

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting- Agenda for the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business - 9:00 AM, February 21st, 2021 online via Zoom

- Chris Stanley, Clerk, and Alice Carlton, Recording Clerk

1. Opening worship and query – Chris Stanley, Meeting Clerk.

Query: Do you respect that of God/the Light in everyone though it may be expressed in unfamiliar ways or be difficult to discern?

2. Chris: Welcome, recognition of first-time attenders, review of agenda.

3. Alice: Minutes of the January Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MWAB). Consider. Approve the January MWAB minutes?

4. Jasmine McKewen, Clerk of Children's & Youth Religious Education, will present their annual report. Q&A. Approve the report?

5. Henry Schneider will present a letter declaring his position as a Conscientious Objector. Q&A. Accept the letter?

6. Dottie Henninger will present the memorial minute for Martha Gwyn. Q&A. Approve the minute?

7. Discernment discussion – Friends have requested time to express their feelings regarding the January 6th discernment announcement (copied below) and we will have some time for that. Please understand that the statement of discernment on unity is open for discussion — not the pros and cons of rooftop solar panels.

8. Jeff Brown, Clerk of Ministry and Worship, will provide an update on the discernment within M&W regarding a recommendation to make in-person worship available again. Q&A. Accept the report?

9. Update on task force to make a recommendation regarding our policy on stewardship for gifts to benevolences. Q&A.

10. Hart Pillow, Clerk of the Quaker Earthcare Witness Committee, will present a minute on Climate Change and requests affirmation that we as a Meeting are in unity with this minute.

QEW Minute on Climate Change: Climate change is an existential crisis. QEW advocates addressing this crisis as a Meeting as well as individually.

11. Tom Munk, Clerk of the Peace and Justice Committee, will share the results of the committee's discernment on benevolences.

12. Betsy Brinson, our representative on the Quaker House Board, has requested a delay for the annual report until March so she can include current financial information.

13. Chris: Next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business is planned for 9:00 AM on March 21st, 2021.

. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A. Save the date for PFF/PFYM, the weekend April 9-11, via Zoom. The theme is "Cultivating the Garden of Diversity and Inclusiveness." Jeff Brown will update us with the latest information.
- B. To send items for the weekly eNews email news@chapelhillfriends.org. Put "for eNews" in the subject line. Deadline is each Wednesday at midnight. For the monthly print newsletter, email news@chapelhillfriends.org. Put "for Newsletter" in the subject line. Deadline is the last Sunday of the month.

C. Other announcements?

14. Closing worship, virtual circle, preparation for 11:00 AM Meeting for Worship.

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting has been considering a proposal for Rooftop Solar for many months. The proposal was prepared by a subcommittee authorized by the Meeting and has been endorsed by several committees. Many individuals are very much in favor of proceeding and have expressed their willingness to support the project financially. However, the Meeting is NOT in unity with the Rooftop Solar proposal. Friends who do not support the proposal have a variety of reasons. These include:

- The uncertainty of financial needs, community and individual, related to the pandemic
- Uncertain expenses and effort needed to return to worship together, which is seen as a priority
- Reluctance to begin a capital campaign in the current situation
- Belief that the proposal centers on CHFM exclusively and is not based on our testimony to community
- Project benefits are more financial than ecological, where environmental action was the original intention
- Concern that other projects of benefit to the environment have not been adequately considered

A very significant portion of our community does not support the proposal now. It is not one or two individuals standing in the way. Exchanges between community members during the discernment process have become increasingly hurtful and divisive. This replaces the deep listening that is our goal, and harms our community. For this reason, both the Ministry and Worship Committee and the Care and Counsel Committee have been engaged to provide the Clerk with support in discerning the sense of the Meeting regarding the Rooftop Solar proposal.

As Clerk, my sense of the Meeting is that we are not in unity now, that we are unlikely to find unity on this proposal soon and that the current process is having a deeply harmful effect on us as a Quaker community. It is time to set the rooftop solar proposal aside and to refocus on supporting each other more fully. Discussion of this proposal will not be included on the agenda for Meeting for Worship With Attention to Business for at least several months. It is possible that our Meeting may decide to reengage with this proposal in the future. If the proposal is reintroduced, that discussion should begin with a clear statement of the goal of the project, and unity should be found on that goal first, so we can work together toward the best way to achieve it.

This discernment has been reached with the support and counsel of the Ministry and Worship and the Care and Counsel Committees.