

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Asheville Friends Meeting
Ninth Month 08, 2024

Draft

Present in the Meetinghouse: Pat Johnson, Clerk, Kitti Reynolds. Interim Recording Clerk, Chris Berg, Ellie Cox, Adrienne Weir, Steve Livingston, Jim Barton, Suzanne Friedrichs, Barbara Esther, Margaret Normile, Bobby Carter, Scotty Utz, Rylin Hansen, Sara Jane Thomas, Jim Cavener, Robin Wells, Rusty Maynard

Present via Zoom: no one on Zoom

The Meeting opened with Silent Worship.

The Clerk shared a reading out of the silence.

The Sound of the Genuine,

Baccalaureate Address, Spelman College, May 4, 1980.

Howard Thurman. Text edited by Jo Moore Stewart, *Spelman Messenger* 96, no. 4 (Summer 1980): P. 14–15.

There is something in every one of you that waits, listens for the sound of the genuine in yourself and if you cannot hear it, you will never find whatever it is for which you are searching.... You are the only you that has ever lived; your idiom is the only idiom of its kind in all the existences and if you cannot hear the sound of the genuine in you, you will all of your life, spend your days on the ends of strings that somebody else pulls....

Who are you? How does the sound of the genuine come through to *you*?... Don't be deceived and thrown off by all the noises that are a part even of your dreams, your ambitions ... that you don't hear the sound of the genuine in you because that is the only true guide that you will ever have and if you don't have that you don't have a thing. You may be famous, you may be whatever the other ideals are which are a part of this generation but you know you don't have the foggiest notion of who you are, where you are going, what you want. Cultivate the discipline of listening to the sound of the genuine in yourself.

Draft Agenda

Minute #1: Friends accepted the agenda.

Approve Eighth Month Business Meeting Minutes Draft

Minute #2: The Meeting approved the Eighth Month Business Meeting Minutes.

Announcements: Pat Johnson

The International Day of Peace in Western NC is September 21, 2024, with a theme of *Cultivating a Culture of Peace*. The event begins at 11:00 am at the Land of the Sky UCC located at 15 Overbrook Pl, Asheville, NC 28805 just off of Tunnel Road. We approved co-sponsoring this event. Please attend it if you're able.

SAYF Retreat is scheduled in the Meeting House Nov 15-17, 2024. Zen Center of Asheville will not meet at the Meeting House on Sat, Nov 16, 2024.

Volunteer opportunities include Recording Clerk and Meeting Clerk among others. Beginning in Oct, former clerks will rotate on a monthly basis until we find someone willing and able to take this role. Temporary clerks are asked to recruit someone with less clerking experience to mentor for the future possibility of becoming a clerk or co-clerk.

We need to find a new home for the ficus tree on the porch. It's grown so much that we don't have room for it in the Meeting House. Battery Park will take it if they can get it in a vehicle, thanks to Rylin.

Bob Smith Memorial Fund has a balance of \$970.00 so we need \$30.00 more in donations to cover the \$1,000.00 check written from the General Fund. That need has been met.

Religious Education has decided to host a Junior Yearly Meeting family retreat again this fall on the weekend of Oct. 25-27. No one will sleep at the Meeting House so the Zen Meditation Group should not be disrupted.

Robin visited with Donna Smith recently, she is doing as well as can be expected. Robin is coordinating Friends who help Donna on Saturdays. Donna also likes curry and stir fry and loves dessert. Please bring small portions for one day only.

Committees:

Peace & Earth: Kitti Reynolds, Steve Livingston

Kitti: “We commend Friends for the recent ample provision of vegan snacks and meals. We encourage Friends to reduce their use of factory farmed foods because that results in less carbon emitted into the atmosphere and less air and water pollution which frequently has greater effects on poorer neighborhoods - especially people of color.

Steve spoke about reducing our personal and community carbon footprint through dietary changes; reminding us about the larger amounts of freshwater and carbon emitted from factory farms. He reminded us of the recent second hour discussion on what we could do to reduce our carbon footprint. Steve is asking for money from the Meeting to subscribe to a renewable energy certificate broker, so that the MH electricity is replenished by renewable energy. This would cost \$180 a year and be a new line item in our budget. We passed an aspirational budget this year - it was not balanced. We have covered that budget according to Pat, who is on the Finance Committee.

Another option would be to offset our carbon footprint by subscribing to an organization such as Go Climate. Steve personally subscribes to it & recommends it. This would probably cost about \$100/year.

Quaker Earthcare witness has just started a program showing what each monthly meeting is doing to address the climate crisis. P and E is recommending that we make one of these options a part of next year’s budget.

A Friend asked couldn't we do both? Another Friend liked that idea. Could we hand out information on a printed form for Friends to consider for their home? Another Friend was concerned about the possibility of a scam. Steve assured the Friend that P and E did the research. A Friend asked if we are investigating solar panels. Peace and Earth is starting that. We will have a forum on solar collectors before any proposal is presented to Meeting.

Minute #3 Friends approved both recommendations from P and E: \$15/month for Renewable Energy Certificates and \$10/month for carbon offsetting with Go Climate starting in our next fiscal year as a line item in the budget.

Second Hour viewing of documentary *Bad Faith: Christian Nationalism's Unholy War on Democracy*. The documentary is 1 and ½ hours, plus we would need time for discussion. Should we have it in the second hour or at a night time? It would need to be the first Sunday or fourth or fifth Sunday. Fifth Sunday in Sept. is Goombay, which starts at 3. (We later learned that it starts at 11:00am) Some are helping Miss Bettie. A Friend pointed out it would be beneficial to see this documentary before the Election. We could have a discussion later if

necessary. A Friend suggested we have easy to eat food with no tables on the porch so we could get underway by 12:30. A Friend suggested we read a book called Jesus and John Wayne - on the same topic. A Friend suggested we advertise to others about the showing and everyone bring their own food and plates.

Minute #4: Meeting approved having Spiritual Enrichment schedule a second hour program to show the documentary *Bad Faith: Christian Nationalism's Unholy War on Democracy* with discussion following the film on Sept. 29, promptly at 12:30.

Special Presentation. Robin brought in a lovely Mum flower to thank the Clerk for her ministry and leadership.

A Friend suggested that when it is not sandwich sunday or MFB, that we have simple snacks. We still need to make sure we talk with newcomers.

The Meeting closed at 1:30 pm with silent worship until the way opens for our Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on the Thirteenth Day, Tenth Month, 2024.