

Minutes of Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting

Saturday, September 21, 2013

Friends School in Detroit, 1100 Saint Aubin St., Detroit, Michigan

Attending:

From Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting: Tom Blackwell, Jeff Cooper, Susan Hartman, Doug Hamm, Dorothy Henderson, Lisa Klopfer, Joan Sampieri, Christa Williams, John Williams

From Birmingham Monthly Meeting: Ellen Barnes, Marvin Barnes, Geoff Brieger, Inge Brieger, Wink Covintree, Harriet Greenwood, Julie Poll

From Detroit Monthly Meeting: Margaret Walden, Leslie Walden, Sam Hays, Carmen Kelly, Julie Kelly, Mike Kelly, Pam Melik, Bob Orr

From Grand Rapids Monthly Meeting: Scot Miller, Laurie Miller, Patricia Pennell

From Kalamazoo Monthly Meeting: Flo Friender, Valerie Groszmann, Joe Mills, Linda Mills

From Pine River Monthly Meeting: Kyo Takahashi, Mary Takahashi

From Red Cedar Monthly Meeting: Erick Williams

Guests from Friends School in Detroit: Marta Rhea-Johnson, Jane Fran Morgan, Mark O'Hara-Fisher

[1] At 10:00, as the meeting began, Marvin Barnes announced that Ellerie Brownfain, the Clerk of the Quarter, was unable to attend due to a family situation. It had been decided that Marvin would serve as Clerk in her place for this meeting, except that he will step down at one point to present his personal recommendation to the Quarter on Friends School in Detroit. Four handouts on the table as Friends entered were an agenda, minutes from the May 18, 2013 meeting for business, the annual report from Friends School in Detroit, and Marvin's recommendation on Friends School in Detroit. In addition there were brief biographies of four candidates for Trustee of Friends School, but only one copy of each.

[2] The meeting began with half an hour of silent worship. When this was over, it was requested to rearrange the agenda so that the report from Friends School in Detroit would be in the morning session. This was approved.

[3] Roll call:

Ann Arbor	- 9
Birmingham	- 4
Detroit	- 5
Grand Rapids	- 3
Holland	- 0
Kalamazoo	- 4
Pine River	- 2
Red Cedar	- 1

[4] Friends School in Detroit.

Jane Fran Morgan, Clerk of the Board of Trustees of Friends School in Detroit, read the Trustees' report to the Quarter describing the preceding school year (attached). This has headings: The School, The Board of Trustees, 2012-13 Financial Information, and The Future. Projected budgets for the preceding and current school years (2012-13 and 2013-14) are included as attachments.

In answer to questions following the report, it was stated that the current year's tuition charges range from \$7,700 for pre-school up to \$11,525 per year for middle school students. Approximately 65% of students receive some level of tuition assistance, while approximately half of the school's annual operating cost is covered by tuition income. No independent school covers its entire operating cost from tuition. The budget for the current school year projects a substantial year end deficit in spite of ambitious goals for fundraising. One current trustee identified the school's mission, day in and day out, as non-violence – to teach non-violence and to insist on it. This is a mission that potential donors will hear, both in Detroit and on the east coast.

[5] Appointment of Trustees.

The names of six Trustees for Friends School were presented to the Quarter for approval, including four new members of the Board and two returning members. The four new members are: Toby Barlow, Stephanie Booker, Patrick Padgett and Joan Sampieri. The returning members are Joseph Mills and Alicia Harris-Turner. All six Board members were approved. The three remaining Board members whose terms have not expired are Jane Fran Morgan, Mary Takahashi and Mark Thames. It was decided to continue the standard practice of having the Friends School Board of Trustees propose additional candidates to the Quarter. Thanks were expressed to all Board members for their hard work on behalf of the school.

[6] The Meeting adjourned for lunch at 12:15 pm.

[7] When the Meeting reconvened at 1:15 pm, the clerk turned over clerking responsibilities to the recording clerk in order to present a personal recommendation to the Quarterly Meeting. This was prepared in advance and is reproduced below.

[8] Recommendation on Friends School in Detroit:

It is recommended that Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting put into place, as soon as possible, a committee of three or more members of the Quarter to monitor the operations of Friends School in Detroit and the Board of Trustees. This committee would report to the Presiding Clerk with the following mission.

1. Monitor the financial operations of the school.
2. Monitor the training of the faculty and staff in usage of Quaker process.
3. Monitor the compliance of the Board of Trustees with the Governing By-Laws.
4. Determine if the school is operating with and teaching Quaker values.
5. Document issues which may affect ongoing operations of the school in a negative manner.

To fulfill the above item, the committee must be given full access to the school and meetings of the Board, including executive sessions.

From the findings of this committee, a determination is to be made by the Quarter as to:

1. Whether or not the relationship between Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting and Friends School in Detroit should continue.
2. If the relationship is to continue, what can be done to Strengthen the relationship.
3. If the relationship is to be discontinued, whether the school is operating as a Friends school. If not, should the school be allowed to continue to use the current name.
4. If the school discontinues operations, what resource will be needed by the Quarter to fulfill any obligation on the part of the Quarter.

