

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Asheville Friends Meeting
Tenth Month 8, 2017

Present: Kitti Reynolds; Steve Livingston; NancyLynn Sharpless; Pat Campbell; Sharon Smith; Edie Patrick; Bob Lackey; Bobby Carter; Gita Larson; Margaret Normile; Sarah Jane Thomas; Pat Johnson; Adrienne Weir; Rusty Maynard; Patti Hughes, Clerk; Barbara Esther, Recording Clerk.

Meeting began with a period of silent worship from which clerk, Patti Hughes, read the following:

What are Friends Roles During
Meeting for Business in the Spirit of Worship?

“Quakers didn’t get rid of the ministry, they got rid of the laity”

- Stay in relationship
- Maintain openness
- Support the process by only addressing the clerk
- Speak and release
- Hear and listen
- Be willing to change your mind
- Respect the process
- See each other’s humanity
- Be teachable

Clerk’s Message

Guidelines were prepared with Ministry and Counsel Committee so that Friends can be reminded of Friends’ process. She may occasionally point to them as a silent reminder.

- Speak to the Clerk
- Wait for the Clerk to recognize speakers
- Listen with an open mind to each other

Friends accepted the agenda as prepared. A Friend stated that she did not see a Racial Justice Committee. The Clerk reported that she had not receive a report from that committee.

Announcements:

Pendle Hill holds a clerking workshop each November this year it is November 17-19. It is an amazing workshop for all, not just those interested in being the clerk of a meeting. As a committee clerk or just as a part of a Quaker community you can learn and benefit from this workshop. We do have funding to offer.

M&C at the request of Religious Education Committee changed the date for MFB in Dec. to the 3rd so that a special holiday event can occur on the 10th without the time constraint of the Ethical Society meeting at 2.

We need to form a naming committee to seek new members for our Nominating Committee. This is a short term task and the committee's work ends when the Nominating Committee is filled out. No one on the Naming Committee can be nominated for the Nominating Committee. One member of the committee has moved away from our area and a person able to clerk the committee is sought.

Representative Meeting Report- Barbara Esther & Patti Hughes
West Knoxville Friends Meeting
September 16, 2017

Clerk's Advice: The following rules of the road were shared; Speak to the clerk, the clerk will call on people, listen & the threshold of sharing gets higher and higher, leave pauses between speakers, all Friends present practice good clerking.

Administrative Assistant's Report: Our Administrative Assistant, Liz Dykes, asks that anyone who resigns a position please notify her and the Nominating Committee. She reported that the evaluations of yearly meeting were thoroughly reviewed. All 108 pp. of the Yearly Meeting sessions are posted on line for your review.

Treasurer's Report: Roger Wise, treasurer, reported that the Finance Committee is developing a structure for restricted contributions, i.e. funds contributed for a specific use. He reports a ym deficit of \$1,300. However, our Total Equity, cash less liabilities, is at \$29,300. This shows a growth of \$7,800 for the year 2016, due to a surplus of income (\$3,800) and reconfiguration of reserves (\$4,000). The assessment level for this year is \$75 per active member or attender. It is difficult to calculate assessment income from monthly meetings because throughout our yearly meeting, which operates from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30, monthly meetings begin their fiscal years at various points. When the Finance Committee suggests the assessment level, one meeting which begins its fiscal year in April may begin contributions on the \$75 level in April of 2018, whereas another meeting, such as Asheville, may operate within a calendar year and begin contributions in January of 2018. Therefore, the level of contribution can vary from last year's \$65 level to \$75 level from month to month. Last year receipts averaged \$64, not \$65. As the budget is formed and implemented, based on \$75 assessment, projected income may not be met.

Ad Hoc Committee on Assessment: We discussed this topic last week, on October 1, 2017. The committee provided an overview, history of assessments during the years 2014-16 and queries for meetings. The committee hopes to align the census with the assessment calculations based on the feedback of monthly meetings and clarified by use of the same terminology on census and assessment forms.

Ad Hoc SAYMA-Uplifting Racial Justice Committee: Friends of Color met all day Friday prior to the representative meeting to revisit the goals of the new SAYMA-URJ Committee approved at yearly meeting 2017. Friends asked questions for clarity and discussed the goals.

Because the changes had just been made, no copies were available for representatives. The goals will be posted with the minutes. Some changes include: using *welcome* instead of *safe* as the goal for FOC in our meetings, working to resolve the concerns of FOC in a timely manner, cultural relevance, creation of workshops to use with SAYMA Friends, top down, from leadership to all through Crossroads, Peoples Institute, creation of a bibliography, video list, space on the SAYMA website, and more. The committee emphasized the necessity of having a committee, retreats, planning meetings composed of FOC. The committee seeks power to make decisions, opportunities to grow as leaders in spite of conditioning to defer to white leaders. The role of white Friends who want to uplift racial justice is to acknowledge the need FOC have to fortify themselves as a group and as individuals and to change with the guidance and educational opportunities FOC provide. The goals were approved. After a lunch break, the discussion shifted to the funding request for SAYMA-URJ. The \$16,000 request was not changed or detailed since June. The committee wants to begin operating and make quarterly reports of expenditures. Several Friends expressed misgivings about such a large amount of money for the new committee because of the use of reserve funds to do so. One Friend came with the burden of his monthly meeting's lack of support for the funding. These Friends stepped aside, with their action being recorded in the minutes, when the rest of the meeting was ready to approve the request. The money for FOC to use for the work of SAYMA-URJ Committee will be held in a fund that can be carried from year to year rather than a use-it-or-lose-it line item.

