

**Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**  
**Asheville Friends Meeting**  
8th Month 16, 2020

**Present:** Robin Wells, Clerk; Beth Eddy, Recording Clerk;

Present via ZOOM: Barbara Esther, Gita Larson, Katherine Kowal, Margaret Normile, Adrienne Weir (and Essence), Mike Eddy, Larry Beveridge, Kitti Reynolds, Pat Campbell, Patti Hughes, Pat Burgess, Jim Barham, Neisha Wright, NancyLynn Sharpless, Bob Lackey, Jim Cavener, Susan Oehler, Rylin Hansen, Satchel Loftis, Morgan Murray, Wanda Guokas, Pat Johnson.

Meeting opened with silent worship

The Clerk read the following from Britain Yearly Meeting. This reading had been read at the beginning of the the SAYMA Representative meeting and our Clerk wanted to share it with this meeting:

Three skills or qualities helpful in handling conflicts: “The first skill is naming: being clear and honest about the problem as I see it, stating what I see and how I feel about it. What is important about these statements is that I own them: ‘I see’, ‘I feel’ (not ‘surely it is obvious that . . .’, ‘any right thinking person should). This ability to name what seems to be going on, is crucial to getting the conflict out into the open, where we can begin to understand and try to deal with it. Such skill is dangerous. It can feel - indeed, it can be - confrontational. It feels like stirring up trouble where there wasn’t any problem. It needs to be done carefully, caringly, with love, in language we hope others can hear. We need to seek tactfully the best time to do it. But it needs to be done.

The second skill is the skill of listening: listening not just to the words, but to the feelings and needs behind the words. It takes a great deal of time and energy to listen well. It’s a kind of weaving: reflecting back, asking for clarification, asking for time in turn to be listened to, being truly open to what we’re hearing (even if it hurts), being open to the possibility that we might ourselves be changed by what we hear.

The third skill is the skill of letting go: I don't mean that in the sense of giving up, lying down and inviting people to walk all over us, but acknowledging the possibility that there might be other solutions to this conflict than the ones we've thought of yet; letting the imagination in - making room for the Spirit. We need to let go of our own will - not so as to surrender to another's, but so as to look together for God's solution. It's a question of finding ways to let go of our commitment to opposition and separation, of letting ourselves be opened to our connectedness as human beings." Quaker Faith & Practice, Britain Yearly Meeting p. 1833 Living Faithfully Today, Mary Lou Leavitt, 1986

**Minute #1:** Friends approved our 3rd month business meeting minutes with no corrections.

**Minute #2:** Friends approved our 5th month called business meeting minutes with no corrections.

### **Announcements**

It is with sadness that we announce that SAYMA Friend, Hector Black, died on August 8th. He was 95 years old. His burial will be private and a celebration of his life will be planned when it is safe to do so. Please hold his family in the Light through this difficult time.

Several people have expressed a desire for some online informal discussions. We are looking for someone who would like to organize this effort. These discussions will be done virtually. There is a need to get topics and ideas for discussion plus Zoom meetings organized. Morgan and Rylan volunteered to organize these online discussions and determine schedules.

Robin reported that the RE Committee is looking to have some on-line activity with the children during their First Day School Zoom time (9:45-10:00am). Robin requested that anyone interested in helping to please let her know.

### **Finance Report-Satchel Loftis**

Our treasurer presented an expense report along with a report on our contributions

so far this year. (see attachment for financial report)

Satchel reported that even though our income from rentals is down our income from donations was greater than last year and that the total income was about equal to previous years total at this time (48%) Thanks all for contributions. Our expenses are down since we are not meeting in the meetinghouse due to COVID-19. A portion of our outreach donations have been sent out with the remainder to go out based on the Meeting's income. A Friend noted that there is a serious need for our outreach donations. Another Friend pointed out that last year outreach took a 10% reduction across the board. Another Friend expressed her concern about the economic situation and is worried that we may 'go off the cliff' and Meeting's income may suffer.

The Clerk asked the Finance committee and the Peace & Earth to monitor the meeting's income and to look at our future money disbursements,

It was noted that we paid for a Racial Justice workshop that was postponed due to the COVID pandemic. Gita told us that the workshop leader is working on making it a virtual workshop and more information will be provided as available.

### **Scholarship Committee-Pat Johnson**

Pat discussed the recent Scholarship funds disbursements. A current college student requested assistance (\$623). The committee was challenged with following its procedures due to this last minute request, when the fee was needed in the next few day. Current procedure state that a request for greater than \$300 goes to the entire meeting for approval. Scholarship Committee needs two weeks notice for payment of \$300 and a month notice if a greater dollar amount is needed. A Friend asked if there was a written process and if it had an exception clause knowing that there can be many delays due to red tape on many fronts.

Satchel told us that the requested course fees were paid, even though the Committee's schedule was not met due to circumstances beyond individual's control. We have \$1800 in the scholarship fund so we can cover this expense. We need a clearly written process with an exception clause. The process will be examined and revised to ensure that exceptions are noted and we are sensitive to various situations.

**MINUTE # 3:** The scholarship request of \$623 was approved by the meeting.

### **House and Grounds-Jim Barham**

On 8/3/20, NancyLynn Sharpless found the wisteria out of control as seen in the attached photo. She trimmed it back and found that it had entered the Meeting House through the second floor window and was growing under the clapboard in three places. She could not reach the clapboard problem with the ladder she had. Two days later, after careful discussion with NancyLynn, we decided that the wisteria was too troublesome and the unstable ladder work was unsafe for us and any other Meeting member. We agreed that removal was the best option. After removing the wisteria (second photo) I found a wasp nest under the wisteria vine that was under the clapboard. The wasps are now dead but the clapboard has gaps under it that will require nailing shut to prevent further infestation.

The hope that the wisteria would provide shade can be the subject of another discussion by the Long Range Planning Committee. That discussion could include native wisteria, which is not as invasive or aggressive as the Japanese variety that was removed. A climbing rose could be a better choice.

Meeting expressed THANKS to the House and Grounds Committee for its work to keep the grounds lovely and the building safe from wasps. Many stated how lovely the grounds look. The Committee had also moved the mulch pile to the curb where the city picked up and removed it.

