

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

Present in the Meetinghouse: Deanna Hatch, Interim Clerk; Elliott Jarrett, Recording Clerk; Margaret Normile, Pat Johnson, Ellie Cox, Barbara Esther, Jim Barham, Scottie Utz, Robin Wells, Nick Mimkin, Steve Livingston, Jim Cavener, Sara Jane Thomas, Rusty Maynard, Olivia Campbell, Adrienne Weir, Sandra Parker, Suzanne Junkin-Fredericks

Present via Zoom: Edith Patrick, Gita Larson, Beth Eddy, Mike Eddy, Barbara Burke, Rylín Hansen, Satchel Loftis

The Interim Clerk shares a reading out of the silence.

The Guest House

by Rumi

Translated by Coleman Barks

This being human is a guest
house.
Every morning a new arrival.

empty of its furniture,
still, treat each guest honorably.
He may be clearing you out
for some new delight.

A joy, a depression, a meanness,
some momentary awareness
comes
as an unexpected visitor.

The dark thought, the shame, the
malice,
meet them at the door laughing,
and invite them in.

Welcome and entertain them all!
Even if they're a crowd of
sorrows,
who violently sweep your house

Be grateful for whoever comes,
because each has been sent
as a guide from beyond.

Agenda is presented.
The agenda was accepted

First Month's minutes approval.

A friend has a request that the budget be approved from last month. If the finance committee could help with that.

Operating activity for 2024 some final changes were made and we want to ensure that the final activity is correct.

A friend reminds us that it is important to post the approved minutes and not leave them in draft.

Minute #1: The first month's minutes were approved with changes discussed.

Announcements:

Secret Pal Reveal Party on 2/16/25: We will end our 2025 Secret Pal Program with a reveal party. People participating in Secret Pals will sit in a circle and give their last gift to their pals, instead of putting the gift on the mantle. The reveal will be followed by a Crepe Buffet that everyone is invited to join the fun, whether you were a secret pal or not.

Thank you notes from:

Raw Tools

Celo Friends

BeLoved

BeLoved

Copies of the letters are at the end of this document.

A Note from Donna Smith (when she was told that we missed Bob at meeting)

Thank you for reaching out to us. Yes, he was a great human being and is dearly missed by us. We were lucky to have him in our lives. I know he loved all of you. Meeting was important to him. I was responsible for getting him to try meeting. He was searching spiritually in his late twenties. I attended meeting at that point and thought it would be a good fit for what he was looking for. The rest is history. I found meeting didn't meet my needs. I was agnostic for a long while when in my fifties. I followed our son into the Catholic Church. It solved what I was searching for. Bob grew up Catholic, then left when he was in his late teens. Bob always supported my decision. He realized there are different paths to the same end. He said he missed the Eucharist, but nothing else. Anyway, you guys

have been wonderful. I really appreciate your love. All the best to you.

Agenda Items:

Letter Sent from Nashville Meeting to the SAYMA Clerk: Robin Wells

AFM received a copy of this letter that was sent to the Clerk of SAYMA.

Nashville Friends Meeting
530 26th Ave N
Nashville, TN 37209

Dear Jennifer Dickie,

I'm writing to inform you of a recent decision from Nashville Friends Meeting while sending Light from the Cumberland Valley. Our Meeting is currently within an extensive process of discernment surrounding our relationship with Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association after many years of this being of great concern. We do not yet know what we will be called to do, but we have determined that our Meeting is weary from this process and needs time to rest, reflect, come together and then continue after.

Because of this, we will be taking a six-month Spiritual pause from our SAYMA responsibilities and involvement. Any members of Nashville Friends Meeting attending SAYMA gatherings will be doing so because they are individually called to do so, not as representatives of NFM. This pause will be Spiritual, not financial, and so we will continue to pay our SAYMA dues as expected. Additionally, we will continue our Meeting's involvement with SAYF, which is so dear to our young Friends. At the end of our pause, we will send representatives to Yearly Meeting, and then revisit as a Meeting how we are called to proceed.

We appreciate your vision and Spiritual groundedness, and look forward to providing you and SAYMA more clarity about our relationship with more time, reflection and rest.

Yours in Friendship,
Arlo Pate
Co-Clerk, Nashville Friends Meeting

While this letter does not require a response, Ministry & Counsel felt we should let them know that we received it and we care about them.

Dear Arlo and Nashville Friends Meeting,

We received your letter and appreciate your thoughtful approach to finding the way forward. Thank you for sharing your process with what you all needed to do to care for yourselves, with ample time to consider your relationship to the yearly meeting.

Asheville Friends care deeply for you and your meeting's spiritual wellbeing as you heal and discern your next steps.

