# Midlothian Friends Meeting Meeting for Worship with Intention for Business Minutes

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

**Those in attendance included:** Brian McCutcheon, Ann, Lenora, Sophia and Olivia Duncan, Roselle Clark, Stephen, Debbie, Grant and Nora Long, Katie DeWeerd, Adam and Kayla Brown, Robyn Johnson, Howard Brod, Emily, Will and Sam Keenum, Cate and Chuck Grove, Jane Roberson, David, Ian and Elliot Stocker, Susan and Declan Edwards, and Tom DeWeerd

### The meeting opened with silence

Queries from BYM Faith & Practice under the heading "Listening" --

- "When is it hardest for me to be ready to listen?"
- "To what extent do I open myself to the risks of listening?"
- "How have I been changed by deeply listening to another, to God, to nature?"
- "How does my own perception affect the way I understand what others say?"

### One voice on listening - Gene Knudsen Hoffman, 2003

I am not talking about listening with the human ear. I am talking about "discernment," which means to perceive something hidden and obscure. We must listen with our spiritual ear, the one inside, and this is very different from deciding in advance what is right and what is wrong and then seeking to promote our own agenda. We must literally suspend our disbelief and then listen to learn whether what we hear expands or diminishes our sense of Truth.

### **Care and Community**

- A young Friend reported having fun on the trails, visiting the llamas, and with the bonfire at the Fall Gathering for Fun and Fellowship on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>
- The clerk suggested a "Minute" defined as a record of an agreement reached in Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business formalizing the Sense of the Meeting.

Meeting wishes to express appreciation to the Care and Community Committee and those Friends who made our Fall Gathering for Fun and Fellowship possible. We continue to need community-building events like this to promote the family spirit we often experience here in Midlothian Meeting.

• <u>Karrie Richards</u> continues to need our thoughts as she recovers from surgery. It also came to business meetings attention that <u>Jan Rappe</u> will be leaving Richmond to join <u>Beth Rappe</u> in Egypt on November 21<sup>st</sup>. The clerk will contact him to personally let him know we will be holding him and his family In-the-Light.

### Religious Education (RE)

• It was announced that Maria Cannady decided to hold off on a "lock in" at our meetinghouse for young Friends until there is a time when more of our teens can attend.

### Treasurer's report:

• The MFM Financial Update through the month October was distributed (see attached). After some silence for reflection, questions arose. Some concern was expressed that only 91% of our budget has been contributed leaving an estimated \$1600 short by the end of December and the end of our budget year. While it was expressed that we are pleased to be at 91% because of an increased budget, some discussion about what would not be funded for the year caused business meeting to decide to at least make a general statement in the town crier when this financial statement is sent out to indicate the facts of what this means. It was clear we are not alarmed and our most important mortgage and utilities obligations are being met each month.

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### **Nominating**

• Approval was sought on a decision reached by the committee that the 2014 committee appointments would remain the same as 2013 unless Friends ask not to serve. The process of simplifying our committee work is still unfolding. It was requested that the clerk of nominating send out a notice through the town crier that those new to meeting are welcome to serve on committees. Comments expressed support; however, some comments indicated the spirituality in following Quaker process during committee meetings, the realization that if committees don't meet, things won't get done, and that sometimes decisions reached at business meeting do have more support and involvement. One positive reaction was that care and community concerns for individuals have had more support since the business meeting is hearing about any need. The approval of the roster will be held over until 12<sup>th</sup> month meeting for business.

#### **Peace and Social Action Committee (PSAC)**

- Thrifty Quaker donated \$3,295.00 to the Richmond Peace Education Center (RPEC) for September and the October recipient was Caritas Furniture. The November charity is AARF (an animal shelter and December will be American Friends Service Committee (AFSC).
- The committee also reported that the Virginia Interfaith Council on Public Policy (VICPP) is gearing up to be active with the Virginia Legislature this winter. It was expressed that we have a moral and ethical obligation to weigh in on policy. The current session will hear from VICPP on the gun issue. PSAC will send out some information through the town crier on the proposals to reduce gun violence. It was also suggested that our Young Friends should be given information so they can be aware of what MFM supports in the area of public policy.

## **Building and Grounds Committee:**

• Saturday, December 7th, is a workday for the meetinghouse and grounds – Mark your Calendar!

## **Spiritual Nurture**

- Friend Roselle Clark has been led to offer sessions for adult attenders of MFM on the subject of Quaker History, Faith and Practice at the Rise of Meeting starting next First Day: Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup> with the first topic being Quaker History facilitated by Howard Brod. Other topics and the meeting time will be discussed at this first session.
- An ad-hoc committee was appointed to plan our Christmas Eve Worship. Ann Duncan agreed to organize the event with Emily Keenum, Robyn Johnson, Howard Brod and Tom DeWeerd participating.
- The Vision Statement from Baltimore Yearly Meeting (see attached) was read along with a letter from the BYM ad hoc Vision Implementation Committee who will be visiting our meeting sometime during the next four months.

The meeting ended in silence as the children arrived at 12:18 pm and told of their project creating Thanksgiving table decorations that will be on display and for sale the next two First Days in the committee room. Young Friends as for an unspecified donation for these 'center pieces' in order to raise money for a charity based on their study of Malala Yousafzai last month. A separate announcement on the town crier will advertise this fund raising project.

MIDLOTHIAN FRIENDS October 2013 ANNUAL BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES

36% of income needed for October received MTD

INSTRUCTIONS (HOVER)

10/31/2013 20:35

Percent of YTD income needed at October

Projected year-end deficit as of month-end

month-end that has been donated: 91%

if no increase in MTD income: \$1,556,60

Reductions already

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE = \$8,448.36

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