Adrienne reminded us that the wisteria was on the property when purchased and the decision was to leave it to provide shade coverage of side windows. It has not been trimmed back due to other pressing concerns during the pandemic.

### **Nominating Committee Report-Kitti Reynolds**

Nominating Committee would like to extend our greatest appreciation to Robin Wells for her service as our Meeting Clerk during these extraordinary and difficult times.

We would like to nominate Bob Lackey as our next Clerk. He will begin his duties in 10th month 2020.

We would like to nominate Pat Campbell to serve on Finance.

The following people have asked to renew their membership on the following

committees:

Jim Cavener - continue on Nominating and Care and Nurture

Patty Burgess - continue on Nominating, Hospitality, and Religious Education

Hannah Burgess - continue on Hospitality

Pat Campbell - continue on Library

Nancy Lynn Sharpless - continue on House and Grounds

Library Committee could use someone with Print Shop skills.

House and Grounds could use some younger members (like under 60!)

Beth Eddy has agreed to continue as Recording Clerk.

Kitti reminded us that committee membership is for a three year term.

**Minute # 4:** The Meeting approved the nomination of Bob Lackey as Presiding Clerk beginning the tenth month 2020.

**Minute #5:** Meeting approved all other nominations.

### **Peace & Earth Reports--Mike Eddy and Susan Oehler**

The 2019 end-of-year report for our Meeting's outreach was supposed to be presented during the 3rd month business meeting. Due to the lengthy meeting, we postponed this report to the next month. Who knew it would be put off until 8th month? The report is attached.

The Peace & Earth Committee brought the Proclamation for the International Day of Peace being held on September 21, 2020 for our consideration again this year. We sponsored it last year. The committee is prepared to sponsor this proclamation, but offers it to the Meeting for full-meeting sponsorship. The proclamation is already sponsored by many local organizations. It will be read by the Mayor of Asheville, Chair of Buncombe County Commissioners and NC State Representative in our county. It is attached.

**Minute #6:** Friends approved the sponsorship for the 2020 proclamation of the

International Day of peace.

**Minute #7:** Friends expressed their THANKS to the committee. Many stated how beautifully written was the proclamation.

### **SAYMA Representative's Report-Morgan Murray**

We have had two Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA) representative meetings since our last face-to-face business meeting. Our representative, Morgan Murray, shared a brief overview of each meeting during our business meeting and asked for input from the Meeting. More detailed information about the representative meetings can be found in his attached reports.

Morgan first reviewed the July 20<sup>th</sup> meeting which was focused on the financial state of SAYMA. Morgan expressed his concern and confusion as there were many statements where prior knowledge and decisions had been made and a lot of past knowledge was assumed by the reps. He spent many hours researching the budget and expense items.

In addition many Friends showed up at the representative meeting hoping to discuss the URJ letter which was not discussed. Conflict in the budget reduction was the major part of the conversation (see attached report).

A minute of thanks to Barbara Esther was presented at the representative meeting as her term as clerk ended.

Many questions were raised during our Business meeting about the SAYMA reports. Further Information can be found in the minutes and reports located on the SAYMA website.

Friends agreed that more discussion was needed and that **on 13 September 2020**, we will have a special meeting focusing on SAYMA . Adrienne W, Robin W, Barbara E, Morgan M, Neisha W, Gita L and Bob S will set up and run the meeting which will start at 11:30 after meeting for worship.

### **COVID-19 Response Fundraiser-Patti Hughes**

We had a remarkable response to our Asheville Friends Meeting fundraiser to support local organizations that are working with those most desperately needing help during the COVID pandemic. Through a combination of our fundraising and

the Alice Brown Fund, we were able to put \$6,225.00 into our community for COVID support. The details of the results are attached.

### **Opening the Meeting to Face-to-face Worship-Patti Hughes**

A while back, Ministry and Counsel presented a plan for re-opening the Meeting for face-to-face worship. It contains details the steps we would take to ease into a safe return to worship at the meetinghouse. The proposed plan is attached for your review.

After a thorough review of the recommended steps to reopen for face to face meetings all agreed to a data driven decision.

**Minute #8:** Meeting agreed that an ad hoc committee (Pat C, Jim B, Neisha W, Larry B) in conversation with M & C, would help us determine how to use data to safely open our face-face outdoor meeting.

The Meeting closed with silent worship in deep gratitude for the work done by the Friends in our community.

The next meeting for worship with attention to business will be held on 20 September 2020.

### **Attachments:**

#### **Attachment #1: Peace & Earth Summary for 2019**

The AFM Peace and Earth committee is pleased to report a summary of our work in 2019. The work is grouped into activities concerning Indigenous Peoples, Peace, Second Hours, Monthly Meeting Minutes and Letters, Postcard Writing and FCNL.

After attending a Pendle Hill conference in 2018, a committee member continued following her leading regarding right relationships with indigenous peoples. She hosted two online training sessions called “Joining Together to Make a Difference: Forging Settler-Indigenous Alliances.” She developed ties with Assistant Professor Trey Adcock, director of UNC Asheville’s Indian and Indigenous Studies

Program. He has been a knowledgeable resource to our Meeting to learn about Quaker responsibility for Native American day and boarding schools. The committee sponsored a Second Hour to meet with Elders from the Cherokee nation. It was an opportunity to learn directly from them about the Cherokee language, culture and traditions. The committee led AFM in acknowledging that our Meeting House is on Cherokee land.

Members of the committee helped organize a convocation to increase education about the North Carolina Commission of Inquiry on Torture (NCCIT.) Together with the NC Council of Churches, Carolina Jews for Justice, and the ACLU of North Carolina, Asheville Friends explored the findings of the North Carolina Commission of Inquiry on Torture's September 2018 report and sought ways to address the responsibilities of public officials and the citizens of NC to repair the damage done to those who were rendered to CIA torture sites on flights based out of NC public airports. Further, the committee wrote a letter about the movie, *The Report*, which was approved by the Meeting for Business. It was sent from our Meeting (signed by the Clerk) to the Asheville Citizen Times and other local media. The goal of publicizing this movie was bring to light our nation's use of torture after 9/11 and to guarantee that we never resort to torture again. The committee also sponsored the 2019 International Day of Peace.

