

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Asheville Friends Meeting
Eighth Month 11, 2019

Present: Robin Wells, Clerk; Pat Campbell, Recording Clerk. Patti Hughes, Barbara Esther, Rylin Hansen, Pat Johnson, Beth Eddy, Mike Eddy, Kitti Reynolds, Jim Barham, Bobby Carter, Sarah Jane Thomas, Leslee Johnson, Suzanne Quintin Friedrichs, Bob Lackey, Margaret Normile, Katherine Kowal, NancyLynn Sharpless, Morgan Murray, Blue Murray, Steve Livingston, Satchel Loftis

Meeting began with a period of silent worship from which Clerk, Robin Wells, read the following queries:

What do each of us do to make new people feel welcome in our meeting? Do we take the time to talk with new attenders? When people have been attending for several weeks or months, how do we help them to feel a part of the meeting?

The agenda was reviewed, and Meeting accepted the agenda.

Minute #1: Friends approved the 6th month minutes with no corrections.

Announcements

Ellen Oldham's memorial service was held on July 28th at Carolina Village in Hendersonville. The room was full of family and friends who had come to remember Ellen and offer support to the family. It was a beautiful tribute, full of music, laughter, and tears.

Paul Hibschman has written to request that his membership with Asheville Friends Meeting be terminated. He has not attended in a long time and has no plans to do so in the future.

The Long-Range Planning and Visioning Committee will begin their visioning process with a series of meeting-wide worship sharings designed to help our meeting community develop a vision for what we want our meeting to be. The Committee

will facilitate these worship sharings over the next few months and encourages everyone in the meeting to participate.

On Saturday, August 24, 1:00 PM, Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) will put on an Introduction to Advocacy Workshop here at Asheville Friends Meeting. Come and learn strategic and effective advocacy tools to promote peace and justice, and be part of creating a local grassroots advocacy team in Asheville. At the workshop, you will also learn about the 2019 FCNL Advocacy Team campaign to repeal the 2001 and 2002 Authorizations for the Use of Military Force (AUMF) that have been used by three presidents to justify endless wars. This Introduction to Advocacy Workshop will feature FCNL Advocacy Teams Trainer Sarah Freeman-Woolpert. The workshop will run from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. For more information, please contact sarahfw@fcnl.org or bcarruthers1@charter.net. The concept of advocacy teams was explained.

Invitation to Participate in an Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration

We have been invited to participate in an interfaith event that will be held at Congregation Beth Israel on November 17th at 5:00 pm. Organizers are attempting to open the event to a wide variety of faiths and have reached out to us to encourage our involvement. The Meeting agreed that we would like to be involved in this. Rylin Hansen and Bobby Carter volunteered to represent our Meeting on the planning committee.

Committee reports:

Treasurer's Report - Satchel Loftis

Satchel used two areas to highlight how our 2019 finances compared to last year at this time. The contributions to Friends and community organizations are predictable expenditures and ½ of these are sent out in July and the other half in October. Utilities generally remain consistent from year to year; they are up \$80 from last year at this time.

Our year to date rent income has decreased, from \$1500 two years ago, \$950 last year and \$780 this year. Generally, 8 – 10 percent of our income comes from rent. Our year to date contributions are as follows: two years ago - \$9200; a year ago - \$11,200, this year - \$11,500. Also, anonymous small cash donations are fairly consistent, but he was unable to say what proportion of the income this is. Thus, the

main drivers of our income and expenses are on track compared to previous years. However, he reminded us that we base our annual budget on the previous year's income. Because of the general decrease in income, our expectations for the budget have decreased. Continuing to decrease our expectations to follow the income has its own issues.

Construction projects are completed so that expenditure for this year is complete.

When asked about whether monies spent from the Meeting House and Grounds Fund were replenished from the operating funds, as both the General Reserves and House and Ground funds have gone down, Satchel said that no money was put away for a rainy day. In the past the General Reserves were built up, but none of the important issues of the Meeting House were addressed. The General Reserves are also used for Meeting House improvements. \$35,000 has been spent over the last 19 months for critical structural needs.

When asked if the general fund income decreases when special fundraising projects are done, Satchel said that it was hard to tell with this Meeting. He went on to discuss some of the psychology involved with fundraising.

