

Minutes of the Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business Tenth Month 12, 2008

Opening Worship began at 12:20

Clerk: Barbara Esther

Recording Clerk: Lynnora Bierce

Attendance: Rusty Maynard, Phil Neal, Steve Livingston, Alan Robinson, George Gjelfriend, Raelin Hansen, Joy Gossett, Robin Wells, Rob, Pat Johnson, Jim Cavener, Ellen Frerotte, Kristi Gjelfriend

Reading:

Those of us known as ‘activists’ have sometimes been hurt by the written or spoken implication that we must be spending too little time on our spiritual contemplative lives. I do know many atheists who are active to improve the lot of humankind; but for those of us who are Friends, our attendance at meeting for worship and our silent prayerful times are what make our outer activity viable and effective - if it is effective.

I have similarly seen quieter Friends hurt by the implication that they do not care enough, because they are not seen to be ‘politically active’. Some worry unnecessarily that they may be doing things of a ‘less important’ nature, as if to be seen doing things by the eyes of the world is the same thing as to be seen doing things by the eyes of God. . . I suggest that we refrain from judging each other or belittling what each is doing; and that we should not feel belittled. We cannot know the prayers that others make or do not make in their own times of silent aloneness. We cannot know the letters others may be writing to governments, similarly. . . We were all made differently, in order to perform different tasks. Let us rejoice in our differences.

Margaret Glover, 1989

From *Quaker Faith & Practice* Britain Yearly Meeting

Agenda Review/Approved

Minutes of Ninth Month Meeting for Business – Approved.

Treasurer’s Report

Pat Johnson

Apologies from the Finance Committee, as the report suffered from technical difficulties. Funds have been entered into the computer but it was not possible to print the report. A review of our bank accounts found that the money appears to be safe. We own no stock, and our account seems secure at this point. We are about \$5500 behind in receipt of funds, about 1/2 way to where we should be to meet the budget. It was reported that Religious Education was over-budget by about \$200. The RE Committee requested itemization of expenditures last month. Once again a Friend expressed concern that the grill was billed to RE budget instead of to another budget line item. A Friend

reminded us that the budget is a guideline.
The report was accepted as presented.

Committee Reports

Nomination Committee Report

Valerie Collins was nominated to serve on the Library Committee (she will step down from Board of Directors) Approved.

Raelin Hansen was approved to Library Committee (she stepped forward during the business meeting) – **Approved.**

The issue of whether to continue to have a Naming Committee to bring names forward for Nominating Committee will go to Ministry and Counsel for a conference with Nominating Committee once the M&C Committee hears from them as to their wishes. Friends accepted the report as presented.

Report from the Board of Directors

The Board asked Friends to replace Valerie Collins and Palen Spruance with Bob Smith and Pat Johnson as members of the Board of Directors. Approved.

Accepted the report as presented

Peace and Earth Report, Tenth Month 12, 2008

At the Ninth Month, 2008, meeting of the Peace and Earth Committee, we decided Margaret Normile will manage the emails we send around, which has been the main way lately that we have conducted business. She will also summarize our activities for Business Meeting, which Kitti Reynolds will continue to report, with Pat Johnson as a backup.

Kitti will continue to sign for Peace and Earth budget requests, with Pat as a backup. Susan Oehler will become our recording clerk.

Kitti will continue to collect Peace and Earth mail, and decide what needs to be brought to the attention of the committee.

Kitti and Margaret will be co-clerks, so Peace and Earth emails can be sent to both or either of us.

Action Item: Peace and Earth is asking Business Meeting about having 20-30 college students stay in our Meetinghouse on Saturday night, November 1st. Adrienne Weir knows a representative for this group and is willing to be a Meeting presence there that night. Susan Oehler volunteered to be her backup. The students are coming to the UNCA campus for workshops on clean energy and sustainability. Kitti Reynolds is familiar with the student environmental organization on campus, which is organizing the meeting Nov. 1st and 2nd and can vouch for their concern for the environment. I have already informed Derek, the UNCA student helping to organize this, that students could only use the Meetinghouse for sleeping (come late and leave early) and that no alcohol, smoking, or illegal drugs will be tolerated.

Discussion: This will be contingent on availability of the meetinghouse per Gary Briggs, the calendar manager. However, having a group staying in the meetinghouse may need

meeting approval since we have had problems in the past. **Meeting was in favor of having the group of students stay, as long as there are 2 adult members of the meeting community staying with them. We will ask that the group make a donation rather than being charged a fee if the fee is a hardship for them. Approved.**

Report accepted as presented

Ministry and Counsel (Handbook) Barbara Esther

The handbook was presented in its present form. It is meant to be a resource, available to members and attenders to show meeting procedures and policies.

Accepted the report as presented

Memorial Minute for Alice Brown Jim Cavener

The Memorial Minute for Alice Brown will be brought for approval next month following a review by Ministry & Counsel. The minute will be sent to yearly meeting, Friends' Journal as well as to former/other meetings of which Alice was a part.

A Friend reminded us that Alice did not want a big fuss and, as a result, urged Friends to call it a "meeting for remembrance" rather than "memorial meeting". Friends trust this and other details in this matter to Ministry and Counsel Committee.

Accepted

Concerns

Orphans' Thanksgiving Steve Livingston/Organizer

I would like to bring up the matter of holiday celebrations this month rather than waiting until the last minute.

I propose that we hold our usual Orphans' Thanksgiving celebration, but with a twist. In these troubling times, it is particularly important to remember as we give thanks for our blessing that many are in want of common necessities. And so I propose that everyone who attends the Orphans' Thanksgiving is requested to bring at least one non-perishable item to be donated to Manna Food Bank right after Thanksgiving. I would further request that we put a box in the foyer to collect non-perishables even from those who will not be attending the Orphans' Thanksgiving, so that everyone will have the opportunity to make the holiday season a more blessed one for those who are in need.

It will be a potluck with a sign-up sheet to be placed in foyer by Steve.

Meeting will provide the space for the Orphans' Thanksgiving and non-perishable donations will be made by all who wish to do so.

Accepted as presented

Other – The motorcycle in the parking lot has caused some concern. George Gjelfriend will email the owners and find their intentions. To make it more secure or more difficult to tip over, it will be tied to a tree (Rusty volunteered to do this). It is unclear how approval for them to leave it in the Meetinghouse parking lot was understood. Our fear is that a child could be injured if it were tipped over.

SAYF Retreat

Appreciation was forwarded from the SAYF organizers and Therese Hildebrand, the SAYF Administrative Assistant, to Asheville Friends Meeting and especially to Gary and Pat, who were so generous with their time and energy.

Appreciation was expressed to Lynnora Bierce for filling in as recording clerk, and to Pat Johnson for filling in for the Treasurer, Peace and Earth while other members were unable to attend this monthly meeting. Several members were involved in a walk to support fair treatment of foreign workers.

We closed with a period of worship at 1:47 pm