

Virginia Beach Friends Meeting

PO Box 4371, Virginia Beach, VA 23454

Phone: 757-428-9515

www.vbfriends.org

Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of
Friends

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
12th day of Third month 2017

Meeting opened with a period of silent worship, 13 persons
present.

Query #9

Are we mindful of Friends testimonies against alcoholic
beverages, tobacco, and other harmful drugs; and do we
refrain from using them or dealing in them, realizing that
abstinence is the clearest witness against overindulgence? Do
we seek to avoid all kinds of gambling and places of diversion
that tend to be demoralizing? Do we keep in mind how
diverse and widespread are the temptations to grow richer at
the expense of others? Are we faithful to our testimony against
taking oaths?

Response to query number nine:

***The query is complex and assumes fixed answers to prior
questions that might be better left open. The assumption that
abstaining from alcohol is an obligatory, for example, no
longer lives for some of us. The spirit of the query remains; our
faith has meaning when expressed in our lives. Our behavior
speaks and it is good to be reminded of this. Not guilt but
thoughtfulness about life is the point.***

Peace and Social Justice:

Peace and Social Justice Committee gave a detailed report
of its many activities. Everyone is encouraged to read the



Weekly Events

- * First Day (Sunday), 10:30-11:30 am - Meeting for Worship.
- * First Day (Sunday), 10:30-11:30 am - First Day School - younger children join Meeting during or after Worship.
- * Fourth Day (Wednesday), 8:30-9:00 am Morning Worship.
- * Fourth Day (Wednesday), 7:00 pm Mid-Week Prayer.
- * Sixth Day (Friday) 9:00-9:30 am - School's Meeting for Worship. All are welcome, with special invitation to the School and Meeting Community. Meets weekly when school is in session.

Newsletter Submissions

To submit news, photos, articles, or original writing for the newsletter, please email Christen at christenhansel@cox.net.

complete report, which is posted on the website. A group from the school and the Meeting is set to attend the FCNL Spring Lobby Weekend for Young Friends in Washington DC on third month 18- 21. The committee asks that Meeting commit \$500 dollars to support this travel. This was *approved*.

School Committee:

The School Committee reported that it has not met yet for this month. The search for an interim Head of School for next year is underway. The Head of School is out of the country. Her report is posted on the website.

MEO:

Ministers, Elders and Overseers reported that the 2017 retreat brought in 30 people on Friday and 16 on Saturday. The memorial service for Herb Gill saw 90 to 100 attendees. Adult First Day School Committee is down to one member. Nominating Committee has been asked to find additional members. MEO is working on ways to reanimate a program for adults. Meeting will be kept abreast of this work.

Communication Committee:

The Communication Committee has actively supported the work of the other committees. Sporadic problems persist with email to those with Cox email service. Work on the VBFM handbook continues.

Budget and Finance:

The Budget and Finance Committee reported that income for second month was \$925 and expenses were \$809. Expenses for the year-to-date are \$3187, while income year-to-date is \$2750.

Building and Grounds:

The Building and Grounds Committee reported that next work day is the first day of fourth month. HVAC ducts have been insulated. Insulation of the attic is planned soon. A new toilet has been installed to replace one that was unsatisfactory. A new lawn mowing contract has been signed. The next meeting of the committee is the second day of fourth month at 9 AM in the meetinghouse.

Faith and Practice:

The Faith and Practice Review Committee presented the following document, which they proposed the Meeting send to Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice Review Committee as our Monthly Meeting's response to Yearly Meeting's proposed changes to the introduction to the queries.



Monthly Events

* First First Day (first Sunday of each month), 9:00 am - Building & Grounds Committee meeting.

* Second First Day (second Sunday of each month), 8:30-10:15 am - Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention To Business.

* Third First Day (third Sunday of each month), Noon - Peace & Social Justice Committee meeting.

*Third First Day (third Sunday of each month), 9 am – Adult First Day School

* Fourth First Day (fourth Sunday of each month), 9-10:15 am (library), and Noon-1 pm (Meetingroom) - Ministry and Oversight meeting.

* Fourth First Day (fourth Sunday of each month), Noon - Communications Committee meeting.