Peace and Earth invited the entire Meeting to participate in responding to FCNL regarding concerns and priorities of its Policy Statement. A record of the issues raised, suggestions made and revisions proposed was documented and communicated to FCNL. We sponsored an FCNL workshop (with Veterans for Peace) on Legislative Advocacy. From this workshop a local team was formed to advocate the repeal of the 2001 and 2002 Authorizations for the Use of Military Force (AUMF) that have been used by three presidents to justify endless wars.

Besides the Second Hour with Cherokee elders, the committee sponsored four other Second Hours: for Earth Day 2019 we showed Greta Thunberg's TEDx talk, we showed the "Dawnland" documentary about the truth and reconciliation process with first nations in Maine, we hosted a Beloved presentation by Amy Cantrel and we hosted an education about and discussion of the deteriorating situation in Gaza.

On three "Fifth Sundays," Peace and Earth led postcard writing. The topics were:



the situation in Gaza, US saber rattling with respect to Iran and curbing gun violence.

Lists of both the Quaker and General outreach donations for 2019 are attached to this summary. In addition, the committee purchased and displayed a Cherokee land acknowledgment sign. We replaced the Welcome All Neighbors sign. For MANNA food bank, we collected donations of 116 and 151 pounds. Members of the committee collected donations for and walked in the CROP Walk.

## 2019 Quaker Outreach

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Quaker Earthcare Witness	\$405.00
AFSC	\$405.00
FCNL	\$405.00
FGC	\$270.00
Quaker House	\$270.00
Right Sharing	\$270.00
Madison Quakers	\$180.00
Friends United Meeting	\$135.00
FWCC	\$135.00
Friends Journal	\$113.00
Pendle Hill	<u>\$112.00</u>

Total \$2,700.00

## 2019 General Outreach

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Amount</u>
12 Baskets	\$350.00
Homeward Bound	\$300.00
BeLoved Asheville	\$300.00
Clean Water NC	\$250.00
Mountain True	\$250.00
Pisgah Legal Services	\$250.00
CIMA	\$200.00
Hannah the Immigration Lawyer	\$200.00
Center for Participatory Change	\$150.00
Creation Care Alliance	\$150.00

Veterans for Peace	\$150.00
Green Works	\$100.00
Just Peace for Israel/Palestine	\$ 50.00
	TOTAL \$2,700.00

**Attachment #2: Proposed 2020 Proclamation for the International Day of Peace**

Whereas, in this tumultuous year of 2020 AD, a pause for reflection is especially needed on a day dedicated to International Peace in our communities, so we may productively seek redress of inequities by peaceful, nonviolent and healing means; and

Whereas, at this time of year, as we welcome the Fall Solstice of equal hours of day and night, we likewise commit to living lives dedicated to promoting equal justice among our fellow residents and to celebrate our commonalities and differences along the full spectrum of humanity; and

Whereas, our hearts are moved with deep-felt empathy and concern for those suffering from and losing their lives to COVID-19 in hospitals, nursing homes, or communal living situations where many are confined, isolated and separated from families; and for those who are unhoused, imprisoned or alone; and

Whereas, in our country and region workers grieve the loss of employment, economic security and adequate housing and healthcare, while more than half of discretionary federal funds are spent on a military budget to pay for current questionable military actions, to support weapons industries and; and to service debt on past wars; and.

Whereas, many applaud recent Asheville City government decisions to remove or re-purpose old monuments that honored a racist history, and to offer reparations for past and ongoing harms of institutional racism; and

Whereas, leaders at all levels of government are now encouraged to envision a new, reduced and non-militarized Department of Safety that would truly protect and serve the people and foster a just, humane and

unbiased service at a lower cost; and

Whereas, this year marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of the detonation of nuclear weapons, a devastating force of indiscriminate mass destruction, while threatening all of us with obliteration from intentional or accidental use of the nearly 14,000 deadly nuclear weapons; and

Whereas, local peace-loving groups, including those listed below, are committed to exchanging swords for plowshares, and to till fields of compassion and justice in our community;

(Names of groups so far)

Just Peace for Israel/Palestine

Jewish Voice for Peace Asheville

Asheville Friends of Combatants for Peace

WNC 4 Peace

Veterans for Peace Chapter 099

North Carolina Peace Action

World BEYOND War

Peacemakers of the Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Asheville

I \_\_\_\_\_, Mayor of Asheville, (or Brownie Newman, Chair of Buncombe County Commission) (or Susan Fisher, State Representative in Western North Carolina and other elected Delegates) do declare September 21, 2020 as International Day of Peace and urge all citizens to dedicate the day to works that foster peace and justice among families, neighbors and fellow humans around the world.

### **Attachment #3: AFM COVID-19 Urgent Response Fundraiser Report**

During our called business meeting on 5/3/20 we discussed our thoughts around providing some financial support for local organizations that are providing relief to folks in our community who are struggling under the circumstances of this pandemic. The fruit of our discussion was that we would conduct a one week fundraiser to support the six organizations listed below. Friends could designate which organizations they wanted to support or support all of the organizations.

**The grand total that was raised: \$6,225.00**

The total for people who asked that their contribution be divided evenly among all the organizations came to a total of \$4,530.00. Divided by six it came to \$755.00 for each organization. The resulting totals below show the amounts each organization received (totals include the \$755.00 plus the donations specified for that particular organization).

\$1137.50	BeLoved, 10 N. Market St., Asheville , NC 28801
\$1105.00	12 Baskets, 610 Haywood Rd., Asheville, NC 28806
\$1055.00	Bounty and Soul, 999 Old US Hwy. 70, Black Mountain, NC 28711
\$1255.00	YWCA 185 S. French Broad Ave, Asheville, NC 28801
\$ 855.00	ABCCM 20 Twentieth St., Asheville, NC 28806
\$ 817.50	We Give A Share, Asheville Housing Development, 165 S. French Broad St., Asheville, NC 28801 (Check was made to Asheville Housing Development, with memo line “We Give a Share”)

#### **Attachment #4: A Plan for Reopening Meeting**

##### Reopening Asheville Friends Meeting

The last few months during the COVID-19 Pandemic have been challenging on many levels. Some of us have had loved ones stricken by the virus. Some of us have lost jobs or have loved ones who have lost jobs. Others are working in jobs considered essential and have been out in the world. Still others are working from home with the challenges that come along with combining family life and work. Several among us have been bravely volunteering in the community to make sure that everyone has the food and supplies that they need. None of us remain untouched.

