

# Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

## Asheville Friends Meeting

Tenth Month 14, 2018

**Present:** Patti Hughes, Kitty Reynolds, Steve Livingston, Margaret Normile, Edie Patrick, NancyLynn Sharpless, Michael Eddy, Beth Eddy, Gita Larson, Sarah Jane Thomas, Wanda Guokas, Pat Johnson, Katherine Kowal, Robin Wells (clerk), Pat Campbell (recording clerk).

Meeting began with a period of silent worship out of which clerk, Robin Wells, read the following:

I want to begin my time as clerk with gratitude for the clerks that have gone before me, beginning in 1967 with Phil Neal. Each one dedicated hours of their lives to the benefit of our meeting. I believe that all did their best to guide our meeting to where we are now and I thank them. Thanks to Barbara Esther for going through our archives with me to find these names. I apologize ahead of time if anyone was inadvertently left off this list.

### Asheville Friends Meeting Clerks 1967-2018

Phil Neal  
George White  
Ruth Humphrey  
Dan Marshall  
Lois & Don Stevenson  
Herb Lape  
George Oldham  
Robert Cox  
Polly Parker

Phil and Peg Neal  
Bob and Pat Lyon  
Kay Parke  
Dale Roberts  
Bob Lyon  
Barbara Esther  
Marcia Master  
Hal & Valerie Hogstrom  
Evan Richardson & Peter Buck  
Rotating Clerks  
Steve Livingston  
Rotating Clerks including: Rain Newcomb  
Barbara Esther  
Katherine Kowal  
Kitti Reynolds  
Laura Maynard & Jenn Rhodes  
Alan Robinson & Gail Hipkins  
Patti Hughes

The Meeting for Business accepted the agenda.

**Minute #1: Friends approved the minutes of the 9th month Meeting for Business with no corrections.**

Announcements:

1. Our Meeting's first day school is exploring the Quaker testimonies this year. The month of September was dedicated to the simplicity testimony; the month of October is based on the peace testimony.

2. The Meeting received a response to the letter we sent to Ann Arbor Meeting regarding the actions of Friends Fiduciary. It will be added as an addendum to these minutes.

3. Ministry and Counsel is actively working on guidelines for appropriate behavior in Asheville Friends Meeting. They will be brought to Meeting for Business when the committee is ready to release them.

4. Asheville Friends Meeting is hosting the SAYMA Representative meeting on the weekend of March 15-17. We need an ad hoc planning committee to help organize food, housing, and meeting logistics. Do we have any volunteers to be on this planning committee? The Hospitality Committee has already promised two of their members for the committee. Steve Livingston also offered to serve on this committee. Members and attenders may be asked about their ability to house a SAYMA representative or attender.

5. The death of the husband of a Charleston, S.C. Friend known to many, Carol Dotterer, was announced. Bill died on October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

6. The Clerk asks committees to start thinking about budget requests for 2019.

Treasurer's Report/Satchel Loftis asked if he could wait to make his report at the 11<sup>th</sup> Month Business Meeting.

#### Report from the Board of Directors

Pat Johnson read the report from the Meeting of the Board held on 10<sup>th</sup> Month 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The Board of Directors requests that the minutes of its 2018 annual meeting be incorporated into the minutes of Asheville Friends Meeting:

The Annual Meeting of the AFM Board of Directors took place at the Meeting House on 10/7/2018 at 9:30 am. The Meeting was rescheduled from the prescribed day, October 14, 2018.

Present were Board members Robin Wells (Member of the Board *ex officio* as Clerk of Meeting), Satchel Loftis (Member of the Board *ex officio* as Treasurer of Meeting), Pat Johnson, Adrienne Weir, David Clements. Also present: Pat Campbell

Sharon Smith had previously resigned from the Board.

Bob Smith sent his notice of resignation from the Board.

We elected Robin Wells to the Board. She is *ex officio* a Board member.

