

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Asheville Friends Meeting
9th Month 12, 2021

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

Present via Zoom: Morgan Murray, Mike Eddy, Margaret Normile, Patricia Johnson, Gita Larson, Rylin Hansen, Robin Wells, Jim Cavener, Steve Livingston, Sarah Jane Thomas, Ellie Cox, Margaret Farmer, Barbara Burke, Barbara Ester, Kitti Reynolds, Jim Barton, Ellen Carr.

Meeting opened with Silent Worship

The Clerk shared a reading out of silence.

We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history, there “is” such a thing as being too late. This is no time for apathy or complacency. This is a time for vigorous and positive action.

“Beyond Vietnam, A Time to Break Silence,” Dr. Martin Luther King, 1967

Minute #1: The seventh month business meeting minutes were approved.

Minute #2: Eighth month business meeting minutes were approved.

Announcements:

Bob Lackey reported that an email was sent in August to M&C alleging that a person of color in February(?) looking for comfort. was met on the porch by a man and a woman and told they were not welcome to attend the meeting. Bob is looking in to such an incident on front porch during Feb – March time frame . If anyone has any information about such an event please contact Bob. There are a lot of unknowns: the time of incident is not clear; the letter could have come from either an observer or the individual asking to attend; we do know that we were NOT meeting inside the MH in February. A Friend asked if we have investigated the letter as a hoax? The M&C committee will proceed with the investigation.

It was noted that Katherine Kowal has stepped down from the M&C committee.

Bob Lackey announced that a Memorial service for Rylin Hansen's mother (Martha Hansen) will occur on 9-25-21 at 2 pm. Steve Livingston will provide a review of the Friends practices at the memorial services. All are welcome to attend and provide support to Rylin and her family.

Margaret Farmer told us about FGC's upcoming Spiritual Deepening eRetreat in October and early November: Weaving a Wider Welcome.

This eRetreat has 2 components, the first of which will be 5 Sunday evening community building calls via Zoom starting at 6pm. The call dates are 10/10, 10/17, 10/24, 11/7, and 11/14. Note that this schedule skips Halloween weekend.

The second component consists of online resource material modules which enable participants to prepare ahead for the calls and offer enrichment resources we can use in our monthly meetings. These learning modules are accessible on the FGC Spiritual Deepening webpage. You log in and register, and can immediately access a software tutorial for the Matrix software used and the preparation module for the initial Zoom meeting. This eRetreat offers multiple resources for welcoming people of color, LGBTQ people, and folks who may be new to Quakerism. Friends interested in registering for this eRetreat may get more information on the program and registration assistance from

Margaret Farmer
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Jim Cavener announced the ACLU November public education event. He told us that many of the religious societies in Asheville plus the YMCA were co-sponsoring this event. He would like the AFM to also be a co-sponsor. There will be a panel discussion covering the state's task force on Racial Parity & Equity in the legal system. The event will take place after the November elections.

Minute #3: AFM agreed to co-sponsor the ACLU November event.

Committees:

Finance: Ellen Carr reported on the Treasurer transition. Satchel is now set up with internet capabilities at his new home in Brazil. He

will continue to be the treasurer, with Ellen the assistant treasurer for the remainder of 2021. Satchel is currently training Ellen; and giving her access to the various on line files and systems used to track and report our finances. She has received the passwords and been added to the signature files. Ellen expressed thanks to Satchel for all of his help in this transition.

She reviewed our year to date expenses: the major expense this year has been for the Windows which were paid for by an anonymous donor (Note these funds were included and reported in the general funds); We automatically pay for our utilities plus 3 manually paid salary expenses: Laura for cleaning; Patty for Childcare; and Tim for lawn care.

A Friend hoped that in future reports we could see where we stand with our income and our out flow of funds, stating that the last 2 reports were helpful. Ellen hopes to provide similar info in the future.

Thanks were given to Ellen for her work and report.

Minute #4: Approved a minute of THANKS to the anonymous donor for our new windows in the MeetingHouse.

Nominating Committee: Kitti Reynolds brought forth to us for approval a new member for the M&C.

Minute #5: Approved Barbara Ester as a new member of the M&C, with much appreciation to Patti Hughes for her prior service.

House and Grounds: Sarah Jane Thomas told us that both the new windows and the painting of the MH inside have been completed, with the RE room receiving only the base coat of paint; the children will pick out the final color. They plan (hope) members will finish the paint job of the RE class room. Payment has been made to the professionals for their work. The leaning tree is still leaning and has NOT been removed as Duke energy promised. She will continue to contact and engage with Duke energy on this issue.

A Friend suggested that we could have a work day before the memorial service on 9/25/21. The edges could be trimmed especially in the back where the children hold their first day sessions. Sarah Jane will talk with Tim and work out a schedule. She will inform us all of the date in time for all to add to their schedules.

