

**Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business
Second Month 10, 2013**

Clerk: Kitti Reynolds

Recording Clerk: Jennifer Rhode Ward

Present: Jim Barham, Edwin Brown, Bobby Carter, Barbara Esther, Gail Hipkins, Jim Hipkins, Joy Gossett, Pat Johnson, Katherine Kowal, Nancy Kuykendall, Laura Maynard Lane, Gita Larson, Rusty Maynard, Julie Mahler, Edie Patrick, Adrienne Weir

Opening Worship

Clerk's Reading

In the silence of a gathered meeting, religious seekers have always found a discipline which disarms the sentimental feelings and habits of mind which arise from self-centeredness. This really is the key to the early Quaker experience. Robert Barclay wrote in 1676, "For when I came into the silent assemblies of God's people, I felt a secret power among them, which touched my heart; as I gave way unto it I found the evil weakening in me and the good raised up; and so I became thus knit and united unto them, hungering more and more after the increase of this power and life whereby I might feel myself perfectly redeemed; and indeed, this is the surest way to become a Christian..."

- *John Punshon, Encounter with Silence: Reflections from the Quaker Tradition. 1987. Friends United Press.*

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as amended.

Approval of Minutes

Friends approved the minutes from 1st month 2013.

***Nominating Committee – Katherine Kowal**

Friends approved the nomination of Julie Mahler to the Care and Nurture Committee for a 2 year term, starting immediately.

Katherine noted that this committee did not have a clerk, so that Kristi would help with welcoming this new member.

House and Grounds – Adrienne Weir

Adrienne gave the 2012 annual report for the House and Grounds Committee. She noted that the Meeting's liability only covered Meeting activities. Others using the Meetinghouse needed to have their own liability insurance, or sign an informed consent for use of the space.

Spiritual Enrichment Committee – Barbara Esther

Barbara gave the 2012 annual report for the Spiritual Enrichment Committee.

Finance Committee – Pat Johnson

So far this year we have received \$924.77 in contributions, \$720 in rental income, and some dividend income, for a total of \$1663.58. Expenses so far this year included annual expenditures for House and Grounds (paper products for Meetinghouse) and totaled \$1035.56. Thus, our net balance is \$628.02.

In response to a question from a Friend, Pat clarified who was on the Meeting's payroll: 1 person to clean the Meetinghouse, and several persons for childcare.

A Friend noted that he was concerned about the Meeting's liability coverage. He said that we should either get insurance without exclusions for non-Meeting activities, or call our relationship with others a "sponsored relationship" and forgo our rental income. He said that instead we could ask for quid pro quo for what others are doing in the community, and that no income from rental would mean no liability on our part. For instance, if a group provided meals to the hungry, we could consider that activity a donation towards Meeting work. Adrienne noted that rental money is not really income, just calculated to cover utilities / wear and tear with no actual profit. She suggested that this Friend take his concerns to the House and Grounds and/or Finance Committees for further discussion.

Other

- Kitti reminded committees that she had to send an annual report about the State of the Meeting to SAYMA soon. She will present it to the Third Month Meeting for Business.
- Gjeorge sent word that Communications Committee is working on the phone situation at the Meetinghouse. If we do not renew our contract with AT&T, he would like to post signs at all Meetinghouse entrances with this text:

Notice! This building is not equipped with emergency 9-1-1 capacity. We think the ubiquity of cell phones minimizes any risk. However, if it makes you uneasy to be at remove from 9-1-1 access, we suggest either you ask if anyone present has a cell phone or visit us at another time.

A Friend suggested adding the Meetinghouse address to this notice.
- The Spiritual Enrichment Committee discussed FCNL's request for feedback from Meetings about next 5 year agenda, which is due mid-April. The Meeting will discuss this on 7 April during the rise-of-meeting Spiritual Enrichment activity. Gita reminded us that we can add priorities, too, not just reorder them. Kitti has a copy of the letter about topics and related queries, and she will make copies for April 7th.
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- SAYMA will host a Quaker Quest Full Day Workshop on Saturday, April 6 at West Knoxville Meeting (9 am – 4 pm). Each Meeting is encouraged to send 2 people. Contact Gita Larson if you are interested.
- SAYMA Yearly Meeting moves to the third weekend in June this year (2013). We'll start with opening worship at 1 p.m. on Thursday June 13th and end with closing worship on Sunday June 16th from 11 to noon.

