

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Asheville Friends Meeting

11th Month 14, 2021

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

Present via Zoom: Morgan Murray, Mike Eddy, Margaret Normile, Patricia Johnson, Rylin Hansen, Robin Wells, Jim Cavener, Sarah Jane Thomas, Margaret Farmer, Barbara Esther, Kitti Reynolds, Jim Barham, Gita Larson, Steve Livingston, Wanda Guokas.

Meeting opened with Silent Worship

Clerk shared a reading out of silence

"The spiritual life has many sources of nourishment, among them the companionship of other seekers, the pleasures of solitude and silence, keeping faith as we wait for leading, experiencing the confirmation of having followed the leadings we have been given, and times of testing. In each of these, when I know I am being nourished and nurtured, I know something of joy. And there are other times I receive joy - as a gift of serenity, balance, deep happiness, and I know this is good for my spirit now and through the rest of my life.

When we share about the spiritual life, let us not be afraid to say what we know. Let us not, above all, be afraid to share the fact of joy, the gifts of joy. Joy is finally the greatest source of nourishment for the spiritual life, because it is God's greatest gift to us." - Paul Lacey, 1995

From "Quaker Quotations from Misty Gerner". www.quakercloud.org

Minute #1: Friends approved the 10th month business meeting minutes.

Announcements:

Bob Lackey reminded all that the Spiritual Enrichment program scheduled for First Day, 11.21.21 will cover World Quaker Organizations-

Finance committee budget requests for 2022 should be turned in by 12.1.21.

Committees:

FINANCE: Bob Lackey

Bob shared the following from the AFM Finance Committee and the AFM board of directors meeting:

Minutes, AFM Finance Committee, 10/10/2021

1 Present: Bob Lackey, Ellen Carr, Pat Johnson, Satchel Loftis, David Clements

2 We began with a minute of silence.

3 We recommend to Meeting that Satchel become the Assistant Treasurer. He will thereby become a member of the Board of Directors, and will replace Julia Dorn. We have not been able to reach Julia for her input in recent months.

4 Ellen and Pat will add Satchel and Bob as signatories to the Self Help Account. We will remove David as Signatory.

5 Pat presented: We have often bought an advertisement in the Martin Luther King breakfast program. The rate is \$50 for 1/8 page. Bob will contribute \$50 for this. Pat will edit the ad.

6 David will resign from the Finance Committee, effective today.

7 We closed with a minute of silence.

Submitted by David Clements.

Report of Asheville Friends Meeting Board of Directors, 10/10/2021.

The Board of Directors requests that the minutes of its 2021 annual meeting be incorporated into the minutes of Asheville Friends Meeting.

The annual meeting of the Asheville Friends Meeting Board of Directors took place by Zoom on 10/10/2021 at 9:00 am.

Present were Board members Robert Lackey (Member of the Board *ex officio* as Clerk of Meeting, and Chairperson of the Board), Ellen Carr (Member of the Board *ex officio* as Treasurer of Meeting), Pat Johnson, David Clements (Secretary of the Board). Absent: Julia Dorn (Formerly Member of the Board *ex officio* as Assistant Treasurer of Meeting). Satchel Loftis attended.

David submitted his resignation from the Board, effective today.

Bob Lackey continued as Chairperson. Ellen Carr was elected as Secretary. Pat Johnson, David, and Ellen are signatories for the Self Help Credit Union accounts.

The Treasurer reported that the Meeting's finances are in good order.

We request to Meeting that the minutes of this meeting be recorded in the Minutes of Business Meeting.

There being no new business, the Annual Meeting concluded at 9:40 am.

The Bylaws specify, "The Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held at the office of the Friends Meeting on the second Sunday of October of each year." The 2022 Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for October 9, 2022 at 9 am.

Respectfully Submitted, David Clements, Secretary of the Board of Directors.

Reference [Asheville Friends Meeting Bylaws updated 2006.08.13](#)

SECTION 1. OFFICERS. The Officers of the Board shall be a Chairperson, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Secretary. The Treasurer of Asheville Friends Meeting shall serve ex officio as the Treasurer of the Board. The Assistant Treasurer of Asheville Friends Meeting shall serve ex officio as the Assistant Treasurer of the Board. The Chairperson and Secretary shall be elected by the Directors. Officers of the Board shall be officers of the Corporation.

SECTION 2. FUNCTION. The business and property of the Friends Meeting shall be managed and controlled by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 3. TERM. The Board of Directors shall be self-perpetuating, being chosen by consensus of the existing Board. The Clerk, Treasurer, and

Assistant Treasurer of the Meeting shall be included as members. This selection shall take place at the Annual Meeting of the Board, subject to the approval of the Monthly Meeting for Business.

SECTION 4. NUMBER. The number of Directors of the Board shall be a minimum of five.

SECTION 5. RESIGNATION. Any Director may resign at any time by giving written notice of such resignation to the Board of Directors.

