

Minutes
Meeting for Worship With Attention to Business
Asheville Friends Meeting
Ninth Day, Tenth Month, 2005

Meeting commenced at 11:38 AM

Attendance: (First time AFM Meeting for Business attenders have (1) next to their name.)

Rain Newcomb, Laura Maynard, Gary Briggs, Katherine Kowal (1), Brandon Fox (1), Alice Brown, David Clements, Satchel Loftis, Marcia Master, Sarah Jane Thomas, Joy Gossett, Kevin Kiyoshi Okada (1), Jim Cavener, Kieron Mann (1), George Gjelfriend, Philip Neal, Ellen Frerotte, Val Collins, Nancy Kuykendall, Sam Rizzo, Rusty Maynard, Barbara Esther, Steve Houseworth, Barry Master, Kristi Gjelfriend, Steve Livingston/clerk, Lynnora Bierce/recording clerk.

Worship

Reading - *Queries for the Conduct of Our Business*

Do you seek the right course of action with a patient search for unity and a willingness to accept the authority of the truth?

Do you come to meeting eager to search for Divine will rather than to try to win acceptance for a previously formed opinion of your own? Are you prepared to assist by silent, prayerful consideration, speaking only if you feel you have a helpful contribution to make?

Do you give each member credit for purity of motive, notwithstanding differences of opinion? Is your love for your neighbor so strong that you are as eager to understand as to be understood?

When your clerk is searching for the sense of the meeting, do you overcome diffidence and express your view without undue delay? Do you maintain silence while the minute is being composed?

Do you refrain from pressing your own views unduly, if the judgment of the meeting obviously inclines to some other view?

When the meeting has come to a decision, do you accept it as rather than "theirs"?

Friends approved the Agenda as written

Introductions

Kieron Mann - introduced himself, he attends Midweek Worship regularly.

Kiyoshi Okada - attends Midweek, & curious about how business is attended.

Brandon Fox - offered childcare to AFM, & wanted to sit in on Meeting for Business for 15 minutes.

Approval of June Minutes

The clerk informed meeting that he was remiss in not getting the right nomination committee report but the SAYMA epistle has been added as requested. **Friends approved the June Minutes as appended.**

Clearness Committee Report for Membership - Laura Maynard

Rain Newcomb read the following report:

October 4, 2005

Dear Friends,

Margaret Farmer, Steve Livingston, and I (Rain Newcomb) met with Laura Maynard on September 14th, 2005 to seek clearness for her request for membership in Asheville Friends Meeting and the Society of Friends.

We enjoyed a lovely and prayerful conversation about Laura's deepening connection to our community. Her life's journey brought her to Earlham College, where she was introduced to Quaker thought, process, and spirituality. She has been attending Asheville Friends Meeting for five years, and during those five years has experienced a deepening connection to the meeting. Her experience and understanding of Quakerism enriched all of us who sat on her committee.

Laura believes that Asheville Friends Meeting is her spiritual home and now feels led to make a commitment to our community. We have already benefited from her presence in meeting and on the committees she serves (Spiritual Enrichment and Nominating). The clearness committee united with her desire to become a member of the meeting and felt that her leading is strong and true.

We joyously bring her application for membership to Asheville Friends Meeting and hope that it will be accepted by the meeting. We feel that Laura, our community, and the greater Society of Friends will all be enriched by her membership.

Sincerely,

Rain Newcomb

Friends approved with real thanksgiving. Ministry & Counsel will plan and set up a time of welcome for Laura.

Friends approved Keldwyn Teves' request for transfer of membership from Asheville Friends Meeting to Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting after the clerk read the following letter:

September 2, 2005

To the Clerk of Asheville Meeting

Dear Steve,

I am writing to request that my membership be transferred from Asheville Meeting to Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting. Shortly after joining Asheville Meeting, I began attending SVFM. I tried to transfer my membership a few years ago, and wasn't able to hook up with your Clerk at that time. I am sorry for my subsequent delay in taking care of this matter.

I am grateful to the members of Asheville Meeting for their love and concern while I was ill, and look back with fond memories on my years at Asheville Meeting.

Thank you for your service to Friends and to our community.

