

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Asheville Friends Meeting
10th Month 11, 2020

Present: Bob Lackey, Clerk; Beth Eddy, Recording Clerk;

Present via Zoom: Morgan Murray, Mike Eddy, Margaret Normile, Patricia Johnson, Gita Larson, Sarah Thomas, Patti Hughes, Pat Campbell, Patty Burgess, Hannah Burgess, Margaret Farmer, Steve Livingston, James Barham, Kitti Reynolds, Rylin Hansen, Elinor Cox, Robin Wells, Scotty Utz, Barbara Esther, Jim Cavener.

Meeting opened with silent worship.

The Clerk shared a reading out of the silence. This month it is from Faith and Practice 2017, Extracts pg 171, by Josephine Vallentine, 1991.

Perhaps it is this integrity, the concept of the wholeness of creation, that will jolt humanity onto a course of sustainability, which people may see as threatening at first. Of course change is often uncomfortable, but change is a must. We need to nurture ourselves and each other, but ultimately we need to nurture the earth-our mother.
Josephine Vallentine, 1991

Minute #1: Friends Approved the 9th month business meeting minutes with no corrections, it was noted and understood that the wisteria growing up the wall was the original wisteria growing on the property when the building was purchased.

Announcements:

Supporting Black Owned Businesses: Scotty Utz:

Scotty reminded us to be conscious of the need for economic justice especially in the minority communities. We should look to support black owned businesses. A great resource about supporting the resiliency of the African American community in Asheville is the Greenbook: Rebuilding Afrilachia on

the [hoodhuggers.com](https://www.hoodhuggers.com) website. Another resource is the Yoruba Life directory of black-owned business.

<https://www.hoodhuggers.com>

<https://yoruba.life>

Friends Committee for National Legislation (FCNL) Annual Meeting Bob Lackey attachment #1

Bob told us that the **FCNL Annual Meeting is scheduled for 11/13 through 11/17**. Since the meeting is virtual, the maximum registration fee is only \$75.00. This makes an inspiring and educational experience affordable for many of us.

Even though it is virtual, Bob assured us that they have excellent plenary speakers and programs arranged, along with meaningful small-group experiences in break-out groups. There will be engaging alternate programming for those who are not designated YM Reps to FCNL. We will be able to lobby virtually in small groups as well as to engage with the FCNL Legislative Priorities-setting process for the next Congress.

Bob said the first agenda item at the annual meeting will be a summary by the advocacy teams and action to address police abuses, the militarization of the police As well as reporting on the latest thoughts on policing. The second item will be about the Quaker Public Policy Institute. See attachment #1for details on how to register

AFM website, Mike Eddy:

Mike reported that the website is down due to some bad reference links. Mike has not been able to find the source of the bad links. He will put the site back online. He asked anyone who gets redirected to an erroneous site, to please let him know.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee: Satchel Loftis was not able to join us today. He asked that the Finance Committee Quarterly Report be delayed to the next business meeting due to him being currently extremely busy with reports for his job. He has not able to update the AFM financial report.

Concerns were expressed about our income keeping up to meet the budget of \$6000 expenses for outreach. All committees were asked to prepare for a cut in budget expenses if income did not come through. (create a plan B). Friends were reminded that donations can be mailed to the Meetinghouse and will be picked up and deposited weekly.

Spiritual Enrichment: Barbara Esther reported that the committee has not had a chance to meet. Margaret Normile and Rylin Hansen are on the Spiritual Enrichment committee with Barbara. A request for a leader and plans from the other committees was sent out. They are asking for ideas of what, where and how to meet. They are hoping to begin meetings in October 2020. The Racial Justice committee has already solidified their activity to start on 27th day of October via zoom. The committee is waiting for responses from other committees. The following ideas came out during our discussion: Secret Pals via mail; Simple holiday craft activities via Zoom; A Zoom tea party.

See **Attachment #2** for preliminary schedule and their request based on previous years activity. Their request will also be posted in the digest.

Racial Justice Committee: Gita Larson

BOOK DISCUSSIONS: RJC organized book discussions on My Grandmother's Hands, to begin later in October going into November, via Zoom. They have planned 4 sessions for **Tuesday evenings: 7-8:30 PM. Schedule: Oct. 27, Nov. 3, 10, 17.** Gita told us that some books are on back order. She will check again with the publisher on their schedule. A fair number of folks do have the book and she hopes that they can be shared. A Friend reported that all the copies at the library are checked out and they have a long wait list for this book. Morgan said that Zoom support could be available for the evening discussions. It was pointed out that Nov 3rd was the date of the USA's election, and that date may be skipped for our discussion. Gita asked members to be prepared to discuss chapter 1 and highly encouraged us to do the exercises in preparation for the book discussion on Oct 27, 2020.

Minute #2: Friends agreed to hold the 4 book discussions on Tuesday evenings at 7-8:30PM starting 27 October.

RJC requests that the meeting give **preference to Black owned and POC owned businesses** for all Meeting needs, even if a higher bid is received. A lengthy and rich discussion took place as the Meeting discerned how to be anti-racist. A friend referred to the liberation theology statement of a preference option for marginalized communities. Another friend pointed out that using the phrase minority owned was coopted by others to bypass black owned and we really mean black owned. A common term currently being used is BIPOC. ('Black,Indigineous and People Of Color'.) Use of local BIPOC services and

materials is a way to redistribute ones wealth to marginalized local communities. In our discussion we were Referring to **future** needs and expenditures. The sources (<https://www.hoodhuggers.com> <https://yoruba.life>) for BIPOC business will be include on the AFM website and referred to periodically in the weekly digest.

