

**Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business
Fourth Month 14, 2013**

Clerk: Barbara Esther

Recording Clerk: Jennifer Rhode Ward

Present: Ed Brown, Jim Cavener, Joy Gossett, Gail Hipkins, Jim Hipkins, Gjeorge Gjelfriend, Kristi Gjelfriend, Joy Gossett, Pat Johnson, Steve Livingston, Julie Mahler, Edie Patrick, Frank Roberts, Ruth Stewart, Adrienne Weir

Opening Worship

Steve Livingston reminded us of today's message from Meeting for Worship, which reminded us that the life of the spirit gives us release from our own prisons. The messenger related this to the life of Nelson Mandela, who maintained a vibrant spiritual life while physically imprisoned.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as written.

Approval of 3rd Month Minutes

Finance Committee – Pat Johnson

In the year to date, we have received \$2411 in contribution income, \$48 in dividend and interest income, and \$2122 rental. This gives a total \$4582 (21.28% of budget).

Expenses to date total \$5572, including \$1817 spent on the Meetinghouse and \$2850 for property casualty and insurance. The latter was more than budgeted (7.5%) due to changes in rates.

Pat noted that the Meeting has \$27523 in our general fund at Wells Fargo.

The Finance Committee Report was accepted as given.

Request from SAYMA Ministry & Nurture – Barbara Esther

Our Meeting received the following request. The Clerk recommended that we undergo a threshing session to consider this.

A Friend noted that the SAYMA Ministry & Nurture Committee was meeting on April 27th to discuss this matter. She said that she would further explore the Big Stone Gap community and the distance from our Meeting. Another Friend said that he would also work to get to know this group better. Another Friend asked that Big Stone Gap be invited to visit the Meetings in question, to see with which Meeting they might have the best connection. Other Friends suggested that Business Meeting would be the best time to visit. This would allow the relationship to be a two-way street.

Barbara explained that, if we took on this responsibility, we would have to visit the Meeting occasionally, communicate with them regularly, and assist them with questions/request from us.

She said that there would be no financial obligation. A Friend added that we would also help them and encourage them as their worship group grew. Friends noted that we had done this in the past for Swannanoa Meeting and Brevard Meeting, both of which spent short times as Worship Groups before transitioning to Monthly Meetings. Another Friend noted that, when this happened, we knew the people involved in the worship groups. Barbara explained the transition from Worship Group to Meeting happened when the groups felt clearness about this.

A Friend noted that the purpose of Monthly Meetings supervising Preparatory Meetings was to prevent drift from basic Quaker principles. He gave some historical background about this. This Friend explained that Preparatory Meetings often meet on days besides first days, and that the Preparatory Meetings cannot hold property. Barbara said that we do not know the property status of this Meeting right now, or when/where they meet. A Friend noted that the flip side of slowing drift was building community.

Friends questioned if we had the energy to sustain this type of relationship.

A worship group in Big Stone Gap, Virginia, has requested to be under the care of a SAYMA Meeting. Your Meeting is one of three equidistant from Big Stone Gap.

A SAYMA Ministry and Nurture Committee member recently visited the BSG worship group, found ten people in attendance, including two who are members of Friends meetings, and was impressed and nurtured being there. She felt that the process of becoming a worship group under the care of a SAYMA meeting will be entered into seriously and willingly by the community.

I ask your Meeting to discern whether it can take the Big Stone Gap worship group under its care.

Errol Hess

Clerk, SAYMA Ministry and Nurture Committee

Request from War Tax Resisters

Friends spoke strongly to encourage us to honor this request. Adrienne noted that the Meetinghouse was booked during the day for this weekend. She noted that we needed to have a liaison among us to be a contact since this was a non-Quaker group. She also said that this would not be covered under our insurance since this is a non-Quaker group. Steve said that he might be able to be this liaison, and that he thought that this group should sign a release. He also said that they should agree to leave by 9 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Adrienne noted that the group also needed to be informed of our Meetinghouse use guidelines. A Friend requested that the fee use be waived.

Friends approved the use of our Meetinghouse by up to 30 members of the National Conference of War Tax Resisters on May 3-5, 2013. We will not ask this group to pay any Meetinghouse use fee. Steve Livingston has volunteered to be the liaison, and the group will be required to sign a release form and follow Meetinghouse use guidelines.

On May 3-5 Asheville will be hosting the National Conference of War Tax Resisters. The weekend will include numerous public events with speakers (among them David Swanson and Cindy Sheehan) a day of workshops & presentations, opportunities to meet and build alliances with activists from throughout the US, a public presentation of grants to peace & Justice groups of resisted war taxes; a picket through town, etc. etc. Most meals for participants will be provided at the conference venues: Phil Mechanics building in River District and downtown Asheville.

My task is to find housing for as many as 60 (or more) who will join us for the weekend. I have spoken with some of you already, but as registrations come in, I want to be sure Asheville activists have a chance to help out in a critical way and show off our southern hospitality. If you can help for all or any part of this event, please reply with the following information:

Your phone & street address; Type of accommodations offered: Number of nights (1-3); Number of bed(s), floor space, couch; pets or smoking in household? bring sleeping bag (or not); Preference women and/or men or couples; transportation (on bus-line; walkable to downtown; will help with transport; need to have car).

Also, if housing assistance is not an option, could you assist with airport shuttle, meals, set-up etc.? Thanks for your consideration. Let me hear back at your earliest. We can also keep you on list as a tentative or back-up helper as well. This is a good bunch of committed folks coming our way with lots of opportunity for cross pollination among workers for justice.

*Clare
newsouthnetwork@gmail.com
New South Network of War Resisters
[828-301-6683](tel:828-301-6683)*

Thanks from Stephanie Gossett – GLOW

Friend Stephanie Gossett forwarded the following note from the Peace Corps Swaziland GLOW program, to which AFM has given financial support.

*Dear GLOW Supporters,
All of us involved in GLOW (Girls Leading Our World) Swaziland would like to thank you for your generous donation to our program. You make all of the hard work of Peace Corps Volunteers over here possible. Last month we held a three day GLOW Training of Trainers (TOT). This was our first event for GLOW 2013 and will be followed by our main event, GLOW Camp, at the end of April. TOT is a very important step towards making sustainable change in Swaziland and we cannot express how much we appreciate everyone's support in making GLOW possible. In gratitude, attached to this email is a summary of the events that took place at TOT as well as a picture of all of the participants, both Swazis and volunteers. We hope that you read it, look at the picture, and realize that you have made a difference to these young women. Thank you.*

*Sincerely,
Team GLOW Swaziland*

Closing Worship