

# Agenda – Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business Eighth Month 2008

**Clerk:** Barbara Esther

**Recording Co-Clerk:** Jen Rhode

**Present:** Katherine Kowal, Kitti Reynolds, Raelin Hansen, Phillip Neal, Peter Buck, Margaret Normile, Ellen Frerotte, Pat Johnson, Satchel Loftis, George Gjelfriend, Gary Briggs, Alan Robinson, Steve Livingston, Jim Cavener, Bobby Carter, Joy Gossett, Adrienne Weir

Opening Worship We began with a period of worship in silence **at 12:08 p.m.**

Clerk's Reading

*August.  
The opposing  
of peach and sugar,  
and the sun inside the afternoon  
like the stone in the fruit*

*The ear of corn keeps  
its laughter intact, yellow and firm*

*August.  
The little boys eat  
brown bread and delicious moon.*

Federico García Lorca  
from *Earth Prayers from Around the World*  
Edited by Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon

Review of Agenda

The Report concerning her experiences during the May Term in Ghana (by Stephanie Gossett) will be given at the next (9<sup>th</sup> Month) Meeting for Worship for Business.

Phil Neal asked to add a discussion of the Recorder's duties.

Jim Cavener requested the addition a report from the Nominating Committee.

Minutes of Sixth Month 2008

We will review these at the next (9<sup>th</sup> Month) Meeting for Worship for Business.

# Treasurer's Report

Adrienne Weir

	<b>TOTAL</b>		
	<b>Jan - Jul 08</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>% of Budget</b>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
<b>4000 · Contribution Income</b>	8 087,98	21 905,00	36,92%
<b>7020 · Dividends</b>	86,02	0,00	
<b>7010 · Interest Income</b>	1 433,75	1 200,00	119,48%
<b>4150 · Miscellaneous Income - Coffee Sales</b>	109,00	0,00	
<b>Rental Income</b>	<u>2 673,00</u>	<u>4 200,00</u>	<u>63,64%</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>12 389,75</u>	<u>27 305,00</u>	<u>45,38%</u>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	12 764,75	27 305,00	46,75%
<b>Expense</b>			
<b>Meeting House</b>			
<b>House and Grounds</b>	534,82	3 000,00	17,83%
<b>6180 · Insurance</b>	2 405,00	2 800,00	85,89%
<b>6390 · Utilities</b>	<u>1 692,46</u>	<u>2 900,00</u>	<u>58,36%</u>
<b>Total Meeting House</b>	4 632,28	8 700,00	53,25%
<b>Meeting Support</b>			
<b>Pastoral Care Ctte</b>	0,00	120,00	0,0%
<b>Communications Ctte</b>	534,80	635,00	84,22%
<b>Advertising</b>	80,00	100,00	80,0%
<b>Finance Ctte</b>	20,00	90,00	22,22%
<b>Library</b>	132,85	400,00	33,21%
<b>Ministry and Counsel Ctte</b>	0,00	300,00	0,0%
<b>6240 · Miscellaneous</b>			
<b>6120 · Bank Service Charges</b>	8,00	0,00	
<b>Coffee Purchases</b>	12,28	0,00	
<b>Office Supplies</b>	0,00	300,00	0,0%
<b>6240 · Miscellaneous - Other</b>	<u>0,00</u>	<u>2 000,00</u>	<u>0,0%</u>
<b>Total 6240 · Miscellaneous</b>	20,28	2 300,00	0,88%
<b>6560 · Payroll Expenses</b>	258,25	550,00	46,95%
<b>QLSP Scholarship</b>	0,00	0,00	0,0%
<b>Refreshments</b>	75,74	0,00	
<b>Religious Education Ctte</b>			
<b>Childcare</b>	607,66	1 200,00	50,64%
<b>First Day School</b>	861,17	900,00	95,69%
<b>SAYF</b>	<u>260,46</u>	<u>700,00</u>	<u>37,21%</u>
<b>Total Religious Education Ctte</b>	1 729,29	2 800,00	61,76%
<b>Spiritual Enrichment Ctte</b>	<u>0,00</u>	<u>300,00</u>	<u>0,0%</u>
<b>Total Meeting Support</b>	2 851,21	7 595,00	37,54%
<b>Outreach</b>			
<b>6140 · General Outreach</b>	125,00	0,00	100,0%
<b>*Peace and Earth Ctte</b>	96,50	500,00	19,3%
<b>Quaker Outreach</b>	5 000,00	5 000,00	100,0%
<b>SAYMA Dues</b>	<u>2 632,50</u>	<u>3 510,00</u>	<u>75,0%</u>
<b>Total Outreach</b>	<u>7 854,00</u>	<u>9 010,00</u>	<u>87,17%</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	15 337,49	25 305,00	60,61%

Adrienne Weir read out the totals from the budget sheet. She mentioned that we were behind on both income and expenditures for the year.

Adrienne asked us to recognize that the (asterisked) Peace & Earth general outreach fund money was still based on the amount budgeted last year.