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Recommendation for Membership

A clearness committee for membership has met with Morgan Murray and enthusiastically recommends him for membership in the Religious Society of Friends and Asheville Friends Meeting. Morgan began attending Meeting in the 1990s and when his son Blue was born, he became more regular. Recently he has been traveling a lot, and has been unable to physically be at Meeting, but feels a strong connection and wishes to formalize his relationship with Meeting.

Can we unite in accepting Morgan's request for membership? As Morgan's son, Blue would become an associate member as is the practice of this meeting.

Minute #2: The Meeting approved Morgan's full membership and Blue's associate membership in the Religious Society of Friends and Asheville Friends Meeting.

Kitti Reynolds, Leslee Johnson and Gail Hipkin volunteered to plan a welcoming party for Morgan and Blue.

Committee Reports

Racial Justice- Beth Eddy

Racial Justice Committee met on 7/24/2019 at Gita Larson's home. Present were committee members Gita Larson and Adrienne Weir, along with Bob Smith, Steve Livingston, and Sarawila Villatoro-Weir.

We discussed ideas for inreach and outreach, and though most of our meeting time was devoted to the latter, we also affirmed that we will be bringing in Vahisha Hassan for another day-long workshop in the early part of next year, thus rolling over the budgeted money until next year. We agreed to organize another book study with a book such as Robin DiAngelo's "White Fragility".

For outreach we brainstormed about different ways we can be more present and more effective among communities of color in Asheville. We are especially concerned with the "achievement gap" and the "punishment gap" in our schools, and with the relations between communities of color and law enforcement in Asheville. There is a new chief of police, and there are community meetings being held to introduce him to the community. We acknowledged the value of showing up at such meetings as white people, as white Quakers, as the Asheville Friends Meeting so we will try to attend those. The narrative shifts when white people are present. We recognize that being present on a regular basis at these and other gatherings has more lasting value than merely showing up when there are big events, protests, and the like. We seek to identify those people and groups of people who are doing racial justice work in our communities and find out what kind of help and support we can offer that would be valuable.

We spoke of our concern for the injustices of the prison system and how we can connect with people who are caught up in it. One caring person on the outside can make a huge difference to a person on the inside.

We agreed that Bob Smith and Gita Larson will co-clerk the committee moving forward, and we will resume meeting on a regular basis.

Sarawila has a concern for individuals in solitary confinement.

Nominating Committee -Kitti Reynolds

The Nominating Committee would like to ask for your approval of Bob Smith as a member of the Racial Justice Committee.

Minute #3: The Meeting approved Bob Smith becoming a member of the Racial Justice Committee.

We would also like to report that Adrienne Weir has asked to be released from her position on the Finance Committee. We are grateful for her many years of service on this committee.

Minute #4: The Meeting minutes its appreciation for Adrienne Weir and the many years of her dedicated service to the Finance Committee.

House and Grounds - NancyLynn Sharpless

The Committee is bringing forward the following Action Item in order to work with the Long-Range Planning Committee and Finance Committee.

AFM Action Item Statement for Windows. 8-11-19

New Windows are needed throughout the Meeting House for several reasons:

- due to the age of the building it is assumed the original paint on the windows and their frames contain lead paint.
- old window frames have chipped paint exposing those who open windows and those in room to lead dust.
- stuck windows do not allow for fire exits in emergencies.
- stuck windows do not allow for ventilation.
- broken or misaligned window screens do not keep children in or insects out.

After three years of House and Grounds Committee discussion and research we would like to have the Meeting's approval to replace all windows with vinyl framed, double glazed/gas filled windows with half screens.

That calls for 23 - 25 windows at a total approximate cost of \$11,000.00 to be drawn from the Meeting House account.

Further, we propose a fundraising and maintenance program where individuals or group of members and attendees “sponsor” a window and keep it clean at

\$350.00/window, averaging the large and small windows. The new windows will save on heating and cooling costs. Satchel estimated that we would save between \$300 and \$500 a year.

Regarding other House and Ground matters, we may have to replace the 30 year old furnace this year. There are no replacement parts available because of its age. Last year's cost would have been \$6000 for replacement. The roof is currently in excellent condition but will need to be replaced at some point in the future for a current estimate of \$25,000.

Satchel informed the Meeting that there was \$6000 in the Emergency fund that could cover the furnace (although the \$6000 figure is a year old). The construction from the past 19 months has depleted the Building Fund. The Meeting currently has, at the most, a total of \$20,000. Thus, the cost of the windows would consume ½ of this money. Doing the job in sections would be far more costly.

