

**Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**  
**Asheville Friends Meeting**

Third Month 13, 2016

Present: Patti Hughes; David Greenson; Jim Hipkins; Ruth Stewart; Katherine Kowal; Bobby Carter; George Gjelfriend; Jim Cavener; Jim Barham; Sharon Smith; Paul Hibschan; Pat Johnson; Steve Livingston; Margaret Normile; Kitti Reynolds, sitting in for Co-clerk Alan Robinson; Hannah Burgess; Patty Burgess; Tim Burgess; Edie Patrick; Gail Hipkins, Co-clerk; Barbara Esther, Recording Clerk.

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

The need to deal honestly with all others and with oneself has long been a foundational belief among Friends, summarized by the old injunction: 'Let your yea be yea and your nay be nay.' For Friends, having integrity means being authentic and having consistency between one's values and one's actions. Lack of integrity separates us from our own soul, from the Light within, and from our community.

In the AFSC community we are committed to making our words, actions, and beliefs consistent. We "speak truth to power" - and to each other- even when it is difficult and our message may be unpopular. We deal honestly and fairly with colleagues and partners. We take responsibility for our actions and their results. We fulfill our commitments, and we give credit to others for their contributions.

While acting on our deepest beliefs and values, we are also open to new ideas, new solutions, and new paths. We know that our understanding at any moment is incomplete, at best an approximation of the truth that may be improved by new insights.

*So let your lives preach, let your light shine. . .*

George Fox, Founder of the Religious Society of Friends

from *An Introduction to Quaker Testimonies*

American Friends Service Committee

Friends accepted the agenda as prepared.

**Minute 1: Friends approved both the Second Month and the Called Meeting minutes.**

Treasurer's Report - The report was postponed until Fourth Month due to the absence of our treasurer.

State of the Meeting Report - Gail Hipkins

The clerk discussed our process in developing the report and read it aloud, allowing all of us to hear it, but especially allowing Friends with visual challenges to experience the report.

The report was praised as impressive and encyclopedic. One Friend spoke for the Racial Justice Committee, saying that they do not feel their work was reflected accurately in the report. First, conflict and disrespect were mentioned in the report, with disrespect being the word that is most difficult for this Friend. The threshing session held on the Racial Justice Committee was not mentioned. The question of how the meeting with SAYMA's Ministry and Nurture was organized was raised. The fact that the committee is the largest one in AFM will be included in the Action column. The word "divisive" will be removed because of its charged meaning. Revisions based on the above discussion will be included as read by the clerk.

We decided to take out the words "and death" in the joy regarding Phil Neal. A Friend also asked that the lack of a meeting retreat in several years be added to the disappointments. We omitted the first sentence and that which stated that the report was too long. Wording regarding improved quality was removed from Spiritual Enrichment. Regarding racial justice work, the level of interest and commitment in the meeting, since so many Friends sought to be part of the committee, needs to be mentioned. A Friend said that this is the vessel that Spirit has blown over the waters to our port, carrying this to our meeting. He asked that the ministry and the vessel be acknowledged.

Regarding the activity level and numbers of Friends serving on other committees, we edited the sentiment in the disappointments.

## **Minute 2: Friends approved the State of the Meeting Report with the changes incorporated after our reading and discussion.**

### Committee Reports:

#### Nominating Committee - George Gjelfriend

\*(1) The Nominating Committee would like to put before you the name of Patti Hughes to serve as our next clerk, effective October 1. Patti is a long-time Quaker and a member of the Religious Society of Friends. She is our representative to AFSC and is currently serving on M&C. We ask for your approval.

\*(2) We would also like to nominate Kitti Reynolds to serve as Patti's assistant clerk, effective October 1. Kitti is well-known in the Meeting and is currently serving on M&C. We ask for your approval.

\*(3) It has been pointed out that the Meeting needs a new member-at-large to serve on the Board of Trustees. The Board is a legal fiction required of us by the state of North Carolina. It meets once a year and has no other duties. The position receives a reward of 100 points and 25 gold "Thank You's." We ask someone here to volunteer.

