

Midlothian Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship with Intention for Business
Minutes

Ninth Day, Sixth Month 2013 – 11:00 a.m.

Those in attendance included Howard Brod, Karrie Richards, Maria Cannady, Andrew Cannady, Tom DeWeerd, Ann Duncan, Sophia Duncan, Olivia Duncan, Nora Duncan, Liz Singer, Ryan Singer, Ethan Singer, Jake Snider, Annie Snider, Virginia Snider, Claire Snider, Jane Roberson, Robyn Johnson, Dave Clark, Roselle Clark, Emily Keenum, Sam Keenum, Will Keenum, and Brian McCutcheon.

The meeting opened with readings from the BYM Revised Faith and Practice on listening.

After a review of the agenda, the clerk welcomed those in attendance.

The following “minute” was read and approved:

The theme for our gathering for clearness on May 4th was simply “A Gathering for Clearness.” We offer gratitude and thanks to the Spiritual Nurture Committee for a wonderful event for our community.

Spiritual Nurture Committee

The annual State of the Meeting Report was read aloud. After comments of approval and some editing suggestions, the report was approved. *(look for this in a separate email)*

Meeting for Nurture sessions on our BYM Revised Faith & Practice resume in the fall.

The following “minute” was read and approved:

Sharing our meetinghouse with Olney Friends would not have been possible without the planning and forethought, as well as, the hard work of cleaning and repairing the house and property for our visitors. We offer gratitude and thanks to the Building and Grounds Committee for the wonderful gift to Olney and for a beautiful event for our community.

Building and Grounds Committee

Olney Friends School Visit - Our visitors worked on the grounds and did a wonderful cleanup of the property. They left a wonderful thank you note and a gift of \$50.00 to cover utility costs while they were here.

Lawnmower - Chuck and Cate donated a working lawnmower. It is gasoline powered.

Recent repairs and upgrades - We've spent more money than we expected for this point in the year, so we'll avoid spending much for a few months. Electrical

work done last month included fixing the kitchen light fixture and now all plugs are childproof and any plugs near water sources are properly grounded. Some small plumbing repairs were done as well.

Handicap updates - FGC reported back that they have no money available at this time; they will hold our application over to their November cycle.

Roof - This is our biggest concern. We just hope that no leaks or damage comes our way for some time. A rough guess-timate would be \$7,000-\$10,000.

Treasurer's Report

May and June 2013 Financial Update – *(look for this in a separate email on June 16th)*

Financial Stewardship

The clerk's letter on apportionment to BYM was approved – see attached

Peace and Social Action

Thrifty Quaker recipients were announced

June: RISC - Richmonders Involved to Strengthen our
Communities

July: PCAV - Preventing Child Abuse Virginia

August: Just Compassion

Baltimore Yearly Meeting

A Letter from Clerk of the BYM ad hoc Vision Implementation Committee explained some surveys that will be forthcoming and announced some visitors would be coming to MFM to discuss the vision of BYM.

Youth Safety Policy Adoption

The ad-hoc committee formed to help RE with the writing of a Youth Safety Policy that takes a practical and spiritual approach for MFM while meeting the needs of our insurance carrier has not yet met. Anyone wishing to join this committee are welcome; Ann Duncan, Claudia Farr, Howard Brod and Tom DeWeerd will work on this policy.

From our State of the Meeting Report

We must remember to look at the forest and see the tree trunks and bare spaces, then look up and see the branches as they mingle together... the strength of our meeting is similar to the strong tree trunk and also the beauty of their ability to share one's branches and arms together. Both strength and beauty come from the roots that lie deep in the common soil. That is what we must continue to do ... to connect as a meeting with the Spirit during worship and carry the Spirit passing it on to other people we meet in our lives.

Meeting ended in silence at 12:05 p.m.

Midlothian Friends Meeting

P.O. Box 1003
Midlothian, VA 23113

June 10, 2013

Riley Robinson, General Secretary
Jim Riley, Clerk of Financial Stewardship
Baltimore Yearly Meeting
17100 Quaker Lane
Sandy Spring, Maryland 20860

Dear Friends,

I am writing at the request of the BYM Financial Stewardship Committee as expressed to me in a phone call earlier this spring and at the apportionment meeting last in Charlottesville. The Meeting for Business of Midlothian Friends Meeting (MFM) and our Financial Stewardship Committee has authorized me to write on our meeting's behalf. Our end-of-the-year 2012 treasurer's report and the 2013 budget submitted raise serious financial concerns.

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.

As a small rural/suburban meeting just outside Richmond, we know some of the reasons for what is happening. We have discovered that a significant number of our regular attenders and members have experienced life changes: moving from our meeting area to the city, retiring and thus changing their income, divorce and separation causing serious disruption to their lives including financial stability, and a continued economic slowdown that has serious implications for the local economy including a negative impact on our small community. The single biggest factor, simply put, is that our attendance has declined over the last several years.

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 will also try to send some of our apportionment this summer to help with the BYM operating budget as you have requested.

In Light and Peace,

Tom DeWeerd
Clerk, Midlothian Friends Meeting