

**MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS  
VIRGINIA BEACH FRIENDS MEETING  
8th Day of 12th Month 2019**

Meeting opened at 8:30 am with a period of waiting worship, 15 persons present.

**Meeting for Business: Query #5:** *Do we regularly attend our meetings for business, and are they held in a spirit of love, understanding, and forbearance? Do we seek the right course of action in humble submission to the Authority of Truth and in the patient search for a sense of unity under Divine guidance?*

**Meeting united in the following response:**

**This query is a very strong part of our faith, our Quaker way. It challenges us to take on difficult matters and to be willing to state our respective truths, even when we disagree at first. We do attend business meeting, with a rising attendance in the past year, and also we have had complicated and occasionally contentious business in recent months. We are concerned that at times we may be attending more to this business than to worship and that some of our members do not remain with us after the business for the worship afterward. Who are the “we” who answer this query? The same people seem to attend the business meeting each month. Perhaps we need to reconsider this early hour. The words unity and love stand out for us as the reasons we come together. Also we hear the words “right course of action,” which we are never able to achieve without deep listening. Each of us is given a certain measure of truth, and those measures may not arrive at the same moment. Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business is one of the few times when we come together to articulate what and who we are, and can become, together. We feel we need to be more creative in the ways that we engage in this humbling, patient, important search for truth and unity in the Light of Divine Guidance.**

**The Clerk’s Corner:**

**Clerk read aloud a recent letter from the November Forum of *Friends Journal*, commenting on a September article by Ann Jerome about the difference between niceness and kindness:**

*“Modern Friends have a common praxis: we ask to be led; we open ourselves to leadings; we work at fully experiencing those leadings; and we take action based on those leadings. Our diverse theological perspectives inform us as individuals. We are free to bring our own names and understandings of the source of our leadings, which we broadly call Spirit. Our common praxis turns that cacophony of theologies into a rich harmony of everyday mysticism in our lives, at best. “At best” because the “necessity of niceness” often prevents us from going wherever Spirit leads.”*

*“Niceness from leading enriches the giver and the recipient. Niceness from middle-class habit deadens the soul of both giver and recipient. Those of us raised in the middle class would do well to remember, perhaps revisit, Sinclair Lewis now and then. The middle class seeks to avoid upsetting or offending. We’re good at comforting the afflicted and conflicted about afflicting the comfortable, especially in our meetings. Niceness is a useful symbol for the lack of spontaneity and integrity we exhibit in our lives and in our meetings.”* (Letter from Hank Fay of Berea, Kentucky, *Friends Journal* Forum, November 1, 2019)

### **Head of School and School Committee Report:**

Mike Barclay highlighted the following matters from his extensive written report, which members of meeting are encouraged to read in full:

1. The spirit of Thanksgiving has been kind to the School. We launched our annual fund on Monday after Thanksgiving and brought in a matched \$7500 gift and another for \$25,000. We have received 100% participation from the members of our School Committee and 70% participation from our faculty.
2. Mary Pelham and Lewis White and Garland Waller have been selected as the honorees for Founders & Alumni Day, scheduled for February 22.
3. Alex Dworetzky and Nina Ruffin have agreed to split the duties of School Committee Alumni Representative. They are working with Jason Weast, Athletics and Special Program Director, to coordinate an Alumni Basketball game on Saturday, December 21 with a social at a local restaurant to follow. Nina has become the assistant women's basketball coach for the Virginia Beach Sports Academy.
4. Currently, the School enrollment sits at 103 total students, down from 106 students, as a result of three students making mid-year moves. However, there is a strong likelihood of 116 students by February 2020. As of February we will have 15 toddlers enrolled in the Cottage program.
5. Our basketball team is competing with great enthusiasm and getting in great shape, as there are only six members on the team to share in the rotation.
6. Important upcoming dates at Friends School:  
**Tues, 12/10 (\*Note new date)**  
PTO Meeting, 3:15 in Kitchen-All Welcome!  
**Wed, 12/11**  
Story Time! 3:15pm in the Library (see below)  
**Thurs, 12/12**  
JJV B-Ball Game 4:30pm Wilson Center  
**Friday, 12/13**  
Coffee with Friends! 8am Outside the Library  
**Sun, 12/15**  
VBSA B-Ball Game 2pm Wilson Center  
**Friday, 12/20**  
Winter Concert 11am in Wilson Center

### **Peace, Earthcare & Social Justice Committee:**

Tom Bertrand presented the written report of the Peace, Earthcare & Social Justice Committee, with two recommendations, which were both approved after discussion.

