

Minutes
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
12th month 2005

Clerk-Steve Livingston
Recording Clerk-Lynnora Bierce

Meeting opened with a period of centering worship.

Attendance:

Kitty Reynolds, Steve Houseworth, Phil Neal, Karen Cernek, Ellen Frerette, Jim Cavener, Alan Robinson, Martha Huggins, Kieron Mann, Adrienne Weir, Gary Briggs, Laura Maynard, George Gjelfriend, Satchel Loftis, Kristi Gjelfriend, Eda Smith, Barbara Esther, Sarawila Villatora-Weir, Joy Gossett.

The clerk offered the following reading:

*A Friends Meeting is intended to be so much more than a loose association of individuals who are simply on a separate and private journey. Rather, we are called to be a faith community with members seeking to know each other "in that which is eternal" as we journey together. Ideally, we acknowledge that our primary relationship is to G*D and to that of G*D in each other. We let go of the idea that we only have a private life, and hold ourselves accountable to the authority of the Spirit and that Life in the Meeting. We grow in a sense of responsibility for each other.*

Margery Mears Larrabee
"Spirit-Led Eldering"
Friends Journal 10/05

Friends reviewed the agenda and approved with minor changes.

No news of ourselves was offered.

Friends reviewed the Minutes of ninth and tenth month meetings.

Friends approved the minutes of ninth and tenth month meetings for business as published on the Meeting website.

Peace and Earth Committee report was given by Kitti Reynolds:

Peace and Earth Report for Business Meeting
Nov. 2005 with additions for Dec. 2005

Our committee is deeply appreciative of the contributions from Ursula Scott, Al and Agnita Dupree, Christy Bischoff, our former clerk, and Jennifer Walker—all of whom are greatly missed. Today, our active members include Linda Alfredson, Margaret Normile, Susan Oehler, and Kitti Reynolds, clerk. We have recently been joined by Sarah Jane Thomas.

Our present concerns include

1. Caring for the earth (especially understanding and working to reduce global climate change)
2. Increasing knowledge at Asheville High School on alternatives to military service
3. Activism against the war in Iraq,
4. Maintaining contact with our federal Congresspeople on issues of concern to Friends
5. Aid for U.S. hurricane and Indian/Pakistani earthquake victims
6. Support, in the form of meals, for women in the Asheville Women's Shelter.

In particular, we would like to bring to the Meeting's attention a proposal from FCNL called the STEP (Sensible Transition to an Enduring Peace) program—which asks Congress to oppose any permanent military bases in Iraq. It is our hope that Asheville Friends Meeting will support this proposal, in which case Peace and Earth will notify FCNL.

Report accepted with gratitude to the Peace and Earth Committee.

Friends approved a minute of appreciation:

We recognize the unique service Ursula Scott, Al & Agnita Dupree, Christy Bischoff, and Jennifer Walker provided to the care and nurture of AFM Peace and Earth Committee. Their influence will not be forgotten.

Friends approved supporting FCNL's STEP Resolution.

Finance Committee report was given by George Gjelfriend.

1. We met at the Meeting House, 8:30 AM 12/4/05 Present were: George Gjelfriend, David Clements, Valerie Collins.

2. We do not yet have the final year-to-date numbers so we can't make a recommendation of how much to allocate to the two Outreach Funds. We're hoping that the 2006 budget process will be revamped so that this awkwardness does not occur next year. Accordingly, we recommend that this distribution be deferred until these numbers are known, and that whatever funds are available be applied equally to General and Quaker Outreach subject to the \$3,000 limits of the 2005 budget; and that the individual items be prorated according to last year's contributions. If approved, we do not plan to bring this matter up again at a subsequent Business Meeting. **THIS REQUIRES MEETING APPROVAL.**

3. We believe that the Peace & Earth committee is responsible for the details of the General Outreach distribution. We note in passing that the inclusion of national charities has changed the characterization of this fund from "community" to "general." We suggest that Friends who wish to participate in making changes bring them up with the Peace & Earth committee.

4. The Quaker Outreach fund was enumerated by an ad hoc committee which assembled itself last year. The Finance Committee intends on prorating the available funds according to the same list. If Friends think there should be changes, we recommend they form an ad hoc committee for 2006.

