

**Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**  
**Asheville Friends Meeting Agenda**  
Ninth Month 14, 2025  
DRAFT

**Present in the Meetinghouse:** Barbara Esther, Interim Presiding Clerk; Elliott Jarrett, Recording Clerk; Kitti Reynolds; Heiler Sweely; Nick Mimken; Scottie Utz; Jim Cavener; Laura Yanasak; Sara Jane Thomas; Ellie Cox; Jim Barton; Adrienne Weir; Margaret Farmer; Robin Wells; Rylin Hansen; Deanna Hatch; Rusty Maynard; Suzanne Junkin-Fredrichs; Bob Lackey; Joelle Swaggerty-O'Brien; Patti Burgess

**Present via Zoom:** Steve Livingston, Beth Eddy, Mike Eddy

The meeting began with a period of silent worship. Out of the silence the clerk read the following from *A Call to Radical Faithfulness* by Douglas Gwyn:

“And Friends, let the waves break over your heads”. . . Part of George Fox’s genius consists in little counterintuitive phrases like that one. Like “stand still in the light.” When you want to run away from the truth, or from trouble, “stand still in the light” and let it show you how things really are. “Contrary to your expectation,” you will feel the warmth of God’s love and the power to do the right thing, even if it’s a big scary thing for you. Or “sink down to the seed,” When you feel as if you’re sinking into despair and you’re grasping at straws, “sink down to the seed.” Stop flailing around and let yourself fall into hands of the living God, who is waiting to comfort, heal and renew you. That is where you learn to let God’s power and wisdom act through you.

Acceptance of the agenda:

**Minute #1:** The Agenda was accepted.

Approval of the Seventh Month Minutes: [Note, there was no meeting for business during Eighth Month.]

**Minute #2:** The Minutes of the Seventh Month were approved.

Approval of the Minutes of the Called Meeting in Seventh Month:

**Minute #3:** The Minutes of the Called Meeting in the Seventh Month were approved.

**Announcements:**

Electricity was off while work was being done on upgrading our electric service, and is now on again. If you are contributing snacks this week, the refrigerator is now available.

### On Saturday, September 20th

Please join us for a workday on the Meetinghouse grounds from 9 am to 12 pm. Friends should bring gloves and garden tools, if they have them. A simple lunch will be served at noon.

### **SAYMA Announcements from SAYMA Clerk, Jennifer Dickie**

#### Fall Representative Meeting RM 155 on October 25-26, 2025

**Saturday, October 25, 9am - 12pm ET / 8-11am CT and Sunday, October 26, 3-6pm ET / 2-5pm CT.**

SAYMA Fall Representative Meeting will be held via Zoom. Watch for registration opening in October. We will be meeting to consider the FY2026 budget, hear new nominations and reports from SAYMA committees. Please share this with your meeting and SAYMA representatives. ([Full minutes from June sessions are linked here](#); relevant sections for the budget include: 54-09, 54-10, 54-11 (pp. 4-7) and 54-27, 54-28, (pp. 19-20))

#### Clerking Workshop for SAYMA - Interest Survey

SAYMA Ministry and Nurture Committee has received a few requests from Friends interested in a Clerking workshop. Please let us know who in your meeting might be interested in taking such a workshop as we consider if SAYMA might host a clerking workshop this fall. Contact: Jennifer Dickie as soon as possible at [saymaclerk@gmail.com](mailto:saymaclerk@gmail.com)

#### Nashville Friends Meeting Steps Away

Nashville Friends meeting has come to unity to withdraw from its affiliation with SAYMA recognizing that the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association does not serve the spiritual life of Nashville Friends Meeting at the present time.

#### Monthly Meeting Representatives to SAYMA Nominating and Ministry & Nurture Committees

Does your Monthly Meeting have a representative on SAYMA's Nominating Committee or Ministry and Nurture Committee? These committees can do their work best when we have wide representation from our constituent monthly meetings. It is up to each monthly meeting to approve a representative to these committees and to let the SAYMA Administrative Assistant know.

