

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Asheville Friends Meeting Agenda
Eleventh Month 9, 2025

Present in the Meetinghouse: Joelle Swaggert O'Brien, Clerk; Elliott Jarrett, Recording Clerk; Margaret Farmer, Barbara Esther, Kitty Reynolds, Nick Mimken, Sarah Jane Thomas, Jim Barham, Jim Cavener Katherine Kowal, Pat Johnson, Robin Wells, Rylin Hansen, Steve Livingston, Suzanne Junkin-Friedrichs, Suzie Crespo, Chris Foote, Addrienne Weir, Scottie Utz, Alex Poule, Tim Burgess

Present via Zoom:

The meeting opened with Silent Worship.

Out of the silence, the Clerk will share a reading from an editorial in *Young India*, 1931 by Mohandis Karamchand Gandhi

It is good enough to talk of God whilst we are sitting here after a nice breakfast and looking forward to a nicer luncheon, but how am I to talk of God to the millions who have to go without two meals a day. To them God can only appear as bread and butter.

Presentation of the Agenda

Minute #1: The Agenda was accepted.

Approval of 10th Month Minutes

Minute #2: The 10th Month Minutes were approved.

Approval of the 10th Month Called Meeting Minutes

Minute #3: The 10th month called Meeting Minutes were approved.

Announcements

- **On November 16th**, we will have a 2nd Hour Program on vocal ministry. Friends new to Quakerism and long-timers are invited to participate.
- **On November 30th**, there will be a 2nd Hour presentation by Trey Adcock from the Center for Native Health. He will be presenting an update on their mission and goals.
- **On December 7th**, we will have our annual multigenerational Simple Christmas Craft Gathering. Anyone interested in leading a craft during this event can contact Robin Wells at robin.wells.777@gmail.com.

- **On December 21st**, we will be putting on an almost no-rehearsal, multigenerational Christmas Play. Plan on joining in on the fun.
- **On December 28th**, our second-hour Sandwich Sunday will be our shared Holiday Meal. We also invite people to bring musical instruments to play a song for everyone. Expertise is not needed. We may even have some carol singing. We are searching for an emcee for this event.

Friends for Racial Equity Report–Sarah Jane

The BENEFICIAL Committee has changed its name to Friends for Racial Equity. The committee would like to share the mission statement we created.

Friends for Racial Equity Mission Statement

Friends for Racial Equity is a committee of Asheville Friends Meeting that is focusing on racial equity by building relationships, engaging with the broader community, and nurturing awareness in our Meeting Community.

Our Goals:

- Build trust and relationships;
- Continue conversations with the broader community to advance reparative justice and promote healing;
- Participate in the advancement of reparations in the Asheville community;
- Support the transformation of racist systems.
- Work towards liberation from the white supremacy culture in our faith community.

If you would like to be part of this new committee, please let one of our committee members know. (Nick Mimken, Sarah Jane Thomas, Pat Johnson, and Robin Wells) We'd love to have you join us!

A Friend asks if we approved the name of Beneficial and asks to make a minute to change the name to Friends for Racial Equity

A Friend thanks the committee for hearing the Meeting concerns that Beneficial did not describe the committee's intent and purpose.

Minute #4- The Meeting Approved the Beneficial Committee's name being changed to the Friends for Racial Equity.

House & Grounds Tree Removal–Tim

A Latino-owned tree company, Los Romeros, has been chosen and the removal of the tree will happen shortly. The cost will be approximately \$800, which includes cutting up the tree and removing it. It can come from the House & Grounds Emergency Fund, which has \$4,500 in it.

Finance Committee– Pat

The finance committee reminds committees to submit their 2026 budget requests to Beth Eddy or Pat Johnson by the end of November. The committee will compile these requests so that Satchel, our Treasurer, can present a draft 2026 budget in December. Hopefully we can then approve the 26 budget in January.

Finance also reminds us to get the SAYMA census data for our Meeting to the Finance Committee and the SAYMA Office so that we can include the SAYMA assessment in the 26 budget.

