

**Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business  
Third Month 8, 2009**

Clerk: Barbara Esther  
Recording Clerk: Steve Livingston

Present: Kristi and George Gjelfriend, Sam Rizzo, Bobby Carter, Philip Neal, Rylin Hansen, Pat Johnson, Katherine Kowal, Joy Gossett, Gary Briggs, Beth Bates

Opening worship began at noon. The clerk read the following:

One of the unexpected things I have learnt in my life as a Quaker is that religion is basically about relationships between people. This was an unexpected discovery, because I had been brought up to believe that religion was essentially about our relationship with God.

If we are sensitive, we find that everything that happens to us, good or bad, can help us to build a vision of the meaning of life. We can be helped to be sensitive by reading the Bible and being open to experience of nature, music, books, painting, sport or whatever our particular interest may be. It is in and through all things that we hear God speaking to us. But I do not think I am alone in my certainty that it's in my relationships with people that the deepest religious truths are most vividly disclosed.

George Gorman, 1982 from *Belonging to a Quaker Meeting from the Britain Yearly Meeting Quaker Faith and Practice*

The agenda was accepted as written.

Approval of Minutes from First and Second Months

George had trouble finding the minutes of second month, but will not stand in the way of proceeding with their approval.

**1. Friends approved the minutes of first and second month 2009**

Finance Report

Pat Johnson

	Jan - Feb 09	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
4000 · Contribution Income				
4010 · Unrestricted	774,00			
4000 · Contribution Income - Other	0,00	20	-20 270,00	0,0%
<b>Total 4000 · Contribution Income</b>	774,00	270,00	-19 496,00	3,82%
7010 · Interest Income	41,91	700,00	-658,09	5,99%
Rental Income	1 080,00	3 900,00	-2 820,00	27,69%
<b>Total Income</b>	1 895,91	24	-22 974,09	7,62%
<b>Gross Profit</b>	1 895,91	870,00	-22 974,09	7,62%
		870,00		

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**Meeting House**

**House and Grounds**

Supplies	31,92			
Cleaning	40,00			
Maintenance	45,00			
House and Grounds - Other	0,00	3 000,00	-3 000,00	0,0%
<b>Total House and Grounds</b>	<u>116,92</u>	<u>3 000,00</u>	<u>-2 883,08</u>	<u>3,9%</u>

**6180 · Insurance**

Property/Casualty	0,00	2 500,00	-2 500,00	0,0%
Worker's Comp	0,00	800,00	-800,00	0,0%
<b>Total 6180 · Insurance</b>	<u>0,00</u>	<u>3 300,00</u>	<u>-3 300,00</u>	<u>0,0%</u>

**6390 · Utilities**

Electric	104,65			
Gas	354,13			
6340 · Telephone	107,83			
6410 · Water	41,25			
6390 · Utilities - Other	0,00	2 700,00	-2 700,00	0,0%
<b>Total 6390 · Utilities</b>	<u>607,86</u>	<u>2 700,00</u>	<u>-2 092,14</u>	<u>22,51%</u>

**Total Meeting House**

	<u>724,78</u>	<u>9 000,00</u>	<u>-8 275,22</u>	<u>8,05%</u>
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**Meeting Support**

Hospitality Committee	0,00	150,00	-150,00	0,0%
Pastoral Care Ctte	0,00	120,00	-120,00	0,0%
Communications Ctte	150,00	400,00	-250,00	37,5%
Advertising	0,00	100,00	-100,00	0,0%
Finance Ctte	0,00	90,00	-90,00	0,0%
Library	0,00	300,00	-300,00	0,0%
Ministry and Counsel Ctte	200,00	50,00	150,00	400,0%
<b>6240 · Miscellaneous</b>				
6120 · Bank Service Charges	0,00	150,00	-150,00	0,0%
6240 · Miscellaneous - Other	0,00	500,00	-500,00	0,0%
<b>Total 6240 · Miscellaneous</b>	<u>0,00</u>	<u>650,00</u>	<u>-650,00</u>	<u>0,0%</u>
<b>6560 · Payroll Expenses</b>	0,00	200,00	-200,00	0,0%

**Religious Education Ctte**

Childcare	0,00	900,00	-900,00	0,0%
First Day School	0,00	900,00	-900,00	0,0%
SAYF	0,00	400,00	-400,00	0,0%
<b>Total Religious Education Ctte</b>	<u>0,00</u>	<u>2 200,00</u>	<u>-2 200,00</u>	<u>0,0%</u>
<b>Spiritual Enrichment Ctte</b>	0,00	200,00	-200,00	0,0%

