

Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business
Fifth Month 8, 2011

Clerk: Katherine Kowal
Interim Recording Clerk: Barbara Esther

Present: Steve Livingston, George Gjelfriend, Kristi Gjelfriend, Kitti Reynolds, Paola Weir-Villatoro, Ian _____, Pat Johnson, Adrienne Weir, Bobby Carter, Raelin Hanson, Edie Patrick and Jim Cavener

The meeting began with a period of silent worship. From the silence the clerk read the following two quotes:

"In becoming forcibly aware of my mortality and of what I wished and wanted for my life, . . . what I most regretted were my silences."

Audre Lorde
Sister Outsider

When you consider something like death, after which (there being no news flash to the contrary) we may well go out like a candle flame, then it probably doesn't matter if we try too hard, are awkward sometimes, care for one another too deeply, are excessively curious about nature, are too open to experience, enjoy a nonstop expense of the senses in an effort to know life intimately and lovingly."

Diane Ackerman
A Natural History of the Senses

Review of minutes

Minutes of Third Month: Kitti Reynolds wondered where the report Steve made regarding the SAYMA Representative Meeting was. Also missing is the State of the Meeting Report which is on the web but did not find its way into the body of the minutes. Steve requested that minutes be submitted for posting with all reports inserted or as addenda at the end of the minutes. Minuted items will be bolded so that they will be easily noted. Those two items will be added to the minutes.

Minute 1: Friends approved the minutes of Third Month with the inclusion of the two items noted.

Minutes of Fourth Month: We corrected the announcement that Meeting for Worship with attention to Business will be held on June 19th.

Minute 2: Friends Approved the minutes for Fourth Month with one correction.

Finance Committee Report – Pat Johnson

Links to Financial Reports:

[General Fund - Income and Expenses](#)

[All Funds – Income and Expense](#)

[Fund Balances](#)

Through May 4th the contributions total a little over \$3,000. Contributions to Quaker House will be moved to Quaker Outreach instead of General Outreach. Additionally, we sent a contribution to Pendle Hill which is not reflected in the report. All outreach money from 2010 is now distributed for a total of \$1575. We are in the black, but payments for insurance and ongoing expenses keep us in need of thoughtful contributions. Celo Meeting recently sent us a check to defray some of the cost of van rental to SAYF retreats. George asked about the House and Grounds expenditures. On the general fund the H&G expenditures is reported as \$408. On page

2, the cost of the inspection was listed as well, under all funds. The allocation for inspection should be under the general fund and the Finance Committee will move that item. The report was accepted with thanks.

Report of the Retreat Committee – Steve Livingston

[Link to report](#)

Friends described their experience at the retreat

- One Friend commented on how liberating the concept of non-violent conflict is to him. Although it was difficult to grasp the concept during the retreat, non-violent conflict and how vital, even essential, it is to engage in non-violent conflict in our day-to-day dealings is of value to this Friend.
- Also seen as valuable is the appeal to pray without ceasing-even without full understanding of where that prayer goes.
- Another Friend commented on the models used, including the inverted triangle with many columns of support. Rather than attacking the large triangle, the undermining of supports to the larger problem can make a real difference in destabilizing the larger problem and the power structure that the triangle represents.
- The emphasis on taking action in community was also seen as valuable.
- Another Friend reminded us that Friends come to Quakerism via two main routes: activism or the inner life. The temptation to hold ourselves as better than others because of either our activism or our spiritual life was challenged during the workshop. Instead, we were counseled to combine the gifts each of us brings to the community of Quakers.
- Personal spirituality has been seen as at its zenith through stillness, but the process of working through issues and activism is now understood as part of spiritual life.
- The idea of taking time to consider the effects of our actions and using good strategy to effect change can lead to more desirable results.

The clerk offered this report as a good model for reporting, to incorporate prayerful reflection along with a report of events.

Request for use of the Meetinghouse – Paola Weir-Villatoro Paola requested use of the house as a venue for fund-raising on Tuesday, June 19th via an art show to support her travel to Italy as a student. The funds will be collected as donations. Food will be prepared for the attendees by Nohé, Paola's brother. Display panels will be loaned by Asheville High's art department for drawings. Some art pieces will be freestanding. Friends feel that this is an appropriate use of the meetinghouse and that Paola has planned the event well.

Minute 3: Friends approved the use of our meetinghouse for the art show Paola proposed and waived the usual fee.

Nominating Committee – George Gjelfriend

Minute 4: Friends approved the Bobby Carter to serve on the Peace and Earth Committee and Rebecca Jackson to both Hospitality and Religious Education Committees.

Two members are being sought for the Spiritual Enrichment Committee.

House and Grounds Committee Report – George Gjelfriend

George reported that the committee is still seeking bids, but that both a plumber and an electrician have looked at the house. The porch work is seen as less drastic than it was thought it would be by several potential workers. The steps to cooling the meetinghouse are still to be considered in a subsequent meeting of the committee.

Other

Steve Livingston reminded us that he is no longer able to serve on the Spiritual Enrichment Committee due to the added responsibility of care for his mother. He also needs to step back from posting items on the web.

Report of Retreat Committee:

The clerk asks that we hold the meeting in the Light as we are seeing a number of holes in the fabric of the meeting. How can we mend these holes and move on?

Our next Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business will be on Sixth Month 19, Third First Day, because of the SAYMA gathering on Second First Day. To be considered next month is whether to hold meeting for business in July or August, considering our clerk's schedule.

Our Meeting's day long retreat with Dan Snyder took place on 4/30/2011. Fourteen people were in attendance. Almost everyone arrived early and we got started at the appointed time. There was abundant food and drink throughout the day, and almost everyone stayed for a lively pot-luck at the end. There was plenty of stimulating conversation, reflection, and guidance from Dan to hold our interest and challenge us to consider deeply what the role of prayer in our lives is and how our lives are affected by the quest for transformation.

At the end of this report, Friends are invited to settle into silence for a time of sharing. so that Meeting may be informed of the quality of our experience.

The Retreat Committee was somewhat concerned that there would be a shortfall of funds due to the small number of registrants. However as it worked out, Friends on the committee each made small personal donations to cover the cost of advance materials, food, and refreshments, and several attenders paid more than the required registration fee, resulting in sufficient revenue to fulfill our agreement with Dan. We therefore come to the Meeting today without the necessity of asking for any additional funds.

Margaret wrote to Dan a few days after to express our gratitude for his role in making the experience possible. Dan was well prepared, his information was clear and relevant, and he provided us with a number of handouts for our future reference. He was patient and attentive to the needs of the participants, and flexible enough to extend the allotted time period when it was called for. He answered our questions and responded to comments with clarity and sincerity and without judgment. And, he stayed for the pot luck dinner and continued the discussion.

Margaret thanked Dan on behalf of the Retreat Committee and the Attendees, and assured him that the Meeting for Business would be informed about the success of our retreat.

At this time we ask that the Meeting settle into silence and hold our experience of the retreat in the Light. Out of the silence, Friends are asked to share from their own experience. Dan described the indwelling Spirit as "the Divine Disturber", the catalyst in bringing about radical personal transformation. How were you disturbed by your experience of the retreat? Dan also offered a distinction between the outward self, the persona that is described in Jungian psychology as the "ego", and the inward self, the repository of the soul, the indwelling Spirit. In what ways do you feel the retreat will help release you from your ego and embrace your inner Self?

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