Faith and Practice report to Business Meeting 3rd mo. 2017 we addressed the section recently offered as 8A – the introduction to the (Monthly Meeting) queries. We recommend sending the report below to the YM F&P Committee. We appreciate having this section without a time deadline, so we feel unrushed in our consideration. We endorse the spirit of the section proposed. We know how vital the queries are to our Meeting's life, and applaud the effort put into this work. The words that deal with our responsibility are uplifting and moving. We believe that the introductory paragraph saying that there isn't a dogma or set of rules for us is fundamentally important. a. Concern: by stating that a query may be changed without a book revision, we might be implying that other parts of F&P couldn't be revised independently of a book revision. Rather than stating this in the queries section, we would state it in an introduction to the book. b. Concern: the opening sentence of second paragraph has words in parenthesis that are more confusing than helpful if this section only applies to Monthly Meetings (per our understanding.) c. Concern: the queries are often worded in a way that isn't clear about whether they are intended to apply to the Meeting or to the individuals in the Meeting. This introduction doesn't clarify this. The 3rd paragraph addresses this issue, but some of us struggle with separating an individual response vs. a Meeting response. d. Concern: lacking a view of the end result of the book revision, and therefore not seeing how this 8A introduction might apply to queries for MEO and the individual (in addition to queries for the Monthly Meeting) we are unsure if it needs to expand to address those other queries. e. Concern at prior meeting is set aside: we assume that the new Faith and Practice will adequately discuss the inner light and therefore we needn't footnote reference the word "light". f. Concern: we would value a continuing forum or way to better understand the input and views of the other Monthly Meetings concerning the Faith and Practice revision work. We see F&P as a document that unites us as an YM, and we want the revision process to also aid in uniting us. We ask (with these minutes) YM Committee to create and facilitate this process. g. concern: Virginia Beach would like a "status report" from YM Committee on the various sections already considered that gives more detail about where they stand. Will there be a scheduled opportunity to raise questions that we believe aren't adequately dealt with? We agreed that we want a discussion with the YM Committee as soon as practical to clarify our responses to this section 8A. Dave will try to set this up at 10:30 at Interim Body April 22.

Meeting *approved* sending this document as our response.

Nominating Committee:

Nominating Committee is distributing a document entitled "Introduction to Quaker Nominating Season" via email. The committee will begin contacting individuals shortly.

ACTION ITEMS

The Sound System Committee reported that amplification has been explored and it has been determined that individual amplifiers would be the best approach for us now, when needed.

Meeting confirmed that it will host the Coastal Friends Meeting on the first seventh day in 11th month.

Joint Property Task Force reported that it is waiting for a chance to meet with legal counsel. The committee will schedule a meeting soon. The salient concern is with Virginia Natural Gas's request for an additional 10 foot easement across the front of our property.

Long-range Planning Committee reminded each committee to consult the long-range plan on

the website and to address the action items relevant to their committee in their reports and actions.

Meeting closed with a period of silent worship, 19 persons present.

Nancy Nixon - Clerk

Patrick Goold - Recording Clerk

Upcoming Events

[Virginia Beach Friends School Founders Day ==>](#)

Date: Saturday March 25
Time: 6-10 pm
Location: Friends School

[Work Day at the Meetinghouse ==>](#)

Date: Saturday April 1
Time: 9:00 am -1:00 pm
Location: Meetinghouse

[Friends School Judeo-Christian Outreach Center Service \(JCOC\) ==>](#)

Date: Wednesday April 5
Location: Judeo-Christian Outreach Center
Address: 1053 Virginia Beach Blvd.
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

[Interim Body Meeting ==>](#)

Date: April 22 2017
Location: Durham Meeting
Durham Meetinghouse
404 Alexander Avenue
Durham, NC 27705

[Friends School - Third Annual Spring-It-On-A-Thon ==>](#)

Date: Saturday April 29
Time: 10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Location: Virginia Beach Friends School

[Creeds Hum Dinger ==>](#)

Date: Sunday April 30
Time: 10:30 am until...
Location: Creeds Preparative Friends Meeting
Phone: 757-721-9320
Address: 1941 Clifton Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23457

[Coastal Friends Gathering ==>](#)

Date: Saturday May 6
Time: 11 am, potluck follows
Location: Fayetteville Friends Meeting
223 Hillside Ave.,
Fayetteville, NC 28301

[Yearly Meeting ==>](#)

Dates: July 13-16 2017
Location: UNC Wilmington Campus
Wilmington, NC

[Creeds Hum Dinger ==>](#)

Date: Sunday July 30
Time: 10:30 am until...
Location: Creeds Preparative Friends Meeting
Phone: 757-721-9320
Address: 1941 Clifton Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23457

[Coastal Friends Gathering ==>](#)

Date: Saturday August 5
Time: 11 am, potluck follows

Query to Consider for April:

Manner of Living

10. Do we endeavor to live in harmony with nature? Are we careful in our stewardship of the world's irreplaceable resources?

Reminders

The purpose of this newsletter is to share the Monthly Meeting minutes with members, attenders and others interested in the Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting. The minutes represent the official view of the Meeting. Other articles relating to the Meeting are included on a space-available basis and reflect the views of the person submitting the information.

Materials for consideration at Monthly Meeting for Business should be sent to the Clerk, Recording Clerk, and vbfm.emailer@gmail.com no later than the Wednesday prior to Meeting for Business. Thank you, from our Communication Committee!!

Documents submitted for review and comment before being presented to MFB for approval can be found at:
<http://vbfriends.org/DocPa d/Review/ main.html>.