

Midlothian Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship with Intention for Business
Minutes

Thirteenth Day, Tenth Month, 2013 – 11:00 a.m.

Those in attendance included: Ann Duncan, Nora, Sophia and Olivia Duncan, David and Roselle Clark, Stephen and Grant Long, Brian McCutcheon, Katie DeWeerd, Adam and Kayla Brown, Joy Heaton, Karrie Richards, Robyn Johnson, Howard Brod, Soohoon Ahn, Liz and Ethan Singer, yoomie and Annie Ahn, Claudia Farr, Emily, Will and Sam Keenum, Chuck and Cate Grove, Maria and Andrew Cannady, Jane Roberson and Tom DeWeerd

The meeting opened with silence

Query from BYM Faith & Practice under the heading “Simplicity” -- “How do we support one another in our search for a simpler life?”

One voice on simplicity – Thomas R. Kelly, 1941

I wish I might emphasize how a life becomes simplified when dominated by faithfulness to a few concerns. Too many of us have too many irons in the fire. We get distracted by the intellectual claim to our interest in a thousand and one good things, and before we know it we are pulled and hauled breathlessly along by an over-burdened program of good committees and good undertakings... [W]e learn to say No as well as Yes by attending to the guidance of inner responsibility. Quaker simplicity needs to be expressed not merely in the dress and architecture and the height of tombstones but also in the structure of a relatively simplified and coordinated life-program of social responsibilities.

The RE Committee

- We welcomed many young Friends as Katie DeWeerd began her teaching for 2nd and Laura Clark will begin teaching this coming 4th First Day in October. The committee hopes this provides some consistency for our RE program and is pleased these two past members of the MFM RE program have returned to teach our current group of children many who came today.
- Maria Cannady announced that she has been led to offer a “lock in” at our meetinghouse for young Friends. She expressed that she hopes this can happen again soon. Those interested should speak to her.

Treasurer’s report:

- The MFM Financial Update for October was distributed and some was given for attenders of business meeting to ask questions of the Treasurer. This worked well and this practice of not presenting but rather seeking questions will be continued. The waiting allows the Spirit of Meeting to be experienced.
- A letter from the clerk to Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM0 on the subject of apportionment was read. (attached)

Peace and Social Action Committee (PSAC):

- Thrifty Quaker recipient for October is Caritas Furniture and for November it is AARF (an animal shelter). It was announced that in September, \$3,295.00 was donated to the Richmond Peace Education Center (RPEC) and that their Dinner and Silent Auction will be held on Saturday, November 9th.

Spiritual Nurture Committee

- Friend Roselle Clark has been led to offer sessions for adult attenders of MFM on the subject of Quaker Faith and Practice at the Rise of Meeting on dates to be determined. This short series of about 6 sessions will be named Quakerism 101 or simply Quaker Faith and Practice. Roselle Clark will decide. Announcement of the topics and the times will be forthcoming on the Town Crier. The first topic will be Quaker History, facilitated by Howard Brod.

Building and Grounds Committee:

- Ideas for projects are welcome for the next workday on Saturday, December 7th for both the meetinghouse and the grounds. More gravel is needed on the driveway but this project is being held off at this time because of the sensitivity of our budget concerns. Another concern remains a few rotted trees that could pose a danger for our building and children’s play area. Anyone interested in working on that project is asked to contact the committee.

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Care and Community Committee

- The *Fall Gathering for Fun and Fellowship* was announced for Saturday, October 26th

Nominating Committee

- As work begins to fill positions for the coming year, how to simplify operations remains a concern of the committee.
- Worship sharing last month helped a great deal. After reflection a couple comments seemed to resonate with those in attendance
 - o As we move forward seeking to know what to lay down and let go, we should rely on feeling the deeper sense of trusting in a higher Spirit or essence of being. We need to slow the process down, listen, feeling the movement of things unfolding.
 - o As some are practical and goal oriented, we should see this process as restructuring our family, look at the chores that need to be done and list the tasks. No one needs to serve without knowing that the duties are necessary

The meeting ended when the children arrived at 12:15 pm and told of their study of Malala Yousafzai who said, “You must not treat others with cruelty and that much harshly, you must fight others but through peace and through dialogue and through education.”

Midlothian Friends Meeting

P.O. Box 1003
Midlothian, VA 23113

October 6, 2013

Riley Robinson, General Secretary
Baltimore Yearly Meeting
17100 Quaker Lane
Sandy Spring, Maryland 20860

Dear Friend,

I am writing in response to your recent letter to Howard Brod, our treasurer, asking about the amount of apportionment that BYM received from Midlothian Friends Meeting (MFM) to date this year. I am not sure why you sent this letter as we have already written about this to you. If this was just a "form letter" that is sent out to everyone with amounts filled in, I understand what happened. At the same time, as a member of the financial stewardship committee, I do not think this is the way we should be treating our monthly meetings. It totally ignored our previous communication and the hard work MFM has put into this process. I will read your letter at business meeting this Sunday and this response. Our business meeting and our Financial Stewardship Committee authorized me to write on our meeting's behalf in June. Our end-of-the-year 2012 treasurer's report and the 2013 budget submitted raise serious financial concerns that I expressed then and will repeat some of it here for you again.

Similar to what I wrote in 2010, our declining attendance and donations have continued. Our expenses and our current rate of donations reveal that our projected budget could not meet the appropriated amount of \$3,960 for 2013 or the expected 2014 apportionment of \$3,770.

A good portion of our budget goes to our mortgages each month. In addition, our meetinghouse has needed some major repairs. Although it is a relatively new home for us, the building itself is not new and we continue to be good stewards of the property by making the needed repairs and improvements.

It is clear that one obligation that MFM will not be able to meet this year and next year is our BYM apportionment. With the information we have at this time, we plan to pay \$2,000.00 to BYM for 2013 and will try to budget \$2000.00 for 2014. This amount will be determined during our budget timeline.

We recognize this is only about 50% of what BYM has requested and that yearly meeting depends on the monthly meeting apportionment to meet its budget. Our community remains committed to our relationship with BYM and we do not take this action lightly. We know the reduced amount will complicate the yearly meeting budget process and will not be easy. We will keep you informed if there are any additional changes.

We did send \$1,000.00 to BYM and the only response was that we are not meeting our obligation to BYM. We remain disappointed in the process.

In Light and Peace,

Tom DeWeerd
Clerk, Midlothian Friends Meeting