

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Eleventh Month 8, 2015

Present: Patti Hughes; Kitti Reynolds; George Gjelfriend; Nancy Kuykendall; Ruth Stewart; Jim Hipkins; Rusty Maynard; Pat Johnson; David Greenson; Adrienne Weir; Katherine Kowal; Lauren Adams; Margaret Farmer; Steve Livingston; Bobby Carter; co-clerks Gail Hipkins and Alan Robinson; recording clerk, Barbara Esther and a visitor.

Meeting began with a period of silent worship from which the co-clerk, Alan Robinson, read the following:

I met a traveller from an antique land
Who said: "Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
Stand in the desert . . . Near them, on the sand,
Half sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose frown,
And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read
Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,
The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed:
And on the pedestal these words appear:
'My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:
Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare
The lone and level sands stretch far away."

Ozymandias - a poem by Percy Bysshe Shelley

Co-Clerk, Gail Hipkin welcomed those in attendance and asked for acceptance of the agenda. The agenda was accepted as written.

Minute 1: Friends approved the Ninth and Tenth Month minutes. Friends were reminded, after the treasurer's report was not readable as posted, that PDF format is best for transmitting documents to the Communications Committee.

Treasurer's Report for Tenth Month-Pat Johnson

Corrected copies of the Tenth Month report were distributed. Pat told us that income is at almost 68%. SAYMA dues were explained: last year's check was lost due to a change in address for our executive secretary, which had to be replaced this fall. Additional money was sent for the fiscal year 2015-2016, which will be sent in quarterly payments. A Friend expressed gratitude to Pat for her excellent service as treasurer. Pat emphasized that she learned on the job with guidance from the former treasurer, and that others can do the same. All committees are asked to submit funding requests to Finance Committee before next month's meeting for business so that the preliminary

budget can be prepared. A laptop which was donated to the meeting is available for the new treasurer to use. It is not kept at the meetinghouse because there is no internet availability at the meetinghouse. A label will be affixed to the computer (to avoid any confusion in the future) stating that it is the property of the meeting. The report was accepted with thanks. [See attachment.]

Committee Reports:

Nominating Committee-George Gjelfriend

(1) No record exists for the formal approval of the current members of the Racial Justice Committee. So we're asking MFB for the same retroactive approval we did last time this happened. Will you approve or re-approve of the the following members of the RJC?

Sharon Smith (co-clerk), Desaray Smith (co-clerk), Lauren Adams, Jim Barham, Margaret Farmer, George Gjelfriend, David Greenson, Scotty Utz, Adrienne Weir, Gita Larson, Rylin Hansen

(2) Will you approve of Margaret Farmer to join the Peace and Earth Committee? Margaret is known to most of us and has always been active in political affairs.

(3) Will you approve of Susan Oehler to join the Peace and Earth Committee? Susan is a former member of the committee who took some time off. Now she's back; and, presumably knows what she's getting into.

(4) Will you approve of Nick Mimkin joining House and Grounds? Nick not only lives just a stone's throw from the Meeting House he also has recently built his own house so he's already dealt with the same kind of situations likely to arise as we rehabilitate our aging building.

(5) Will you approve of releasing Adrienne Weir from her position as Meeting House Rental Coordinator? We owe her much thanks for keeping this program alive and vital over several years.

(6) Will you approve of appointing Susan Oehler as the new Meeting House Rental Coordinator? Susan has a neat, orderly mind and is good at tending to detail. She and Adrienne are already meeting to facilitate a smooth transition.

(7) The Nominating Committee asks you to consider a new version of our mission statement: "The Nominating Committee is responsible for all committee appointments (except for appointments to the Nominating Committee itself) and also the filling of all Meeting 'Offices.'" Will you approve of this rewording?

(8) Will you approve of the following statement of policy? "If a member of a committee has stopped attending committee meetings, has stopped participating in committee work, and cannot be communicated with through reasonable effort; then the committee

can ask the Nominating Committee to seek MFB approval to have the committee member released from the committee."

Respectfully submitted, gjeorge gjelfriend, clerk.

Minute 2: Friends approved the following recommendations: Sharon Smith (co-clerk), Desaray Smith (co-clerk), Lauren Adams, Jim Barham, Margaret Farmer, George Gjelfriend, David Greenson, Scotty Utz, Adrienne Weir, Gita Larson and Rylin Hansen for service on the Racial Justice Committee; Margaret Farmer and Susan Oehler to serve on the Peace and Earth Committee; and Nick Mimkin and Susan Oehler, with Susan becoming the Meetinghouse Rental Coordinator, to serve on the House and Grounds Committee. Friends thank Adrienne Weir for her service as the meetinghouse rental coordinator, releasing her from that position.

