group of persons. That Friend noted that it is important to be cautious about overstepping our guidance and that it is important to be vigilant about following the leadings of the spirit and being present; setting goals and focusing on those goals could interfere with discernment. Another Friend said that a residential retreat had worked to generate ideas in the past and might work again.

SAYMA Faith and Practice Revision Committee* - Steve Livingston and Alan Robinson
Note that wording is less important than the general sense of the revisions. The goal is to unite behind the general sense of each written portion.

One Friend noted that it might be important to clarify AFM's relationship to SAYMA Faith and Practice. A Friend noted that F&P was meant to be descriptive, not proscriptive, and should serve as a guide not rulebook.

Three sections of Faith & Practice were considered by the committee:

- Education: concerns were raised about the use of the terms home-schooling and "post-secondary colleges and universities".

* **Friends approved forwarding the committee's suggestions to SAYMA.**

- Harmony with Nature (New Section): concerns were raised about the idea of restoring earth's balance (as balance between Friends and nature may have never been present) and championing for birth control. A Friend suggested that the sentiments of Chief Seattle (about the earth belonging to our children) also be incorporated.

* **Friends approved forwarding the committee's suggestions to SAYMA.**

- Meeting for Threshing (New Section): the committee had suggestions to emphasize the potential importance and frequency of note-taking, revising the word order in the 2nd paragraph, and speaking from personal experience (to make it clear that it should be one's own personal experience. A Friend suggested that "and reflections" be added to experiences.

* **Friends approved forwarding the committee's suggestions to SAYMA.**

* **MINUTE: Acknowledging the immensity of the SAYMA Faith and Practice Revision Committee's task, Asheville Friends Meeting commends the committee for the work that they have done as they near the end of their labors.**

Announcements

Clerk Katherine Kowal will miss the 12th Month Business Meeting to help her daughter, who is having another surgery. Jen Rhode Ward will Clerk for 12th Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, and Barbara Esther will serve as Recording Clerk.

Closing Worship