Spiritual Enrichment: Barbara Ester informed us that the committee has not met this year and this report is from her understandings as she reviewed prior years activities. She told all that the committee is looking for new members to join them. The committee had been thinking of holding discussions about our basic Quaker practices during second hours (introduction to Quakerism). The committee still wishes to hear from Watson on Cherokee spirituality hopefully in October. Pat Johnson will check with Watson to determine the exact date for the presentation. See Attachment for her full report.

Ministry and Counsel: Robin Wells Led a discussion About Moving Meeting for Worship Indoors (9/12/21)

Friends, at some point when we agree it is safe, we will move back into our Meetinghouse and enjoy the new windows. It could be this fall or

it could be next spring. It would be great for us to start to think about what metrics we will use to decide when it is safe to return indoors. One data set we might want to use is the Buncombe County data found in [CDC's County Data](#). For example we could say that we would like the Buncombe County data transmissions to be "Low" (currently it is "high") and we would want the "% Positivity" of tests to be 3% or less (currently it is at 10.63%).

Robin stated that they can't make a good decision on opening MH because they don't know what metrics to use. (The committee was suggesting a lower infection rate than the county is currently using which is 5% because of the asymptomatic conditions.) A Friend reported that anyone vaccinated or not could be infected and not know it. He felt that this is not the best time to settle metrics due to all of the unknowns. We could not now come to agreement on metrics to use. Various options were discussed for staying outside in the cold and were dismissed due to cost and still not providing safety. Robin noted that since it was getting colder and until we agreed on some metrics we will NOT move indoors. If it is too cold to stay out on the porch, we will use Zoom entirely for our worship meetings.

The First Day school will continue outside and only move inside at the same time adults move inside for our worship services.

Approved that we continue to monitor these metrics before we make our decision.

It is currently our policy that everyone who participates in indoor meeting for worship to be vaccinated and wear a mask. **Would we continue this requirement when we return to indoor meeting for worship?** A friend suggested that we not meet indoors until all have their booster shots?

At this point this would unfortunately preclude kids under 12 who cannot be vaccinated. **Can we consider holding indoor first day school upstairs for the children, when the COVID metrics have reached the point we feel are safe for moving indoors?** Both

children and adults would wear masks. We could use the county school separation guidelines for our first day policies.

Minute #6: Approved that we continue to monitor these metrics and put off our decisions until next BM or later.

Ventilation While Meeting Indoors

When considering moving indoors, we may want to consider the CDC's advice about ventilation in buildings (dated June 2021):

(<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/ventilation.html>):

Thanks to Margaret Farmer and Scotty for finding the following and consolidating the information about ventilation and the covid virus:.

SARS-CoV-2 viral particles spread between people more readily indoors than outdoors. Indoors, the concentration of viral particles is often higher than outdoors, where even a light wind can rapidly reduce concentrations. When indoors, ventilation mitigation strategies can help reduce viral particle concentration. The lower the concentration, the less likely viral particles can be inhaled into the lungs (potentially lowering the inhaled dose); contact eyes, nose, and mouth; or fall out of the air to accumulate on surfaces. Protective ventilation practices and interventions can reduce the airborne concentrations and reduce the overall viral dose to occupants.

Reoccupying a building during the COVID-19 pandemic should not, in most cases, require new building ventilation systems. However, ventilation system upgrades or improvements can increase the delivery of clean air and

dilute potential contaminants. Consult experienced heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) professionals when considering changes to HVAC systems and equipment. Buildings that provided healthy, code-compliant indoor air quality prior to the pandemic can be improved for pandemic occupancy using less costly interventions. Below is a list of ventilation interventions that can help reduce the concentration of virus particles in the air. They represent a list of “tools in the mitigation toolbox,” each of which can contribute towards a reduction in risk. Implementing multiple tools at the same time is consistent with CDC’s layered approach and will increase overall effectiveness of ventilation interventions. These ventilation interventions can reduce the risk of exposure to the virus and reduce the spread of disease, but they will not eliminate risk completely.

The following list of recommendations from the CDC has been edited to make it easier to read:

- **Open windows and doors** to increase outdoor airflow
- Consider **opening air dampers associated with the furnace system** to increase the introduction of outdoor air, but this should be done with consultation with an experienced HVAC professional.
- Adjust **HVAC systems to increase air flow**. Set fan setting to ON and not AUTO when building is occupied.
- **Change furnace filters** as recommended.
- **Use fans to increase effectiveness of open windows.** Placement of fans is very important so as not to blow from one person to another. **Using fans in the window facing out to exhaust air from the room** is a good idea. It will also draw in air from other open windows.
- As with all fan use during the COVID-19 pandemic, **take care to minimize the potential to create air patterns that flow directly across one person onto another:**

- Avoid the use of the high-speed settings
- Use ceiling fans at low velocity and potentially in the reverse-flow direction (so that air is pulled up toward the ceiling)
- Direct the fan discharge towards an unoccupied corner and wall spaces or up above the occupied zone.
- **Make sure bathroom exhaust fans are functional and fully operational.**
- **Use portable high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) fan/filtration systems to enhance air cleaning.**
- Use **ultraviolet germicidal irradiation (UVGI)** as a supplemental treatment to inactivate SARS-CoV-2 when options for increasing room ventilation and filtration are limited.
- **Run increased ventilation systems two hours before and after the building is occupied.** (We could set up our automatic system to do this for AFM.)