- AFM will host a celebration to welcome Gita Larson to our Meeting on Sunday, 24 February after the rise of Meeting. Bring food representing your ethnic background to share with those at the party!
- Young Adult Friends will sponsor a movie night at the Meetinghouse on March 9th at 5 pm. All are welcome!
- We are planning a welcoming celebration for Leslee and Cameron's baby, and the Meeting will also participate in a MealTrain for them – look for details in the coming weeks! Laura expressed thanks for the Meeting's contributions to her MealTrain.

Closing Worship

2012 Finance Committee Report

As the name implies, the Finance Committee is responsible for incoming and outgoing funds of the Meeting. We meet throughout the year on an as needed basis rather than regular monthly meetings. Much of our work can be and is done by email.

Meeting approved a General Fund 2012 budget of \$20,093 including \$16,293.00 from contributions, \$300.00 from interest income and \$3,500.00 from rental income. Our end of year report showed contributions of \$15,687.06, interest income of \$250.30 and rental income of \$6,431.25. Due to higher than expected rental income, we ended the year with a balance of \$3,198.21.

Our 2012 expenses summary included the following:

House and Grounds:	\$3,130.85	General Outreach	\$2,000.00
Insurance	3,116.00	Quaker Outreach	2,000.00
Utilities	2,867.26	SAYMA Dues	2,860.00
Meeting support	2,069.48		
(Committees & Payroll)			

We have two money market accounts at Self-Help Credit Union with end of year balances of \$33,026.09 and \$7,870.40 as well as a one-year CD with an end of year balance of \$59,015.93. These balances are distributed into various funds in addition to the General Fund including Building, H & G Emergency, M & C Needs, College-Age Friends Support, Religious Education, Retreats, Scholarship, Library, Meeting House Improvements and Memorial/Bequests.

We anticipate needing to update our Quickbooks files in 2014. We have uploaded our records from 2002 to 2012 (minutes, etc) to the Google afmfinance@gmail.com account. Google Docs are installed on the hard drive of the Friends Computer.

In long-range planning we have identified several issues:

1. We have a substantial liability in terms of the upkeep of the Meeting House. We need to have better numbers regarding the resources that will be needed. This might take the form of a reserve study.
2. We have discussed our choices regarding staying with our present meeting House versus moving. It became very clear that Friends do not want to move as we value and appreciate our Meeting House. Since we are staying with the present situation, we should commit to spending the money necessary to fix ongoing maintenance issues before they become bigger and more expensive to fix.
3. We have a substantial Building Fund, whose purpose is unclear, as it is not clear whether we will be in a position to build a new addition any time soon. What should the purpose of this fund be?

We would like to thank Susan Oehler for helping with our bookkeeping in 2012. While she is not a member of the Finance Committee, we do welcome any members or attenders who are led to join our committee.

Respectively submitted,

Pat Johnson, Treasurer

Spiritual Enrichment Committee Report
February 2013

Our committee began the year with only two members, but has now enlarged to four. The members are Rylin Hansen, Leslie Johnson-Allen, Sarah Jane Thomas and Barbara Esther, clerk. This makes it possible to plan more effectively and will certainly make for a responsive program next year.

We started the year just after Labor Day with a discussion of what was planned, in general, inviting input on other ideas to incorporate in our plan. Each first and third First Day was listed with a Velcro-attached activity or topic. The continuing topic was Quakerism as seen through the pages of the new *Guide to Our Faith and Practice*. Different members of the meeting community have led the discussions, lending their personal insight regarding history, service, testimonies, Quaker process and wider Quaker organizations. Another area we included this year, always a popular one, is intergenerational activities. First we baked cookies before Christmas for isolated Friends we seldom see. Now we are in the midst of the Secret Friends, Secret Gifts month, which will culminate on February 17. Two First Days are dedicated to discussion of the Kabarak Call. As winter fades and spring comes in we are planning outdoor worship, the annual Gary Briggs Memorial Hike and a discussion on seeing God in nature.

