

**Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**  
**Asheville Friends Meeting**  
**Fourth Month 13, 2025**

**DRAFT**

**Present in the Meetinghouse:** Pat Johnson, Interim Monthly Clerk, Elliot Jarrett, Recording Clerk, Kitti Reynolds, Barbara Esther, Matt Utterback, Margaret Normile, Rusty Maynard, Ellie Cox, Tim Burgess, Steve Livingston, Jim Cavener, Sara Jane, Bobby Carter, Robin Wells, Adrienne Weir, Patti Burgess

**Present via Zoom:** Gita Larson, Barbara Burke, Beth Eddy, Mike Eddy, Margaret Farmer, Rylin Hansen

The Meeting opened with Silent Worship.

The Clerk shared a reading out of the silence.

**Crisis Contemplation Healing the Wounded Village**

Rev Dr. Barbara A. Holmes CAC publishing, Albuquerque, NM. © 2021. Pp 136-137.

The big questions taunt us. How do we heal from social disorder? How do we trust one another again? How do we unveil a transformed and transforming future? The truth of the matter is that if I am going to survive, I had better have a spiritual regimen that strengthens my immune system, fortifies my resolve, beckons the ancestors, and connects me to the creative Spirit of all life —and if I don't do that now, later will be too late.

**Draft Agenda**

**Minute #1:** Friends accepted the agenda.

**Approve Third Month Business Meeting Minutes Draft**

**Minute #2:** The Meeting approved the Third Month Business Meeting Minutes.

**Announcements:** Pat Johnson

We have received “thank you” notes for our donations to Raw Tools, Equal Plates Project, Orange Grove Meeting and Habitat. Please see these notes at the end of Minutes under “Attachments.”

The Adhoc Furnace Committee scheduled a virtual meeting with the city/county navigator, Don Moreland on Friday, April 11, 2025 to discuss options for replacing our malfunctioning gas furnace. Don will select vetted contractors to give us bids and research possible incentives to help with the costs. He is aware that we prefer to have minority contractors for our work.

**Report/Recommendations from Tuesday Night Discussion Group: Steve Livingston**

Our Tuesday night discussion group has continued to meet very regularly since the beginning of the year, as the Meeting has embarked on the truth and reconciliation phase of our racial justice work. But we recognize and acknowledge that the primary focus of our Tuesday night discussions has shifted from identifying and addressing our internalized white supremacy to identifying, assessing and guiding the Meeting's racial justice commitments. This feels a lot more like the kind of work that was formerly being done by the Meeting's Racial Justice Committee, which has been inactive for more than a year, and those of us who meet every Tuesday night feel it is in good order for us to identify ourselves to the Meeting as a committee since we are doing the work of a committee for the Meeting. We feel that it is a matter of integrity for the Meeting to acknowledge that this work is no longer being done by the Racial Justice Committee, and therefore we recommend that the Meeting agree to lay the Racial Justice Committee down. At our next month's business meeting we will bring a name for our new committee and between now and then we will work with the Nominating Committee to identify its members. We welcome other Friends who feel led to join in this work, and we will collaborate with all prospective committee members to identify a day and time that is mutually convenient to hold our monthly committee meeting. We look forward to resuming our previous Tuesday night practice of reading, listening, studying, and discussing to learn, grow, and become more liberated from our internalized white supremacy.

**Minute #3:** The Meeting approved laying down the Racial Justice Committee.

One friend stated that this is an excellent idea and reflects reality which is a good thing to do. They thank the group.

Another Friend also stated that this is a good idea.

**Committees:**

**Nominating:** Kitti Reynolds

The Nominating Committee would like to ask for approval of Laura Yanasak to be on the Hospitality Committee.

We also remind Friends that it's time for someone else to step up to be Clerk of our Meeting.

We also need someone to be our representative to SAYMA.

**Minute #4:** Meeting approved Laura Yanasak to be on the Hospitality Committee

One friend reminds us that we need someone to join the Communications Committee.

One friend posed "Does the meeting want the Communication Committee to be more than the digest?"

A friend responded that their main concern was that Mike not feel burdened being the only member.

