

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting - Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

9:00 AM, December 16, 2018

MINUTES

Matt Drake, Clerk, and Robin Harper, Recording Clerk Pro Tem

ATTENDANCE: James Harper, Deborah Gibbs, Max Drake, Buzz Borchardt, Carolyn White, Faye Stanley, Chris Stanley, Ben Ray, Kurt Hein, Gwyn Hein, Ken Grogan, Gwynne Pomeroy, Madelyn Ashley, Kitty Bergel, Tom Munk, Jennifer Leeman, Emilie Condon, Dottie Heninger, Jan Hutton, Jeff Brown, Lois Ann Hobbs, Carolyn Stuart, Tim Fogarty, Monteze Snyder, Julia Cleaver, Lynn Drake, Don Hopper, Matt Drake, Joyce Munk, Paul Munk, Catherine Alguire, Barbara Williamson, Willie Williams, Jeffery Watkins, Edward Harris, David Curtin, Wendy Michener, Richard Miller, John Hite, Naveed Moeed, Robin Harper

1. Opening worship and query

“How do I manage my commitments so that over-commitment, worry, and stress do not diminish my integrity?”

Several Friends spoke about the effects of over-commitment and the ways it can diminish us, not only in our integrity, but also in our faithfulness, in our relationships, and in keeping sight of our priorities.

2. Welcome, recognition of first time attenders, review of agenda

There were no first time attenders.

3. Minutes of the November 18, 2018 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MWAB) – Jennifer Leeman, Recording Clerk Pro Tem.

Approved.

4. Naming Committee

As approved previously, the clerk was asked to form a Naming Committee to recommend two new members of the Nominations Committee. Naming Committee members were: Dottie Heninger and Matt Drake.

Approved.

Friend reminded us that, in keeping with past practice, the clerk perhaps should not be the one to serve on the Naming Committee.

5. Recommendations for meeting room renovations - Don Hopper, Clerk, Buildings and Grounds Committee

See Appendix 1. Don added that the ceiling microphones may be replaced with wall mics and that the LED strip lighting in the valance may need be upgraded. So far, the effectiveness of cork underlayment to reduce sound from the flooring has not been proven. The ceiling tiles will absorb sound. Other measures, such as sound absorbing panels on the walls and carpeting on the underside of the bench seats, can be taken if we find that Friends have trouble hearing in the meeting room. The ceiling will be constructed so that ceiling fans can be installed if needed in the future. Improvements to the interior doors can be considered when the foyer is renovated. Contractors can begin work mid-January. Meetings for worship will be held in the schoolhouse when necessary. E-News announcements and signs on the doors will be utilized. ***Approved, with deep gratitude to Don and B&G committee. Friend reminded us of the ten years that Don has spent managing this project, and that most of the “in-house labor” comes from his effort.***

6. Care & Counsel Committee Annual Report - Jennifer Leeman, Co-clerk

See Appendix 2. Jennifer read the report, and then answered questions about the formation of clearness committees and the work of archiving. A Friend encouraged others to consider service on the Care & Counsel Committee. **Accepted, with our appreciation.**

7. Proposed letter from the Meeting to the News and Observer - Tom Munk, Co-clerk, Peace & Justice

See Appendix 3. Tom has been led to address US support of the war in Yemen, and has enlisted help from Meeting members, visited with US representatives, and worked closely with FCNL, who recommended writing this point of view article. Tom has drafted the article and shared it with the P&J Committee. He has informed Congressional staffers that it is going to the N&O, and hopes for their support.

Friends asked that Tom add “signed by Tom Munk of the CH Religious Society of Friends,” indicating our support. Friends also asked about adding more details and a citation about childhood deaths.

Tom intends to keep the Meeting informed via the e-news about developments, and how Friends might address specific points in writing their own letters.

We approved, with deep appreciation, sending the letter about Congressional action concerning US support of the war in Yemen to the News and Observer. Friends expressed thanks for Tom’s faithfulness, hard work, and following his leading, and congratulations on his success with those he has appealed to.

