

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Asheville Friends Meeting
Fifth Month 12, 2024

Present in the Meetinghouse: Pat Johnson, Clerk, Kitti Reynolds, Interim Recording Clerk, Steve Livingston, Margaret Normile, Debra Rice, Rusty Maynard, Adrienne Weir, Barbara Esther, Jim Cavener, Sara Jane Thomas, Rylin Hansen, Bobby Carter, Robin Wells

Present via Zoom: Beth and Mike Eddy, Gita Larson

The Meeting opened with Silent Worship.

The Clerk shared a reading out of the silence.

The CHURCH the GOSPEL and WAR

Edited by Rufus M. Jones Harper & Brothers Publishers, New York, Copyright ©, 1948, p. [xi-xii]

The way of the Kingdom of God is not established by miracle. It comes by the slow triumph of one type of life over other types. Those who have been awakened and who see the vision are *called* to live in this unfinished world by laws and principles which are only partially and feebly recognized. It requires courage and it demands high faith. But the way to make sound principles spread and grow and prevail is to acknowledge them as true, to accept them as the way of life, and to carry them as far as it can be done into operation in the complex affairs of daily life. There is no clearer call, no more rational appeal, no higher loyalty, than those that rise out of the fellowship with Christ; and cost what it may, there is no nobler venture than to obey this call, to answer this appeal and to live by this loyalty.

Accept Agenda

Minute #1: Friends accepted the agenda.

Approve Fourth Month Business Meeting minutes.

Minute #2: The Meeting approved the Fourth Month Business Meeting Minutes as amended.

Announcements: Pat Johnson

Welcome to new member, Debra Rice
TRANSFER CERTIFICATE

To: Asheville Friends Monthly Meeting

Dear Friends:

This is to certify that Debra Rice, a member of this Meeting has requested a certificate transferring membership to your Meeting. The Celo Friends Meeting finds nothing stands in the way of this request. We therefore recommend her to your Monthly Meeting care. Please acknowledge receipt of this certificate and acceptance of the transfer by email.

In Peace,

Co-clerks



Signed on behalf of Celo Friends Monthly Meeting

March 15, 2024

From: pjohnsonpa@yahoo.com

To: Anne Maren-Hogan and Catherine Reid

Fri, May 3 at 4:33 PM

Hi Anne and Catherine,

Hope all is well with each of you. My apologies for the long delay in acknowledging your Transfer Certificate. It was in the Clerk's box but I didn't see it until now. So I'm writing to let you know we have received the Transfer Certificate dated March 15, 2024. We're so happy to welcome Debra and plan to celebrate her arrival on May 26th after Rise of Meeting. Blessings to you all. Take care.

Wishing you Love, Joy and Peace,
Pat Johnson (She, Her) (Living On Cherokee Land)
Clerk, Asheville Friends Meeting

Debra's welcome celebration will be on Sunday, May 26, 2024. Please plan on attending.

Our neighbor Linda made and delivered 18 beautiful ceramic bowls. Tentatively she plans to come for a thank you visit on May 19 and we will give her a flower hanging basket and publicly thank her for her gift.

Very Important Volunteer Opportunities

Handbook Revision. Continue the beginning work of Patti Hughes.

Meeting Directory update and maintenance. The Nominating Committee will have an update next month.

AFM Membership list for SAYMA. When updating the AFM Directory, we will ask for permission to provide contact information to SAYMA.

SAYMA Representative is still needed.

AFM Recording Clerk is still needed

Request for Help Follow Up: Ellie Cox & Debra Rice

From Ellie:

I have just had a very interesting phone conversation with Storme Smith about his phone request for information about help for a prisoner.

The call is legitimate! I am attaching a copy of the Contributors page from another publication of The Tryon Daily Bulletin, called Live in our Foothills. Storme (silent "e") is freelance writer who often writes for the Tryon Daily Bulletin and Foothills, and also has a book business. He contacted AFM on the advice of a woman, Corrine Gherwin, who is also a writer, living in Saluda, with whom my husband Bob worked in Brevard, while we were both living there, volunteering at the Dispute Settlement Center. Corrine knew that some Friends were interested in prison reform and visiting, and suggested Storme get in touch with us.

