

**Minutes**  
**Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**  
Ninth Day Fourth Month, 2006  
Steve Livingston, clerk  
Lynnora Bierce, Recording Clerk

Meeting opened at 11:40 AM with a brief period of quiet worship. Clerk read a passage from Barry Morley's pamphlet *Beyond Consensus*:

“Sense of the Meeting” works because we turn our decision making over to a higher power. Consensus is the product of an intellectual process. Sense of the Meeting is a commitment of faith. Another Friend explains it this way:  
“Consensus is the product of willfulness. We will ourselves to a decision. Sense of the Meeting is a product of willingness in which we allow ourselves to be led. It is the difference between reason and faith.

**Attendance:**

Gary Briggs, Alice Brown, Peter Buck, Jim Cavener, David Clements, Paul Endry, George Gjelfriend, Steve Houseworth, Martha Huggins, Satchel Loftis, Kieron Mann, Marcia Master, Laura Maynard, Philip Neal, Margaret Normile, Kitti Reynolds, Sam Rizzo, Alan Robinson, Charles Simpson (guest from Northampton MA Meeting), Eda Smith, Gerry Smith, Pete Sutherland, Sarah Jane Thomas, Adrienne Weir, Robin Wells

**Introductions:**

Welcome to Paul Endry who has often been missed in meeting. Welcome for the return of Alan Robinson and Jim Cavener. Welcome to our visitor from Northampton Meeting, Charles Simpson.

**Review of agenda:**

The agenda was accepted as presented.

**News of Ourselves:**

Steve Houseworth announced the passing of the assistant clerk of his meeting for Williamsburg, VA.

**Clearness Committee for Adrienne Weir:**

On 4-6-06 a clearness committee of three Friends (George Gjelfriend, Kristi Gjelfriend, and Philip Neal) met with Adrienne Weir to consider her membership. The committee, and Adrienne, agreed that her membership would be in right order. The committee recommends that she be recorded as a member of Asheville Friends Meeting and of the Religious Society of Friends.

**Friends approved the membership of Adrienne Weir in the Asheville Monthly Meeting and the Religious Society of Friends.**

**Peace and Earth:**

“Peace and Earth met on March 19, 2006. Present were Barry Master, Susan Oehler, Sarah Jane Thomas, Margaret Normile and Kitti Reynolds (clerk).

“We began our meeting with silence at about 8:50 AM.

“No one was able to attend the conference on torture at Guilford in early June. Susan did

announce it to the WNC Peace Coalition.

“Announcements about today’s Peace Rally, The upcoming Eyes Wide Open exhibit (April 28-30), and the FCNL request for input on priorities will be made at the rise of Meeting today.

“EWO discussion. Organizational meeting will be held Thursday night at 7 PM. The boots will be inside. Tony Bing is asking for sponsoring groups to contribute at least \$50. P and E were led to contribute that amount. There is a big need for volunteers for the exhibit, Margaret volunteered. Steve L. already has. Students will publicize it at UNCA. Susan is handing out fliers at the Peace Rally today.

“Kitti calculated that P and E has now spent or committed \$365 + this new \$50 = \$415. (Fayetteville peace march \$50, MLK breakfast \$75, Sarah Jane food for women’s shelter \$240 committed for the year).

“On April 20, Susan O and Bob Smith will receive the Grace Lee Smith Peace Award at Warren Wilson. Susan thinks it will be in the evening, with a dinner. She will contact us as she finds out more details. Friends are hoping to attend this event.

“WNC Peace Coalition is sponsoring a movie night at the N Asheville Library, showing a video portraying Israelis trying to stop the Israeli demolition of Palestinian houses. April 21 and 7PM.

