

*Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting*  
*Minutes*  
*Twenty first day, Ninth Month, 2024*  
Kalamazoo Friends Meetinghouse, Kalamazoo, Michigan

Clerk, Kevin Miller, opened the meeting at 10:30 am.

Roll Call:

Ann Arbor	9	Birmingham	5	Detroit
Grand Rapids	1	Holland		Kalamazoo 11
Red Cedar				

By zoom 8

- 1) Friends reviewed and approve the minutes of the 5 /18 / 2024 Meeting for Business of the Quarterly Meeting.
- 2) Joe Mills reported that last January, the approximately \$111,000 remaining funds held by *Friends School in Detroit* were distributed to the Charlotte Mason School, which appears to be quite active. The funds were held to cover potential claims against former Friends School Trustees which never materialized.
- 3) Our recent official recording clerk, Joe Mills has mailed the minutes of the business meetings for the Quarterly Meeting for the past three years to the *Friends Historical Library at Swarthmore College* for archiving. The Quarterly Meeting's Policies and Procedures direct the Recording clerk to annually submit Quarterly Meeting records to Swarthmore. Past recording clerks may want to send their minutes of past business meetings of the Quarter to the Library as well if they still have them.
- 4) Richard Tucker presented a written report on *Michigan Friends Center* updating the work on final revisions of the Center's articles of incorporation and bylaws with formal ratification being expected in September.

There is an interest in reviving the Friends Worship Group in the Chelsea area. The Center is looking for sources of grant income, including the Fetzer Institute in Kalamazoo. The new caretaker at the Center has been part of an FCNL advocacy group. The full report is attached.

Friends *approve* the following minute: "Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting thanks Richard Tucker for his long-term, dedicated service to Michigan Friends service. We appreciate Richard's many years of guidance for the Board of Michigan Friends Center and faithful reports on the Center's progress to Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting."
- 5) Ellerie Brownfain reports for the *Nominating Committee* that a clerk and recording clerk are still needed as well as a possible co-clerk. Jeff Cooper will continue as

Treasurer and Peggy Daub will continue as Communications Coordinator, both for one-year terms. Anyone willing to consider serving as a clerk or recording clerk should contact Ellerie Brownfain or clerk, Kevin Miller.

The Quarterly Meeting also needs two more people to serve on the Nominating Committee, one for two years and one for three. Any Friend interested in serving on the Committee should contact clerk, Kevin Miller – kevinfmiller@gmail.com.

6) Jeff Cooper presented a *Treasurer's Report* for the last fiscal year ending 6/30/2024, showing total receipts of \$9,504, disbursements of \$10,195 and an ending general fund balance of \$2,934. We had a deficit of \$576 which is less than the \$860 budgeted for the fiscal year. The report is attached.

7) Friends *approve* the attached *budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year* presented by John Williams for the Finance Committee. This was the same budget presented at the May business meeting of the Quarterly Meeting. Projected revenue is \$9,704, expenses \$10,480, leaving a deficit of \$776. The annual per member assessment remains at \$36. The Thomas House in Schoolcraft, which many attenders will visit this afternoon, may be supported from Adult Program. Instead of honoring a formal request to budget \$300 for improvements to Quaker Park in Battle Creek, Friends in the wider Quarterly Meeting can make individual contributions for Park improvements upon direct solicitation.

We discussed perhaps lowering our high contribution to AFSC in the future. Remarks were shared that the AFSC's work on criminal justice is important and should be supported.

8) We briefly discussed and shared ideas about how to raise attendance at sessions of Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting. Our clerk reports that the next *Mid Winter gathering* may be online again; we need an interesting topic. Friends are encouraged to share ideas. One idea was a presentation of the AFSC's work in Michigan on criminal justice.

9) *Announcements*: Friend Alan Connor died recently; a hybrid memorial service is tentatively set for 10/ 12/ 2024 at 10:00 am at the Ann Arbor Friends Meetinghouse.

The Meeting concluded at 12:15 pm. Many Friends will leave for Schoolcraft for a planned informal picnic and a visit to the Nathan Thomas House which was a part of the Underground Railroad.

Respectfully submitted, Joseph Mills, Recording Clerk

ATTACHMENTS: 1) Michigan Friends Center Report; 2) Treasurer's Report; 3) Budget for 2024-25

**Michigan Friends Center**  
**Annual Report to Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting, September 2024**

Richard Tucker, clerk, MFC board (rptucker17@gmail.com)

This year MFC is continuing to regain post-Covid momentum, as it evolves in cooperation with our parent organizations, GPQM and the Friends Lake Cooperative Community (FLCC), as well as friends in the wider community. As a Quaker-based organization, MFC's administration no longer rests primarily on Friends directors, but its Quaker character and process remain strong.

Revising MFC's *Articles of Incorporation* and *Bylaws*: these revisions are in the final stage of review by the MFC and FLCC boards. We hope to have formal ratification by November; at that point I will forward to you the full texts of both documents. For the legal relationship to GPQM see the attachments to this report.

The ongoing challenge

In these changing times, we ask how Friends of all ages can continue to participate in our work. One opportunity is still participation on the MFC board. Pat Hopkinson (Birmingham) and Johanna Kowitz (Ann Arbor) have completed their terms, so we need volunteers to be their successors.

We cherish our spiritual foundations; the FLCC/MFC tradition has always emphasized Quaker values shared with others who cherish the same values, including spiritual sustenance. The center's beautiful design and the woodland property support solitude and meditation, as well as social cohesion.

