

**Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business
Ninth Month 11, 2011**

Clerk: Katherine Kowal

Recording Clerk: Jennifer Rhode Ward

Present: Jim Cavener, David Clements, Rachel Figura, Gjeorge Gjelfriend, Kristi Gjelfriend, DeAnna Hatch, Laura Marlow, Laura Maynard Lane, Margaret Normile, Edie Patrick, Karen Proulx, Kitti Reynolds

Opening Worship

Reading

...long before we start a war, kill people, or destroy nations, we have already killed our enemies mentally, but making them into abstractions with which no real, intimate, human relationship is possible. When men, women, and children who eat, drink, sleep, play, work, and love each other as way do have become perverted into an abstract “communist” (“terrorist”) evil that we are called – by God – to destroy, then war has become inevitable.

Saying no to death, therefore, start much earlier than saying no to physical violence. It requires a deep commitment to the words of Jesus: “Do not judge.” It requires saying no to all the violence of heart and mind... I label my fellow human beings, put them into some fixed category, a safe distance from me. By making judgments I divide my world into those who are good and those who are bad, and thus play God.

Saying No to Death, Henry Nouwen (in Peace is the Way)

Agenda

The ninth month agenda was accepted as amended.

Review of Minutes from 6th and 7th Months

In the 6th Month MFB, John McHugh was erroneously reported as being released from AFM’s Communications Committee. In fact, he asked to join the Communications Committee and was approved of by the Meeting.

The minutes for 6th month were approved as amended.

The minutes for 7th month were approved as written.

Finance Committee – David Clements

We have now received \$10,700 the \$19,480 budgeted, so we are behind our planned contributions. Any financial contributions, no matter their size, are welcome.

***Nominating Committee – Gjeorge Gjelfriend**

Nominating committee presented a report:

- (1) Laura Maynard Lane has asked to join the Peace and Earth Committee.*
- (2) Adrienne Weir and her daughters, Sarawila and Paola have asked to join the Religious Education Committee.*
- (3) DeAnna Hatch has asked to join the House & Grounds Committee.*

(4) Karen Proulx has asked to join the House & Grounds Committee.

The following nominations were approved by the Meeting for Business:

- **Laura Maynard Lane - Peace & Earth Committee**
- **Adrienne Weir, Paola Villatoro Weir, Sarawila Villatoro Weir – Religious Education Committee**
- **DeAnna Hatch – House & Grounds Committee**
- **Karen Proulx – House & Grounds Committee**

***House & Grounds Committee – Gjeorge Gjelfriend**

House & Grounds presented the following committee report:

- (1) Adrienne Weir has been offered a small apartment and intends to move in as soon as it is available. She asks to use one of the back rooms in the Meetinghouse as her office. Everything would easily fit in the back closet and under the overhead cabinets. In exchange, she offers to build and install an arbor to cover the east windows of the meeting rooms, repaint the porch, complete all undone work cited in last spring's building inspection report, and pay any increase in AFM utility bills. We ask for your approval.*
- (2) Adrienne Weir is taking a construction management course at AB Tech for which she needs the equivalent of a paid internship. Ron Davis, of Swannanoa Meeting, has agreed to supervise her in the completion of all of the projects identified in the building inspection report of last spring. The clerk of H&G gave her tentative approval to list AFM as her "employer" and the "salary" as being the fair rental value for her use of space in a back room. We ask for your approval.*
- (3) To locate her office in the Meetinghouse, Adrienne Weir needs wireless internet access. This would involve installing an inconspicuous data disk for which she has agreed to pay the full cost. The advantage to AFM is that we would also have wireless access to the internet ourselves, especially for financial matters, rental coordination, and availability during meetings. We ask for your approval.*

The Meeting approved Adrienne's use of a room in the Meetinghouse, work at AFM as part of her AB Tech paid internship, and installation of wireless disc.

***Peace and Earth Committee – Kitti Reynolds**

Peace and Earth presented a committee report:

On Sept, 21, International Day of Peace, P and E will have a presence, handing out flyers from FCNL on how to prevent climate wars. The Interfaith Panel discussion has been cancelled.

We would like to submit to local newspapers, signed by the entire Meeting.

LETTER

As we approach the tenth anniversary of the war in Afghanistan, we have deep concerns about the ongoing US military presence. The US has over 100,000 troops still in Afghanistan. There are over 50,000 more NATO troops in Afghanistan, and over 100,000 US contractors. This information came from www.fcnl.org website.

