

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Asheville Friends Meeting
Sixth Month 9, 2019

Present: Robin Wells, Clerk; Kitti Reynolds, Recording Clerk. Barbara Esther, Patti Hughes, Rusty Maynard, Jim Barham, Edie Patrick, Steve Livingston, Pat Johnson, Rylin Hansen, Sara Jane Thomas, Anika Peacock, Michael Peacock, Laura Lane, Gita Larson.

Meeting began with a period of silent worship from which clerk, Robin Wells, read the following reflection by Patricia Loring. It can be found in *Listening Spirituality, Vol. II*, 1999. pp. 112-113.

In earlier periods of Quakerism, the testimonies testified or attested to the nature and requirements of God. Individuals testified to what they had experienced livingly – rather than to what they agreed with intellectually or deduced from principles. Today, we often flounder. We often fail to distinguish between testimony and principle. A testimony has spiritual force in discerning leadings. Its spiritual force comes from the experience of the Spirit to which it testifies. It comes from an experience of God breaking into the particularities of our lives, disquieting our hearts.... Principles have moral force, but they carry no personal experience of leading. Principles can be arrived at by a purely intellectual process. ... When we begin from principle, or a moral generality, it is more difficult to know which circumstances of our lives constitute an encounter in which guidance by the Spirit is occurring.... Feeling the obligation of principle, rather than waiting on specific leadings by God often leads to constant pressure to act on situations all over the world. This ceaseless agitation can lead to psychological numbing.... We do well to attend to the fact that both our apathy and our distress are considerably eased when we are overtaken by a compelling leading.... It is significant that we will be led to be present for our concern, rather than assigning it to proxies.... Guidance usually comes in the unique particularity of our lives.... This stance requires enormous faith that others will be raised up to do the work to which we have not been specifically led....

The agenda was reviewed and Meeting accepted the agenda.

Minute #1: Friends approved the 5th month minutes.

Announcements

The 2018-2019 First Day School year has come to a close. Thank you to our dedicated religious education committee for looking after our children and their spiritual development. The summer program began today with a lesson on invasive plants, a topic of interest for the children. During the summer, adults are invited to sign up to lead an activity with the children during Meeting for Worship. For more information, see the sign-up list in the foyer.

It saddens us to report that long-time member Ellen Oldham died on May 28th. She had been in a period of declining health. While we have not seen her in a long time, she holds a special place in our hearts. A memorial service will be held on July 28 at Carolina Village where her father, George Oldham, lives. We are holding the family in the Light.

Minute of Appreciation

SAYMA's annual sessions will be held next week at Warren Wilson College. Let us take a moment to hold in the Light our members and attenders who will be working on our behalf as clerk, workshop leaders, committee members, and event planners at our yearly meeting. We would like to minute our appreciation to these people for the hours of work they have done and will continue to do for the work of our yearly meeting.

Minute # 2 We united with the above minute.

Note: There will be someone to open our Meeting during the SAYMA session next first Day.

Committee Reports:

Religious Education: Laura Lane

RE spent the year examining Quaker testimonies: simplicity, peace, integrity, environment, community, education, equality and stewardship. A month was spent on each testimony. The format consisted of a picture book the first week, a connection with the Bible the second week, an example of the testimony in Quaker history on the third week, and a current event connected with the testimony

on the fourth week. Summer will be more free-flowing. Today there were about 15 kids upstairs, including visiting kids. We typically have between 10 and 20 kids every First Day. Patty Burgess watches the younger kids.

We begin our first day school time with all ages meeting together in a room upstairs. Our gathering starts with a check-in about what is going on in our lives, a period of silent worship, holding people in the Light, a song, and then the lesson begins.

We have Junior Business Meeting every quarter. Next year the kids would like to study life and religions in other countries. With such a wide age range, we hope to start a youth group next year so older kids can have more age-appropriate programs.

The RE Committee is eager to invite meeting to be more involved upstairs. RE providers would like to worship downstairs sometimes. There will be a sign-up for this opportunity.

House and Grounds-Sarah Jane Thomas

Notes from the House and Grounds Meeting, May 19, 2019

Present: NancyLynn Sharpless, Sarah Jane Thomas, Rusty Maynard, Rylin Hansen, Tim Burgess, Jim Barham

1. Discussion of windows to be installed in Meetinghouse. Should we have windows that tilt to inside, which may avoid lead from old paint being released into environment; or windows that are installed from the outside, which are low maintenance. Rusty and Jim B will bring more information regarding price estimates to our next H&G meeting in June.
2. We need 4 doors, and can fix warped doors or replace them with insulated doors. Jim B will get estimates for insulated doors from Steven Rector, who previously did concrete work for Meeting. Rusty will evaluate work that would be required to fix warped doors.

It would require two weeks to install windows. We wish to schedule installation in a timely manner so they may be put in before next winter.

Further discussion on door and window work will be undertaken when we have more information.

Concrete work (the ramp in back) will be \$7900; Jim B will work with our treasurer, and pay Steve Rector for his work. More information is required from

the fire marshal to know what Meeting needs to do to improve current fire rating for the building. Jim B will find out. Jim B will work on making the back door capable of being opened.

There was a workday on May 20. Students from Olney school, who stayed at the Meetinghouse for a few days, helped with weeding and moving the shed. Raised beds for gardening are being set up by Steve L. I know they will be beautiful.

Submitted by Sarah Jane Thomas

Peace and Earth-Pat Johnson

A report detailing P and E distributions in 2018 will be coming in August.

There was a celebration for five Cherokees who graduated from UNCA here at the Meeting House. Everyone appreciated our building.

The committee has looked for ways to partner with the American Indian & Indigenous Studies (AIIS) Program at UNCA to develop strong relationships with Indigenous Peoples. This program plans to offer various speaker events each year with some support from the University but they need additional financial help to cover all of their costs. These speaker events are important for 2 reasons: they are inspirational to the students and they bring education & greater awareness of Indigenous culture and way of life to UNCA & to the wider community.

P and E has agreed to ask for individual donations to help support the speaker event this fall. The speaker is Professor Rangi Matamura (Maori) from New Zealand & he will talk about Maori history, astronomy and language preservation. He will be on campus for almost a week. While the University has offered some financial support, it will not cover the entire cost for this speaker.

P and E proposes: We would like to offer Meeting an opportunity to co-sponsor this event. In which case, our individual donors will make their checks (or money orders) out to Asheville Meeting with AIIS Program in the memo line. Then Satchel will write one check to include all of the individual amounts. The event program would include our name as a co-sponsor and we would be publicly declaring our support for the Indigenous Program. The total cost would be about \$7500, the University could pay about \$3000.

Minute 3: Meeting approved the request to co-sponsor this event. Individuals in our Meeting may choose to contribute cash or check made out to the Meeting, with AIIS Program in the memo line. Pat will collect these contributions by July 31.

Additional Business

Gita L. reminded us that our Meeting is sponsoring the attendance of Avis Wanda McClinton at SAYMA. Gita is looking for people to spend time with her, especially Wednesday night of this week. Pat J. volunteered. It was also noted that she could join the SAYMA Planning Committee's dinner.

We closed with a period of silent worship to meet again as way opens in 8th month, 2019.