

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

Those in attendance include: Robyn Johnson, David, Roselle and Laura Clark, Brian McCutcheon, Ann Duncan, Stephen, Deb, Grant and Nora Long, Howard Brod, Claudia Farr, Patti Barnes, Veena Raguvir, Kieran, and Asha Haug, Larry Barnett, Joy Heaton, Karrie Richards, Tom DeWeerd, Heather Stocker, and David Stocker

BYM Queries to Discern the State of the Midlothian Friends Meeting—Page 89 from

Care and Community Committee Report

We held those who needed it in the light.

Peace and Social Action

Climate Change minute: Roselle read the minute and the minute will be held over until January for feedback. This will go out into the Towne Crier but here is a copy of the minute:

Minute on Quaker Stewardship

As Quakers, we are called to be stewards of our natural world, and we recognize a moral duty to cherish creation for future generations. We face the challenge of living sustainably and in unity with nature.

We recognize the connections between climate change and unprecedented levels of consumption on a planet with limited natural resources. As a faith community dedicated to peace and social justice, it alarms us that the effects of climate change disproportionately impact the world's most impoverished people and that fossil fuel extraction and consumption has contributed to international conflict.

We feel called to put our testimonies into action and let them guide us as we face this urgent challenge. We support actions on all levels, from individual to international, as we work toward an ecologically healthy planet. We invite other individuals and communities to endorse this minute and to join us in restorative actions to heal ourselves and the planet.

This Earth is a stunning gift that supports a multitude of life. It is our only home. Let us care for it together.

TQ charities

November—Friends of the James River received \$1500

We've donated over \$27,000 in the community this year.

Richmond Peace Education Center wrote a thank you note to Midlothian Friends Meeting for the donation we have given them this year via the Thrifty Quaker which allowed RPEC to affect change within our community and state.

Treasurer's Report

Update on the Expenditures for 2015—we are a little short. We are short about \$2300. We are making budget cuts to BYM donations so that we can make our other expenses.

There is a suggestion to change the wording of “Fund for Support”.

Financial Stewardship Report

The Budget for 2016. Capital projects budget will be brought down to zero. Reductions of the RE budget—monies were left over that has been set aside for supplies. Reductions to Peace and Social Action Committee. Our electric bills have been lower and we will reduce this on our budget to reflect those changes.

Insurance has gone up.

There is a reduction in the total budget of about \$1400.

There is a request to simplify the process regarding how the budget is presented in 2016.

Discussion ensued regarding a letter regarding Sustaining Midlothian Friends Meeting and how folks can help support the meetinghouse.

Financial Stewardship has been given the power to soften the language of the letter.

Nominating Committee Report

The Committee Roster was presented to the greater community.

Spiritual Nurture Committee

Christmas Eve meeting for worship at 5:00.

Clerk's Messages

BYM wants to have their interim meeting here at MFM.

We ended meeting with silence.

You Friends return to Meeting for Worship to report on their lesson.

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

Those in attendance include: Robyn Johnson, David, Roselle and Laura Clark, Brian McCutcheon, Ann Duncan, Stephen, Deb, Grant and Nora Long, Howard Brod, Fred Moore, Claudia Bates-Physioc, Claudia Farr, Karrie Richards, Tom DeWeerd, and Heather Stocker

BYM Queries to Discern the State of the Midlothian Friends Meeting

“Am I aware that the ways in which I choose to use my time, my possessions, my money, and my energy reflects my most deeply held values?”

“How do we show through our ways of living that love of God affirms the equality of all people?”

“How do our lives illustrate our understanding of the basis of our peace testimony?”

Care and Community Committee Report

We held those who needed it in the light.

The Care and Community Committee is learning about how to keep track of attenders and members and how best to reach out to those who have not been to meeting in a while. The next meeting is next Sunday, Third First Day, October 18th at 9:30 a.m. and anyone is welcome if they have an interest in the work of this committee.

Please let Care and Community know when you find out about folks who need extra support. Brian McCutcheon, Emily Keenum and Amy McVaugh are the committee members to contact.

Peace and Social Action

TQ charities

September—Richmond Peace Education Center (RPEC) received just over \$4000.