8. Carolina Friends School Annual Report - Buffie Webber, Meeting Representative, Board of Trustees *Delayed until January.*

9. Recommendation for Nominations Committee - Dottie Heninger, Naming Committee member

Dottie presented a recommendation that MWAB approve the appointment of Deborah Gibbs and Chris Stanley to Nominations Committee, starting January 2019. **Approved.**

The Nominations Committee is comprised of Annette Broadwell, Carolyn White, Leslie Rountree, Mike Jokinen, Tim Fogarty, and is co-chaired by Gwynne Pomeroy and Dottie Heninger.

10. Request for membership received

“Dear Matt, Paul and I have been considering applying for membership in the Meeting. We have attended the Meeting for approximately 10 years, and appreciate the Meeting, and feel the time has come to join. Sincerely, Paul and Joyce Munk.”

The request will be forwarded to Ministry and Worship Committee to establish a clearness committee on membership.

11. Library Committee Annual Report - Dave Curtin, Clerk

See Appendix 4. Dave read the report, and then answered questions regarding the distribution of duplicated titles. One Friend offered to look into donation of a laptop or desktop. **Accepted with appreciation.**

Clerk brought our attention to their request for more assistance, and asked Friends to consider. Friend encouraged Friends to remember to consider teens when looking for more committee members.

12. Proposed Memorial Minute for Marilyn Dyer - Dottie Heninger, Archives Committee

See Appendix 5. Friends expressed thanks for Dottie’s work, specifically as a gift to Archives, and more broadly as a gift to the Meeting, in writing this masterful minute, subtly and beautifully capturing Marilyn’s spirit. **Accepted.**

13. Announcements

A. Today at 5:00 PM: **Meeting Christmas Party** in the schoolhouse

B. Today, tonight, and Dec. 23: **Alternative Gift Mart** will be open

- C. Tuesday, Dec. 18: **Church of Reconciliation will have a candlelight vigil** in solidarity with those who marched our border with Mexico, and with those in sanctuary
- D. Sunday, Dec. 23 Forum: **Holiday Singing** led by Faye Stanley
- E. Monday, Dec. 24, 5:00/5:30 PM: **Christmas Eve Worship** in the meeting room
- F. Sunday, Dec. 30 Forum: **“Personal Sharing by Tom McQuiston”**
- G. Monday, Dec. 31, 5:00 PM: **New Year’s Eve games, potluck, white elephants**
- H. Sunday, Jan. 6, 2019, Forum: **"HEAR YE, HEAR YE, READ ALL ABOUT IT!" . . . the newly published *Faith and Practice of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting***, led by Matt Drake
- I. Sunday, Jan. 13, 2019, Forum: **Benevolence Suggestions and Dialogue** with Hank Elkins and the Peace and Justice Committee
- J. Sunday, Jan. 20, 2019, 9:00 AM: **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**
- K. Sunday, Jan. 27, 2019, Forum: **Animal Welfare Committee** brings Suzanne and Hue Nelson-Karreman, co-founders of Reverence Farms in Saxapahaw
- L. Memorial Plaque has been mounted on the wall outside the meeting room.
- M. Richard Miller has better pecans to offer for those who purchased pecans which turned out to not be of a very good quality.

14. Closing worship, circle, prepare for 11:00AM meeting for worship

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Report from Building and Grounds: Don Hopper for B&G

Update and Recommendation on Meeting Room Renovation - 18 November 2018

The Building and Grounds committee has come together in unity on a recommendation of aspects for the meeting room asked for by MWAB in April of 2003. These recommendations are as follows:

- Remove existing ceiling sheetrock and the insulation above. Install new sheetrock and trim (small), demolish existing lights, install 12 new recessed LED can lights, add receptacles for valence lighting - Dynamic Electrical solutions \$2,800
- Valence to be supplied by Meeting \$2,000 dimmable LED tape lights
- Install Armstrong Faux Wood Surface Mount Acoustical Plank Ceiling Tiles - Premiere Painting and Home Improvement \$2,600 labor. Meeting supplies Tiles \$2,500
- HVAC reworking of return grills and supply grills - Warren Hay Mechanical \$1,500-2,000
- Install and finish new Select White Oak T&G hardwood floors - NC Floor Guys \$13,600
- Install Tcoil friendly hearing loop \$ unknown. Investigation ongoing. Prices seen for medium sized location \$5,000-\$10,000. This may be something Meeting can tackle.

