

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

Approved on Ninth Month 9, 2018

Seventh Month 8, 2018

Present: Steve Livingston; Patty Burgess; Tim Burgess; Ben Burgess; Tabitha Ammons; Sarawila Villatoro-Weir; Essence Bella’Ru Villatoro-Weir; Adrienne Weir; Rylin Hansen; Satchel Loftis; Pat Johnson; Kitti Reynolds; Annika Peacock; Michael Peacock; Rusty Maynard; Jim Barham; Nick Mimkin; 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:

*Do I accept the spiritual need to relinquish control in the meeting for business, recognizing that the meeting’s corporate spiritual discernment of Spirit may lead in a quite different direction from my own perception of Spirit, no matter how sincere?*

SEYM Faith and Practice

Announcements:

Two thank you notes were received:

Unitarian Universalists from Hendersonville thanked us for welcoming them on their visit.

Sarawila W. sent her thanks in a note for the physical and spiritual support they have received from Friends during her pregnancy, including the baby shower.

Birth: Essence Bella’Ru Villatoro-Weir Grant was born on June 15, 2018, to Sarawila Villatoro-Weir and Ol’Ajah Grant. Essence and her family are doing well, Sarawila introduced Essence to the meeting today.

Friends accepted the agenda as prepared.

**Minute 1: Friends approved the Fifth Month Minutes as printed.**

Treasurer’s Report-Satchel Loftis

We looked over the mid-year report. We are at 50% of income for rental of the meetinghouse. However, the income from donations is at 35%. A small number of contributors carry a lot of the income from donations, meaning that the rest of the donations are much smaller. General outreach will probably be distributed later in the year, but Quaker outreach is already paid. Satchel noticed that the our insurance agent posted their approval of the second amendment and stated that there are armed personnel in the building. The Finance Committee will consider changing agents and notifying the agent we use now of our concern. We are reminded that a modest contribution makes a big difference in meeting our budget.

## SAYMA Annual Sessions-Michael and Annika Peacock

As first-timers, we asked for their impressions. Please read their report, noting their enthusiasm and interest in the business of the yearly meeting.

7 July 2018

Dear Friends,

We have been asked to talk about our experience as first-time attendees of SAYMA, and we are both pleased to report that it was nothing short of delightful. The campus of Warren Wilson College is beautiful and the staff were consistently friendly. Fellow attendees struck us as welcoming and supportive, even as we struggled with illness and first-timer jitters, and the program of events was exactly the right mix of engaging and tranquil. Overall the experience for us was one that fostered spiritual growth, social connectedness, and empowerment to make the kinds of positive changes we seek in our community and our world. We will definitely be returning for years to come.

**Annika and Michael Peacock**

## Committee Reports:

### Nominating Committee Report-Patty Burgess

Patty brought three names for our approval.

**Minute 2: Friends approved the appointment for three-year terms from July 1, 2018 to July 31, 2021, of the following:**

**Peace and Earth - Margaret Normile**

**Hospitality - Ellen Carr**

**Library - Pat Campbell**

### House and Grounds Committee Report-Jim Barham and Nick Mimkin

After routine inspection of our furnaces we were informed that they will both need replacement in the next year. Parts are no longer available to repair the old furnaces. Cost for replacement of both furnaces is approximately \$12,000. We have funds that can cover this cost, but the fund for capital expenses will need to be replenished. The clerk asked that House and Grounds Committee continue to consult with Finance Committee if there regarding funds available.

The back porch repair and replacement of stairs is estimated to cost about \$10,000. There would be new supports introduced for the decking, at ground level on newly poured footings. This would help prevent the development of water damage and spaces eroding away soil as we

observed in the renovations in the kitchen and backdoor entrance/exit. Fees for the architect would be an additional cost, but it is not clear yet if this is needed.

**Minute 3: Friends approved the expenditures for the repair of the back deck and replacement of stairs as an exit for an estimated cost of \$10,000 and with minimal involvement of an architect and engineer for an additional \$2,000.**

A Friend asked about the handicap access ramp. It may not meet code because of the steep grade. The cement up against the building is another possible problem. We were asked to consider a wider deck at the back of the house so that it would be a useful space. The current deck is narrow (five feet wide) and only useful as access to the stairs. However, the unsafe condition of the porch and lack of stairs seems more urgent at this time without the long-range planning for a significant addition and renovations. The clerk asked us to consider reinstating a Long-Range Planning Committee to look at the property and other needs of the meeting, as well as facilitate conversation on the topic within the meeting. The imminent needs related to safety would not be delayed by the formation of long-range plans. Input from all committees would add to the vitality of a long-range plan. We will take forward the idea of formation of the Long-Range Planning Committee to next month, with a time of consideration and gathering of interest/wish to serve in the interim. Several people expressed interest in being part of a Long Range Planning Committee Pat J., Robin W. and Michael or Annika Peacock.

Nick reported that Tim Burgess has been doing the grounds work to great satisfaction.

#### Ministry and Counsel Committee Report- Patti Hughes and Kitti Reynolds

Representative Body Meeting at AFM March 16, 2019. There would be hospitality and overnight stays to attend to. We discussed what and who would be responsible for the hospitality.

**Minute 4: Friends approved offering the meetinghouse for the March 16, 2019 Representative Meeting.**

Benjamin A. Burgess and Tabitha K. Ammons requested by letter that we consider their membership, Ben's being a transfer of membership. They also ask that we take their marriage under our care. Ministry and Counsel received a letter to request marriage under the Care of the Meeting. Ben Burgess and Tabitha Ammons have requested to be married under the care of the meeting on Friday, August 24, 2018, at 7 p.m. Ministry and Counsel met and supports this. A Clearness Committee consisting of Robin Wells, Steve Livingston, Barbara Esther and Patti Hughes have met with Tabitha and Ben. Having used the marriage process and queries set up by the meeting and approved by meeting for business 3/2008, we came to unity and with clearness. We warmly recommend that Ben and Tabitha be married under the care of the Meeting.

Tabitha reported that the wedding will take place in Franklin, North Carolina at a friend's house, at 7 p.m. on August 24th, 2018.

**Minute 5: Friends approved taking the marriage of Benjamin Burgess and Tabitha Ammons under the care of our meeting.**

The appointment of a clearness committee for membership for Tabitha will be delayed until after the wedding.

**Minute 6: The committee descriptions for House and Grounds, Peace and Social Concerns, Care and Nurture Committee and Ministry and Counsel Committee were approved as posted in the May minutes.**

The following descriptions for the work of Hospitality and Nominating Committees will be posted for Friends to consider for approval in August. Friends are asked to send questions or comments on the descriptions to Patti Hughes.

**Hospitality:** Organizes Sunday refreshments and clean up, arranges for a greeter, and welcomes newcomers. As needed they give assistance for Memorial Meetings, Meetings for Marriages and for special events.

**Nominating Committee:** By identifying people's gifts and reaching out to individuals, Nominating Committee fills the needs of committees. They are also responsible for filling all officer positions. A Naming Committee is appointed when the Nominating Committee needs members.

We closed with a moment of silence to meet again as way opens on Eighth Month 12, 2018.