5. We intend to start the 2006 budgetary process shortly. We are aiming for the ideal of having the expected revenues equal to the amount already in Reserves. The Reserves are not yet adequate to do this. In the interim, we intend on budgeting the expected income in 2006 as equal to the actual income in 2005. We do not see this as an item requiring meeting approval and advise Friends with strong opinions to join the Finance Committee for the duration of this process.

6. According to IRS regulations, we must send out acknowledgments of 2005 contributions before January 30, 2006. We will meet on January 15 at 8:30AM and welcome any Friends who can help us with this strictly clerical work (which is considerable.)

7. George Gjelfriend has volunteered to be our next Clerk and will be added to the list of authorized signers to all of our accounts.

8. We will open the Self Help Credit Union account with \$10,000.

Respectfully submitted
George Gjelfriend

Kitti R. expressed that Peace and Earth committee agrees with waiting until Outreach funds are available before determining distribution. She said that Peace and Earth had already chosen to donate to the MLK Breakfast (\$75) and to Asheville Women's Shelter meals (\$40).

Friends approved the recommendation that the amount of money to be distributed for Outreach be deferred until next month.

**Friends were comfortable supporting the two donations already chosen.
Report was accepted**

Long Range Planning

The clerk informed the meeting that the committee does not yet have a clerk, and that the work of the committee is important and requires more input from other committees not represented.

A Friend suggested that an announcement be made at the rise of meeting that folks are needed for LRPC.

Nominating Committee

Karen Cernek reported for Nominating committee with recommendations of Katherine Kowal to serve on Ministry and Counsel and George Gjelfriend on Finance.

A concern arose that Katherine was not a member of Asheville Meeting, although she is a member of the Society of Friends. A Friend pointed out that there is a precedent of a member of Ministry and Counsel being a member of the Society though not a member of Asheville Meeting in particular. A Friend asked that we approve her nomination with the expectation that she will transfer her membership. A Friend noted how someone transfers membership to AFM is not clear, and is a separate issue from this one.

Friends approved George Gjelfriend to serve on Finance Committee and Katherine Kowal to serve on Ministry and Counsel.

Friends asked that the matter of protocol regarding membership transfer that had been raised go to Ministry and Counsel.

Friends were reminded that Naming Committee needs members, as well as the ad hoc committee to

implement the new First Day Structure.

Report of Nominating Committee was accepted.

Ministry and Counsel report was given by Martha Huggins.

We met at 5pm at the meetinghouse. Alice Brown, George Gjelfriend, Kristi Gjelfriend, Martha Huggins and Steve Livingston were in attendance.

After visiting the concern raised by a member regarding alcohol use at meeting sponsored events the committee reminds Friends that Asheville Friends Meeting has a policy prohibiting the presence or use of alcoholic beverages on our premises or the premises of any other facility we use that prohibits alcoholic beverages. Friends are counseled to make sure that all participants are comfortable with the consumption of alcoholic beverages before offering them at any gathering.

Alice Brown, Susan Mitchell, and Phil Neal have agreed to serve on Palin Spruance's clearness committee for membership and will set a date and time to meet.

We reviewed the needs outlined by the administrative committee:

1. Several people who are empowered to sign the timesheets.
2. Someone to recruit and supervise employees.
3. A person to collect mail and take care of other administrative tasks.
4. Two or more people willing to serve on the committee who are not also members of the Finance Committee.

Also, Friends are reminded that it is not the work of the Religious Education Committee to hire child-care when needed for the meeting at times other than First Days.

Respectfully submitted
Martha O. Huggins

Report was accepted

A Friend felt that the decision of Ministry and Counsel to remind Friends of the current/existing policy did not address the concern of alcoholic beverages during Friend's gatherings. Clerk of Ministry and Counsel said that the committee did not reach unity on the subject. A Friend expressed that the reminder did cover what it was intended it to cover, although the Friend who had brought the concern expressed satisfaction. Ministry and Counsel had not made a recommendation concerning places or gatherings where alcoholic beverages are not prohibited. A Friend suggested that we trust our discernment to know the difference between socializing and worship.

