

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Asheville Friends Meeting
Second Month 11, 2018

Present were fifteen Friends: Adrienne Weir; Steve Livingston; Edie Patrick; Jim Cavener; Nick Mimken; Jim Barham; Katherine Kowal; Pat Johnson; Satchel Loftis; Kitti Reynolds; Bobby Carter; Beth Eddy; Mike Eddy; Patti Hughes, clerk; Barbara Esther, recording clerk.

Meeting began with a period of silent worship from which clerk, Patti Hughes, read the following queries, after which Friends returned to silent worship:

*How do I show up to a space?
Have I come with an open mind and heart?
Am I prepared to really listen?*

Friends accepted the agenda as prepared.

Friends are not yet prepared to approve the Twelfth Month and First Month Minutes. We hope to have all three months of minutes ready for approval in Third Month.

Announcements:

We note the death of our dear Friend, Alan Robinson, this past week. Plans for a memorial service are not yet available.

Patti Hughes announced that she had to lay down the pottery program in the women's prison due to problems in the prison system as a whole, not in this particular facility. There is a possibility of reinstating the program later.

We began the agenda with the following reading:

*"The spiritual path wrecks the body and afterwards restores it
to health. It destroys the house to unearth the treasure, and with
that treasure it builds it better than before."*

Rumi, from Like This

First Draft of the State of the Meeting Report - Patti Hughes

Using the queries that SAYMA sent out, clerks or representatives of committees met to provide input for the state of the meeting report. The clerk used that input to draft a report for our review. The revised draft will be in the March minutes.

A Friend suggested that the use of the guidelines during our meetings for worship for the conduct of business be included in the report. Also suggested was to add to "productive" use of conflict

holding each other in love during that conflict. We were united that the draft was a clear expression of how Spirit moved in our meeting during the past year.

Treasurer's Report - Satchel Loftis
(see attachment)

Friends gave generously during December and January (with checks dated in 2017) so that our 2017 budget was more nearly met. The general fund will fluctuate with big projects such as the porch building and our current renovations and repair to the kitchen and bathroom.

The treasurer plans to organize planned giving in which Friends can participate so that our meeting can move forward with a sense of the resources on which we can rely.

Committee Reports:

Ministry and Counsel - Kitti Reynolds

As many Friends know there is work being done toward producing an AFM Handbook. Updated committee descriptions are being collected along with descriptions of positions of responsibility, policies, checklists for events such as marriages, memorial services and so on. The clerk asked Friends to consider what else needs to be included in the handbook. Ministry and Counsel Committee considered doing this work in chunks, but with an overview to work from. As we grow this handbook, we can indicate what has been completed, dating the work as we go. Electronic storage will help us to save paper, but some print material may be helpful.

Finance Committee - David Clements

The following report was submitted by David for inclusion in the minutes.

1. Present; Adrienne, Pat Johnson, Pat Campbell, David Clements
2. We discussed urgent need for repairs to the building. Rotted floor in the vestibule. We have about \$50,000 in Building Fund, H&G emergency fund, and Meeting House Improvement Fund.
3. We will fold the separate scholarship fund for FGC attenders (currently \$500, created during the year that FGC was at Western) into the Scholarship Fund.
4. We were asked to consider approving a separate fund for Racial Justice Training, to be administered by the Racial Justice Committee. Adrienne reported that it is likely that 2-5 people will be able to do the training this year, at a cost of about \$500 to \$1250. So far, many have not been able to get into the training. Money is available for this. We are comfortable with Meeting acting to create a separate fund for this. We would recommend waiting for a request from the Racial Justice Committee before making a decision. We would recommend beginning with \$1000 in the fund, and that Meeting be willing to adjust the amount. If Meeting desires, it could encourage Friends to make earmarked contributions to this fund.

Racial Justice Committee - Adrienne Weir

The following draft letter was presented for Friends to review.

To our Friends at Philadelphia Yearly Meeting; Abington Quarter, Upper Dublin Friends, and our Dear Friend Avis Wanda McClinton:

Greetings from Asheville Friends Meeting. We see your struggle with institutional racism among Friends and are concerned.

Asheville Friends struggle with institutional racism in our monthly and yearly meetings, as well. While we confront the white supremacy woven into the fabric of our Society, we are grateful for the public witness of Friends of Color such as, Avis Wanda McClinton, Marille Thomas, and Sharon Smith. We learn beneficial lessons from our Friendship with these courageous women of color.

We read Avis Wanda McClinton's testimony to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, and entered it into the minutes of our Meeting for Business. Avis Wanda is a well-loved Friend in our yearly meeting. She is held in high regard, so we are deeply troubled about the racism Avis Wanda is subjected to by Friends.

Know you are not alone in your struggle with institutional racism; we journey with you. We hold you in the Light of Truth and offer our love and support as we seek to dismantle racism among Friends. We give Avis Wanda our unwavering support while holding Quakers in the Light, as long as needed. We pray that all of us may be illumined by the truth.

With love and Light,

Asheville Friends Meeting

Minor editing was made to the use of upper and lower case letters. The month of our reading of the testimony of Avis Wanda could be included. Friends were concerned that we take care not to engage in finger-pointing. Offering "unwavering support" to someone we do not all know seemed too much to offer to some Friends. Adrienne explained that the trend has been to offer support to Friends of Color, and to later forget what was intended, leading the committee to use the word unwavering.

What would be the resulting next step in terms of the response that might come from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting? Are we called to speak truth to power in the entity of PYM? The RJC has worked for some time on this letter, over months. What are we willing to do to create a more equitable and safe harbor for Friends of Color? If we go beyond our own experience, we may be imposing judgement on others. "We hold all Quakers in the Light, and give our unwavering support to Friend Avis Wanda, as long as needed." was offered as a substitute to the original sentence to make sure that Avis Wanda is included as a Quaker. The RJC will continue to

work on the letter in light of the suggestions and concerns voiced today. The account of our discussion will be sent to RJC for the committee to review.

A training fund has been created for the racial justice training sought. With this fund in the amount of \$1,200 this year and maintained at the \$1,000 in subsequent years Friends will be able to participate in training as space is available.

Minute 1: Friends approved the creation of a Racial Justice Training Fund as a restricted fund. It is funded at \$1,200 in 2018 and will be maintained at a minimum of \$1000 in future. It is our practice to invite Friends to make contributions earmarked for a specific fund.

House and Grounds Committee - Nick Mimken and Jim Barham

Nick explained that the committee is prioritizing their tasks. Jim spoke of the current project of redoing the kitchen floor. The work is much more extensive than was anticipated due to rot and compromised support of the house. Within another week we may be called upon to put things back in the kitchen. Water has been allowed to damage areas in the kitchen and bathroom, but the problem of continued water damage will be addressed by removing and replacing parts of the concrete walk and the installation of a French drain.

The safety of the children on the second floor in case of emergency was brought as a concern. A safe exit from the second floor is being planned. First the decking on the north porch will be made safe and then a stairway will be constructed where there once was an exit. The old stairs were removed because the fire department deemed them unsafe and ordered us to do so. At that time, the replacement of the porch was not required. The boards may not be the only problem, since a Friend who did some replacement of boards revealed that joists may also need to be replaced. The overall support of the porch may need to be examined, as well. As the plans move forward, inspectors will let us know what will be required. We may want to hire a structural engineer or others to allow us to move forward in building a safe emergency exit from the second floor. The clerk asked the committee to proceed.

We closed with a moment of silence to meet again as way opens on Third Month 11, 2018.