

## Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business Seventh Month 12, 2015

Present: Kitti Reynolds, Ruth Stewart, Margaret Farmer, Margaret Normile, Pat Micks, Jim Hipkins, Rusty Maynard, Kristi Gjelfriend, George Gjelfriend, Patti Hughes, Steve Livingston, Sharon Smith, Desaray Smith, Sarah Jane Thomas, David Greenson, Gail Hipkins, Co-Clerk and Barbara Esther, substitute Recording Clerk.

We began our meeting with a period of silent worship. The clerk read the following excerpt out of the silence:

The discernment to speak or not has several dimensions. If a worshipper feels a message from within, she or he must try the message to determine the source of motivation. One must practise self-vigilance, watchful of one's motives. The impulse to speak might come from a need for attention, or the urge to please others, or a desire to appear brilliant. Indulging a fragile ego and attempting to bolster a poor self-image result in messages that tire rather than edify the others present.

The urge to speak might also originate in the worshipper's passion for certain causes. Words rooted in these passions tend to burden others with a feeling of guilt. Meeting for worship is not the occasion for political persuasion. Again, it is not so much the substance of the message as the motion behind it. If the overriding theme is, 'If you love me, then you must love my cause', the motion is self-centered, aimed at serving the speaker rather than the rest of the community. Friends have ministered in prophetic words, calling for changed hearts and a changed society, as Lucretia Mott (1793-1880) did so well, but the motion was love for others rather than self-promotion.

Certainly God can work through our mixed motives, and vocal ministry may offer nourishment to some in the room despite its questionable origins. Friends have found it most helpful when careful discernment prevails. Then the ministry nourishes more of the community because it is rooted in the God who gives life. The vitality is perceptible and contagious, whatever the words with which it clothes itself.

*Silence and Witness, the Quaker Tradition* Michael L. Birkel

The agenda was accepted as planned.

**Minute 1: Fourth Month Minutes were approved.** Fifth Month Minutes will be presented for approval in September along with those of today's meeting. Sixth Month minutes were read aloud, not having been posted in time to be read online.

**Minute 2: Friends approved the minutes from Sixth Month with the correction that Naming Committee, not the Nominating Committee will make a report in Seventh Month.** One Friend encouraged the recorder to involve the Ministry and Counsel Committee in the process of contacting the members of meeting with whom we have little contact. The recorder will meet with Ministry and Counsel to confer and plan this process.

The Treasurer's Report will be postponed this month due to the absence of our Treasurer.

**Minute 3:** Steve Livingston presented a report from the ad hoc Naming Committee delineating the continuing members of the Nominating Committee and brought two names for our consideration. **Friends approved the following nominees to the Nominating Committee: George Gjelfriend and Patti Burgess.** Continuing on Nominating Committee are the following: Alan Robinson, Jim Cavener and Lauren Adams. The ad hoc committee, having completed its work, was laid down by the clerk.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

**Care and Nurture**, sub-committee of Ministry and Counsel Committee, sent a card of condolences to Marcia Master upon her father's death.

**Racial Justice Committee** discussed their budget, the Racial Justice Committee is initiating a book club beginning with a book to be read and ready for discussion by September. Also proposed for the committee's activities are: looking within our community to grow in awareness of racism in our midst and tying in the work of standing committees in our meeting.

The calendar of events of Racial Justice Committee will be made in consultation with Spiritual Enrichment Committee when it is planned for second hour on first and third First Days throughout 2015.

The Black Lives Matter movement urges people to sponsor a Week of Righteous Resistance in response to the burning of at least nine black churches. More information on that response can be gathered from members of the Racial Justice Committee.

### **Announcements**

Dolph Hoehing of Swannanoa Friends Meeting wants Friends to consider attending a workshop called "Writing your Spiritual Biography" beginning on Friday, October 16 and continuing on Saturday from 9-4pm, led by Dan Wakefield. A few spots are still available, but a limit of sixteen is almost met. A fee of \$100 will be needed to cover expenses, not to include snacks, etc. Those interested should contact Dolph as soon as possible. The fee and registration are due by the end of August.

A Friend informed us that Sabra hummus is produced in Palestine, but not with compensation for Palestinians. He urged us to boycott that brand of hummus, indicating his intention to throw away any of the Sabra brand hummus he sees in the meetinghouse. Another Friend asked that we simply inform anyone who brings food to the meetinghouse of the origin of the Sabra brand foods.

One Friend was very encouraged by the reading the clerk brought today, hoping that we can continue to remind ourselves of the discernment process in vocal ministry in our meetings for worship, including those for the conduct of business.

The recording clerk reminded Friends that reports prepared for our Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business should be shared with the presiding co-clerks and recording clerk. When possible, a report should be sent via email on the Wednesday prior to our meeting so that the agenda can be planned, items requiring action can be anticipated and the recording clerk can insert the formal report in the minutes. When that is not possible, hard copies for the co-clerks and recording clerk can be provided to the clerks' table. This allows all of us to listen with greater attention. Whichever type of report is prepared, electronic or paper, the clerks need to know what reports are being brought to the meeting in advance.

Our next meeting for worship for the conduct of business will be on September 13, 2015, as way opens. We will not have a meeting for business in August unless an urgent matter arises.

We concluded our meeting with a period of silent worship.