

Minutes of Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting

Saturday, May 11, 2019

Michigan Friends Center, 7748 Clarks Lake Road, Chelsea, Michigan 48118

Attending:

From Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting: Christa Williams, John Williams, Susan Hartman, Pam Hoffer,

Richard Tucker, Al Connor, Jeff Cooper, Peggy Daub, Carolyn Holland, Tom Blackwell

From Birmingham Monthly Meeting: Ellen Barnes, Marvin Barnes, Geoff Brieger, David Bowen

From Detroit Monthly Meeting: Sharon Ottenbreit, Joel Ottenbreit, Eleanor Carey, Ann Sprague, Bob Orr

From Grand Rapids Monthly Meeting: Deb Wickering

From Holland Monthly Meeting: Larry Dickie

From Kalamazoo Monthly Meeting: Raelyn Joyce, Joe Mills, Linda Mills

From Red Cedar Monthly Meeting: Kris Gaumer, April Allison

[1] Two Queries:

Is creating community an end in itself? Why are we gathering this particular community?

– *Emily Provance, Friends World Committee on Consultation (FWCC) traveling minister*

Do we help each other to live with integrity and contribute that integrity to the life of our meeting? Does our meeting encourage its members to support with their time, energy and finances the quarterly and yearly meetings and other Quaker organizations?

– *Faith & Practice, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting*

[2] Roll call:

Ann Arbor	-	8
Birmingham	-	4
Detroit	-	5
Grand Rapids	-	1
Holland	-	1
Kalamazoo	-	3
Pine River	-	0
Red Cedar	-	2

[3] Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the September 2018 Quarterly Meeting were approved with two corrections: a change of wording to “for only a business meeting” in item 10 and to “Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice” in item 16.

[4] Treasurer’s Report

The Treasurer’s report from July 1, 2018 to April 11, 2019 was accepted. This shows total income of \$ 13,204.00, total expenditures of \$ 12,121.07 and an ending balance of \$ 4,320.69.

[5] Finance Committee

The Finance Committee, consisting of Mark Donovan (Kalamazoo), John Williams (Ann Arbor) and Jeff Cooper, ex officio, presented a draft budget totalling \$10,830 for 2019 – 2020. Their intention in preparing the budget was to eliminate the Meeting’s contribution to the Friends Lake Cooperative Community and to reduce the assessment to \$39 per member, with further reductions possible in future years. Discussion focused on the contribution line items. The committee will circulate a revised budget to monthly meeting clerks ahead of the September Business Meeting. Payment of the meeting’s registration fee to the State was approved.

[6] Titles of Officers

The meeting approved changing the titles for clerks to Co-clerks from Clerk and Assistant Clerk.

[7] Nominations

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Susan Hartman (Ann Arbor), Ann Sprague (Detroit) and April Allison (Red Cedar) brought the following nominations to fill 2019 – 2020 officer and committee positions:

Co-Clerks: Kris Gaumer (Red Cedar, second year of a 2 year term) and Deb Wicking (Grand Rapids, first year of a 2 year term); Treasurer: Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor, second year of a 3 year term); Recording Clerk: Pam Melick (Birmingham and Detroit, 1 year term); Resident Agent: Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor, 1 year term); Trustee: Geoff Brieger (Birmingham) for a 3 year term, joining Debs Roush (Ann Arbor, currently in year 2 of a 3 year term) and George Hebben (Kalamazoo, currently in year 2 of a 2 year term); Finance Committee: John Williams (Ann Arbor, 3 year term) and Mark Donovan (Kalamazoo, currently in year 2 of a 3 year term). Bob Orr (Detroit) subsequently volunteered to fill a third open position on the Finance Committee for a 1 year term. These appointments were approved.

[8] Terms of office

With the assent of the newly elected officers, the terms of office for clerks, committee members and trustees will start on July 1, 2019 and will coincide with the Meeting's fiscal year, July 1 to June 30, going forward.

[9] Restructuring Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting

The ad hoc committee on restructuring, consisting of April Allison, Ann Sprague and Susan Hartman, presented a sketch of their thinking about changes in the structure of Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting. They emphasize the overall vision and purpose for Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting as nurturing the spiritual life of our meetings and worship groups through fellowship, worship and educational programming. The committee seeks a structure that will allow us as a Quarterly Meeting to do those things that are important to us, acknowledging that these may change and grow over time.

Specific items include planning only three meetings each year, in May, August and October, with an increased emphasis on programs at the May and October meetings. There would be a short business agenda at each meeting, with the day primarily focused on the program, spiritual nurture and fellowship. Monthly Meetings would be responsible for arranging programs, on a schedule coordinated by the Quarterly Meeting clerks. The committee suggests treating the rotating clerking positions as co-clerks rather than as clerk and assistant clerk, and would have the Clerks and the Treasurer constitute the Meeting's statutory trustees, rather than having separate, elected Trustees. They would ask the Clerks to directly nominate candidates for the Nominating Committee, rather than have a separate Naming Committee. The terms of office would coincide with the Meeting's fiscal year which begins July 1. Two of these changes have been adopted at this meeting.

In the discussion there was support for retaining the MidWinter Gathering without any associated business meeting, perhaps with a broader range of possible dates. Experience shows that there is no such thing as a "short" business meeting. A suggestion was made of web based virtual meetings.

[10] Michigan Quakers for Environmental Action

Peggy Daub reviewed current activities of the group. 30 people have replied to be on an email list. The goal is to identify each person's local representatives and issues on which they might be approached. Contacts with legislators and staff members are helpful in finding the times when advocacy can be effective. The group solicits suggestions for environmental issues to work on.

[11] Friends School in Detroit

Joe Mills reported that the certificate of dissolution for Friends School in Detroit has been filed. It was published in early November and will become effective one year later. A decision will need to be made at that time how to allocate remaining assets of the school corporation. The current Trustees of Friends School in Detroit are Joe Mills, Kevin Howley, Geoff Brieger, Joan Sampieri, Bob Orr, Harriet Greenwood, Jeff Cooper, Marvin Barnes and Susan Hartman.

[12] Michigan Friends Center

Richard Tucker briefly summarized the continuing activities of Michigan Friends Center described in their 2018 annual report.