*We elected Robin as Chairperson. David continues as Secretary.*

Pat Johnson, David, Adrienne, Patti, and maybe Satchel are signatories for the Self-Help Credit Union accounts. We ask the Treasurer to change this to Pat Johnson, Satchel, Robin, and the Assistant Treasurer, once this is determined.

We accepted the 2017 Meeting Yearly report prepared by the Treasurer.

We request to Meeting that the minutes of this meeting recorded in the Minutes of Business Meeting.

There being no new business, the Annual Meeting concluded at 9:57 am.

The Bylaws specify, "The Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held at the office of the Friends Meeting on the second Sunday of October of each year." The 2019 Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for October 13, 2019 at 9 am.

Friends accepted the report from the Board of Directors.

Report from AFM Spiritual Enrichment on Long-Range Planning and Visioning held on 10/7/18/Patti Hughes

Minute 2 from the Ninth Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business 2018 was read and re-discussed:

Friends approved the formation of a Long-Range Planning and Visioning Committee to be represented by members of some of the standing committees of the meeting. Staggered lengths of service as we begin this work would provide continuity. Friends are committed to following up on this idea. The structure (Ad Hoc or standing committee) and membership will be discussed in an open meeting during a Spiritual Enrichment hour to be scheduled for this fall.

Last First Day fourteen Friends met and discussed the topic of an Asheville Friends Meeting Long-Range Planning and Visioning Committee. Below is what was distilled from the conversation:

It became clear that we supported the idea of making the Long-Range Planning and Visioning Committee (LRPVC) a standing committee. This committee would keep in mind an overall ethic of sustainability in all its work. The purpose of having an LRPVC is to create a wholistic long view plan that helps the meeting make thoughtful decisions rather than reacting to individual situations/crises.

The work of this committee would create a connection between all aspects of meeting life. It would offer an ongoing overview of the long-term progress of the meeting according

to a plan created by the members of the committee and presented to Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

Each of the standing committees would be offered a place on the committee for a representative. Nominating committee would work with committees to identify these people. There would also be opportunities for at-large members.

As an aside, it came up that Asheville Friends Meeting may want to create a statement of purpose or description of who we are and what we do. In a similar vein to the work we are doing for our committees.

Proposed minute:

Friends (approved) the Long-Range Planning and Visioning committee to be a standing committee of the meeting. This committee would keep in mind an overall ethic of sustainability with the purpose of creating a wholistic long-view plan to help the Meeting make thoughtful, Spirit-led decisions. The work of the committee would create a connection between all aspects of meeting life. It would offer an ongoing overview of the Meeting's progress according to a plan created by members of the committee and presented to Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. Each of the standing committees would be offered a place on the committee. There may also be some at-large members.

After some discussion of the wording of the above 9<sup>th</sup> Month minute, it was agreed to hold over the minute for further seasoning.

Committee Reports:

Nominating Committee/Mike Eddy

Kitti Reynolds is stepping down from Ministry & Counsel, but only to contribute to other committees. The Meeting wishes to thank Kitti for her continued service.

Katherine Kowal is joining the Scholarship Committee. She will be the Ministry & Counsel member on that committee. The Meeting thanks Katherine for expanding her role.

**Minute 2: The Meeting accepted Kitti Reynold's request to step down from Ministry & Counsel and approved Katherine Kowal's addition to the Scholarship Committee.**

#### Retreat Committee/Katherine Kowal

The good news: Everything is set for our AFM retreat Nov 2-4 at Montreat Conference Center.

The bad news: As of today, we have only 8 people registered but need 17 people to break even on the costs. Katherine said that unless more people register, the Retreat Committee will be asking the Meeting for Business to make up for the shortfall. [17 people multiplied by \$136 equals \$2312. Seven people times \$136 equals \$952 – although this assumes all plan to stay the whole weekend. \$2312 minus \$952 = \$1360.] A Friend noted that the retreat occurs before the next business Meeting.