October—Prisoner Visitation and Support

There is a natural tension between speaking out regarding our testimonies and the political interpretations individuals hold. As a meeting we need to clarify how emails, etc. relate to testimonies and PSAC asks that folks ask about how issues connect to our testimonies when questions arise. The committee asks that PSAC review potentially sensitive issues so as not to leave the burden to any one person in meeting.

Consideration of a minute about Global Warming: This will be forthcoming in the Quaker Towne Crier for people to consider and discuss at next meeting.

There will be a moral injury workshop on the 24th at Richmond Friends Meeting. There is more information on the bulletin board.

Spiritual Nurture Committee

Reviewed our “Vision of Community” and made changes to the fifth and last paragraph.

Treasurer’s Report

We are falling behind on contributions. We may need to cut back on our BYM apportionment and may fall behind or default on other obligations. We may further need to consider whether we continue with BYM despite the many benefits the yearly meeting brings us.

Building and Grounds

B&G Meetings are going to quarterly meetings. Large projects (such as the porch) are done. The next meeting will be in January. B&G potentially has two openings.

Next year B&G would like to add to the budget for lawn care.

There will be a fall clean up/work day. Information will be forthcoming.

Ann Duncan (treasurer) will need committees to bring budget needs so that she can create a 2016 budget for the meetinghouse.

Nominating Committee will begin the process of filling opening committee positions next month. Dave Stocker is clerk; Jane Roberson and Maria Cannady are members. If you are moved to join Building and Grounds or another committee, please consider contacting one of these members.

Meeting closed with silence.

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

Those in attendance include: Robyn Johnson, David and Roselle Clark, Brian McCutcheon, Olivia, Nora, and Ann Duncan, Stephen, Deb, Grant and Nora Long, Howard Brod, Amy Mllins, Patti Barnes, Fred Moore, Brian Buniva, Julie Crum, Amy Quinn, Emily and Will Keenum, Claudia Bates-Physioc, Jane Roberson, Tom Deweerd, Susan Umidi, David and Heather Stocker

Queries to Discern the State of the Midlothian Friends Meeting

“Where there are hatred, division, and strife, how are we instruments of reconciliation and love?”
“How do we respond, as individuals and as a community, to prejudice and injustice?”
“What am I ready to release so that I can give my attention to what matters most?”

These queries leave room for individuality, though they don’t express a dogma, they do remind us of our core values.

Care and Community Committee Report

We held those who needed it in the light.

Spiritual Nurture Committee

We worked on paragraphs 4 and 5 of Our Vision of Community. We will hold over further edits.

Treasurer's Report

We have approximately an \$800 shortfall that would be taken out of the BYM apportionment if the shortfall comes to pass.

Webmaster Report

The website has been revamped. There have been updates and new information has been added.

In future Business Meetings we consider what goes on the website, versus on Facebook. We are looking for folks who will be willing to do video (30 seconds) on a topic of your choice.

Peace and Social Action

August—VA Supportive Housing \$3,216.96

Charities will be announced via The Town Crier.

Earth Care Witness has a gathering when Pope Francis is in D.C. This is to address environmental issues.

There's a Women's Retreat in January. Theme: Lighten Up: Sharing Love, Light and Laughter. More info is on the bulletin board.

Richmond Friends—Moral Injury Workshop Sat. October 24th. This is to help those with moral stress.

PSAC is still working on minutes for the environment, drone use and religious freedom.

There is a BYM workshop on growing our meeting.

Meeting closed with silence.

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

Those in attendance include: Robyn Johnson, Celine Brooks, Cierra Brook and Steven Edwards, David Clark, Brian McCutcheon, Olivia, Nora, Sophia and Ann Duncan, Jane Roberson, and Annalise, Claudia Farr, Frank Moore, Erin and Tom Deweerd, Susan Umidi, David, Heather and Ian Stocker

Queries to Discern the State of the Midlothian Friends Meeting

“Are our Meetings for Worship with a concern for Business held in the spirit of worship, understanding and forbearance?”

“In what ways do we each take our right share of responsibility in the service of the meeting?”

Do we humbly set aside our own preconceived notions as to the proper action, seeking instead Divine guidance as to the right course?

Care and Community Committee Report

We submitted our state of the meeting report. A thank you goes out to David Clark for working hard to get that together.

A thank you goes out to Building and Grounds for our renovation celebration.