#### Support SAYMA URJ (Uplifting Racial Justice)

URJ has been fortunate to provide mutual aid to Friends of color in need, due to a combination of funds from the yearly meeting and donations from generous Friends. We

have paid people's rent, helped repair vehicles, and covered moving and travel expenses. We have given emergency operating funds to FOC-led non-profit organizations and start-up businesses. We have even contributed to bail funds for a young Friend in need of legal support. We are proud of our record and very thankful for our donors--we could not do this without you. [Read more about SAYMA URJ and how you can support this effort.](#)

### World Quaker Day, October 5, 2025

**World Quaker Day** is organized by the Friends World Committee for Consultation. This year's theme is **Love Your Neighbor**. Consider how your Monthly Meeting might join the world movement to recognize Friends locally and globally. To help promote your event or activity and have it included in FWCC's online list so that others can know about it, complete [this online form](#), or email [comms@fwcc.world](mailto:comms@fwcc.world).

Two options for recognizing World Quaker Day

- [FWCC World Plenary Meeting Documentary - Living Ubuntu](#) is now available online - consider screening this at your Meeting for World Quaker Day. **See how many SAYMA Friends you can spot!**
- [Steve Davidson](#), a Quaker in New Jersey, has written to the SAYMA Clerk to share with Friends his leading for Quakers to raise their voices in action against the anti-democratic movement that is rising in America today. [See more about his leading here.](#)

FWCC's Quaker Connect - Applications Due September 30

This year at SAYMA Sessions we heard from Quaker Connect program director, **Jade Rockwell**, about this two-year program bringing together cohorts of ten local Friends meetings and churches across the Americas to experiment with new ways of living faithfully in the 21st century. [Learn more and review the application here.](#)

The interim presiding clerk reminded Friends that we do send a representative to the Ministry and Nurture Committee (Barbara Esther) and that another Friend in our meeting (Margaret Farmer) is an appointed member of that committee. We are seeking a representative to the Nominating Committee of the yearly meeting, and a representative to business sessions of SAYMA.

### **PEJA (Peace Earth and Justice Action Committee) Announcements**

The Paula Palmer workshops, ***Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples*** and ***Quaker Indigenous Boarding Schools- Facing Our History and Ourselves*** were very successful with 69 in attendance at the first one and 37 at the second one. AFM co-sponsored these workshops with financial support of \$400.00 from our new Community Support Reserve Fund.

## **Quaker Involvement in the Cherokee Day and Boarding Schools in NC**

**A Talk by John Meyer**

**Sunday, Sept 21, 3:30-5:30 pm, Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church, Ransom Fellowship Hall, 101 Chapel Lane, Swannanoa, NC**

John Meyer of Friends Meeting of Washington and the Quakers and 'Indian Boarding Schools' Research Network will share the results of his research on the efforts of Friends from North Carolina and Western Yearly Meetings to educate and assimilate ("indoctrinate and Christianize") the Eastern Band of Cherokees from the late 1870s through 1892. Discussion will follow his presentation.

**Tuesday, September 30, 2025 ~ 10:00am to 12 noon**

**National Day for Truth & Reconciliation and Wear Orange Shirt Day**

The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians invites the community to join us in commemorating this important day with an EVERY CHILD MATTERS Walk. The walk begins at the Cherokee Welcome Center, 498 Tsali Blvd, Blvd, Cherokee, NC and follows the flat Route 441 to the end of the Walk behind the Bureau of Indian Affairs. A tent will be set up for remarks and refreshments. There will be transportation for those not wishing to walk. The Cherokees are providing educational signs along the route. You may [use this link](#) to register or scan the QR code on the flyer hanging on the mantle.