The MLK Prayer Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, Jan 17. Tickets are \$30/person or tables for 10 are \$300. Finance will decide whether to get a table but we need to know how much interest there is in attending the Prayer Breakfast. Please let us know how many tickets you anticipate purchasing. For the past several years, the finance committee has taken on the duty of preparing and submitting an ad for the souvenir program. We are considering placing a bigger ad this time. If you have any suggestions for the ad, please let Pat Johnson know.

A Friend asks if more information on the Prayer Breakfast can be published

A Friend reminds us that the MLK Association post more information

First Draft Protocol for Response Team presented by Ministry & Counsel–Robin

FIRST DRAFT 11/9/25
Asheville Friends Meeting

Protocols for Potential Federal Law Enforcement Agent Visitation

In the event we receive a visit from federal law enforcement agents, such as ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement), we want to be prepared to interact with integrity in the manner of Friends. We agree to meet the agents in a calm and organized way. We choose to respect the rights of every individual who comes to our Meetinghouse. Therefore we are presenting these guidelines in order that we may work together with an orderly, pre-planned approach.

Order of Planned Actions:

- Someone alerts the community and Response Team using the signal indicating that suspected agent/s may be present or approaching (Alert: “Response Team, please follow me.”)
 - The Response Team *Guardian* secures private spaces, alerts child care personnel. Private spaces are the entire upstairs, the office, and the basement. *Guardian* will remain upstairs with the First Day School during the entire event.
- NOTE: We need to be sure the *Guardian* is aware of the type of warrant that is being presented.

- The Response Team *Caller* calls CIMA hotline: 888-839-2839. The Caller remains on the line as long as needed.
- The Response Team *Spokesperson* and *Reporter* approach the agents together. The *Spokesperson* initiates conversation: “What brings you here today?” NOTE: This is preferably on the porch, since we are NOT inviting them in.
- The *Reporter* photographs and examines any Judicial and Administrative warrants, and records agents’ names, badge numbers, and agency:
 - Did the agent/s refuse to identify or misidentify themselves?
 - Did they have a warrant? (take a photo of the warrant)
 - Did they engage in searching without consent?
 - Did they intimidate, use hate speech, or use force?
- The Response Team *Shepherd* is in the Meetingroom and asks for calm, urging everyone to maintain good Quaker order, “Stay calm and follow our protocol.” The *Shepherd* will ask someone to take the nametag board into the office and strip the name tags off of the board and put them into a drawer of the desk or file cabinet as well as put the visitor sign-in notebook in the office. The office should then be locked. The *Shepherd* will also ask everyone in the Meetingroom to remove their nametags. The *Shepherd* will advise all present of their rights
 - You have the right to remain silent.
 - You have the right to leave unless you are being arrested.
 - You are not required to show identification or any other document.
 - You are not required to consent to a search.
 - You are not required to relinquish your phone.
 - You are not required to sign anything.
 - You have the right to speak to an attorney.

The *Shepherd* will also hand out CIMA Red Cards to attenders present.

The Response Team *Recorders* initiate video recording, encouraging others to record/document the interactions. We will NOT post this online unless we have permission from the people being detained. The Response Team *Observer* goes outside and records the agents’ car make/model, license tag number, and number of agents present.

Guidelines for Everyone

DO THIS

Ask if you are free to go
 Be polite whenever addressing agent/s
 Remain silent
 Document abductions
 Record entire interaction

INSTEAD OF THIS

Attempt to run or hide
 Shout or speak rudely
 Lie or mislead agent/s
 Attempt to intercede
 Livestream interaction

Response Team Guidelines

- All team members should have the CIMA hotline number in their phone: 888-839-2839
- All team members should know how to make video recording on phone
- All team members should know the difference between administrative and judicial warrant (see examples below)

