

# Minutes of the Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business Tenth Month 9, 2011

Clerk: Kitti Reynolds

Recording Clerk: Barbara Esther

Present: George Gjelfriend, Kristi Gjelfriend, Edie Patrick, Adrienne Weir, Bobby Carter, Joy Gossett, Steve Livingston, Katherine Kowal, Desaray Evans

We began the meeting with a time of worship. From the silence the clerk read the following:

Matthew 6: 26-27

Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?

Qu'ran 67:19

Do they not observe  
the birds above them,  
spreading their wings  
and folding them in?  
None can uphold them  
Except (Allah) Most Gracious:  
Truly it is He  
That watches over all things.

There were several Friends who expressed difficulty accessing the minutes on the meeting website. We distributed several hard copies so that Friends could review them to be approved or amended later in this meeting.

## **Report of Fall 2011 SAYMA Rep Meeting-**Steve Livingston

SAYMA Rep meeting was held in Memphis TN on 9/10/2011. Your Rep traveled down with Bob Welsh of SVFM, Brian Yaffe of Celo Meeting, and Adrienne Weir, now SAYMA's Recording Clerk. SAYMA's fiscal year runs from the beginning of 10th month to the end of 9th month. Treasurer Deanna Nipp-Kintz, reported that with the fiscal year nearly over, income has exceeded last year's level. This was due to very full response to calls for assessments and a surplus of funds from the YM gathering this past summer. Expenditures increased only slightly, resulting in a projected year-end surplus of about \$1.5K instead of the expected \$11K deficit.

Finance Committee later reported that funds set aside for reimbursement of Friends' travel expenses had not been disbursed. The committee reminded Friends that in 2009 we had minuted our sense that our net assets were too great, and our intention to draw them down. Since we did not experience a deficit this FY, and since we had not experienced the expected decline in assessments, the committee recommended that no increase be made in the per-person assessment amount. The FY 2011-2012 is based on a continued \$60 per person assessment. A deficit of \$3.6K is projected, in line with our intentions.

This was the first year that YM gathering evaluations were done online rather than on paper. Our Admin Asst, Liz Perch, reported that 86 evaluations were returned, slightly more than had been typical in the past. Concern was raised for those Friends who are unable, or unwilling, to fill out an online form, and solutions were devised to accommodate them in the future. The evaluations indicated that the gathering was very successful. Highlights included the completion of the SAYMA Faith and Practice revisions and approval of printing a new edition, the quality of the programs for young people of all

ages, and the talent show and dance. Friends were especially supportive of separating the talent show and dance, and thankful for the golf cart transportation provided for mobility-impaired participants. Friends gave mixed reviews, as always, about the quality and quantity of food, the temperature in Canon lounge, and the quality of the workshops.

YM gathering will take place at Warren Wilson College again in 2012. In 2013, the second weekend of 6th month occurs so early that the campus will not yet be available for us. Friends were in unity that we should change our scheduled meeting to allow for us to meet at Warren Wilson on the subsequent weekend in 2013.

The FWCC World Gathering is taking place early next year in Kenya. At our summer 2011 gathering, Friends had approved supporting Geeta McGahey of Celo Mtg and designating her as SAYMA's delegate. Michael Galovic, a SV Friend, requested that YM support him in his leading to attend. A clearness committee had met with Michael and supported his leading, but SV Meeting had not minuted approval. Nevertheless Friends approved supporting Michael and allocating up to \$1500 to defray his costs.

The Faith and Practice Revision Committee reported their relief and gratitude that YM had approved the final revisions presented at the summer gathering, but their work is not quite finished yet! There is still the matter of revising the queries and creating a glossary. Friends approved publishing the not-quite-completed Faith and Practice and subsequently publishing the queries and glossary under separate cover when they are completed. Friends approved publication as bound copy, e-book, and print-on demand. Many members of the committee have requested release, and the committee is consequently seeking new members to complete its work. Friends approved laying down the "Revision Committee" and appointing a new ad-hoc "Query Revision" committee.

Admin Asst Liz Perch reported that a new worship group has been formed in Macon GA under the care of Atlanta Mtg. She reminded Friends to begin work on the State of the Meeting report, which should cover the calendar year 2011, and to report their MM's census, indicating births, deaths, marriages, and changes in membership. She asked that meetings distinguish among attenders, members of the meeting, and members of the Society but of another meeting.

Nominating Committee reported that Sally Prugh of Columbia Meeting has agreed to step in as worship coordinator for next summer's gathering, and Chris Berg of Greenville SC will serve as co-registrar. Friends are still needed for Peace and Social Concerns committee and JYM Oversight Committee.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee is especially in need as Friends are keenly aware of the need for the committee's work to be done, especially around the issue of immigration. Friends reviewed the charge of the committee, as revised at the summer 2011 gathering, and the minute on immigration approved at the gathering. Friends acknowledged the need for the committee to coordinate communication among and support for the monthly meetings as they seek to fulfill the vision expressed in that minute.