He expressed that he at one point felt burdened by the digest but now he treats it as a spiritual practice and enjoys it.

**Peace and Earth:** Steve Livingston

**Report/Recommendation**

As you all may know, the current regime in the United States has created a number of Executive Orders intended to marginalize, dehumanize, demoralize, and dismiss transgender people as something less than human beings, and consequently not entitled to human rights, civil rights, and the Constitutional protection of the law. Peace and Earth Committee therefore feels it is essential for Asheville Meeting to state our support and welcome for transgender people. To that end, we ask that Friends approve this statement as our Meeting's policy:

"Asheville Friends Meeting (Quakers) seeks to be a safe, welcoming space for all people, regardless of sexual orientation, gender presentation or gender identity. Our Quaker faith does not in any way discount or oppose empirical science. We utterly reject the notion that transgender people are anything less than fully and completely human. We recognize and affirm that transgender people are entitled to the same human and civil rights as any other person, and commit ourselves to supporting those rights. We affirm the right of every person to self-identify their gender and we recognize all gender expressions as valid and real. We acknowledge that the gifts of the Spirit are equally present in people of any and every gender identity. We welcome those gifts and all of the people who embody them. We envision a Meeting where all those within it participate fully on an equal basis in all aspects of the beloved community."

A friend stated that a friend outside the Meeting remarked that it was beautiful and said that protesters on the opposite side of the issue showed up at the headquarters of a local organization.

A Friend asks that people face the computer when speaking

A Friend asks if this was written by Peace and Earth or adopted from another organization.

Some of this language came from a Minute in 2006 and some of it came from other Meetings in the US and Britain. This began with a rejection of what has become the Federal policy of denying humanity to Trans people.

One friend likes it and if P&E discussed where it would be used? Online? Or would it be sent to papers or magazines?

One Friend reminded us that the original query was to determine the answer to this question. "What is your Faith community's policy towards Transgender people?"

A Friend states that they have been so furious by the treatment of Trans people and thanks the speaker for the work they have done and gives their approval heartily.

A Friend says they are a long time member of FLTGBTQC and this organization has a place on their website to post minutes like this. It would be much appreciated by them to receive this minute.

A Friend states that there is a large trans community in Asheville that would be appreciative.

A Friend says that this belongs in our public statement on the website.

A Friend says that Blue Ridge Pride would be a good resource to get the statement to local Queers people.

A Friend asks that the first sentence in "Asheville Friends Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends" be added

A Friend wonders if we have had it read by someone that is Trans

A Friend expresses a desire for a second hour to discuss how we would make the Meeting safe for Trans people.



**Minute #5:** Friends approved this statement to welcome and support Trans people and Queer people of all identities into our Meeting. We will have it on our Facebook page, our websites, Blue Ridge Pride, FLGBTQZ, and any other media as needed.

**Ministry & Counsel:** Robin Wells

Requests for Assistance

Asheville Friends Meeting has been made aware of two Quaker Meetings and one retreat center needing assistance and would like Peace & Earth to consider helping with the Community Support Fund:

- 1) **Newton Monthly Meeting** in Camden, NJ has sent out an appeal letter requesting help with the renovation of their historic meetinghouse. The original meetinghouse dates back to the 1600s and the one currently being renovated was built in the 1800s. Ministry & Counsel is in favor of helping this meeting and is referring this to Peace & Earth for consideration.
  - 2) **Berea Monthly Meeting** has recently had their basement flooded and needs help restoring it. Ministry & Counsel is in favor of helping Berea and would like to refer this to Peace and Earth for consideration.
  - 3) **Pendle Hill**, a Quaker study, retreat, and conference center in Pennsylvania was recently hit by a major storm and received a considerable amount of damage to the property. M&C is led to help Pendle Hill and is referring this to Peace and Earth for consideration.
- The Meeting agreed with the plan for P & E to consider these requests.

**Finance:** Beth Eddy

Due to heavy job demands, Satchel is unable to provide a full finance report this month. Our contributions from January 1 to April 11 2025 add up to \$9,409.00. Our rental income has been \$1,644.00. We received \$271.00 for the Reparations Fund and \$200.00 for the new Community Support Fund. We have \$200.00 for Hurricane Helene from Bridge City Friends Meeting in Portland OR bringing the total for 2025 to \$5,360.00. See Report at end of Minutes under Attachments.

