

FRIENDS MEETING OF SAN ANTONIO
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
September 16, 2018

Attending: Kellie Price, Gretchen Haynes, Peggy Dial, Jim Spickard, Bill Sweet, Michelle DiGiocomo, Rick McClatchy, Laura Claghorn, Carol Redfield, Suzanne Wright Crain

Opening Worship

Clerk opened the Meeting with the quote, "Spiritual discernment lies at the heart of Quaker spirituality and practice. It's grounded in the central Quaker conviction of the availability to every person of the experience and guidance of God, immediate as well as meditated." *Spiritual Discernment*, Patricia Loring

"May the words of the Spirit be spoken. May the words of the Spirit be heard."

Clerk's comments:

FMSA received communications from Migrant Center For Human Rights, in the form of a thank you card. Card is available for Friends to read.

Church of Reconciliation is having a picnic on [DATE?] from 10 until 1. Bring a bag lunch and something to share.

Clerk let Friends know that Janet Southwood recently fell and fractured her pelvis, no surgery needed, but she will be transferred to skilled nursing facility. Gretchen has address if Friends would like to send cards. Friends wishing to contribute financially, if needed, can designate contributions to the Meeting's Emergency fund. It is unknown at this time whether there will be a financial need, and Friends will follow up with the Southwoods' daughter and report to M&O.

FMSA received a letter from a Quaker prisoner, Christopher Dye, asking to hold Maryanne Lockhart in the light. Maryanne is in Little Rock and suffering from dementia and under the care of the Meeting there. Letter will be passed to M&O.

Program announced for city faith based initiative for reducing maternal mortality. Will be posted for interested Friends.

Received a letter from Senator John Cornyn thanking FMSA acknowledging our communications on immigration and family separations.

Minutes for July Meeting will be held over because final draft of Minutes had only been sent out the day prior and Friends had not had time to look them over.

Treasurer's Report: Carol

Balance Sheet

- \$50,000 was moved from the FFC Short-Term Investment Fund to Frost Bank to follow through on the \$10,000 pledge the Meeting made to the FCNL Capital Campaign in June of 2017 and to have funds on hand for any greening activities in which the Meeting decides to engage. It is

easier to make a single request from FFC. The \$40,000 remaining from the transfer will be held in the Frost Money Market Account so that it can continue to earn some interest.

- No other significant activity to report.

Statement of Activities

- Operating income in terms of General Contributions is lagging the budget by about \$600. This is typical, and the Meeting should begin catching up now that the summer is over.
- \$40.00 subscription cost is for the annual renewal of Quaker Life.
- “Designated Gifts” are those not in the approved Operating Budget. Donations previously made into the “Local Organizations” line item have been reclassified to “Designated Gifts” since they were not contained in the original budget. These include \$100 to the Migrant Center; \$260 each to the Migrant Center, RAICES, Interfaith Welcome, and Thrive Youth Center from Festival proceeds; \$533 each to the Migrant Center, Interfaith Welcome, and La Posada Providencia that was redirected from the RAICES Bond Fund; and \$10,000 to the FCNL Capital Campaign.
- All other income/expense categories were routine.

Faithfully submitted,
Bill Wilkinson, Treasurer

Report accepted.

Property Committee: Stephen

1. On Monday, 3 September (Labor Day holiday) Insight Meditation phoned to report a broken window in the Community Room. The broken glass was swept that evening and a police report was made. Samuels Glass completed replacing the glass on Wednesday. The cost was \$210.15.
2. Persyn Engineering report was received. It is being considered and will be a major component of discussions with candidate contractors.
3. Our HVAC system had a scheduled “spring” checkup. A voltage discrepancy was detected and is the likely suspect for a breaker being tripped. An electrician will be called to sort out the problem and CPS has been contacted.

James Goslin, James Mize, Joni Mize, Stephen Shearer, Bill Sweet

Report accepted.

Ministry and Oversight: Jim

The Ministry and Oversight Committee met twice in August: on Wednesday the 8th and Wednesday the 22nd. Due to the clerk’s mess-up, only Jim and Val were at the meeting on the 8th, so we reviewed that meeting for Laura and James. Gretchen joined us for the second meeting.

