

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Asheville Friends Meeting Minutes
Tenth Month, Eleven 2026
DRAFT

Present in the Meetinghouse: Interim Clerk: Robin Wells, Interim Recording Clerk: Laura McCullough, Steve Livingston, Matt Utterback, Richardson Exius, Barbara Esther, Jim Cavener, Rylin Hansen, Adrienne Weir, Jim Barham, Tim Burgess, Katherine Kowal, Sarah Jane Thomas, Ellie Cox, Deanna Hatch, Bobby Carter, Valerie Hogstrom, Mike Eddy, Burt Kensey, Bonnie Siegel, Rusty Maynard, Suzanne Junkin-Fredericks.

Present via Zoom: Beth Eddy, Satchel Loftis

The meeting opened at 12:00 pm with silent worship.

Out of the silence, the Interim Clerk read a poem by Parker Palmer. *On the Brink of Everything: Grace, Gravity & Getting Old*, Appalachian Autumn, p. 169.

No, I'm not as old as the hills
that rise around me as I rest
amid the tawny grasses of this
holler. But here in late October
of my seventy-third year, they
feel like age-mates to me. The
greens of spring and summer
are long-gone from the trees.
Leaves of crimson, burnt
umber and amber flare against
the darkening sky, defying
with beauty the soon-to-end
cycle of one more round of
life and love in this long-
time landscape of suffering.

The ancient earth takes it all in,
indifferent and compassionate
in the same breath. This is how
I want to live, my failings and
lost opportunities forgiven
as they are under this sun____
released in their triviality,
resurrected as new life____
en route to dying with
thanks and praise and no
mind-begotten regrets.

Agenda Review

Minute #1: Meeting accepted the agenda.

Approval of 9th Month Minutes

Minute #2: The 9th Month Minutes were approved with no corrections.

Announcements:

- Wish you had some quiet worship time in the middle of the week? We have a midweek worship meeting each Wednesday from 4-6:00 pm at the Asheville Friends Meetinghouse. Drop in as your schedule allows, anytime during 4-6:00 pm.
- The children in Meeting want to put on another Fall Festival this year at rise of Meeting on November 1st. We had a lot of multigenerational fun last year bobbing for donuts, making crafts, and sending ghosts into the Ghost Motel. What fun will the kids stir up this year?
- The Meetinghouse will be rewired between Tuesday, October 27th, and Wednesday, October 28th. The electricity may be off at times. Renters are being notified.
- During the second hour on Sunday, October 18th, we will discuss the Pendle Hill pamphlet, *Four Doors to Meeting for Worship*. This essay describes four doors as thresholds into the heart of worship. It's helpful for both new and long-time members and attenders. We will get more of these pamphlets, or you can order your own at Pendle Hill if you'd like. It is also available on Kindle and Audible. Feel free to join the discussion on the 18th even if you haven't read the pamphlet.
- Please do not take the food drive box from the foyer. Someone has been moving it every week.
- Renters have mentioned that our foyer is cluttered and it is embarrassing. Please keep this in mind when we place items in the foyer.

Committee Reports:

Communication - Mike Eddy

Laptop Research Report

This is a report on Mike Eddy and Doug Lane's investigation and testing of the Meeting House laptop. This is what they did:

- installed missing Windows 10 updates (note: this laptop does not qualify to update to Windows 11)
- ran a virus scan and removed problematic applications
- compared wifi vs. wired internet connections to laptop
- considered possible routing of Ethernet wiring from cable modem to laptop locations

We concluded that either Ethernet wiring or a better laptop would address Meetinghouse laptop issues.

Mike and Doug determined the internet Wi-Fi is working fine; the laptop needs to be replaced. Burt will donate a laptop; thank you, Burt. Mike will work on setting it up. We decided to run an Ethernet cable to the meeting room. Do we need two Ethernet cables? Where should they be? Does it need to be done this month? One Friend raised safety concerns about our renters having to run cords across the floor. If the Ethernet jack is available along the main wall, would they still have to run cables?

Minute #3: Meeting thanks the Communications Committee for the recommendations. We will replace the computer being used for Zoom broadcast. We thank Burt for offering a Windows 11 laptop to replace the old Meetinghouse laptop. The meeting approves installing an Ethernet cable in the Meetingroom, with the location(s) to be determined. We are concerned about tripping hazards and safety with the Ethernet cable, as they currently need to run cords along the floor. We will talk to our renters regarding their thoughts on the best location for the cables.

- Finance - Satchel Loftis

The focus of this report is on Income from gifts — both the unrestricted gifts and the gifts received for specific restricted funds.

Unrestricted gifts are used to meet the annual operating expenses of the meeting (along with money received from rental income and interest earned). Year-to-date amounts for each type of income are reported alongside annual budget amounts. Year-to-date unrestricted gifts amounted to approximately \$20,000, or 60% of the annual amount budgeted for fiscal year 2026. This is a reasonable level to have reached by the 75% point of the year. (A significant percentage of annual unrestricted gifts are received in the fourth quarter of the calendar year.) It is also encouraging that it is in the middle range when compared to year-to-date gifts received in the four most recent fiscal years.

Other gifts received were restricted by the donor and are listed by restricted fund. Notably, the Building & Grounds Reserve Fund received \$23,250 in gifts.

Minute #4: Meeting accepted the finance report with thanks to Satchel. We requested a report in November that shows expenses relative to our operating budget. Please see the attached finance report.

Other:

Building and Grounds Reserve Fund—Robin Wells

We want to thank everyone contributing to the Building and Grounds Reserve Fund. We are getting closer to the funding we need to complete our projects. This week, R7 Painting Service cleaned and sealed the back stair and porch. R7 Painting Service is a Black-owned company in the Asheville area. We think they did a great job. We put some cards for this company on the table in the foyer. Consider taking one if you have an upcoming painting job.