**Minute #3: The Meeting approved covering the shortfall if the retreat does not have the anticipated number of participants.**

SAYMA Representative Meeting Report/Patti Hughes This report is attached.

#### Committee Descriptions/Patti Hughes

The following committee descriptions were brought to our business meeting for approval:

### *\* Finance Committee Description*

This Committee is responsible for the finances and financial procedures of the Meeting. It consists of the Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and at least two other members. Additional members may be added as needed or by interest of Friends in this work. The committee keeps the Meeting informed of financial matters by regular reports primarily from the Treasurer. Financial records are kept electronically which are updated as needed.

### *\* Board of Directors Description*

Since we are a 501(c)3 non-profit North Carolina Corporation, we are required to have a Board of Directors. The business and property of the Friends Meeting is managed and controlled by the Board of Directors. This does not mean that the Board controls the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. The Board has no authority over Meeting processes and policies. The Board of Directors is self-perpetuating and is chosen by consensus of the existing Board, subject to the approval of the Monthly Meeting for Business. Minimum number of Directors is five. Any may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Board of Directors. Any vacancy may be filled by the Board of Directors subject to the approval of the Monthly Meeting for Business.

The Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer serve as ex-officio Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer of the Board which legally owns our assets (named "Asheville Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends"), and are thereby Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer of the Corporation. The Meeting Clerk also serves as an ex-officio member of the Board. The Chairperson and Secretary are elected by the Directors. Officers of the Board are officers of the Corporation.

### *\* 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 positions of responsibility such as the Meeting Clerk, the Treasurer and the rental coordinator. A Naming Committee is appointed when the Nominating Committee needs members.

*\* Hospitality Committee*

Organizes, delegates or facilitates 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.

**Minute # 4 The Meeting for Business approved the description of the Board of Directors and the following committees: Finance Committee, Hospitality Committee, Nominating Committee.**

The following is submitted for review.

Duties of the Clerk (DRAFT)

First let us define what the clerk is NOT. The clerk is not a spiritual leader. The clerk is not a pastor. The clerk is not a therapist for the meeting.

1. The primary duty of the clerk is to ensure that the business of the meeting is conducted “after the manner of Friends.”  
Normally, the clerk will preside over all regular meetings for worship with attention to business, called meetings, and threshing sessions although they may delegate another person to do so.
  - a) The clerk sets the agenda for the meeting.
  - b) The clerk calls on people to ensure a free and open discussion of the matter at hand.
  - c) The clerk ensures that the discussion is carried out in a spirit of worship

d) The clerk discerns when a particular discussion has run its course and whether or not we have reached unity on the matter at hand.

e) The clerk may offer “test sentences” to see if members are in unity around the sentences.

f) In the case further action is required, the clerk appoints someone to carry out the action

g) The clerk is normally concerned with process rather than outcome of the discussion. In those rare instances when the clerk is led to speak, someone else will be appointed to clerk the discussion and the clerk will become a participant for the duration of the discussion.

2. When the Meeting for Business has agreed on a certain action or stand, the clerk acts as “the voice of the meeting” in sharing this stand with other parties.

3. The clerk represents Asheville Friends Meeting at local gatherings of faith communities or appoints someone to do so.

4. The clerk is an ex-officio member of all committees and may attend their meetings. The clerk is a member of Ministry and Counsel and of the Board of Directors of Asheville Friends Meeting.

5. The clerk writes minutes for traveling and sojourning Friends as well as letters of transfer of membership as requested.

Friends are asked to send comments to Patti Hughes.

We closed with a moment of silence to meet again as way opens in eleventh month, 2018.