(4) Gjeorge Gjelfriend submits herewith his resignation from the Care & Nurture Committee. The committee requires a certain isolation to maintain confidentiality and the only convenient space is upstairs, which Gjeorge finds too challenging. No MFB action is required.

\*(5) Gjeorge Gjelfriend also submits herewith his resignation from the Nominating Committee. He has become mobility-challenged and can no longer effectively perform the duties. No MFB action is required except we recommend the immediate creation of a Naming Committee to replace him and Alan, who has indicated he, too, will resign in the Fall. Barbara Esther has agreed to serve on the Naming Committee; and, hopefully to act as convener.

Y.O.B., Gjeorge Gjelfriend, clerk emeritus.

**Minute 3: Friends approved the following recommendations of the Nominating Committee: Patti Hughes to serve as clerk and Kitti Reynolds to serve as assistant clerk beginning in Tenth Month 2016, Sharon Smith as at-large Board member, and Barbara Esther to serve as convener of the Naming Committee to replace George Gjelfriend and to seek a replacement for Alan Robinson beginning in October. Others to serve on the Naming Committee are Steve Livingston and Patti Hughes.**

The meeting thanks George for his diligent work as clerk of Nominating Committee and with Care and Nurture Committee.

#### Care and Nurture Committee - Margaret Normile

For many months the AFM Care and Nurture Committee has been urging our AFM community to fill out the Emergency Contact Form. So far we have collected twenty completed forms but the number does not indicate a large percentage of members and attenders. We feel that the information requested would be most helpful in time of an emergency but also would be a good resource by naming a person in our Meeting who would be your "buddy", who would pay attention to your wellbeing, would inform the Meeting and/or the Care and Nurture Committee when help is needed. This would result in a greater feeling of community among AFMers. At this point we would like your input as to whether we should continue in asking for completion of the Emergency Contact Forms or whether we should just go with what we have at the moment.

Many people might feel that their spouse would inform the meeting of any emergency, but this might not always be the case. Also, it does not foster community among other members of AFM. We feel this information and the buddy system is particularly important for those who are living alone.

I ask for your input. Shall we continue trying to collect information or deal with what we have. Marcia Master will compile the information we have collected.

Thank you for your assistance.

One Friend shared her experience of being reticent about asking someone else to be her buddy when she was new to the meeting. More established Friends may ask those people to be their buddy when the newcomer doesn't know who to ask.

**Minute 4: Friends approved that the Care and Nurture Committee continue to collect buddy/emergency information through Third Month.**

Peace and Earth Committee-Pat Johnson

Pat explained the audit which can be seen in Attachment 2.

**Minute 5: Friends approved beginning the process of auditing our energy use with the NC Interfaith Power and Light either as soon as the first stage of rehab on the meetinghouse is completed or shortly thereafter. [See Attachment 1]**

**Minute 6: Friends approved that a letter be sent to members of the Muslim community welcoming them as part of our larger community, honoring the freedom of religion basic in the United States, and inviting them to join us for a potluck gathering. [See Attachment 3]**

House and Grounds - Gail Hipkins for Nancy Kuykendall

A key safe has been located at the back door so that we can enter there during the repair of the front porch.

Other

American Friends Service Committee - Patti Hughes

The report will be presented in Fourth Month due to time constraints.

SAYMA Announcements- Gail Hipkins

Chattanooga Friends Meeting will host a Clerking Workshop on Sat. April 16 from 9-5. See Gail for further information.

Financial planning for the yearly meeting will be worked on during the next few years. Our input and increased contributions are solicited.

Yearly Meeting Advance Program will be out in a couple of weeks, with registration due in mid April. We are urged to look at the SAYMA website, Earthcare tab, to review a document regarding eco-justice, based on the Kabarak Call.

A children's camp will be taking place in the Atlanta area in the summer of 2016.

Please see the AFSC Annual Report which will be on the table in the entrance room.



**Total Utilities = \$**

**Fixed Expenses**

Sales Tax = 3% Jan – June & 7% Jul - Dec

Duke: REPS Adjustment = \$0.20 (Jan - June), \$0.19 (Jul – Nov) & \$0.25 (Dec); Electric rate increased 0.00104 cents/kWh in June but decreased by 3.22% & further reduced by 0.009 cents in July.