In peace and friendship,

Robin Wells, Clerk
Ministry & Counsel Committee
Asheville Friends Meeting

Action Needed: Approval of letter being sent to Nashville Friends Meeting.

Minute #2 The letter was approved.

Response from the SAYMA Racial Conflict Transformation Team: Margaret Farmer

This letter was written in response to two letters written by Chattanooga Friends Meeting (CFM)

January 2025

Dear Friends,

We are sharing this response as the Racial Conflict Transformation [RCT] Team of SAYMA. We have received your letters and held them in our hearts reflecting on your words and Spirit.

We find ourselves in agreement in some places and in disagreement in others which feels uncomfortable. One thing we know well is that grappling with discomfort is the work of the RCT Team and Quakers generally. Monthly and Yearly Meetings across the world are struggling with new understandings of previously accepted norms and practices. How could we not, as people of continuous revelation? SAYMA as an organization continues to be deeply committed to Quaker testimonies and practices even as we remain open to the possibility that they may look different through the process of spiritual transformation and revelation.*

We hold a vision of SAYMA as a stronger, more spiritual, diverse and actively anti-racist body, with children, teens, and young adults flocking to our sessions. The need to overcome the culture of racial bias within the Society of Friends and SAYMA is indeed important. We see the YM taking steps toward becoming an anti-racist community and understand that the journey will take many years.
[CFM Letter 10/2024]

In this we agree. We are not where we want to be AND we are not where we were. We are a community in transition. We value the spiritual growth implicit in learning how to be in community with those who are different from ourselves. Monthly meetings and individual Friends are in different places on this journey. It is not comfortable nor easy. As your letters reflect, in years past we have experienced business meetings that were uncomfortable, and to some, untenable. We have to varying degrees felt challenged by differences in the ways Friends respond to injustice. However, we recognize that these experiences are not universal, and we disagree with CFM's assertion that "... no progress has been made, and SAYMA has become a space where no one feels comfortable." [CFM Letter 12/2024] As we continue to allow Spirit's movement, individuals and

communities have responded as led. SAYMA, as a coalition of monthly meetings, and SAYMA Uplifting Racial Justice [URJ] have taken steps to bridge some of the differences among us including an effort to build a common language around anti-racism. We offer this list of some of the work that has been done and is ongoing and faithfully acknowledge that Star Smith has been instrumental in initiating and contributing to much of it.

- SAYMA URJ maintains a list of anti-racism resources on SAYMA.org that Friends are encouraged to explore individually and as monthly meetings;
- We established and are in the 3rd year of a Racial Conflict Transformation Program helping Friends to deal with their discomfort and the paradoxes in racial justice work. All Friends are invited to participate in the program of year-long affinity groups and 3-teaching modules;
- We invited Friend Angela Hopkins, from the Friends center for Racial Justice, to work with us to focus on Quaker process and our struggle with racial justice issues (YM 2022);
- We held threshing sessions and conversations with professional facilitators, SY Bowland and Ukumbwa Sauti, that helped us to address some conflicts between individuals and understand better some of the history of various concerns (YM 2024);
- We established guidelines for meetings for worship with attention to business (YM 2024);
- We established the Racial Conflict Transformation Team** to help us move forward in less harmful ways (RM 153).

The Racial Conflict Transformation Team is tasked to develop processes that can effectively address racial conflict in the yearly meeting, identify Quaker resources available to aid us in this work, and to implement the process as needed to address racial conflict. While we are new at this, we have identified some guidelines we find helpful and we invite you to use them to support us all in this conflict.

★ We will look for and affirm that of God in ourselves and others. (YM 2024)

★ We will listen in a spirit of continuing revelation. (YM 2024)

★ We will listen for truth and refrain from put-downs of ourselves or others. (YM 2024)

- ★ We can disagree, recognizing that of God in one another. (YM 2024)
- ★ We will experience and examine our discomfort recognizing that it is part of the work of becoming an antiracist community. (Singleton, G., 2006)
- ★ We will refrain from centering our anger, hurt, or frustration on one Meeting, group, or individual recognizing that we are all deeply involved in the conflict and must work together to transform ourselves, our monthly meetings, and SAYMA and avoid factionalization. (RCT Team 2025)
- ★ We will stay engaged and take care of ourselves. If we need to take a break or ask for help, we will do so that we can stay engaged for the long term. (Singleton, G., 2006)

As the RCT Team continues to identify systems and procedures for addressing conflicts we invite Friends to stay engaged as much as they are able. We too hold this truth, “We love SAYMA, the monthly meetings in its affiliation, and its people. Our hope is that we can galvanize one another and move toward restoration.” [CFM Letter 12/2024] We recognize as we move forward into unfamiliar and perhaps uncomfortable territory of reconciliation and transformation, we may lose some Friends and we may gain new ones. We cannot force Friends to stay, nor to leave.* This is a process for each to discern for themselves as we move forward.