Nominating Committee: Several names were presented for approval including GIta Larson, Kathleen Mavournin and Robin Josephs for Ministry and Nurture Committee and Charles Schade for Finance Committee. A Friend asked that Robin's name be removed because of personal clashes she had with Robin. An intervention to find a way forward is indicated before Robin is approved for this appointment.

Several open slots were highlighted for Friends to contemplate: SAYF Steering Committee appointees in June 2018, along with formation of a SAYF Oversight Committee; a representative to FGC; Peace and Social Concerns member; registrar to train with the outgoing registrars; Earthcare Action member; Friends World Committee for Consultation representative; Ministry and Nurture members; and Outreach members.

Personnel Committee: Barbara Esther announced the beginning of the search for a new Administrative Assistant for SAYMA to begin in October, since Liz retires next June/July. Friends are asked to announce this job opening in their meetings. Application and job description will be posted on the SAYMA website.

Yearly Meeting Planning Committee: Carol Nickle announced the theme for Yearly Meeting 2018, will be *Community and Communication - How We Connect*. Efforts will be made to have theme-related workshops.

Friends shared having met with Friends Peace Teams at their annual meeting, which hopes to hold next year's meeting in Nashville, TN; World Quaker Day to be celebrated on October

1st with FWCC's inspiration; and visitation with quarterly meetings which allowed for more fun and fellowship and less time in business sessions. Stories were also shared of KKK propaganda having been distributed in paper bags weighted by pennies or gravel. In one case, bags containing pennies were gathered for disposal, with the pennies subsequently made into earrings. When the earrings were sold, the proceeds were donated to a small business venture for youth in a neighborhood comprised primarily of POC. When gravel was collected, it and those who had put forward this hate-laced material were held in the Light. Respectfully submitted by Barbara Esther and Patti Hughes. (Rep S. Livingston was ill.)

Minute 1: Friends approved Seventh Month Minutes.

Minute 2: Friends approved Eighth Month Minutes.

Treasurer's Report - Satchel Loftis

The report was not received for today's meeting for business.

Committee Reports:

Peace and Earth Committee - Pat Johnson

P & E has worked to revise our recommended minute on torture and NC's role in it. We tried to take into account the discussion regarding this minute in our August MFB.

As Quakers, Asheville Friends Meeting seeks a world at peace and believes that torture is inhumane, immoral, and illegal. We also believe that the use of torture has boosted terrorism and damaged US global standing. There has been no accountability for the destructive decision to secretly transport, detain and torture dozens of people, regardless of guilt or innocence. North Carolina's Aero Contractors played a key role in torture and could still be conducting missions due to the lack of transparency and accountability. Our state elected officials have not been effective in investigating or speaking out against torture. The citizen-led NC Commission of Inquiry on Torture (NCCIT) is a 501(c)3 organization set up to investigate and encourage public debate about the role that NC played in facilitating the US torture program after the 9/11 attacks. The NCCIT will serve as a model for other accountability efforts and will help create momentum for full official transparency and accountability for the US use of torture and rendition.

Asheville Friends Meeting supports and endorses the work of the NCCIT and encourages individuals to get involved in the following ways as they are led and able:

Share information about the public hearing within your networks

Attend the public hearings on Nov 30 and Dec 1

Endorse the commission as a citizen

Donate online at <http://www.nccit.org/donate> or by sending a tax-deductible check or money order payable to "NCCIT" to
NC Commission of Inquiry on Torture

PO Box 12584
Raleigh, NC 27605

Write letters to communicate to Gov. Roy Cooper and Attorney General Josh Stein your concern about the need for transparency and accountability for U.S. torture and [North Carolina's role](#) in it. Encourage the Governor and AG to support the non-governmental NC Commission of Inquiry on Torture ([NCCIT](#)).

The best contacts in the two offices are:

Jasmine S. McGhee
Director, Public Protection Section and Special Deputy to the Attorney General
North Carolina Department of Justice
[114 West Edenton Street](#)
[Raleigh, NC 27603](#)
Fax: (919) 716-6705
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Jenni Owen
Policy Director, NC Office of the Governor
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301
Phone: (919) 814-2000 (not Ms. Owen's direct line)
Email: Jenni.Owen@nc.gov

Minute 3: Friends approved the minute following some questions and answers.

Nominating Committee - Bobby Carter

The committee brings Katherine Kowal to serve on the Ministry and Counsel Committee.

Minute 4: Katherine Kowal is approved for service on the Ministry and Counsel Committee.

Other:

Adrienne Weir brought brochures about United Community Development of North Carolina. Another organization that Racial Justice Committee seeks to support is Positive Changes Youth Ministry. A full report from the RJC will be brought to Friends in November.

We closed with a moment of silence to meet again as way opens on Eleventh Month 12, 2017.