

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Asheville Friends Meeting
Twelfth Month 3, 2017

Present: Pat Campbell; Bob Lakey; Kitti Reynolds; Bobby Carter; Edie Patrick; Margaret Normile; Katherine Kowal; Beth Eddy; NancyLynn Sharpless; Jim Cavener; Steve Livingston; Scotty Utz; Pat Johnson; Gita Larson; Adrienne Weir; Satchel Loftis; Rusty Maynard; Jim Barham; Patti Hughes, Clerk; Barbara Esther, Recording Clerk.

Meeting began with a period of silent worship from which clerk, Patti Hughes, read the following:

"It is not enough to be generous, and give alms; the enlarged soul, the true philanthropist, is compelled by Christian principle to look beyond the bestowing of a scant pittance to the mere beggar of the day, to the duty of considering the causes and sources of poverty. We must consider how much we have done toward causing it."

Lucretia Mott, 1857

Guidelines were posted once again to remind Friends of the way we wish to conduct our meetings for worship with attention to business. Friends accepted the agenda as prepared.

Announcements:

Lydia Hearne, Walker Farrell and big brother Emmett Farrell welcomed Shepherd Thomas Farrell on November 20, 2017. Everyone is doing fine.

Minute : Friends approved Eleventh Month Minutes

Request for transfer of membership. Pat Campbell asked the Detroit Friends Meeting to send a transfer of membership to our meeting. They expressed appreciation for her long and varied service.

Minute 2: Friends joyfully approved the transfer of Patricia Campbell from Detroit Friends Meeting to Asheville Friends Meeting. A welcoming committee was appointed as follows: Katherine Kowal, Steve Livingston, Margaret Normile and Barbara Esther.

Committee Reports:

Peace and Earth Committee - Pat Johnson

P & E are recommending that Meeting approve our minute to join the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Asheville and other faith groups as a support partner to offer Sanctuary for certain immigrants at risk of deportation. The committee has three documents: first, some background info, a checklist of items and services that have been requested. Second, the minute. The third is the list of other faith groups that have offered various support. (Note: We are already on the list because Bob Lackey donated a bed to the UU Church.) We have

copies of the checklist since our plan is to have everyone who wishes to help check what they can do and then we'll compile our answers so we can specifically tell the UUs what we're prepared to do. We're asking folks to turn the sheets back in to Katherine K. or me by Dec. 31st. Of course, this is predicated on meeting approval of our minute. Some of the requests may involve the whole meeting so we can approve that or not as folks are led. P & E has discerned that \$200.00 of our General Outreach will go to the UU Congregation in support of Sanctuary.

We are well aware that this is a sensitive issue as well as a big undertaking. So I want to read the 4 aspects (one of which is physical sanctuary) of what the UUs approved and the email that went out to the congregation explaining how the process will work. I expect Friends to have questions and there may be concerns but I hope we can have open minds and hearts so that Spirit can guide us in this important work.

Asheville Friends Meeting agrees to partner with the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Asheville and other faith communities in providing sanctuary to immigrants in danger of immediate deportation. We pledge our resources of time, talent and treasure to work alongside our friends, families, neighbors, and partner organizations to create sacred space of sanctuary. We also pledge to educate and activate our community to amplify and respond to the voices of immigrant leaders, and to speak out against discrimination and to resist any harmful and unjust policy proposals that further undermine due process and lead to racial profiling and discrimination.

This means that we will continue to build relationships with immigrant partners here in Asheville and work to be allies and accomplices as they organize for their own liberation. We will speak out when we can, and amplify the voices of the marginalized in our community.

Specifically we will provide the following items and services as needed:

- * Volunteers in shifts (shifts will cover person in sanctuary with someone present 24 hours/day)
- * Meals, groceries, shopping as needed
- * Transportation for family members, as needed
- * Financial support
- * Space for UUCA programs/rentals displaced by sanctuary
- * Cell phone or burner phone
- * Towels and bedding
- * Privacy drapes for windows

- * Larger Water Heater
- * Bed(s) (size and number will vary depending on individual, couple, or family)
- * Futon or small sleeper couch for volunteer(s)
- * Other assorted furniture needs

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Asheville has considered how to assist those seeking sanctuary for some time. They want to assist those facing deportation in a way that the people themselves choose to act. They own some property that will provide the shelter. Their efforts are supported by a broad coalition of faith groups. This may necessitate the use of space in other's buildings for meetings that had been held in the house used for sanctuary. We spent some time in silence to consider the action we are asked to approve. A Friend offered that he wants to fully understand the action we will be undertaking. Another Friend with considerable experience in immigration affairs recommended that we enter this action with other meetings and faith groups in steps. After hearing the proposed minute and reviewing the checklist of requested services and items Friends discussed reservations regarding legality of the action and precise types of contributions being requested. Pat emphasized the building of relationships between immigrants and citizens. Another Friend spoke of her experience in another meeting whereby the meeting took six months to come to unity to offer sanctuary, and which was a very beneficial experience for the meeting. Because there are Friends who have concerns, we will defer a decision until First Month, leaving time to review all the information and discuss any experiences and reservations.

Bob Lakey reviewed the actions of the Peace and Earth Committee over the past year. He also brought a list of all organizations, both Quaker Wider Organizations and local organizations supported through our P & E Committee. These contributions total \$6000. Homeward Bound is no longer in existence, but Room at the Inn is functioning to serve many in need of housing.

2017 End of Year Peace & Earth Report

Collected food for MANNA food bank

Sponsored postcard writings on fifth First Days

Signed Declaration of Solidarity by People of Faith in Western NC

Placed trilingual tolerance sign "No Matter Where You're From, We Are Glad You're Our Neighbor" at Meeting House

Planned a pollinator garden and implemented it along with Religious Education & children

Hosted potluck dinner for the Peace Pilgrimage to Abolish Nuclear Weapons Walk from AVL to Oakridge, TN. Some Friends walked partway.