Respectfully Submitted, Marvin C. Barnes, Member Birmingham Friends Meeting, September 21, 2013

[9] After extended consideration, this monitoring committee was not created. But there is concern that the Quarter's responsibility for oversight of the School places a burden on the clerk of the Quarter, and has become a source of disunity within the Quarter. It was decided to hold a threshing session in a month's time which would consider the organizational relationship between Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting and Friends School in Detroit, and the Quarter's role in care and oversight of the School. This is distinct from the operations of the school. The meeting will be held at a time and place to be determined, and the Board of Trustees of Friends School is to be invited.

[10] During the preceding discussion, Joe Mills of Kalamazoo said that he has looked into the Michigan statute on nonprofit corporations. Under Michigan law, there are two types of nonprofit corporations. A nonprofit corporation may either be a 'membership' nonprofit corporation, in which the members appoint individuals to the Board of Trustees, or a 'directorship' nonprofit corporation, in which the Board of Trustees appoints its own members. Friends School in Detroit was originally incorporated as a 'membership' nonprofit corporation, with Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting as the sole member. If a change in the

organizational relationship were to be made, one might either change the body which is a member of the corporation, or re-incorporate the School as a 'directorship' nonprofit corporation.

[11] Minutes of the May 18, 2013 Business Meeting were read and approved.

[12] Don Nagler has resigned as a Trustee of the Quarter. John Williams volunteered and was approved to serve Don Nagler's remaining term.

[13] Dorothy Henderson, sojourning in Ann Arbor, and Scot Miller of Grand Rapids Monthly Meeting were approved to serve as a Naming Committee to locate two additional members for the Nominating Committee. They welcome suggested candidates.

[14] The treasurer's report (attached) was presented and accepted. Income for the year 2012-13 was \$14,221.84 and expenditures were \$14,357.83. Both were greater than was budgeted. Income was higher since assessments were paid for 34 more members than expected. Expenses were higher due to honoraria and expenses for the two speakers at last year's Mid Winter Gathering.

[15] Joe Mills presented the proposed budget for 2013-14 from the Finance Committee. Two corrections to the printed handout were noted: the heading for the third column of figures should read "2013-2014 Proposed Budget", and the last figure in the fourth column should be 940 instead of 540. The committee has proposed to increase the amount budgeted for adult programs from \$200 to \$1,290, anticipating a similar expense for this year's Midwinter Gathering. They also propose decreasing the Quarter's contribution to the Inclusive Justice Program from \$250 to \$100, since the program is no longer part of AFSC. The budget was approved as proposed by the Finance Committee.

[16] Mid Winter Gathering. Traditionally, individual monthly meetings in rotation have organized both the program and hospitality for the Quarter's Mid Winter Gathering. Last year, Scot Miller of Grand Rapids arranged the program and Ann Arbor Meeting provided hospitality. For this year, Scot Miller has set a date of March 7 and 8, 2014 and has invited Martin Kelley, editor of Friends Journal, to speak on "Communications Among Friends". After discussion, the Meeting decided that, as a one year experiment, the Quarter will again organize and fund a program for the Mid Winter Gathering, independent of the monthly meeting which provides hospitality. We will not charge to offset the expenses of the program, but will accept donations to cover the meals. Scot Miller will ask three different meetings in order to find a location. The Quarter's Program Committee has not been active for years, but if reactivated, it would take a burden off of the clerk.

[17] Request from Michigan Friends Center. John Williams read a letter from Michigan Friends Center which describes their proposed building improvements and requests \$1,000 as a special one time donation from the Quarter to start their fundraising. Meeting approved. The full amount will be paid over two years, with \$500 in 2013-14 coming from the Meeting's reserves and \$500 to be budgeted in the following year.

[18] A suggestion was made to the incoming clerk that all requests for funds be passed on to the Finance Committee, and arrive at least one month before Business meetings unless it is an emergency situation. It would be helpful if the Agenda and materials for Business meetings were posted on the web at least a month ahead. The Recording Clerk was asked whether minutes of the current meeting could be made available within the next two weeks. He answered yes.

[19] There are currently two different web sites for Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting with different content. One was started perhaps by Don Nagler, the other is part of the Lake Erie Yearly Meeting web site maintained by Mathilda Navias. The acting clerk asked for help in finding the web site administrator for the earlier web site, so that the material can be consolidated onto the LEYM site.

[20] Announcements. Birmingham Monthly Meeting is looking for a new location to hold their meetings – look for an announcement soon. Kalamazoo Monthly Meeting will host Quaker Quest next week. The Friends School in Detroit Walkathon Fundraiser will be held Saturday, October 19 at the School. Friends General Conference has received a grant of \$400,000 for a program to start new meetings, particularly in western states. The meeting closed with silence at 4:15 pm.