

Minutes
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
January 8, 2006

Steve Livingston—Clerk
Lynnora Bierce—Recording Clerk
Meeting convened at: 11:45 a.m.

Attendance

Eda Smith, Martha Huggins, Katherine Kowal, George Oldham, Laura Maynard, Kristi Gjelfriend, George Gjelfriend, Kieron Mann, Gerry Smith, Satchel Loftis, Alice Brown, Phil Neal, David Clements, Ellen Frerotte, Sarah Jane Thomas, Robin Wells, Joy Gossett, Stephanie Gossett, Rachel Huggins, Ellen Oldham, Adrienne Weir.

Meeting begin with a period of worship. The clerk offered four Queries from the SAYMA Guide to Our Faith and Practice:

Does the meeting have an understanding of Quaker roots?

Does the meeting look to past experience and testimony of Friends as well as seeking guidance through meeting for worship in making decisions?

Does the meeting study Friends' literature and guides to faith and practice?

Do Friends feel easy with basic Friends' testimonies?

The agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of 11th Month Minutes

Friends approved 11th Month Minutes with the addition of a recorded minute to recognize the formation of the ad hoc committee to examine fundraising.

Friends approved 12th month minutes as written.

Ministry and Counsel Report

December 2005

We met at 5pm at the meetinghouse. Alice Brown, George Gjelfriend, Martha Huggins, Katherine Kowal and Steve Livingston were present.

We welcomed Katherine Kowal as a new member of the committee.

We discussed the December 11th meeting for business. Friends are reminded to ask for recognition from the clerk before speaking during meeting for business and also to observe respectful silence when the recording clerk is drafting a minute.

We present the following policy for approval of the business meeting regarding membership on the Ministry and Counsel Committee: It is the policy of Asheville Friends Meeting that members of the Ministry and Counsel Committee retain membership in the Society of Friends.

Regarding associate memberships we offer this policy for approval: It is the practice of Asheville Friends Meeting the children of members will be recorded as associate members until such time as they are ready to make a decision whether to apply for full membership.

We labored over the AFM alcohol policy and offer the following for the approval of the business meeting:

“It is the policy of Asheville Friends that illegal drugs may not be brought into or used by Friends at any event anywhere that has a Quaker affiliation, whether stated or implied.

“It is the policy of Asheville Friends that alcohol may not be served or consumed on the Meeting House grounds with no exceptions for any other groups using our facilities.

“Similarly, alcohol may not be served or consumed at any other location for events held under the meeting sponsorship to which all are invited and at which a wide range of ages is expected. Examples of these would be retreats, picnics, and gatherings for special purposes. Smaller interest groups, with a stated or implied Quaker

affiliation, contemplating the use of alcohol are enjoined to establish that all present are comfortable with the consumption of alcohol, preferably in a manner that no Friend would have to risk being seen as opposed to the group's wishes. Examples of such groups are Friendly Eights, Young Adult Friends, Baby Showers, Weddings, etc.

“While some of us are opposed to all consumption of alcohol, we recognize that others do not share this feeling. We think that alcohol consumption is not an appropriate way to foster spiritual connections. Finally, we hold that no Friend should ever have to choose between alcohol and community.

“A precis of this minute shall be include in all publicity for announced gatherings, all contracts for rental spaces, and prominently at all entrances to the Meeting House.”

Palin Spruance's clearness committee for meeting has met and absolutely recommends Palin be accepted as a member of Asheville Friends Meeting.

We welcome Palin and will celebrate his new membership at a future gathering.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha O. Huggins

Friends approved the policy of Asheville Friends Meeting that members of the Ministry and Counsel Committee retain membership in the Society of Friends.

Friends were reminded that the policy about alcohol has been revisited due to an incident during our annual retreat in which wine was served at a group dinner. This was against the rules of Montreat Conference Center, which has a no-alcohol policy. It was noted that the no-alcohol policy was not in the retreat materials, although it was know by the Retreat Committee. Parts of the minute were reread and discussed. A Friend said he was not comfortable with the idea of no alcohol being served versus moderation of alcohol. Clerk asked that we hold this tension in the light, in that there are two groups of thought: those who feel there is nothing wrong with alcohol in moderation and those who feel more comfortable abstaining from alcohol all together.

A Friend said that she would like to see the word inappropriate exchanged for unnecessary. A Friend proposed that we lay this issue down and take it up in a later discussion perhaps in a forum instead of using our meeting for business time discussing this issue further. Clerk reminds us that there has been a policy in place regarding alcohol.

Meeting asked that the matter be returned to Ministry and Counsel for further consideration.

Palin Spruance was unknown to many members of the meeting for business, clerk said that being unknown to business meeting has never been an impediment for membership. A Friend spoke of Palin's long-standing relationship with Friends, and the gifts he is willing to share with Asheville Friends Meeting. A Friend offered to stand aside. A number of Friends spoke in support of Palin's clearness committee's decisions.

