

Midlothian Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship with Concern for Business
Minutes

Ninth Day, Eleventh Month, 2014 – 11:00 a.m.

Those in attendance included: Cate Grove, Chuck Grove, Bill Marx, Maria Cannady, Karrie Richards, Debbie, Stephen, Grant and Nora Long, Jane Roberson, Katie DeWeerd, Ann Duncan, Olivia Duncan, Nora Duncan, Howard Brod, Robyn Johnson, and Tom DeWeerd

Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) Proposed Queries on Outreach were listed to consider during the opening silence. One asks, “How does my life witness to my Quaker faith?”

Care and Community – Several Friends asked for someone to be “Held In the Light”

- o Note from BYM Faith & Practice, p. 31 **The work of “Holding in the Light” can be healing and helpful to others; even simply knowing that this is happening in a difficult time may be a profound blessing. Almost certainly, our own lives will be changed as well. As our awareness embraces the relationship between the Divine and the individual, our own relationship to the eternal is touched. The life of the Meeting will also be changed; the Meeting as a body becomes a community of concern with a common focus, a shared vision, and a gathered sense of loving care.”**

Nominating Committee – The roster for the 2015 roles and committee positions that begin in January for MFM was outlined with just a few remaining needs: hospitality has one opening, Care and Community has a need for at least one other, and the RE committee this coming year will be made up of the two teachers, Laura Clark and Katie DeWeerd, with the need for another member or two to help with decisions and possible planning of our annual retreat events for the children, as well as, any outings or events that may be planned (A meeting of parents with the teachers will take place in January), and finally, no one yet has stepped up to take over as clerk of meeting.

Spiritual Nurture – The annual candlelight Christmas Eve worship will again be held at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, December 24th. An ad-hoc committee was formed to make sure the meetinghouse is open, decorated and that music will be part of the worship. We look forward to having this worship.

Treasurer’s Report – Direction was provided to the treasurer regarding how to handle capitol projects in the creation of the 2015 budget. He plans to work with the financial stewardship committee on this issue. Two questions were considered;

- o Do we want to budget money for capitol projects like we have been doing?
- o Do we want to allow Friends to contribute to projects beyond a normal unrestricted contribution for the meeting’s operating expenses and create more “restricted” funds?

The two capitol projects are tied together: a porch roof and replacement of our meeting house roof. After some good questions and discernment, it seemed the two are not mutually exclusive and we could do both. This will be decided at 12 months meeting for worship with concern for business.

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Peace and Social Action Committee (PSAC): Announcements

- o The topic for our *Meeting for Nurture* next First Day, November 16th at rise of meeting will be Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) facilitated by Stephen Long.
- o The current charity selection for the Thrifty Quaker is RISC - "**Richmonders Involved to Strengthen our Communities (RISC)**", an interracial, interfaith, nonpartisan organization which brings congregations together to build the power to meet God's call to "do justice" in the Greater Richmond region." This group's strong presence in the Richmond area advocates for the disadvantaged. They are involved in tutoring in schools, running food pantries, and also holding elected officials accountable for fairness and economic justice.
- o The December charity is Madeline's House; this is a battered women's shelter

Building and Grounds Committee – The next Workday will be Saturday, November 22nd and include raking leaves, cleaning the inside of meeting and staining the deck. All are welcome and needed. Times will be determined based on the weather since staining should not be done early on a cold fall day. Details will be announced on the Quaker Town Crier.

Clerks Comments – Several requests have come from BYM regarding visitors wishing to speak to MFM and they have been given to the PSAC committee to help with planning as part of the Meeting for Nurture series.

- o One Friend from Herndon Friends Meeting wishes to speak to us about our relationship to animals and how that ties in with Quaker testimonies
- o The BYM Financial Stewardship Committee wishes to visit us to discuss the value of BYM and why there is apportionment and to answer our questions.
- o Another Maryland Friend from the BYM Unity With Nature (UWN) Committee has relayed that at the Annual Session this year, BYM approved a minute from the UWN committee. The minute concerns Right Relationship with Nature. The minute asks each Monthly Meeting in BYM to discern on climate change, resource depletion and environmental degradation. Here is a link to the minute from the UWN page of the BYM website:

http://www.bym-rsf.org/what_we_do/committees/nature/rightrelations.html

A short silence ended business meeting as our children returned from First Day School.

Painted pumpkins & birdhouses will be on sale next week to raise funds for the children's chosen charity. These items are meant for you to use as part of your Thanksgiving Day table decorations.