

Morningside Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Minutes of the Meeting for Worship
with a Concern for Business

Minutes for Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business, March 5, 2017

1. The Meeting began with worship at 12:30 p.m., and Pamela Wood read Query 9 from Faith and Practice, New York Yearly Meeting:
“Do we participate actively and intelligently in the political life of our country? Are we conscientious in fulfilling all obligations of state and society that are not contrary to the leading of God? Do we do all in our power to secure civil rights for all? Do we emphasize the single standard of truth, and are we free from the use of oaths?”
2. Mason Jenkins read the report for Ministry and Counsel. The committee met on February 27 at the home of Pamela Wood. The next meeting will be at the home of Pamela Wood on March 27. All are welcome to the first part. Please RSVP. Friends heard the second reading of request for membership from Bryan Oettel. The Meeting accepts the report. The written report is attached.
3. Friends approved the membership for Bryan Oettel. A Welcoming Committee was formed of: Charlene Ray, Pamela Wood and Tom Goodridge.
4. Friends considered announcements before or after Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business. Friends agreed to try the practice of sending announcements to the Clerk, prior, to be read by the Clerk after Meeting for Worship.
5. Friends discussed lunch for the one-day Spring retreat on May 20th. Friends decided to try making available some food from a local El Salvadoran restaurant as part of the lunch. M&C will work out the details, looking at the menu, and from which line in the budget the funds will come. Child care will be considered if parents expressed an interest in coming if this were an option.
6. Dan Seeger gave the Treasurer’s Report and Spreadsheet, with some of his observations regarding Longer Range Issues. A Friend suggested that some of these issues be highlighted and included in the announcements, and the Treasurer has agreed to do this. The written report and spreadsheet is attached.
7. Pamela Wood gave a Clerk’s Report, which included Peace and Social Concerns and the FCNL presentation. Friends accept the report. The report is attached.
8. Friends made announcements.
9. Friends approved these minutes. The meeting ended with worship at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen McDonnell

Present: Mason Jenkins, Joyce Richardson, June Tano, Bryan Oettel, Kathy Stackhouse, Charlene Ray, Dot Savage, Richard Schmidt, Tom Goodridge, Daniel A. Seeger, Pamela Wood, Stephen McDonnell.

Clerk's Report

by Pam Wood

Here is a brief report from Peace and Social Concerns as Corona Macheimer is currently on North Carolina caring for her sister. On Sunday, February 12, Peace and Social Concerns hosted Christine Ashley from FCNL. She answered questions about what methods make for effective lobbying. The first thing to remember is that your representatives listen to their constituents. Passionate communications with people who don't represent you are not given much importance. Visits in person are the most effective form of lobbying, as are telephone calls. Letters, while useful, are slow because of vetting for anthrax. If you decide to send a postcard, remember to put your address on the card so that the representative will know that you are a constituent. Emails that are not formulaic are also good. Least effective are the mass petitions that circulate on the Internet. They do connect you with organizations that share your concerns. Peace & Social Concerns hopes that people found the session helpful. There was no committee meeting this month.

Ministry and Counsel Report

For the March 5th Business Meeting

1. M&C met on Monday February 27th at the home of Pam Wood.
2. The next meeting will be Monday March 27th at Pam Wood's.
3. Our next welcome breakfast will be on March 26th hosted by Pam Wood in the Riverside Cafe. All are welcome.
4. Fourth Sunday discussion will be held after meeting on March 26th. It will be led by Mason Jenkins on the topic of How are we caring for ourselves and for each other in light of the new presidential administration.
5. Bible Study will be held March 12th at 9:30.
6. M&C currently has 5 support committees.
7. We will hold a one day Spring Retreat on May 20th from 10 to 4 at Our Saviour's Atonement Lutheran Church at 178 Bennett Avenue and 189th Street. Regarding food, would the meeting like to do potluck lunch or have food delivered? The content and registration info will be forthcoming.
8. Our fall retreat at Stony Point Center is confirmed for October 6-8. If you would like to help with the planning of either of these retreats please speak with someone on Ministry and Counsel.
9. M&C would like the meeting to consider: regarding the order of events on business meeting First Day, do we like the announcements where they are at the end of business meeting or would we prefer to have some announcements at rise of meeting. If we did have announcements at rise of meeting we would ask they be sent to the clerk in advance who would read them at the usual time, just before breaking for refreshments.
10. Second reading of Bryan Oettel's letter requesting membership.