Switched from paper napkins and bathroom towels to cloth napkins and towels

Hosted potluck dinner with Cuba Pastors for Peace on 04/26/17

Recommended minute of support for NC Commission of Inquiry on Torture (NCCIT)
 (approved)
 Sponsored evening of networking for sanctuary from deportation suggested by Bobby King
 formerly of International Rescue Committee
 Endorsed proclamation for International Day of Peace
 Supported Americans Who Tell the Truth Exhibit
 Cosponsored Ethical Society of Asheville Workshop on Nonviolent Communication
 Cosponsored Nakba Tour (Palestinian speakers who were exiled from their home)
 Recommended that AFM Committee sponsored events not be charged rental fee (approved).
 P & E members walked in Labor Day and Holiday parades with Vets for Peace
 Presented Spiritual Enrichment program to solicit feedback on our General Outreach
 distribution
 Agreed to sponsor Vets for Peace (No rental charge for Meeting House)
 Organization

2017 Quaker Outreach

Organization	Amount
Quaker Earthcare Witness	\$450.00
AFSC	450.00
FCNL	450.00
FGC	300.00
Quaker House	300.00
Right Sharing	300.00
Madison Quakers	200.00
Friends United Meeting	150.00
FWCC	150.00
Friends Journal	125.00
Pendle Hill	125.00
Total	<u>\$3,000.00</u>

2017 General Outreach

Organization	Amount
Hope to Home	\$400.00
Manna Food Bank	400.00
Clean Water for NC	250.00
Mountain True	250.00
Pisgah Legal Services	250.00
Beloved	200.00
UU Sanctuary	200.00
Center for Participatory Change	150.00

Creation Care	150.00
Meals on Wheels	150.00
Vets for Peace	150.00
GreenWorks	100.00
Patti's Prison Pottery	100.00
Riverlink	100.00
Just Peace for Israel/Palestine	50.00
NC CIT	50.00
WNC for Peace	50.00
Total	<hr/> \$3,000

Racial Justice Committee - Steve Livingston

A revised committee description was brought for our consideration.

To address individual, cultural, and institutional white supremacy (aka racism: racial prejudice plus institutional power) within Asheville Friends Meeting, the Asheville community, and SAYMA.

One Friend suggested that formal and informal institutional racism be in the description. Another Friend reminded us that white supremacy has more than one meaning, and suggested that other wording could still be considered. White supremacy has received more power in the present administration. Another Friend said that the description should reflect the actual work and goals of the Racial Justice Committee and reminded Friends that committee work and the descriptions are subservient to the approval of the meeting as a whole. The clerk pointed out that our committee descriptions already collected have not been approved by the meeting as a whole. One Friend is disappointed in the lack of progress in accepting the use of white supremacy in the description. We are reminded that white people and people of color have very different ways of viewing the term white supremacy.

Finance Committee - Satchel Loftis

Budget 2018 review

With the hope that we can approve a final budget in January, the treasurer urges every committee to submit any expenditures not yet submitted for reimbursement so that the year end reports can be accurate. Unspent budget money will be seen as a contribution to the meeting. Our rental income is down as are general contributions to the meeting. Close to half of our budget is made up of contributions to WQOs and local organizations. Another significant part of the budget is going to taking care of our meetinghouse and committee expenses.

SAYMA Assessment-Patti Hughes

We closed with a moment of silence to meet again as way opens on First Month 14, 2018.

Attachments:

Supporting Sanctuary

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Asheville (UUCA) has approved offering Sanctuary to immigrants at risk of deportation and has asked AFM & others to partner with them to work together to build community as we combine our resources of time, talent and treasure to meet the needs of immigrants in our community. They have shared the following information:

1. Sanctuary involves providing a safe living space for a person at risk of immediate deportation.
2. Usually a legal team and/or an immigrant organization, which is familiar with the case & has reason to believe it is winnable, recommends the person(s) for sanctuary. Not every immigrant facing deportation is recommended for sanctuary.
3. Declaring sanctuary and providing shelter to someone in need is an act of faith and an act of justice, not political, so does not affect our non-profit status. Non-profits are only prohibited from engaging in political campaign activity, or supporting or opposing a candidate for elected office.
4. There are over 130 congregations in 19 Western North Carolina (WNC) counties who have shown an interest in supporting sanctuary.
5. The WNC supporting congregations as a Coalition will see to the needs of the person(s) in sanctuary, such as food, laundry, medicines, transportation for family members, 24 hour supervision volunteers, etc. As a hosting congregation, UUCA will provide physical space that includes some privacy and bathroom, including shower, and kitchen facilities.

A primary task in our partnership is to find ways to expand & deepen our relationships with immigrants and faith-based immigrant groups. Two websites to help are www.cimawnc.org and www.nuestrocentro.weebly.com.

On the following page, Friends can check the box by items or services you could provide.

If you can provide any of the following needs, please check the box and turn this sheet in to Katherine Kowal or Pat Johnson. (Please check all that apply)

Sanctuary Needs List

- € Volunteers in shifts (shifts will cover person in sanctuary with someone present 24 hours/day)
- € Meals, groceries, shopping as needed
- € Transportation for family members, as needed
- € Financial support
- € Space for UUCA programs/rentals displaced by sanctuary
- € Cell phone or burner phone
- € Towels and bedding
- € Privacy drapes for windows
- € Larger Water Heater
- € Bed(s) (size and number will vary depending on individual, couple, or family)
- € Futon or small sleeper couch for volunteer(s)
- € Other assorted furniture needs
- € Other (please specify) _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____ Phone _____