As a faith community, we have been asked to stay home to do our part to isolate ourselves and “flatten the curve.” Even though we have been apart physically, we have done our best to stay connected by phone, by internet, and by having our meeting for worship facilitated using Zoom. We are grateful for the efforts of many in our Meeting who have worked hard to keep us together during this time.

The time has come to begin planning for our return to face-to-face worship. We need to proceed cautiously, using what we have learned about how this virus spreads. There are many among us who are vulnerable and may not survive, if exposed to the virus. We can not let our enthusiasm about returning to Meeting, drive us to do something we later regret.

Even as we begin to meet again in the meetinghouse, we understand that there are individuals in our Meeting that will need to continue their isolation due to their vulnerability. **It is ultimately up to each individual to decide whether it is safe to return to the meetinghouse.**

### **General Precautions**

We want to begin with small steps and take certain precautions that will minimize the potential for virus transmission.

- Friends will be asked to wear a mask while at Meeting.
- Friends with a cough, fever of 100 degrees or greater, or other respiratory illness will be asked not to attend. (If a contact-free thermometer can be obtained, we can take temperatures as people arrive.)
- Hand sanitizer and tissues will be made available.
- Anyone who develops a cough during meeting for worship (even if not due to the COVID virus), is asked to leave the meeting space.
- We will greet each other without contact, using creative ways to show we care.
- The surfaces in the Meetinghouse will be cleaned before and after meeting for worship.

We propose opening the Meeting in steps:

#### **Step 1**

We will only hold meeting for worship outdoors with a minimum six-foot separation between our chairs. Friends will be encouraged to bring their own chairs and a few easily-sanitized chairs will be available for those who do not bring a chair. These provided chairs would be sanitized both before and after meeting. We

will not pass any clipboards. We will minimize the potential spread of the virus by eliminating singing before meeting and limiting the social time following meeting. There would be no First Day School. The downstairs bathrooms in Meeting will be made available, but the meeting room, kitchen, and upstairs will be closed off. We will attempt to provide online access to our meeting for worship, for those who need to stay at home. We may need to establish wifi at the meetinghouse to make this possible.

As way opens we will initiate further steps of reopening.

**Attachment #5: July SAYMA Rep Report (May SAYMA Rep Report will be a separate attachment or can be found on the SAYMA website)**

**The July SAYMA Representatives Meeting occurred online on Monday, July 20. There were 57 people in attendance. The Meeting started with some time spent attempting to get everyone online and familiar with Zoom. Afterwards, attendance was taken, starting with me. After a few minutes, due to the Zoom format, I started losing track of all the names. Susan Phelan took down the names and should have them when she publishes the official minutes of the Meeting.**

**There were representatives from each Monthly Meeting, two people from The Friends Center for Racial Justice, several members of the finance committee, Sharon Smith of the URJ committee, members of other committees, and quite a few people who showed up for other purposes.**

**Barbara started the Meeting with a reading from the Britain Yearly Meeting.**

#### **Opening Worship and Reading**

**Three skills or qualities helpful in handling conflicts: “The first skill is naming: being clear and honest about the problem as I see it, stating what I see and how I feel about it. What is important about these statements is that I own them: ‘I see’, ‘I feel’ (not ‘surely it is obvious that . . .’, ‘any right thinking person should . . .’). This ability to name what seems to be going on, is crucial to getting the conflict out into the open, where we can begin to understand and try to deal with it. Such skill is dangerous. It can feel - indeed, it can be - confrontational. It feels like stirring up trouble where there wasn’t any problem. It needs to be done carefully, caringly, with love, in language we hope others can hear.**

**We need to seek tactfully the best time to do it. But it needs to be done. The second skill is the skill of listening: listening not just to the words, but to the feelings and needs behind the words. It takes a great deal of time and energy to listen well. It's a kind of weaving: reflecting back, asking for clarification, asking for time in turn to be listened to, being truly open to what we're hearing (even if it hurts), being open to the possibility that we might ourselves be changed by what we hear. The third skill is the skill of letting go: I don't mean that in the sense of giving up, lying down and inviting people to walk all over us, but acknowledging the possibility that there might be other solutions to this conflict than the ones we've thought of yet; letting the imagination in - making room for the Spirit. We need to let go of our own will - not so as to surrender to another's, but so as to look together for God's solution. It's a question of finding ways to let go of our commitment to opposition and separation, of letting ourselves be opened to our connectedness as human beings." Quaker Faith & Practice, Britain Yearly Meeting p. 1833 Living Faithfully Today, Mary Lou Leavitt, 1986**

**Barbara then reviewed the agenda and let everyone know that we would not be discussing the URJ report in this Meeting. This was followed by considerable discussion. I gathered that the reason we had 57 people this evening and only 25 the last Meeting, was that many people were there to discuss the URJ report.**

**After a long time discussing what wasn't going to be discussed, which involved some quite long and elaborate accusations posed as a question, we proceeded to the agenda.**

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

**The Treasurer's Report was presented by Carol Lamm of Berea FM. This was a historical document of what had happened in the previous year, and what had happened so far this year.**

#### **FY 2019-2020 Budget:**

**The budget for this fiscal year, which runs from 1 October 2019 - 30 Sep 2020, expected \$105,575 of income, and \$111,630 of expenses, for an expected net loss of \$6,055.**

#### **Yearly Meeting:**

**The Annual Yearly Meeting is almost exactly half of the budget, and is paid for by those that attend, so when it did not occur this year due to the pandemic, the overall revenue and expenses of the Yearly Meeting were offsetting, and reduced both income and expenses by the same amount, \$52,900.**

**Without the Yearly Meeting, budgeted income was reduced from \$105,575 to \$52,675, and budgeted expenses were reduced from \$111,630 to \$58,730.**

**Fiscal Year to Date:**

The report was based on numbers as of 30 June, which is exactly 75% of the fiscal year.

**Expenses:**

**Travel Expenses: +\$3,594 (\$7,600 - \$4,006)**

Due to the pandemic canceling meetings, travel expenses were significantly reduced from the \$7,600 budgeted to \$4,006, a savings of \$3,594, assuming there are no more travel expenses for the fiscal year.