A successful art camp was conducted. Thank you to Laura Clark.

Spiritual Nurture Committee

We received a thank you card from Ann Strathie’s daughter for providing her mother with transport.

We need to provide transport to Carmen Wong.

Spiritual Nurture is still working on a survey re: interest groups.

We held folks in the light.

“Vision of Community” We continued as a meeting working on the Vision. We appreciate David Clark’s flexibility and hard work on this project.

Treasurer’s Report

We had an increase in donations and we’ll be in the black if we maintain that level of giving for this month.

Apportionment to BYM.

Our Clerk read a paragraph about the apportionment. BYM states that it is the same for every monthly meeting and is based on the financial health of a meeting from two years prior. There is a line item for shortfall where BYM takes extenuating circumstances into consideration and that is budgeted by the yearly meeting. MFM falls under this line item shortfall.

RE Report

We seek approval for the MFM Child Safety Policy, but as we discussed this, we decided to hold the policy over.

Webmaster Report

David is experiencing challenges with the website. We're looking to move to another platform.

Peace and Social Action

We've received a note from Quaker House thanking us for our donations.

BYM news will be posted on the bulletin board.

Building and Grounds

Building and Grounds is looking at bringing back some of the natural look around the meetinghouse including the playground.

Cierra Brooks and Steven Edwards will be united Saturday July 18, at 11:00 am.

Silence ended worship.

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

Those in attendance include: Robyn Johnson, Steven, Grant and Nora Long, David, Heather Stocker, Claudia Bates-Physioc, David, Roselle, and Laura Clark, Alice-Leigh Mason, Carmen Wong, Karrie Richards, Amy and Don McVaugh, Debbie Beck, Jane Roberson, Annelise Ladore, Brian McCutcheon, Joy Heaton, Tom Deweerd, Howard Brod

Queries to Discern the State of the Midlothian Friends Meeting

“Are our Meetings for Worship with a concern for Business held in the spirit of worship, understanding and forbearance?”

“In what ways do we each take our right share of responsibility in the service of the meeting?”

Do we humbly set aside our own preconceived notions as to the proper action, seeking instead Divine guidance as to the right course?

When direction seems lacking, is this seen as a challenge to a more prayerful search for truth?

Care and Community Committee Report

We held folks in the light.

Starting in August, a Friend needs transport and the schedule will come out on the Town Crier

This committee is also working on a wedding.

Spiritual Nurture Committee

We hashed out Spiritual State of the Meeting Report 2014. Dave Clark lead this section and the proposed changes will come through the Town Crier.

Building and Grounds Committee Report

June 28th we have a big celebration. MFM has invited other Quaker Meetings. We need some help to prepare for this gathering. We need: grass cutting, llama farm tour volunteer (Debbie), need 10 ½ gallons of ice cream with toppings, ice, etc.

PSAC

TQ received the Richmond Peace Education Center award as Peacemaker of the Year.

June 19th RPEC has a John McCutcheon concert going on.

There are three minutes that PSAC will be considering in the future: Religious Freedom, Drones and the Environment

Silence ended worship.

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.

Meeting for Worship with Concern for Business
Minutes
Eighth Day, **Third Month, 2015**—11:00 a.m

Those in attendance include: Bill Marx, Robyn Johnson, Debra Beck, Don McVaugh, Stephen, Deb, Grant and Nora Long, Fred Moore, Laura Moore Crespín, Susan Umidi, Howard Brod, David Clark, Roselle Clark, Joy Heaton, Debbie Beck, Ann Duncan, Olivia, Nora and Sophie Duncan, Karrie Richards, David, Heather, Elliot and Ian Stocker, Tom DeWeerd

Introduction to today's theme: Nurturing our youth.

Care and Community We held folks who need it in the Light.

RE There will be a parent meeting to discuss RE curriculum and planning directly after business meeting.

Junior Young Friends of BYM are to visit MFM next weekend. A few things need to be done to prepare and we have volunteers covered for each of the items in preparation.

Child safety policy writing ad-hoc committee meeting is March 9th at 6 pm. All are welcome.

Treasurer's Report Please see Ann's Report for the March update with end of February totals.

Special note: semi-anonymous donations have greatly funded the B&G roof and porch funds.

