

Minutes for the Asheville Friends Meeting
June 21, 2015
(beginning at 11:50)

Present: Kitti Reynolds, Katherine Kowal, Margaret Normile, Jim Cavener, George Gjelfriend, Patti Houghes, Kristi Gjelfriend, Karen _____, Pat Johnson, Patty Burgess, Tim Burgess, Nancy Kuykendall, Barbara Esther, substitute Recording Clerk, Alan Robinson and Gail Hipkins, co-Clerks.

Agenda - Friends accepted the agenda as written

Friends began our meeting for business at 11:50 with a period of silent worship. From the silence the presiding clerk read the following:

21 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old times, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgement; 22 But I say unto you, that whosoever is angry with his brother shall be in danger of the judgement; and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council; but whosoever shall say Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire. 23 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee. 24 Leave there thy gift to the altar, and go thy way; first be "reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

Matthew 5:21-24

No minutes were available for approval.

Minute 1: The clerks brought a request to the meeting from Rachel Bliss and the planners of the International Day of Peace to be held on Sept. 21, 2015. Our meeting will be listed as supporting the proclamation read in meeting. Peace and Earth Committee plans to have a booth on that day as well. Friends Approved.

Friends are reminded that tomorrow, June 22, 2015, is the last day for registration for FGC Gathering at Cullowhee in two weeks.

Recorder's Report - Barbara Esther

As a newly appointed recorder for Asheville Friends I want to outline my understanding of the job and give a brief status report. As I see it, the meeting recorder will:

1. see that all members approved by the meeting are recorded and entered into our records on a standard form.
2. update members' records when changes such as marriage, birth, transfer or death occur. I plan to keep the records of deceased members with other records, separated out but not restricted to our archives, and merge those separated previously. I believe that will better show the history of our meeting membership. If the meeting wishes, a copy of the membership form of a member who has died could be made to be placed in the archives or, alternatively, the original could be archived with a copy placed in a section of the records.

3. arrange membership records so that anyone could easily see the status of those recorded as members in Asheville Friends Meeting: active members, inactive members, those who have transferred out or have been released from membership by their own choice, those who have died. While these records may not be strictly confidential, the privacy of Friends is to be respected.

I also plan to:

- Annually, updated quarterly, create a list of active attenders who come to meetings for worship, serve on committees and/or otherwise support the life of the meeting, stating whether or not each is a member of another meeting in the Religious Society of Friends or of another faith group (if so, listing the meeting/faith group). Purpose: to assist our clerks in calculating a census report.
- Create a spreadsheet of both active and inactive members which can be sorted by various criterion such as date of approval for membership, last name alphabetically, zip code, etc.
- Reach out to inactive Friends as a means of encouragement. [see below]
- Provide information for an updated directory as possible.

In order to comply with this charge, I plan to confer with as many Friends as possible to review each Friend's information.

I would like to send a simple, friendly letter with enclosed reply card to inactive members. The purpose of the communication would be to send our greetings, ask them to come see us if it is possible, respecting their wishes. A personal note, handwritten, will be added if I know the person. It will not be a letter to "winnow" our list of members or to pressure anyone to decide to be released from membership. Since membership in the Religious Society of Friends is through a monthly meeting, I want to make sure that the member is dealt with tenderly and with love. Responses will be noted in an attached note with the membership form.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Esther, Recorder

Finance Report - Pat Johnson

Our check for the SAYMA assessment was lost when their PO box was closed last February. Payment has been stopped on that check and a new check will be sent to Liz Dyke, who receives money, whereas the treasurer disburses money. We will be sending checks every quarter during the upcoming year as requested by SAYMA's treasurer.

Some notes of interest: Racial Justice Committee funds have been raised to \$500. Utilities costs have been high, causing an increase in expenditures in that area of the House and Grounds budget. Our expenses have exceeded income by more than \$3,000 to date. Our scholarship fund awarded money to several individuals for attendance at the Yearly Meeting. Concern was expressed that Pat's replacement as treasurer has not yet been found to allow for Pat to mentor that person during the last months

of her term. Clerk Alan Robinson noted that there are several other committees that need new or additional members. A Friend shared a need for committees to be less shy in saying what their needs are. She also suggested that we review the appropriate section of the Guide to Our Faith and Practice as we fill positions on committees.

Minute 2: Friends approved that we begin paying any employee of the meeting at least \$15.00/hour in line with a living wage. With this practice we will become a Certified Employer through Just Economics Western North Carolina.

[attach report]

Committee Reports

Care and Nurture - Margaret Normile

The committee is updating emergency contacts and buddies for each of us to serve as a friend to check on his/her buddy and report to meeting as needed. Other activities of the committee include the following:

- Our friend from Hope to Home is having some difficulties at present. She is receiving attention.
- A Friend is requesting assistance from Care and Nurture.
- A card was brought to meeting for us to sign, sending greetings to Ed Brown as he recovers.
- Various Friends will be attending the memorial service under the care of Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting this afternoon for Phil Neal at 3 pm at Highland Farms. He died peacefully surrounded by family on Wednesday, June 10, 2015.

Communications - The Clerk asked that anyone sending a communication which needs to be distributed via email by a specific time clearly label it as such. Our weekly announcements are regularly sent out on a Friday or Saturday when Leslee Johnson can attend to that service.

House and Grounds - Tim Burgess is joining the committee's work. Tree trimming and paint repair will be carried out this summer. A fence will be built in the back yard so that our young children can safely play outside.

Sarawilla Villatoro-Weir will be seeking a job with more hours than our cleaning job provides. Nancy will be seeking a student, possibly from UNC-A, to fill the cleaning position.

Nominating Committee - Friends approved Tim Burgess as a member of House and Grounds Committee.

Racial Justice Committee- Margaret Normile attended the workshop at SAYMA presented by three members of the committee: Sharon Smith, Desaray Smith and Lauren Adams. The workshop was very well received. It was an experiential workshop that represented our meeting well as we struggle with understanding racial inequality in our society and work toward racial justice.

Scholarship Committee - Our meeting needs to appoint new members to screen and approve the scholarship needs of the meeting. One person each from Ministry and Counsel, Religious Education and Finance Committees will be chosen by those committees to serve as reviewers of scholarship requests. Friends were reminded that requests for small scholarship amounts do not need approval by the meeting as a whole.

Other Business

We will have a meeting for business on July 12th. It is hoped that the Nominating Committee will have some names for our approval at that time. Any Spiritual Enrichment programs will be announced by the email sent weekly, but the committee will not be planning a program during the summer. It will be the responsibility of individuals or groups to carry out a program they wish to facilitate.

Minute 3: Patti Hughes shared the minutes approved by the yearly meeting regarding Leonard Peltier and the Palestine/Israeli conflict. As a monthly meeting we will be considering the queries regarding the Middle East. Friends expressed gratitude to Bob Welsh and other members of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee of SAYMA, including Patti Hughes, for their faithful work in crafting these two minutes.

We concluded the meeting with a period of silent worship to meet again on July 12, 2015, as way opens.