Total Meeting Room \$37,500 + Tcoil Hearing Loop TBD

Appendix 2: Chapel Hill Friends Meeting Care and Council Committee Annual Report—2018

The Care and Counsel Committee serves the Meeting by overseeing the pastoral care of each member and attender and is concerned with the wellbeing of our meeting in general. In order to do this, we depend on requests from those in need and from those around them who become aware of such needs. We are always mindful of the necessity for privacy, confidentiality and listening beyond the words.

Members of Care and Counsel have participated in several clearness, support and membership committees this year. Some committees were formed in order to help individuals to achieve more clarity and/or specific direction in times of personal or professional transition or crisis. Others offer spiritual and emotional support for people dealing with the challenges of aging and/or serious injury. Membership and other requests during the past year have involved people from teenagers all the way to elderly. During 2018, we also facilitated

events from the marriage of Sean Chen and Lori Kamala to the scattering of Dirk Spruyt's ashes and the memorial services for Bill Schweke, (including the interment of his ashes in our Memorial Garden) and for Marilyn Dyer (whose ashes were taken to California by one of her daughters). With the Archives committee, we maintain a current map of the Memorial Garden, a record of who is buried there, and memorial minutes.

Even though forums on clearness and support committees and end of life issues have taken place in Meeting within the recent past, Care and Counsel has seen fit to offer or prepare forums in both these areas during 2018. In addition we are now in the planning stages for a January 2019 forum to facilitate the formation of a number of small special interest groups. We do our best to stay in contact with individuals appearing in our Directory who are not presently regular attenders of Meeting. We are encouraging those individuals who have elected to place their end of life or medical emergency papers in our Meeting's lock box to update those papers periodically. At the same time, we continue to encourage individuals who have not yet done so to initiate this process.

Through the Meeting Newsletter, Care and Counsel offers transportation to Meeting events to individuals for whom this is a challenge. A recently created subcommittee is currently working to formulate guidelines for significant life celebrations and for the welcoming of new babies into our meeting. After her excellent service as convener, Deborah Gibbs rotated off Care and Counsel at the end of June, along with Jeff Brown, Kitty Bergel and Eloise Grathwohl. We are now being co-clerked by Bonnie Raphael and Jennifer Leeman. Current members also include Tom Munk, Lynn Drake, Tom Ludlow, Pat Mann, Jasmine McKewen, Ann Miller, and our invaluable Meeting Clerk, Matt Drake.

Appendix 3: Proposed letter from the Meeting to the News and Observer newspaper

For the Chapel Hill Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, a proposed Point of View article from the Meeting to the News and Observer.

This Holiday Season, Let's Use Our Peace-Making Powers to End the World's Worst Humanitarian Crisis

We write to thank you for your December 8 article on the horrific war in Yemen. ("Rebel delegates at Yemen peace talks report some progress") As you reported, "The war has killed tens of thousands and made Yemen the world's worst humanitarian crisis with 22 of its 29 million people in need of aid, according to the U.N." Starvation and cholera are epidemic. Every ten minutes, a child in Yemen dies from a preventable disease. But this is no sad, unavoidable natural crisis. It is an intentional Saudi military strategy in which, sadly, we Americans are complicit.

The U.S. needs to end military support for this unconscionable war. The Trump administration's decision to halt mid-air refueling for the Saudi coalition is a step in the right direction. Now Congress must bar refueling as a matter of law, rather than a reversible matter of presidential discretion. Additionally, the U.S. must stop providing military intelligence and training to the Saudi-led coalition. This is a matter of law -- Congress has never authorized the use of U.S. military force in the Saudi-led war in Yemen, making U.S. participation in the war illegal and unconstitutional. According to our Constitution, only Congress can declare war.

The post-Vietnam War Powers Resolution affirmed this Constitutional role, but Congress has never invoked the resolution. It is past time to do so and both houses of Congress have bills in place invoking the War Powers Resolution and directing the President to "remove United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress." These are Senate Joint Resolution 54 (SJR 54) and House Concurrent Resolution 138.

On December 13, 56 Senators, including six Republicans, voted in favor of SJR 54. Shamefully, Senator Burr voted no and Senator Tillis chose not to vote. Both Senators, in fact, had earlier voted to keep the bill bottled up in committee. They have not responded to our inquiries about their reasons.