Discussion ensued regarding window sponsorship. One Friend thought it a good idea; another thought that people could also sponsor a window in the name of others. A survey may be in order to see the potential for this. Friends were united that no memorial plaques would be provided.

Patti Hughes said that this House and Grounds Committee has made tremendous progress.

Peace and Earth Committee - Pat Johnson

The Peace and Earth Committee would like Meeting to consider co-sponsoring the International Day of Peace and Proclamation from the City & maybe the County. Pat Johnson read the Proclamation. (See Appendix 1 attached at the end of her Committee report.)

Minute #5: The Meeting approved co-sponsoring the proclamation.

The Peace and Earth Committee presented their 2018 Summary Report (Appendix 2 at the end of this report).

In addition to the annual contributions from our Meeting for General and Quaker outreach (Appendix 3 and 4 attached to this report), our Meeting has contributed \$1,555.00 in support of the speaker series of the "American Indian and Indigenous Studies Program" at UNCA. This donation will help cover expenses of bringing Dr.

Rangi Matamura, a Maori professor and astronomer from New Zealand to speak, originally scheduled the week of Oct 14th but now rescheduled to the following week of Oct 21st.

Professor Adcock has scheduled Cherokee Elders to come to our 2nd Hour Spiritual Enrichment on Nov 17th to dialog with us. More details on this upcoming.

The Indian Boarding School Healing Coalition has begun Part 2 of their Webinar series. The next one will be on Sept 5th and the topic is Effects of Catholic Sex Abuse on Indian Country. The following one on Oct 4th will be on the Inter-generational Impacts of Boarding School Trauma. All Webinars begin at 1pm EDT and last about 1.5 hours. Please register for the Webinars at their website. They are recorded so one can listen to past webinars at any time.

Rylin Hansen and friends want to focus on Food Justice and will meet as an "ad hoc" group to determine their mission and goals for some period (perhaps 6 months); then we can better discern if this will be a new committee or a sub-committee of P & E.

Peace and Earth continues to focus on the NC Commission on Inquiry of Torture (NCCIT) and their work as well as the situation in Gaza. Mike Eddy is continuing to gather information for the Committee.

We discussed the best location for the display posters Pat Johnson prepared for the SAYMA Workshop on Building Indigenous Relationships. We decided to put them on the Peace and Earth Committee bulletin board in the lobby.

We closed with a period of silent worship to meet again as ways opens in 9th month, 2019.

Appendix #1.

**International Day of Peace Proclamations
(Asheville, Buncombe County and WNC Legislative Delegation)
September 21, 2019**

Whereas, in this day of progress and century of light, too many community members have lost their lives to wars and acts of racial, gender and ethnic violence at home and around the globe;

Whereas, citizens have a duty to assemble, discuss and make their desires for peace known to elected leaders in order to heal our planet of grief

and horror. Their desires should now be heard and answered as never before;

Whereas, as parents, teachers and leaders, we have taught our children charity, mercy and patience, it is inconsistent to later teach them to injure or kill other parents', teachers', and leaders' children elsewhere, including the Middle East, Central and South America, Africa, Asia, and even in our own communities;

Whereas, our earth and community have been devastated from countless wars and acts of violence for centuries, not only harming and killing human inhabitants, but also polluting our water, air and land that nurture our continued existence, we all cry out: “Disarm, disarm;”

Whereas, the sword is not the balance of justice, blood does not wipe out dishonor, nor violence vindicate possession;

Whereas, our workforce has often forsaken its service to our communities in order to answer the summons to war, our governments must now leave their addiction to violence and destruction, by instead honoring Peace, celebrating it on the International Day of Peace, turning this current culture of war and violence into one of peace, equality, respect, compassion and love;

Whereas, we must always honor and commemorate those who have died in service to their homeland, the (City of Asheville,) (County of Buncombe) (State of North Carolina) now resolves to honor their lives by committing ours to peace with justice, as brothers and sisters in solidarity with other species sharing this delicate planet;

Whereas, In the name of the future existence of humanity, the following organizations join efforts and energies to

work for lasting peace:

(Names of groups to be included will be added at later date);

Whereas, all civilization is in danger of annihilation from intentional or accidental use of nuclear weapons, it is now imperative for all governments, local and national, to promote alliances with other nations for the amicable settlement of international differences, with the purpose of creating lasting justice and peace, we urge elected leaders to direct necessary resources into the betterment of our communities, so they can improve education, human relations, healthcare, infrastructure and and prosperity for all citizens;

I, (Name of Leader, Title, Governing Body) declare September 21, 2019 as International Day of Peace, and urge all citizens to commit their lives to solving disagreements nonviolently in their homes, communities, their state, nation and the world.