Storme will be emailing you with more information about Alford Jones, the prisoner. I took some notes, however, it is probably best you get the information directly from him. Alford's wife, Miss Linda has worked at the Green River Plantation (a Polk County former plantation enslaving several Africans [or descendants thereof] and now a bed & breakfast and event center) for many years and is a respected woman. Storme said she has lots of recorded details on her computer, so there is verification of Alford helping other prisoners to get early release. Her thought is that her husband is being punished for those activities.

I don't know what the next step should be, maybe running Storme's information by Debra or Adrienne. I am sure you will be led how to proceed. I am planning to suggest that Storme look on the Equal Justice Initiative website of Brian Stevenson to see if they could be of any help or direct him to someone appropriate to work with the Scotland Correctional Institution in Laurinburg, NC, where Alford is now.

Thanks for taking this request of Storme's to the next level.

Debra says we need more information about the crime and parole status. She asked for this information from Storme and if there could be a chaplain contact. She understands all prisons are woefully understaffed. NC legislators just passed a law relating to geriatric prisoners. Could this apply to Alford? Depending on the severity of his crime there may not be anything that can be done. A Friend expressed his gratitude that members of the Meeting are following up on this. Another Friend suggested we contact Nicole Nickle to see if she knows anything that can be done.

Committees:

Finance: Satchel will have a report next month. Finance committee met on Monday, May 6th, We're grateful that Beth Eddy has agreed to be the Finance Clerk and Kitti Reynolds has agreed to take notes. A Friend asked if Finance was understaffed and is happy it is now fully staffed.

Peace and Earth: Steve Livingston. P and E recommends this minute:

Citizenship Requirement for Native American Advisors

In all of our decision making processes that pertain to the people of an Indigenous Nation, we look to people who are citizens of that Indigenous Nation for advice, counsel, and guidance.

Minute #3: Meeting approved the above minute.

Ministry and Council: Robin Wells

Painting the Meetingroom:

As we discussed last month, Art Mandler of the Zen Center has offered to paint our Meetingroom. This helps us immensely, as it has needed repainting for several years. Art estimates that the preparation and painting will take about three days. He does not want to be paid for this work, but thinks the Zen Center would really appreciate having their rent lowered a few hundred dollars in the coming months. We would like to recommend that we reduce the rent for the Zen Center by \$300 one time and move this same amount of money from the Meetinghouse Improvement Fund (MHIF) to the regular operating budget to cover the reduction. The painting will begin next week.

Does Meeting approve a one time reduction in rent as described above? A Friend asked why only \$300? He feels an urgency to make that amount larger. He suggests twice that much. A Friend pointed out that the painting is meant as a gift. She didn't think that valuing the monetary worth of the gift was appropriate. A Friend pointed out we would need to clear out the room for the painter. A Friend felt there was Spirit leading us to generosity and the gift is not to the painter but to the Zen group. A Friend appreciated the Friend's comment that this not be transactional and suggested we commit ourselves to an additional amount of money, maybe \$500, to the Zen Center at the end of the year. Another Friend pointed out that the Zen Center is struggling now. A Friend suggested we commit the \$300 now and sit with the idea of paying more to Zen Center later. A Friend suggested we consider other ways of sharing our commonalities with the Zen Group.

Minute #4: Meeting approved reducing the rent of the Zen Center one time by \$300 because we are grateful for this painting work and value the Zen Center's use of our property as kindred

spirits. The Treasurer will transfer money from the MHIF to the general fund. We will sit with giving a later gift of money to the Zen Center.

Adrienne, Barbara and Pat volunteered to move stuff out of the Meeting room before the painting on either the 18th or 19th.

Gun Surrender Event on June 8th

Meeting approved sponsorship of this June 8, 2024 event by \$500. Individuals in Meeting are invited to contribute money toward the gift cards given to those who surrender their guns. You are also invited to help with the event on the 8th. How can we help with money collection for the gift cards? Volunteers are needed to operate chop saws and act as shepherds to help people through the process.

Update on Truth and Reconciliation Work

Robin reported on Truth and Reconciliation work with Dr. Melchor. What has happened here in Asheville to the Black neighborhoods? We need to listen to members of the Black community who have been working on the problems for many years and have written reports. Wwe need to look at what has been done and reflect on what our Meeting could do. Who wants to stay involved? Is there a better way/time than Tuesday?

The Meeting closed with silent worship until the way opens for our Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on the Ninth Day, Sixth Month, 2024.