

**Minutes**  
**FMSA Meeting for Business via Zoom**  
**July 21, 2021**

Attending: Val Liveoak, James Mize, Oliver Gerken, Bill Sweet, Pat Sweet, Gretchen Haynes, Rachael Cundey, Pam Spurgeon

Opening Worship: *Jim Spickard*

The meeting opened with silent worship.

Clerk's Comments: *Jim Spickard*

How can we support each other as we move forward as a Meeting?

**Prior Minutes**

Friends approved June 2021 Minutes with corrections.

July 18<sup>th</sup> Called Meeting for Business

Friends approved Choice #1 from the Report of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Reopening

- We will hold a traditional Meeting for Worship (in-person without Zoom) from a 8:30-9:30 in the meeting room
- We will hold a blended Meeting for Worship (in-person with Zoom on a smallish screen) from 10-11 in the Meeting Room

Treasurer's Report: *Bill Sweet*

**Balance Sheet**

- ✓ As directed by Minute 2021.1.1, half of the distribution from the Friends Fiduciary investment account, being \$2,625.52, was deposited in Operating Cash.
- ✓ As directed by Minute 2021.6.1, \$11,500 was withdrawn from the Friends Fiduciary investment account and deposited in the Relief Fund. A designated contribution from an individual was also added to this account.
- ✓ As directed by Minute 2021.4.2, the entirety of the RAICES Bond Fund was recategorized to a new account, the Immigrant Assistance Fund.
- ✓ As directed by Minutes 2021.6.2 and 2021.6.3 and additional discussion, \$3,500 was withdrawn from the Friends Fiduciary investment account as a contingency and deposited in General Maintenance. Up to \$500.00 may be spent as directed, the remainder dependent on later decision(s).
- ✓ Continuing the usual practice and confirmed by Minute 2021.1.1, half of the distribution from the Friends Fiduciary investment account, \$2,625.52, was added to General Maintenance.
- ✓ The Friends Fiduciary Growth & Income Fund increased in value by \$20,705.36. The Friends Fiduciary Short Term Investment Fund increased by \$50.60.

**Statement of Activities**

- ✓ Contributions in June totaled \$1055.00. Thus, contributions were 35% of the 2021 budgeted general contributions, at 50% of the year.
- ✓ For the first time this year, an organization has resumed on-site activities, paying \$175.00 rent.
- ✓ Repair of the HVAC in the Phase I buildings cost \$1,129.33, charged to Minor Repairs & Maintenance.

- ✓ The CPS bill in June is for \$362.54 for 3.073 MWh of electricity. The Big Sun Community Solar off-site photovoltaic panels gave us a credit of \$178.20. After charges for additional services, the bill was for \$206.86.
- ✓ The leak in the water supply during the November-December 2019 billing period resulted in a charge of \$3,391.52, adjusted to \$2,199.15. The invoice for June showed a credit of \$527.66 remaining after the charge for June of \$106.96. We expect to resume paying for water in the October-November 2021 timeframe.
- ✓ Renewal of a website domain name plus the monthly charge totaled \$22.16.
- ✓ Other expenditures were routine or less than typical, given the current pandemic conditions.

Faithfully submitted, William  
D. Sweet, Treasurer

There was a question regarding what needs to happen in order for disbursements for certain organizations, and Bill indicated that the checks will be written in relatively short time frame.

Report accepted.

**Committee Reports:**

**Ministry & Oversight: Val Liveoak**

There were two M&O meetings in July.

July 7, 2021 was a called meeting to consider the Ad Hoc Committee's report. It was attended by: Gretchen Haynes, Joni Mize, Val Liveoak, and Jim Spickard, Clerk.

- We considered the report from the Ad Hoc Committee. We approved passing it on to the Meeting at the next MfB. While we made no changes to the report, we agreed to have Joni draft a cover letter explaining the process that the Ad Hoc committee undertook. She'll draft the letter and send it to all on M&O and to the Clerk.
- We expressed our great appreciation for the committee's hard work on this issue.
- We decided to hold a blended called Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on the 18th after Meeting for Worship to discuss the proposals offered in the committee's report.
- Jim agreed to look into the logistical arrangements to move the Porch/Common Room MfW into the Meeting Room in the interim until permanent modifications are made, because we do not believe the rather crowded MfWs in the Common Room allow for adequate or safe spacing now that 10 or more Friends have begun attending. This decision was reviewed during the regular M&O meeting on July 13.