**Set-aside Fund Annual Allotments: +\$2,000 (\$7,600 - \$5,600)**

There were three items under this category that were funded at 100% for the year for a total of \$5,600 both budgeted and spent. SAYF was budgeted for \$2,000 but removed from the budget. We were told that SAYF did not need the money due the pandemic, though there was no representative from SAYF to elaborate or corroborate.

<b>FWCC 3rd World Delg Annl Exp</b>	<b>\$1,800</b>	
<b>FWCC Conference</b>	<b>\$1,800</b>	
<b>Spiritual Development Fun</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	
<b>SAYF Annual Exp</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>(\$2,000 budgeted)</b>

**Quaker Membership Orgs Annual Contributions: +\$1 (\$7,150 - \$7,149)**

<b>FGC</b>	<b>\$1,250</b>	
<b>FWCC</b>	<b>\$1,250</b>	
<b>Other WQO Annual Contributions</b>	<b>\$4,649</b>	<b>(\$4,650 budgeted)</b>

**SAYMA Office Operations: +3,783 (\$32,120 - \$28,337)**

Operations office related expenses were either near budget in the case of insurance and publications, or at expected for personnel, 74% of budget at 75% of the fiscal year. Office admin was significantly lower. I have calculated the approximate state of SAYMA operations based on the expected full personnel expense for the fiscal year, and assumes no more expenses in the other categories, which is most likely overly optimistic. Office admin expenses are likely to have additions before the end of the fiscal year, so the savings from the SAYMA Operations category is most likely overstated by between \$0 and \$3,821.

<b>Liability Insurance</b>	<b>\$ 816</b>	<b>(\$850 budgeted)</b>
<b>Office Admin</b>	<b>\$ 1,474</b>	<b>(\$5,295 budgeted)</b>
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>\$19,001</b>	<b>(74% of yearly budgeted \$25,705)</b>
<b>Publications Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 342</b>	<b>(\$270 budgeted)</b>

**SAYMA Committees: +\$1,300 (\$3,800 - \$2,500)**

There is a discrepancy here between the Treasurer's Report and the Finance Report. The



Treasurer's Report lists no dollars spent of the \$3,800 budgeted. The Finance Report lists the finance committee as having allocated its \$2,500 budget. The discrepancy might be because the Finance Report is dated 8 July 2020 while the Treasurer's Report is dated 30 June 2020. For purposes of the calculations, I went with the Finance committee's reported numbers of 8 July 2020.

Contingency Pool	\$ 500	\$0
Faith & Practice Rvsn	\$ 100	\$0
Finance	\$2,500	\$2,500
Ministry & Nurture	\$ 500	\$0
Yearly Meeting Planning	\$ 200	\$0

Expense summary: \$47,592

SAYMA has reduced expenses by a total of \$10,678 from the budgeted \$58,270 , assuming no more expenses besides what has already been spent or allocated to the personnel salary.

Travel Expenses:	+ \$3,594	(\$7,600 - \$4,006)
Set-aside Fund Annual Allotments:	+ \$2,000	(\$7,600 - \$5,600)
Quaker Membership Orgs Annual Contributions:	+ \$1	(\$7,150 - \$7,149)
SAYMA Operations:	+ 3,783	(\$32,120 - \$28,337)
SAYMA Committees	+ 1,300	(\$3,800 - \$2,500)

Income:

Publication Sales: + \$15 (\$65 - \$50)

Publication sales are up from \$50 to \$65 so far this year!

Interest on Money Mkt: -\$402

Interest is way down due to the economy, from an expected \$700 to \$298 for the year so far.

Contributions to General Fund: -\$1500

SAYMA was expecting \$1500 and has nothing.

Assessments: - \$19,388

Assessments on the Monthly Meetings were expected to bring in \$50,425 for the year. So far it has brought in \$31,037, which is 62% of that total.

Income Summary: -\$21,275 (\$31,400 - \$52,675) Budgeted

So far for the fiscal year, which as of 30 June was 75% complete, total income is \$31,400 of the budgeted \$52,675, for a total current income of \$21,275 below budget.

State of the budget as of 30 June/8 July: - \$16,192

Income: \$31,400  
Expenses: \$47,592  
Total: - \$16,192

**Items lacking clarity:**

1. The above numbers do not include \$ 598 that has been transferred from reserves.
2. There is a \$1500 Contributions to General Fund item which was budgeted under Income, but is \$0 for current YTD.

**Other expenses:**

These numbers do not include any other expenses for the rest of the fiscal year, except for already budgeted personnel expenses under SAYMA Operations. Anything else spent, even if it is already budgeted, besides salary, will increase the SAYMA deficit.

**Assessments:**

The Treasurer's Report contained the following:

"The finance committee and I have taken a close look at assessment patterns from individual MMs, and we have been in touch with MM treasurers where we had specific concerns. Overall, we have heard that MMs plan to pay as anticipated."

There was discussion as to the accuracy of this statement.

**Equity:**

Assets: YTD: - \$10,246

SAYMA had the following assets as of the beginning of the current fiscal year 1 Oct 2019:

Checking - SAYF - First Bank	\$ 5,920
Checking - Bank Am	\$15,563
Money Mkt Acct	\$33,121
Checking - PNC Bank	<u>\$28,624</u>
Total assets as of 1 Oct 2019:	\$83,228

SAYMA had the following assets 75% through the fiscal year on 30 June 2020:

Checking - SAYF - First Bank	\$ 5,480
Checking - Bank Am	\$22,849
Money Mkt Acct	\$33,420
Checking - PNC Bank	<u>\$11,333</u>
Total assets as of 30 Jun 2020:	\$73,082

**Equity:**

\$48,110, of that current \$73,082, is already allocated to the following:

<b>Donor restricted funds:</b>	<b>\$2,250</b>	
FWCC 3rd World Deleg Donor Restricted Fund		<b>\$1,150</b>
FWCC SAYMA Friends World Travel Donor Restr Fund		<b>\$1,100</b>
URJ Donor-Restricted Fund		<b>\$0</b>

**Set-aside Funds:   -\$4,409**

These are amounts in the above bank accounts that have already been budgeted to the following funds. The first column is of 1 Oct 2019. The second is of 30 June 2020. The final column is the change between the two dates.

