

*Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting  
Minutes  
19<sup>th</sup> Day, 9<sup>th</sup> Month, 2020*

To open the Meeting, our Clerk, Elliott Brannon shared a query reminding us of the importance in these times of maintaining our integrity and to take unpopular stands as called by God. We then settled into a moment of silent worship.

1) **Roll Call:**

Ann Arbor	9	Birmingham	1	Detroit	5	Grand Rapids	1
Holland	0	Kalamazoo	3	Red Cedar	1		

2) Friends **approve the minutes** of the 5/ 16/ 2020 meeting of the Quarterly Meeting with the correction that the proposed per member assessment was \$34. Also, the previous year's budget was the one that was attached.

3) We accept a **Treasurer's Report** for the fiscal year ending 6/30/2020 presented by Jeff Cooper showing receipts of \$11,776, disbursements of \$10,383 and an ending fund balance of \$5,591. The report is attached.

4) Friends approve a **final budget** for 2020-2021 presented by Bob Orr showing projected expenditures of \$10,880 with an assessment of \$34 per member which would generate a deficit of \$720. The Finance Committee felt a relatively secure fund balance of nearly \$5,600 would comfortably support the deficit. The budget is attached.

5) Joe Mills, on behalf of the Trustees of **Friends School in Detroit**, submitted a request that Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting open an account in its name with Friends Fiduciary Corporation to hold the remaining funds of the School of approximately \$115,000 for the purpose of paying final expenses of the School and to hold as a contingency fund for 18-24 months to cover possible liability claims against Trustees, including legal costs. At the end of the holding period, the balance of the account will be distributed to the Charlotte Mason School of Detroit. The Trustees are in the process of obtaining from legal counsel an agreement or document that provides guidelines and parameters in managing and distributing the funds. The School Trustees also feel that a group within the Quarterly Meeting (a subcommittee of the Finance Committee or the Finance Committee itself) should oversee and direct all expenditures from the account. Some Trustees of Friends School are willing to serve as part of this group.

Friends discussed having the Quarterly Meeting Finance Committee take over the responsibility for the remaining funds as proposed with the temporary adding a School Trustee to the Committee to assist in oversight of the fund. Friends felt that the Quarterly Meeting should wait until the agreement or document being prepared is presented to it for review before deciding on the request. The matter was held over and a special meeting of the Quarterly Meeting may be called to further consider the proposal. At any such meeting, the status of the terms of current Trustees of Friends School in Detroit would be confirmed and appointments made as needed.

6) We appoint Peggy Daub to the **Nominating Committee** as a third member of the Committee. Friends approve the appointment of Susan Hartman as clerk of the Nominating Committee.

7) April Allison reports on the **Quarterly Meeting Newsletter and Facebook group**. An issue of the Newsletter is out and future newsletters should be distributed between the meetings of the

Quarterly Meeting. Also, a Facebook group is being developed. Friends may join by going to Facebook and searching for Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting. Once at the site, Friends will find an opportunity to request membership. All Friends are welcome to join.

8) Deborah Wickerling reports on holding and planning a **Mid Winter Gathering**. We anticipate a Zoom meeting sometime this winter and Friends shared ideas about themes and topics. The idea of forming small breakout groups for conversation was appealing. There was reluctance to put all the planning and holding burdens on one monthly meeting. Ellerie Brownfain, Jana Norlin, Ann Sprague, & Deborah Wickerling will explore programing and hosting a Mid Winter Gathering this winter with Elliott Brannon providing technical support.

9) Richard Tucker reports for **Michigan Friends Center** that because of the pandemic, programming has stopped and the building at Friends Center is closed. A Federal payroll protection grant was received. The Center may receive a renewed operating grant from a Chelsea area foundation.

More marketing strategies are being developed. The Google presence is being upgraded and the website (mfcenter.org) revised. The Center will shortly publish information in the printed *Natural Awakenings*, which serves community services in the region. Michigan Friends Center welcomes Friends in the Quarterly Meeting to share ideas on future programing around our core values of peace, justice, sustainability, and community.

The Center welcomes Saad Shah of the Birmingham Meeting as its new Treasurer for the Center and he is setting up on-line accounting procedures. John Langmore is a new Board member. He is recently retired University of Michigan biophysicist and active with local environmental organizations.

10) Richard Tucker reports for **Michigan Quakers for Environmental Action**. This group has sent out messages on state lobbying relating to issues on clean water and energy. The process is open to all by zoom meetings. The lobbying process is slow because the legislature is focusing on issues related to the current pandemic but the group's work is expected to pick up in January with a new legislature. Friends are encouraged to join the groups mailing list.

For Yearly Meeting, an interest group is forming on social justice and environmental issues; Friends in the Yearly Meeting are encouraged to consider participating.

11) Friends briefly shared some general reflections on our recently updated Bylaws and visions and purpose of the Quarterly Meeting.

12) Blair Ellis gave an interesting and provocative presentation about the inherent violence of the American system of incarceration and the need to abolish it.

Respectfully submitted, Joseph Mills, recording clerk