

**Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**  
**Asheville Friends Meeting**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Month 20, 2021**

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

Present via Zoom: Morgan Murray, Mike Eddy, Margaret Normile, Patricia Johnson, Gita Larson, Patti Hughes, Raelin Hansen, Robin Wells, Jim Cavener, Steve Livingston, Jim Barham, Sarah Jane Thomas, Jane Fernandes, Jim Barton, Ellie Cox, Patty Burgess, Susan Oehler, Ellen Carr, Satchel Loftis, Kitti Reynolds.

Meeting opened with Silent Worship

The Clerk shared a reading out of silence.

Elizabeth Watson, "Your God is Too Small", 1996

Quote of the Week (4/25/21)

Only when we see that we are part of the totality of the planet, not a superior part with special privileges, can we work effectively to bring about an earth restored to wholeness.

Darkness is no less desirable than light. It is rather, a rich source of creativity... First there is the darkness of the earth in which the seeds wait all through the winter. Second, there is the darkness of the womb in which the young mammal grows into sufficient viability to be born and take its place on earth, as a separate being.... And third, there is the darkness of night, when the garish sun has gone down and the things of earth are blotted out, and we may glimpse the vastness of the universe of which we are part...

We say that God is the Inner Light, but I want to affirm that also the Inner Darkness, and I do not mean desolation or

evil, but a quiet waiting and creativity. “The darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day; the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.”

–

**Minute #1:** The 5<sup>th</sup> month business meeting minutes were approved after once again correcting the spelling of Professor Adcock’s name.

**Minute #2:**

The Called business meeting 6.3.21 minutes was approved with 2 punctuation corrections and the addition of the following sentence provided by Patti Hughes: ‘The Ethical Society will determine their policy about vaccinations and masking. ‘

**Announcements:**

**UNC-A contribution thank you:** Pat Johnson

Pat read the Thank You note from UNCA for our contributions to the Indigenous and Native Studies Program. See Attachment.

**Rebecca Wallace – Robin Wells**

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of long-time attender, Rebecca Wallace. She died peacefully in Hospice after losing her battle with cancer. Rebecca and her two children, Gordon and Amelia, were active in Meeting a few decades ago. Rebecca was a gentle spirit and had many friends at Meeting.

**Library:** Bob Lackey

Thank you to Marcia Master for her work on the library with Pat Campbell’s donated books. Request for volunteers: Marcia needs help completing the job!

## **Committees:**

### **Peace and Earth:** Pat Johnson

Pat reviewed the work that has been done with Watson Harlan on a draft statement of Land Acknowledgment (LA). They started with the UNCA LA statement which has been agreed to with the Tribal Council of the Cherokee. This statement will go to the Cherokee for their approval. Pat told us that this is the Indigenous statement and we acknowledge they were here before we arrived; this is the land that they protected. **See attachments** for both the short version and the longer historical version.

**Minute #3:** Approved the statements be sent forward to the Cherokee Tribal Council for their agreement. The addition of the definition: "Settler colonialism is a form of colonialism that seeks to replace the original population of the colonized territory with a new society of settlers." be appended to the statement.

She informed us that this is the first step in process to creating an open relationship. Pat told us that Dr. Ben Steere from Western Carolina University volunteered to give a presentation to our Meeting on his anthropological studies. Watson Harlan volunteered to speak about Cherokee Spirituality and also to address some of Sharon Smith's concerns.. All present would like her to arrange a special meeting for this to happen.

Pat and the P&E would like to give an honorarium to Watson for all his work with them in creating the statements. With a tight AFM budget, questions arose as to where we would get the money from our budget. A Friend offered to give the money for the honorarium

**Minute #4:** Approved to give an honorarium of \$200. to Watson for

his work.

Thanks were given to a Friend for the donation to be used for the honorarium.

Special thanks to Pat for her ministry and continuing efforts of building relationships with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians(EBCI) nation and bringing us these documents and awareness.

### **Ministry and Counsel:**

Opening Meeting House for In – Person Worship: Bob Lackey

Bob opened the discussion after he reviewed the recent data from the Buncombe county of the Covid positives, hospitalizations and vaccinations. All are trending down and vaccinations up. With the recent opening up of restaurants and current CDC recommendations providing relief from prior restrictions. We continued our discernment of re-opening the Meetinghouse (MH) for in person gatherings and with what guidelines. The Issues that came up: children, masks, asking if one is vaccinated, serving refreshments and use of zoom capability.

It was agreed we would continue to offer a Hybrid workshop meeting defined as:

1. inside MH
2. on the MH porch
- 3.. on zoom

We would NOT have refreshments. Children are invited to attend outdoors; renovations are still going on upstairs, so no programs for children inside until work is completed, but outside activities may be planned; The chairs would be set up 3 feet apart inside; All seated

inside wear a mask; non Vaccinated seated outside masked; For all vaccinated seated outside mask would be optional.  
The zoom microphone would be set up near a door for all to use to share.