Minute #3: Friends agreed to when possible use local BIPOC businesses for future AFM services and materials; and give preference to black owned businesses and workers.

RJC told us that the amicus brief for Johnny Rush's justice has been edited, our name added to and sent on to the lawyer on Friday for him to file.

Outdoor Meeting For Worship: Robin Wells

Asheville Friends Meeting has held outdoor meeting for worship on the lawn of the Meetinghouse for the last two first days (9/27/20 and 10/4/20). This was the first time we have met at the Meetinghouse since the beginning of the COVID pandemic. There were approximately 10-12 people each day. Friends wore masks and were spread out on the lawn with at least ten feet between family groups.

The outdoor group was connected with the online Zoom worship using a computer and a mobile hotspot to provide internet access. Speakers were connected to the computer so the Zoom participants could be heard by the people on the lawn. If we are able to meet on the lawn again, we will try to use a microphone on the table to pick up the sound of Friends speaking on the lawn. This way, the Zoom participants will be able to hear the people on the lawn.

The neighbors on either side of the Meetinghouse were contacted to see if the outdoor worship bothered them and they said they were not bothered. We will continue to check in with them as long as we are meeting outside.

Communications: Mike Eddy

Mike was asked to look into internet services for the AFM Meetinghouse, in particular to look into Skyrunner and Spectrum. Since hotspots using Robin's phone has been successful over the past 2 weeks, he added hotspot to the list of possible providers at the last minute. See Attachment #3

A Friend expressed concern about spending more money when we don't have enough money for the building repairs. Robin pointed out this was research into possibilities and costs in preparation for once we get back into the meetinghouse. At that time there may be a need for internet service, since she was anticipating

some may not feel safe to come inside to the Meetinghouse immediately. We may still need a way to keep all connected with use of wifi as well as our face to face worship. Robin noted that this is the time for us to think about next years budget.

Robin reminded all that contributions are to be sent to the AFM Meetinghouse.

House and Grounds: Waiting for further bids on painting Meeting House; They will report at next month business meeting.

Minute #4 The Meeting approved a Minute of Appreciation for Robin Wells presented by Patti Hughes and Scotty Utz see attachment #4

The Meeting closed with silent worship until way opens for our next business meeting in the 11th month.

Attachment #1:

FCNL Annual Meeting

**to be held
11/13 through 11/17**

Since the meeting is virtual, the maximum registration fee is only \$75.00. This makes an inspiring and educational experience affordable for many of us.

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<https://www.fcnl.org/updates/annual-meeting-and-quaker-public-policy-institute-2020-27>

Attachment #2

Spiritual Enrichment Schedule for 2020-2021

When? 1st or (4th) Day	What?	Who facilitates?
Oct 18 (21)	_____	_____
Nov 8 (11)	_____	_____
Nov 15 (18)	_____	_____
Thanksgiving is on Nov. 26, 2020		
Nov 29 (Dec 2)	_____	_____
Dec 6 (9)	<u>Simple Christmas Crafts</u>	<u>Intergenerational</u>
Dec 20 (23)	_____	_____
Dec. 27 (30)	<u>Card Writing Legislators</u>	<u>Peace and Earth Com.</u>
Jan 3 (6)	_____	_____
Jan 17 (20)	<u>Book Discussion</u>	<u>RJC</u>
Feb 7 (10)	<u>Book Discussion</u>	<u>RJC</u>
Feb 21 (24)	<u>Secret Pals Reveal</u>	<u>All Meeting</u>
March 7 (10)	_____	_____
Mar 21 (24)	_____	_____
April 4 (7)	<u>Easter</u>	_____
April 18 (21)	_____	_____
May 2 (5)	<u>Book Discussion</u>	<u>RJC</u>
May16 (19)	<u>Book Discussion</u>	<u>RJC</u>
May 30 (June 2)	<u>Youth Celebration</u>	<u>All Meeting</u>

Some Ideas:

Sharing Spiritual journeys
Death and Dying
Seekers and Strangers to Quakerism [Quaker 101 series?]
Friends practices such as Holding in the Light

Meeting committees *are invited to be represented*

in the Spiritual Enrichment Schedule:

Communications Committee
Finance Committee
House and Grounds Committee
Hospitality Committee
Ministry and Counsel Committee
 Care and Nurture Sub-Committee
Nominating Committee
Peace and Earth Committee
Racial Justice Committee
Religious Education Committee
Spiritual Enrichment Committee

Internet Service for Asheville Meeting House

**We had been comparing Skyrunner and Spectrum.
But, it there is a 3rd possibility – continue using
a hotspot.**

ISP	Skyrunner	Spectrum	Hot Spot
Speed (Mbps)	5	200	20 ?
Access	Antenna	Cable	Mobile Network
Limit (Gb)	150	None	20 ?
Install	\$99 5+ weeks	\$50 2 weeks	\$0 0 weeks
Cost	\$45/mo	\$55/mo for 24 mo	??/mo
WiFi	not incl	not incl	included

Attachment #4:

With a full heart, unbroken patience, copious calls, boundless visits, unbounded energy, endless emails, and conspicuous compassion, Robin Wells, has faithfully served our community as the Clerk of Asheville Friends Meeting for the past two years. Her watchful eye, penchant for asking questions and uncanny ability to listen, seemingly endlessly, served us all well. We fondly remember her time as clerk during which she brought us together with prescient readings as we embarked on Meetings of Worship with an attention to business, reminding us firmly and friendly to follow good order as she looked to that of God in each of us to find a sense of the Meeting. Her incessant curiosity and optimism in the face of strain abides as a testament to her integrity. With soaring gratitude we absolve her of the responsibilities of Clerk and look forward to many more years of her weighty friendship. We are a stronger community because of her steady leadership