

Midlothian Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
March 14, 2010, 9:30am

APC
April 11

Present: Tom DeWeerd, Scott Cannady, Larry Barnett, Tracey Cain, Chuck Grove, Cate Myers, Julie Crum

Meeting opened with silence, a reading of queries, and a review of the agenda.

TREASURER

John Cain presented the treasurer's report in a new format. The clerk will send a quarterly financial snapshot, a brief summary of the fiscal state of the meeting, to be distributed via the Town Crier.

MINUTES

The minutes from February's meeting for business were approved with corrections.

The minutes from March were approved as written.

MEETING FOR BUSINESS, SCHEDULING

The committees were asked to consider the issue of scheduling the day and time of the monthly meeting for business. Spiritual Nurture would like to have a consistent time for business meeting, with Sunday morning being preferred but not strongly. Buildings and Grounds would like an evening meeting, Thursday or Friday. The current system of meeting alternately before and after meeting for worship makes planning for committee meetings on Sundays difficult.

Tom DeWeerd attended business meeting at Richmond Friends, where the practice is to hold business meeting during the regular worship hour once a month. Tom found this practice to be extremely productive and meaningful. There was worshipful silence between agenda items, with a high level of engagement and great spiritual quality.

Meeting agrees that a consistent time for business meeting is desirable. We will schedule business meeting for 9:30 each second Sunday. A prompt start is important, and friends agreed that we would finish at 10:45, holding over unfinished business for the next month. Critical agenda items will be scheduled early in the meeting.

Friends are encouraged to visit Richmond Friends Meeting on the third Sunday at 11am to experience the practice of meeting for worship with attention to business during the regular worship hour.

CARE AND COUNSEL

The wedding of Chuck Grove and Cate Myers will be held at the meetinghouse next Saturday. Carrie Richards has provided a wealth of information about Quaker weddings.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Scott Cannady reported that the committee is addressing funding for capital expenses vs operating expenses. They are looking into the high utility bills. There is exposed wiring in the woods near the creek; the developer will be correcting this issue. The stairs have been finished and look very nice. Three work days have been scheduled: May 15, July 17, and September 25.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The children made kits of school supplies for the AFSC project. Plans for summer camp are moving along. The first Sunday of each month will be an outing for the children; they will meet at someplace outside of the meetinghouse, ie a park, instead of coming to the meetinghouse.

SPIRITUAL NURTURE

Spiritual Nurture has been planning the annual Gathering for Clearness at The Clearing in Amelia County. The theme will be "Midlothian Friends Meeting: Our Spiritual Home". Meeting's committees are participating in planning activities. As usual, we will have worship sharing about the state of the meeting, and Spiritual Nurture will generate the report before the next meeting for business.

PEACE AND SOCIAL ACTION

The Thrifty Quaker donated \$1,171 to the American Friends Service Committee.

BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING

BYM is offering workshops to monthly meetings; Larry will see if we can have a BYM workshop as one of the Quakerism 101 sessions.

The annual BYM apportionment meeting will be held at 10am on April 24 at Goose Creek Meeting in Loudon County. Tom will attend and invites others to attend with him.

The BYM interim meeting will be in October at Richmond Friends Meeting. We will see if we can help with the meeting in an effort to get reconnected with RFM.

The BYM newsletter, Interchange, includes news of monthly meetings. Midlothian Friends Meeting would like to contribute our news more regularly; perhaps the news could be submitted by the clerk, assistant clerk, and recording clerk. Perhaps submissions could be approved by meeting for business.

Meeting ended with silence.