**Morningside Monthly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)**

Treasurer's Report
March 5, 2017

	2016 Actual	2017 Budget	2017 Yr-to-date (Feb 28)	Percent of Budget
1	Balances at the Beginning of the Year			
2				
3		37,437	37,438	
4				
5		782	782	
6		500	500	
7		38,720	38,720	
8		(2,218)	(1,858)	
9		500	500	
10		144	144	
11		37,146	37,506	
12	Income			
13	31,254	37,686	2,976	8
14	18		3	
15	(780.00)			
16				
17	1,665			
18				
19	32,157	37,686	2,979	8
20	Expenses			
21				
22	15,397	15,976		
23				
24	11,568	12,800		
25	0	300		
26	660	2,000		
27	12,228	15,100	0	
28				
29	2,100	2,100	350	17
30		540		
31		300		
32		50		
33	1,460	2,320	580	25
34	0			
35	373	300		0
36	101	200	42	21
37	25	200	75	38
38			1,100	
39	177	300		
40	297	300	108	36
41	4,533	6,610	2,255	34
42			524	
43				
44			200	
45				
46	32,157	37,686	2,779	7
47	Balances at the End of the Year:			
48				
49	37,438	35,219	36,714	
50				
51	782	782	782	
52	500	500	500	
53	38,720	36,502	37,996	
54	(2,218)		(611)	
55	500	500	500	
56			200	
56	144	144	144	
57	37,146	37,146	38,229	

Treasurer's Report for February, 2017

March 5, 2017

Activity in February, 2017

During the month of February, checks have been written to cover the following expenses:

Child care costs: (covering February and March)	\$360.00
Literature purchases:	\$108.43
Spring retreat:	\$75.00
Breakfasts on February 25	\$42.00
Website maintenance (covering January and February)	\$350.00

Contribution income received in February totaled \$2,035.43. Interest income totaled \$1.45.

These transactions are incorporated into the spreadsheet report covering year-to-date figures for January and February, 2017.

I have been handed receipts for expenses related to Huntington House for which a member is awaiting reimbursement of \$215.68. I have also been handed a cash contribution of \$5.00 and a check contribution of \$500.00. These have not yet been processed and will appear in the end-of-March figures.

Longer Range Issues

Expenses appear to be somewhat evenly distributed through the year, but Income tends to peak at the very end of the year, as people give their annual contributions in a lump just as the fiscal period is closing. The problem this presents is that the Meeting, in effect, spends money first and raises it second. Last year, the income which was raised fell short of what had already been spent, and the current financial activity for 2016 ended up in the red by \$1,665.

Some meeting members have instructed their banks automatically to send monthly contributions to the Meeting. While it is more work for the Treasurer to book twelve separate payments from one person rather than one check a year, *it is well worth the extra effort to undergird sound fiscal practice by the Meeting.* I hope more members will consider the practice of automatic monthly payments via their banks.

The expenditure budget for the current year is 17% larger than last year's budget. Given the shortfall last year, the question naturally arises of whether a budget adjustment for the current year is called for before the year progresses too far and the adjustment towards a balanced budget would be correspondingly more radical. If income in the current year is the same as last year, and expenses occur according to the present budget, the shortfall would be \$7,104, or about 20% of the reserves. If this trend of escalating deficits should continue, the meeting would be bankrupt in about three years, and radical adjustments in our Meeting's life would be unavoidable.

Living off reserves can quickly become a kind of group addiction in organizational life. While the meeting may, at some point, reach a prayerful decision to spend the reserves, or some portion of them, on a project or activity to which we are divinely led, this is spiritually quite different than simply repeatedly failing to make ends meet with respect to routine activities, and then being "surprised" by deficits incurred unreflectively.

At the same time, the Meeting is to be commended, it seems to me, for its faithful support of the Yearly Meeting and for its generosity to causes and groups advancing Friends social and spiritual testimonies. The commitment of members and attenders to the financial support of the Meeting, and the level of giving which

expresses this commitment, is striking. It would be a shame to blight this excellent picture with carelessness about the relationship of expenditures to income.

I hope these observations by a new Treasurer are helpful.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel A. Seeger, Treasurer