

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Twelfth Month 13, 2015

Present: George Gjelfriend, Jim Cavener, Kitti Reynolds, Patti Hughes, Katherine Kowal, Rusty Maynard, Sharon Smith, Ruth Stewart, Bobby Carter, Jim Hipkins, Margaret Farmer, David Greenson, Ed Brown, Margaret Normile, Kristi Gjelfriend, Paul Hibschan, co-clerks Gail Hipkins and Alan Robinson, and recording clerk, Barbara Esther

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

Early Friends resisted using the Scriptures as a manual or rule book, fearing that to do so might persuade some that direct experience of the Light is not necessary. Yet, because the Spirit that is present to the faithful to guide them is the same Spirit that gave forth the Scriptures, a biblical precedent to particular leading can confirm the Spirit's self-consistency.

Because of the firm belief in the self-consistency of the Spirit, Friends expected to be led into unity with one another as well as with biblical forebears. God would not lead the faithful in conflicting or contradictory actions. So the community itself was the locus of discernment. Early Friends would consult one another to discuss their leadings. As Quaker structures emerged, Friends who felt themselves 'under the weight of a concern' to travel in the ministry (such as those who felt led to visit slavekeepers to persuade them of the evils of slavery) would bring that concern to the community for discernment and endorsement. A hallmark of Quaker spirituality is the conviction that if the community is open to divine guidance, then unity will emerge. For this reason divisions among Friends, such as the separations of the nineteenth century, have been especially painful. Still today, when Quakers find themselves unable to unite upon a significant matter, it results in grief and anguish.

Silence and Witness The Quaker Tradition Michael Birkel

Friends accepted the agenda as prepared.

Minute 1: Friends approved the Eleventh Month minutes.

Treasurer's Report for Eleventh Month and Proposed Budget for 2016-Pat Johnson

Income to date for the year is a little more than \$21,000. Our expenses total approximately \$20,000. However, some of the receipts, such as child care and Religious Education, have not yet been submitted.

Pat presented a draft budget for 2016. The proposed budget is based on committee requests as submitted, or the figure from the previous budget. New to the budget, since

our committee is new, is the requested \$1700 for the work of the Racial Justice Committee. Friends are asked to study the proposed budget and make suggestions to Pat well before next month's meeting so that changes can be made in the budget for approval in First Month's business meeting.

Minute 2: Friends approved our support of the MLK Prayer Breakfast and the use of the same ad as last year. Jim Cavener will take care of submission of and payment for the ad.

Minute 3: Friends thank Pat Johnson for the long and faithful service to the meeting as its treasurer. We acknowledge the wonderful job she has done. The Treasurer's report was accepted with thanks.

Committee Reports:

Nominating Committee-George Gjelfriend
Report of the Nominating Committee, 12th month, 2015

(1) Laura Maynard Lane would like to serve on the Religious Education Committee. For some unaccountable reason, she's developed an interest in young children. NomCom asks for your approval.

(2) Alan Robinson has agreed to serve as AFM's treasurer. He's already served as SAYMA treasurer where he became familiar with QuickBooks. If approved, he will automatically become a member of the Finance Committee. We ask for your approval.

Respectfully submitted, george gjelfriend, clerk.

Minute 4: Friends approved Laura Maynard Lane's service on Religious Education Committee, and Alan Robinson's service as Treasurer and as a member of the Finance Committee.

Peace and Earth Committee-Katherine Kowal

This is the end of the year report for Peace and Earth.

1. Spiritual Enrichment

We sponsored 4 spiritual enrichment programs:
on AFSC

David Zarembeke on reconciliation after deadly conflict

The Read to Succeed program

the SAYMA Minute on Israel-Palestine relations

Additionally we sponsored an evening program on Friends' House, Moscow

2. We sponsored letter/postcard writing to our elected representatives on:

- supporting a stamp honoring Bayard Rustin
- in-state tuition for undocumented students

- "ban the box" on federal forms asking about felony convictions
 - supporting action at the climate summit in Paris
3. We sponsored two food drives and collected over 200 pounds of food for MANNA
 4. We sponsored a trip to Snow Camp to learn about the history of early Quakers in North Carolina.
 5. We participated in the International Day of Peace with an interactive experience for participants
 6. We distributed \$3,000 in Quaker outreach and \$2,950 in local outreach (See treasurer's report for particulars)
 7. Friends accepted the report from Peace and Earth Committee.

Other

Friend Katherine Kowal reported that our childcare worker, Itsel Garcia's apartment was burned last Friday. No one in the family was hurt but they escaped with only the clothes on their backs. All their clothes, bedding, etc. was destroyed by smoke damage. There are several ways we might make a contribution to this family. : 1) M&C has an emergency fund to help members. Although Itsel is not a member, she is our employee, and might qualify. 2) we could "pass the hat" 3) we could make a contribution from the general fund marked as "emergency" or "contingency" as we have done in the past. Although agencies in the community have been supportive, we have an opportunity to help them in this time of need. They are in another apartment, but the rent is \$90 higher than their previous dwelling.

Minute 5: Friends approved Katherine Kowal continue to act on our part in communication with the García-Ruiz family. We also will donate \$500 for their present needs, to be augmented if needed at a later date.

Scholarship Committee is asked to consider helping Nick Wells on his service trip to the Dominican Republic in March 2016. Nick has already set up a fund online, and would like to have the meeting's financial support as well.

Minute 6: Friends approved that Kitti Reynolds representing Ministry and Counsel Committee and Pat Johnson representing Finance Committee serve on the Scholarship Committee, with a third person representing Religious Education Committee to be selected, with that person to be approved later, but invited to begin working with the Scholarship Committee on decisions right away.

We closed with a moment of silence to meet again as way opens on First Month 9, 2015.