Building and Grounds Committee Roof replacement and porch funds update and planning information:

Goal: B&G plans to seek bids starting May 1. B&G would like to let folks know via the Town Crier that we need our total to be \$11,000 before we can start looking for contractors. The sense of meeting is that the porch is a go and that putting our need or \$1600 on the Town Crier is appropriate.

A generous member of MFM offered to match up to \$800 for this project if the greater meeting can fund the other \$800.

Peace and Social Action Committee (PSAC)

Tom is submitting a nomination for the Thrifty Quaker to be considered by the Richmond Peace Education Center as Peacemaker of the Year (2015).

February's donation is to Southside SPCA and we'll have \$700-800.

March's donations will go to Quaker House.

Joy will present on prison visitation next week.

Spiritual Nurture Committee Report

Vision statement: We'll review our vision statement and continue a review of that statement. Those will be taking the place of queries at business meeting.

A central goal for Spiritual Nurture Committee involves assisting with, facilitation and awareness of spirituality and Quakerism.

Annual Gathering for Clearness—we're planning our spring retreat. Current date: Saturday, June 6. There will be no potluck, the hours are from 1:00 to 4:00 pm, there will be a one-on-one activity and a fun treat. The theme for that day is walking cheerfully over the earth answering that of God in everyone. In an effort toward simplicity, the Annual Gathering will be held here at the meetinghouse.

Announcements

Scholarship and Grants are available to Quaker youth. See the BYM website for more information regarding these opportunities.

BYM Camp: they have scholarships for camp and MFM has scholarships as well. The application is available, please see the bulletin board.

July 5 is Friends General Conference. See bulletin board.

BYM publishes the Interchange. If we want to add info for our meeting then the deadline is March 23. Let Tom know if you're interested in writing this quick blurb.

Earl Ham (?) has scholarships for high school students who want to explore the campus.

Robyn spoke on a 21 day meditation practice published by Deepak Chopra and Oprah Winfrey. It takes only 20 minutes a day and she will send that through the Crier.

Business meeting ended with silence.

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

Those in attendance include: Katie DeWeerd, Kayla Brown, Michael Brown, Jane Roberson, Brian Buniva, Robyn Johnson, Claudia Farr, Howard Brod, David Clark, Roselle Clark, Steve Long, Scott and Maria Cannaday, Brian McCutcheon, Joy Heaton, Patty Barns, Ann Duncan, Nora Duncan, Sophie Duncan, David Stocker, Heather Stocker, Tom DeWeerd

Introduction to today's theme: Community.

Discussion about the meaning and purpose behind committees.

One concern is the "non-consecutive" wording in Nominating Committee. The concern is that some folks may not be getting the break they need. Rest is important as a way to honor the individual who may be doing very difficult and demanding work for the Meeting as a whole.

Committees may need to recognize where the overlap is in similar committees.

Care and Community The Clerk wishes to express appreciation for those who dedicated their time to the Christmas Eve service: Ann Duncan, Robyn Johnson, Howard Brod, David Stocker, Anne Strathie, Larry and Eileen Barnett, Brian McCutcheon, Amy and Don McVaugh, and any others who had a hand in helping provide for this opportunity for worship.

Financial Stewardship Committee & Nominating Request for expansion of trustees. We have three right now: Roselle Clark, Brian Buniva and Howard Brod. Explanation of trustee role: trustees do not hold ownership of the meetinghouse, but act as legal representatives with no personal liability.

Discussion ensued regarding how this will be shaped.

Sense of meeting: we will expand the number of trustees. The number of new trustees and the details will be worked out in the future. Nominating Committee may take the reins if no one steps forward.

Treasurer's Report: Howard Brod delivered and explained the final report and end-of-year figures for 2014 as well as the state of meeting's financial situation in January 2015.

Building and Grounds Committee: Some things need future decisions. There are pressing problems with shingles and the soffit is rotting. B&G wants to build a porch and roof which would help with the soffit problem as well as doing roof work. The goal is to have the work done in the next year.

Further discussion will take place during the Second Month's Business Meeting.

Peace and Social Action Committee (PSAC): TQ donated \$16,810.80 dollars in donations. December was a banner month. STEP VA is the January charity.

Each month PSAC will be sponsoring talks that relate to PSAC concerns. PSAC meetings are open to everyone.

Business meeting ended with silence.