July 13 Regular meeting was attended by Gretchen Haynes, Joni Mize, James Goslin, and Val Liveoak. Regrets were noted from David Bristol and Jim Spickard.

- Concerns re: Plans to hold "porch" meeting in the Meeting Room.
  - A concern was repeated that holding "porch" meetings in the Meeting Room prior to the July 18 called MfB would make moot the efforts of the Ad Hoc Committee.
  - Considering this concern, which had arisen the week before, we agreed to meet in the Community Room this Sunday. If either MfW or MfB is too large, we will meet on the porch.
- Report on RE and Children's program:
  - Sept 5 and 12: Gary leading forums on Gwyn's A CALL TO RADICAL FAITHFULNESS
  - Children's program—There have been lots of ideas and input. RE is still discerning when and how to resume.

- A member of one family has a compromised immune system and cannot participate, other families are very anxious to participate. How and when to best and safely do it is unknown.
    - Also a concern re: childcare workers.
    - Lacking certainty re participants and hence uncertain how many teachers needed. Ex: if 6 youngsters come with a wide age range there would be different needs. Gretchen anticipates a group from 12 up and 11 down.
    - Parents have expressed continued interest in helping children learn about Quaker ways.
  - Hold activities in August to encourage remembrance and mourning. P&SC suggests a Forum Aug. 8 after MfW to remember the victims of US Atomic attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and of past and current wars. P&SC will arrange this Forum.
  - After discussion in person and by email, we decided to hold Worship Sharing groups of Remembrance and Reflection every Sunday in August after MfW with these topics highlighted:
    - August 1, The many losses of the Pandemic
    - August 8, The victims of U S atomic attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, past and current wars
    - August 15, The legacy of racism and white domination
    - August 22, The assault on nature by human activity
    - August 29, A candlelight vigil at Meeting and at home to reflect on how our Remembrances have stirred us to become living candles
- Concerns re: Individual Friends
  - A discussion of an update on Marian Carter led us to unite on the following Minute:

*M&O Minute: M&O authorizes the Treasurer to issue a check from the Relief Fund for \$2,000 to the account of Marian Carter for Relocation costs, including support and care needs. Approved*

- We accepted the suggestions that all FMSA references to days of the week be their common names rather than numbers [i.e. Sunday instead of First Day].

Next meeting proposed date and time Aug. 10, 1pm. Discussion here.

Gretchen gave an update on Marian Carter.

Val clarified that all of the August worship sharing events will take place in the 11:30 time slot following meeting for worship. Zoom breakout rooms can be set up for those who participate via Zoom.

Report accepted.

Property: James Mize

The following Committee members were present: Pam Spurgeon, Joni Mize, James Mize and David Hayes

We have accepted a bid to remove dead trees around the property and expect the work to be completed soon.

We are working on fixing the main door issues in the meetinghouse.

The next workday is scheduled for 8/7/21 from 8am to 12pm and all are welcome.

The next property committee meeting is scheduled for 8/8/21 and 5:30pm via zoom.

**MINUTE 2021.7.2: FMSA approves the expenditure of \$3045.00 to Tree Wise Men to remove the dead trees around the property. Approved.**

Report accepted.

Religious Education: Oliver Gerken

The committee met 8 July 2021. James G., Gary W., Oliver G., Greg K., Gretchen H., Karen B., Danielle L. attended as Joni M. learned about convening.

As we are anticipating returning to in person worship, the committee looked ahead to preparing for two forums in September. These back-to-back opportunities will be facilitated by Gary based on the book "The Call to Radical Faithfulness: Covenant in Quaker Experience" by Douglas Gwyn. Tentative dates are 5 & 12 Sep 2021. Gary is ordering multiple copies to make them available to our beloved community. The committee offers ongoing and whole hearted support for these endeavors.

A great deal of care was and is part of our discernment about returning to an in-person Children's Program. Thoughtful, creative ideas and suggestions were expressed, as well as a willingness to take part when the time comes. The committee discussed possible scenarios including (but not limited to and not necessarily in this order):

- Prior to reopening, a Picnic Gathering (each family provides own meal) for everyone to meet and greet, acquaint ourselves and get a feel for potential attendance. (Like parking lot pot luck but down on the grounds) Note: This would be for whole community.
- The need for age groups, depending on attendance, and consequently providing a sufficient number of child care professionals.
- A "reentry" period (first 4 weeks perhaps), to remember and rediscover each other.
- Focused outdoor activities.
- Health protocol considerations.

