

**Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business
First Month 9, 2011**

Clerk: Katherine Kowal

Recording Clerk: Jennifer Rhode Ward

Present: John Baldwin, Ruth Baldwin, Jim Cavener, Barbara Esther, Gjeorge Gjelfriend, Kristi Gjelfriend, Pat Johnson, Laura Maynard Lane, Gita Larson, Steve Livingston, Rusty Maynard, Edie Patrick, Kitti Reynolds, Alan Robinson, Sarah Jane Thomas, Robin Wells

Opening Worship

Reading

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
then the work of Christmas begins:

to find the lost
to heal those broken in spirit
to feed the hungry
to release the oppressed
to rebuild the nations
to bring peace among all peoples,
to make a little music with the heart...

Work of Christmas, Howard Thurman

11th Month Minutes

Note that 10th month minutes have not yet been approved due to technical difficulties with the minutes document; they will be presented for approval in 2nd month.

11th month minutes were approved as posted.

Discussion: Vision for 2011

- A Friend hoped that House & Grounds would increase the quality of, and expand the space within, the Meeting House parking area.
- A Friend hoped that invasive exotic plant species could be removed from the Meeting House grounds.
- A Friend suggested that the large metal bird sculpture (currently on the mantle in the Meeting House) be moved outside, near the Meeting House entrance.
- A Friend was encouraged by the current state of our Meeting community: cohesive, grounded, including a growing sense of belonging and identity. The Friend encouraged us to have faith in our leadings and vision for the future as we commit funds to our 2011 budget, and noted that spending money on infrastructure to make AFM more welcoming, accessible, and comfortable could also support the local economy.
- A Friend noted that snacks after Meeting have helped build community, and hoped that tradition would continue. The Friend encouraged additional fellowship opportunities (potlucks, etc.) with Swannanoa Friends Meeting.
- A Friend mentioned the QuakerQuest outreach/inreach program and suggested that AFM could work with this program to help meet our 2011 goals.
- Another Friend was looking forward to this spring's retreat with Dan Snyder, which will help focus and deepen us as a Meeting community.

Finance Committee Report – Pat Johnson

Generous end-of-year contributions have put the AFM budget in the black. \$13,459 in contributions were received this year, as were \$3715 in rental income. Thus, we had \$17,500 gross income (towards the \$19,450 budget for 2010). The Religious Education Committee incurred \$2,614.04 in expenses (over the \$2,400 budget), but other committees remained within or under budget. Note that Peace and Earth has spent its Quaker Outreach money but not yet its General Outreach money. 2010 General Outreach monies will be expended next week (after the Peace & Earth committee meeting). These expenditures will still leave the overall AFM budget in the black. The clerk noted that refrigerator expenses will be taken out of the Meeting House Improvement Fund.

Proposed 2011 Budget – Pat Johnson

Finance Committee would like to add insurance (cost: \$200) to cover potential legal costs for the Meeting and members of the Board of Directors (in congruence with our bylaws). A Friend asked if this insurance would cover only legal fees or if it would also cover settlement costs; Finance Committee will work to clarify this question. Increases in current property and worker's compensation insurance costs are also reflected in the 2011 proposed budget. Most other 2011 budget items are the same as in the 2010 budget. Budgeted utility costs have been reduced, reflecting a lower-than-expected utility cost in 2010.

A Friend noted discomfort with budgeting for General Outreach, and asked that Peace & Earth ensure that no General Outreach expenditures put the AFM budget into the red. The Peace & Earth clerk explained that General Outreach funds for a given year were not expended until the first or second month of the following budget year so that G.O. funds do not cause the AFM budget to overspend. Finance Committee and Peace & Earth also noted that the expenditure currently labeled "Friends United Meeting" in the finance report was actually funds used to support a play center in Ramallah, West Bank.

A Friend noted that no routine monies for maintenance/inspection of the furnaces, etc. seemed to be included in the House & Grounds budget. Such maintenance might improve efficiency, which is currently compromised. House & Grounds will arrange for the furnace inspection.

The 2011 budget will be presented for approval at the 2nd Month Business Meeting.

Religious Education – Robin Wells

The committee reported on current Religious Education activities. [click here to view report](#)

Peace and Earth – Kitti Reynolds

The committee reported on our ongoing work feeding the hungry at Pritchard Park. Today, due to cold weather, AFM (with the Unitarian Universalists) provided food at the AHOPE House downtown. Sixty hungry folks were fed today by generous AFM members and attenders. A Friend thanked Kitti for coordinating these activities, which give AFM a more visible presence in our community.

Announcements

Robin Wells noted that her son Nicolas would like to do his Eagle Scout project (1 year project) on the Meeting House grounds. He will bring his ideas to Meeting for Business to ask questions and receive constructive feedback. The clerk noted that he could start by getting feedback from Meeting for Business and then bring a proposal (which would be minuted and subject to Meeting approval) to a second Meeting for Business. Robin also noted that such a project might require some Meeting funds to accomplish.

Closing Worship

Report of the Religious Education Committee

Asheville Friends Meeting

Twelfth Month, 2010

We have had a nice start to the First Day School year. Our children and the adults who work with them are learning about varying religious traditions and how they are alike or different from Quakerism—exploring them through music, visual arts, and food. We began in September and October with Dia de los Muertos, which culminated in a multigenerational gathering with the whole meeting. We created tributes to loved ones who have died and we shared favorite food attributed to those loved ones.

It is important to be able to share about our own religion when talking with other people about their traditions. Children, as well as adults, are often in the situation of explaining what it means to be Quaker. Throughout this year, we will be creating our own answer to “Tell me about Quakerism.” We began this discussion in November.

First Day School had a tea and cake celebration in the first week of December, while doing a get-to-know-you-activity they created this past summer. Late in the month, we will be exploring winter solstice traditions.

We are all looking forward to Secret Pals this year. Children and adults can sign up to be a secret pal during the month of December. On January 2nd, people will learn the Secret Pal to whom they will be giving gifts. Then every week until February 6th, Secret Pals will bring a simple gift for their recipient. At rise of meeting on February 6th, we will have a party for the whole meeting where Secret Pals will be revealed.

Our meeting is blessed with an active group of SAYF teens again this year. We hosted a retreat in our meetinghouse in September. The SAYFers enjoyed rafting down the French Broad River, doing arts & crafts, playing games, and taking time for worship and worship sharing. Our teens traveled to a retreat in Atlanta in October and in Chattanooga in November. The next retreat will be back in Atlanta in January.

At this time, we would like to thank Paola Villatoro-Weir for her dedication to faithfully providing childcare in the meeting. We appreciate her reliability and punctual service, when many teens care about sleeping late on weekend mornings. We would also like to thank the members and attenders of Meeting who have taken the time to reach out to the younger Friends in Meeting. It really makes a difference!

[*click here to return to account of business meeting*](#)