You are encouraged to join us for this walk. We will be carpooling from the Meetinghouse and will gather between 8:15 and 8:30am to arrange drivers with passengers. Please let Steve Livingston or Pat Johnson know if you plan to carpool.  
**Please don't be late!**

### **Committee Reports:**

Nominating Committee - Kitty Reynolds

The Nominating Committee is happy to recommend Joelle O'Brien for our next Presiding Clerk of Asheville Friends Meeting for the term September 2025 to 2027. Many thanks to all the former clerks who have helped out this past year.

**Minute #4: The Meeting enthusiastically approved the nomination of Joelle O'Brien as the new Presiding Clerk of Asheville Friends Meeting for a term consisting of two years.**

Ministry and Counsel Committee - Robin Wells

Membership Request

Ministry & Counsel is happy to report that James and Carrie McLachlan of Sylva, NC have sent us requests for membership in the Religious Society of Friends. Ministry & Counsel Committee has received their letters and will set up clearness committees for

both James and Carrie to help them with their final decisions about membership. Please find time to welcome these Friends to our community.

The Meeting accepted the report.

### Yard Sale

As Friends may know, we have been considering a Meeting yard sale in early October. After careful consideration, we have decided to continue collecting items for sale, but will hold the sale in spring 2026. We hope this will not create any problems. If there are Friends with storage space that we can use to collect these items, please let us know.

The Meeting accepted the report.

### Ad Hoc Furnace Committee - Pat Johnson

Progress on the Electrical Upgrade and installation of the mini-split units

Thanks to David Donske of DCD Electric, Inc our electrical upgrade is complete. We now have a new panel more centrally located in the basement with 200 amps of power for our house. The upstairs panel now has 90 amps compared to the previous 80 amps. David also installed copper bonding on the front water pipes to correct them. The final cost for the electrical upgrade is the same as the estimate of \$6,825.00.

The mini-splits still need to be installed due to a problem with one of them. Here's the note from Brent Cole: I apologize, but the supplier does not have 1 of the unit's in stock. There was a mix up with my equipment and someone took it. I will have everything Friday so I will be there Monday morning and should be done Monday afternoon for an inspection on Tuesday. I apologize again for the inconvenience.

Thank you to all of you for your generosity. Eight individuals contributed to our temporary Heating Upgrade Fund with a total amount of \$9,450.00. Some are thinking we might take lesser amounts from our reserve funds since we have more than enough to cover the upgrade costs. The Finance Committee will consider this option and make recommendations at next month's business meeting.

We could also consider following up on the possible presence of asbestos in the basement. You may recall that one of the recommendations from this Ad Hoc Furnace Committee was to take care of the possible asbestos as soon as possible.

Another possible consideration is that we may want to add more minisplits if the westside ones work well making it desirable to have heating and cooling on the east side as well.

The Committee wishes to thank all of you for helping make this project go so smoothly. We especially send thanks to David Domske of DCD Electric and Brent Cole of Cole's Heating and Cooling for their expertise and efficiency in completing their work in a

timely way. And a big thank you to the committee members, Pat, Johnson, Mike Eddy, Adrienne Weir, Rusty Maynard and Howard Brodt for their time, energy and efforts for this big project. We're all grateful that the project is almost completed.

One Friend asked if we could restore the arbor with a native vining plant to assist in cooling the Meetings Room for Worship and reminded us that another Friend has asked if we could look into Solar Panels.

One Friend stated that some members of our community may not be able to attend Meeting on our hottest days if the Meeting Room for Worship is not air conditioned. They pose that we add a mini-split to this room.

The Meeting accepted the report with deep thanks to the whole committee.

#### BENEFICIAL Committee-

One Friend shared that the first meeting of the BENEFICIAL Committee was held and that they are working to define their Goals and Mission. The meeting felt very productive.

#### Peace, Earth and Justice Action Committee (PEJA) - Steve Livingston

The committee brings a simple request but it is a very public statement of the Meeting's solidarity with, and support for, immigrant rights -- an "outward sign of an inward commitment" you might say -- and Friends should understand, and accept, the risk of such a public exposure in today's political climate. I am asking on behalf of the PEJA Committee for the Meeting's agreement to display a banner provided by the Faith Communities for Immigration Justice in conjunction with their county-wide media campaign to take place sometime in October, probably the 15th. I suggest the following minute:

Friends approved displaying the banner provided by the Faith Communities for Immigration Justice declaring our support for immigrant rights above the rock wall at the front of our property, facing Chatham Road.

