

Minutes
Eighth Month Meeting
Eighth Month, 12th Day, 2007

12:02 Settle

Reading

What are you doing to make you meeting a participant in community affairs?
Do you maintain integrity in your relationship with the public, remembering that worthy ends do not justify unworthy means?

SAYMA Guide to Our Faith and Practice, 1998

Worship

Attendance

Peter Buck, Ellen Frerotte, Jim Cavener, Kristi Gjelfriend, George Gjelfriend, Alan Robinson, Rusty Maynard, Adrienne Weir, Ellen Oldham, Katherine Kowal, Phil Neal, Margaret Normile, Barbara Esther, Jen Rhode, Gary Briggs

Steve Livingston—Clerk
Lynnora Bierce—Recording Clerk

Introductions

Jen Rhode, a member of Athens Georgia Meeting, introduced herself to our AFM. She has recently moved to Asheville and is teaching at UNCA.

Also we were introduced to Rusty the Chihuahua.

Approval of agenda

—Approved

Review and Approval of previous minutes:
7th month 2007

—Approved

Treasurer's Report

Adrienne Weir gave a brief report, by outlining some of the more salient points of the budget such as shortfalls of income and expenses. We thank Gary Briggs for bringing in rental income. We thank Adrienne Weir for offering to serve as our new treasurer.

—Accepted the Report

Pastoral Care

At our meeting yesterday afternoon at the home of Marcia Master, the five Friends present agreed with Nominating Committee's recommendation to invite three additional members of the committee. That process has begun, and the results will be reported at next month's Meeting for Business.

Members of Pastoral Care Marcia Master, Ellen Frerotte, George Gjelfriend (Kristi Gjelfriend was absent) and Jim Cavener developed a procedure for monitoring the needs and concerns of folks in Meeting, and ask all attenders and members to alert any of the above if you should become aware of any particular issues that our committee should know of.

(Margaret Normile and Bridget O'Hara are new members pending approval from Ministry & Counsel)

Pastoral Care will have an envelope in the Foyer with information forms for Friends to fill out if they know of or are personally involved with particular issues that Friends in our community are currently facing.

A Friend spoke about making sure that the Meeting accepts some responsibility for keeping Pastoral Care informed so that they may be able to better care for the Meeting, so that no one feels that the Meeting doesn't care or isn't concerned about them.

—Accepted the Report

House and Grounds

Alan Robinson presented House and Grounds' recommendation that the back stairs be replaced with a spiral staircase at a cost of between \$2000 and \$3000. House and Grounds advises that the choice of spiral stairs would be both esthetically and practically advantageous, and the cost will not be any greater than replacing a wooden structure every ten to fifteen years.

A Friend asked if the staircase would be out in the weather and where it would be situated. We were informed of the location of the staircase and that the galvanized steel would protect it to the elements. This Friend felt that it should be shielded from the weather, and that a covering should be investigated. Also this Friend spoke of future changes to the back of the building, and whether changes could be made to the spiral staircase. The Friend was assured that this staircase would be changeable.

The Clerk acknowledged that this Friend could not unite with the suggestion of House and Grounds, and asked to defer this decision until the Friend could join with House and Grounds to sit with this issue. The next meeting of House and Grounds is late Tuesday of the Month at 6pm in the Meetinghouse. House and Grounds will organize a meeting with the concerned Friend.

Another Friend raised concerns about the elevated back porch area and its safety or lack thereof.

In response to an inquiry, Alan reported that the exterior stairway was not required by code, but that the committee felt it was essential for the safety of persons using the upstairs of our building.

A Friend asked if House and Grounds had considered how the very old or the very young might experience navigating the spiral staircase. Alan remarked that this new stairway could be as easily navigated as a regular stairway.

In response to an inquiry, Meeting was informed that the Fire-doors on the internal stairway are currently in the process of being fixed. This is a separate matter.

—Report accepted

Clerking

Barbara Esther has agreed to serve as clerk of meeting. She will be relieved as clerk of Ministry and Counsel by Katherine Kowal. We still need to find someone to take over her duties as SAYMA representatives.

Friends would like to offer for Barbara to reach out if there are difficulties that arise out of her clerking.

Another Friend brought up that the meeting is not really aware of all the responsibilities Barbara has in meeting and after identifying them, come up with ways of easing her burden without meeting suffering. Also this Friend reminded the meeting that our representation with SAYMA is very important and necessary, and that we need to find a new Rep as soon as possible.

A Friend inquiring about the travel requirements for the SAYMA rep. was informed that it involves 3 meetings a year, and that Steve Livingston as site coordinator, and Barbara Esther as Planning clerk will attend, and carpooling is always available.

Barbara Esther has been clerk of the meeting in the past.