Across the two meetings, we have these items to report, including one proposed Minute:

1. We have been concerned with the constant stream of late-comers to Meeting for Worship. Lateness is not the issue; the constant opening and closing of the door is. It disturbs settling in, particularly toward the start of the meeting.

- a. We have partially solved this by cinching the strap on the outer door. The air pressure change from opening that door still does, however, cause the inner door to shake.
 - b. We propose that
 - i. We keep the doors closed for the first 10 minutes of Meeting for Worship. Late-comers can wait outside and come in together
 - ii. Children are welcome in meeting for those ten minutes and afterwards if they wish to stay. They continue to be welcome to come for the last few minutes of meeting as they do presently.
 - c. We propose that
 - i. We try this for a 3-month period, beginning October 14th. This gives us three First-Days to announce the new policy.
 - ii. This will require someone to remain outside to guide late-comers. We suspect that we can find volunteers or one of us can do it.
2. We have started a few practices that we think will help members and attenders become more familiar with the Quaker path:
 - a. We are announcing the availability of M&O members and Clerks to answer questions about Quakers after Meeting for Worship. (This has already resulted in some lovely conversations.)
 - b. Val has asked members and attenders to write their "Questions about Quakers" on cards and deposit them in a box on the piano. We will use these to create forums and items for the newsletter.
 - i. Val will lead a forum on September 30th on "How does one actually become a Quaker?" – one of the questions asked.
 - c. We purchased 5 copies of the QuakerSpeak video collection "What to Expect in a Quaker Meeting for Worship". These are available in the Library for borrowing and return.
 - d. We need to purchase a better visitor's book. It will happen.
3. At the August 8th meeting, we agreed to have the new website go live by September 1st. That has been done, with a couple of glitches.
 - a. First, the transfer inadvertently erased the newsletter distribution list. We are in the process of recreating it.
 - b. Second, we discovered that many newsletters are not being delivered via the way we have been sending them out. Jim has set up a secure mailing list system to avoid this – and also to let people subscribe or unsubscribe on our website. He has not yet had time to merge our various lists, however. It will come.
4. At both meetings, we spoke about the needs of meeting members and attenders. At the August 22nd meeting, we decided the outlines of our memorial service for Doug Balfour, which will take place on Saturday, September 29th. His family has sent us a biographical sketch. We still need to:
 - a. help them decide on a time for the service
 - b. get a photograph for a handout and a poster
 - c. create said handout and poster
 - d. arrange after-memorial snacks, beverages, etc.
5. We discussed the issue of burying cremains on Meeting property.
 - a. We are informed that it is legal for us to do so. We will check this, but Texas law does allow cremains burial on private property.

- b. We have found two solutions to the problem of acidity. Both involve soil amendments, and both have kits that make this easy. These kits cost \$150-\$300 and are biodegradable.
- c. We had intended to write a minute for Meeting's approval, but the press of other events intervened. We will try to have one by next Meeting for Business.
 - i. In it, we will propose locating the cremains garden along the outer end of the Great Wall, in place of the current tangle.
 - ii. We think it appropriate to allow the placement of small memorial plaques.
- 6. Gretchen proposed that we have a Meeting for Healing. We decided to dedicate the September "Soup and ..." Midweek on the 13th to this and did so. Ten people were in attendance.
- 7. We are making progress on the Peace Day Movie Night event for Friday, September 21st. The movie is Michael Moore's "Where to Invade Next". We decided to rent a projector and sound system, to facilitate the presentation. Jim has discovered that s Windows update has erased his laptop's DVD drive. He may have it fixed by then, but we welcome someone volunteering a laptop with a working DVD drive that can show the movie.
- 8. Still on our agenda:
 - a. WiFi for the Meetinghouse.
 - b. An M&O appointee to the Long-Term Planning Committee
 - c. What name to use in place of "Oversight"
 - d. The status of Quarterly Meeting
 - e. How best to organize our various forms electronic and paper outreach (newsletter/website/Facebook/??).
- 9. James G will continue to seek monthly Queries, which will be considered and approved via email.