And the number of civilian casualties in Afghanistan keeps increasing. As long as our policy in Afghanistan is to destroy the Taliban and other insurgent forces, there will be many Afghans who will resist what they see as a foreign invasion and occupation.

Asheville Friends Meeting would like to see a new vision and a new strategy in Afghanistan. This should start with a cease-fire, and include a peace process that is inclusive to all Afghans. For the USA, this would mean removing our military forces. For Afghans, it would mean a reconciliation process and the disarming of militias and the Taliban.

Friends have always believed that “war is not the answer” and we would like to see our society find a way to resolve conflict and provide security for everyone without the use of our military. We believe this is possible, and we believe this is necessary.

AFM approved the submission of this letter.

Request for Funds for Paulette Mier – Katherine Kowal

A collection of ~\$100 was taken up to pay for part of Paulette’s travel to Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting. SVFM contributed an additional \$50, and AFM might pay an additional \$50. These monies could come from the \$300 miscellaneous fund in the AFM budget. Katherine will send a letter of thanks to SVFM for hosting Paulette

AFM approved sending a \$50 check directly to Paulette Mier, then notifying SVFM of this action.

Letter of Solidarity with Council of Churches, Against Anti Gay Marriage Amendment – Jim Cavener

North Carolina is the only state in the southeast without an Anti Gay Marriage Amendment to its state constitution, but the NC state legislature will begin discussing addition of such an amendment tomorrow. AFM has received a notice from Joe Hoffman (from the UCC), who is a member of the National Council of Churches, that NCC (with Equality North Carolina) has created a statement against this amendment; Jim read this letter to the Meeting for Business. A Friend recommended that individuals contact Tim Moffat (Buncombe County Representative) and Chuck McGrady (Henderson County Representative) via phone or email to express our opposition to this amendment. Another Friend suggested that this information should be sent out to the Meeting via the list-serve.

As people of faith, clergy and leaders in our faith traditions, we are mandated by God to demonstrate and protect love in all its forms and to stand for justice for all of creation. In faithful response to this calling, we commit ourselves, along with thousands of other Christians, Jews, Muslims, and other people of faith around North Carolina, to these basic principles:

While we respect the fact that debate and discussion continue in many of our religious communities as to the scriptural, theological, and liturgical issues involved, we draw on our many faith traditions to arrive at a common conviction. We oppose the use of sacred texts and religious traditions to deny legal equity to gay and lesbian people.

We oppose any amendment to the NC Constitution that would prohibit gay and lesbian couples from receiving the protections like health benefits and hospital visitation afforded by recognition of their relationships.

We affirm freedom of conscience in this matter. We recognize that the state may not require religious clergy to officiate at, or bless, gay and lesbian marriages. Likewise, a denial of state civil recognition dishonors the religious convictions of those clergy, supported by their faith communities, who officiate at and bless gay and lesbian marriages.

As people of faith we, the undersigned, urge the NC State Legislature to protect families in NC by opposing the anti-LGBT constitutional amendment.

AFM approved adding our signature to the Statement of Clergy and Faith Leaders Against the Anti-LGBT Constitutional Amendment.

AFM approved sending an email voicing our opposition to this amendment to Tim Moffat and Chuck McGrady.

AFM approved having Jim Cavener send an email encouraging us to contact our representatives, and giving contact information for those representatives.

Other

- Request for membership from Gail Hipkins (new membership; her Clearness Committee is meeting next week).
- Membership from DeAnna Hatch (transfer of membership from Memphis Friends Meeting; DeAnna did not choose to have a Clearness Committee). Margaret Normile and Kitti Reynolds agreed to form a Welcoming Committee for DeAnna.

Announcements

- International Day of Peace on 21 September
- Phan van Do (part of a Quaker mission in VietNam, sponsored by the Madison Wisconsin Friends Meeting) will speak at Swannanoa Valley Friends on October 16th (after the rise of Meeting). We are welcome to attend that talk, or to ask him to speak at our Meeting on Friday/Saturday. Margaret Normile will investigate this through AFM's Spiritual Enrichment Committee.
- This is Katherine Kowal's last MFB as Clerk. She says that clerking has given her joy and changed her relationship with the Meeting, and she encourages other to consider serving as Clerk.

Closing Worship