**Total Meeting Support  
Outreach**

	<u>350,00</u>	<u>4 460,00</u>	<u>-4 110,00</u>	<u>7,85%</u>
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**6140 · General Outreach  
Peace and Earth Ctte**

Projects	0,00	300,00	-300,00	0,0%
<b>Total Peace and Earth Ctte</b>	<u>0,00</u>	<u>300,00</u>	<u>-300,00</u>	<u>0,0%</u>
<b>Quaker Outreach</b>	0,00	2 500,00	-2 500,00	0,0%

**SAYMA Dues**

<b>Total Outreach</b>	<u>0,00</u>	<u>8 810,00</u>	<u>-8 810,00</u>	<u>0,0%</u>
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<b>Total Expense</b>	1 074,78	22 270,00	-21 195,22	4,83%
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	821,13	2 600,00	-1 778,87	31,58%
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>821,13</b>	<b>2 600,00</b>	<b>-1 778,87</b>	<b>31,58%</b>

George noted that the \$200 listed under M&C should have come out of the Needs fund rather than the M&C budget. Pat concurred with that and will make the correction.

Pat explained that there is a change in format of the written report and asked for feedback from Friends. Friends were generally supportive of the new format. Pat asked that any specific observations about the format be directed to her or another member of Finance.

## **2. Friends accepted the report with one correction to the M&C line.**

### Committee Reports:

#### Scholarship Committee

Katherine Kowal

Scholarship has received a requested for \$1050 from Stephanie Gossett. Committee is making no recommendation. On one hand, Steph is exactly the kind of person we want to support, but the Young Adult Friends Fund has already allocated over \$4000 to Steph and the fund is being depleted. Friends are being asked whether they are willing to see the Fund diminished to such an extent.

Katherine clarified that the Fund started with an endowment and is not part of the general fund. Furthermore, the depletion of the Fund is not because of the economy but because of past disbursements.

A Friend offered to help replenish the Fund with revenues from a sewing class she intends to offer. She envisions this class as part of a larger effort in teaching each other how to live sustainably.

A Friend underscored the stellar qualifications of the candidate. He noted that there are no other rising young adults in our Meeting at this time. He also expressed that it would be good to be able to replenish the Fund as time goes by.

Risking the appearance of being a Scrooge, a Friend recounted his experience of receiving funds during college that were in the form of loans rather than grants, as well as the experience of putting his daughters through college with loans rather than grants. The Friend was not suggesting we refrain from making the grant, but supports the idea of the Meeting to consider disbursing the fund in the form of loans rather than grants, and asking Stephanie to consider paying back the grant as way opens.

Joy related some of the reasons why Stephanie chose to go to Earlham rather than Guilford, where she might have attended without the need for cash outlays. She related that Steph will owe over \$30,000 in student loans by the end of her undergraduate years, and will be going into Peace Corps or an NGO at a service level income after college. Joy and her husband are not in a financial position to take on any loans on Steph's behalf.

The clerk clarified that there are two separate issues at hand: one, whether we want to give the amount that Steph has requested; and two, how we will, as a Meeting, be able to help other youth as they rise up to college age. She suggested that we focus on Steph's need for now, and then think about the future of the Fund after we've made that decision. Friends united with the clerk's sense.

**3. Friends approved providing a grant of \$1050 to Stephanie Gossett out of the Young Adult Friends Support Fund.**

Katherine pointed out that it isn't feasible for us to replenish this level of grant with earmarked donations, yard sales, etc. Further fund raising efforts will need to be planned.

Ministry and Counsel

Katherine Kowal

M&C is requesting \$600 for the Needs fund in addition to the \$300 that was requested in the budget previously.

Katherine read the policy for the Needs Fund that was informally adopted by Finance and M&C committees in 2006.

Policy on Needs Fund

Purpose of the fund: The needs fund exists to help members and regular attenders of Asheville Friends Meeting with urgent financial needs.

Who is eligible: All members and regular attenders of Asheville Friends Meeting are eligible to request payments from the fund. There is no formal application, a verbal request stating the reason for the need and the amount requested may be made to any member of Ministry and Counsel. Alternatively a member of Ministry and Counsel who knows of the urgent need of a member may make a request on the person's behalf. Exceptions are the clerk of the Meeting, the meeting treasurer, members of finance committee and members of Ministry and Counsel. If the request is from an employee of the meeting, it must be considered a "bonus" and appropriate taxes withheld.

