

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Asheville Friends Meeting
Approved on Seventh Month 8, 2018
Fifth Month 13, 2018

Present: Steve Livingston; Mike Eddy; Beth Eddy; Sarah Jane Thomas; Margaret Normile; Nick Robin Wells; Patti Hughes, clerk; Barbara Esther, recording clerk.

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

“Authentic spirituality wants to open us to truth-whatever truth may be, wherever truth may take us. Such spirituality does not dictate where we must go, but trusts that any path walked with integrity will take us to a place of knowledge.”

From *To Know as We Are Known*, Parker J. Palmer

Announcements:

There will be no Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business in June 2018.

Friends accepted the agenda as prepared.

Minute 1: Friends approved the Fourth Month Minutes with a clarification of the terms of office in the Nominating Committee Report.

Treasurer’s Report - Satchel Loftis did not have a full budget report. All payments are up to date. SAYMA’s Ad Hoc Committee for Assessments was given the information it requested.

Committee Reports:

Peace and Earth Committee - Mike Eddy

Minute 2: The following minute was approved.

Asheville Friends Meeting thanks Friends Fiduciary Corporation for expanding its Quaker Values Screening Criteria to exclude ALL companies that provide products or services that are complicit with Israel’s occupation, military control and economic exploitation of Palestinians. Let us be clear that we categorically reject & condemn all forms of racism & bigotry including anti-Semitism and Islamophobia. We see this screening as only a means to hold companies and

institutions accountable for their complicity in violations of human rights and/or international law.

In addition, Asheville Friends Meeting thanks Ann Arbor Meeting for their leadership in urging Friends Fiduciary to fully expand its investment screening. We thank SAYMA for their support. We are grateful for all Meetings who joined the call for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions.

In accordance with our closely held testimonies of equality and integrity, we will more carefully examine our personal purchasing and investment decisions and to the greatest extent possible apply the same screening criteria requested of the Friends Fiduciary Corporation to our personal financial instruments.

A Friend asked how one can find out what screens are available. Mike informed us that AFSC's website has a screen that one can use to screen individual stocks or funds. Boycott App is another option for finding out what products are being boycotted for various reasons. One Friend pointed out that we should add the words "complicity in" to the final sentence of paragraph one. The minute will be sent to Friends Fiduciary, to Ann Arbor Meeting, and to SAYMA's Peace and Social Concerns Committee.

Nominating Committee - Mike Eddy

The committee presents 2 names for approval:

Robin Wells to Ministry and Counsel for the term from now until July 2021, a three year term, part of which she will be serving ex-officio as clerk.

Ian Canary-King to Religious Education Committee for a three year term from July 2018 to July 2021.

Mike Eddy to Communications Committee for a three year term from July 2018 to July 2021.

Minute 3: Friends approved the service of three Friends as follows:

Robin Wells to Ministry and Counsel for the term from now until July 2021, a three year term, part of which she will be serving ex-officio as clerk.

Ian Canary-King to Religious Education Committee for three years from July 2018 to July 2021.

Mike Eddy to Communications Committee for a three year term from July 2018 to July 2021.

Ministry and Counsel - Patti Hughes

Committee descriptions brought for our review:

House and Grounds: Our mission is to see that the meeting house and surrounding grounds are kept safe and well-maintained, for the use of our members, attenders and renters. We respond,

research and recommend needed actions to the members as appropriate for consideration and implementation after seasoning within the committee.

Peace & Earth Committee acts as a catalyst for social action in the Asheville Friends Meeting. We present opportunities for education, statements of concern, and direct service around issues of peace, justice, and the care of the environment . We also distribute the contributions to both Quaker and local organizations working for these causes.

Care and Nurture: The purpose of the AFM Care and Nurture Committee is to be aware of needs of members and attenders of AFM who we would be able to help. We ask for assistance from members and attenders to inform us of any needs that they are aware of. We provide cards, food and transportation. We also visit people in their homes, in the hospital or in the hospice unit. We inform the Meeting when someone is in need of assistance and ask the Meeting to help us provide this assistance. We ask the Meeting to Hold in the Light those in need. We are always aware that we are not professionals in any health care or other critical need situation, but might be able to refer people to outside help that could be available.

Ministry and Counsel is concerned with the spiritual care of members and attenders and the corporate life of the Meeting under the guidance of the Spirit. Ministry and Counsel promotes the building of a welcoming community in which people find acceptance, care and opportunities for service. It tends to the physical needs of individuals through its subcommittee, Care and Nurture. Ministry and Counsel arranges for Clearness Committees when the need arises. The Clerk and Ministry and Counsel work together for the benefit of the Meeting.

One Friend reminded us that a more detailed description of the tasks of each committee would be helpful to guide the committee and inform those considering service on that committee. A Friend pointed out that H&G Committee has to respond, for example, to whatever needs to be done. However, scheduling use of the meetinghouse, setting priorities, working from most needed to long-term tasks and so on, could be described, as well. Regular review of the handbook items will be necessary for the document to continue to be useful. Suggestions regarding the four descriptions above should be sent to Patti Hughes. She plans to forward the congregate suggestions to each committee, serving as the point person for the development of the meeting handbook. Approval for these four committee descriptions will be sought in July, making it necessary for Friends to do the work of reviewing the descriptions in the interim.

We closed with a moment of silence to meet again as way opens on Seventh Month 8, 2018.