

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Asheville Friends Meeting Minutes
Tenth Month 12, 2025

Present in the Meetinghouse: Joelle Swaggert O'Brien, Presiding Clerk; Elliott Jarrett, Recording Clerk; Kitti Reynolds, Barbara Esther, Katherine Kowal, Jim Barham, Bob Lackey, Nick Mimken, Sara Jane Thomas, Bobby Carter, Patty Burgess, Margaret Farmer, Barbara Burke, Adrienne Weir, Jim Cavener, Steve Livingston, Rylin Hansen, Suzanne Junkin-Fredericks, Rusty Maynard

Present via Zoom: Gita Larson, Beth Eddy, Mike Eddy

The Meeting will open with Silent Worship.

Out of the silence, the Clerk shared a reading from *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

Of all the wise teachers who have come into my life, none are more eloquent than these, who wordlessly in leaf and vine embody the knowledge of relationship. Alone, a bean is just a vine, squash an oversize leaf. Only when standing together with corn does a whole emerge which transcends the individual. The gifts of each are more fully expressed when they are nurtured together than alone. In ripe ears and swelling fruit, they counsel us that all gifts are multiplied in relationship. This is how the world keeps going.

Presentation of the Agenda

Minute #1: The Agenda was accepted

Approval of 9th Month Minutes

Minute #2: The Minutes of the 9th month were approved.

Announcements

- The Meeting will be collecting food for MANNA FoodBank throughout October. Please donate nonperishable items which are securely packaged to thwart the critters which frequent the Meeting Grounds.

- **Tuesday, October 21**

Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting (SVFM) of Black Mountain, NC will be holding a forum/potluck from 5-8pm titled "How Federal Force is Reshaping Communities & How We Are Responding: From DC to North Carolina & Beyond." Margaret Fuener who has recently been attending SVFM, formerly of Friends Meeting Washington, will share experiences and community responses to the recent federal use of force in D.C. She has a background in national security and worked for the Department of Defense focusing on civilian harm mitigation and response until she resigned earlier this year. Attenders will share food, hear Margaret, and together, address our urgent concerns.

Ransom Hall, Warren Wilson Chapel

101 Chapel Lane, Swannanoa, NC

Bring: a friend and something to share (drink, entree, dessert, salad, appetizer)

For more information e-mail: Susan Ikenberry, sjikenbe@gmail.com

- **Sunday, November 2**

At 12 PM there will be a panel presentation and discussion on Autism and ADHD with Dr. Paul Fleischer and some members of our Meeting who are autistic and/or have ADHD. Please plan on joining us to learn more about these particular ways of being neurodivergent, and how they bring both gifts and challenges to the lived experiences of the people who are neurodivergent in these ways.

- **Thursday, November 6**

We hope you'll join Western North Carolina Community Health Services (WNCCHS) for a special networking breakfast with inclusive faith-based organizations. This will take place from 7:30-9am with an 8am presentation at

WNCCHS Minnie Jones Health Center

257 Biltmore Ave
Asheville, NC 28801

Together, they will share how they serve vulnerable populations in WNC and explore ways to strengthen community health.

WNCCHS is a nonprofit Community Health Center (FQHC) that has been caring for patients for more than 30 years. Each year, they serve over 14,000 individuals in Western North Carolina, offering primary care, behavioral health, dental, pharmacy, and a sliding-fee discount program. They provide care to all patients, regardless of ability to pay, and remain committed to respectful, compassionate care for ALL. More details are available in the digest.

Meeting Protocol for ICE Raids & Ad Hoc Response Team - Barbara E.

On Thursday, October 9, 2025, Asheville Meeting's Ministry and Counsel Committee was asked to work on protocols for responding to a raid by ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement). This is based on the model developed by Faith Communities for Immigration Justice (FCIJ). FCIJ's training materials were shared with Meeting in a second hour presentation last month.

Our M&C committee will review the FCIJ training materials and will draft a set of protocols for our Meeting in the event of a visit from ICE personnel. The purpose is to maintain a sense of calm and to protect our Meeting community during such an occurrence.

The Meeting's presiding clerk will form an Ad Hoc Response Team. Ministry and Counsel will refine the draft protocol and present it to our Meeting. In the event of a visit from ICE agents, the Response Team will implement the protocol.

Response Team suggestions: Steve Livingston, Barbara Esther, Matt Utterback, Pat Johnson, Joelle Swaggert O'Brien, Vinnie Grossi, Barbara Burke

Minute #3: The Clerk established a Response Team for enacting the Asheville Friends Meeting Protocol for ICE Raids as will be developed by Ministry and Counsel. The Response Team includes: Steve Livingston, Barbara Esther, Matt Utterback, Pat Johnson, Joelle Swaggert O'Brien, Vinnie Grossi, and Barbara Burke

Treasurer Report - Satchel Loftis

Satchel presented the operating results through the 9th month as compared to the budget and update us upon progress towards our annual target of contributions.

Members and attenders of Meeting have come through with incredible contributions toward the purchase/installation of the furnace. This means, among other things, that we may keep the Evey Frerotte fund intact! Satchel gave us the particulars on how the other funds may be spent towards our furnace and heating system: drawing \$8,500 from the Meeting House Improvement Fund, which has been accruing money for this kind of occasion, and the remaining balance (~\$1,000) from the House and Grounds Emergency Fund, similarly appropriate for this cost.

As far as our general progress towards achieving our budget for the year, Satchel reported that we have \$4,000 budget gap, which, considering other years, is a little better than we usually do, and if we continue to get contributions from members/attenders as we generally do around this holiday season, we ought to end the year neatly solvent. Satchel also included a report on our restricted funds as of 9/30/25.

[AFM Operating Activity](#)

A Friend thanked Satchel for how succinct, clear, and helpful his presentation was.

A Friend likes the recommendation and says that the heating will be taken from funds designated for that purpose. They aren't too worried about using that money because we will gradually renew them.

A Friend expressed gratitude to the folks that stepped up and invested \$9,450 collectively. They are also excited to have not spent all of the money so that if we have another major expense like a roof replacement we will be prepared.

Minute #4: Meeting has accepted Satchel's report with gratitude and approves the finance committee's recommendation. The recommendation goes as follows: we will draw \$8,500 for Meeting House Improvement Fund and the balance from the House and Ground Emergency Fund and use the \$10,000 donated directly for this cost by members and attenders to pay the total of \$20,000.

The Meeting closed with silent worship until the way opens for our next business meeting in the eleventh month of 2025.