SECTION 6. VACANCIES. Any vacancy on the Board of Directors may be filled by the Board of Directors, subject to approval at the following Monthly Meeting for Business

Minute #2 Friends noted with **much appreciation** to David Clements for his service on the Finance committee and the Board of Directors.

Bob will send a note of appreciation to David Clements

Current finance committee members are: Satchel Loftis, Ellen Carr and Pat Johnson. They currently do not have a clerk. There is a need for an additional member to the committee who can act as a check and balance on their decisions. If you are interested in joining this or other committees please contact the nominating committee.

Bob once again reminded all that Committee budget requests for 2022 are to be forwarded to Finance by 12/1.

Ministry & Counsel Bob Lackey

Bob shared the note from Jim Frerotte concerning the Evey Frerotte bequest:

Dear Friends,

Front and center among Evey's last requests was this gift to the Asheville Friends Meeting. Friends Meeting and the relationships she made there were precious to her.

In leaving this world she was not conflicted or fearful. She was at peace. I believe Friends Meeting had a lot to do with that.

Peace and Love to you all,
Jim Frerotte

Minute #3: Approved A special thank you to be given to Jim Frerotte, husband of Evey Frerotte, for his kind words of thanks for fellowship and support from Meeting and for Evey's generous bequest of \$10,000. to Asheville Friends Meeting. Friends expressed much thanks for Jim Cavener keeping us apprised of Evey's progress.

Friends spent time remembering Evey, Some specific memories of her friendship and activities over the years were shared.

Minute #4: Approved setting up a memorial reserved fund in Evey's name with her donation to AFM.

In the future the Meeting will discern the most appropriate use for the money. Possibilities included use as a reserve fund for Outreach; the support of the Meeting/Meetinghouse such as replace/repair the roof; remodel the kitchen; or some other need yet to be determined.

Peace and Earth: Steve Livingston

Steve proposed The following Minute to be accepted by AFM

Asheville Friends Meeting is led to respond to the State of Israel's recent designation of six Palestinian human rights groups as "terror organizations." We support the right of Palestinian self-determination and the right of the occupied Palestinian territory to exist as an independent State. We find Israel's action of criminalizing the legitimate work of documentation, advocacy, and aid to be an unacceptably

provocative and oppressive act of cowardice, characteristic of the most undesirable aspects of repressive authoritarian regimes. We stand in solidarity with Palestinian and Israeli human rights organizations working to end the occupation of Palestine and afford basic human and civil rights to the Palestinian people. We call upon the Israeli government, the US government, and the international community, to oppose this designation and support the work of the organizations to further the cause of Palestinian self-determination, with the goal of peaceful settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Israel designates 6 Palestinian human right groups as terrorist organizations

<https://www.npr.org/2021/10/23/1048690050/israel-palestinian-human-right-groups>

This minute can be used by individuals to send letters to their representatives It could be sent to the Citizen times from the meeting. A Friend noted that we need to be careful with our wording when we send this to a pro Israelie government.

Steve pointed out that AFSC has spoken abut this issue as has Amnesty International

Minute #5: Approved the minute and that the P&E distribute this letter to the Editor of Citizen's Times and The Mountain Express signed by AFM's clerk.

It will also go to SAYMA to be distributed to other meetings in the area for their consideration.

As a member of both **Peace and Earth & Racial Justice Committees** where this idea has been incubated, Steve brought a recommendation to the Business Meeting, with the enthusiastic support of both committees

and the blessings of our Treasurer, to establish a restricted fund to be called 'Reparations Fund', for the purpose of providing compensation to BIPOC experts and advisors who provide their wisdom and expertise to our community as we continue to nurture our relationship with the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians and to become a more welcoming worship environment for BIPOC seekers. We will recommend that the two committees work out a method of collaboration on disbursements, perhaps on the model of our existing College Age Friends Fund or Scholarship Fund.

There is already \$1000 seed money pledged for the new fund.

A Friend stated that we need to deepen our understanding of reparation and have wording that makes room to respond to the trauma that people suffered. A section of outreach that goes beyond just honorariums but as way to help both the Black and Cherokee Indian communities. Create a spectrum of needs by listening to others Reparations are a goal not a directive. Create a special committee to determine the disbursement.

Minute #6: Approved the creation of a reserved Reparation Fund.

Racial Justice Committee and SAYMA Steve Livingston, Margaret Farmer, Morgan Murray

- 1 Explanation of message describing work that is proposed by Friends Committee Racial Justice (FCRJ) in Ithica, NY to help Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting Association (SAYMA) with "conflict transformation."
- 2 Morgan Murray, SAYMA representative from AFM will give background that prompted the proposal.
- 3 Margaret Farmer, member of Ad Hoc Support Committee for SAYMA's Uplifting Racial Justice committee and member of Racial Justice Committee (RJC) of Asheville, will provide context of what is involved in the conflict.
- 4 RJC is asking that the email from Angela be entered into the record of Meeting for Business.