Regarding #7, the revised mission statement of the Nominating Committee, a Friend expressed discomfort with the term "mission statement". It was felt that mission is too often used in military references, and that a simple description of a committee's tasks would be in good order. Many Friends agreed with that sentiment.

Minute 3: Friends approved the description of the Nominating Committee's tasks as follows: the Nominating Committee is responsible for all committee appointments, except for appointments to the Nominating Committee itself, and also for filling all positions of responsibility (officers).

Friends discussed the manner in which we release a Friend from service on a committee. There is no record kept of when a term of service on a committee begins and ends, nor policy regarding being asked whether or not Friends wish to continue serving as a committee member. One Friend suggested that an annual review of who will continue in a position could simplify the process. Margaret Farmer agreed to go through recent years' minutes to establish when people began their service. Friends were asked to note on the chart of committee service when they began and will be completing their terms of service. Another Friend wondered whether a date for completion of service might be difficult to estimate, whereas an annual reconsideration of willingness to serve could be accomplished more easily and regularly. The Nominating Committee will reconsider a way to move forward on this issue.

Racial Justice Committee-Adrienne Weir read the following minutes of their most recent committee meeting:

Present: Adrienne Weir, Desaray Smith, George Gjelfriend, Jim Barham, Margaret Farmer, Sharon Smith

Regrets: David Greenson, Lauren Adams, Rylin Hansen, Scotty Utz, Gita Larson

1.) All present agreed to revise the mission statement as follows: "The Racial Justice Committee of Asheville Friends Meeting addresses racism and white supremacy among Friends."

There will be no further steps towards getting the mission statement approved, like a threshing session or action / asterisk item, at this time.

2.) Sharon will gather details regarding the trainings provided by the Racial Equity Institute as it relates to costs, dates, and logistics to present to the next meeting of the RJC.

3.) Desaray has submitted a scheduling request to Firestorm Books for use of their meeting space and projector on Friday, November 13 at 7:00PM for a showing of the film *The Doctrine of Discovery: Unmasking the Domination Code*. According to a worker at the store, the date is free on the calendar and we can tentatively plan on using the space.

4.) Jim and Margaret provided feedback on the Workshop held during 2nd hour in collaboration with the Spiritual Enrichment Committee. Gjeorge stated that he didn't feel safe giving feedback during meetings of the RJC. Sharon and Lauren look forward to integrating the feedback and continuing to develop the Understanding White Supremacy workshop.

5.) Rylin continues to be a member of the Racial Justice committee.

6.) Patricia Johnson's letter regarding racism and white supremacy has been posted to the website.

7.) Desaray will continue to meet with Alan to build relationship and discuss racism and white supremacy. At Margaret, Adrienne's and Gjeorge's suggestion, she will review concepts from the Listening Project to support these visits.

8.) Adrienne will present these minutes to the Meeting for Business on Sunday, November 8th.

9.) The next meeting of the AFM RJC is scheduled for Friday, December 4th at 6:00PM at the Friends Meeting House and the minutes will be presented at the Meeting for Business on Sunday, December 13th.

YITL,
Desaray

There will be an announcement on the website of the film to be shown this Friday.

House and Grounds Committee-Nancy Kuykendall

Although the committee was not going to report anything this month, Nancy reports that a new contractor walked through the meetinghouse with committee members and he will submit a bid on the job. There will be more to report later.

Other Business:

Thanksgiving will be celebrated by a number of Friends here in the meetinghouse on Thursday, November 26 at 1 p.m. Friends participating will take a dish to share. All are welcome. For further information, call Alan Robinson.

Christmas Gathering: The Religious Education Committee proposed that a holiday party be planned for December 6th at rise of meeting. They will guide us through a play-in-a-bag, and Friends will sing carols and share a potluck meal.

Minute 4: Friends approved rescheduling the Spiritual Enrichment program for December 6th so that the meeting can have a holiday party on that day. [Please note that December 20th was tentatively scheduled for the holiday gathering, so it may be available for the discussion that was to happen on December 6th.]

Friends were encouraged to be mindful of buying Fair Trade coffee both for our personal use and for the use of the meeting. A Friend also reminded us that shade grown coffee is both tasty and good for the birds in the countries where coffee is grown.

We closed with a moment of silence to meet again as way opens on Twelfth Month 13, 2015.