

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Asheville Friends Meeting
10th Month 13, 2013

Interim Clerk: Katherine Kowal
Recording Clerk: Steve Livingston

Attendance: Rylin Hansen, Gail & Jim Hipkins, Edwin Brown, George Gjelfriend, Kristi Gjelfriend, Jim Cavener, Margaret Normile, Scott Utz, Patti Hughes, Jim Barham, Sarah Jane Thomas, Pat Johnson, Alan Robinson, Katherine Kowal, Nancy Kuykendall, Bobby Carter, Joy Gossett, Frank Roberts

Meeting began with a moment of silence accompanied by ministry from Eden at 11:55

Clerk's reading from "A Quaker Book of Wisdom" by Robert Lawrence Smith

Take advantage of today - for your own sake, the sake of your family, your community, and all of humanity. Know that way will open, no matter how difficult the present may appear. The philosopher Alfred North Whitehead wrote, "The present contains all that there is. It is holy ground." Our greatest satisfactions and our glory come from doing our best to make the most of each precious moment of this holy ground. As living human beings we are impermanent, but we are surely not insignificant. Everything we do matters.

Agenda was approved as presented.

Minutes of 9th month meeting were approved as posted on the Meeting website.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Pat Johnson reported that our income has slightly exceeded \$10,000 in contributions and \$3,000 in other income, comprising about 59% of the total budget. She noted a few major line items – utilities, House and Grounds, Religious Education - all in good order. Under General Outreach, she explained that Peace and Earth has selected some recipients, with more to come. We've spent more than we've taken in, she said, but there is no cause for concern, as contributions generally increase at the end of the year and there is still over \$25,000 in our general fund.

She pointed out that Ministry & Counsel's Special Needs Fund is down to \$75. Ministry & Counsel made a large loan with a long payback period, so there may be need to solicit additional money for this fund.

Treasurer requested that all committees report asap what their projected needs will be for the upcoming year to help prepare the 2014 budget.

A Friend inquired about “bank charges” of \$150. Treasurer explained that we were charged for this last year because our checking account was set up as a “broker's account” to allow us to buy and sell stocks, as we were once given some stock that Meeting chose to liquidate – and our balance fell below the \$20,000 minimum for that type of account. Treasurer reassured us that we were not charged this fee in 2013. A Friend asked that Finance Committee look into converting the account to a more standard type of business account.

In response to another inquiry, Treasurer explained that she has written off several checks that were years and years old that were never cashed. These amounts were added back into our general fund, along with a slight adjustment to reconcile our tally with the current bank statement. Treasurer will make best effort to avoid these occurrences in the future.

Friends accepted the Treasurer's Report.

Nominating

Friends approved Patti Hughes to serve on Peace and Earth Committee.

Friends approved Geneva Bierce-Wilson to serve on Nominating Committee.

Peace and Earth

Margaret Normile read a report from the ad hoc Committee for Hope to Home:

A few months ago Gail and Jim Hipkins contacted the Peace and Earth Committee about forming a Hope to Home team to help a formerly homeless person adapt to living in an apartment. They offered to donate \$900 towards the \$1800 needed to participate in this program. Our Peace and Earth Committee agreed to contribute the extra \$900.

When I heard that this would take a large part of the Peace and Earth budget, I suggested to Katherine, clerk of Peace and Earth Committee, that we could ask the Unitarians to team up with us and provide some members for the team and half of the needed \$900.00. She agreed and I contacted Gene, the man who set up the Unitarian Hope To Home team last year. He reported that they could join us and started to recruit members for the team. Eventually it became clear that he could find only 3 people and he learned that the \$450 would not be forthcoming. He recommended that we find another faith community to work with. I have contacted Gail Brown and Emily Ball at Hope To Home to see if this might be a possibility.

Nicole Brown, the director of the Hope to Home program, had come to an AFM Forum and spoke to those who were interested in the program. She described the program and told us

that 10 people were needed to form a team. At that meeting four from AFM signed up. I included Gail and Jim who were out of town which brought the number up to 6 people for our team. I then asked our AFM community to donate items for the apartment and received many offers.

Through my experience last year with the UU Hope To Home team I could see that by connecting with a formerly homeless person trying achieve independence there were many positive aspects. Not only did we assist her, but she helped us to realize what a difference people could make by being a friend. It did involve a one year commitment and the advantages greatly outweighed the disadvantages. The official time commitment included attending a training period for 3 hours, meeting with our team members once a month, and meeting with our “partner” for 2 hours a month. There could be more time spent with our partner if we so desired.

Hope to Home has informed me that a potential “partner” has been selected for our team and that they are ready to schedule our training period. I'm here today to ask you for your input concerning what direction we now take.

Margaret explained that the Unitarian Church would not put up funds with only three of their folks volunteering. Margaret contacted the Hope to Home staff about getting another faith community to go with us, but she has heard no reply.

Gail indicated they are donating \$900 in funds collected from family and friends in honor of Jim's birthday, and Peace and Earth will put up the rest if no other community comes forward. All we need is a few more volunteers and we can do it on our own. Katherine speaking for Peace and Earth expressed confidence about the funds but reminded Friends that Hope to Home recommends 10 people on a Team, and we would be doing the client a disservice if we take on the task with insufficient numbers.

Gail asked if any others from Asheville Meeting would volunteer. Frank Roberts indicated that he has been working independently, diligently, and regularly with Hope to Home for the past year, and so would be easy with aligning his energies with the Asheville Meeting team.

A Friend rose in support of moving forward with faith that either another community would join us or we would be able to find sufficient volunteers among ourselves. Friends were comfortable with moving forward on this basis. Margaret was encouraged to make personal contacts among the Meeting to find additional volunteers.

Memorial Committee for Virginia Redfield

Alan Robinson informed us of plans as they currently stand. The Memorial Meeting will convene at the Meetinghouse on 11/2 at 1 p.m. Light refreshments will be served immediately thereafter. Alan will facilitate the Meeting and Steve L will read the memorial minute. With the likelihood of a large crowd, Alan asked that Asheville Friends park at the UNCA lot off Edgewood Rd. to leave room in our parking lot for out of town guests. Gail H offered to provide shuttle service in her van. Rylin and Frank volunteered as greeters. Steve L offered to do setup. Additional volunteers are needed to direct parking.

Traveling Friends

Gjeorge asked Meeting's approval for him to create a list of local Friends willing to offer hospitality for traveling Friends. His plan is to contact regular Meeting attenders to identify those who would be willing to be a host overnight guests. The traveling Friend would be required to provide the traditional "traveling minute" from their clerk. A Friend recalled that there used to be a national list of Friendly hosts. Gjeorge stated that this list would be for local use only. A Friend recalled that in the olden days we were more informal about overnight guests at the Meetinghouse, and would occasionally just let folks sleep on the floor. Friends confirmed that we have become stricter about this in recent years.

Friends were easy with Gjeorge contacting folks who are active in the Meeting to solicit hosts for traveling Friends.

New Garden Friends School

Joy reported on Adrienne's behalf regarding a group of HS students coming to Asheville this Thursday with Judy Williams of New Garden Friends School to look at colleges. Adrienne has probably already taken care of these arrangements, but Friends questioned whether proper procedure had been followed for these overnight guests. A Friend suggested that we go ahead and approve the action now, even if it is a bit after the fact.

Friends approved high schoolers from New Garden Friends School as overnight guests on Thu 10/17 at the Meetinghouse.

Closing worship

There being no further business, meeting adjourned with silence at 12:50 p.m.