**Minute #6:** The Meeting accepted the Finance report.

**House & Grounds:** Tim Burgess

We have a tree that needs to come down. One member volunteered to cut it down with the help of a friend. However, the friend is not insured so there may be liability involved. Do we want to have a professional cut the tree down?

A Friend recalled and looked up a previous business Meeting about the liability question. We minuted that we would accept bids to remove trees in order to not have someone in the Meeting be at risk of injury.

One Friend stated that if a subcontractor does not have adequate insurance their company includes the money they may need to get insured.

One Friend expressed that there is an advantage in forming relationships with minority laborers and building community. They also said there is such a thing as a disclaimer statement saying that we are not responsible for any injury.

One Friend states that we have insurance for our meeting and its property that covers regular things that our property needs. Taking down a tree is not something that would be covered by insurance if not by a professional. We would be held neglectful. I think it is above and beyond regular activity on our property and I worry liability wise.

We had another tree that was taken down by Duke Power. We don't know if that is a possibility or how long that would take.

Duke Energy is very limited in what they will be able to do. This tree I feel would not be approved by Duke Energy because it has green in its leaves. It also does not put their lines at risk.

The Friend that offered to take down the tree explains that they have significant experience (15 years) that he has been working with this friend who professionally works with trees and moonlights outside of the work. The thing he wants to address that he doesn't want to see an opportunity go by for volunteer work. That bids would be expensive. This Friend expresses that this comes down to what the Meeting thinks is comfortable? They express that there is no difference between taking down a tree and doing a dangerous hobby. One should be able to do what they feel they are capable of in service of the group that they are volunteering for. There is always a risk of mismatch of ability and credibility. The Meeting should do what is necessary to accommodate Volunteer work.

One Friend says that what has been said relieves her mind of some of the concerns.

A Friend reminds us that we do have a waiver for people renting the space and has access to a friend who may have a waiver for something like this.

A Friend has a concern for volunteers who are members of our own meeting. If something fatal happened, in our guts we would not be able to bear that something like that happened. We of

course would be outsourcing that risk to someone else but they would bring a professional skill that would minimize that risk.

A Friend reminds us to keep in mind that this is bringing down a tree and is not comfortable with something that large happening. They do not believe that it would be able to be covered by a waiver. Are you willing to call the insurance company? I worry it would be seen as negligence. They want us to really think about it.

One Friend stated that their concern is that if our insurance decides we are negligent they can drop us. I understand what is being said about an opportunity for community

One Friend stated that they are not a fan of the passive voice. They don't want to know what was done, they want to know who did it? Who would hold us liable? The insurance company. We are discussing how we manage insurance liability.

One Friend feels reassured by the experience of the volunteer. If the insurance company gives the go ahead they are comfortable moving forward.

One Friend states that this discussion is actually about how we handle volunteer work. The question to insurance “if a volunteer is vindictive and litigious due to volunteer work they partake in, are we liable?

A Friend thanks Tim for bringing this forward.

We resolved that Pat will contact the insurance company to find out what our liability concerns would be.

**Other:** Adrienne Weir

Faith Communities for Immigrant Justice (FCIJ)

Adrienne attended the regular meeting of the FCIJ along with about a dozen other folks from different faith traditions. Here's a nutshell of takeaways:

There's always more opportunities to share time, talent, and treasures with our neighbors.

Volunteer opps. Finding one's lane.

- Language skills and legal professionals needed. Even if you're not one of these, you can still act as liaison to help attract these talents. Let us know!
- Volunteer opportunities list available to review in situ. Plus there's a particular need for help with gatekeeping and seeing to the free market.

- Ties in with the treasure piece: "I am raising funds to support Rapid Response organizing to keep our neighbors safe." To donate online:  
<https://landoftheskychurch.breezechms.com/form/justusforglobalbeloved>
- Relationship building:
  - Book recommendation: I Never Thought of It That Way
  - Braver Angels training coming up
  - Knowing one's own rights; modeling and teaching these to the children, discussing and practicing among friends and among Friends
  - Interfaith and other groups
  - mutual aid connections
  - Talking face to face

The Meeting closed at 1: 57pm with silent worship until the way opens for our Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on the Eleventh Day, Firth Month, 2025.