Below are queries we invite Friends to consider as we move forward with racial conflict transformation.

1. How do we reconcile historic Quaker practices that feel freeing to some while feeling oppressive to others?
2. How do we both expand our community and care uniquely for each member? How do I answer that of God in you, even if it looks different from that of God within me? [modified from Lauren Brownlee, Quaker Speak. 10/26/2023]
3. Are we ready to let go of a need to justify and defend ourselves in order to acknowledge the painful experiences of Friends of Color? [FGC, Living the Truth of our Testimony of Equality]

In a Spirit of conciliation,
 Members of the Racial Conflict Transformation Team
 Daryl Bergquist, Treasurer (Birmingham FM)
 Jennifer Dickie, SAYMA Presiding Clerk (Atlanta FM)

Margaret Farmer, SAYMA Asst. Clerk (Asheville FM)
Patricia Gailey, Racial Justice Working Group (Berea FM)
Angela Hopkins (Friends Center for Racial Justice)
Kendall Ivie, Asst. Treasurer (West Knoxville FM)
Karen Morris, Finance (Atlanta FM)
Lissa Place, Ministry and Nurture (Atlanta FM)
Melissa Preast, Yearly Meeting Planning Committee (West Knoxville FM)
Tribal Raine, Uplifting Racial Justice (Paul Cuffee Worship Group)

* FGC, Becoming an anti-racist Quaker Meeting: Don't be surprised if there is shame and bullying of one another (though it's important to interrupt these behaviors, and encourage everyone to use "I statements" when sharing their thoughts and feelings). Don't be surprised that Friends step away from Meeting, both Friends of Color and white Friends. Don't be surprised that Friends' understanding of Quaker testimonies are individual and conflicting. Don't be surprised when discernment seeps into social media (a place better built for education, not for the process of decision-making). Don't be surprised that in times of struggle it is surprisingly easy to spread rumors ("this Friend told me..."). Don't be surprised when leaders are attacked. Don't be surprised when white fragility stops progress. None of these are fatal, and we owe it to our loved ones who are hurt most by racism to work through them.

** Ad-hoc Racial Conflict Transformation Team

Charge: (i) To develop processes that can effectively address the racial conflict in the yearly meeting. (ii) To identify Quaker resources available to aid us in this work. (iii) To implement the process as needed to address racial conflict.

Members: (i) Interested SAYMA Friends of Color. (ii) SAYMA Presiding clerk(s) (iii) Clerks or representatives from M&N Committee, Yearly Meeting Planning Committee, the Racial Justice Working Group, and Finance Committee and/or SAYMA Treasurer (iv) Additional members may be added as needed for the work.

Action Needed: Do we want to set up a time to sit with the queries presented in this letter? Spiritual Enrichment could plan this for a second-hour program.

Margaret has offered to take question regarding the SAYMA letter front he conflict transformation team.

A friend asked if this was a draft letter or if it was considered official
The letter has been sent to SAYMA monthly meetings as a response to two letters from Chattanooga monthly meeting.

A friend thanked Margaret for the content of the letter and its thoroughness. It's nice to have the perspective of the wider Quaker world.

A friend feels we have an obligation and would like us to work with the Queries, because it has come to us by the diligent work of the members of SAYMA. We owe it to them and ourselves to give them our time. The Spiritual Enrichment Committee will find a time to work on the queries.

A Friend expressed a concern that he did not hear an outline of leadership process that involves a care or elderring of the process of conflict. We need guidance around the expectations and process of how to deal with anger in our Quaker Process.

A Friend stated that this is a work in progress and that SAYMA did respond to Chattanooga's concerns. Guidelines were made but they are not always followed. We are working on something that is more of a process. She said that this kind of conflict is not something that can be dealt with in business meeting. It takes time in community to develop relationships around repair.

Friends will find a time to Schedule a time to discuss these queries.

State of the Meeting Report to SAYMA: Barbara Esther

We are presenting our draft State of the Meeting Report for 2024. We are seeking feedback at this point and will present it again for approval at the 3rd month business meeting. Once approved, this report will be sent to SAYMA and will be shared with other meetings at the annual sessions in June.

State of the Meeting Report
Asheville Friends Meeting
February 9, 2025
DRAFT

1. How have our practices in meeting for worship and business helped move us toward or away from unity as a spiritual community?