The cost of the banner will be covered by the Community Support Fund so does not require Meeting approval. Kitti will be making an announcement at rise of Meeting asking individual Friends to place yard signs on the appointed date, and explaining that each Friend will be asked to reimburse the CS Fund for the \$10 cost of their sign. I am including a link here to the order form for the banner/sign so everyone can see what it looks like/says.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeKjXLZzz1CKbOFzXKy0rtTA62v5s\\_5CveXSbkXXu2jZUfwlw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeKjXLZzz1CKbOFzXKy0rtTA62v5s_5CveXSbkXXu2jZUfwlw/viewform)

**Minute #5 Friends approved displaying the banner provided by the Faith Communities for Immigration Justice declaring our support for immigrant rights above the rock wall at the front of our property, facing Chatham Road, on the designated day in October.**

Finance Committee - Satchel Loftis

## **Finance Committee Update for Ninth Month, 2025**

### **I - Cash/Bank Balances through the first eight months of 2025**

Operating CK/MM accounts \$ 40,496.02

Restricted MM/CD accounts 34,687.73

Bank balances, 2025-08-31 \$ 75,183.75

As a reference for relative fiscal health, we have approximately \$17k more cash on hand compared to the same point in 2024 and in 2023. Current account totals are within \$2k of the account totals at the end of 2024, meaning that we have a solid cash position in fiscal year 2025.

### **II - Reconciling Restricted account balances**

Over the next month, we will meet with the people who are shepherding meeting concerns to review and confirm proper tracking of the receipts and expenditures for those concerns. The funds include restricted funds added in recent years, including for Reparations and Indigenous support, Hurricane Helene relief efforts (within Meeting and outside of Meeting), the disposition of the operating surplus from 2024, and the Meetinghouse improvements for the year.

### **III - Reporting Package for Meeting for Business, activity through 2025-09-30**

In the next business meeting, we will present a report of Operating and Restricted activity to date (typical format), a fund balance report to date, and an update/report on any restricted funds that were closed out. This should give the Meeting a clear understanding of our restricted funds, helping us steward our financial resources for the most support.

#### **Finance Committee Update for Ninth Month, 2025**

*Note about current-year expenses (from report on 2025-05-31)*

Comparisons “to budget” at this point in the year are difficult, because spending is not evenly distributed throughout the year. Notable expenses and transfers paid include:

- The annually-approved transfers to non-operating funds, in the amount of \$3,917, has been recorded for the year.
- The full annual premium for the Meeting’s insurance was paid, in the amount of \$4,961 (matching the budget target).
- The full SAYMA assessment has been paid, in the amount of \$4,675.
- Annual pest control and furnace maintenance has been performed.

Satchel is planning a trip to Asheville in the next few weeks and would like to set up meetings with individuals shepherding projects to make sure all of the budget information is lined up.

One Friend asked if the playground is included in the promised fund? The answer is yes.

One Friend asked how to get in touch with Satchel if they have connections with the reserved funds? The answer is by email to Satchel or by Whats App.

A Friend stated that it came up at the last Business Meeting that we keep talking about the Evie Frerotte Bequest as the Playground Fund. They propose that we rename that fund the Evie Frerotte Playground Fund.



One Friend would like it to be named the “Ellen (Evie) Frerotte Playground Fund”

**Minute #6- Friends approved the Evie Frerotte Bequest will be named the “ Ellen (Evie) Frerotte Playground Fund” and the Playground will be built with those funds. She will be honored with a plaque or sign. This will be managed by the Religious Education Committee.**

We closed the meeting with a period of silent worship a few minutes before 2 pm.