With gratitude,

Keldwyn Teves

Nominating Committee Report - Laura Maynard

"The Nominating Committee met on September 28. In attendance were, Sarah Jane Thomas, Barbara Esther, Laura Maynard and Karen Cernek. We began with silent worship, which lead us to drafting the following minute of appreciation:

The Nominating Committee wished to express its gratitude to Steve Houseworth. Steve's contributions (to) this Committee have been outstanding. He showed great initiative in his service, often participating in our work from out of town. Although fairly new to the community, Steve took advantage of his work on the Nomination Committee to get to know individuals in our Meeting. While remaining active in other aspects of the Meeting, his spirit and energy will be greatly missed and fondly remembered by this Committee."

Friends approved the Minute of Appreciation to Steve Houseworth.

"The following Friends wish to be released from Ministry and Council: Margaret Farmer, Rusty Maynard, Evan Richardson, and Alice Brown. Martha Huggins would like to be released from the position of co-clerk of Ministry and Council, but would like to continue to serve on the committee in a limited capacity."

Friends approved the release of Margaret Farmer, Rusty Maynard, and Evan Richardson from Ministry and Counsel.

Alice Brown is willing to stay on Ministry & Counsel, and her name will be removed and the report has been amended with Meeting's approval.

"Kristi Gjelfriend wishes to be released from House and Grounds Committee."

Friends approved with thanks release of Kristi Gjelfriend from House and Grounds.

The Nominating Committee would like to ask Meetings approval for the following nomination:

For Peace and Earth, Sarah Jane Thomas

Meeting approved Sarah Jane Thomas to serve on Peace and Earth Committee.

A Friend asked to hold Ministry & Counsel in the light during this time of transition and to be grateful and thank the members of Ministry & Counsel for their work, as well as all other committee members for their work.

The clerk said we should be grateful to individuals who are able to discern their release from committees, and

have patience that vacancies will be filled as people are led, and it is important to remember that empty seats are more easily filled than ones with folk already in them.

Friends approved the report of Nominating Committee.

Epistle from Meeting Residential Retreat—read by Phil Neal

Reflection of AFM's September 30-October 2, 2005 Retreat

Side by side, cereal bowl by cereal bowl, singing sad song after sad song until “Blowing in the Wind” and selections from “Les Miserables” seemed like pick-me-ups... We were warmed by each other’s company.

Our 16 children participated in various activities with 41 adults. Including: helping to illustrate how all the pieces of our community puzzle fit together, dramatizing several fairy tales, and helping us see that a single sheet can be a tennis court, a tent, a horse saddle, or a mountain covered in snow. The children also played, ran, and squealed with each other exploring Montreat’s rhododendron forests, several creeks, and Lake Susan.

We confessed to each other our limited ability to live in the here-and-now. For some, the energy taken for granted in youth is noticeably lessening as we age. For others, the busy-ness of daily life, working, and raising children can divert us from our intention to be centered.

Many of us were clear, from the start of this gathering, that the work of the Meeting is to offer refuge and nurturance and valuing of each individual in it. We also were clear that coming together in retreat refreshes us in what we most want in our lives.

Many also noted that in the Asheville Friends Meeting they felt they would never be rejected for their beliefs. Therefore, they were free to be themselves. And yet we want more for ourselves and our meeting. As we feel the life in our midst (especially during a retreat) the opportunity arises for us to call each other to a deeper life in the Spirit—implicating all dimensions of life. This calling to each other gives a positive meaning to the term “Eldering”.

We noted, again, our concerns about the sustainability of our meeting. Some things are not being done, many things that are done feel effortful. We experience being stretched thin. And yet, as we have gathered together here, we have richly enjoyed our shared life and the spirit in our midst. So, we are prompted to seek clarity by asking ourselves: What is it that is so life-giving in our community (and its work) such that our community is necessary to us beyond any question?

In closing, we affirm that the life in our midst is so vital and desirable that our participation in it is not just another-good-thing-to-do in our full lives, instead, our meeting and its life is as necessary as breathing, or truth, or hope, or music, or joy.

—Offered by Peter Buck, David Clements, Barbara Esther.

Friends accepted the Epistle.

