

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Asheville Friends Meeting
Fourth Month 14, 2019

Present: Robin Wells, Clerk; Kitti Reynolds, Recording Clerk.
Canaan Brackins, Patti Hughes, Barbara Esther, Bobby Carter, Pat Johnson,
Katherine Kowall, Steve Livingston, Jim Cavener, Gita Larson, Rusty Maynard,
Nancy Lynn Sharpless

Meeting began with a period of silent worship from which clerk, Robin Wells, read
The following quote from Stephen Grellet, a Friend who lived from 1773-1855:

“I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can
do, or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now.
Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again...”

The Meeting accepted the agenda.

Minute #1: Friends approved the 3rd month minutes.

Announcements

We are excited to announce that Annika’s welcome party will be held on May 5th
from 4-6 pm at Nick Mimkin’s house. Nick lives two doors down from the
Meetinghouse, so please park in the lower part of the Meetinghouse parking lot
and walk over. There is no parking at Nick’s house. There will be a group meeting
at the Meetinghouse at that time, so we want to leave the parking near the house
available for them.

Registration forms for the upcoming Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and
Association are on a table in the foyer. We are asked to register by May 4th, so
don’t let this slip up on you. This gathering is a wonderful way to connect with
Quakers from all over the southeast.

The Youth Celebration will be taking place at the Meetinghouse at the rise of meeting on June 2nd. This event is a wonderful time to get to know the children of meeting and spend some relaxing time together.

The next Meeting for Business will be on the 5th day of the 5th month. We will have Meeting For Business in June, but not in July.

Long Range Planning Committee will meet May 19, 4-6, upstairs in the Meetinghouse.

Chat-and-Chew at SAYMA-Robin

Our meeting will be hosting the Thursday evening Chat-and-Chew at the SAYMA annual gathering at Warren Wilson on June 13th-16th. Memphis monthly meeting has offered to contribute financially, but feels unable to contribute food items. Do we want to take them up on this?

Minute #2: We appreciated and will accept their offer, and understand that because they live so far away, it is hard for them to “cook and carry.” A committee from our Meeting is going to have a sign-up sheet for Asheville Friends to contribute food and other items and we will ask for no more than \$50 from Memphis Friends. Robin will contact them.

SAYMA Meeting for Remembrance

We have been asked to submit names and information about anyone who has died in the last year so that it can be read at the Meeting for Remembrance at the SAYMA gathering in June. We are looking for someone to volunteer to write one about Jim Hipkins, so we can submit it by June 1st.

It was pointed out that Alan Robinson’s name wasn’t mentioned last year in the Meeting for Remembrance. Robin suggested that we do both Alan and Jim this year. A Friend suggested that one person from our Meeting speak for each person to be remembered and give a brief (appx. 3 minutes) memorial statement. We will ask Gail to write one for Jim; Barbara E. will help. Jim C. will write one for Alan, with Robin’s help. These need to be written by early May.

Committee Reports:

Nominating-Kitti Reynolds

The Nominating Committee met during the last Sandwich Sunday and we have the following Nominations for the Long-Range Planning and Visioning Committee:

- Pat Campbell from Library Committee.
- Julia Dorn from Communications. She is also representing Finance Committee.
- Sara Jane Thomas and Rylin Hansen from House and Grounds.

We are still waiting for someone from Spiritual Enrichment and Ministry and Counsel.

Minute #3: All these nominations were approved.

House and Grounds-Nancy Lynn Sharpless

Minute #4: At no cost to the meeting, House and Grounds committee will provide organic garden space in the front lawn of the Meeting House to be created by interested youth and member/attenders.

Meeting approved the minute.

It was suggested that the Playground Committee and the Junior Business Meeting participate in this activity using Quaker decision process. A Friend noted that the goal is to provide an opportunity for multi-generational activity. Other Friends suggested providing forage for birds and pollinators by planting native perennials. A Friend pointed out we will need a “rot pile,” which we have already started on the eastern side of the property.

Ministry and Counsel Committee--Patti Hughes

- Information for Visitors

Ministry and Counsel has been working on a handout for newcomers. Changes were made following the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd month 2019 Business Meetings and it is now submitted for approval. This is designed to be given to new visitors to the Meeting to read as they enter our worship space. This information could be laminated and given out by the Greeter:

Asheville Friends Meeting
Welcome

We're glad you are here.

How We Worship

As Quakers we seek that of God in everyone and minister to each other. Our worship is a silent gathering to connect individually and collectively with the Spirit; the quiet waiting allows messages of the Spirit to rise up in individuals who may then stand and speak their truth. This brief vocal ministry is deep and meaningful. Having shared a Spirit-led message, the speaker sits and silence resumes as their words are gathered in. While a new message may spring from a previously spoken message, we refrain from any direct response but rather offer each message up to all. We reserve the final moments of worship to share our joys and concerns. Worship closes when a designated person stands and offers a greeting. Visitors will be invited to introduce themselves after the close of meeting.

