Midlothian Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship with Concern for Business
Minutes
Tenth Day**, Fifth Month, 2015**—11:00 a.m

Those in attendance include: Robyn Johnson, Sandi Wiggins, Kari Richards, Dee Dee Mattingly, Bill Marx, Ann Duncan, Steven Edwards, Cierra Brooks, David, Heather, Elliot and Ian Stocker.

Queries to Discern the State of the Midlothian Friends Meeting

Does our meeting enjoy the depth of community that allows us to search together in emotional and spiritual safety?

How does MFM meet the needs of your spiritual life? Does our meeting help us reach toward our divinely given potential?

Coming weekly gives space to ask questions and to clear away all the business of modern life. Ministry of friends here helps identify areas to stretch and grow in.

Problem with second query: "Divinely given potential" can be seen as an insult. Let's get beyond having potential.

Being here helps us to figure out what is moral.

Meeting provides us with the pep talks and encouragement we need to remind us what path we want and need to keep with it every week. It revitalizes the path we're choosing.

Meeting helps us to know that we are love and that we don't have to seek it; we are undoing the blocks of love.

This is the space we need to practice love and all the challenges that brings forward. Great learning: in business meeting years ago our friend learned it's not the challenge or the task or decisions it is how we bring all of us along together in love regardless of outcome situation, question, or being.

Care and Community

We held folks in the light.

C&C is trying to come up with more ways to get together and stay connected. There was a survey and Care and Community will use that information to enhance our sense of community.

RE

Child Safety Policy

After a reading of the Policy
Requiring a background check for everyone can hinder us. There were concerns brought up that we may have situations where we need someone who can teach, but that the person doesn't have a background check.

It was brought up that trusted adults are often the ones who harm children most often. Maybe meeting can find a way to incorporate children into the greater meeting when a person with a background check is unavailable.

Outline the time frame for background checks. Add the wording "recent" background check and define "recent" (in the past year, 3 years, etc?). It was also noted that two adults are safer than one.

Add "Recent" to 2nd paragraph 2nd sentence and outline what "recent" means-1 year, 2 years, 5 years, etc.

Giving ad hoc committee approval to make this change and draft it for the insurance company (due date of June 1). We can revisit this issue and tweak the policy at a later meeting.

Treasurer's Report

All is well. We still have approximately $500 shortfall on the porch/roof project. We also have a pretty good handle on the monthly budget.

Building and Grounds

Commendation to Meeting for having purpose, plan and focus on getting the porch project done.

We're waiting for an inspector before they install the porch ceiling.

There is arsenic that will leach until September in the treated wood of the porch posts.

There is a work day next Saturday.

Celebration of new porch is being bandied about. Fourth Sunday in June.

Gratitude for Buildings and Grounds is expressed.

Clerk's Report

Possibly combine the two celebrations: the Annual Gathering for Clearness and the Renovation Celebration. Robyn will go back to Spiritual Nurture Committee with suggestions that we possibly push the retreat back the fall so that we can truly reflect on changes that are happening. We may need to be listening to what spirit is saying since there seems to be illness and life events that are interfering with the organization.

Announcements

Annual Gathering for Clearness-Sat June 6 1:00 to 4:00 pm.

Special MFM Celebration proposed for 4th Sunday in June to celebrate renovations.

Friends General Conference
Seeking Wholeness 2015 FGC Gathering July 511 at Western Carolina University near Ashville, NC

Silence ended worship.