

**Adelphi Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business
Seventh Month 17, 2005**

DRAFT Minutes

Opening

Meeting opened with a period of silence. The Clerk read the queries for the seventh month and Friends considered these in silent prayer. The query for the month, *Baltimore Yearly Meeting's Faith and Practice: Caring for Others*:

Do you respect that of God in every person? Do you search yourself for and strive to eliminate prejudices such as those related to race, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation and economic condition? In what ways do you accept and appreciate differences among your friends and associates? Do you avoid exploiting or manipulating others to accomplish ends, however worthy?

The agenda was approved.

The June minutes were approved as amended.

Clerk's Mail

Letters of thanks were received from Outreach organizations: FGC for a donation of \$120, Ufufuo for a Meeting donation, BYM for contributions for re-building the historic Ramallah Meeting House and to consider that continued support would be welcome since there are on-going expenses.

Letters requesting our participation/support from: Christmas in April for recommendation for recipients was referred to Pastoral Care, donations for travel expenses to the African Great Lakes Project, and support for the embraced ministry of Linda Haycock (Richmond friends Meeting) to teach non-violence, an Intervisitation Workshop at Sandy Spring Friend Meeting for those interested in participating in BYM's Program of Intervisitation with Friends' United Meetings.

Letters: Carol Nezzo returned her traveling minute, signed by friends visited in Massachusetts.

Meeting approved a traveling minute for Marcy Seitel prepared by her support committee, and added its own acknowledgement of its support for her efforts as she continues her work with the Listening Initiative.

A letter from Peter Forest of Miami, FL Meeting requesting information on the Iraq War Peace Statement was referred to Peace and Social Concerns.

Approved referring a letter from Susan Koenig re: her mother Alice's bequest of \$9,928.74 in unrestricted funds to the Finance Committee for process.

The letter suggested that the funds be used to support Alice's interests, such as FCS, the memorial garden, and supplies (books, new pads for the benches, cooking utensils). Friends recommended that we give ourselves time to consider the best use of the funds and to solicit input from all Meeting members. The amount represents 90% of the total bequest, with the remaining 10% available in September.

Updates on previous/on-going business

Trustees are reviewing the information from Guide One, our insurance company, re: sexual harassment and are meeting with additional Friends in an *ad hoc* committee for clarity and to formulate a draft policy for our Meeting.

The Resident Search Committee has met and reviewed the applications received so far, with interviews scheduled for August. The number of applications has been limited and the committee is considering advertising within BYM to increase the number. This could add 4-6 weeks to the process. Friends were concerned that we did not get additional applicants the last time we advertised through BYM and that the longer the process takes, the more of a burden it places on our past resident who volunteered to continue to take care of the basic chores. **It was approved that the Committee consider the applications in hand and to widen the search only if needed.**

The Meeting considered an item laid over from the June Meeting re: Peace and Social Concerns recommendation that we endorse FCNL's effort to urge Congress to pass the STEP resolution (Sensible Transition to an Enduring Peace) outlining a plan for withdrawal from Iraq. (attached) A Friend mentioned that since the statement was drafted, the administration has made a policy statement indicating a commitment to withdrawing from Iraq. After discussion, Friends were clear that the STEP proposal is more specific than the administration's statement, and is directed to the Congress, which has not yet made such a statement. **Meeting approved endorsing the FCNL proposal as it appears in our minutes, and the corresponding clerk will notify FCNL of our approval.**

Finance Committee – Phil Martens

Phil presented the second reading of the adjustments to the budget following the approval for changing the fiscal year to December 1 through November 30. Phil distributed a Comparison of Former and New Fiscal Year Schedules to show how the budget items would be affected. Fixed costs would be reduced by 1/12 and Outreach distributions would be divided in half, with one payment in this fiscal year and the second payment in the following fiscal year.

The concern was to assure that Outreach distributions would remain at the original level of commitment during this process. While the budget for this current fiscal year will show only one payment of ½ of the commitment, the second payment will be made at the first of the new fiscal year, which is within the current calendar year. If the Outreach commitment can be met earlier in on the new schedule it will be. The new schedule will allow the full amount of the Outreach to be paid out before the crunch at the end of the year. It was recommended that a footnote be added to the budget to explain that the Outreach funds were distributed in full.

Another concern was how this schedule fit with BYM's fiscal year so that our payment of the apportionment did not interfere with BYM's needs for timely payment. Other meetings have a variety of FY dates and accommodating them has not been a problem in the past. The Committee will talk with BYM to clarify the impact of changing our FY. An adjustment to the apportionment amount will need to be taken into consideration in order to be able to pay the amount assessed based on membership in one year, but actually received in the next year.