- 5 RJC recommends a Minute in whole hearted and joyful support of FCRJ in their conflict transformation work with SAYMA.
- 6 RJC will present a Second Hour to discuss, to further inform, and to illuminate this work, and provide the community with ample time to consider individual responses to FCRJ regarding their work.

A Friend told us that the New York Yearly Meeting (NYYM.org) website Has some great videos of their process.

Minute #7: Asheville Monthly Meeting wholeheartedly and joyfully approved support of the Friends Center for Racial Justice's Conflict Transformation work with SAYMA.

Attachment #1 Angela Hopkins

Friends ,

Thank you all for responding to the invitation to share your concerns with us .

We want to specifically acknowledge receipt of the recent open letter from the Sayma Ad hoc working Group .

We want all Friends to know that we at FCRJ intend to uphold the Minute we received from the SAYMA body inviting FCRJ to journey you in your work to bring right relationships of integrity to the. Body .

We at FCRJ will be responding to all the concerns shared with us . At the beginning of our conversations FCRJ , was very clear about inclusion and hierarchy.

We will listen to and hear all concerns in an equitable fashion ; therefore , no one individual will be permitted to derail the process of working together to address the concerns raised by this body . We clearly hear your pain and are in anguish with you . Hang in there

My grandson was discussing with me mushrooms that have an underground connected root system . Our roots are connected . We are connected and as can be the case with biological families We can choose to like it or not .that does not change the reality . Know that you are being held in the Light of God .
You are not alone .

I wanted to share this with you ASAP and to let you all know to expect to be flooded by communication from FCRJ members so prepare yourselves ! Teams have been developed to work specifically with all the concerns you have shared . We look forward to our next steps together .

I hope this message has been clear .
FYI , I am particularly grateful to Susan Phelan and Elizabeth Schneider our Sayma / Fcrj communication coordinators . I have limited eye sight and rely heavily on Elizabeth for assistance . You may receive a message on occasion directly from me in which auto correct has taken control Do not hesitate if you need to reach out for clarity . I am not that easily offended!

In common Friendship,
Angela (607)319-2644

Attachment #2 Angela Hopkins

Friends ,

Thank you to everyone who reached out and responded to the invitation to share their concerns, particularly those concerns that rise in regards to the recent. Representative Meeting.

The responses received through the end of today Saturday October 30 will be forwarded to the FCRJ Coordinating Committee. The Committee will review these responses this week and will share them , the sense of the Meeting and moving forward.

We remind Friends that our process is non hierarchical - all thoughts and voices are welcome. Our Meetings are intergenerational and some concerns raised have impact on all. There are Friends in the Sayma body that have taken workshops from the Center for the Study of White American Culture (CSWAC) including "Raising White Antiracist Children" . This organization was started by Quakers and its work grounded in Friends testimonies . As Friends begin to gather in person again there may be opportunities to share r Elements of this Yearly Meeting wide concern during First Day School.

Having made a commitment, discernment and plans begun once the Minute was sent to us ,this I [sic] summer -FCRJ will proceed to share its initial thoughts and understandings regarding our work together.

Angela Hopkins

Ministry & Counsel-Robin Wells

Robin Raised the question: 'are we ready to offer inside face to face worship?' She reported that the COVID percent positivity is down to 4.4% and we continue a decline in transmission in Buncombe County. It seems that we have reached the point that we set to move indoors with our Meeting for Worship. We have purchased three purifiers for the Meetinghouse(MH): two small purifiers, each for a room upstairs; and one large purifier for the Meetingroom. The two small ones have arrived and are ready to be set up in the Meetinghouse. The large one just arrived on this first day and will be ready to set up.

Are we ready to offer inside face-to-face worship in conjunction with our Zoom worship? We offer a word of caution with the upcoming holidays around the corner. If we open now, we may need to close again if the positivity rate increases again over the holidays. That doesn't mean we can't open now. Can we prayerfully consider how we want to proceed?

After a brief silence.

We currently ask people to wear a face mask on the porch and on entering the MH. A Friend brought up the issue of continuing to wear a mask and what type. We are still in a pandemic and the children are just now being vaccinated. We still will not have children in the MH until vaccinations are available for them all.

Minute #8: It was agreed that adults will wait for the children to be able to be vaccinated before we go into the MH for face to face meetings

After the holidays and shots are available for the children 5 and above, we will once again review the COVID percent positive numbers to decide on opening the MH for face to face worship.

A Friend suggested having a mid week meeting for adults only could provide help in the isolation many are experiencing. M&C will coordinate a mid week meetings between now and January 2022.

A specific agenda time will be created for the First month 2022 (January) BM so the parents of children can join us via zoom as we review the COVID numbers and our response to open the MH

The meeting closed with silent worship until the way opens for our next business meeting in the 12th month of 2021.