A strong concern was raised about our lack of opportunity to know one another in community. These concerns do not stand in the way of our accepting Palin into our community, they are our own impediments.

Friends approved the membership of Palin Spruance in the Asheville Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.

Friends were not ready to approve the recommended policy for associate membership and asked Ministry and Counsel to give it further consideration.

Report was accepted.

Update of Hendersonville Worship Group

Hendersonville Friends Report 1/8/06

Submitted by George Oldham

Over the years there have been many attempts made at starting a Friends Worship Group in Hendersonville. We have met in private homes, once in a classroom at the local Catholic school, and even in the offices of a local business. None of these efforts has resulted in any kind of a permanent situation.

Some Friends from Brevard met with us until they decided to try forming their own group. They later asked to be under the care of Asheville Meeting with the goal of becoming a Monthly Meeting. Ruth Sziltya, Phil and Peg Neal, and the Oldhams were appointed to serve on a clearness committee to help guide Brevard Friends toward Monthly Meeting status. This was accomplished the year I served as clerk of SAYMA.

A few months ago, my daughter, Martha Huggins suggested that it might be time to try again to form a Hendersonville Worship Group. Through some long time friends in our Jewish community, I arranged for us to meet in the local synagogue. Since their Sabbath is on Saturday, I thought there would be no conflict in meeting times.

We met, with about 20 persons attending. To begin with it was agreed to meet on the first Sunday of the month. Later the group wanted to try meeting on the first and third A\Sundays of the month. When I approached those in charge at the synagogue about this, I learned that their Men's Group met regularly on the third Sunday and space would be limited. Also we found that one member of our group with allergies was adversely affected by something in the environment of the synagogue.

I was then able to find a suitable room for our group in Carolina Village, the retirement center that has been my home for the past nine years. We have been meeting there at 11:00 am every First Day with about 12 in attendance, half being from the Village and the rest from the surrounding community. One of the most rewarding features of meeting at Carolina Village is that it affords an opportunity for some of the residents who are no longer able to travel to worship in the manner of Friends.

It appears that we will continue as a Worship Group. If at any time we wish to alter our status, we would no doubt ask to be under the care of either Brevard or Asheville Monthly Meeting. Asheville of Brevard Friends as well as all others who are in our area are welcome to join us in worship.

Report was accepted with thanks.

Scholarship Request

Dear Friends,

I hope you all are well and safe. I would like to request a \$500 scholarship from Asheville Friends Meeting, which the Quaker Leadership Scholars Program at Guilford College will match. The meeting has graciously given me this scholarship in the past and it has helped my family immensely in paying for my education at Guilford. I am excited to graduate in the spring. Thank you for your support and best wishes.

In Peace,
Trina Farmer

Friends approved a \$500 scholarship from Asheville Friends Meeting to support Trina Farmer in the QLSP Program.

Meeting adjourned at 1 p.m. for a brief brak, and resumed at 1:20 p.m.

Peace and Earth Report was held over until next month.

Nominating Committee Report

Friends approved Steve Houseworth to serve on Naming Committee.

Friends approved Becca Dion to serve on Peace and Earth Committee.

The Nominating Committee noted that The Long Range Planning and Visioning Committee seeks members to serve with Lynnora Bierce, Karen Cernek, Steve Livingston, Satchel Loftis, Robin Wells, and Ellen Frerotte. Nominating seeks someone to fill the SAYF leader (liaison) role.

Report was accepted.