Our meetings for worship and those with attention to business have been well attended. There was a spirit of community in our business meeting as we handled daily operations and considered deep and difficult topics such as racial justice, our relationship with both the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians and the Black community of Asheville, as well as our relationship to other monthly meetings and the yearly meeting. People listened intently and carefully considered what was being shared. Spirit's presence was felt. Friends were open to each other's leadings and embraced what each was called to share in words and actions, so that we better understood each other, our meeting, local community, and the world.

Our children and young people sought service opportunities and brought us together after their regular junior business meetings. Intergenerational projects such as Secret Pals in February; our annual Youth Celebration in June; a second hour program of simple gift making, the Christmas play, and the Christmas potluck and carol sing with some talented Friends playing instruments all added to the fun and strengthened our community on three separate Sundays in December. All of these activities reminded us of the joy we feel when we're together. Post card writing to elected officials at least four times throughout the year on fifth Sundays gave us opportunity to communicate regarding pending legislation. A Black Lives Matter banner flutters across our porch along with peace prayer flags. All these things remind us of the Quaker testimonies that provide guidance in our daily lives.

We took time to share our joys and concerns at the end of first hour meetings for worship. This practice brought us closer together as our interactions became more intimate and personal. We have been overjoyed with quite a few new attendees who jumped right in to do things, bringing their energy and perspectives to all our activities. We welcomed a new adult member, and a new baby to one of our families, as well.

We have been looking for a presiding clerk since the term of service for the previous clerk ended in September. In the meantime, former clerks are taking on this responsibility a month at a time.

Committees of the meeting met regularly and accomplished many necessary tasks. Two highlights were work days organized by the House and Grounds Committee to pull together our yard and gardens and the organization and beautification of the library on the part of the Library Committee after the grounds had been neglected and the library had been filled with various things during the pandemic. One of our meeting community members opened a business as a handyman. We have benefitted from his diligence and competence after hiring him to work on projects that had been pending for some time.

We have opened our hearts in second-hour sharing on difficult subjects such as the wars in Ukraine and Gaza. We expanded our unity as a spiritual community in the world by offering our meetinghouse for rent to serve spiritual practitioners of the Buddhist tradition and the Ethical Society. Their activities reflect our Quaker belief in the Light in all beings. Since a few people in Asheville Friends Meeting attend these groups, we know that our space is appreciated. One of the Zen practitioners offered to paint our meeting room for us, if we provided the paint. It was such a thoughtful offer and the newly painted meeting room looks awesome. We are grateful for our Buddhist friends and the Ethical Society.

We have been helping each other process the outcome of an election in which a convicted criminal and sexual predator received enough votes to lead the nation. In North Carolina we were warned by reputable watchdog groups such as the Carter Center that there might be tampering with our elections. We helped each other find balance in our lives as we searched for answers, scared and worried about the state of our country. We have seen increased attendance to Meeting since the election.

We received funds after Helene ravished our area. We encouraged and facilitated donations, having been asked to distribute such donations from concerned Quakers and others nationwide, and from Canada. With the meeting's approval, we disbursed those contributions to those in greatest need, especially our sister meetings in Swannanoa and Celo. Friends opened their homes after the hurricane for people to do laundry and have showers. A group from Athens Meeting in Ohio that came to help with the Helene devastation, stayed in a home provided by one of our members. It

made us feel useful to be able to help others. Sharing helped us all to heal as a community.

2. How have we as a spiritual community encouraged each other to answer the urgings of the Spirit? What kept us from encouraging each other?

Our second-hour programs encouraged us to seek and follow urging of Spirit. Reflection on vocal ministry helped us to answer Spirit's urging. Our children and young people encouraged each other to share their thoughts, their gifts and acts of service in their schools and in the community. They and we, held each other, the local, national, and global community in the Light, as well. However, sometimes we were so busy with mundane tasks that we neglected to encourage each other. Sometimes we had great ideas, but didn't follow through on them.

Coming to Meeting and being spiritually sustained by meeting for worship and participation in committees had a positive ripple effect. As individuals, we did myriad varieties of work in the world, sustained by the nurturing we received amongst ourselves. One of our families spent six months in Ghana. The parents taught in the local university and the children went to school in the community. We participated in educational programs which made us aware or gave us insight into others' situations, volunteers drove people to voting sites, Friends supported members who had felt a call to a particular project such as: Beyond Land Acknowledgement, Truth and Reconciliation with the Black Community led by Dr. Melchor Hall throughout the year. Many of us supported the initiative of one of our attenders: Zig Zag Zoom, which supports Black festivals and entrepreneurs in the Asheville area. We helped set up tents, carried materials for vendors, and we served water and coffee to vendors and seniors.

We held a memorial in July for Bob Smith, longtime and cherished member of our meeting, attended by many in the community and around the country. We hosted over 100 people to celebrate the life of this beloved Friend. We sought and hired a Black professional videographer to record the event. Since before Bob's death, we have provided a weekly meal for Donna, Bob's widow, as well as help around the house and in the garden, when needed.