Addendums:

Letter from Ann Arbor Meeting

# SAYMA Representative Meeting Report

ANN ARBOR MEETING

## **SOCIETY OF FRIENDS**

1420 Hill Street  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

September 25, 2018

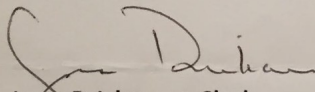
Asheville Friends Meeting  
227 Edgewood Road  
Asheville, NC. 28804

Dear Asheville Friends,

Thank you for your letter of August 12, 2018, sharing your careful discernment process and eventual clearness regarding support for Friends Fiduciary's screening of investments to exclude companies that contribute to the maintenance and expansion of occupied territories such as the Palestinian lands.

Ann Arbor Friends do not have a monthly business meeting in August, so your letter was read at our September 16 meeting for worship for business. We appreciate your letting Friends Fiduciary know of your endorsement of their decision. And we in Ann Arbor found your call to more carefully examine our personal purchasing and investment decisions with these same concerns in mind thoughtful advice for each of us to weigh as well.

With gratitude for the shared commitment to finding and choosing paths to peace,



Lynn Drickamer, Clerk  
Ann Arbor Friends Meeting

## **SAYMA Representative Meeting Report 9/15/18**

Opened with worship and a reading from the Clerk

After a period of warm welcomes and introductions Yearly Meeting Planning Committee retired to do their work.

Proposed Guidelines for the Recording Clerk are online for review.

Susan Phelan gave the Administrative Assistant's report: SAYMA office has been successfully moved to Susan's home in Birmingham, AL. Liz worked with Susan to assure a smooth transition. Susan is feeling more and more comfortable. All is well and the mail is making it to the new address. The directory is updated with the positions of responsibility included . Limited CD's and paper copies are available.

Hank Faye reported that Quaker House will be celebrating it's 50th Anniversary In 2019. They have set 9/21/19 as the date for the celebration . All are invited but should let them know ahead of time that you want to attend for planning purposes. They are creating 2 videos and are requesting donations from individuals, Monthly and Yearly Meetings. The cost of these is estimated at \$3500. Wood Bouldin, now with Greenbriar Valley was the original director. In recent years they have been invited into Fort Bragg.

Roger Wise gave a brief treasurer's report. We approved 2 minutes reflecting changes to the 2018-19 budget that was approved during Yearly Meeting.

1. Add \$300 to the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee budget line.
2. Subtract \$100. from the Faith and Practice budget line.

Charles Schade gave the Finance Committee report. (see attached to minutes SAYMA website) We approved the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee on Allocations to Wider Quaker Organizations with Gita McGahey as Clerk.

SAYMA URJ Support Group as requested by a minute submitted by Berea Monthly Meeting. (See minutes of Rep Meeting SAYMA website). After much discussion and deliberation we approved the formation of this Ad Hoc SAYMA URJ Support Committee with the SAYMA Clerk to appoint the members.

The Nominating Report was given by Kendal Ivie. Of primary concern was Lisa Bennett's resignation as Clerk of SAYMA URJ as well as from her position on Nominating. A naming Committee was formed to fill this opening. Trae Watson, Bob McGahey and Patti Hughes volunteered to form this committee. We approved to fill open positions in SAYMA. We also approved the change of title for the JYM Oversight Committee to JYM Support Committee in order to be more sensitive in our language to people who have had their lives impacted by slavery.

John Adams stepped forward and volunteered to be the interim clerk of SAYMA URJ if no one on the committee has an objection. He also encouraged SAYMA to ask the SAYMA URJ Committee what they need in terms of support.

Outreach Committee continues to meet weekly. They shared that FCNL would like for SAYMA to send two more representatives from states that are not currently represented. FCNL has agreed to fund these additional representatives. States not currently represented are Mississippi, Georgia, South Carolina, West Virginia, and North Carolina.

Yearly Meeting Planning Committee thanked Liz Dykes for her many years of work with them. They announced a tentative theme of Seek the Light / Act Boldly for 2019 yearly meeting sessions to be held at WWC.

We closed with some silence after a minute of thanks to Berea Friends for hosting us.

For more detail refer to the minutes on SAYMA's website.

Submitted by Patti Hughes 10/14/18