“Margaret reported on last week’s Business meeting. Steve announced the invitation for Friends input to FCNL. Friends were uncomfortable that P and E Outreach budget had been cut so much, and decided that any funds raised through fundraising efforts would go to that budget. A Friend suggested that P and E survey the membership of meeting for people involved in volunteer opportunity whom we might support with contributions from the P and E budget. We discussed this and noted that it has been long-standing policy for P and E to give money to local organizations with direct contact to the meeting, such as Bob Smith and the Asheville-Buncombe Community Relations Council. Also, in the past few years there have been forums after meeting by people like Bob to describe their work. It was suggested that if there are Friends whom we don’t know of doing such work that they be invited to tell us about their organization at a meeting of P and E.

“FCNL. We discussed our priorities. We came to consensus that our top two priorities were 1) Getting American troops out of Iraq and 2) Reducing emissions which contribute to global warming. Barry pointed out that there were other, strong organizations which were “worrying” about civil liberties so FCNL could reduce their effort on that front. Barry also felt that the general public was not ready for a major redirection of the US budget.

“We closed with silence at 9:40 AM.”

### **Meeting accepted the report of Peace and Earth Committee.**

A Friend informed the Meeting of Earth Day Events in the area on April 20. A Friend Informed the Meeting of the Natural Resources Defense Council’s efforts to help defeat the “Clear Skies Initiative”.

### **Fundraising:**

“George Gjelfriend, Katherine Kowal, Adrienne Weir, Lynnora Bierce, and guest Sam Rizzo met on March 19, 2006. Two action items were discovered upon discussion:

“1) The Fundraising Committee suggests to the meeting that a pedestal with a collection box be set in the foyer in an easy to find place. The committee feels that the opportunity for visitors, guests, and newcomers to contribute would be aided by this action.

“2) The Fundraising Committee suggests to the meeting that the proceeds from our annual yard sale be earmarked for Outreach.

“We set our next meeting for May 7th, at 8:30 am, and welcome anyone interested to attend.”

Friends discussed the idea of a contribution box in the foyer. It was clarified that this box would be in addition to the slot in the office door. Concerns about security and for regularly processing the collections were answered with suggestions that Finance and Fundraising work in consort to resolve the issues. Friends pointed out that the box would act as a visual reminder to regular attenders, and that it would be awkward for stealing. A Friend suggested a bigger box. A Friend said that more spiritual consciousness around money is necessary. A Friend suggested that the height of the box be accessible for children. Even small amounts of money promote spiritual health.

### **Friends approved developing the concept of adding a collection box in the foyer.**

Friends considered the earmarking of yard sale revenues to Outreach. This proposal arose from the minuted concern over reduction of Outreach budget in last month’s Meeting for Business. Answering the concern that these funds were previously earmarked for our Residential Retreat, a member of Fundraising pointed out that such a retreat was not being planned for this year. A member of Finance Committee informed Meeting that the funds from the yard sale went into the general fund, and were not earmarked, so the yard sale funds are already budgeted into income. Taking these funds from the general fund would mean that we have to raise 1000 dollars to replace that money.

A Friend observed that much work is needed to get our meetinghouse and grounds in a good state of appearance and repair, as the condition of our property is a reflection on the condition of our spiritual well-being. This Friend felt that allocation of funds for this purpose is a higher priority than for outreach. A member the Fundraising Committee said that we may table this discussion until our next committee meeting. A Friend said that a committee to spruce up this good solid house is worthwhile.

### **Friends accepted the report of the Fundraising Committee.**

#### **Finance Committee**

#### **Finance Committee:**

“We continue to function without a Treasurer or permanent Clerk of the Finance Committee. We invite friends interested in working with the Finance Committee to speak to the Nominating Committee ([nominating@ashevillefriends.org](mailto:nominating@ashevillefriends.org)). Friends are welcome to attend Finance Committee Meetings. The next meeting will be on Sunday April 30, 8:30 to 9:45 am at the Meeting House.

“The Finance Committee plans to develop written policies to guide us. We wanted to let Meeting know about the first two of these policies. We welcome any comments (to

[finance@ashevillefriends.org](mailto:finance@ashevillefriends.org))

“We will require two signatories for any check amount over \$500.