	<b>1 Oct 2019</b>	<b>30 Jun 2020</b>	<b>Change</b>
Fund - Boone MM in trust	\$ 2,677	\$ 2,677	+\$0
Fund - FWCC 3rd World Deleg	\$ 0	\$ 1,800	+\$1,800
Fund - FWCC Conference	\$ 0	\$ 1,800	+\$1,800
Fund - Released Friend	\$10,165	\$10,165	+\$0
Fund - SAYF	\$ 5,920	\$ 5,480	-\$440
Fund - Spiritual Development	\$ 247	\$ 2,647	+\$2,400
Fund - Uplifting Racial Justice	\$11,241	\$ 1,273	-\$9,968
Fund - YAF Scholarship	\$ 1,365	\$ 1,365	+\$0
Fund - Youth Enrichment	<u>\$ 2,696</u>	<u>\$ 2,696</u>	<u>+\$0</u>
<b>Total Set-aside Funds</b>	<b>\$34,311</b>	<b>\$29,902</b>	<b>-\$4,409</b>

**Reserves: -\$598 from \$18,806 on 1 Oct 2019 to \$18,208 on 30 June 2020.**

**Reserves reported by the Treasurer comes with the following note:**

**“Reserves are set at 40% of FY Operating Expenses. This excludes Yearly Meeting expenses, transfers to set-aside funds and WQO donations. Tapping this account would indicate a distressed financial condition. “**

**\$598 was transferred from reserves so far this year.**

**Reserves:**

<b>1 Oct 2019:</b>	<b>\$18,806</b>
<b>30 June 2020</b>	<b><u>\$18,208</u></b>
<b>Net change:</b>	<b>-\$ 598</b>

**Total Funds Designated by SAYMA: -\$5,007**

**The above two categories, Set-aside funds and Reserves, totalled**

<b>1 Oct 2019</b>	<b>\$53,117</b>
<b>30 Jun 2020</b>	<b>\$48,110</b>

The difference between these two, \$5,007, is the decrease in the amount of SAYMA assets already allocated. This reduction indicates that less of the assets are already allocated to funds and reserves than at the beginning of the fiscal year.

Remaining Undesignated Equity: \$22,722 (\$30,111 - \$7,399)

The difference between the assets, and what is already allocated, is the undesignated equity. The decline of \$7,399 comes from the current year deficit, not including the already allocated personnel expense of \$6,704 which will decrease the undesignated equity by that same amount. Nor does it include any other expenses budgeted, but not spent, exclusive of committees, which are already accounted for above. Nor does it include the \$2,500 for the Finance Committee, which is included on the Finance Report of 9 July 2020, but not the Treasurer's Report of 30 June 2020.

1 Oct 2019	\$30,111
30 Jun 2020	<u>\$22,722</u>
Net change:	-\$ 7,399

Summary:

SAYMA had, as of 30 June, \$22,722 in undesignated equity. This amount answers the question, how much money does SAYMA have now, after deducting all already allocated funds.

However, this amount does not include the already allocated personnel expense of \$6,704 which will decrease the undesignated equity by that same amount. Nor does it include the \$2,500 for the Finance Committee, which is included on the Finance Report of 9 July 2020, but not the Treasurer's Report of 30 June 2020.

Including those amounts reduce the Current Undesignated Equity:

30 June 2020 Reported:	\$22,722
Personnel:	-\$ 6,704
Finance Committee:	<u>-\$ 2,500</u>
	\$13,518

According to the Finance report, they are expecting an additional \$901 to be spent on Office Admin, and another \$250 spent on the Yearly Meeting, lines 43 and 88 of the Proposed SAYMA Budget for FY 2021, under the column FY 20 Projected as of 7/8/20. They are also predicting that SAYF will use \$750 that is budgeted, but remains unallocated for this fiscal year.

	<b>\$13,518</b>
Office admin:	-\$ 901
Yearly Meeting	-\$ 250
SAYF	<u>-\$ 750</u>
Predicted	
Undesignated Equity:	<b>\$11,617</b>

Finally, the Finance Committee proposed that an additional \$500 be allocated to an 'Ad Hoc Conflict Transformation Committee', which would increase the deficit by another \$500, and reduce the undesignated equity by another \$500, to \$11,117.

**Assessments:**

The Finance Committee is predicting that assessments will come in at \$49,998 of the \$50,425 by 30 Sep 2020. This means that there will be an additional \$18,961 coming in by 30 Sep 2020, besides the \$31,037 already received, which will bring our undesignated equity from \$11,617 to \$30,578.

If assessments do not come in as the Finance Committee is predicting, then our undesignated equity will decrease to \$30,578 minus the amount less than \$18,961 received.

Unfortunately, due to time, there was not enough time to ask questions and discuss the Treasurer's Report. As it was only delivered to us less than six days before the Meeting, I did not have time to go over it as it needed beforehand. It wasn't until after the Meeting that I was able to spend enough time to properly understand the report.

**Finance Committee Report-Geeta McGahey (Celo FM)**

The Finance Committee report was presented by Geeta McGahey of Celo FM.

While the Treasurer's Report looked backward at what was budgeted and spent in the past, the Finance committee presented a budget for the coming year. The Yearly Meeting was expected to bring in, and cost, \$45,350, for no net change to the budget.

Income:	<b>\$45,316</b>
Assessments:	<b>\$45,016</b>
Contributions – General	<b>\$ 100</b>
Interest - Money Mkt	<b>\$ 100</b>
Publication Sales	<u><b>\$ 100</b></u>
Total:	<b>\$45,316</b>

The Finance Committee predicted that income for 2020-2021 will be 10% below the amount budgeted for 2019-2020.