The YM approved making the Outreach Committee a standing committee rather than an ad hoc committee. Clerk Hank Fay of Berea Mtg invited all interested Friends to join the discussion of how to make ourselves more visible in our wider communities.

Ministry and Nurture Committee reported on the upcoming retreat in Coleman AL, scheduled for the end of this month.

YMPC reported that they were unable to reach agreement on the theme of next summer's gathering. They felt led to a theme of widening our embrace of diversity, of coping with differences among people and ideas, but Friends were unable to discover the name. YMPC agreed that the plenary address would be a report from Geeta McGahey on the FWCC gathering.

The next Representative Meeting will be in Celo. It is scheduled for 3/10/2012, with an alternate date of 3/17. This Friend intends to spend the weekend, whichever weekend it is, or if it is a different weekend, acknowledging that Mother Nature often blesses Celo Friends with an abundance of cold, wet, white precipitation at that time of the year. The summer gathering will be at Warren Wilson College as usual, 6/7-6/10/2012, and Chattanooga will host the fall 2012 Rep Meeting on 9/8/2012. Friends are reminded that the Rep Meetings are open to all interested Friends, not just the appointed

representative.

Your appointed representative wishes to express his gratitude to the Meeting for allowing him to serve in this position, providing the opportunity for fellowship with distant but beloved Friends, new friendships with hosts and hospitality providers, and the opportunity to travel with nearby Friends whom he loves and admires. He hopes that his representation of our meeting has been adequate and looks forward to continued service in this capacity as long as Way is open.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Livingston

10/9/2011

### **Long-term Goals of Asheville Friends Meeting Hospitality Committee - Edie Patrick**

October, 2011

Members: Edie Patrick, Ruth Baldwin, Bob Smith, Rebecca Jackson and Margaret Normile, Clerk

The purpose of the Hospitality Committee of Asheville Friends Meeting is to provide an opportunity for fellowship among members and attenders after Meeting for Worship. We have provided the organization needed to present refreshments during this time period by circulating sign up sheets during the announcement time, posting the instructions for making the coffee next to the refrigerator in the kitchen, buying the necessary provisions such as coffee, cream, sugar, tea, etc. Previously purchased canned goods to be used to supplement donated food will be offered to MANNA if they are not used. The committee is pleased with the continuing development of the sense of community among AFMers who contribute to and participate in the refreshment time. We hope to refine the methods of organizing this service and are always open to suggestions. We will continue to encourage more participation and are optimistic that the feeling of community will deepen during the coming months.

The Hospitality Committee also has organized the availability of a Greeter before Meeting for Worship. The Greeter welcomes all and introduces the newcomers to our Meetinghouse, shows them the literature describing Quaker concerns and suggests the wearing of name tags. We plan to provide written instructions for the Greeter as well as to prepare an information pamphlet for newcomers which will include an introduction to the Meeting for Worship and general information about Asheville Friends Meeting. Members of the Hospitality Committee will speak to the newcomers after Meeting for Worship, encourage them to stay for refreshments and introduce them to others. The committee plans to encourage others to sign up as Greeters and believes that with additional instructions more people will offer to be a Greeter. This is indeed a way to become involved in the Asheville Friends Meeting community.

One Friend brought up the occasional need for overnight hospitality to be provided for visiting groups or individuals working in Friends' organizations. Would the hospitality committee consider expanding its work to include finding such hospitality? Edie will carry this concern to the committee for their contemplation.

### **Long-term Goals of Asheville Friends Meeting Pastoral Care Committee-Edie Patrick October, 2011**

Members: George and Kristi Gjelfriend, Marcia Master, Jim Cavener, Edie Patrick, Margaret Normile, Clerk

The Pastoral Care Committee began as a sub committee under the Ministry and Counsel committee with the express purpose of aiding any member or attender who was in need of assistance because of health issues. This is still the main concern of the PCC and one which we continue to follow. Some examples of that which has occurred and will continue are listed below:

We report to the M&C any activity that PCC has completed and receive suggestions for action for PCC to take from M&C.

We have continued to monitor our senior members who no longer attend our Meeting for Worship, contacting them with phone calls and visits.

When a death occurs to a member/attender of our Meeting or to a family member of one of our members or attenders we assist in any way we can.

When someone from the Meeting is in the hospital our Pastoral Minister visits him/her and we send cards. Other members of the committee will visit also. We also visit AFMers who are in Hospice. We

work with the family as needed, especially if they are from out of town.

We will inform the membership of any illness or health problem of a member/attender and ask for assistance if necessary. Requests for food have been organized and delivered to those in need.

We have taken the responsibility of sending cards to those who have not been attending meeting for a while to tell them that we miss them. On occasion we send around a card so everyone attending Meeting can sign it.

