

**Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**  
**Asheville Friends Meeting**

Fourth Month 10, 2016

Present: George Gjelfriend; Sarah Jayne Thomas; Edie Patrick; Sharon Smith; Steve Livingston; Paul Hibschan; Kristi Gjelfriend; Joy Gossett; Patti Hughes; Margaret Normile; Jim Barham; Jim Cavener; Rylin Hansen; Adrienne Weir; Gail Hipkins, Co-clerk; Alan Robinson, Presiding Clerk; Barbara Esther, Recording Clerk.

Meeting began with a period of silent worship from which presiding co-clerk, Alan Robinson, read the following:

When William Penn was convinced of the principles of Friends, and became a frequent attendant at their meetings, he did not immediately relinquish his gay apparel; it is even said that he wore a sword, as was then customary among men of rank and fashion. Being one day in company with George Fox, he asked his advice concerning it, saying that he might, perhaps, appear singular among Friends, but his sword had once been the means of saving his life without injuring his antagonist, and moreover, that Christ has said, "he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one." George Fox answered, "I advise thee to wear it as long as thou canst." Not long after this they met again, when William had no sword, and George said to him, "William, where is thy sword?" "Oh!" said he, "I have taken thy advice; I wore it as long as I could."

*The Life of William Penn; With Selections from His Correspondence and Auto-Biography*

Samuel M. Janney

"A good End Cannot sanctifie evil Means; nor must we ever do Evil, that Good may come of it . . . It is as great Presumption to send our Passions upon God's Errands, as it is to palliate them with God's Name . . . We are too ready to retaliate, rather than forgive, or gain by Love and Information. And yet we could hurt no Man that we believe loves us. Let us then try what Love will do: For if Men did once see we Love them, we should soon find they would not harm us. Force may subdue, but Love gains: And he that forgives first, wins the Lawrel."

*Some Fruits of Solitude, 1693*

William Penn

**Minute 1: Friends approved the Third Month Minutes with the following**

**clarification:** A Friend asked that the record be clarified in this month's minutes to state that the vessel he referred to is Friend Sharon Smith and that the ministry is addressing racism and white supremacy in our meeting and in the Religious Society of Friends.

A question was raised regarding whether the energy audit will be done before or after the repairs are completed. A phrase was added to reflect that the decision as to when the audit will begin will be made by the Peace and Earth Committee.

Treasurer's Report-Alan Robinson

The report covers the first quarter of 2016. It reflects an expenditure of \$5,000 which was drawn from the General Fund, rather than from reserve funds, sources that earn a higher interest rate. As a meeting, we will want to step up donations to replenish our financial reserve. It appears that we have spent more than we took in, but we actually spent less than budgeted if the \$5,000 for repair to the house is taken into account.

### Other Business

American Friends Service Committee - Patti Hughes [see attachment]

Friends thanked Patti for her presence in AFSC and her informational report to us of the Annual Meeting.

SAYMA: Gail Hipkins brought the following four items to our attention.

- Advance Programs for Yearly Meeting (Distributed during meeting.) Friends seeking scholarship assistance are asked to make that request of the scholarship committee (Kitti Reynolds, Pat Johnson and Elizabeth Davis) well in advance of the date registration is due. Online registration is easy and interactive.
- Request for Input into SAYMA Budget (Referred to Ministry & Counsel)
- Possible Changes for SAYMA Directory (Referred to the co-clerks and meeting Recorder)
- How can Ministry and Nurture be of assistance to our meeting?

Friends Couples Enrichment: Gail Hipkins (See link below)

[https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ui=2&ik=52cae90618&view=att&th=153d7ce029dbc864&attid=0.1&disp=safe&realattid=ec26f1d1f3cd6e5c\\_0.1&zw](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ui=2&ik=52cae90618&view=att&th=153d7ce029dbc864&attid=0.1&disp=safe&realattid=ec26f1d1f3cd6e5c_0.1&zw)

A Friend spoke of the memorial she attended for the Reverend David Keith Miles whose life was a model for speaking truth to power, while he worked as a dedicated Christian. In Quaker terms he would be described as Spirit-led, for he shone a bright Light. He was supportive of one of our youth when she attended Asheville Middle School as he was present for so many others when they were in need.

