

Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business  
Ninth Month 12, 2010

Clerk: Katherine Kowal  
Recording Clerk: Jennifer Rhode Ward

Present: Jim Cavener, David Clements, Barbara Esther, Michael Galovic, Gjeorge Gjelfriend, Kristi Gjelfriend, Rylin Hansen, Pat Johnson, Grey Kirbach, Sara Kobhska, Steve Livingston, Margaret Normile, Charlotte Pate, Edie Patrick, Kitti Reynolds, Alan Robinson, Adrienne Weir

Opening Worship

Reading:

.... So friends, every day do something  
that won't compute. Love the Lord.  
Love the world. Work for nothing.  
Take all that you have and be poor.  
Love someone who does not deserve it.  
Denounce the government and embrace  
the flag. Hope to live in the free  
Republic for which it stands.  
Give your approval to all you cannot  
understand. Praise ignorance, for what man  
has not encountered, he has not destroyed.  
Ask the questions that have no answers.  
Invest in the millennium. Plant sequoias.  
- Wendell Berry

9th Month Agenda

The agenda was accepted as posted.

Review of Minutes: 8th Month

8th Month Minutes were accepted as posted.

Financial Report – Pat Johnson

Total rental and contribution income is 10226.60, which is 53% of what has been budgeted for the year. We are over budget for insurance (~5% over budget), worker's compensation (~5% over budget), and child care (~20% over budget). Last year, child care was about 5% over at the end of the year. Pat reported that the Meeting is required to take action if items are more than 10% over budget. David Clements noted that receipts for the RE budget are typically submitted at the end of the year, so that the committee might go over budget; thus, Meeting for Business should take action today before childcare expenses are paid.

***Minute: The Meeting approved paying our childcare provider for the childcare services that she has already provided, in the amount of \$116.36***

***Minute: Because the Religious Education Committee has gone over their budget, the Meeting asks that the committee provide a report about, and recommendations concerning, their anticipated future expenses during the October Meeting for Business.***

The Meeting thanks the committee for submitting through and timely finance reports. A Friend thanked the committee for correcting the SAYMA budget item.

The Finance Committee report was accepted as given.

Request for Release of Membership: Grey Kirbach

Grey reports that he has chosen to follow a more Christ-centered and Bible-based religion rather than the Religious Society of Friends. As an adult, he is now involved in such a community in Asheville. Thus, he would like to be released from his official affiliation with Asheville Friends Meeting. The Meeting thanked Grey for his status clarification and expressed our wish that other Friends who had chosen to follow alternative paths ask for official release of membership.

***Minute: Friends agreed to release Grey from his affiliation with Asheville Friends Meeting (and the Religious Society of Friends), with love.***

Ministry and Counsel Committee – Kristi Gjelfriend

M&C said that they had been keeping neighbors apprised of the presence of a homeless Friend (who is an attender of our Meeting and a member of the Asheville community) in the Meetinghouse, and that M&C wanted AFM to be aware that this person had been using the house to store food and items and to take occasional showers. A Friend said that our homeless Friend had other options for places to stay overnight, and so he had not requested to use our Meetinghouse as a place to sleep. That Friend noted that the opportunity to offer such support to this Friend was a blessing. Some Friends said that they would like to know when to expect others would be in the Meetinghouse, and who they should expect. A Friend suggested that M&C (or a M&C subcommittee, or a clearness committee) consider the possibility of offering additional assistance to the person, and suggested that having a person here more regularly might benefit the Meeting. Another Friend commended Gjeorge for helping this person and keeping relevant members of the AFM community informed of what was happening.

***Minute: Friends approved allowing a member of the Meeting Community to use the Meetinghouse and its grounds to park a car, to store food and other items, for cooking, and for hygiene-related activities (showering, toilet). David Clements asked to be recorded as standing aside from this decision.***

M&C noted that they are contacting members of the Meeting to solicit donations in a friendly manner, and to discern continuing membership.

M&C also noted that committee work should be sent to individual committees first, rather than brought before Meeting for Business. This has been an issue in recent Meetings for Business, and the committee encouraged the Meeting to respect the discernment process.

Nominating Committee – Gjeorge Gjelfriend

The Meeting approved Ruth Baldwin for membership on the Hospitality Committee.

***Minute: The Meeting approved the release of Pat Johnson from the Religious Education Committee.***

***Minute: The Meeting approved Eric Singletary for membership on the Spiritual Enrichment Committee.***

***Minute: The Meeting approved Adrienne Weir's nomination to the Board of Trustees in October.***

Spiritual Enrichment Committee – Steve Livingston

Steve noted that Spiritual Enrichment offerings for the year (and for much of next year) had been scheduled. Details may be found in the committee report. The Clerk noted, with delight, increased activity around Spiritual Enrichment within the past year.

SAYMA Report – Steve Livingston

We will discuss the Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting request for hospitality (particularly camping at the Meetinghouse) during the last weekend in October. The Clerk noted that we had deferred our decision about an additional SAYMA contribution until next month's Meeting for Business. Barbara expressed interest in attending the FWCC meeting; Stephanie Gossett will be contacted by Barbara, as she might also be interested in attending.

Peace and Earth – Jen Rhode Ward

***Minute: The Meeting approved sending a letter from Asheville Friends Meeting in support of American Muslims to local press, larger Quaker organizations, the local Islamic Center, and our political representatives.***

The Meeting also asked that the letter be posted on the homepage of the AFM website.

Announcements

\* The SAYMA Ministry and Nurture Consultation will meet at Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting from 29-31 October. M&C agreed that the Meeting would provide hospitality and housing for 8-10 persons.

o A couple asked for hospitality from 26-31 October.

o Our Meeting has been invited to send 1-2 delegates to this consultation (\$25 per person, but the fee can be waived). Margaret Normile asked to attend. M&C will discuss other delegates.

\* The sewer line was blocked within 5 feet of the road by paper towels being flushed down the toilet. The line will be fixed tomorrow morning.

\* The Finance Committee is arranging the annual Board of Directors Meeting for 9:00 a.m. on November 7th (rather than October 10th, as dictated by the bylaws). They will report on this at the November Meeting for Business.

Closing Worship