We have recently completed an AFM Emergency Contact List which gives the following contact information for 31 AFMers: their home address, email address, phone number, plus a family member's name, email and phone number, and a local friend's name, email address, and phone number. An Asheville Friends Meeting "Buddy" is listed with their phone number. The "Buddy" is someone who will be in fairly regular contact with the person and inform the Meeting if there is a problem with that person. The PCC will continue to monitor this list and make additions and corrections. The AFM Emergency Contact List has been placed in the Pastoral Care Committee's mailbox in the AFM office. Because the PCC is concerned with the health of the Meeting as well as its members and attenders we encourage the continuing development of the sense of AFM community and the strengthening of our Meeting itself through the efforts of all participants.

### **Report of the Nominating Committee-George Gjelfriend**

The following nominations were brought:

Barbara Esther to Spiritual Enrichment Committee

Katherine Kowal to Nominating and Peace and Earth Committees

The release of two Friends was also sought:

Kitti Reynolds is to be released from Spiritual Enrichment and

Kieron Mann from Communications Committee, as he is no longer active.

**Minute #1:** Friends approved the nominations above.

The question of how to change those serving on various committees was discussed. Terms of service could be specified as appointments are approved. Those nominated today can serve a term from June, 2011-2013, for example.

### **House and Grounds Committee Report – George Gjelfriend**

The larger downstairs bathroom has been renovated by Karen Proulx except that a light fixture and leaky toilet still need to be handled.

**Minute #2:** Friends approved a minute of thanks for the contribution of labor and care that Karen Proulx provided for the bathroom renovation. It looks great!

Adrienne Weir has completed a cleaning of the gutters on our meetinghouse. Now that fall leaves are refilling the gutters, we may have to keep up with the seasonal attention to that task. We thank Adrienne.

There is a window in the meeting room which is non-functional. The H&G committee is working on providing a prop until the window can be repaired.

**Minute #3:** Friends approved the minutes from Ninth Month Meeting for Business.

### **Report of the Clearness Committee for membership for Gail Hipkins - Katherine Kowal**

Gail Hibbard has requested membership in Asheville Friends Meeting. Her committee for clearness met on September 20, 2011. Present were Gail and Jim Hipkins, Jim Cavener, Katherine Kowal, Steve Livingston, and Kitty Reynolds.

Gail described her spiritual journey to this point and her decision to request membership. She attended the SAYMA gathering this summer and was impressed that Quakers actually follow the business practices that they say they do. She feels she has found a spiritual home with Asheville Friends and has been meeting with us for about 18 months. She would like to be even more active in the life of the Meeting but is frequently out of town, caring for her mother in Newton, NC.

Gail commented on the meaning of challenges of Friends' testimonies in her life and on her personal history of social activism. She stated that, for her, Friends represent the ideal balance of freedom of thought, community outreach, mysticism, and humanitarian concern.

Gail is clear in her decision and the committee is clear that she will make a welcome addition to our community. We recommend her for membership in Asheville Friends Meeting.

**Minute #4:** Friends approved Gail Hipkins for membership in the Religious Society of Friends, Asheville Friends Meeting.

A welcoming party is planned for October 23 or 30, depending on when Gail is able to attend. She has caretaking responsibilities on alternate weeks. Steve Livingston and Laura Maynard Lane volunteered to coordinate the welcome party.

**Minute #5:** Friends extended warm thanks to Katherine Kowal for her service to the meeting during her term as clerk. Approved.

**Request from the Scholarship Committee** – Barbara Esther

The scholarship Committee requests \$500.00 from the general fund, beyond the \$123.74 remaining in the scholarship fund, to support two Friends attending a Pendle Hill clerking workshop.

**Minute #6:** Friends approved the transfer of \$500 from the general fund to the scholarship fund for the two Friends' registration fees at Pendle Hill. Friends approved the granting of the scholarships for Kitti Reynolds and Jen Rhode Ward to attend the Pendle Hill clerking workshop.

A Friend recommended that the Ministry and Counsel Committee ask that the budget include the cost of two Friends attending the clerking workshop each year, rather than having the scholarship committee undertake that request. This would be in keeping with the fact that the Ministry and Counsel Committee has as one of its long-range goals to continue to enrich our meeting's knowledge of Quaker process by sending someone to the clerking workshop each year.

Two traveling Friends will be among us on October 18 to lead a discussion of the theme *Being Salt and Light*, in anticipation of a world gathering of Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) to be held in Kenya in 2012.

Joy Gossett reported that Stephanie is doing well in Swaziland, in spite of the challenges of her job with the Peace Corp. Stephanie says that she is well liked by her students in life skills class because of her use of humor. One example of the lessons she has offered is modeling good ways to introduce oneself and unsuccessful ways to do that, drawing on her years in drama.

We closed our meeting with a period of silent worship to meet again in Eleventh Month as way opens.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Esther, Interim Recording Clerk