There was a question about what the health protocols will be given the presence of COVID variants in the area, but that will be discussed more later. Oliver indicated that Religious Education feels it's best to have input on the protocols because it doesn't make sense to have two sets of protocols. Oliver clarified that Religious Education can absolutely get feedback from the parents and bringing it back to the Meeting as a whole for discussion.

Val suggesting erring on the side of increased precautions to ensure maximum potential participation.

Report accepted.

Community Engagement Committee: Bill Sweet

The Committee met on 12 July.

James Goslin, Gretchen Haynes, Jim Spickard and Bill Sweet attended.

The charge given the Committee as delineated in the Handbook was discussed. Given the pandemic-imposed limitations, the functions were judged to be well covered. Thus, the Committee is taking it slowly, being alert to opportunities to fulfill that charge which arise as we resume more normal activities.

Bill Sweet, interim convener

Report accepted.

Peace and Social Concerns: Oliver Gerken

Peace and Social Concerns report, July 8 2021

In attendance: Val Liveoak, Donna Dickerson, Oliver Gerken

During our meeting, the Peace and Social Concerns Committee discussed the following topics:

Affinity Groups. The committee continues to extend its support for affinity groups designed to support the leading of Friends. If anyone is interested in pursuing a leading and would like help in connecting with other Friends with similar leadings, they should feel encouraged to engage with the Peace and Social Concerns Committee.

The committee is also taking under its consideration a possible forum series on this topic, including reflection exercises and focus questions like "What are your leadings after a year of COVID?"

Programming for Indigenous People's Day. The committee is exploring the possibility of a forum and/or workshop on working towards Right Relationships with Native Peoples. The notion is to offer this programming in celebration of Indigenous People's Day. Friends are encouraged to submit questions and topics of interest on this topic to the committee. The committee is interested in the Meeting's feeling as to whether these programs should be offered to the public.

Grief work. Given the deep grief experienced during the pandemic, the committee is interested in offering a forum on the processing of grief. We propose that August be noted as a Month of Mourning, Reflection, and Incorporation with the possible culmination of an evening service/vigil for our committee to make space for loss. We passed this suggestion on to Ministry and Oversight Committee, which took it up.

P&SC will lead the Remembrance and Reflection session on Aug. 8 to consider victims of wars and Atomic/nuclear weapons.

Report accepted.

Other Business:

Who will set up for 8:30 Meeting for Worship each Sunday?

- Set up and turn on two HEPA filters at 8 am
- Put distancing signs on benches
- Place table with masks, instructions near gate
- Hang hand sanitizer dispenser on post
- Set up for rest room
- Place "Meeting for Worship in Progress" sign near Meeting Room door at 8:30

Val suggested that we also need someone responsible for ending Meeting at 9:30 and signs on both outside and inner doors that indicate that if any Friends are worshipping, Friends should enter the Meeting Room quietly.

Public Health and Zoom Protocols

The city's COVID warning indicators. Right now our health care system is not stressed, but our case rate has tripled in the last two weeks and our positivity rate is up 150% in last two weeks.

- Plus in and run our two HEPA filters starting at 8am
- Arrange benches for distancing (already done)
  - Put signs to limit seating on each
- Mask use recommended for everyone until variants decline
  - Required for unvaccinated and immunocompromised until COVID largely eliminated
- Have hand sanitizers available at entry and near restrooms
- If we reach attendance limit, ask volunteers to leave to make room for newcomers

Zoom

- We will use our current equipment until we are able to install upgrades.
  - Softer-spoken in-person participants may need to approach the microphone to give ministry
- Zoom participants will be unable to unmute themselves but may signal to give ministry

Announcements:

Change in weekly email notices. Received notice from email company that too many emails were being bounced back. Jim made changes to the system to require CAPTCHA and have had no bots since the change, but announcements will go out differently for a bit.

Zoom and Meetinghouse calendars: link on the hidden page. Friends can look to see whether meetinghouse or Meeting Zoom account is free for planning.

Other Announcements:

No scheduled business meeting in August.

Reminder that Ministry and Oversight will be monitoring the COVID situation and will cancel in person meeting if it deems necessary.

Send newsletter content now.

Cielo Grande Quarterly Meeting on September 11 by Zoom from 9 to noon.

Closing Worship

Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Spickard  
Clerk

Kellie Price  
Recording Clerk