PSNC: Basic Facilities Charge = \$17.50

Water: Capital Improvement Fee = \$7.72; Base Fee = \$6.00; Stormwater = \$28.08; Solid Waste Fee = \$14.00 (Jan – June)

Capital Improvement Fee = \$7.84; Base Fee = \$6.00; Stormwater = \$48.00; Solid Waste Fee = \$14.00 (July – Dec)

Sewerage: Maintenance = \$14.81 (Jan – June); \$15.17 (July – Dec)

Attachment 2:

**North Carolina Interfaith Power & Light**

*a program of the NC Council of Churches*

[www.ncipl.org](http://www.ncipl.org) ▪ [info@ncipl.org](mailto:info@ncipl.org)

**How an NCIPL Energy Savings Analysis Works**

As part of our emPOWERed program, NCIPL is proud to offer an energy savings analysis to any interested faith community located in North Carolina at no charge\*. The analysis is led by a trained energy auditor. It lasts about two hours and includes a short presentation and walk-through. Low and no-cost recommendations are the focus of the analysis, meaning that this is not a highly technical audit. We will examine ways in which your congregation can reduce your building's carbon footprint and save money on its energy bills while helping to protect Creation. Any interested faith community can Request an Energy Savings Analysis online ([www.ncipl.com/request-energy-savings-analysis](http://www.ncipl.com/request-energy-savings-analysis)). After completing the form, you will be contacted by the energy auditor for your region to schedule your analysis. The following are recommendations to make the most of your energy savings analysis.

**Before the analysis:**

Benchmark your current baseline and calculate your faith's community's carbon footprint. Collect 12 to 24-months of your most recent utility billings of electricity, oil, natural gas as applicable. Once you have the records, 1. Your energy auditor can walk you through how to analyze these records for your baseline. 2. You can calculate your faith community's carbon footprint (<http://coolcongregations.com/calculator>). This can be group or individual effort and takes about 30 minutes.

- Determine who from your faith community you want to be present. The more the better, but attendees should include:
- One clergy member  Someone from Building and Grounds or maintenance department  A youth representative  A designated note-taker
- Invite local churches. See sample letter on our website ([www.ncipl.com/request-energy-savings-analysis](http://www.ncipl.com/request-energy-savings-analysis))
- Please provide PowerPoint equipment or notify NCIPL at least one week in advance if you need to borrow ours.**

**After the energy savings analysis:**

- You will receive a written report 2 – 3 weeks after your audit. Let us know if you have any questions after reviewing it.
- Send NCIPL ([info@ncipl.org](mailto:info@ncipl.org)) your success stories and challenges.  Monitor your success and re-calculate your faith community's carbon footprint a year later.

*\*NCIPL is pleased to offer these services at no charge to faith communities and is always grateful for donations of any size to help continue to make this service possible.*

Attachment 3:

To members of our community:

We, the Asheville Friends Meeting, Religious Society of Friends, otherwise known as Quakers are sending a welcoming message to fellow members of our community who are Muslim. We extend to you our support and our sincere feelings that we are glad you are here in Asheville. We hope you always feel welcome here in our community and at our Meeting House. We hope you always have a safe place to practice your faith as you see fit in our community.

We consider everyone to have the “light of God” within, and as such should be treated with respect. We also feel that we could learn, and grow, from knowing those whose beliefs and religious practices are different from our own. The Religious Society of Friends very much believes in the freedom of worship and freedom of religion. This was the very reason that many early Friends came to this country in the first place - to be able to worship freely and practice our religion as we saw fit. We firmly believe in maintaining that right for all residents of our country.

Please know that you are all welcome to come and sit in silent worship with us on Sunday mornings, if you feel so inclined. We do not have clergy or rituals, but we do gather weekly for community worship.

Also, we are extending an offer for a community get together and potluck when the weather is nicer. We have a lovely porch at our Meeting House in Asheville, but we are willing to meet at another location, such as the Islamic Center or a local park. Please let us know if you are interested in such a community get together.

We are grateful for the opportunity to join with you in friendship.

Asheville Friends Meeting