The proposed adjustments to the budget were approved.

Pastoral Care – Robb Oerter

The recommendation by Pastoral Care that the marriage of Jennifer Harris and Alexis Smith be conducted under the care of the Meeting was approved with joy. Their Clearness Committee met with them to discuss the commitment of marriage and same gender relationships. It was suggested that Jennifer and Alexis could be offered support regarding additional paperwork such as how to construct wills and

powers of attorney since same gender marriages were not recognized by the state of Maryland.

The recommendation by Pastoral Care that Carly Fox be welcomed into membership was approved. She is a social worker by profession and trains other social workers. The committee recognized that her life and work have been dedicated to Quaker values.

The recommendation by Pastoral Care that the Meeting accept the statements of Thomas Bassert, Jennifer Chapin-Harris, Chique Croslin, Adrian Flowers, Felicia Flowers, Robin Jones, Mary Lane, and Emma Skallerup on conscientious objection was approved. Each young friend formulated their own statement regarding their desire to “register” as conscientious objectors and have those statements forwarded to BYM for their records. Parents and Friends expressed gratitude for addressing this issue and for the fact that it was undertaken by adult Friends with care and thoroughness.

Ministry and Worship – Jolee Robinson

A second reading of guidelines for the use of electronic communication between Friends will be laid over until next month to allow an opportunity for additional input and to address all concerns raised by this issue. Ministry and Worship will be visiting committees to consider a query regarding electronic communication.

A request by Crossings, brought by Lainie Duncan

For a one-time use of the Meeting mailing list to inform people of their Healing Hands Project was approved. The Project works with military, families, and nurses regarding the use of acupuncture for stress-related problems. Our present policy is that Meeting approval is required in order to use the mailing list. A few years ago, Crossings had requested and meeting approved their use of the mailing list for the work of the Underground Railroad, a project to use acupuncture to help people dealing with alcoholism and drug addiction.

Requests for using Meeting House space

Approved: The Currence-Neely family, one of whom is Marcus Pettus's Big Brother (Marcus is Susan Richardson's son) request to use the facility for a family reunion. The family reunion is for 80-100 people to use the Meeting House basement and grounds on July 30, 2005 from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm. The cleaning service has agreed to add this clean up to their regular schedule and Susan Richardson will open and close the buildings. Susan will also consult with House and Grounds re: our schedule for payment for use, as they have offered a donation to cover the costs. In the past it has been \$60.00 per day, but expenses have risen, and it was determined that the fee for a day's use is now \$80. Because this was a half-day's use, it was determined that we should ask for \$40.

Approved: The Children's International Summer Villages request for use of the facility for an overnight retreat for Norwegian children.

The Children's International Summer Villages requested use of the Meeting House from July 18 – 19, 2005. The Barclay family has been involved with Summer Villages for some time and will provide overnight supervision. Chase Clement will open and close the building. Summer Villages offered a donation of up to \$200.00 to cover the costs.

Memorial Garden Fund

After discussion, it was established that the Memorial Garden Fund is a line item in the budget under Pastoral Care, and that money can be donated to Meeting with the intent that donations be earmarked for the Fund. This is not contrary to our policy of not accepting special funds for specific purposes.

Health Insurance for the Resident

Meeting has provided an additional sum of money to our resident that can be used to cover health care costs. Initially, the Meeting's decision to provide money that could be used for health care was a response to a specific request from the then-resident, but later it was decided that the Meeting should provide this as a matter of course. The language in the Resident Agreement states that we provide money for use by the resident, who may choose to spend it on health care.

Other Business

The Finance Committee was asked to develop a formula for the cost of using Meeting space. Under the (remembered) current formula, the Reunion would be charged \$40.00 and Summer Villages \$160.00.

Announcements

BYM is sponsoring an Intervisitation Program – an variation on traveling in ministry that involves more listening than vocal ministry. BYM's concern is Friends' United Meeting's personnel policy barring service, paid or volunteer, by anyone not in a male-female marriage relationship or celibate. Persons interested in supporting the program (serving on support or clearness committees, donations, etc) can contact Sharon Stout, 301-622-0891 or Commwell@iqc.org.

Eighth Month Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business will be held on the Third First Day of August 2005.

Closing

Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business was closed after a brief period of silent worship.

Carol Ann Baker
Assistant Recording Clerk

Ann Marie Moriarty
Clerk