Adrienne pointed out that current and future Retreat Registration Fees would be included in the Income column, and that Montreat deposit fees had been included as Expenditures. Margaret suggested that Retreat monies be kept in a separate Budget line.

Ellen Frerotte said that Spiritual Enrichment expenditures (billed from “Quaker Books”) might be showing up under Library expenditures. Ellen will meet with Adrienne to amend this.

The Treasurer’s Report was accepted as written.

## Committee Reports

Barbara noted that the Spiritual Enrichment Committee would make a report at the 9<sup>th</sup> Month Meeting for Worship for Business about the details of their plan for the upcoming year.

### Peace and Earth (Kitti Reynolds)

Report from Peace and Earth  
Meeting for Business, Eight Month, 2008

Rusul Jalal, the seven year old Iraqi girl who was injured in an American bombing, has arrived in America. Her visit is sponsored by No More Victims, with some help from our Meeting. She had surgery last month, and her right foot was amputated. She is doing wonderfully, and is in a hot pink leg cast and staying at Ronald McDonald House in Greenville. We expect her to get a prosthetic right foot later this month.

Peace and Earth sent the following letter to the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church in Knoxville, Tn. Thanks to Margaret Normile for providing the bulk of the text, and Susan Oehler for sensitive editing.

“We of the Peace and Earth Committee of Asheville Friends Meeting join you in your sorrow over the recent senseless killing and injuring of members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Knoxville. We are very much in accord with your peace and social stands and are truly sorry for your losses. This action affects not only the many UU churches, but all of us who honor and promote independent thinking and peaceful solutions to disagreements. Please accept our condolences. Sincerely, Peace and Earth Committee of Asheville Friends Meeting.”

Kitti Reynolds passed around pictures of the 10 year old girl from Iraq (brought over with funding from No More Victims). She has had a leg amputated, is getting a prosthetic one, and is expected to return to Iraq in about a month. Kitti said that Ursula Scott’s daughter is sponsoring a fundraiser for the girl from Iraq. We were unsure of the exact details of this fundraiser.

Peace & Earth sent a letter of support to the Knoxville (TN) Unitarian Church. Margaret Normile drafted this letter.

Kitti reminded us that Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) members would be staying at the Meeting House for Friday and Saturday nights. Susan Oehler and Jen Rhode will stay with the students (from 8 pm – 9 am). We originally approved 15 students. Kitti asked whether Friends would be comfortable with raising the cap from 15 to 20 college-aged students.

Steve Livingston asked for Jen Rhode's opinion on this, as she would be staying with the students. Jen Rhode said she was comfortable with this. Susan has communicated our general expectations of Meeting House use to the SDS group, so they are aware of our expectations (no drugs, alcohol, smoking, etc.). Gary Briggs said that he would re-send these explicit expectations to Jen Rhode and Susan for dissemination to the SDS students. Gary said he was not concerned about the numbers, and that students (if they were quiet) could stay on the porch.

Phil Neal was concerned about our hot water capabilities. Barbara Esther said that we have had approximately twice as many people here for SAYF retreats and that it should not be a problem.

***MINUTE: Friends approved that up to 20 SDS students, once they received and accepted our guidelines, could stay at the Meeting House under the guidance of Jen Rhode and Susan Oehler.***

#### Ad Hoc Retreat Committee (Katherine Kowal)

- Report to be added to Minutes

The retreat will be September 26-28 at Montreat Conference Center. Katherine encouraged us to register and pay early for the retreat so that the committee does not have to pay expenses out of pocket.

There are three ways in which people could attend this retreat:

- There is room for 22 to stay at the Glen Rock Inn.
- There is camping at the Montreat College campus; please be sure to register early so the committee can reserve camp sites.
- People can commute to the retreat.

The retreat theme is "Telling our Stories". This is the plan thus far:

- Friday night: Peter Buck facilitates "Telling Our Childhood Story".
- Saturday morning: Katherine Kowal will help us make maps of our spiritual journeys.
- Saturday afternoon: 3-4 groups will meet, each discussing a particular Bible story from the perspective of who you would be in the story.
- Saturday night: Peter Buck will lead an "interplay" experience. We might want a follow up about this on a future First Day.
- Sunday morning: Joyce Rawlings Davis will facilitate a discussion of where we are now in our story.
- Meeting for Worship will also occur during the retreat. There will be two 30 minute sessions on Saturday, and a regular session on Sunday.

The Retreat Committee minutes were approved as written.

***MINUTE: Friends thank the Retreat Committee for the joyful work they have put into planning this fall's retreat.***

### Nominating (Jim Cavener)

Jim Cavener expressed a concern of Nominating Committee: that the committee does not exist as a functional entity because of inaction of committee members. The Library Committee is also not functional as of now. He asks that some process be used to solicit membership for these committees, and express the Nominating Committee's needs.

Kitti suggested using the Minutes and announcements at the rise of Meeting to solicit new members. Barbara asked that such an announcement be put on the clipboard to ensure it was announced at the rise of future Meetings.