At the request of a Friend, a minute of appreciation was constructed:

Asheville Friends Meeting wishes to express its gratitude to the members of the Retreat Planning and Spiritual Enrichment Committees including but not limited to:

**Carrie Coward, Satchel Loftis, Evan Richardson, Ellen Frerotte, Carolyn Haag, Laura Maynard, Will Kaylor, Jen Kaylor, Lynnora Bierce, Mark Cobb, Trisha Ridgeway, Peter Buck, Margaret Farmer
For planning, leading, laboring, and bringing our 2005 Annual Retreat to Fruition.**

Friends approved.

Alice B. expressed appreciation to Sam R. for helping set up chairs for the October 2nd Meeting without retreat folks in attendance.

Clerk asked us to look forward to next year’s retreat, and reminded members and attenders to fill out and bring evaluations to Spiritual Enrichment Committee.

Suggestion from ad hoc Committee on First Day Structure

There was a sense that this topic is not clear or available (September minutes are not available.) Barbara E. recapped, and feels strongly that worship is not just for adults, and that the adults providing Religious Education require worship too.

A Friend said, our children need to see that worship is important for themselves and the adults, and to set the right example.

A Friend said that without the report available discussion is not easy, and that perhaps the report can be made directly available through email.

A Friend agreed with Barbara about including children in worship, and asked what would happen during Business meeting First Days.

The clerk sensed that we were not prepared to make a first day structure change at this time, taking up the suggestion of making the matters more widely known, and to make some concerns known to the committee directly so that we may move forward and include all members of the community.

Barbara E. said that she was remiss and forgot to make copies of the report and perhaps make another survey. And she explained the structure of First Day Business meetings.

Another member of the committee said that we should be aware that there are many details involved with this planning that might slip by, and that it is important that we get feedback from parents of elementary aged children of which there were few in attendance at this Business Meeting.

A Friend thanked the First Day Structure Ad Hoc Committee for meeting in forum on three occasions.

Friends approved a suggestion for a Called Meeting for Business on the 5th Sunday of this month October during the forum time.

Report from Rep Meeting 10 min—Barbara Esther read a Highlighted version.

Highlights of the Representative Meeting of SAYMA
September 10, 2005

Friends were asked to let FGC know of any efforts or available help from our meetings to assist victims of Hurricane Katrina in the New Orleans area.

Yearly Meeting Representative Meeting would like to meet in Asheville on December 2, 2006. Can we approve this plan?

The assessment from Asheville Friends Meeting was not listed as having been received. Are we sending in the payments on a quarterly basis? Quarterly payments are helpful and predictable for planning by the treasurer and Finance Committee. There were very few responses to a letter sent out by the Finance Committee of the yearly meeting. I think that our Finance Committee may have responded, but I do not know whether the letter was brought to the attention of the business meeting. The treasurer requested that we communicate to the yearly meeting what our assessment will be and identify our checks as assessment of as any other additional contribution.

The directory updates for the yearly meeting directory are crucial for accurate information. Asheville Friends Meeting's has not been updated since 2003. We have experienced many changes since then. It is hoped that our updates will be sent in a timely way so that others in the yearly meeting can contact Friends with they need to.

The E-Communications Committee wants us to season the idea of three different lists for the yearly meeting: one for discussions, one for general information and dates of interest, and one for information regarding the meetings and worship groups.

Our theme for the yearly meeting in June 2006 will be "Testimonies from Creation: Savoring the Spice in All Life." Our Junior Yearly Meeting, serving the children up to SAYF age, will be coordinated by Heidemarie and Steven Huber Freely.

There was some discussion of the decline of attendance at business meeting at the yearly meeting gathering. It is hoped that dialogue and listening could help us to discern reasons why our attendance is low.

This Friend is hoping that there is a plan for our discussion and approval of any suggestions to the Faith and Practices Revision Committee. The major work to be reviewed is the section entitled "Testifying to the Life of the Spirit." Our responses are to be approved by the business meeting, either in our regular sessions or in a called meeting. They are due in time for the revisions committee to use them in their February 2006 meeting. Asheville Friends will need a significant amount of time dedicated to this task to

be able to cover the material that has been revised.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Esther, Representative to SAYMA from Asheville Friends

Satchel L. said that he wanted to answer 2 questions:

Full year's assessment has been made and paid.

Susan Mitchell is making assessment of members.

Friends agreed to host the Representatives in December of 2006.