“Reimbursement for use of a private vehicle for Meeting functions: The Meeting will reimburse for mileage any amount up to the standard amount approved by the IRS as deductible for business travel. (As of 4/06 that amount is \$0.445 per mile.) The exact amount for a particular situation will be negotiated between the relevant committee and the driver.”

A Friend suggested that a third policy be approved allowing Finance to create its own policies. A Friend suggested that they make their policies known to Business Meeting from time to time. Clerk offered that this would give Meeting for Business a change to review the policies.

A Friend asked for clarification as to what constitutes reimbursable travel for the Meeting.

**Friends approved the policies offered and agreed that Finance should continue to develop policies.**

**Friends accepted the report of Finance Committee.**

### Board of Directors

“The Board of Directors of the Asheville Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends held a special Meeting on 3/26/06 at the Friends Meeting House. They met at the request of the Finance Committee.

“As a reminder to Friends, the Board of Directors has the legal responsibility to govern the corporation which holds the property and investments of the Meeting. Current directors include Marcia Master (Clerk), Valerie Collins (Secretary), David Clements (Treasurer), Carrie Coward, and Steve Livingston (ex officio as Clerk of the Meeting). In general, the Board acts to carry out decisions of Meeting or of the Finance Committee. Almost all decisions of the Board of Directors need to be approved at a subsequent Monthly Meeting for Business in order to be effective.

“Below is a summary of the decisions made by the Board, for which we are seeking the approval of Meeting. The complete minutes of the Board Meeting are available from the Secretary and will be available with the minutes of the current Business Meeting.

“At the request of the Finance Committee, we elected George Gjelfriend to the Board. Approval of Meeting is required.

“At the request of the Finance Committee, we approved a resolution naming Valerie Collins, David Clements, and George Gjelfriend as signatories for the Wachovia Bank accounts, the SelfHelp Credit Union accounts, and the Pax World Fund Account. Approval of Meeting is required.

“Pursuant to a decision of Meeting in November 2005, we amended the bylaws of the corporation to specify that the Annual Meeting of the (the same day as the October Meeting for Business). Approval of Meeting is required.

**Friends approved election of George Gjelfriend to the Board of Directors of Asheville Friends Meeting. Friends approved naming Valerie Collins, David Clements, and George Gjelfriend as signatories for the Wachovia bank accounts,**

**Self-Help Credit Union accounts, and Pax World Fund account. Friends approved that the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held at the Friends Meeting on the second Sunday in October.**

**Friends accepted the report of the Board of Directors.**

State of the Meeting Report:

Clerk requested that Committee clerks meet on 4/29 at 9 AM to continue the work of discerning the State of the Meeting Report, and to share responses to the queries that were sent out to each committee. In response to an inquiry from SAYMA regarding our Meeting's census, clerk agreed to talk to the Recorder after Meeting for Business.

Clerk informed Meeting that SAYMA Yearly Meeting is a worthwhile event and he hopes that some will consider attending. The Clerk will send out links to the SAYMA site as soon as registration comes available. The Gathering will be held June 7 thru 11, at Warren Wilson College. A Friend pointed out that there is an extra fee for registering after a certain date.

Ministry and Counsel:

“Ministry and Counsel Met March 14th, 2006

“Members present: Alice Brown, Steve Livingston, Katherine Kowal, Kristi Gjelfriend, Gjeorge Gjelfriend

“Katherine Kowal agreed to be the M&C representative on the committee dealing with the nuts and bolts of the change in the FDS schedule. Barbara Esther, Laura Maynard, Joy Gossett, and Stephanie Gossett have also agreed to serve. This committee doesn't yet have a clerk because it hasn't yet met.

“Katherine has also agreed to serve with Barbara Esther and Joy Gossett on the LBGTQ committee.