Expenses:

SAYMA Office Operations: +\$1,070

	FY2020	FY2021
Liability Insurance:	\$ 816	\$ 850
Office Admin:	\$ 2,375	\$ 3,140
Personnel	\$25,705	\$26,098
Publications	\$ 342	\$ 220
<b>&amp; Website Expenses</b>		
	<b>\$29,238</b>	<b>\$30,308</b>

SAYMA Committees: -\$1,150

	FY20	FY21
Contingency Pool		
Ad Hoc Conflict Transformation		\$1,350
Faith & Practice		
Finance	\$2,500	
Ministry & Nurture		
Nominating		
Outreach		
Cmte Exp - Peace & Social Concerns		
SAYMA Earthcare Action		
Uplifting Racial Justice		
WQO Allotments		
Yearly Meeting Planning		

Travel Reimbursements: -\$750

	FY 20	FY 21
Travel - Rep Meetings	\$ 100	\$ 100
Travel - WQO Delegates	<u>\$ 4,500</u>	<u>\$3,750</u>
	\$ 4,600	\$3,850

Set-aside Fund Annual Allotments: -\$4,800

	FY20	FY21	change
Boone MM In Trust			

FWCC 3rd World Delg Annl Exp	\$1,800	\$800	-\$1,000
FWCC Conference Annl Exp	\$1,800		-\$1,800
Released Friend Annl Exp			
SAYF Annl Exp	\$2,000	\$500	-\$1,500
Spiritual Development Annl Exp	\$3,000		-\$3,000
Uplifting Racial Justice Annl Exp		\$2,500	+\$2,500
YAF Scholarships Annl Exp			
Youth Enrichment Fund Annl Exp _____			
<b>Total:</b> _____	<b>\$8,600</b>	<b>\$3,800</b>	<b>-\$4,800</b>

<b>Quaker Membership Orgs Annual Contributions:</b>		<b>-\$500</b>
	<b>FY20</b>	<b>FY21</b>
WQO - FGC	\$1,250	\$1,000
WQO - FWCC - Direct Contribution	<u>\$1,250</u>	<u>\$1,000</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>

<b>Other WQO Annual Contributions:</b>		<b>-\$649</b>
	<b>FY20</b>	<b>FY21</b>
WQO - AFSC	\$280	
WQO - BQEF	\$280	
WQO - FCNL	\$466	
WQO - Friends for LGBTQ Concerns	\$190	
WQO - Friends Journal	\$370	
WQO - Friends Peace Teams	\$466	
WQO - Quaker Earthcare Witness	\$695	
WQO - Quaker House	\$695	
WQO - Quaker Volunteer Service	\$695	
WQO - Right Sharing of World Resources	\$466	
WQO - Wm Penn House	<u>\$ 46</u>	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$4,649</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>

<b>SAYMA Office Operations:</b>	<b>+\$1,070</b>
<b>SAYMA Committees:</b>	<b>+\$1,150</b>
<b>Travel Reimbursements:</b>	<b>-\$750</b>
<b>Set-aside Fund Annual Allotments:</b>	<b>-\$4,800</b>
<b>Quaker Membership Orgs Annual Contributions:</b>	<b>-\$500</b>
<b>Other WQO Annual Contributions:</b>	<b>-\$649</b>

**Budget:**

	<b>Budget:</b>	
<b>Office Operations:</b>		<b>\$30,308</b>
<b>Non office related expenses:</b>		<b>\$15,000</b>
<b>Ad Hoc Conflict Transformation</b>		<b>\$1,350</b>
<b>Uplifting Racial Justice Annl Exp</b>		<b>\$2,500</b>
<b>Travel Reimbursements:</b>		<b>\$3,850</b>
<b>FWCC 3rd World Delg Annl Exp</b>		<b>\$ 800</b>
<b>SAYF</b>		<b>\$ 500</b>
<b>WQO - FGC</b>		<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>WQO - FWCC - Direct Contribution</b>		<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Other WQO Annual Contributions</b>		<b>\$4,000</b>

**Items reduced from FY20 predicted:**

<b>SAYMA Committees:</b>	<b>-\$2,500</b>
<b>Travel Reimbursements:</b>	<b>-\$750</b>
<b>Set-aside Fund Annual Allotments:</b>	<b>-\$7,300</b>
<b>Quaker Membership Orgs Annual Contributions:</b>	<b>-\$500</b>
<b>Other WQO Annual Contributions:</b>	<b><u>-\$649</u></b>
	<b>-\$11,699</b>

**Items added from FY20 predicted:**

<b>Uplifting Racial Justice Annl Exp</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>
<b>Ad Hoc Conflict Transformation</b>	<b><u>\$1,350</u></b>
	<b><u>\$3,850</u></b>

**Bottom line:**

**The Finance Committee is predicting a surplus of \$9 based on this budget.**

**The purpose of the financial statements of an organization is to communicate the state of the organization's finances so that the stakeholders can make informed decisions and allocate resources judiciously.**



In the case of SAYMA, there are three main pertinent questions that need to be answered:

1. How much money do we have?
2. How much income do we have?
3. How much are we spending?

These are the same basic questions that every responsible household must know in order to make prudent financial decisions.

Based on what I have gleaned from SAYMA financial statements and the July 20 Meeting, the answers to these questions are as follows:

Note, for purposes of this section, the Yearly Meeting is not counted as it is self-funding and has no net effect. Also transfers to and from reserves are not counted, as it is simply moving equity from one account to another.

1. SAYMA has a current undesignated equity of \$11,617, pending what the Finance Committee predicts will be \$18,961 in incoming assessments. If realized, the undesignated equity would total \$30,578. In addition to that, SAYMA has a Reserve Fund of \$18,208, which is to be tapped only in case of 'distressed financial condition'.

\$11,617	current undesignated equity
<u>\$18,208</u>	Reserves (emergency only)
\$29,825	Total
\$ 21	Additional interest
<u>\$18,961</u>	Finance committee predicted incoming assessments
\$48,807	

In short, we have a total of \$29,825 in undesignated equity and reserves, \$11,617 of which is available, and the finance committee predicts that we will have a total of \$48,807 by the end of the fiscal year.

2. Our income is currently at \$31,400 for the year, as of 30 June 2020. Again, the Finance committee is predicting an additional assessment income of \$18,961 by 30 Sep 20, plus \$21 in interest, for a total expected income of \$50,382 for FY 20.

FY 20 income:

Current:	\$31,400
Predicted:	\$50,382

3. SAYMA expenses for 2020 are predicted by the Finance Committee to be

Expenses reported as of 30 Jun 20: \$38,790

**Additional Expenses predicted by the Finance Committee:**

Personnel:	\$ 6,704
Finance Committee:	\$ 2,500
Office admin:	\$ 901
Yearly Meeting	\$ 250
SAYF	<u>\$ 750</u>
Predicted additions _____	<u>\$11,105</u>
Total projected expenses	\$49,895

Based on these numbers provided by the Financial Committee, they are apparently expecting a surplus this fiscal year ending 30 Sep 2020 of \$487.