The matter of anti-bacterial soaps in our meetinghouse was raised. We will move toward ceasing to use such soaps. The House and Grounds Committee will season the way that we will handle the donation or purchase of this type of product.

We closed with a moment of silence to meet again as way opens on Fifth Month 8, 2016.

Attachment:

**AFSC Annual Corporation Meeting Report for  
AFM for Business  
3/13/16**

This year's theme: **Change the Story, Change the World**

The 2016 Corporation meeting had a preview in the morning of the Thurs. March 3rd with dry runs of 4 of the 5 workshops to be offered during the corporation.

The Thurs. afternoon schedule offered 2 additional workshops:

1. AFSC's Quaker Social Change Ministry by Lucy Duncan and Greg Elliott
2. The Moral Monday Movement presented by Reverend William Barber

Dinner officially kicked off the 2016 Corporation Meeting followed with the evening program presented by Rev. William Barber II on Moral Mondays, police militarization and working for justice. All were inspired by his honesty and clarity.

Friday began with the new corporation member orientation breakfast where we learned about the formation of AFSC when Rufus Jones had the idea of forming a Quaker service organization. He adopted the "double structure" of Haverford College where he was teaching at the time. The "corporation" is analogous as a body to the share holders in business and the board of course to the board. It was not formed to take the place of activism in monthly and yearly meetings but rather to take on larger projects that are not possible for yearly and monthly meetings to take on.

The morning was filled with roll call as each member of the corporation present stood and introduced them self and their MM and YM. The business continued with presentation of nominations and by-law changes.

**Chan's report from the Executive Secretary's office:**

(Power point and full text available at [starcafe.org](http://starcafe.org))

"As we enter our 100th year AFSC is pursuing 2 overarching strategies to lay the foundation for peace and justice world-wide. First, we are building a hopeful, healing movement of young people prepared to lead their communities in transformative change. Second, we are replacing the flawed, failed narratives used to support war, militarism and violence with compelling new narratives that demonstrate the power of and practicality of peace."

What was the narrative in 1917? Force to keep us safe.  
AFSC sent our youth into the field of war to pick up the pieces.

What was the narrative in 1946? Force to keep us safe.  
AFSC sent our youth into the field of war to pick up the pieces.

What is the narrative now? Force to keep us safe.

Imagine in 1930 that we did not go to war.

Changing the narrative, one example:

In N. Korea a country with whom the US never ended the war, is the most sanctioned country in the world, AFSC has a project there helping to increase food production on 4 organic farms.

For the celebration of its 100th anniversary the annual corporation meeting will be moved to April to honor the date of the service committee's formation. There will be a museum art exhibit and centennial stories captured on Peace Works (at afsc.org) to engage our hearts.

Speaking about the diversity of practice among Quakers she asked that we consider focusing on what we agree on and work together on peace and justice rather than focusing on our differences. Letting go of old hurts, accepting the great diversity of friends and embrace our similarities.

When asked about what work AFSC is doing on the election front she spoke about the 1000 young people working on Governing Under the Influence attending political events of all types to ask intelligent questions. This has been reflected in a recent article headline " These Quakers are asking tougher questions than many in the press" Through one of these questions Hillary Clinton moved from not having heard of the detention bed quota to being against it and then actually returned a campaign contribution from a for-profit-prison company.

When asked about the concern addressed by SAYMA regarding the % of Quaker employees in AFSC.

She asked: Is this the right question? What does it mean to be a Friend? What does it mean to be a member of a monthly meeting? Is it most important to live through our testimonies? 50% of employees of AFSC are people of color reflecting the communities in which we work. The staff are actually calling us to our deeper Quaker roots. This is an incredible testament of our organization that we are walking the talk of integrity. By working through our Quaker values and honoring the gifts of all, we are drawing people to follow our path.