“We decided that the name and email address of our clerk will surface whenever anyone queries ‘M&C’.

“We think the current posting of the food restrictions is sufficient and we don't want newcomers confronted with a long list of prohibitions.

“We agreed to call a special meeting of M&C to worship share a specific section of the SAYMA Faith and Practice revisions without getting involved in editing.

“We do not accept the responsibility for the advertising budget suggesting, instead, the communications committee. As far as we know, the only paid advertising is in the Friends Journal. George agreed to keep his name and phone number in the (free) Mountain Xpress listing.”

Ministry and Counsel clarified that the “LBGTQ Committee” is a group of Friends formed to visit with the members of the meeting who are not comfortable with same gender marriage.

**Friends accepted the report of Ministry and Counsel.**

Speaking for Communications Committee, the Recording Clerk informed Meeting that that committee had also declined the responsibility of overseeing the Meeting's advertising expenditures.

#### Long Range Visioning and Planning:

"The committee met April 2, 2006 around noon, in the meeting library. In attendance were Robin Wells, Ellen Frerotte, Satchel Loftis, George Gjelfriend, Steve Livingston and Lynnora Bierce, who convened the meeting. After reading the notes from the previous meeting, which suffered from lack of critical mass, the meeting commenced.

"Lynnora told of her leading to clerk this committee, which was approved by the committee.

"The committee launched into an exercise in exploration of the pros and cons of our current meeting house. Although many issues were raised which make the sale of the property seem like a feasible action, we also found that many of the problems of the meetinghouse are able to be addressed. Some problems which will not be addressed by fixing the meeting house could be addressed by the building of a 50 by 50 annex to the north of the meetinghouse, which has been researched in the past, and would comfortably seat about 100 attenders.

"It should be noted that a decision was not made, and we recognize that there is much more work to be done, and much more to learn about these issues we have surrounding the ownership and continued maintenance of our physical spiritual and community home. We made most of our considerations without regard to hard financial numbers, which of course, must also be taken into account.

"We plan to meet on May 7th, at noon after the rise of meeting, and invite all who are concerned with this issue to attend our committee meeting. Our next meeting is to explore future projections of the use of the meetinghouse, as well as revisit some of the other possibilities discussed and discovered during this committee meeting.

#### **Friends accepted the report of Long Range Visioning and Planning Committee.**

A Friend noted that reports from other LRPV committee could contain useful information.

#### Minutes of Previous Meetings:

**With necessary revision already made to the Finance Committee report of Second Month, Friends approved the minutes of Second and Third Month Meetings for Business as posted on the Meeting website.**

#### Personal Concerns:

Robin Wells reported that two young men from South Africa came by during Business Meeting. They are making a documentary about American's perceptions of Africa. They may come back to interview those willing to participate.

Ernest Doerschuk Memorial Service will be at the UCC Church on May 7<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM. Efforts to contact his family and inquire as to the health and well being of his wife have been unsuccessful.

David Clements raised the possibility of continuing the annual Retreat on a smaller scale.

Margaret Normile requested information about older members who no longer attend, and asked if we are still in contact with these individuals on a regular basis. Marcia Master, speaking for Pastoral Care Committee, let the community know that information is available on the bulletin board, and that with the exception of some confidential information, letters are posted as they are received. Marcia asked that Friends share notes and letters from individuals to keep people of the meeting updated. Clerk suggested that M&C look at this issue along with Pastoral Care, and discern if this need is more the responsibility of individuals to pursue as they felt led. A Friend said that the sending of cards to these individuals could be taken on by the meeting.

Alice Brown shared her concern about her eyes, and asked to be held in the light. Meeting agreed to do so.

Martha Huggins asked to hold Rachel in the light, as she has had an accident, although she will be all right.

Lynnora Bierce asked for Friends to hold her cousin Tim Stokes in the light as he has suffered from a traumatic fall and is currently in the hospital.

Meeting ended with a period of worship at 1:30 PM.