Please ask after worship if you are interested in further information.

Minute #5. Friends approved the wording presented by Ministry and Counsel.

Steve volunteered to print and laminate this information.

Communications Committee Report--Steve Livingston

The Communications Committee met on the morning of 4/7/2019, present were Nikolai W., Mike E., and Steve L. (clerk).

We discussed Meeting's presence on social media and concerns that Friends have around this. We will be consulting with Religious Education about whether our Facebook presence is still serving and supporting them as it was originally intended, and possible steps to address needs that aren't being met. We will be presenting one or more second hour discussions of social media, how it benefits us, and how to address its risks.

The Meeting now has a Google Voice phone number, it's (307) 800-1604. We remind Friends that no one actually answers this number, it's strictly voicemail. Currently Mike E, Beth E. and Steve L. are alerted when someone leaves a voicemail and one of us will reply to the message. Soon Nikolai W. and Julia D. will also be alerted.

We have shortened the greeting heard by callers to bare essentials:

Hello, you have reached Asheville Friends Meeting. We are an unprogrammed meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. We gather each First Day (Sunday), with singing at 9:30 a.m. and Meeting for Worship at 10:00 a.m. Our Meeting House is located at 227 Edgewood Rd, Asheville, North Carolina. For questions or requests please leave a message with your name and number. Thank you.

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With regard to the SAYMA proposed social media guidelines, we recommend that Meeting report back to SAYMA that more time is needed for discernment and that the Yearly Meeting should not move forward with these until further seasoning by our (monthly) Meeting.

It is our impression that the roster of committee positions in the foyer is not being kept current and is not being used for its intended purpose. Communications Committee recommends that the roster of committee positions on the website be the official roster, and that a statement to that effect be included on the web page. The Committee asks the Meeting's patience and support in rendering the page as accurate as possible, and keeping it up to date.

Responses to this report:

A Friend suggested that the phone message include information on child care provided. A Friend asked how would this number be made available to the public. Could it be on Google when someone does a search for Asheville Friends Meeting? Could it be in the “gray pages” in the telephone directory? We should share the phone number with nearby Meetings and SAYMA. Robin will give our neighbor Linda her (Robin’s) number to call if there is an emergency.

The Facebook page was originally set up for First Day school participants and their parents. It seems to have migrated to other purposes.

The statement from SAYMA regarding social media has not been seasoned by SAYMA yet. It was called a “draft”. Our Meeting needs to respond that

we have received the draft. Robin will contact SAYMA to tell them more time is needed for discernment and recommends that the Yearly Meeting not move forward with these guidelines at this time.

What to do about the Committee Positions roster? The one in the foyer was taken down recently because it was out of date. A Friend said it was useful to give visual information about our committees and what they do. A Friend suggested that any approved nominations be sent to Communications Committee so they can update the list on line. A Friend pointed out it is easy to print out the list from our web page using the link to the PDF. Patti H. and Nominating Committee will work with Steve to update the committee descriptions and member lists.

Minute #6. Friends approved that the website roster list will be our official list of committees, including members and clerks.

SAYMA Representative Meeting--Patti Hughes

We do not currently have a representative, so Patti graciously agreed to attend and take notes so we could be apprised of the work of our Yearly Meeting.

SAYMA Rep Meeting
3/16/19
Asheville Friends Meeting

SAYMA URJ met on their own for most of the day.

Barbara, the Clerk of SAYMA, gathered us for opening worship.

Introductions were completed by our Bolivian Friend, Hector, speaking as the Representative from his YM. Adrienne interpreted for him. He has enjoyed learning how we worship in the states. He shared how they worship in his home meeting. They meet in a church, sing, have 3-5 mins of silence, divide into groups by age for Sunday School and Bible study. When they come back together the pastor leads. There may be more silence with general vocal ministry. After lunch they meet again for joys and concerns. Then they go on home-visits for physical and spiritual needs. This may continue all week as well. Hector shared message of

unity. It is very important to be in unity as this is the way we can accomplish our goals.

Yearly Meeting Planning committee left to do their work.

The Clerk planned 4 exercises at intervals throughout the day. We broke into groups of 4 and wrote definitions for terms she pulled from Joseph Barndt's book How to Become an Anti-Racist Church. Each group shared what they had written. Then Barbara read the definition from Barndt's book.

The first definition we worked on was "culture."

Administrative Assistant's report: Susan P.