As a committee, we see our mission as to nourish adult spiritual sharing and growth in our meeting. We hope to continue exploring Quaker topics next year, as well, realizing that there are Seekers in our community who might benefit from further sharing on basic Quaker practices.

We are grateful to the meeting as a whole for supporting the committee's goals by leadership of discussions and enthusiastic attendance of activities.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barbara Esther, clerk of Spiritual Enrichment Committee

House and Grounds Report

The year started out with a large number of kids from the Christ School coming to volunteer on MLK Day of Service. There was a good sized crew clearing brush from the road side of the property and deep dusting the interior of the meetinghouse, including window troughs. A member of meeting who is actually not on H & G assisted by being the liaison to the group and directing the activities.

Work on the arbor in front of the east bank of meetingroom windows continued with the donated services of a local carpenter / restoration professional who cut the arches to install onto the posts to match the existing arch detail on the meeting house. The carpenter added the caps to the arches which add to the esthetic. A member of H & G painted the installations white to match the porch arches and installed cables to experiment with starting some vines up them.

One of our SAYFers took on a service project in order to earn his eagle scout badge. He planned for, obtained materials and directed his troop of 30 or so boys and their adult supervisors in reseeding the bare patches of lawn in front of the meetinghouse and constructing a new picnic table. The young Friend was able to make use of a large pile of soil and other materials that had been donated to meeting by another Friend when her neighborhood had done some re-sodding. A member of H & G and another meeting member, as well as the SAYFers parents provided hauling services for materials and one of the members provided irrigation lines. A member of H & G attended the SAYFers Eagle Scout Ceremony. It is a point to be noted that when, as part of his Eagle Scout process, our young Friend was asked by his regional scout committee what he would change about scouts if he could, he responded that he would open the scouts up to welcoming gay scouts and scout leaders.

Because of fire code the meeting has had to provide a “nursery” area on the first floor of the meetinghouse for children under the age of 2 and ½. The Ad Hoc Library/Nursery Committee has added a new brightly colored rug and convertible storage unit (along with a number of new age appropriate toys to be stored in it) and a rocking chair in order to create a nursery in the library. The library is already hooked up with a remote speaker that Friends can use to “listen in” to the meeting in progress.

Regular maintenance of the meetinghouse has continued with changing out of old hardware in several of the toilet tanks as they have failed, repair of a hole in the wall upstairs, repair of the (off limits) back porch floor, cleaning of the first level of rain gutters and restocking meetinghouse supplies. Also this year we have had a plumber assess some questions that we had about our plumbing system and found that it is in good shape and we have changed up our HVAC contractor to one that is willing to trouble-shoot when we have problems with our heat, rather than insisting that we replace a furnace. At some time in a future year, it may become necessary to replace a furnace, but as of now, the only repairs made to the existing furnace have been minor (Easter egg in the air intake line was removed, condensate line was cleaned of sediment).

In the fall, the H & G Committee began to get some interest by newer meeting attendees, gaining one enthusiastic and able member who has begun the task of installing windows into the

classroom doors. (Since 2012, he's also headed up a meeting work day and generated quite a bit more enthusiasm, gaining four more H & G members in the process! More to come for next year's report...)

Sharing of the meetinghouse with other local groups has yielded an increase of funds for use this year. At present we have half a dozen groups that meet regularly in the meetinghouse other than ourselves and another half dozen that meet seasonally or occasionally. This year we've also had another half dozen rentals of the meetinghouse by meeting members and others in our greater community for use for personal events. One change to the rental contracts from here out, however, as we have been informed by our insurance company, is that the contract will have to stipulate that only meeting activities are covered by our liability insurance and therefore, outside groups will have to provide proof of their own liability coverage or agree to hold harmless the meeting as part of their rental agreement with us.

Adrienne Weir