Just before lunch Friends Relations Committee gave it's report:

By making the annual meeting as vital and interactive as possible, by analyzing the feedback it receives from Monthly and Yearly Meetings and sending corporation members home more informed and inspired to witness and work in our communities we are working at the task of our committee to expand and deepen relations between AFSC Quakers worldwide.

We do this work through the liaison program, monthly calls for spirited action, Quaker Social Change Ministry Pilot program and being present at the corporation meeting and throughout the year to answer questions and guide folks.

After lunch we had an hour for worship sharing with Queries focusing on the Beloved Community.

Each corporation member was invited to participate in 2 workshop's, one on Fri. and one Sat. Many are given by AFSC program staff from all over. The choices were:

1. Transformative Justice: Directly countering retributive justice paradigms.
2. Welcoming Immigrants and Refugees: Responding to Islamaphobia and Anti-Immigrant Sentiment.
- 1.No Way to Treat a Child: Working to end the detention of Palestinian children by Israel.
4. Humanize not Militarize: Responses and Resistance to Militarism.
- 1.Shared Security with QUNO: Working for peace in an interdependent world.

I attended the 1st and 4th learning that 1 in 35 Americans are in the care of the justice system but for the black community this statistic is 1 in 3. (This statistic does not include those employed by the system)

Meals offer times to catch up with friends and have conversations with new friends but also programs are offered for those who wish to attend like training on the meeting liaison program, Third World Coalition for Quakers of Color and WhiteAllies engaged in Racial Equity Work.

Fri.'s evening program: **When I see them, I see us: Policing in a community under occupation, how we resist across movements and promote alternatives.**

Presenters:

Ahmad Abuznaid of Dream Defenders

Joshua Saleem of AFSC's St. Louis office

Tabitha Mustafa of Piece by Peace, AFSC's New Orleans office.

One message that came from Ahmad Abuznaid, a believer in the message of Malcolm X that struck home for me was: I found out I was more successful at convincing people about my message when I wasn't so angry.

Sat. morning we completed our business and heard the treasurer's report during which the concern brought forward at last year's meeting regarding AFSC's fossil fuel related investments was addressed. Investments this year have been divested of oil concerns and other fossil fuels are being worked on presently.

**Clerk, Phil Lord's report:**

AFSC 's Nobel Prize committee's nomination for this year's prize is Peaceforce an organization working with refugee populations.

He proposed a couple of Queries for us as we enter this centennial year:

How can AFSC be more vital in our lives and our MM's?  
How can we witness more effectively?

During lunch there was a presentation about Courageous Acts; The campaign for AFSC's next century.

This is only the second capital campaign that AFSC has done during it's almost 100 years. The original goal was \$35 million but as we have achieved \$34.5 million during the quiet phase the campaign decided to raise our goal to \$40 million. It is Chan's dream that as we begin the public phase in honor of our 100th year we can realize 100% participation from our Monthly Meetings. This gives AFSC's development office an important message to share with large potential donors. Individual giving is encouraged at whatever level is comfortable. Remember \$5 given by 100 people is \$500.

After lunch we met for presentations by our regional Directors. Our South Region has it's main office in Atlanta, is directed by Kamau Franklin and covers Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Washington DC, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. There are currently 10 programs being run at this time.

- 1.ACE, Appalachian Center for Equality
- 2.Peace by Piece Atlanta, Baltimore, and New Orleans
- 3.Peace and Economic Justice, DC
- 4.Peace and Economic Justice, NC
- 5.Miami Friends Immigration Services
- 6.NC Immigrant Rights, Greensboro
- 7.Atlanta Economic Justice
- 8.WV Economic Justice Project
- 9.Friend of a Friend Conflict Resolution in MD. Prisons
- 10.Georgia Restorative and Healing Justice Project, Atlanta

For information about these projects go to the [afsc.org](http://afsc.org) or call 404-586-0460 to get on

the mailing list for the South Star newsletter.

The completion of the 2nd workshops brought us up to the close of the 2016 Annual Corporation meeting and reading of the epistle.