**FY 21**

For the next fiscal year, the answers, based on the information provided by the Finance Committee are as follows:

1. Finance predicts a starting undesignated equity of \$30,599, Reserves of \$18,208, for a total of \$48,807 on 1 Oct 2020.
2. The Finance Committee is predicting income for FY 21 to be \$45,316, all but \$300 of it from assessments.
3. Finance is recommending a budget of \$45,308 for FY21, broken down as follows:

a. Office and web expenses:	\$30,308
b. All other items:	\$15,000
i. Ad Hoc Conflict Transformation	\$1,350
ii. Uplifting Racial Justice Annl Exp	\$2,500
iii. Travel Reimbursements:	\$3,850
iv. FWCC 3rd World Delg Annl Exp	\$ 800
v. SAYF	\$ 500
vi. WQO - FGC	\$1,000
vii. WQO - FWCC - Direct Contribution	\$1,000
viii. Other WQO Annual Contributions	<u>\$4,000</u>
	\$15,000

The Finance Committee is predicting an \$8 surplus for FY 21.

This is the first reading of the budget for FY 21. It will be discussed in the next representatives business Meeting.

The Financial documents presented had an accounting of URJ expenses. This was important as much criticism had been leveled at URJ for not divulging this information, while the URJ Committee had responded that they did not have to, as other committees were not subject to the same requirements.

The Finance Committee did not elaborate on when they received this information, or what had changed. The first I saw it as a representative was on 14th of June 2020, buried discreetly at the end of the financial documents.

**URJ Donor-Restricted and Set-aside Funds:**

Rep Mtg travel expenses	\$ 18
Laura Saha for Abolitionist Center	\$ 6,000
Laura Saha for Ab Ctr 501c3 application	\$ 400
Azule retreat ctr -- \$1,200 paid & refunded	\$ 0
Laura Saha for Ab Ctr equip & sound room	\$ 1,500
Laura Saha for Ab Ctr survival garden	\$ 1,200
Grant for rent	\$ 800
Grant for legal fund	<u>\$ 1,000</u>
Total:	\$10,918
Donor restricted:	\$950

There was an inquiry into the validity of \$1,000 contributed to what is apparently an Asheville Black Lives Matter group. The question was whether the specific donation went to a real organization, and whether that organization was actually involved with BLM. Adrienne replied that she had first hand knowledge of the organization in question. Where that contribution is recorded, and the specific organization, seems to have escaped me at this moment. I will find out and update this document when I do.

Geeta McGahey, the clerk of the Finance Committee, asked us to approve reducing SAYF funding for this year from \$2000 to \$750. There was confusion as to why, and the answers given were somewhat confusing to me. The Clerk seemed to state that the funds would simply be moved from one account to the other. Perhaps she meant that in a different context than was asked. After looking through the financials over the past several days, it became apparent that this is a reduction in SAYF funds. There was no

member from SAYF present to provide clarity. It is also perplexing as the Finance Committee stated that SAYF was not using their funds, but lines 24-26 of the SAYMA Funds Report state that SAYF has used \$2,829 so far this fiscal year.

Geeta McGahey, the clerk of the Finance Committee, asked us to approve \$500 for line 64 in the Proposed SAYMA Budget for FY 2021, of 8 July 2020, that reads 'Ad Hoc Conflict Transformation'.

This was met with considerable confusion. I was not able to ask my questions due to the many non-representatives who felt compelled to speak. However questions were asked. Specifically:

**Question:** Where did this line item, and committee come from? It does not appear on the current budget that was presented by the Treasurer.

**Answer:** This ad hoc committee was formed at the request of Geeta McGahey, Clerk of the Finance Committee.

**Question:** Who is on this committee?

**Answer:** The names mentioned were the current members of the URJ and the URJ support committee.

**Question:** What is the purpose of this committee?

**Answer:** To contract with Friends Center for Racial Justice to resolve the conflict within SAYMA over URJ.

**Question:** Why do we need outside consultants to resolve an issue that our Quaker process should be able to solve?

**Answer:** Friends Center for Racial Justice is a Critical Race Theory 'Anti-Racism' center that will interpret the conflict through the lens of 'Anti-Racism' for us.

**Question:** How much is this going to cost? Is there an itemized list of charges?

**Answer:** This will be an open-ended expense that will bill based on time spent. There is no estimate of what the process will end up costing.

There was much discussion. The new assistant treasurer repeatedly interrupted one of the speakers to argue and make accusatory statements.

Sarawilla made a passionate speech expressing her gratitude for the contribution URJ made to her legal situation, something that I feel all of us at AFM are grateful for.

As time was getting very late, the Clerk very graciously accepted that the sense of the

meeting was not to approve the request.

Geeta McGahey then asked for Meetings and Friends to send designated funds to the 'Ad Hoc Conflict Transformation' committee. Several Friends replied that Geeta was ignoring the spirit of the meeting and that her request was inappropriate.

Two Friends from Friends Center for Racial Justice spoke about their proposed work. They had been invited by Sharon Smith, and the speaker wanted to be upfront that she had stayed with Sharon at the Abolition House in South Carolina.

They spoke about how they are Friends, they are associated with Ithaca Friends, and that their work is to interpret conflict through the lens of Critical Race Theory 'Anti-Racism'. I finally got to speak, after my hand had been up for well over an hour, and used the opportunity to thank them for hanging in for four hours at the Zoom Meeting and giving us an overview of what they do.

Not included in this document are 'Wider Quaker Organizations Allocations Com. (Wood Bouldin Greenbrier WG)', and 'Announcements Ad Hoc Faith and Practice Com.-Free Polazzo (Atlanta FM)' as time had run out for the Meeting and after more than four hours of Zoom, so had my mind. I will update this document when I gather the information.

A minute was read thanking Barbara Esther for her time as Clerk. It acknowledged the extremely difficult position that she had been put in by the pandemic coupled with SAYMA, and thanked her for the grace, patience and wisdom she had displayed in her work as Clerk.

I wholeheartedly agreed and feel we at Asheville Friends have to do something for her after she went so far and beyond, in an impossible situation, endured unfair criticism and abuse, and remained steadfast in faith and love. She is truly an example for all of us to strive.

## **Attachment 6: financial report**