

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Asheville Friends Meeting

Ninth Month 9, 2018

(Approved Tenth Month 14, 2018)

Present: Barbara Esther, Pat Campbell, Rylin Hansen, Steve Livingston, Jim Cavener, Pat Johnson, Katherine Kowal, Nick Mimken, Annika Peacock, Michael Peacock, Scotty Utz, Patti Hughes, clerk, Robin Wells, recording clerk.

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

I have a story to share with you today about Bayard Rustin. Once he spent a weekend doing political canvassing in NYC. He was part of a group of social activists working in the Lower east Side where tall tenements loomed over the narrow streets, filtering out most of the sunlight and darkening the debris-littered sidewalks. He had a canvassing partner for the weekend who shared that for the first part of the day he had difficulty following Bayard because he was erratic in his pattern, changing sides of the street and pausing at almost every intersection. After a while his partner recognized the pattern: Bayard walked only on the sunlit side of the street and lingered for a few moments on each corner where he took pleasure in lifting his face toward the sun. After observing Bayard finding enjoyment in difficult circumstances his partner recognized that Bayard had the strength to survive the abuse and jail sentences he endured as a civil rights organizer in large part because he so deeply cherished the gift of life.

Milton Kramer 1986

(Bayard Rustin knew) “to keep looking towards that renewing Spirit which forever shines above the bleakness and despair of the ghetto and the jail cell.”

George Fox 1658

The Meeting accepted the agenda.

Minute #1: Friends approved the 7th month minutes with the addition of the SAYMA annual sessions report. Friends approved the 8th month minutes.

Announcements

Adrienne has expressed her need for temporary housing now that she and her family have moved out of their home in Clyde. She is the only one needing housing at this moment, since Sarawila and her family have another place to stay. People are asked to contact Adrienne directly if they are able to help.

Next week, Spiritual Enrichment will be hosting a second-hour discussion about programming for the coming year. They are interested in receiving feedback from everyone in the Meeting.

Next Saturday Barbara Esther, SAYMA Clerk, will be clerking the Representative Meeting in Berea, KY. Steve Livingston and Patti Hughes will also be attending Rep Meeting.

Committee Reports

Peace and Earth/Pat Johnson

The Peace and Earth Committee is sponsoring the CROP walk taking place on Sunday, September 30th at 2 p.m. beginning at St Mark's Lutheran Church. Registration begins at 1:30 pm. The sponsorship money was donated by one of our members of our committee. Margaret Normile will be collecting donations at the end of each Sunday meeting for worship till the date of the Walk. Donations will be accepted even if the person is not walking. We are hoping to get walkers from the children's group and their parents as well as the adults in our meeting. We hope this will be an opportunity to bring people together for a fun time.

Naming Committee / Steve Livingston

The Naming Committee exists to remove possible conflict of interest of Nominating Committee members nominating their own committee members. (...ensuring openness and to prevent any sense of an inner group). Kitti Reynolds is stepping down from the Naming Committee so that she can be nominated to the Nominating Committee.

Minute #2: The Meeting approved Kitti Reynold's request to step down from the Naming Committee and then approved the Naming Committee's request for Kitti to join the Nominating Committee.

Nominating Committee/ Robin Wells

Nominating reported that five people are leaving committees and positions of responsibility. The Meeting appreciates their service to the life of our community.

- George Gjelfriend and Kristi Gjelfriend -- Ministry and Counsel Committee
- Steve Livingston-- Racial Justice Committee
- Patti Hughes--Clerk of the Meeting
- Kitti Reynolds--Assistant Clerk of the Meeting

Minute #3: The Meeting would like to minute our deep-felt appreciation to Patti Hughes for her service as clerk to the Meeting. She has served during difficult times with grace and fairness. She also has taken on double-duty as Clerk of the Meeting and clerk of Ministry and Counsel.

Communications Committee / Steve Livingston

The Communications Committee met last Sunday 8/26/2018, Mike Eddy, Jen Rhode-Ward, and Steve Livingston were present. We want to inform the Meeting that the problem encountered with forwarding of emails from our Meeting's email accounts has been addressed. Friends who wish to offer material for our Meeting website, our Facebook page, or our weekly e-digest can do so by simply replying to the digest mailing, or by emailing either avlfriendsmeeting@gmail.com, ashevillefriendsmeeting@gmail.com, or ashevillefriends@gmail.com. All three addresses will forward to the three active members of the Committee. While all three of us are capable of - and cooperative about - posting to our Meeting's internet presence, we have each taken on principal responsibility for one of them. Jen Ward has primary responsibility for the Facebook page, Mike Eddy for the weekly news digest, and Steve Livingston for the website.

Please be aware that we have not yet discerned what to recommend to the Meeting as guidelines for appropriate content on our website or in the digest. At present we are handling any requests on an ad-hoc basis. However we do have a recommendation for the Facebook page, and we ask that Meeting consider minuting it. Experience tells us that the Facebook page is the most likely place for seekers to have their first contact with the Meeting, and our discernment is that the Facebook page should be a reflection of the life of our Meeting. We do not believe it is in the best interests of the Meeting for the Facebook page to become a sounding board for political issues or a forum for debate. Therefore we offer this Minute to the Meeting: As a reflection of the life of our Meeting, the Asheville Friends Meeting facebook page will be utilized to present a record of the activities, decisions, and concerns of our Meeting community. Friends are encouraged to submit items for publication with the guidance that their contribution would be considered appropriate for rise-of-meeting announcements. We have not yet fully discerned some of the other issues around the Facebook page, such as who has the ability to make an opening post, what are the boundaries of appropriateness for replying to posts, and how we will address violations of future guidelines. As to the first, we will leave that as it is, with Jen as the primary poster, Steve as a backup, and that is all. We will deal with the other questions on an ad-hoc basis as necessary until we can bring recommendations to the Meeting. In general: cordiality, mutual respect, and regard for individuals' privacy and indwelling Spirit describe what we see as natural boundaries. The Committee plans to meet monthly for some time to come, generally on the morning of the first Sunday of the month at 8:30 am. Exceptions will be made for months in which a holiday occurs on the day after that Sunday (as was the case for this

meeting). We are an open committee like most in our Meeting, meaning any Friend with a concern or leading is welcome to attend and participate.

Minute #4: As a reflection of the life of our Meeting, the Asheville Friends Meeting Facebook page will be utilized to present a record of the activities, decisions, and concerns of our Meeting community. Friends are encouraged to submit items for publication with the guidance that their contribution would be considered appropriate for rise-of-meeting announcements.

Retreat Update / Katherine Kowal

Registration forms will be out soon for the meeting's retreat being held at the Glen Rock Inn in Montreat on November 2,3,4 with the theme "Becoming a Compassionate Quaker." The price will be \$136 per person which includes housing for two nights and five meals (Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast, lunch, and dinner and Sunday breakfast). The cost for Saturday only will be \$70 per person. Children up to 12 years old will be free. Anyone needing scholarship should contact the Scholarship Committee as soon as possible.

Committee Descriptions

Nominating Committee

By identifying people's gifts and reaching out to individuals, Nominating Committee fills the needs of committees. They are also responsible for filling all positions of responsibility. A Naming Committee is appointed when the Nominating Committee needs members.

There was confusion over some of the wording regarding "all positions of responsibility." It was suggested that examples of those positions be included in the description, such as meeting clerk, assistant clerk, recording clerk, treasurer, and assistant treasurer. This suggestion will go back to the Nominating Committee for them to consider these changes.

We closed with a moment of silence to meet again as ways opens in tenth month, 2018.