### **Attachments**

**Hurricane Helene Report:** [04/11/2025/Hurricane Helene Report](#)

**Thank You Notes**



Dear Asheville Friends Meeting, 3/17/2024

Thank you for your continued support of my Ministry of spreading Peace. Your financial support of \$1,000 to RAWtools South is very meaningful both materially + spiritually. Knowing I have the backing of my Home Monthly Meeting means much to me

Full of Gratitude,  
*[Signature]*



**EQUAL  
PLATES**  
PROJECT

Dear Asheville Friends,  
We are deeply grateful for your continued support of Equal Plates Project.

We're committed to purchasing 50%+ of our ingredients from small, local farmers and your contributions make this possible. Thank you for helping us nourish thousands of folks in our community with gratitude,  
Rachel & The EPP Team



**EQUAL  
PLATES**  
PROJECT

March 17, 2025

Dear Asheville Friends General Fund,

Thank you so much for your generosity in supporting Equal Plates Project, a tax exempt organization under IRS code 501(c)3.

Your contribution of \$1,000.00 on March 1, 2025 is greatly appreciated.

Thanks to your generosity in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, we've been able to strengthen our support for local farmers and provide thousands of meals to neighbors affected by the storm.

Please keep this document for tax purposes. Our legal name is We Give a Share, Inc. and our EIN is 85-2809644 (Equal Plates Project is our dba). No goods or services were provided in return for these contributions.

Thank you again!

Sincerely,  
Equal Plates Project  
27 Church St  
Asheville, NC 28801

**Orange Grove Monthly Meeting of the  
Religious Society of Friends (RSOF)  
520 E. Orange Grove Blvd.  
Pasadena, CA 91104**

March 16, 2025

Asheville Friends Meeting  
227 Edgewood Road  
Asheville, NC 28804

Dear Asheville Friends Meeting:

Thank you for your recent gift to Orange Grove Monthly Meeting.  
Your support is very much appreciated by Orange Grove Meeting.

Amount: \$ 1,000.00

Dated: March 1, 2025  
to the Sharing Fund Fires

Please retain this letter for your records. No goods or services were  
received in exchange for this gift, which is tax deductible as allowed  
by law.

Sincerely,

*Jane Krause*

Jane Krause  
Treasurer  
[ogmm.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:ogmm.treasurer@gmail.com)





We build **strength, stability, and self-reliance** through **shelter**.

April 2, 2025

Robin Wells  
227 Edgewood Rd  
Asheville, NC 28804-3314

Dear Robin,

Thanks to support from you, Asheville Area Habitat continues to build and repair homes, communities, and hope. Your donation has provided critical funding to develop neighborhoods and preserve affordable homes in our community. Because of you, long-time, low-income residents are able to stay in their own homes and new homeowners experience the stability, strength, and peace of mind that come with an affordable mortgage.

For more than 40 years, Habitat has been a leading developer of affordable housing solutions for those who wouldn't normally qualify for a conventional loan or couldn't afford essential repairs. The storm exacerbated the well-documented shortage of homes within reach of so many area residents. Your gift helps us continue our important work. Together, we are changing lives.


Your gift of \$1,000.00, received on March 31, 2025, will be used to support Disaster Home Repair and we are so grateful.

Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity helps create a stronger community for our region. Thank you for making a difference.



*New Homeowner Serina and her daughter on the front porch of their home.*

With gratitude,

  
Zoe Trout  
Development Manager

*Robin-  
Thank you  
for this generous  
gift!*

P.S. Keep up with Asheville Habitat on our website and social media pages @ashevillehabitat.

Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity is a 501(c) 3 not-for-profit organization; IRS Tax ID 56-1363464.  
Please retain this letter as a record of your contribution for tax purposes; no goods or services were received for your donation.

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33 Meadow Road • Asheville, NC 28803-2652 • 828-251-5702 • [www.ashevillehabitat.org](http://www.ashevillehabitat.org)

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