She is settling in to her responsibilities. She let us know to be working on the census, directory updates and yearly meeting registration. She looks forward with a bit of trepidation to her part in the whirlwind of Yearly meeting annual sessions. There was some discussion of possible improvements to the registration process as well as the possibility of having the agenda posted ahead of time.

SAYF Support Committee Report: Chuck J (clerk). He presented guidelines for the Support committee which we approved. The Support Committee and the SAYF Steering committee meet together which has been fruitful. They are working on policies and program guidelines. The Support Committee will go to some SAYF retreats. The Support Committee tasks are:

- Draft guidelines to help the steering comm. determine what are inappropriate behaviors to report to the support comm.
- Help find FANs (Friendly Adult Nurturers)
- Keep in mind concerns of youth of color; inclusion
- How to recruit new SAYFers

During a SAYF retreat at Atlanta Friends meeting SAYFers participated in an Anti-Racism training.

SAYMA Finance Committee Report: Carol L.

This committee meets by phone several times a year.

They reported that when Boone Friends Meeting was laid down, the assets were taken by the state. The SAYMA finance committee has been successful in retrieving these assets. They will be set aside for 5 years. If Boone can become a Worship Group within that time the funds will be set aside for another 5 years to

give them the opportunity to become a Preparative Meeting at which time they will be given the funds. Otherwise the money will be returned to the SAYMA funds. Other work included how to secure cash taken in at YM, alternative investments, new census guidelines and employee records.

Ad Hoc Committee for Wider Quaker Organizations Allocations: Geeta M. (See minutes for full report.) There were some concerns expressed about the decisions on amounts as well as the manner of making the decisions for which organizations to support and what amount. Discussion to be continued later in the day.

The second definition we explored was “Cultural Racism.”

Lunch

The third definition explored was “Anti-Racist Identity.”

SAYMA Ministry and Nurture Report: Ron M.

This committee moves its meetings around to different monthly meetings. Committee members make visits to monthly meetings. They gave \$1000 from the SAYMA Spiritual Development Fund, which they administer, to help send 4-6 Warren Wilson College students to the FCNL spring lobbying weekend. This was done in partnership with the students who raised two-thirds with M&N contributing one-third.

SAYMA Naming Committee Report: Patti H.

The committee has not yet found someone to fill the opening on Nominating Committee left when Lisa B. stepped down. There is one request for which they are awaiting a response. She also reported that they just learned of a second opening as John A. has stepped down.

SAYMA Nominating Committee Report: Nom. requested approval for Jennifer D. to join the SAYF Support Comm. This was approved.

SAYMA Outreach Committee Report: They will look into reviving the newsletter “The Southern Appalachian Friend”.

Web Support Committee: Robyn J. This committee is to be renamed Communications Committee. Robyn shared the need for policies for oversight for

posting on YM sites. See the minutes for the full report. The committee will be working on this with input from individuals, as well as monthly meetings.

SAYMA Uplifting Racial Justice (URJ) Report: John A. John introduced the committee. Also with them was a QVS volunteer with facilitating skills. He expressed thanks to Sharon S. for initiating all of this. (meaning SAYMA URJ). Crossroads will do a training at YM gathering. The committee is collecting information about numbers of POC in our monthly meetings and their contact information. He announced an online workshop, “What White People Can Do About Racism.”

Ad Hoc Committee for Wider Quaker Organizations’ Allocations continued: Carol L. and Wood B. The committee made some adjustments to the amount of the contributions along with the addition of \$1000 and presented these. The adjustments were approved with comments made about reconsidering the process they use to make these decisions.

Yearly Meeting Planning Committee Report: Carol N. Yearly meeting will be June 13-16 at WWC. The theme is Seek the Light Act Boldly. John A. will present the Thursday evening plenary, “Testimony of Brother John”. QVS will present the Friday night plenary, “Faith, Service and Impact”. Saturday we’ll have the annual talent show and dance. The committee wants to be sure monthly meetings share that financial assistance is available through the SAYMA scholarship fund. Volunteers are needed for kids’ activities, book store, registration and to facilitate worship sharing.

SAYMA Faith and Practice Committee: Free P. They meet twice a month by phone. They are really listening and getting input from Monthly Meetings and SAYMA committees, making this a really fruitful process.

The fourth definition explored was “Anti-Racist Leadership.”

Added agenda item:

A Friend suggested that we ask the Ethical Society if they would meet in our Meeting House a little later than 2 PM, so we wouldn’t feel rushed during Second Hour activities. A Friend suggested that Robin, our Clerk, talk with them about this issue.

We closed with a moment of silence to meet again as way opens in fifth month,
2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Kitti R.