Here in Asheville, as faith and veteran's communities were celebrating the International Day of Peace on September 21, anger and grief were expressed in our meeting and community by the reality of the starvation and slaughter in Gaza and many other wars across the world. On September 27th, six days after the International Day of Peace, Hurricane Helene struck communities in western North Carolina. Many of us had never before encountered a major natural disaster. Residents of our area died. Homes, businesses, and the Swannanoa Valley Friends meetinghouse were all destroyed. Most of us were left without power, water, and other utilities for weeks. Many in the broader community were without shelter and adequate food. We tried, as a meeting and as individuals, to restore our lives and the meeting process for worship and business. In our grief and fear we attempted to cultivate a culture of peace, a safe space in our meeting despite enormous anxieties, discouragements, and exhaustion. During the time after the hurricane, we reached out to neighbors and community members to share resources and support. We took food, water, and phone-charging batteries to shut-in people. Our young Friends held a bake sale to raise money for Asheville-Buncombe County Christian Ministry's (ABCCM) Transformation Village and Beloved. They wrote letters of encouragement to them and thank you notes to Red Cross Disaster Relief, World Central Kitchen, and Mercy Chefs who did so much to help our community during the devastation after the storm. In the run-up to the elections and the aftermath of Hurricane Helene fear and anxieties ran high. We received inspiration from one another responding to the callings that resonated most deeply for each of us and felt authentic. Some of us did not ask for help, sensing how exhausted many in our meeting and our community were and still are. Some of us felt regret and guilt for not doing more. Our families supported each other through challenges, struggles, and concerns as well as celebrations.

We found that the community work was spiritual work, that new relationships could be formed through our interactions. When we acted with integrity, all of the efforts deepened our spiritual lives. Individuals within the meeting engaged in work such as feeding those who were hungry, changing surrendered guns into garden tools, or working with children in schools or in our meeting as they tried to make sense of interruptions and difficulties that their families faced. This is a loving supportive community.

3. How have we as a meeting and as individuals used our worldly activities as acts of witness to answer that of Spirit in others?

We heard and loved each other as we processed current events and sought a just world in which to live. By reporting on community and non-meeting programs and events, or announcing them in advance, we made it possible for more of us to be involved.

- Several of us attended the SAYMA Retreat and Sessions in Berea, Kentucky. A member of our community offered a Forest Bathing workshop at SAYMA gathering, He took the opportunity to SAYMA Friends to share the experience of communing with God/Divine/Spirit in nature.
- During the time after the hurricane, we reached out to neighbors and community members to share resources and support. We took necessities such as food, water, and phone-charging batteries to shut-in people.
- We set up an Indigenous Peoples Fund which in essence is paying rent for the Cherokee land on which we meet. We continued our efforts to build relationships with the Alliance for Beyond Land Acknowledgement (ABLA). Members of our community helped organize this nonprofit to promote right relations with peoples of Turtle Island, especially Eastern Band Cherokee Indians.
- Some of our members attended meetings of the Asheville-Buncombe County Reparations Commission and reported back. One Friend attended the Health & Wellness Impact Focus group that met every 2 weeks during the time that the Reparations Commission met.
- We stepped up when people were in need of assistance (financial, food, housing) not just in our meeting, but in the community.
- We listened and encouraged each other to respond to the needs of our Meeting and our community as we are led and have the capacity to do so. We have volunteered and donated to individuals and organizations during post Helene disaster relief. We managed distribution of funds sent to us for others in need.
- Some of us have worked to protect our electoral process.
- We lobbied Congress for a ceasefire and humanitarian aid in Gaza.
- We studied and worked for racial justice.
- We worked on our personal consumer choices and in local and national campaigns to mitigate climate catastrophe. We began purchasing

renewable energy credits to compensate for our fossil-fuel-derived electricity consumption. We began investing in clean energy and clean water in underdeveloped regions through a carbon offsetting fund.

It was a challenging year, all in all, but Asheville Friends understood that the well-being of each of us is linked to the well-being of others. We tried to serve those in the community at large with integrity and love.

Discussion

A friend has a belief that the word “tampering” should not be used in describing the information we received from the Watchdog organization. The Friend's belief is that the warning was for hot heads that may cause problems during voting time. They do not believe that it is helpful and they do not remember it being an item for business.

A friend responded that this was shared by a Friend involved in NCFCNL he was also involved in IVAN, an organization protecting voter rights. We could take it out if the Meeting agrees.

A friend would like to sit with the state of the meeting report longer before offering edits.