Jim asked if there were other committee needs. Barbara said that Religious Education Committee needed a clerk, but that the selection of committee clerks generally occurs within the committee rather than through the nominating process.

Gary asked how new Nominating Committee Members were chosen. Barbara reminded Friends that recommendations for such members were made by the Naming Committee. Alan Robinson and Steve Livingston said they were members of former Naming Committee, and asked to be relieved of these duties.

Barbara pointed out that the work of Nominating Committee had been ongoing of late, and that this was difficult. She said it was customary to have Spring / Fall seasons for filling positions (as opposed to year-round duties), allowing meeting members time to carefully consider in which positions they were called to serve. She said that the current Nominating Committee was in a difficult position, and that we should put thought into how to ease this burden.

Katherine Kowal shared that, in Cincinnati, Nominating Committee was popular because of short periods of intense work followed by periods of little action. She said we should think about how to re-structure Nominating Committee to make it more like this. Jim Cavener concurred with the normal structure of Nominating Committee, where the committee only functions in a non-scheduled way following an unusual event (death, person moving, illness, etc.).

Steve Livingston said the current fate of Nominating Committee bears reviewing from Ministry & Council. Steve pointed out that it is not the job of Nominating Committee to discover the leadings of others and assign them to committees. Instead, it is the job of all in the Meeting to ask themselves how they can help, and to volunteer according to those talents and leadings. It is important not to lay this burden on the Nominating Committee, because it makes their job difficult. It is also important to recognize that all committees (except Ministry & Council) welcome visitors, and that the first step is to visit a committee you find interesting (before a committee brings your name to Nominating Committee). This step makes the difference between making the work of Nominating Committee possible and making it impossible.

Steve encouraged all to ask how they can help, and to step forward accordingly. He reminded us that we are all equal members of the Meeting, and that, if we shoulder our burdens equally, we will keep the Meeting afloat.

Barbara said that one practice other Nominating Committees have followed is to send out information to remind Friends of upcoming opportunities as terms come to an end, etc. She recommended that our meeting do this.

Peter Buck urged that a conversation, such as Steve mentioned, happen during several Meetings for Worship for Business.

Raelin Hansen said that she was interested in approaching the Library Committee. The Meeting said that she should talk to Marcia Master (the Clerk and only remaining member of the Library Committee).

Joy pointed out that there is a perpetual need for the description/function of each committee, particularly for those not familiar with the Religious Society of Friends, urging each committee to provide this information to be disseminated. This information (along with name of committee members and committee clerks) is already posted on the Nominating Committee page of the website, per concerns of the Nominating Committee and Communications Committee.

Ellen said that the Spiritual Enrichment Committee plans to have one Sunday a month as "Committee Sunday". During this Sunday, the committee could lead discussions during First Hour.

The clerk stated that we have been charged with supporting the Nominating Committee, and are each charged with asking where we are led to serve. We have also asked the Nominating Committee to review the description of its own work and submit it as an announcement to be read at the rise of Meeting. Barbara volunteered to speak with the inactive members of the Nominating Committee.

***MINUTE: The current Naming Committee will be laid down and re-established when the need for such committee is clear.***

Gary Briggs suggested that the Communications Committee ask those who are members of our email list to look over open positions and see where they could serve. Information will also go into the Meeting Handbook.

The Nominating Committee Report was approved as given.

## Other Concerns

*Phil Neal: Duties of the Recorder*

Phil has been intimidated by the duties of the Recorder as he sees them at the present time. He wanted to mention that the Recorder's main duty is:

- To take in hand the Membership Book which, if brought up to date, would have names of all Friends, including and excluding names as appropriate. He mentioned that there is a movement afoot to banish Associate Friends

(children of Recorded Friends). Such children were considered incipient members of the Religious Society of Friends, but he is not sure that is the case. He is still not sure what to do about those who fall in this category. He recommended threshing sessions, etc. to determine what to do about this.

- He would like to get in hand a current list of Recorded Friends (who have gone through the Meeting's Clearness Committee process).
- He would like the help of those in Ministry & Council to tell him the names of past Members who consider themselves former Friends or Inactive Friends.
- He asks for the assistance of any who are so inclined in completing this task. This will clear many roadblocks, especially the task of consulting past minutes (and attenders themselves) to get the accurate status of Friends.

Ellen volunteered to look through past minutes from the website, looking for names of new Members.

Gary recommended that children of Members just be listed in the Minutes as such (Children of Members). Phil said he was not yet ready to make this decision.

Barbara recommended that these concerns be referred to Ministry & Council. Phil asked to speak about these concerns at a Ministry & Council meeting. Katherine Kowal noted 2 issues for discussion: how to help the Recorder (to be discussed this Tuesday at 4:30 pm, at Katherine's house), and how to deal with children of Members (to be discussed later).

George pointed out that there had once been a committee convened to discuss Associate Membership. At that time they were not able to reach consensus.

**Closing Worship** We ended our meeting with a brief period of worship at 1:21 p.m.