Friends accepted the report

A break was taken

Board of Directors Meeting—(Was inserted within the October Meeting for Business)

David explained that the board of directors would hold its' meeting during October Meeting for Business.

The Board of Directors (of a nonprofit corporation) is in place in order for Asheville Friends Meeting to legally hold the property of the meeting.

Board of directors in attendance at this October business meeting.

Steve Livingston is ex-officio, Marcia Master, David Clements and Valerie Collins.

Carrie Coward has offered to serve as a member of the BOD, David nominates. Carrie Coward, Steve Livingston seconds, and approval of the remaining members accept Carrie Coward as a member of Asheville Friends Board Of Directors.

Toby Ives and Evan Richardson have asked to be released as their terms are ending.

To approve of membership:

Marcia Master nominated as Chairperson

David Clements continues as Treasurer

Valerie Collins continues as Secretary—Approved

It was approved that the By-Laws be amended pending approval of the Meeting:

Article II Section 4 to read: The number of Directors of the Board shall be a minimum of five (5). —**Approved**

It was approved that the By-Laws be amended pending approval of the Meeting:

Article II Section 7 to read: The Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held at the office of the Friends Meeting on the same day as Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business in October (second first day).—**Approved**

It was approved that the By-Laws be amended pending approval of the Meeting:

Article II Section 1: Officers of the Board shall be Officers of the Corporation. —**Approved**

Financial report

No acquisition of sale of property since last meeting—Approved

Secretary's report

Minutes, Board of directors, Asheville Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, June 7-10, 2005

1. The Board of directors met by electronic mail during the period of June 7-14, 2005. The following participated in the discussion: Toby Ives (clerk), Valerie Collins (Secretary), David Clements (Treasurer), Evan Richardson, and Marcia Master.

2. The following resolution is approved:

Be it Hereby Resolved (Authorized): That Self-Help Credit Union, (hereafter referred to as SHCU) is

designated as a depository for the funds of this Organization.

1. Resolved, that deposit and/or certificates of deposit be opened and maintained in the name of this Organization with SHCU in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations for such accounts, including, but not limited to, the Depositor's Agreement and the disclosure and Fee schedules; that any one of the above officers, employees, partners, members or managers of this Organization is/are hereby authorized, on behalf of this Organization and in its name, to sign checks, drafts, notes, bill of exchanges, acceptances, certificates of deposit or other orders for the payment of money; to endorse checks, notes, bills, certificates of deposits, or other instruments, owned or held by this Organization for deposit with SHCU or for collection or discount by SHCU; to accept drafts, acceptances, and other instruments payable at said credit union; to place orders with SHCU for the purchase and sale of foreign currencies on behalf of this Organization; to execute and deliver an electronic funds transfer agreement and to appoint and delegate, from time to time, such persons who may request transfers on behalf of the Organization; keep to waive presentment, demand, protest, and notice of protest, or dishonor any check, note, bill, draft, or other instrument made, drawn, or endorsed by the organization; and the above "Specimen Signatures" are the true and actual signatures of such authorized officers, employees, partners, members or manager of this Organization; and,
2. Further Resolved, that SHCU be and it hereby is authorized to honor, receive, certify, or pay all instruments signed in accordance with foregoing resolution even though drawn or endorsed to the order of any officers, employees, partners, members or managers signing the same or tendered by him cashing, or in payment of the individual obligation of such officer, employee, partner, member or manager, or for deposit to his or her personal account, and SHCU shall not be required or be under any obligation to inquire as to the circumstances of the issuance or use of any instrument signed in accordance with the forgoing resolution, or the application or disposition of such instrument or the proceeds thereof; and.
3. Further Resolved, that SHCU is hereby requested, authorized and directed to honor checks, drafts, or other orders for the payment of money drawn in this Organization's name, including those payable to the individual order of any person or persons whose name or names appear thereon as signer or signers thereof, when bearing or purporting to bear the facsimile signature(s) of the specified number of the foregoing officers, employees, partners, members or manager of this Organization and SHCU shall be entitled to honor and to charge this Organization for such checks, drafts, or other orders, regardless of by whom or by what means the actual or purported facsimile signature thereon may have been affixed thereto, if such signatures resemble the facsimile specimen duly certified to or filed with SHCU by the Secretary, Assistant Secretary or other authorized officer of this organization or manager or member, (if a limited liability company); or general partner (if a general or limited partnership) and,
4. Further Resolved, that the Secretary, Assistant Secretary or other authorized officer, partner, or manager of this Organization shall certify to SHCU the name of the persons who are at present authorized to act on behalf of this Organization under the foregoing resolutions and shall from time to time hereafter, as changes in the personnel of said officers, members or managers and employee are made, immediately certify such changes to SHCU by submission of a new Resolution and Signature Authority (with new signatures), and SHCU shall be fully protected in relying on such certifications of the Secretary, Assistant Secretary or other authorized officer, member or manager and shall be indemnified and saved harmless from any claims, demands, expenses, loss, or damage resulting from, or growing out of, honoring the signature of any officer, employee, partner, member or manager so certified, or refusing to honor any signature not so certified; and,
5. Further Resolved, that the foregoing resolution shall remain in full force and effect until written notice of their rescission shall have been received by SHCU, and apply to any and all deposit accounts and/or Certificates of Deposit in the name of this Organization, regardless of whether the account number assigned by SHCU appears or does not appear on the face of this form or Resolution and Signature Authority; and that receipt of such notice shall not affect any action taken by SHCU prior thereto; and,
6. Further Resolved, that all transactions by any of the officers, employees, partners, members or managers of this Organization on its behalf, and in its name, with SHCU prior to the delivery to SHCU of a certified copy of the foregoing resolution are, in all respects, hereby ratified, confirmed, approved, and adopted; and
7. Further Resolved, that the Secretary, Assistant Secretary or other authorized officer, partner, members or managers be, and hereby is, authorized and directed to certify these resolutions to SHCU and that the provisions thereof are in conformity with the Charter and bylaws, articles of Incorporation, Articles of Organization, Operating Agreement and/or Partnership Agreement of this Organization.