A Friend on Zoom reminded us to include them in the meeting.

Please let Barbara and Robin know if you have thoughts or changes to the document.

A Friend thanked Barbara and felt moved by hearing the letter read. The document was very comprehensive and well put together. It was decided that we would invite comments in a googledoc, which would be sent to regular attenders of business meetings and an offer will be made in the online Digest for anyone who would like access to edit the document.

A friend asked were there any parents of children that participated or were present in the making of this document on a Wednesday night. It was reported that all parents were invited to attend and were given the Queries to respond to from home. Childcare was available.

A friend that was here Wednesday night was amazed by the compilation of issues that were dealt with last year. He was overwhelmed by the amazing compilation that Barbara created. We deserve to be proud of ourselves and our cumulative work.

Finance Committee Report–Satchel Loftis

The Finance Committee has been asked to propose how to make use of the surplus funds from 2024's operating budget to meet current and future causes needing unexpected cash support, based on a recommendation from M&C and discussions during recent business meetings.

The recommendation divides the surplus into three components:

- immediate disbursement of funds to support two organizations, Orange Grove Friends Meeting and Raw Tools;
- a new Restricted Fund for emergency support; and
- the remainder to accrue to the General Fund.

The Orange Grove and Raw Tools support would be one-time expenditures from this budget surplus, with \$1,000 for Orange Grove and \$600 for Raw Tools.

Amounts are recommended, but open to be modified by Meeting. The Finance Committee is comfortable with the Raw Tools support being as high as \$1,000.

The Emergency Needs Fund would be a new restricted fund created to support groups in situations requiring urgent cash support, such as a natural disaster. It would also be available to support worthy causes that are not already built into the budget (e.g., Raw Tools). A \$2,000 transfer would seed the funds, which would be under the care of Peace & Earth, and immediately available to P&E. (For direct personal support, we have the restricted M&C Needs Fund, which is funded each year by a transfer of funds from the operating budget.)

The current year budget would not be adjusted.

We can choose to add annual support for Raw Tools in the next Operating IBudget.

\$1,000 Orange Grove Meeting
\$ 600–\$1,000 Raw Tools
\$2,000 Emergency Needs Fund
~\$4,000 Surplus

Discussion

It was explained that the fund would be used for P&E needs and M&C special needs is used for individuals in Meeting.

A Friend asked that the fund have a different name “Community Needs Fund,” “Peace and Earth Community Needs,” or “Community Support Fund.”

The clerk suggests a temporary name for P&E restricted funds.

Someone reminded us that a Friend has consistently requested that we have a fund to provide for good causes without using private donations.

One Friend was concerned that he was hearing about two different types of aid: Social Justice and emergency relief. Do we mean to support both of those from the same fund?

The surplus is from Meeting contributed funds. There could be some bills that we have not received from the water company so this number may slightly shift.

Minute #3 Meeting approved \$1000 to be sent to Orange Grove, \$1000 to Raw Tools, and \$2,000 to be used to create a P&E fund to be renamed.

Outreach Using Funds Donated to Us for Helene Relief: Robin Wells
Donations continue to come in to help with Helene relief. We have recently received an incredible donation from New Garden Friends Meeting for \$3,800. They held a fundraiser with a matching anonymous donor and are donating this amount to our meeting as well as the same amount to Celo and Swannanoa meetings. We will be sending a thank you card with a chance for everyone to sign it. In addition to this big check, we received three donations through Just Giving on our website for \$565. These came from individuals in British Columbia, Massachusetts, and New Jersey. The Finance Committee informs us that we have \$6,066.18 that we may use for Helene relief. We still have a few needs within our meeting community, so we are keeping some back for those needs. At this time, Ministry & Counsel would like to recommend that we donate the following:

\$1,000 to Equal Plates which provides deeply nourishing food to those in need, using local farmers when possible.

\$1,000 to Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church's eviction and housing assistance program. They have been overwhelmed with requests and are running out of funds.

We are looking into other organizations in our area, but want to do our homework to determine current needs.

Discussion

A Friend is really excited about the idea of supporting Grace Covenant
There are organizations that are working to disrupt and protect families from the new administration

La Esperanza

Colaborativas La Milpa

Poder Emma

Are we trying to figure out what to do with this money?

A friend does not agree with the send it out today sentiment

Minute #4 The proposed \$1,000 to Equal Plates and \$1,000 to Grace Covenant was approved to be sent out.

Copy of the letter from New Garden Friends Meeting is at the end of this document.

Peace and Earth Committee Report on 2024 Outreach: Steve Livingston
Outreach Distribution Process: Traditionally the P & E Committee tried to send roughly equal donation amounts to organizations supporting peace, environment and justice. Now that we have a Racial Justice Committee, we coordinate with them to support organizations working on justice. Other considerations include discerning if AFM members or attenders are involved in the organizations. If so, these organizations get a higher priority.