Barbara suggested two things that might make it easier to find future clerks:

- 1) Send someone to Pendle Hill each year to take Author Larrabee's course
- 2) Appoint an Assistant Clerk, especially a younger member/attender to help foster clerking in the meeting.

Friends agreed that we need to budget money for the Pendle Hill workshop.

Jim Cavener reminded Friends that we are still looking for another Recording Clerk although Lynnora will stay until another Recording Clerk can be named.

Jim also wanted to thank Steve for his two years of service on behalf of Nominating.

Clerk asked that we write the length of the term of Clerk for Barbara Esther to be two years.

—Approved

Friends asked that a minute of appreciation of Steve as clerk.

Katherine Kowal will write a minute of appreciation.

Clerk expressed that he has been both honored and distressed by his service to the Meeting.

—Approved

Spiritual Enrichment

Asheville Friends Meeting Adult Religious Education Fall/Winter 2007

Fall 2007 Adult Religious Education Sessions rotation includes:

1st Sundays: Exploring Quakerism

~ Readings, discussions, and queries on relevant Quaker topics

2nd Sundays: Intergenerational Activities

~ Adults and youth will explore spiritual topics together through stories, games, crafts, activities, and song

3rd Sundays: Meditation Practices

~ Meditation practices, readings, poetry, and discussions

4th Sundays: Peace & Earth Days

~ A time for discussions and peace and earth related activities

5th Sundays: Sacred Chanting

~ 5th Sundays occur in September, December, and March

... Religious Ed is held from 9:30-10:15 each First Day. The Fall rotation will begin on the 2nd Sunday, September 9th, 2007.

—Accepted the Report

Peace and Earth

Peace and Earth is working on ideas for programs for Adult RE and gave a small financial contribution to Ursula Scott's daughter Deb for her translation project, hiring Spanish language translators to help out at the Emma Family Resource Center. Deb will give one of the presentations to our meeting as a first hour P&E offering.

Kristi G commended the project to the Meeting as an important opportunity for children struggling to learn English to connect with English speakers, and for the adults to mentor the young people. Interested Friends may contact her for more information.

—Accepted the Report

Letter of Transfer for Gary Briggs

Clerk read a letter from Durham Friends Meeting:

“On First Day, I will ask Durham Friends Meeting if we are ready to ‘release’ you from membership. People will groan and sigh and say yes.

“But you will need to find out if Asheville Meeting is ready to ‘catch’ when we release. Here at DFM we have Clearness Committees, even for transfer of membership. I suggest you approach your clerk about that, so when I send a letter about your release, he knows what is going on. (Sorry, I've e-filed your previous letter and am too lazy to look up right now if the pronoun is correct.)

“Glad to know you are active as always championing our recognition of that of god in each of us!

“In peace, Terry [Graedon, clerk of Durham Friends Meeting]”

Clerk asked if Friends felt a Clearness Committee would be necessary in view of Gary's many years of involvement in the life of our Meeting, or if Gary preferred one. Gary did not feel a need for a clearness committee and Meeting was fully prepared to accept him without the usual clearness process.

—Approved pending release

Letter of Transfer for Bobby Carter

Clerk read a letter from Columbia Meeting (SC):

“To the Clerk of Asheville Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends:

“Bobby Carter, a member of our monthly meeting, has been living in your town and attending your Meeting for a time. He has requested that we transfer his membership to your Meeting.

“He was an active and well loved member in our Meeting for many years and we have missed him. We continue to hold him in the Light. We know that you will continue to nourish his spirit and that he will flourish among you.

“Fortunately, we are not so far removed that we will see him from time to time.

In peace,

Gita Larson and Sallie Prugh, co-clerks”

Clerk asked if Friends felt a clearness committee would be necessary in view of Bobby’s many years of involvement in the life of our Meeting, or if the decision to accept him as a member should be postponed until he has had a chance to request a clearness committee. Friends agreed to wait until we have had a chance to consult with Bobby before approving the transfer.

—Deferred

Committee Clerks Meeting

Clerk reminded Meeting of the upcoming Committee Clerks’ meeting, scheduled for 8/25, beginning at 3 p.m. and ending with a potluck at 5:30. He reminded Friends that the meeting was open to all, not just committee clerks.

Individual Concerns

Ellen Oldham is willing to organize Orphans Thanksgiving this year. She shared that she falls apart in May and gets better by December, please hold her in the light as she does what she can when she can.

Kristi informs us that WomenSong will have an event August 25th, 2007 at the Civic Center Arena. Kristi has tickets, and Adrienne has put up a post in the foyer for those who are interested.

Adrienne Wier was given The Christiana Tugman Scholarship to help with her studies at AB Tech in construction. Christiana Tugman was herself a construction student and is now in pursuit of a degree in law to focus on community service.

closing worship (1:39)