**Action: The Meeting agreed to co-sponsor and support the Holy Week Pilgrimage of Pax Christi and the Norfolk Catholic Worker by making the Meeting House available as a base of operations for the Pilgrims April 5-8, 2020 and by helping broker solutions to any scheduling conflicts that might arise with Friends School and other organizations which utilize our Meeting House. Tom Bertrand will be the Meeting's liaison to the pilgrimage planners.**

**Action: The following budget lines for 2020 were approved as recommended by the Peace, Earthcare & Social Justice Committee:**

<u>Line item</u>	<u>Budgeted 2019</u>	<u>Recommended 2020</u>
PESJ general activities	200	200
JCOC	600	100
Norfolk Catholic Worker	50	250
Quaker House Fayetteville	100	100
Quaker UN Office	50	50
Steady Footsteps	350	350
Virginia Interfaith Center (VICPP)	100	100
American Friends Service Comm.	100	100
Ramallah Friends School	100	100
Quaker Earthcare Witness		100
FCNL	200	200
Friends School Trip to FCNL	500 *	500
Friends School Teacher Conf at Guilford College		500
Local Asylee Support		250
<b>TOTAL REQUEST</b>	<u>2350</u>	<u>2850</u>

**Treasurer/Finance Committee:**

Nancy Craft called attention to the posted reports of the Treasurer and Finance Committee.

**Action: The amended budget for 2020 was approved, with additions from the report of the Peace, Earthcare & Social Justice Committee, as approved above. There will be a few additional amendments to the budget before it becomes final.**

**Ministers, Elders and Overseers:**

Nancy Craft reported that MEO has received two requests relating to use of our Meeting House, but is not prepared to act on them at this time. MEO's annual budget request for 2020 was submitted to the Treasurer. MEO strongly encourages everyone to review the lists we have compiled of potential "MEO" work from a few of our meetings within our YM so we can begin to sort out responsibilities to be divided among two to three committees, provide feedback and suggestions, and plan to join us for the First month First Day meeting on 1/5/2020 9 am.

**Action: The written MEO report was accepted.**

**Nominating Committee:**

Andy Young reported that the Nominating Committee had canvassed the active membership of the Meeting and identified several folks who were willing to job-share the clerk's duties for a part of the coming two years. The Committee had asked these folks to meet among themselves as a "clerking

committee” to decide how to share the job over the next two years. Jeanne Crawford has agreed to help to guide this clerking committee and provide continuity, and there will be a mentoring committee made up of former clerks within our meeting who will support those who will be sharing these duties. The Nominating Committee is comfortable with the work being done by the recording clerks. It invites people to step forward to work with Young Friends, Communications, and Library committees, as well as the emerging Spiritual Life and Care and Concern Committees. The Nominating Committee will meet again in February.

**Action: The written Nominating Committee report was accepted.**

#### **Communications Committee:**

Whit Peace presented the Communications Committee’s report, which noted that the Meeting’s website had been updated to change the name of the now “Peace, Earthcare & Social Justice Committee” and to update the PE&SJ webpage content as previously approved by Meeting for Business. Whit and Linda Smith explained the complexity of the work of tracking, recording and following through on the various actions of the Meeting for Business.

**Action: The Meeting approved the Communications Committee’s proposed new process, detailed in its report, for proceeding with scheduling and website maintenance work that is often required in order to follow-up on actions by the Meeting for Business. The various committees are reminded to alert Whit, the meeting’s Scheduler, of requests for the use of the Meeting House.**

**Action: The Meeting accepted the Communications Committee’s standard written report of past and upcoming events requiring support from the Committee as well as its tally of bulk emails and newsletters initiated by the Committee during the prior month.**

#### **Meeting Recorder:**

Nancy Craft presented a revision of the duties of the Meeting Recorder.

**Action: Meeting approved the revised statement of duties of the Meeting Recorder, as follows, for posting on the website:**

##### **Purpose of Position:**

- 1. Maintain a list of all meeting members and attenders**
- 2. Serve as member of the North Carolina yearly meeting Records**
- 3. Committee which archives meeting documents in the Guilford College Quaker Archives.**

##### **Functions:**

- 1. Maintain a list of all members and attenders of the meeting and have copies available annually.**
- 2. Work with the Communication and Nominating committees to ensure we are all working with the same list of members and attenders.**
- 3. Prepare and deliver to the Yearly Meeting each 6th month the member/attender list in the format needed for the Yearly Meeting Directory**
- 4. Prepare meeting minutes and documents for archival on acid free paper and deliver to the Guilford College Quaker Archives.**

### **Young Friends:**

Linda Smith made a report for the young Friends Committee, noting the success of the Intergenerational Program focused on theme of Advent led by Galen Hamann on Twelfth Month 1<sup>st</sup> Day. She asked for volunteers to help with food and table settings for the Intergenerational Holiday Program and Potluck scheduled for Twelfth Month 22<sup>nd</sup> Day, when children will join Meeting for Worship at 11:15 to share the Christmas story and lead us in a song, with accompanying musicianship of Andy Young. She also explained the need for volunteers to help with other intergenerational programs and potlucks scheduled through May. She emphasized that for child safety we must always have two adults with the children.

**Action: Pat Phelan Young, Jeanne Crawford, Kathy Garner, Nancy Craft, Nancy Nixon volunteered to help with the December 22 program. The Meeting noted the request from the Young Friends Committee for volunteers from other committees (1) to take the lead in organizing and providing programming during potlucks and (2) to help with the children's activity following the Faith and Play stories. Patrick Goold volunteered to follow up on exploring what other small Friends Meetings in Virginia to meet local and state requirements for Child Safety Guidelines and background checks and to report next month.**

Meeting closed at 10:15 a.m. with a period of silent worship, 18 persons present.

Jeanne Crawford, Clerk

Tom Bertrand, Recording Clerk