Suggested that new policy on keeping the doors closed for first 10 minutes be posted on the website. A sign on or near the door is also being considered. It was suggested that Friends who arrive earlier leave a few pews closest to the door free so that the people coming in at 10:10 do not have to walk to the far side of the Meeting room.

MINUTE 2018.09.1: FMSA has been concerned with the arrival of late-comers to Meeting for Worship, which disturbs settling in, particularly toward the start of the meeting. FMSA will keep the doors closed for the first 10 minutes of Meeting for Worship. Late-comers can wait outside and come in together. FMSA will try this for a 3-month period, beginning October 14th and then revisit in M&O and then bring back to Business Meeting for further discernment.

It was suggested that all lists/directories floating around be integrated and consolidated.

Report accepted.

Peace and Social Concerns: Jim

Jim, Val, and Greg met at the Meetinghouse on Wednesday, August 8th. Much of the meeting involved catching up on the various things that happened at the July Business Meeting, which only Val was able to attend.

We are still reaching out to Pastor John Garland's "No Separation" project but have not yet been able to connect. That project pairs U.S. congregations with congregations in northern Mexico who are

supporting families who have been separated from their children. We will continue to pursue this connection.

We continued our discussion about asking the Meeting to set aside 10% of our savings for future social concerns projects. We need to consult with the Treasurer and with the Finance Committee and perhaps schedule a forum on the topic before bringing a minute to Business Meeting. We are all too busy, so the way has not yet opened for us to pursue this.

We are planning a forum on the upcoming city election for October 14th. We have invited a speaker to discuss the proposed Charter amendments and also the city's progress on various issues.

Subsequent to our meeting, we received notice of an opportunity to provide service to refugees:

The Interfaith Welcome Coalition is looking for individuals and families to be available and on call one week a month to provide transportation from and to the airport or bus station and overnight lodging for a refugee family who is stranded in San Antonio for the night. Because of the unpredictable and sporadic nature of this need, it is important to recognize that such a call may or may not happen during the week on call. Some Spanish is useful and training will be provided. This is a hospitality ministry that will be shared by 4 different area congregations, under the auspices of the Interfaith Welcome Coalition. For more information call Jo Pendleton at 210.478.8867.

P&SC will meet again to discuss this and other issues after Val has returned from her travels.

-- Jim Spickard

Report accepted.

Other Concerns

Free Movie Night publicity has gone out. Still need people to move the benches. Rudy from Celebration Circle has offered to lead us in anti-war songs. There will be a jar for donations and donation proceeds will

Committee Clerks should prepare budget requests to submit to Finance.

Nominating Committee survey was sent out to Friends via email.

Fall Festival was suggested previously and it was questioned whether there was energy for this. There was concern that with the Nominating Committee was already asking people where they feel led to serve and this might be asking too much or confusing. It was suggested that this can be in conjunction with media exchange day in December. The sense of the Meeting was that we are not called to put on a separate full blown Fall Festival, but that we look into expanding media exchange day.

Secular Language for Public Outreach- Concern that when reaching beyond the Meeting (on website, social media, other outreach) that we use secular terms such as "children's program" and use the names of the days and months (i.e. Sunday, February) rather than "first day," "second month," etc. While a concern was expressed in moving to modern language too quickly, there was no overt objection to the practice as it pertains to communications beyond the Meeting, because traditional Quaker language might be confusing for newcomers, and using the modern/secular names for the days and months is generally already being done.

Using full names in the Minutes: there was a concern about possible privacy issues in having full names listed in the minutes. It was reassured that the minutes do not go out publicly and are kept internal and that there should not be serious privacy concerns. It was also suggested that by using first names only, it might create a sense of in-group mentality not welcoming to newcomers and create difficulties for any possible future archivists/historians in creating an accurate record. Concern will be held over and discussed in M&O.

The Meeting closed with silent worship.

Gretchen Haynes, Co-Clerk

Kellie Price, Recording Clerk