**Minute # 5:** Approved that starting on 6/27/21 a 3 prong approach to meeting for worship: 1) Zoom; 2) MH porch outdoor masks are optional for vaccinated and mandatory for non vaccinated, social distance 3 feet; 3) indoors vaccinated persons only and masked, social distance of 3 feet; masking mandatory for all when going into the MH to either use the facilities or for worship.

Signs would be posted at all entrances and on external websites that masks are mandatory for all who go inside; non vaccinated individuals masked on porch, vaccinated on porch masks are optional.  
The greeter would ask attendees going inside if they are vaccinated.  
A box of masks would be available for all individuals entering the MH to use if they don't have one.  
We would open all windows and doors prior to worship to allow airflow.

Robin Wells agreed to create cardstock signs to be posted at all entrances. The signs would start with a welcome, statements that masks are mandatory; vaccinated only inside for worship; appreciation for cooperation during this transition time.

The question about Business Meeting in person or to only continue on zoom will be discussed at the next business meeting (held on zoom). We will use our experience with the in-person worship meetings as input as well as recent data from both the county and state on the pandemic status.

The issue of renters use of the MeetingHouse was discussed. We have 3 groups that had used our MH prior to the pandemic: Vegan society,

the Vets for Peace and the Ethical Society.

**Minute # 6:** Approved that the renters can begin to use the MH and that they would determine and monitor their own policy on vaccination and masking. All windows and doors would be opened prior to their meeting to allow airflow.

**Memorial Minute for Pat Campbell.** Bob Lackey

Pat Campbell, a beloved member of our Asheville Friends Family passed away unexpectedly on the 16th day of the 4th month of this year. She and NancyLynn Sharpless, her wife of 32 years, came to us not so long ago and she quickly became an integral part of our community. When she transferred her membership from Detroit Friends Meeting to Asheville Friends Meeting she brought with her decades of experience with Quakerism and Quaker Practice. With all of this she began contributing to the life of Asheville Friends Meeting through her positions as the Clerk of the Finance Committee, Clerk of the Library Committee, Recording Clerk and member of Long Range Planning. Her spirit and her years of Quaker experience led her to ask questions during our discussions that brought us to more deeply examine the concerns at hand, especially during difficult times.

During her years with Detroit Friends Meeting she and NancyLynn were married under the Care of the Meeting. Together they contributed many wonderful years to their community there. Pat provided a strong link between Detroit Friends Meeting, Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting and Friends General Conference. She served as Clerk of LEYM from 1991-1994.

More recently she began broadening her scope of Quaker volunteerism in her new Yearly Meeting by joining the SAYMA Finance Committee.

Professionally, Pat's career spanned decades as a Psychiatrist, board certified in 3 specialties. Her retirement began with her move to Asheville.

In her spare time, Pat was a voracious reader on an enormous range of topics, an amateur photographer and enjoyed playing classical guitar. Most recently she found a new interest in rocks and minerals. She collected and appreciated the variety of forms, shapes and fantastic colors.

With her retirement time, Pat's love of the natural world was fulfilled by her volunteer work with the Appalachian Highlands Science Learning Center at Purchase Knob where she photographed and compiled information about the wildflowers in each of the research plots. The end product in the form of a booklet for each of these areas was much appreciated by the Research Coordinator of the learning center. A second wildflower project with the Nature Conservancy culminated in a book to be published this year identifying the native plants at the Nature Conservancy Bat Cave site.

We fondly remember her big laugh, caring way and generosity of spirit. We miss you Pat.

**Minute # 7:** Approved the memorial minute with a change from reference of Green Pasture yearly meeting to quarterly meeting. Thanks to the writers for the beautiful minute and remembrance. The memorial minute will be sent to the Friends Journal. A Friend

found a link to submit the minute for the M&C to use in sending to Friends Journal

Patti Hughes announced that she is rotating off of Ministry & Counsel and Robin Wells will be taking over as clerk of M&C.

Communications: Mike Eddy

Mike updated us on the website stating that AFM has a certificate for their domain, ashevillefriends.org .

Since we were running out of time and many attendees had to leave, it was agreed that the **AD HOC Handbook, Finance, House and Grounds,** and **Peace and Earth** committee reports will be postponed until the 7<sup>th</sup> month business meeting.

The meeting closed with silent worship until the way opens for our next business meeting in the 7<sup>th</sup> month of 2021.

**Attachments:**

UNC-A Thank you note

Land Acknowledgement Short version

Land Acknowledgement Full version





**UNC Asheville Foundation, Inc.**

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Asheville Society of Friends  
227 Edgewood Road  
Asheville, NC 28804-3314

March 29, 2021

Dear Asheville Society of Friends,

Thank you for your investment in UNC Asheville. Your generosity helps educate and inspire the next generation of leaders for our state, region, and nation. Please find below the details of your gift.