We will begin the rewiring project in the last week of October. The Meetinghouse may be without power at any time between Tuesday the 27th and Thursday the 29th. We are doing our best to minimize disruption to the renters that use our Meetinghouse. Clocks move back on Sunday, November 1st, so a lack of power may not impact midweek worship, unless the temperature drops drastically.

We are currently taking bids to replace or repair the driveway. Sewer and gas lines will need to be addressed because both are in the driveway or parking lot. If the sewer line needs work, it would be easiest to address it while the driveway is being worked on.

We are removing the broken concrete on the driveway. We will use the broken pieces to expand our parking lot. House and Grounds will report back. One Friend pointed out that the retaining walls are not decoration; they are essential for holding back soil erosion.

Request from NC Peace Action - Matt Utterback

Asheville Friends Meeting has been asked to consider joining other organizations in endorsing this letter from Joe Cicero of NC Peace Action to Roy Cooper, candidate for US Senate. Other options are listed at the end of the letter.

Hello, Governor Cooper,

We thank you for your strong service as our governor. Now you want to be our next Senator, but a search of your campaign website shows nothing about the important foreign policy issues we face. Your focus is to "make stuff cost less." We propose that one step in this direction is to stop the spending of our tax dollars for the murder of children.

We'll be coming to your campaign office in numbers at 8 am on October 20th with these specific asks:

- Pledge to oppose any defense appropriation or authorization spending that fails to end the war against Iran. This unauthorized war has killed schoolchildren and American service members, destroyed civilian neighborhoods and water treatment centers, and caused energy prices to skyrocket, wreaking havoc both for everyday Americans struggling to pay for gas and basic goods, and for people living in poverty around the world. If the President won't listen to Congress when it directs him to stop this war, then Congress needs to use its power of the purse to cut off the funds.
- Release a statement affirming the legally binding nature of the Iran War Powers Resolutions and support future war powers resolutions. The founders of our country assigned the constitutional power to launch war to Congress, not leaving it up to one person. The House and Senate have both passed resolutions directing President Trump to terminate unauthorized hostilities against Iran. Members of Congress should use their position to enforce.
- Publicly push for the full release of the Department of Defense's investigation into the U.S. bombing of the Minab Elementary School. It has been months since

this strike tragically killed 120 children and dozens more teachers and staff, yet the Department of Defense has still not publicly released its promised investigation into the incident despite it being complete for weeks.

- Publicly call for and support a peace agreement, which will require lifting sanctions and unfreezing assets. Economic relief is a necessary component of securing verifiable nuclear concessions and long-term de-escalation. Everyday civilians bear the brunt of U.S. sanctions and freezing of public assets, with significant impacts on access to food, medicine, and basic economic stability. Congress should avoid measures that deepen this humanitarian harm or undermine diplomatic progress.

- Publicly state that it is time to end unconditional military support, unconditional diplomatic alignment, and unconditional arms sales to Israel. The US should have a normal relationship with Israel - as it does with other countries.

Perhaps you would like to take the opportunity at our gathering to address the crowd and make these statements. Perhaps you would like to meet with the leaders of our movement before that day, or at 9:30 after the rally.

Joe Cicero, NC Peace Action, for the following organizations

- NC Council of Churches
- District 4 Action for Gaza
- NC Coalition for Gaza

Discussion: We will not be signing this letter at this time. While we agree with many of these points, we have concerns that the issues are not being addressed to all candidates or currently elected officials; the rushed time frame does not allow us to complete our discernment process; and we are unclear on the goal of sending the letter. The language in the letter seems coercive, and if not, it seems performative. This should be discussed with Bob personally; we do not need to take action on this letter. We did not find unity on this issue.

Minute #5: Meeting did not reach unity about signing this document.

The Business Meeting closed at 1:50 pm with a period of silent worship to meet again as the way opens for our Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on the Eighth Day, Eleventh Month, 2026.

Asheville Friends Meeting

Reports for Meeting for Business — Tenth Month 2026

Payments Received – 2026 YTD (through 2026-10-09)

	Amount to date	Budget Amount	% of Budget
<i>Unrestricted Operating Income</i>			
Unrestricted Gifts	20,546	34,000	60%
Rent Income	3,718	5,500	68%
Interest Income	360	500	72%
Yard Sale income	1,591	0	
Total Operating Income	\$ 26,215	\$ 40,000	66%

Restricted Gift Income

Building & Grounds Reserve Fund	23,250
Community Support Fund	775
Indigenous Peoples Fund	100
M&C Needs Fund Fund	100
Reparations Fund	300
Total Restricted Income	\$ 24,525

(annual transfers not included)

Total Income \$ 50,740

Unrestricted Gifts at 9/30 vs. Annual Budget

	Gifts through 9/30	Annual Budget for Gifts	% of Budget	% of Calendar
FY2021	\$18,640	\$23,800	78%	75%
FY2022	\$16,896	\$28,278	60%	75%
FY2023	\$15,696	\$30,635	51%	75%
FY2024	\$16,407	\$29,500	56%	75%
FY2025	\$20,642	\$32,000	65%	75%
FY2026	\$20,546	\$34,000	60%	75%

	Gifts through 7/31	Annual Budget for Gifts	% of Budget	% of Calendar
FY2021	\$12,275	\$23,800	52%	58%
FY2022	\$13,706	\$28,278	48%	58%
FY2023	\$12,665	\$30,635	41%	58%
FY2024	\$12,142	\$29,500	41%	58%
FY2025	\$15,860	\$32,000	50%	58%
FY2026	\$14,951	\$34,000	44%	58%