

Asheville Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Ninth Month 9, 2012

Clerk: Kitti Reynolds

Recording Clerk: Jen Rhode Ward

Present: Edwin Brown, Jim Cavener, Barbara Esther, Gail Hipkins, Jim Hipkins, Pat Johnson, Gjeorge Gjelfriend, Kristi Gjelfriend, Joy Gossett, Katherine Kowal, Gita Larsen, Steve Livingston, Rusty Maynard, Edie Patrick, Kitti Reynolds, Frank Roberts, Jen Rhode Ward, Adrienne Weir

Opening Worship

Friends began with a short period of silent worship, followed by the reading below.

Clerk's Reading

In our life as a religious society we have found it true that the spirit of man can come into direct contact with the Spirit of God, and can thereby learn of God. A man who has experienced the sense of contact with the Spirit will not only listen for himself to what God may say, and in the secret of his own soul speak with God, but he will become conscious that fellowship with other human beings, especially if they be seekers like himself, will strengthen and deepen the sense of communion. The way of worship through silent communion, in which there is freedom for spoken prayer or ministry, springs from the fundamental experience of the Society of Friends, and is a constant expression and working out of its central principle.

*from Berks and Oxon Quarterly Meeting, 1919
published in London Yearly Meeting, Christian Faith and Practice, 1960*

Minute: The 9th Month agenda was approved as written.

The Meeting presented Eden Ward with a quilt, celebrating the occasion of her birth.

Minute: The eighth month minutes were approved as amended, including: 1) an addendum noting that a contact list of Friends already exists, and 2) that Jere Licciardello is SAYMA's Clerk of Peace and Social Concerns.

Report on SAYMA Representatives' Meeting

Steve Livingston

Steve reported on activities at yesterday's SAYMA Representatives' Meeting. SAYMA will hold a retreat in Swannanoa on October 26th (starting at 7 p.m.) and 27th (all day). Christi Estes (SAYMA Clerk) has requested up to 8 places for Friends to sleep during this retreat. SAYMA asks for AFM to send at least 2 representatives to this retreat. Please RSVP by 10 October to our SAYMA Representative.

Pat Johnson, Gita Larsen, and Jim Cavener offered space for retreat attendees. There is also space at the Meetinghouse.

A Friend thanked Steve for his informative report.

Finance Committee Report

Pat Johnson

As of the end of August, AFM has brought in \$12404.61 total income (\$8384.24 in donations, the rest in rental income) so far this year, raising 61.74% of the 2012 budget. Adrienne noted that some groups

used our space for multi-day events, which contributed significantly to this income. We have spent 83% of our total budget so far. The Finance Committee is looking at the level of scholarship funds allotted to date. It appears that we have a balance of \$123.00. Peace and Earth Committee has decided to contribute \$100.00 to the fund for Stephanie Gossett's preschool project in Swaziland. The SAYMA check for our annual dues will be \$2680, and has not yet been sent.

Susan Oehler will be helping the Finance Committee with bookkeeping (using QuickBooks). Pat Johnson will be out of town for the rest of September but will be back for the next Business Meeting. If checks need to be cut in the meanwhile, contact Adrienne.

Katherine Kowal (Nominating Committee Clerk) requested that committee assignments and recruitment go through their committee. Nominating will consider the two candidates above, and one additional one, to fill the vacant Bookkeeping position. [Note added later. It was later decided that the Bookkeeping position was not a matter for Nominating Committee, but should be left up to Finance Committee to fill]

Stephanie Gossett's Request for Support for Preschool in Swaziland

Joy Gossett

Stephanie only needs \$257.77 more to make her Peace Corps grant request. This grant will train parents and teachers to support preschoolers' education. The Swaziland village has already contributed some money to this project, as have the Peace Corps administrators.

One Friend suggested that these monies might come from the Alice Brown fund; we noted that her fund is administered through Ministry & Council. A Friend noted that the Alice Brown monies were intended to be used directly within the Meeting, and Adrienne agreed to look up information about the fund to ensure that Alice Brown's wishes were being met. A Friend noted that, upon graduating from college, Alice Brown spent time teaching in Africa, so this might be a good use of these monies. Another Friend noted that the Al Dupree Memorial Fund (\$295) might be an appropriate source of support for Stephanie's project. The College-Age Friends Support Fund could also be used. Kitti said that we could consider using Al Dupree's money as something like our contribution to the Kabarak Call for Peace and Ecojustice.

Joy noted that Stephanie is working on a second grant to empower Swazi women, and she might request additional Meeting funds in the future. A Friend was concerned that requests for funds for such efforts might be ongoing. Another Friend noted that the needs in Africa were profound, and that our Meeting should be mindful of how we might meet such needs. Kitti said that this would be discussed later, and that the Spiritual Enrichment Committee planned a follow-up discussion about our Kabarak Call leadings.

Minute: Friends approved the use of Al Dupree funds to support Stephanie's request.

A Friend thanked Pat for the financial clarity that she brought to this discussion.

Announcements

SAYMA Faith and Practice are available here for \$7. We will use them in this year's Spiritual Enrichment discussions.

There will be a potluck picnic at our Meetinghouse on September 30th at 5 p.m. Swannanoa Friends and Celo Friends have been invited.

Robin Wells asked if we could pull small weeds from the newly-seeded grassy area on the lawn.

Meeting closed with a period of worshipful silence.