

**Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business  
Sixth Month 19, 2011**

**Clerk:** Katherine Kowal

**Recording Clerk:** Jennifer Rhode Ward

**Present:** Jim Cavener, Gjeorge Gjelfriend, Kristi Gjelfriend, Pat Johnson, Gita Larson, Steve Livingston, John McHugh, Kitti Reynolds, Alan Robinson, Paola Villatoro-Weir, Sarawila Villatoro-Weir, Adrienne Weir

**Opening Worship**

**Reading**

And now we will count to twelve  
and we will all keep still.

For once, on the face of the earth  
let's not speak in any language;  
let's stop for one second,  
and not move our arms so much.

It would be an exotic moment  
without rush, without engines  
we would all be together  
in a sudden strangeness.

Fishermen in the cold sea  
would not hunt whales  
and the man gathering salt  
would look at his hurt hands.

Those who prepare green wars,  
wars with gas, wars with fire,  
victory with no survivors,  
would put on clean clothes  
and walk about with their brothers  
in the shade, doing nothing.

What I want should not be confused  
with total inactivity.  
(Life is what it is about  
I want no truck with death.)

If we were not so single minded  
about keeping our lives moving  
and for once could do nothing,

perhaps a huge silence  
might interrupt this sadness  
of never understanding ourselves  
and of threatening ourselves with death.

Perhaps the earth can teach us  
as when everything seems dead  
and later proves to be alive.

Now I'll count up to twelve  
and you keep quiet, and I will go.

*Pablo Neruda*

### **Agenda**

The 6<sup>th</sup> month agenda was accepted as presented.

### **Minutes – Fifth Month**

Ian's surname, Whitley, will be added to the minutes.

*The 5<sup>th</sup> Month minutes were accepted as revised.*

### **Finance Committee – Pat Johnson**

Adrienne pointed out that the report reflected expenses reconciled as of 31 May 2011. At the halfway point for the year, about 22.5% of projected contributions have been received. To date, all expenses are below expected outreach. Note that SAYMA dues have not yet been paid; the SAYMA fiscal year ends 30 September, and there will be no increase in annual assessment costs. Adrienne and David will take over Pat's Finance Committee duties while she is in Tanzania

*The Finance Committee report was accepted as presented.*

### **\*Nominating Committee – Gjeorge Gjelfriend**

Nominating committee has compiled a list of members of all committees, including expected ends of terms of service.

*\* Friends approved Kitti Reynolds as next Clerk of the Meeting.*

*\* The following releases from committees were approved: Valerie Collins, Library Committee; Steve Livingston, Communications Committee; Steve Livingston, Spiritual Enrichment Committee (ending in August); John McHugh, Communications Committee; Alice Powell, Hospitality Committee; Jen Rhode Ward, House and Grounds; Eric Singletary, Spiritual Enrichment; Steve Stevenson, House and Grounds Committee*

### **\*SAYMA Yearly Gathering – Steve Livingston**

About 180 Adult Friends, 14 Young Friends, and 40 SAYF teens attended the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual SAYMA retreat. The next SAYMA representative committee meeting will be on 11 September.

*\*Friends approved sponsoring an annual Thursday night "Chat and Chew" at the SAYMA Yearly Gathering as long as that meeting is held at Warren Wilson College.*

Rather than taking immediate action on the SAYMA Minute on Immigration Reform, AFM will convene an *ad*

*hoc* committee to consider this minute, then bring the topic to the entire Meeting for consideration. Adrienne Weir, Katherine Kowal, and Gjeorge Gjelfriend volunteered to serve on this group. Katherine will find someone to head this group, and action on the minute will be postponed until after the threshing session.

### **Ministry & Counsel – Kristi Gjelfriend**

Katherine reminded Friends that M&C asked committee clerks to bring their Committee Planning Reports before Business Meeting before the end of the year. M&C presented AFM's first Committee Planning Report of the year.

### **Meeting House Rental – Adrienne Weir**

About 1/6<sup>th</sup> of AFM's annual income comes from rental income. Friends then discussed the Meeting House rental properties, given the following recent issues:

- A renter requested to pay less than the standard rental fee (\$15/hour), as the renter's donations have been less than expected.
- Another group has consistently underpaid their rental fees, and we are considering not renting to them again.
- A third group has both left items here and damaged a bookshelf without offering compensation. We are considering not renting to them again.

Adrienne noted that the cost of rental was based on the cost of utilities (averaged over a year) and building maintenance/improvements, divided by the number of rental hours that the Meeting House was in use. The cost of utilities only (sans maintenance/improvement) would be closer to \$10/hour. The only other rental spaces in the area within this price range are public library meeting rooms.

Friends noted that, historically, the Meeting House has been rented to small groups with similar leadings, and one Friend noted that encouraging use of the space by community members could be an important form of outreach. Friends said that it might be important to define and clarify AFM's goals to our renters.

A Meeting associate (who has done repair work on the Meeting House) would like to hold an estate sale here before leaving for Haiti (to work with European disaster volunteers there). AFM empowered Adrienne to negotiate an appropriate rate with this renter. A Friend noted the importance of creating a paper trail of this for record-keeping purposes.

### **Report on Art Show - Paola Villatoro-Weir**

Paola earned \$223.31 towards her plan to study abroad in Italy. She did not receive a scholarship for the fall semester, but she has applied for work in the spring semester. She will also work to graduate early (this fall) from high school so that she can enter the study abroad program as a college student.

### **House and Grounds – Gjeorge Gjelfriend**

House and Grounds presented its annual Committee Planning Report.

### **Other**

Traditionally, we do not have Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business during 7<sup>th</sup> Month. However, due to clerk commitments, we WILL meet 7<sup>th</sup> month (on 10<sup>th</sup> July) for Business Meeting. There will NOT be a Business Meeting in 8<sup>th</sup> month (August).

Friends have asked that the Meeting for Business agenda be posted before the Meeting. However, this is contingent upon committee reports arriving by Wednesday. The clerk reminded committees to send reports to her by Wednesday morning so that the MFB agenda can be posted on the website and emailed to the AFM community.

### **Closing Worship**