2024 General Outreach 11/19/24

12 Baskets	15.00%	\$450.00
Native Health Center	15.00%	\$450.00
Homeward Bound	13.00%	\$390.00
BeLoved Asheville	12.00%	\$360.00

Manna	8.00%	\$240.00
Clean Water NC	6.00%	\$180.00
Equal Plates	6.00%	\$180.00
Pisgah Legal Services	6.00%	\$180.00
CIMA	5.00%	\$150.00
Center for Participatory Change	3.33%	\$100.00
Creation Care Alliance	3.33%	\$100.00
Just Peace for Israel/Palestine	3.33%	\$100.00
Green Works	2.67%	\$80.00
Veterans for Peace	1.33%	\$40.00
Total General	100.00%	3,000.00

2024 Quaker Outreach

AFSC	12.50%	\$375.00
FCNL	12.50%	\$375.00
Quaker Earthcare Witness	12.50%	\$375.00
FGC	10.00%	\$300.00
Quaker House	10.00%	\$300.00
Right Sharing	10.00%	\$300.00
Friends Peace Teams	6.25%	\$187.50
Ramallah Friends School (FUM)	6.25%	\$187.50
Friends Journal	4.00%	\$120.00
FWCC	4.00%	\$120.00
Madison Quakers	4.00%	\$120.00
Pendle Hill	4.00%	\$120.00
QUNO 4	4.00%	\$120.00
Total Quaker	100.00%	\$3,000.00

Organizations that receive funds from our racial justice outreach budget line:

Building Bridges of Asheville and Buncombe County	\$100
The Center for Participatory Change	\$100
Youth Transformed for Life	\$100
Operation Gateway	\$100
Umoja Health and Wellness Center	\$100
The Asheville Peak Academy	\$100
Colaborativa La Milpa	\$100
My Daddy Taught Me That	\$100
The Christine W. Avery Learning Center	\$100
Different Strokes Performing Arts Collective	\$100
Sistas Caring 4 Sistas	\$100
Hood Huggers International	\$100

LEAF Global Arts	\$100
The Paul Cuffee Abolitionist Center	\$100
Positive Changes Youth Ministry	\$100
Racial Justice Coalition of Asheville	\$100

total of \$1600

The remaining \$1400 of the racial justice outreach budget gets transferred to the Meeting's Reparations Fund.

Need for additional members of the Technology Team: We need 1-2 additional members to join the technology team that helps with meeting for worship Zoom setup. You don't have to be experts in computers. Current members: Barbara Burke, Liz Gooche, Pat Johnson, and Steve Livingston.

Diantha Volunteered for this

Nominating Committee: Mike Eddy

Two nominations are being presented: Laura Yanasak for Library Committee and Matt Utterbach for House and Grounds.

Minute #5 Laura Yanasak has been approved for Library Committee and Matt Utterbach has been approved for the House and Grounds Committee

The Meeting closed with silent worship as way opens for our next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business in the Third Month, 2025.

Thank you and donation letters attached below:

Dear Asheville Friends, Jan. 1 2025

Your support of our Hurricane Helene Relief Fund is so touching. We are pleased to be able to help those who continue to try and find their way after so much loss.

Listening for Spirit Together,
Anne Allen-Hogan co-chekK



RAWTOOLS SOUTH

January 24, 2025

Asheville Friends Meeting
227 Edgewood Road
Asheville, NC 28804

Dear Asheville Friends Meeting,

On behalf of RAWtools South, thank you for your generosity and encouragement in 2024. When we launched RTS last January, we thought we would find friends and supporters along the way, but it's deeply gratifying when all that becomes real. Thank you.

We had an extraordinary year. We helped communities in 3 different states transform over 200 guns into garden tools and art (and we had to sit out on a fourth because of Hurricane Helene). The really beautiful thing was watching those congregations and communities work together to create courageous and hopeful communities.

We now have 8 gun surrender events in the works for 2025, along with multiple engagements with college groups, conferences, and congregations. We are also working to open a blacksmithing shop in Asheville, where we can host groups and teach a challenging craft to people hoping to cultivate peace in their own communities.

Thank you for believing in us and trusting us with your donation. Your gift was deeply encouraging, and it sends us into this coming year with confidence and hope.