Amount of the fund: The fund originally contained \$500 and this is the maximum that can be dispersed in any fiscal year. As funds are dispersed Ministry and Counsel may request additional funds during the annual budget to maintain the balance of \$500.

Procedure for expenditure: Any member of Ministry and Counsel can authorize expenditure from the fund up to the available balance (currently \$300) to "authorize an expenditure" means to fill our and sign our standard request for reimbursement or expense form.

Whenever practical the check will not be made out directly to the individual in need but to others on his/her behalf (e.g. a landlord, an electric or gas utility, etc.) In this way we hope to preserve the confidentiality of the person requesting funds and also to comply with IRS rules that charitable contributions not go directly to members of the organization. However, if this is not practical someone from meeting may make a direct payment to the individual and the clerk of Ministry and Counsel may seek reimbursement on their behalf.

The clerk asked whether the entire committee needs to be consulted, Katherine clarified that only two members of M&C are needed, according to the policy, but in practice we had brought the last two – and only two – requests to the whole of M&C.

A Friend asked if the \$900 amount would be for coming years beyond 2009. The clerk explained that the request is for this year only. Pat clarified that the additional amount being requested is \$600 rather than \$900.

**4. Friends approved \$600 be added to the budget for the Needs fund in addition to the \$300 that was approved in the budget last month.**

A Friend noted that we are today returning to some of the problems that early Quakers had in needing money.

State of the Meeting Report – Draft

Barbara Esther

The clerk explained that we are requested to submit the report to SAYMA Ministry and Nurture by 4/1/09. A Friend noted that the report seems beautifully crafted. The clerk agreed to add mention of our annual youth celebration and Midweek Meeting to the draft. Another Friend asked that we state something about our fall 2008, residential retreat.

The clerk read the State of the Meeting report with these three additions.

State of the Meeting Report  
Approved on Third Month 8, 2009

Asheville Friends Meeting continues to provide a worship space for about forty people every First Day where we've been blessed with a good balance of silence and well-discerned vocal ministry. We hold regular meetings for worship for the conduct of business and have been able to adjust to a decreased income with various changes in our financial base. We've maintained our giving levels to both Quaker and local service organizations with the guidance of the Peace and Earth Committee, while we reduced our spending in other parts of the budget for 2008. It will continue to be a challenge for us to support the work we see needing both financial and direct contributions and to be stewards of our community and property. The House and Grounds Committee enthusiastically cared for the property needs, including the removal of a rickety set of outside stairs at the back of the meetinghouse.

Our Pastoral Care Committee and the Needs Fund, under the care of Ministry and Counsel Committee, have reached out to meet the needs of members of our community. One of our stalwart elder members, Alice Brown, died after a brief illness in 2008, leaving a feeling of loss, but also a constant reminder to us of the value of each of our members and of the responsibilities we have to our world and to each other.

To keep our community spiritually well and in touch with each other our Communications Committee has updated the directory of active Friends and maintained, as well as redesigned the meeting website; the Spiritual Enrichment Committee planned a fall series of adult First Day lessons; and the Nominating Committee struggled to find the right people to serve the meeting, in spite of the dual problems of lacking a clerk of nominations and having a smaller community from which to fill vacancies. A core group of Friends meets each Fourth Day in a Friend's home with the goal of praying for peace followed by a shared meal of stone soup. The meeting held a residential retreat in the fall around the theme of "Telling Our Stories."

Two beloved members, Eda and Gerald Smith, had extended health problems which resulted in their transferring membership to Celo Friends Meeting, much closer to their home. We have missed them, but are glad of their improved health that has allowed them to join with other SAYMA Friends. The wider Friends' network is a comfort and a strength to us.

The children of the meeting are the treasure and the promise of a future for our meeting. We are thankful for the families that enrich our meeting with their presence, and when new families come our way we rejoice! One of our Young Friends has ably provided child care so that parents can participate and continue to be nurtured and pass the nurturing on to their children. The Religious Education Committee regularly provides lessons twice monthly for elementary aged children and guides the meeting's intergenerational activities the other two First Days. We enjoy an annual Secret Friends exchange that gives us a way to playfully cross the generational divide. We also celebrate our younger Friends and those who work with them with a cookout each summer.

Asheville Friends are well and give thanks for the Light and Divine guidance we have received.

### **5. Friends approved the State of Meeting report as read.**

A Friend asked if she could employ the clerk's writing skills in fashioning her personal annual epistle.

Other: No other concerns were brought to the Meeting.

The meeting concluded with a period of worship at 1:20 p.m.