# Minutes of the Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business Sixth Month 20, 2010

Clerk: Katherine Kowal

Recording Clerk: Barbara Esther, standing in for Jen Rhode Ward

Present: George Gjelfriend, Rusty Maynard, Kitti Reynolds, Joy Gossett, Pat Johnson, Steve Livingston, Susan Mitchell, Bobby Carter, Jim Cavener, Raelin Hansen, Tom Edelson, Alan Robinson.

We began with a period of silent worship. The clerk brought the following reading:

"People who have never heard of sense of the Meeting sense that they are being listened to - their ideas valued. Their self-esteem is nurtured. Their defenses go down. They come to enjoy an atmosphere where thoughts are stirred in a melting pot rather than attacked. Ideas usually become our ideas. People laugh a lot.....Their friendships deepen, their loyalties strengthened. And, as in Quaker business meeting, it is not decisions they respond to, but a process and a Presence through which they sense their joyful connection to one another"

Barry Morley
<u>Beyond Consensus: Salvaging Sense of the Meeting</u>

The agenda was reviewed and accepted.

Approval of Minutes of Fourth and Fifth Months

One Friend expressed thanks for the ease of getting to the minutes at our meeting web-site.

**Minute 1:** Both the Fourth and Fifth Month minutes were approved as posted.

Finance Committee Report

#### click here to view Finance Committee report

Pat explained that a deposit had been made in the last week that had not been entered into this report due to the busyness of last weekend at yearly meeting. The change in our contribution to yearly meeting has proved difficult to make on the software. A Friend suggested we try to meet the larger amount since the yearly meeting is having the same budget problems everyone else is experiencing. The matterwas referred to the Finance Committee.

**Minute 2:** The meeting accepted the report of the Finance Committee, asking that the committee consider ways to increase our contribution to SAYMA.

#### Peace and Earth Committee Report

Kitti Reynolds reported that contributions to the Riverlink and to Manna Food Bank have been made, taking advantage of available matching funds. There is another opportunity to contribute breakfast for needy Asheville people on July 18, at Pritchard Park. Meeting members can make food contributions. She also informed us of some recent use of bird nest boxes placed in the yard. We have apparently provided a home for a house wren. It has certainly serenaded us.

## Report from SAYMA

Pat Johnson announced that she will be advancing information to SAYMA Ecological Network as to how Friends are witnessing to their care of the Earth. Alan Robinson requested that any words that could add to the work of the Faith and Practice Revision Committee be forwarded to him so that a new section can be added to our Guide on the subject of Earth Care.

Katherine Kowal, our clerk, asked what interest there was in our developing closer ties and more opportunities for worshipping and having fellowship with our neighbor meeting(s). The initial interest was to reach out to Swannanoa Valley Meeting, but there is also interest in inviting Celo and Brevard to join in events from time to time. Katherine called for a committee to initiate the contacts and begin to plan for events. One Friend asked whether it could be done without the formation of an ad hoc committee, if worship and potluck could be done without too much fuss.

Another Friend spoke in favor of shepherding the invitation through our Ministry and Counsel Committee to emphasize the weight of the notion of meeting together with other monthly meetings in proximity.

**Minute 3:** Friends approved having Ministry and Counsel shepherd the initiation of contact with area meetings for fellowship and worship together.

### Transfer of Membership

The Clerk read the letter of release of Edie Patrick from Foxfire Meeting. She has requested a clearness process as she joins our meeting. The following were appointed to serve as a clearness committee for Edie: Joy Gossett, convener, Alan Robinson and George Gjelfriend.

#### Archivist Issues

Susan Mitchell reported as former Archivist that she has located a list of meeting members. She and Barbara Esther will meet to review the list and bring it up to date. Alan Robinson offered to add his information to the review, having just worked on the directory. Susan asked that the meeting offer its support as she reorganizes the records. We may need to find a new archivist to continue the work. In the meantime,

Laura Maynard and Barbara Esther are planning to organize and update the papers for which Phil Neal has cared in the past few years. Laura will be informed of the plan to meet with Susan Mitchell.

#### Other

Steve Livingston brought his concern that we arrange our chairs in a circle since we are a smaller group. Ministry and Counsel did discuss the issue but had not yet reported on its discussion. One Friend suggested the use of the west end of the worship space around the bay window. Another Friend reminded us that a few Friends arrive in time to put chairs out. Those Friends will need to be thanked and informed of the wishes of the meeting. It was suggested that perhaps a look at the arrangement of chairs could happen as part of the review of the schedule. Another Friend passed on the suggestion that we meet outside when weather permits. We need to continue to try to meet the comfort and concerns of various Friends as we arrange the chairs for our meetings for worship. It is also recommended that not all 75 chairs be set out. A Friend reminded us that latecomers will need to find a seat within any arrangement of chairs. We are also reminded that arriving by or before 10:00 a.m. is helpful to the settling of our meetings. A Friend spoke of his experience of the facing bench as part of his feeling part of the group as a whole. A closed circle would limit the geometric complexity of the group configuration. We are counseled to arrive early to experiment with various arrangements of the chairs so that we can arrive at a comfortable arrangement for all.

The clerk called for a committee to review the successes or challenges of the return to our present schedule. It was suggested that on Seventh Month 11, on the First Day that we usually have business meeting, we have a discussion and report the results to the August meeting. An announcement could be put on the list serve and the blog in the meantime. Oral announcements following our meetings for worship will be made as well. A Friend who served on the ad hoc committee to change the schedule will be sought to clerk that discussion.

Our next business meeting is scheduled for Eighth Month, second First Day.

We concluded the meeting for business with a time of silent worship.

# click here to return to discussion of Finance Committee report

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