The COVID virus is small. Can a HEPA filter capture it?

From the CDC:

The Particle size of SARS-CoV-2 is around 0.1 micrometer (μm). However, the virus generally does not travel through the air by itself. These viral particles are human-generated, so the virus is trapped in respiratory droplets and droplet nuclei (dried respiratory droplets) that are larger. Most of the respiratory droplets and particles exhaled during talking, singing, breathing, and coughing are less than 5 μm in size. By definition, a High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filter is at least 99.97% efficient at capturing particles 0.3 μm in size. This 0.3 μm particle approximates the most penetrating particle size (MPPS) through the filter. HEPA filters are even more efficient at capturing particles larger and smaller than the MPPS. **Thus, HEPA filters are no less than 99.97% efficient at capturing human-generated viral particles associated with SARS-CoV-2.** There are recommendations about the number of purifiers needed according to square feet in the room and height of the ceiling. If we decide to

purchase purifiers for the Meeting, we will consult these recommendations to determine the number of units per room

We agreed to use the HEPA filters. It was suggested that we may wish to purchase these filters now before we move in to meet the possible rush of orders coming in at the last minute before winter. We may also want to consider getting purifiers based on CDC recommendations. Robin told us that we have already received a gift of one purifier from a Friend. Other Friends may also wish to donate the purchase of a purifier. A friend told us about a family who, using filters and tape, was able to make their own purifier for a small space. H&G member Sarah Jane Thomas agreed to get the cubic feet of various rooms in MH (floor dimensions and ceiling height) for following rooms: Meeting room, Kitchen, Lobby, Youth group rooms on 2nd floor. These will be used to help us determine filtration and purifier needs.

Minute #7: Agreed we will officially close the MH for indoor use at this time. All groups can use the porch and the bathroom inside wearing a mask.

Pat Johnson as the rental coordinator will send a note to our renters about our decision and repeating that the option for the use of the porch is still available. She informed us that the renters are not meeting inside at this time. The vegan group will be using the porch and lawn when they decide to meet in the future. Some of the groups have made other arrangements while some have decided to NOT use our MH at this time.

THANKS to M&C, Margaret, and Scotty on the information and discussion on how to make our decision for opening the MH to indoor meetings.

The meeting closed with silent worship until the way opens for our next business meeting in the 10th month of 2021.

Attachments:

Spiritual Enrichment Report Sept. 11, 2021

Spiritual Enrichment Committee Report
Ninth Month 12, 2021

It seems untrue to call this a committee report, since the committee has not met this year. We have three members, but one of them is out of town for an extended time and the other has just experienced a loss. To be honest, it is my report. The committee is charged with the scheduling of the twice monthly times to make it possible for Friends to gather for an opportunity to grow in the Spirit. We would welcome other members. If you are interested in joining the Spiritual Enrichment Committee, please see Kitti Reynolds.

Usually there are several intergenerational events on our calendar such as Secret Pals, Youth Celebration, and so on. Other than those events, we plan for meeting twice monthly on first and third First Days at rise of meeting. We generally suspend our meetings during the summer when many Friends are traveling. This year we got a head start on programs with the presentation by Dr. Steere on Cherokee Ancestral Lands in August. When there is a fifth First Day, as in August on the 29th, the Peace and Earth committee has been giving us a chance to express a chosen area of public action about which to communicate to our government representatives. September 4th was intended to be a chance to provide guidance to the committee for the times we will be together during the next year. I apologize for arriving late to the scheduled meeting.

I propose that we begin a series of discussions, readings, and responses to queries around Quakerism. As Seekers, we are always looking for insights from the Divine, so no matter how long one may have been a practicing Quaker, the discussions should be edifying.

The areas I propose we explore together be the following:

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| September 19, 2021 | Worship in the manner of Friends |
| October 3, 2021 | Friends Business/Decision Making |
| October 17, 2021 | Friends' Testimonies |
| October 31, 2021(fifth First Day) | Card Writing to our government representatives |
| November 7, 2021 | Wider Quaker Organizations |
| November 12, 2021 | Service |

These five topics would take us through the month of November. We usually have an intergenerational simple gifts program in early December. The committee will be seeking seasoned Friends to guide each of the above topics for the fall meetings. You may get a call from one of the committee members, asking for your help. However, if you are interested in guiding the discussion on a topic, providing readings or queries, please let me know.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barbara Esther