

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Asheville Friends Meeting

Second Month 14 , 2016

Present: Kitti Reynolds; David Greenson; Jim Caverner; Sharon Smith; Paul Hibschan; Lauren Adams; Jim Barham; Rusty Maynard; Bobby Carter; Patti Hughes; Pat Johnson; Nancy Kuykendall; Steve Livingston; co-clerks Gail Hipkins and Alan Robinson; Barbara Esther, Recording Clerk.

Meeting began with a period of silent worship from which co-clerk, Gail Hipkins, read the following:

Sense of the meeting is a gift. It came to the Quakers through their commitment to continuing revelation. They discovered that the Light which had come to teach the people could lead them to revealed corporate decisions. The Quakers cherished the gift. They handed it down as a spiritual heirloom from generation to generation, even as the Jews hand down their covenant with God. . . When we seek the sense of the meeting we allow ourselves to be directed to the solution that awaits us. It is a process of surrender to our highest natures and a recognition that, even though each of us is possessed of light, there is only one Light. At the end of the process we reside in that Light. We have allowed ourselves to be led to a transcendent place of unmistakable harmony, peace, and tender love. . .Commitment to the work and commitment to each other are natural by-products of the sense of the meeting. When we allow ourselves to be led to and gathered by the peace of Light and Love where unity rests in silence, bonds are forged which extend infinitely.

Beyond Consensus
Salvaging Sense of the Meeting
By Barry Morley

Friends accepted the agenda as prepared.

Minute 1: Friends approved the Twelfth and First Month minutes, respectively.

Treasurer's Report-Alan Robinson

In a review of the 2015 budget, income and expenses, the meeting has a surplus of about \$2,606.72, although there may be some loose ends to deal with as we close out the year.

This past month is the only one in 2016 to report: \$1,873.17 income. The report in full will be available on the website.

We thank Alan for taking on the responsibility of the treasurer's job.

Budget-Alan Robinson

Restricted income will cover the approved work on maintenance of the meetinghouse.

Minute #2 The budget was approved as prepared.

Committee Reports:

Scholarship Committee- Kitti Reynolds

Nicholas Wells requested assistance from the meeting for a service trip to the Dominican Republic. The committee considered the request and recommends that we provide \$500.00 for Nick.

Racial Justice Committee-submitted by Desaray Smith

Present were Sharon Smith, Jim Barham, Desaray Smith, David Greenson, and Adrienne Weir (present in spirit: George Gjelfriend, Gita Larson, Lauren Adams, and Scotty Utz)

The meeting began at 6:10 pm with the query What is your growing edge this week for racial justice?

The agenda included:

QUESTION #1: What ideas can AFM contribute to the Friday Night Plenary at SAYMA?

ANSWER: Sharon and Jim will represent the AFM RJC on the first Anti-racism Plenary Committee meeting for SAYMA. The Zoom meeting will be held on Monday, February 8th 3:30 - 4:30

[SAYMA yearly meeting gathering will be at Warren Wilson College June 9th-12th, 2016]

QUESTION #2: What should AFM RJC do with the remaining \$500 in our budget?

ANSWER: To be determined as the year unfolds ...

QUESTION #3: How awesome are our new books?

ANSWER: Very awesome. Sharon will email a PDF of the book label she designed. We will schedule a Book Release Party Extravaganza once all of the books have arrived, likely in March.

QUESTION #4 How do we create a safe and welcoming community for people of color to participate among Friends?

ANSWER: Subject to further discussion by the committee.

The meeting ended at 8:17 pm with the following:

Check-out: What are your reflections on this meeting of AFM RJC?

The next RJC meeting will be on Friday, March 4th at 6:00 pm at Jim Barham's home at 155 Flint St. in the Montford neighborhood with the following features: on-street parking, no pets, no children, no mold, internet connection, only 6 steps, handicap parking in the driveway, 15 feet from the front steps.

Other

Paul's Letter-from Care and Nurture Committee

If any member of the meeting hears of severe need such as suicidal tendencies, we can all be supportive in terms of visitation or listening. Counseling, however, needs to be handled by a professional. Paul Hibschman has a license as a clinician and social worker and requests a letter to identify him as representing the meeting at the local hospital. The clerk read the draft letter for those in hospital training that would allow him to serve Quakers in need of hospital care through both visitation and counseling.

Minute #3 Friends approved the clerk send a letter to Mission Hospital recognizing him as a representative of the meeting for training in visitation and counseling.

SAYMA Planning and Call for Workshops

Asheville and Atlanta meetings are asked to come up with a plenary activity for Friday evening. A timeline has been set for this plan and the workshop proposal: due date of tomorrow, February 15th. One week of preparation does not seem adequate to the Racial Justice Committee. However, some proposed plans are being discussed. Because we had no representation at the September Representative Meeting, our meeting has not been kept abreast of the developing plans for yearly meeting 2016. One Friend suggested that we communicate with the planning committee regarding this request explaining our having been in the dark about the theme and our involvement. Our meeting representative agreed to talk with Hank Fay regarding our feeling of not being prepared for the input requested by Feb. 15. Racial Justice Committee will be informed of the result of that conversation, and the committee will meet tonight. Regarding workshops, our clerk received the workshop request a month ago. Friends are asked to submit proposed workshops by tomorrow, February 15, 2016.

Announcements

Clerking Workshop-Mary Ann Downey is offering a Clerking workshop on Saturday April 16 from 10 am to 4 pm. Cost is \$35/person. Pre-registration is required. The clerk encouraged Friends to consider the training, whether or not they envision themselves as presiding clerks.

Census-Margaret Farmer will assist Alan Robinson in preparation of the SAYMA census by the end of February.

State of the Meeting Report-Clerk, Gail Hipkins, requests that each committee send a delegate to meet on Saturday, 20 of February from 10-12 am. The following queries will guide our discussion to help formulate the report:

What challenges have arisen this year, how have we as a group met them, and how has that changed us?

How has the meeting lived the testimonies this year?

What have been your disappointments?

What have been your joys?

A Young Peoples' Conference entitled *Continuing Revolution: Integrity as a Radical Act* will be held for Young Adult Friends (aged 18-35) on June 3-8, 2016, at Pendle Hill. For more information go to www.pendlehill.org or kmcquail@pendlehill.org.

If Friends want to know more about the National Workshop on Christian Unity to be held on April 18-21, 2016, in Louisville, Kentucky, please see Gail for more information.

We closed with a moment of silence to meet again as way opens on Third Month 13, 2016.