

**Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business  
Eleventh Month 13, 2011**

**Clerk:** Kitti Reynolds

**Recording Clerk:** Jennifer Rhode Ward

**Present:** Bobby Carter, Barbara Esther, Gjeorge Gjelfriend, Kristi Gjelfriend, Joy Gossett, Ed Harris, DeAnna Hatch, Pat Johnson, Katherine Kowal, Susan Oehler, Edie Patrick, Alan Robinson, Sarah Jane Thomas, Paola Villatoro-Weir, Adrienne Weir, Robin Wells

**Opening Worship**

**Reading**

Deep within us all there is an amazing inner sanctuary of the soul, a holy place, a Divine Center, a speaking Voice, to which we may continuously return. Eternity is at our hearts, pressing upon our time-torn lives, warming us with intimations of an astounding destiny, calling us home unto Itself. Yielding to these persuasions, gladly committing ourselves body and soul, utterly and completely, to the Light Within, is the beginning of true life.

*from Testament of Devotion, Thomas R. Kelly*

**Review of Minutes from 10<sup>th</sup> Month**

**Tenth month minutes were approved as presented.**

**Agenda**

The tenth month agenda was accepted as revised.

**\*Request from Occupy Asheville – Susan Oehler**

Rylin Hanson, Beth Bates, Steve Livingston, and Susan Oehler have been involved in the Occupy Asheville movement. They propose inviting the Occupy Asheville campers (~10-15 persons) to join AFM for the Orphan's Thanksgiving activities. Susan asked if others had questions or concerns.

A Friend asked how many planned to attend the meal, and at what time the meal would occur. We estimate that 8-10 AFM attenders will be attending the Orphan's Thanksgiving meal, which would occur from 2 pm – 5 pm on Thanksgiving Day. Another Friend was concerned about the ability of AFM folks to provide enough food for such a large crowd, and suggested that others who would not be at the meal provide food. The Gjelfriends will donate a 14 pound turkey, and Alan Robinson agreed to cook it. A Friend pointed out that it was important to notify Adrienne about expected Meetinghouse occupancy. One Friend pointed out that this would be a good way to introduce this group to the Religious Society of Friends. A Friend said that she felt that it was important to keep this event non-political, and those gathered discussed ways to limit the amount/intensity of political discourse. Another Friend noted that it was important to limit the number of people attending this meal; one Friend suggested asking people ahead of time if they planned to attend, then letting folks who were cooking this meal know about this number.

**The Meeting approved inviting the Occupy Asheville campers to our Orphan's Thanksgiving event. AFM participants will work on the logistics of this meal.**

**\*Scholarship Committee – Barbara Esther**

The committee received a request for monies from the College-Aged Friends Support Fund. As Friends may know, Paola Villatoro-Weir has been planning to study abroad in Florence, Italy (University of Florence) to begin her college courses in art, Italian, and culinary skills (starting in late January 2012, lasting for 1 semester). Paola has been accepted to the culinary arts program at AB Tech beginning in Fall 2012. Paola has plans to visit a Quaker meeting in Bologna, and she has fund funds to cover 2/3 of the cost of the program (through scholarships, work, and loans). She has also filled out FAFSA paperwork. However, she still needs about \$5565 to participate in this program.

The scholarship committee has more than \$9000 left in their fund and would like to make it possible for Paola to participate in this program with some of these funds. The scholarship committee (David Clements, Barbara Esther, Robin Wells) propose that AFM provide \$3000 for her use this semester, and provide her with a letter of introduction for her visits with any Friends Meetings she is able to visit.

**The Meeting approved giving \$3000 from the College-Aged Friends Support Fund to support Paola Villatoro-Weir's study abroad at the University of Florence, starting in January 2012.**

### **Religious Education – Robin Wells**

The Religious Education Committee presented their committee's long-range plan to the Business Meeting. They commented that the process of producing this plan was useful to them.

### **Finance – Pat Johnson**

Since January, \$10,851 in income has come in (55.7% of annual budget). Expenses have totaled \$6892 (Meetinghouse expenses) + \$1163 (committees, Meeting Support) to date + outreach (\$5210). To date, we are operating at a loss of loss \$2407. An appeal will be sent out in the next month (via email) to solicit more funds. A Friend noted that it might be useful to include the amount that each person had contributed to-date in each appeal, but this seemed logistically difficult. However, Finance Committee is willing to provide these numbers to individuals who request them.

Adrienne Weir noted that she is now keeping track of sales taxes, which should be refunded by the state. Robin Wells noted that RE might be under budget (fewer than expected SAYF expenses). A Friend noted that \$500 should have been transferred into the scholarship fund. However, since these monies will not be needed this year, we recommend that this transfer be delayed until the next fiscal year, and that these monies be put into the M&C Committee budget to support attendance at Pendel Hill Clerks' Workshops.

***Pat noted that the Finance Committee is waiting for committees to request funds for the upcoming (2012) fiscal year. Please present your budgets to Finance Committee (via Pat) ASAP.***

The Finance Committee also presented their committee's long-range plan, which included assessing Friends' non-financial contributions to AFM. Some Friends wondered why these would be included. Adrienne noted that it was important to include in-kind contributions for accounting purposes. Friends thought that it would be useful for the Spiritual Enrichment Committee to schedule a meeting to discuss the future of the Meetinghouse.

### **Board of Directors – Pat Johnson**

The Board met last First Day.

A Friend expressed concern that we do not have our monies in a credit union, but credit unions do not allow business accounts. That Friend suggested that Finance Committee examine the possibility of moving our accounts to a local bank.

**Friends approved asking the Finance Committee examine the possibility of moving our AFM accounts from Wells Fargo (formerly Wachovia) to a local bank.**

**\*Nominating Committee – Katherine Kowal**

**Friends approved the release of Robin Wells from Nominating Committee.**

Nominating Committee presented their long-range planning report to Business Meeting. They plan to:

- 1) initiate term limits for all new committee nominees
- 2) encourage participation of all members and attenders in committee work
- 3) ensure that they have a willing pool of well-prepared Meeting Clerks

**Website Updates - Gjeorge Gjelfriend**

Gjeorge noted that committee information on the website is not correct. He said that, since he is unable to maintain a corrected website, he would like that the website to only list a description of committees. Then, the Nominating Committee will maintain an updated committee list, kept in the Meetinghouse Office and lobby. Kitti will ask John McHugh to take names of committee members off of the website and to put up committee descriptions instead.

**Other**

- 12<sup>th</sup> Month celebration: the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of 12<sup>th</sup> Month (Sandwich Sunday) will be a potluck Orphan's Christmas, to be held at the rise of Meeting.

**Closing Worship**