3. There was some discussion about the role of the directors, including whether directors might be called on to

be signatories of deposit accounts. There was a suggestion that the financial policy of the Meeting specify that two signers be required for each check written. There was some interest among directors in having a greater role in directing the financial affairs of the Meeting, a role assumed solely by the Finance Committee in the past. No decisions were made regarding these issues. Valerie and David are expected to convey to the Finance Committee the concerns of the directors.

4. There was no formal end to the email communication. A second email vote to approve these minutes was conducted between September 19 and 28 . These minutes were accepted by Evan Richardson, Steve Livingston (as presiding clerk), Marcia Master, Valerie Collins, David Clements, and Toby Ives.

5. The Board of Directors will meet again during the 10th month Meeting for Business of the Asheville Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, as agreed by Meeting in 11th month 2004.

Minutes prepared by David Clements.

Respectfully submitted by Valerie Collins, Secretary of the Board of Directors.

Secretary synopsis of report in meeting—Approved

There exists no End of Year Report for 2004, so it will have to be added to the agenda of the next meeting.

LINK TO ASHEVILLE FRIENDS MEETING INC. BYLAWS

Meeting needs to approved the changes in bylaws that are approved in the Board Of Directors meeting
Approved (Meeting)

Session of Board of Directors Meeting ended.

Meeting for Business continued:

A Friend asked that we defer decisions on the remaining agenda items until next meeting for business. Clerk went through listing and deferred M&C, Pastoral Care, Long Range Planning, Peace and Earth. In response to an inquiry to Finance Committee if anything was pressing, a Friend quipped that as long as there wasn't a stock market crash in the next month, the report could hold. Friends were asked to hold the stock market in the light.

Ministry and Counsel Report-deferred

Review of Pastoral Care Committee-deferred

Finance Committee-deferred

Long Range Visioning and Planning-deferred

Peace and Earth report-deferred

Meeting approved deferring these subjects until November's Meeting for Business.

Personal Concerns

Phil Neal distributed a statement entitled "[FRIENDS AND ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES](#)"

The clerk suggested that further investigation into this subject will need to be undertaken, because we are not able to make discernment at this time. Ministry & Counsel is not prepared to handle this concern. We are facing a time constraint. Clerk asked Phil if he would shepherd this concern. Phil said he was willing to leave it as it stands.

Rain N requests for Friends to please stack chairs less than 6 chairs high. Rain will shepherd the signage.

Worship

Meeting for Business was broken at 2:14 PM by the Clerk.