

MINUTES
Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business
Twelfth Month 14, 2008

Clerk: Barbara Esther

Co-Recording Clerk: Jen Rhode (jmrhode@yahoo.com)

Friends Present: Bobby Carter, Jim Cavener, Ellen Frerotte, Joy Gossett, Rylin Hansen, Pat Johnson, Katherine Kowal, Steve Livingston, Rusty Maynard, Kitti Reynolds, Alan Robinson, Sarah Jane Thomas, Adrienne Weir.

Opening Worship (12:15 p.m.)

Reading

The tendency is to overburden ourselves with the amount of work we try to do. Matthew 6:22 is instructive here: “The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light” (KJV) The life of simplicity is the focused, disciplined life in which we do not take on more than we can reasonably handle. This means uncomplicating our overscheduled and overburdened lives. It means having a clear sense of what is most important and learning how to leave aside those things that detract from and clutter up our lives – the excess baggage. In short, the testimony of simplicity calls for a reordering of our lives so that we become spiritually centered and focused.

A Living Faith by Wilmer A. Cooper

Approval of Minutes from 11-9-08

We will wait until next month, as the Eleventh Month minutes have not yet been posted on our website.

Agenda Review

An amended agenda was approved.

Treasurer’s Report (through 11th Month 30, 2008)

[LINK TO FULL REPORT](#)

Adrienne will bring fully reconciled accounts to the next Business Meeting. She noted shortages in contributions and rental income (~\$7000). Expenditures are also lower than predicted, which will be taken into account when creating our budget for next year (2009).

Religious Education will ask for monies to pay for a shed (an expenditure approved in 2006). This committee has \$323 leftover from past budgets which could be moved from its special fund (not the General Fund) back into this year’s RE budget.

Rusty Maynard clarified the definition of “fund”, and how it will affect the overall budget. Adrienne clarified other parts of the budget, including the House & Grounds Special Budget.

Adrienne noted that not all committees had submitted budgets for next year, 2009. See Finance Report below for details.

The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented, with gratitude.

Barbara suggested that, when our Meeting came up against practices with which we are not comfortable, that we season them in committee before bringing them to the Business Meeting, to avoid doing committee work during Business Meeting.

Committee Reports

Peace and Earth Committee (Kitti Reynolds)

David Clements emailed to Kitti:

“In 2005 I was designated the orderer of Café Monteverde, carrying on, under the care of the Peace and Earth Committee, the project that Al Dupress had brought to us. I rapidly simplified Al's system. I decided to order only full bags of coffee rather than splitting larger bags into smaller. Also, I took orders for specific products rather than having stock on hand at Meeting. The sales have been tracked in the Meeting Books. The Coffee Sales Fund currently has a surplus of \$119.

In 2008 I have become less able to carry on this work, and I need to give this back to Meeting for someone else to pick up if they are so moved. I would be happy to show someone else how to do this. Thanks for giving me the opportunity to do this for a while.”

(Please contact Kitti if you can help).

Susan Ohler reports that she delivered 24 hygiene kits to the AFSC in High Point, NC for shipment to Haiti. Susan volunteered to take any additional kits to High Point in January. We are grateful to First Day School for collecting so many additional items for these kits.

Kitti pointed out that funds for wider Quaker outreach had been expended (in January). Other Peace and Earth contributions for the community (\$1825 in planned expenditures) have not yet been fully expended.

Kitti asked that those in the Meeting bring forth the names of community organizations with which Friends are involved and feel worthy of funding. Katherine Kowal asked for clarification about the ways in which the Peace and Earth budget is spent. Steve Livingston reminded us that we committed to spending this amount of money on community organizations, and that we should honor these commitments regardless of our budget. He said that we should pay out these monies in the amounts planned, and that the Finance Committee would help us determine how to do this. He said that the Peace and Earth Committee should give the selection of organizations serious thought without worrying about fund availability.

Barbara thanked Kitti for her work on this. The Peace and Earth Committee Report was accepted as written.