Sincerely,

Website | <https://south.rawtools.org>
Scotty Utz, blacksmith | scotty@rawtools.org

RAWtools South
P.O. Box 1



PO Box 6386 | Asheville NC 28816
828.571.0766 | belovedasheville.com

Date: January 17, 2025

Donor Name: Asheville Friends General Fund

Address: 227 Edgewood Road
Asheville, NC, 28804

Thank you for your incredible generosity to BeLoved Asheville! In the aftermath of Hurricane Helene we have been on the ground providing essential aid to those affected in Western North Carolina. With winter in full swing in WNC, we are hitting the streets even harder than before to make sure our friends and neighbors are staying warm. We have also shifted our focus to housing and have begun helping multiple families with home repairs. We are currently working on 25 homes with several complete, and families have moved back in. We will begin our BeLoved Village Swannanoa project of deeply affordable homes for Helene victims in early spring 2025. We were also able to deliver 67 tiny homes within 2 weeks.

At BeLoved, we believe that community is a key solution to some of the toughest challenges we face: racism, homelessness, housing and food insecurity, poverty and poor health, and now the disaster caused by Hurricane Helene.

You are a deep part of our community and are standing with us as we put love into action daily to re-knit people and neighborhoods together. As we work to help our community recover and rebuild on a foundation of equity to create a WNC where everyone thrives, we could not be more grateful for your support and partnership in this work!

We are so grateful for your generous donation of :

Amount: \$100.00

Check#: 2343

Date: 11/19/2024

BeLoved Asheville is bringing people from all walks of life together with the goal to create home, health, equity, and opportunity for all in our community. We are so glad that you are such a wonderful part of this mission. And because of your gifts and standing with us, you ensure that this work grows and is on a strong foundation for the future. Thank you again for your kindness and ongoing support. Without you, there is no us!

Signed: *Amy Cantrell* *Roskko Serna*

*So grateful for your support
providing help and hope for
those devastated by Hurricane
Helene!*

TAX EXEMPTION RECEIPT * RETAIN FOR YOUR RECORDS
BeLoved Asheville is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization Tax ID #84-3381632
NO GOODS OR SERVICES WERE RECEIVED FOR THIS DONATION



PO Box 6386 | Asheville NC 28816
828.571.0766 | belovedasheville.com

Date: December 20, 2024

Donor Name: Asheville Friends General Fund for Hurricane Relief

Address: 227 Edgewood Road
Asheville, NC, 28804

Thank you for your incredible generosity to BeLoved Asheville! In the aftermath of Hurricane Helene we have been on the ground providing essential aid to those affected in Western North Carolina. As winter moves in, we are hitting the streets even harder than before to make sure our friends and neighbors are staying warm. We are also in full swing with home repair and are currently working on 25 homes and hope to have folks moved back into their homes by the end of the year.

At BeLoved, we believe that community is a key solution to some of the toughest challenges we face: racism, homelessness, housing and food insecurity, poverty and poor health, and now the disaster caused by Hurricane Helene.

And you are a deep part of our community and are standing with us as we put love into action daily to re-knit people and neighborhoods together as we work to help our community recover and rebuild on a foundation of equity to create a WNC where everyone thrives. We could not be more grateful for your support and partnership in this work!

We are so grateful for your generous donation of :

Amount: \$500.00

Check#: 2334

Date: 11/19/2024

BeLoved Asheville is bringing people from all walks of life together with the goal to create home, health, equity, and opportunity for all in our community. We are so glad that you are such a wonderful part of this mission. And because of your gifts and standing with us, you ensure that this work grows and is on a strong foundation for the future. Thank you again for your kindness and ongoing support. Without you, there is no us!

Signed:

*So grateful for your gift
providing help and hope
to those devastated by
Hurricane Helene.*

TAX EXEMPTION RECEIPT * RETAIN FOR YOUR RECORDS
BeLoved Asheville is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization Tax ID #84-3381632

New Garden Friends Meeting

Religious Society of Friends | Established in 1754
801 New Garden Road, Greensboro, NC 27410
T: 336/292-5487 E: office@ngfm.org



January 12, 2025

Asheville Friends Meeting
227 Edgewood Road
Asheville NC 28804-3314

Dear Asheville Friends Meeting,

Friends from New Garden Monthly Meeting send their greetings and best wishes for you and your community as you recover from the damage brought by Hurricane Helene.

We know many in your community have had significant losses and the enclosed \$3800 is a contribution to your recovery efforts. Please use these funds in whatever way you determine is best for your Meeting or members of the greater Asheville community. The funds were from a special collection on December 22, matched in part by an anonymous donor, and split with Celo and Swannanoa Meetings.

Our Meeting will continue to hold Asheville Friends in the Light, knowing your community still has rebuilding ahead. We invite you to be in touch as you are able.

In Friendship,

Jean Pudlo
Co Presiding Clerk
jbpudlo@gmail.com

Kevin Lawe
Co Presiding Clerk
kevin@thelawes.com