

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business  
Asheville Friends Meeting  
7th Month 13, 2014

Clerk: Laura Maynard Lane

Recording Clerk: Steve Livingston

Attendance: Kitti Reynolds, Jen Rhode Ward, Angie Sullivan, Edwin Brown, Jim and Gail Hipkins, Ruth Stewart, Jim Cavener, Edie Patrick, Kristi Gjelfriend, Gjeorge Gjelfriend, Pat Johnson, Katherine Kowal, Sarah Jane Thomas, Rusty Maynard, Nancy Kuykendall, Patti Hughes, Lauren Adams, Joy Gossett, Robin Wells

Meeting began at with a moment of silence at 11:55 a.m.

The clerk invited Friends to join in singing "For the Beauty Of the Earth".

The agenda was approved as presented.

**Minutes of fifth month were approved as posted on the website.**

Naming

Kitti explained the reason for having a naming committee, and offered the names of Lauren Adams and Alan Robinson to join the Nominating Committee.

**Friends approved Lauren Adams and Alan Robinson to serve on Nominating Committee.**

Nominating

Gjeorge presented two suggestions to help improve the functioning of the Nominating Committee.

**Friend approved Nominating Committee meetings to be restricted to members of the committee.**

The second suggestion was that a Friend who is nominated should leave the room while there is discussion concerning their nomination.

One Friend recounted the value of being present during discussion of his nomination to Ministry and Counsel as it helped him understand the controversy involved and how he could better function in his new role.

Clerk recalled her experience at Earlham submitting course evaluations. Students were expected to sign their names, and no weight would be given to evaluations that were not signed.

A Friend expressed the value of being clear, and tender, in our relations to one another.

Gjeorge suggested that this recommendation be withdrawn, as it was clear that the recommendation required more seasoning to find unity.

A third recommendation was simply an acknowledgment that clerks of Meeting are *ex officio* members of all committees, including Ministry and Counsel and Nominating.

**Friends approved the policy that clerks of Meeting are *ex officio* members of all Meeting committees.**

Next, Gjeorge presented the names of Alan Robinson and Gail Hipkins to serve as co-clerks of Meeting. Gjeorge spoke of their knowledge and experience as Friends and in our Meeting.

Another Friend expressed misgivings that these nominees might have too many commitments outside of the Meeting to sustain the position through a full term, as we found was the case with our current co-clerks. She suggested that this nomination be limited to the remainder of the current term, until 6<sup>th</sup> month of 2015, rather than a full two-year term.

Alan spoke of his confidence that he could fulfill a two year term of service. Gail expressed her appreciation for the Meeting entrusting her with and offered that she would be comfortable with either a one year or two year term.

Gjeorge pointed out that filling out the term would go to 8<sup>th</sup> month rather than 6<sup>th</sup> month 2015. Another Friend suggested that we might approve them to fill out the term and then approve them to serve an additional year if all goes well the first year.

A Friend expressed a sense that Spirit was moving us to join with these candidates in their clearly expressed leading to co-clerk the Meeting, and accept the Nominating Committee's recommendation without further equivocation.

Another Friend pointed out the importance of supporting the clerk(s) in their work.

**Friends approved Gail Hipkins and Alan Robinson to co-clerk the Meeting. Friends requested that Gail and Alan confer with Nominating Committee to discern what will be their term of service.**

#### Scholarship Committee

Kitti explained the makeup of Scholarship Committee: one member from Finance, one from Religious Education, and one from Ministry and Counsel. Kitti pointed out that the committee did not have time to bring a request to MFB for its most recent allocation. The Scholarship Fund did not have enough money to make this allocation, but an anonymous Friend offered to cover the cost if Meeting for Business was not

comfortable with providing the money from the General Fund.

Friends spoke in support of Scholarship Committee's decision to provide these funds.

**Friends approved transferring the \$307.01 from the General Fund to the Scholarship Fund to cover its recent outlay.**

#### Treasurer's report

Pat distributed the Treasurer's report. She pointed out our total income as a percentage of our annual budget is lagging far behind where we should be at this point in the calendar year. As to expenses, she reported that House and Grounds in good shape even after all the work we have had done recently. She reminded us that our insurance has gone way up, and reported that she and Adrienne met with an insurance agent to see if there was a less costly alternative, but without result. She noted that utilities are almost 80% of budgeted amount for the year. She will go back and look at what has caused this increase. A Friend suggested it might have been due to the unusually cold Winter. Another Friend offered that we might have simply not budgeted enough in the first place.

Although our total expenses for the year are now more than \$7K over our income, Pat reminded us that the general fund has over \$22K left in it.

A Friend asked whether moneys transferred from one fund to another show up as expenses. Pat clarified that they do not.

#### Other Concerns

A Friend expressed gratitude to the anonymous donor who had offered to provide the funding for the Scholarship Committee. She also spoke of Friend Phil Neal and encouraged those Friends who know him to pay him a visit as he is now quite frail.

#### Closing worship

There being no further business, meeting adjourned with silence at 1:20 p.m.