Finance Committee Report

1. We are not prepared to offer an end-of-year report because 2005 income and expenses are still dribbling in. However, it is clear that we have enough revenues to give the full \$6,000 budgeted for Quaker Outreach and General Outreach. The Finance Committee proposes that disbursements for Quaker Outreach be made at the same level as 2004's disbursements. We recommend transferring \$800 of what remains to replenish the Scholarship Fund, whose balance has dropped from \$1200 to \$400 during 2005. We anticipate some surplus for 2005 after these expenses.
 2. Before we proceed on to a budget for 2006, we would like each committee to submit what it thinks it will actually spend in 2006. In the past, we have budgeted for inflated amounts "just in case." That has led to budgeted expenses exceeding actual expenses by 80%. We think that a budget should represent reality and not be a "wish list". Accordingly, we plan to base the 2006 budget proposal on 2005's revenues, prorated over 2005 expenses budget. We will also budget a certain amount as a "contingency fund" to be used to pay expenses incurred over and above the budget, and approved of by the meeting. We welcome input from Friends, but are not seeking approval at this time.
 3. We note there are a certain number of expected expenses which did not appear in the 2005 budget, including the Fund Raising Committee, the Long Range Planning & Visioning Committee and the (as yet unnamed and unconstituted) committee which will administer childcare arising out of the restructuring of First Day. Input from these committees will be appreciated.
 4. We recommend that until the 2006 budget has been approved the Meeting instruct the finance committee to abide by the 2005 budget figures for 2006, except that we will not make any disbursements to SAYMA, Quaker Outreach, General Outreach, Residential Retreat, or QLSP scholarship.
 5. We are implementing an accounting change as follows: Since many Friends have been assuming that we have something called a "reserve", we would like to make it so. Accordingly, we would like to partition our unallocated funds in our bank accounts into two parts: a) a "Reserve" which will be used only to pay for expenses which exceed budgeted amounts (with meeting's approval), and b) an "operational account" which will hold revenues as they accrue and from which expenses will be paid as they occur. We welcome your opinions but do not think that this item needs meeting approval.
 6. We have noted that SAYMA has raised its 2006 assessment to \$60 per "regular member and attender" (an increase of 9%). We are inclined not to increase our SAYMA contribution in 2006, and perhaps to decrease it. We welcome comments from friends regarding this issue.
 7. We have reviewed the numerous separate funds of the meeting. We note that some of these have been unused for several years. We recommend that Meeting take the following actions, which would be finalized at the February Business Meeting if there are no objections in the meantime:
 - a) Remind the Junior Business Meeting of approximately \$600 in collections from various fund-raising projects, and ask it to disburse this money as it sees fit.
 - b) Contact the Pickett Fund about returning the residue of the money it gave to support Lauren Mitchell's Ministry.
 - c) Transfer the Lucille Carlson memorial donations (about \$260) into the scholarship fund. This money had been reserved for purchasing children's books in 2001.
 - d) Transfer various funds associated with religious education (about \$323) back into the General Fund.
 - e) Transfer \$20 from the General Fund to zero out the Spiritual Enrichment Fund, which has not been used recently.
 8. George Gjelfriend asked to lay down the duties of Clerk of Finance until he has experienced at least one year in the budgetary cycle. No one present at the Meeting was prepared to assume this responsibility.
- Report was accepted.

Friends asked that appropriate committees review items 7 a), c), and d) and bring recommendations back to 2nd month meeting. Re item 6, a Friend asked for the opportunity for the community to learn more about the importance and value of the Yearly Meeting before making a decision about our 2006 contribution to SAYMA.

Friends approved disbursements for Quaker Outreach be made at the same level as 2004's disbursements.
Friends approved allocating \$800 of 2005 donations to replenish the Scholarship Fund.
Friends instructed Finance Committee to abide by the 2005 budget figures until a 2006 budget is approved, except that we will not make any disbursements to SAYMA, Quaker Outreach, General

**Outreach, Residential Retreat, or QLSP scholarship.
Friends instructed Finance Committee to contact the Pickett Fund about returning the residue of the money it gave to support Lauren Mitchell's Ministry.
Report was accepted.**

Ad Hoc Committee for Examination of Fundraising

We met at the meetinghouse, on Friday evening, January 6, 2006. In attendance were Lynnora Bierce, George Gjelfriend, Adrienne Weir, Katherine Kowal. Phil Neal was unable to attend, but was briefed soon afterwards. Linda Alfredson was also unable to attend, and is acting as an occasional member of the committee or as consultant.

We planned a schedule of 5 additional meetings throughout the year on the first Friday of every other month, skipping July, from 7 to 8:30 PM.

We heard a brief report and suggestions from Finance Committee via George Gjelfriend.

We discussed our personal experiences with fundraising in other monthly meetings. We looked at the different forms of fundraising in a Friends Meeting. We discussed the need for creating an informative survey to capture the sense of our meeting's thoughts and opinions around the fundraising issue.

We wrote our charter:

The Mission of the Ad Hoc Committee to Examine Fundraising is to examine how our meeting raises funds, and to make recommendations to Meeting for Business as to how fundraising might be improved upon in a friendly manner.

We await approval of the Meeting for Business of our charter and our committee makeup.

Submitted by

Lynnora Bierce—Convener

Friends approved the charter of the ad hoc committee to examine fundraising. Friends approved the membership of the ad hoc committee to be Lynnora Bierce, George Gjelfriend, Adrienne Weir, and Katherine Kowal.

Report was accepted

Personal Concerns

Barbara voiced a concern about the convening of the First Day Structure Committee and its makeup.

David Clements inquired about the worship sharings around our Faith and Practice Revisions.

Clerk expressed low attendance of Faith and Practice worship sharing, and feeling that the proposals will not be seasoned properly to be taken into account by meeting for business. David offered to bring a proposal to meeting for business to send to Faith and Practices asked if meeting could review and approve the report of the worship sharings. Barbara as SAYMA representative informed meeting that the report may go to SAYMA directly before the next meeting for business so that SAYMA knows that we did not ignore their requests. The clerk agreed to relate directly to the clerk of the SAYMA F&P Revision Committee from his notes of the Worship Sharing if meeting was willing to assent without review.

Meeting approved that the clerk send his notes from the worship sharings to the clerk of SAYMA's Faith and Practice Revision Committee, informing him that the notes were not approved minutes of the Meeting.

Recording Clerk requested simple speak as often as possible.

Ellen Frerotte offered to take the case of margarine-donated by Gerry Smith down to the shelter or food bank.

Meeting ended at 2:15 p.m. with a period of worship.