Ministry and Counsel was asked for further discernment regarding the serving of alcoholic beverages at entire meeting gatherings outside the confines of the meetinghouse where alcoholic beverages are permitted, and regarding the use of alcoholic beverages during smaller gatherings where Friends are conducting worship or business.

A fifteen minute break was taken.

Spiritual Enrichment Committee Update was read by Ellen Frerotte.

December 11, 2005 Meeting for Business

Report prepared by Carrie Coward, committee co-clerk

The bullet points below capture the last three months of SEC related activity:

- Evan Richardson and Carrie Coward have agreed to co-clerk the committee. Evan had asked Carrie to consider clerking. The two came to an agreement to share the role as neither felt capable of clerking the committee alone. SEC related business can be sent to Evan for ease sake and she can forward materials to Carrie or Friends can send SEC materials to both of us.
- The retreat numbers are in. 57 people attended the retreat (41 adults and 16 children). Based on the feedback we received, the weekend was a success. The jury is still split on Bonclarken vs. Montreat as a location, with a slight edge toward Montreat given the community space it provides at the residential lodges. The committee is proud to share that we came in under budget. The meeting had originally committed \$2,000 toward the retreat. When all was said and done, we ended up only using \$1,067 from the general fund and not the \$2,000 allotted. Special thanks the members of SEC who spent a great deal of time and effort to plan the weekend and to do so with finances in mind.
- As the members of SEC contemplate "what's next" we feel led toward working to provide organization, content, and oversight of the adult religious education (to be called spiritual enrichment) activities associated with the upcoming changes in meeting for worship. With this in mind, Laura Maynard has

agreed to be the SEC rep on the planning committee that is working through the details regarding first day structure and education.

- The committee does not feel "as led" to take up issues of the 2006 retreat at this time. We recognize that decisions need to be made soon in order to reserve the location for 2006. At the same time we recognize that there is no urgency, other than our own, on this matter. The committee asks if anyone from the meeting feels led to help organize an ad hoc committee to look at issues regarding a retreat (Do we have one? How often? Alternate formats and events? Time frames?)
- The committee will continue to organize spiritual friendships, Friendly 8's and things of that sort.
- We feel led also to take stock and re-group as a committee. If there are members of the meeting that care to become involved in the committee and our work, we WELCOME that participation. SEC is a fun and dynamic committee. We tend to have large numbers of folk that participate. This means there is never too much work for any individual. Please see Evan or Carrie to get details on meeting dates, etc. If there are current members of the committee who no longer feel led to serve, now would be a good time to consider this.

A Friend expressed delight in that SEC is interested in shepherding Adult Education, and believed that an ad hoc Retreat Committee could be formed rather easily.

It was suggested that Ministry and Counsel take up the issue, and a Friend on that committee said that there might be time for that to be visited. Ministry and Counsel was advised to consult with other Friends from SEC who were involved with the 2005 Retreat planning.

Lynnora B. suggested that an Ad Hoc Committee seems natural enough and is willing to shepherd the process.

SEC grew out of the 2004 Retreat, but focus on the retreat of 2005 took away its focus on Spiritual Enrichment, and they are anxious to return to spiritual work.

Friends asked that deadlines for Retreat centers at Montreat, Bon Clarken, and the 4H Camp be researched and reported back at next month's meeting for business.

Nominating may find it helpful to hear from other members of SEC who were involved in the planning of the retreat to know who may serve and what work is involved.

Friends felt comfortable revisiting the issue of the Annual Retreat at next months Meeting for Business.

Report was accepted.

Communication Committee

The Communication Committee recommended, and Meeting approved the following minute:

The official account of Business Meeting (Minutes) will continue to be that which is published online and stored as hard copy in the meeting office, rather than the synopsis that will appear in the newsletter.

Gary Briggs spoke of the resurgence of the AFM newsletter, and his inspiration for offering to undertake the editing. He offered that in early 2006 a test newsletter will become available.

Personal Concerns

2 FAP's are urgently needed for the SAYF retreat in Atlanta, GA over the MLK weekend, 1/13 – 1/15/2006

A Friend raised a concern about our practices regarding membership for children: how children become members and what are the differences between full membership and associate membership. Should full membership of children require clearness committee for children? Clerk suggested this issue be referred to Ministry and Counsel.

Meeting closed with a period of worship at 2:25 p.m.