Nominating Committee (Jim Cavener)

Jim thanked Adrienne for her work, skill, and honor in preparing Treasurer's Reports and fulfilling the multi-faceted duties of the Treasurer. Adrienne now requests a co-Treasurer or replacement. Jim felt that this role could be played best by multiple people. Pat Johnson said that she was comfortable with her role as bookkeeper and did not feel overwhelmed by that. She said she was not able to do all of this work but would be willing to help in a co-Treasurer role.

Barbara asked that Adrienne and Pat provide to the Meeting a list of the specific duties not covered by the Treasurer and Bookkeeper. Adrienne said that she had sent a full list of duties to Barbara via email; she and Pat will amend this list. Barbara expressed our Meeting's appreciation to both Adrienne and Pat. Joy united with this sentiment.

Finance Committee (Adrienne Weir)

Committee budget requests have been submitted by the Library Committee (\$300; \$100 less than last year, because no binding will be done), Spiritual Enrichment (\$200; \$100 less than last year), Ministry & Council (\$50, if they do not have to pay for Pendle Hill Clerk Training; those monies could come out of a re-funded Scholarship Committee), House and Grounds (\$5000; equal to last year), Peace and Earth (same as last year), Religious Education (\$900; same as last year). It is noted that the Scholarship fund needs replenishing in the 2009 budget plan.

A proposed budget will be presented at the 1st month (2009) Meeting for Business.

Ellen reminded us of previous discussions about doing Clerks' Retreats here, rather than sending Friends to Pendle Hill. This would be one way to save money.

The clerk asked that, if we have to reduce our overall budget, that we try to make reductions in an equitable and reasonable way across all committees.

The Finance Committee report was accepted as presented.

Religious Education Committee (Joy Gossett)

There have been several one-time unusual expenses this year (shed, grill). The committee pointed out that these items, which were not budgeted for, might be of use to the broader Meeting. Barbara said that she thought that the \$323 might be from fundraising for a playground fund. If this is the case, the committee could use this fund to pay for the shed. Ellen noted that this expense was approved in 2006. Barbara pointed out that, in the last 2 years, RE has provided an intergenerational activity at least twice monthly, and that this was costlier than activities that served the smaller number of children. Perhaps other funds could support this.

Ellen said that, if there was a trend towards more expenditures for intergenerational activities, that monies for this could be shared by Spiritual Enrichment. Katherine said

that it made sense to her that one-time expenditures such as a storage shed or grill, come out of the general fund rather than operational expenses (which should reflect ongoing expenditures). She said she did not think that it mattered which committee funded intergenerational activities.

Adrienne asked that some of the Miscellaneous Budget be transferred to Religious Education to cover the expense of the grill and allow the committee to finish out the year in the black.

Alan said that he felt it would be advantageous, for future budgeting and to avoid distorting the RE budget, for us to pay for both the grill and shed from the Miscellaneous Budget line.

Ellen reminded us to note carryover funds from approved, but not expended, budget items. This would clarify future budget year expenditures.

Approved Minute

Monies to cover the purchase of both the grill and shed will be drawn from the Miscellaneous Budget, not the Religious Education Committee's Budget.

Ad-Hoc Retreat Committee (Katherine Kowal)

Nineteen people attended the September residential retreat. The Committee ended with about \$300 excess money, staying well under budget. The low number of children (with no need for childcare) and preparation of food by Ellen (with Rylin and Katherine), as well as the absence of an outside facilitator helped keep costs down.

The report was accepted.

MANNA Contribution (Jen Rhode)

MANNA Food Bank was grateful to receive 175 pounds of food from our Meeting. Thanks to the Orphans' Thanksgiving, and to the broader Meeting, for their contributions.

Ellen suggested that we keep a permanent box in our foyer for MANNA contributions. The Meeting agreed that this was a good idea.

Other

Gary Briggs has a vocal performance today at 4:00. He sends his regrets for not being able to attend Business Meeting today, as he continues to recover from a cold. Rylin asked that Gary be held in the Light.

Closing Worship (1:37 pm)