Appendix #2

Peace and Earth Committee 2018 Summary

Presented a minute to Meeting to join with UU Church & other Faith groups to provide Sanctuary to selected folks at risk of deportation which was approved. Many AFM folk trained & participated in daytime and overnight stays with a woman in Sanctuary.

Presented a minute to Meeting on BDS (Boycott, Divest and Sanction) all organizations supporting the oppression of Palestinians which was approved. Friends Fiduciary Corporation (FFC) changed their screening to include all organizations and we wrote "Thank You" letters to FFC and to Ann Arbor Friends Meeting who originally initiated this effort.

Several of us volunteered at Twelve Baskets.

We collected 46 lbs & 45lbs of food at 2 different times for Manna Foodbank. This about half of previous collections so we made a push this year which has been successful.

Participated in Crop Walk to End World Hunger with \$550 in donations.

Hosted potluck and presentation by Pastors for Peace caravan to Cuba.

Co-Sponsored with the Ethical Society of Asheville one day workshop on Nonviolent Communication by Roberta Wall.

Co-Sponsored the International Day of Peace and Proclamation from the City.

Pat Johnson attended Pendle Hill retreat on Right Relationships with Indigenous Peoples. P & E Committee continues to build relationships following the lead of Indigenous Peoples with particular concern for the history of Quaker boarding schools in Western NC.

Katherine Kowal attended FGC in Ohio and reported on speakers Paula Palmer and Rev Barber.

Susan attended World Beyond War in Ontario, Canada and Women's March in DC & gave reports.

Mike attended meetings on education and advocacy of NC Commission on Inquiry to Terror and we are continuing this work.

Margaret Normile joined the committee and became the Creation Care Alliance liaison.

Provided opportunity for Post card writing on 3 fifth Sundays & 1 4th Sunday. In 2018 58 cards were sent on topics such as abuse of Palestinian children, gun control, hog pond waste and toxic coal ash.

Sponsored Second Hour Spiritual Enrichment programs including Yousef on Life in Hebron, NC Power & Light's Earth Day Climate Action week & taped the

documentary Dawnland about the Indian Boarding Schools & the first Truth and Reconciliation Commission for Native Americans to be shown this year.

Maintained our pollinator garden with help from our young friends.

Submitted our priorities from FCNL's list of 10 as follows:

- Promote peace building and diplomacy;
- Reduce military spending;
- Promote nuclear disarmament;
- Promote equal access to political process; and
- Advocate for solution to climate disruption.

We welcome any questions or comments on our ongoing efforts to promote peace and protect the earth. Thank you.

Appendix #3

2018 General Outreach

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Homeward Bound	\$ 400.00
Manna Food Bank	\$ 400.00
Clean Water for NC	\$ 250.00
Mountain True	\$ 250.00
Pisgah Legal Services	\$ 250.00
BeLoved Asheville	\$ 200.00
CIMA	\$ 200.00
UU Sanctuary	\$ 200.00
12 Baskets	\$ 150.00
Center for Participatory Change	\$ 150.00
Creation Care	\$ 150.00
Vets for Peace	\$ 150.00
Green Works	\$ 100.00
Riverlink	\$ 100.00
Just Peace for Israel/Palestine	\$ 50.00
Total	<hr/> \$ 3,000.00

Appendix #4

2018 Quaker Outreach

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Amount</u>
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Quaker Earthcare Witness	\$ 450.00
AFSC	\$ 450.00
FCNL	\$ 450.00
FGC	\$ 300.00
Quaker House	\$ 300.00
Right Sharing	\$ 300.00
Madison Quakers	\$ 200.00
Ramallah Friends School	\$ 150.00
FWCC	\$ 150.00
Friends Journal	\$ 125.00
Pendle Hill	\$ 125.00
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Total	\$3,000.00

The Meeting closed with a period of silent worship to meet as way opens.