Roles of the Team Members

- One is identified as *Spokesperson*
- One is identified as *Backup Spokesperson*, in case the Spokesperson is not present that day.
- One is identified as the *Reporter* and will stay alongside the *Spokesperson* to document what takes place.
 - Were the agents identified? What was their identification - names, badge numbers, agency/ies?
 - Did the agent/s refuse to identify or misidentify themselves?
 - Did they have a warrant? (take a photo of the warrant)
 - Did they engage in searching without consent?
 - Did they intimidate, use hate speech, or use force?
- One is identified as *Guardian* and is assigned to secure private spaces and join with the upstairs cohort.
- One is identified as the *Shepherd* and will remain in the Meetingroom to help maintain calm and order.
- Two people will be identified as *Recorders* and will take video of the encounter.
- One is assigned as *Observer* and along with the *Reporter*, will write a follow-up report addressing these questions along with other details:
 - Where and when did the encounter take place
 - What vehicle/s did they arrive in? Did they have identifying markings or license tags?
- One person is assigned to obtain emergency contact info from any person who is detained (who?)

NOTE: All Response Team Members should fully understand and be able to step in and do all roles identified in the team.

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The 4th Amendment to our Constitution declares the right to be free from unreasonable search and seizure.

Currently either a judicial warrant (issued by a court and signed by a judge) or your consent is necessary in order for government agents to enter private spaces. Private spaces in the Meetinghouse are the office, the basement, and all of the upstairs.

An administrative warrant (issued by ICE) should be shown for entering public spaces. Public spaces at the Meetinghouse are the outdoor grounds, the meeting room, the library, bathrooms, back entryway, and kitchen.

A Friend would like to remind us to use the term Undocumented Human Being instead of "Illegal Immigrant."

A Friend reminded us that we can all help to maintain calm and order in the event of the necessity of an "Emergency Response."

One Friend encouraged the Meeting to get a legible copy of the difference between Judicial Warrant and Administrative Warrant.

A Friend inquired over our process if the Agents refuse to identify themselves. Specifically if local law enforcement would be called?

We were educated by a Friend of the guidance of CIMA. It is recommended that they are called immediately. They will send a representative to participate in the response. They discourage us from calling Law enforcement (because the response time is slow and because they often don't know what to do). In the event that the person is not an agent, CIMA representatives should help us make that assessment and guide us through further action.

A Friend asked if we are required to ask permission to take photos of agents, cars, etc.

A Friend responded that because we are not uploading to social media and just gathering evidence it makes it a different case.

A Friend reminded us that there are faith communities who post the difference between the two warrants at the door and encourages us to consider this.

We are reminded that some groups use our space and consider their gathering private. Is there a way we could indicate that the building is considered private?

A Friend stated that we could have a "Private Meeting in Progress" sign to put on the door for renters

A Friend asks if we could change the language from "response team follow me" and add if anybody would feel safer to move to a private space please follow the response team. We talked about how it would be unmanageable if everyone got up to move to a private space. Our private spaces are small. We also talked about not asking people to state if they are undocumented.

"Si son indocumentados y quieren moverse a nuestro espacio protegido, por favor siganme"

"If you are undocumented and would like to move to our protected space, please follow me"

A Friend wanted to mention that the source of the Presidential daily briefing under this administration is Fox News and Asheville was featured last week. They remind us that we are on the radar and that we were a “Hot Bed for Violent Crime” and the “ Headquarters of Antifa.”

A Friend gave the opinion that if we have 7 roles we should have 10 people.

We are reminded that we can only encourage people to stay and that we can't stop them from leaving.

A Friend asked what we will do in the Meeting if this happens. Holding the whole situation in the light, songs, snacks etc.

We are reminded that there are resources to record and upload the recordings to the cloud. Look up apps.

A Friend asked us to consider that the likelihood is that they will be coming to intimidate us. They may not come in through the front room and that there will be many officers. Essentially, we need to prepare for many versions of this event.

A Friend reminded us of the story of early Friends continuing to worship when a group of Indigenous folks entered the Meeting House.

A Friend mentioned that handing out CIMA red cards is appropriate more so for those in danger of abduction. These know your rights cards do not contain information relevant to most of our meeting, so we don't need them for the entire meeting.

Meeting closed with silent worship. We will reconvene as way opens on Sunday, December 14th.