In the House of Representatives, N.C. Democrat David Price, N.C. Republican Walter Jones and ninety-four other Representatives have co-sponsored House Concurrent Resolution 138. North Carolina's other eleven Representatives have failed to do so and outgoing House Leadership has refused to allow a floor vote.

When the Democrats retake the majority in House in the New Year, we can expect these bills to reappear. We ask all North Carolinians to reach out to our Senators and Representatives and to urgently let them know that we want them to co-sign SJR 54 and H Con Res 138. We want no part of this horrifying war on the men, women, and children of Yemen.

Appendix 4: Library Committee Annual Report (2017-2018)

The Library Committee maintains and improves the Meeting's collection of library books, periodicals, pamphlets, and other resources to further the life of the Meeting and its participants. It annually reviews the collection and purchases new materials on its own initiative as well as considering requests from committees and individuals. It works particularly closely with the Ministry and Worship Committee, the Children's and Youth Religious Education Committee, and the Adult Religious Education Committee. Attendance at committee meetings is open to all.

Highlights from the last year:

1. The library committee has continued to maintain the collection in Library Thing, our online guide accessible through the link on our web site, and we are working on ways to enter pamphlets and other publications that are not from Pendle Hill.
2. We purchased 5+ new books.
3. We added 20+ donated books to the collection.
4. We have purchased 10 copies of the new Faith and Practice from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
5. We have shifted the collection to make better use of space, and continue to clear non-library material from the shelves.
6. Donated 30+ books to the Eno Friends Meeting of Hillsborough

Goals for the coming year:

1. Offer the accumulated books that we cannot use to the Meeting members, and donate books they do not want to the public library or Eno Friends Meeting of Hillsborough.
2. Go through the rest of the books Marilyn Dyer has very graciously donated as well as the other two libraries donated by friends and offer duplicates and others we cannot use to Eno Friends if they have a library.
3. See if we can obtain a computer/laptop/tablet for people to search Library Thing while in the library for books they are interested in.
4. Try some options for the pamphlets that are not currently indexed so that they are more available to the Meeting.
5. Encourage Friends to help keep the library neat by not leaving miscellaneous items on the shelves and tables.
6. We have had two members of the committee leave, and are looking for more help. We have not been able to find a time when the entire committee can meet this fall.

Please email library@chapelhillfriends.org if you have suggestions for purchases, subscriptions and the like. Submitted respectfully by Allie Scales, Dave Curtin (clerk), Jamie Jacobs, and Lloyd Kramer

Appendix 5: Memorial Minute: Marilyn Armondine Dyer, October 17, 1922 – November 11, 2018

Marilyn and her husband Don (who died in 1995) transferred their membership from Langley Hill Friends Meeting in Baltimore Yearly Meeting to Chapel Hill Friends Meeting in 1978. Earlier, Don's work for the diplomatic corps of the State Department took them to live in Peru, Brazil and Mexico, and to travel around the world. Marilyn and Don were married for more than 60 years, raising two daughters, March Elizabeth Dyer, and Meredith Claire Dyer.

Marilyn was proud of her western roots as a fourth generation Californian. During a personal sharing at Meeting, she described her early years after her mother's death when Marilyn was seven. Her 85 year old great-grandmother raised Marilyn and introduced her to the Methodist Church. Marilyn became a strong minded, determined person who graduated from Northwestern University and later pursued further university studies.

Marilyn participated steadfastly in Meeting. She served many terms on Ministry and Worship and regularly shared her Quaker ideals in Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. Members were particularly grateful for her detailed knowledge of yearly meeting membership. Throughout her life, she cherished books, always bringing huge numbers of books to share at Friends General Conference gatherings. Her energetic determination also led her to found the Triangle C.G. Jung Society where she remained active for 30 years.

In her later years, Marilyn moved to Carol Woods Retirement Community and quickly became known as the elegantly dressed walker. She rarely missed a day on Harkness Circle.

Our Meeting will remember Marilyn for her ideals and the certainty of her beliefs. We were also blessed by the sweetness of her spirit. We continue to benefit from her wisdom.