UNC Asheville is consistently ranked by The Princeton Review as one of the "Best Schools for Making an Impact." Your philanthropy makes this possible. Your thoughtful contribution enriches the innovative, interdisciplinary experience our students have with our award-winning faculty every day.

Thank you again for your ongoing engagement and commitment to Asheville's University.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Kirk A. Swenson'.

Kirk Swenson  
Vice Chancellor for University Advancement

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Your gift is directed to the following fund(s):  
American Indian & Indigenous Studies Outreach Fund \$1,290.00

Your total charitable contribution, minus goods and services, is: \$1,290.00

# ᏕᏃᏁᏁ - Togyasdi, Where They Race Boats

## Short Version

The Asheville Friends Meeting acknowledges, with respect, that the land we are on today is ancestral land of the *Anikituwagi*, more commonly known as the Cherokee. We recognize the Cherokee as the native people and original stewards of this land. We also recognize all the varied Indigenous people who have lived in and continue to live in and around these lands.

This land was known as Togyasdi, Where They Race Boats and was part of the Cherokee Nation, Tsalagi Ayeli. It covered as many as 108,000 square miles of the American Southeast as late as 1730 and consisted of sixty or more towns. The stories that come from this land teach how to live, interact and mutually care for all relations.

We understand that there is a need to listen and learn from the people of this land. We acknowledge that an act of recognition is not enough to overcome the settler-colonial history that has attempted to eradicate indigenous people from the history and consciousness of these lands.

The Eastern Band of Cherokee and Asheville Friends Meeting seek to affirm our work together to ensure a strong relationship rooted in relevancy, responsibility, respect and reciprocity. Therefore, we have a responsibility to commit our efforts and resources to the health and priorities of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, and all the varied Indigenous people who live in and around the land on which we are situated. As these words are spoken and heard, we renew and reaffirm this property as Cherokee homelands.

## Full Version

The Asheville Friends Meeting acknowledges, with respect, that the land we are on today is ancestral land of the *Anikituwagi*, more commonly known as the Cherokee. We recognize the Cherokee as the native people and original stewards of this land. We also recognize all the varied Indigenous people who lived in and continue to live in and around these lands. The stories that come from this land teach how to live, interact and mutually care for all relations.

We understand that there is a need to listen and learn from the people of this land. Now known to many as Asheville, to the *Anikituwagi* this land is known as *Togiyasdi*, Where They Race Boats. Sitting in the shadow of the Blue Ridge Mountains, it was a place of Cherokee life, trade, ceremony and culture for many centuries. *Togiyasdi* was part of the Cherokee Nation, *Tsalagi Ayeli*, which covered as many as 108,000 square miles of the American Southeast as late as 1730 and consisted of sixty or more towns, each autonomous but joined in ceremony and in times of war.

Thus, the story of the people from *Kituwah* neither begins or ends with the arrival of Europeans but intertwines and becomes a complex historical legacy that defines both Asheville Friends Meeting and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in the present.

For more than 10,000 years, Cherokees and their ancestors lived around the junction of the Swannanoa and French Broad Rivers. The Cherokees agreed to major land cessions in treaties with settlers after thirty-six towns in addition to crops, livestock and winter food supplies were decimated. Cherokees held onto legal claim of the land west of the French Broad River, now part of Asheville, until 1791.

In 1791 after years of bloody conflict, invasion and colonization, leaders of the Cherokee Nation signed an agreement to cede more land to settlers so that all associated lands with the city now called Asheville, would be open to uncontested settlement. This treaty was negotiated in good faith to enforce the boundaries and sovereignty of the Cherokee Nation thus reinforcing a nation-to-nation relationship. Without the cession of land and the brutal years of conflict with the Cherokee that preceded it, the Asheville we know of today is unthinkable. The 1791 Agreement was designed to end war between the two nations and was not unique. It was one of over four hundred treaties with Native Nations in which the US government did not live up to the agreed terms. This broken treaty culminated in another decade of intermittent war and further theft of native lands.

Only within the lives of our grandfather's grandfathers, the forced Cherokee Removal, from these lands was an attempt by the US government to consign a people to oblivion, resulting in the genocidal march westward. Within the time of our grandfathers, policies were made to disassociate the Cherokee from their language, their faith and their identity as a people; with schools being a primary weapon used. That the Cherokee *Anikituwagi* persist as survivors, warriors, diplomats, mothers, doctors, aunts, teachers, artists and grandmothers is a testament to their resilience. The Qualla Boundary, the home of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, situated a mere fifty miles away, presents a reminder of this region's history.

The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and Asheville Friends Meeting recognize this long history and seek to affirm our work together to ensure a strong relationship rooted in relevancy, responsibility, respect and reciprocity. Asheville Friends Meeting acknowledges that an act of recognition is not enough to overcome the settler-colonial history that we are all a part of. Therefore, we commit our efforts and resources to the health and priorities of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and all the varied Indigenous people who live in and around the land on which we are situated. As these words are spoken and heard, we renew and reaffirm this property as Cherokee homelands.