

**Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business  
Fourth Month 8, 2012**

**Clerk:** Kitti Reynolds

**Recording Clerk:** Jennifer Rhode Ward

**Present:** Ed Brown, Bobby Carter, Gjeorge Gjelfriend, Kristi Gjelfriend, Pat Johnson, Katherine Kowal, Gita Larsen, Barry Master, Rusty Maynard, Alan Robinson, Edie Patrick, Adrienne Weir

**Opening Worship**

**Reading**

*from "Encounter with Silence", John Punshon*

With time, I began to see the line of my life opening up before me. The space for reflection at meeting helped me to relate my whole being, my soul, to the world in which I am placed, both natural and human. I now go to meeting to face the great questions about how God relates to the creation. I use the language of imagery, myth and the subconscious, scripture and Quaker tradition, family and political life. I go to discover my true self and learn about my part in the great imaginative and creative purposes of God.

**Agenda**

The fourth month agenda was accepted as written.

**Review of Minutes from Third Month**

The third month minutes were accepted as written.

**\*Nominating Committee – Katherine Kowal**

Nominating committee is collecting information about attenders' interests, strengths, and the way they would like to contribute to the Meeting.

**The Meeting approved the nomination of Ed Brown to Peace and Earth Committee (term: April 2012 – April 2014).**

**\*Peace and Earth – Katherine Kowal**

Peace and Earth has been investigating the possibility of a sign or banner in opposition to Amendment 1 (to the North Carolina State Constitution). A professional sign would cost \$36 and take 4-6 business days to complete. The sign would be about 2' x 3' large. We discussed the wording of the sign.

A Friend said that fewer words on the sign might be more readable to drivers. Another Friend suggested that the sign might be worded as a query (ending in a question mark) rather than a statement. Friends expressed support for a sign that referred to civil rights rather than just Amendment 1, as it would be usable for a longer period of time. A Friend commented that it was important to support the moral issue behind this rather than make a statement about a specific political issue.

The P&E Clerk commented that this issue was time-sensitive, so that it would be best to make a decision soon. A member of House & Grounds noted that the sign needed to be farther than 3 feet from the road to be legal.

Another Friend noted that many in North Carolina were not aware of what Amendment 1 actually says, or how to vote on the amendment in order to support equality. He said that wording the sign “vote no” would give people in the community clarity on this issue. A Friend suggested “Support Families – Vote No on Amendment 1” as a sign; another suggested “Voting No on Amendment 1 Promotes Love and Respect”; another said “Voting No on Amendment 1 Respects All Families”. A Friend felt strongly that the word “family” needed to be included in the sign. A Friend suggested: “Want to Respect All Families? Vote No on Amendment 1”.

The Clerk expressed concern that naming the actual amendment might threaten our tax-exempt status. A Friend said that he had seen other faith communities in our area with signs about this particular amendment.

**The Meeting approved having a sign printed and that would read, “Want to Respect All Families? Vote No on Amendment 1”. This sign will be posted on the property so that it is visible from the road.**

### **Finance Report – Pat Johnson**

The Meeting has taken in \$2983 in contributions and \$1144 in rental contributions, for a total of \$4127 net income. Expenses are in line with our expectations, so we are starting the year in a positive financial position.

### **People Staying in Meetinghouse – Adrienne Weir**

Adrienne’s son Nohe has inquired about staying at the Meetinghouse (starting at the end of April) while he is between apartments. His lease is up and he has not yet found another source of housing. Friend (and AFM Member) Elizabeth Roebing will be in Asheville for 3-4 weeks, and hopes to stay at the Meetinghouse for part of that time. During her stay she plans to give a presentation about her time in Hispanola.

A Friend asked if their time here would overlap, but Adrienne was uncertain.

A Friend commented that Elizabeth is a member of this Meeting whose ministry we have supported. She felt that it would be appropriate to limit her stay time to 3 weeks. Another Friend offered an alternative place for Nohe.

### **Young friend in Middle School**

We wondered what action we might take as a Meeting to support a young friend experiencing problems with the administration at middle school. It was said that it would be useful to have Friends joining the young friend in the classroom during the school day, or having lunch with her. It was pointed out that it would be useful to have more information about the situation before writing a formal letter about the situation. A friend will keep the Meeting up to date about what we can do to be useful.

### **Other**

Gita Larsen said that FGC committees will be working on how to live within our means, given the current funding situation. Some programs and positions will be eliminated. She asked that we hold all in the FGC Executive Committee, and staff who might lose their jobs, in the light.

Kitti Reynolds announced that there is an ad hoc group working to adapt the library to create a shared library/nursery respectful of the needs of both groups. By code, children younger than 2.5 years old need to be on first floor of the building. Some library materials may be moved upstairs so that there is

additional space for books / toys on bottom shelves. Adrienne noted that 20 binders of past Meeting records will be given to us (by Susan Mitchell); they, too, will probably be stored upstairs.

**Closing Worship**