This season has seen a post-Covid revival of AAFM involvement in the Friends Lake community (FLCC), especially our increasing number of families and young adults. Their vitality sustains the Friends community and refreshes the distinctive character of the Friends Lake community. This year a number of Friends Lake members are actively interested in reviving the Friends Worship Group in the Chelsea area. We should support that development.

We are exploring additional ways of optimizing communications with Monthly Meetings, board alumni, and individual Friends. We welcome fresh ideas.

MFC and FLCC

Collaboration between MFC and FLCC is becoming steadily closer. Working with a new generation of Friends Lake families, we have organized several well-attended family programs, which are becoming an annual cycle of indoor and outdoor programs.

From the origins of FLCC and MFC, environmental sustainability has been central to our mission. One aspect of this tradition has been programs on Living Simply that look at our lifestyles in relation to today's struggle for carbon reduction and climate justice. Another is jointly organized environmental education programs for Quakers and FLCC members, events that include spring wildflower walks and Audubon bird censuses. More sustainability programs are being planned for the coming year.

As we jointly manage the center's grounds and the wider Friends Lake property, we are aware of the deep historical roots of our natural setting. The Friends Lake property, as a former farm,

inherited the farm's aggressive invasive species, which we have struggled to control. The disruption is most intense on the immediate MFC grounds. Joint FLCC/MFC biodiversity programs are important for the effort, and we welcome Friends' participation.

At GPQM's fall meeting last year we launched a project honoring the Anishinaabe people's eco-spiritual heritage as we acknowledged the long Indigenous presence here before white settlement began. Guided by Pat Hopkinson, landscape designer and our former board member, we began a multi-year project to turn the invasive-infested grounds into a prairie that features native species of this bioregion. This summer we have begun planning a medicine wheel garden centered in the peace pole. We will be in touch with Friends in several Monthly Meetings who are experienced biodiversity workers.

In addition to these programs, several events considering Friends commitment to nonviolence and social justice are being designed for the coming indoor season, as well as programs on Friends' traditions and Friends process. Your proposals for these programs are a fine way for Quakers to support this work.

#### Outreach and marketing

Reaching beyond the immediate property, this spring we conducted a stakeholder survey of the value of MFC to the Friends network, FLCC, and the wider community. Responses consistently emphasized MFC's value but the importance of increasing MFC's visibility.

Developing strong collaborations with community organizations requires strengthening our visibility, so this year we are investing in restructuring our website and a social media presence.

#### The financial base

The ambitious range of our work requires a sustained financial base. We are expanding our effort to raise the level of participation from FLCC members and new grants from organizations. But the base continues to be sustained primarily by Quakers. Our special fund drive this season is dedicated to improvements in the center's building – badly needed air conditioning for rising summer temperatures, and if possible also a modern, energy efficient commercial stove. We have been offered a matching grant of up to \$5,000 for this campaign, and we welcome contributions from Friends to help us meet this goal.

A financial report from our treasurer Saad Shah of Birmingham Monthly Meeting will follow.

For a sustainable and just peace, Richard Tucker

#### Attachments

. *Articles of Incorporation* §6.3. At least one of the Directors shall be a member of the Religious Society of Friends or actively associated with it. Preferably, one or more Directors shall be knowledgeable concerning the interests and affairs of the Society of Friends and FLCC.

. *Bylaw* §3.6. MFC's Board of Directors, independently or in conjunction with FLCC's Board of Directors, shall annually designate a Nominating Committee comprised of as many as four persons, preferably two of whom shall be appointed by FLCC's Board of Directors. It shall be the responsibility of the Nominating Committee to propose a slate of Directors to serve on MFC's Board.

GPQM Treasurer's Report, 7/01/23 - 6/30/24

**BALANCE IN CHECKING, 7/1/2023** **\$3,510.06**

**Income**

*Assessment = \$36 per member*

	<b># Members</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual Received</b>	<b>Amount Received</b>
Monthly Meeting				
Ann Arbor	122		\$4,392.00	
Birmingham	14		\$504.00	
Detroit	22		\$792.00	
Grand Rapids	12		\$432.00	
Holland	1		\$0.00	
Kalamazoo	26		\$936.00	
Red Cedar	68		\$2,448.00	
<b>Total: Contributions Received</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>\$9,720.00</b>		<b>\$9,504.00</b>

*Gatherings*

Fall Gathering			\$115.00	
Mid-Winter Gathering			\$0.00	
Spring Gathering			\$0.00	
<b>Total for Gatherings</b>		<b>\$300.00</b>		<b>\$115.00</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>\$10,020.00</b>		<b>\$9,619.00</b>

**Expenditures**

	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Amount Spent</b>
<b>Administration</b>	\$30.00	\$20.00	\$20.00
<b>Adult Program</b>			
Summer Gathering		\$125.00	
Fall Gathering		\$400.00	
Mid-Winter Gathering		\$0.00	
Spring Gathering		\$0.00	
<b>Total for Adult Program</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>		<b>\$525.00</b>
<b>Youth Program</b>	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Contributions to Organizations</b>			
Michigan Friends Center	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	
AFSC	\$8,050.00	\$8,050.00	
Alternatives to Violence Project	\$400.00	\$400.00	
<b>Total: Contributions to Orgs</b>	<b>\$9,650.00</b>		<b>\$9,650.00</b>

*Bank fees* \$0.00

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES** **\$10,195.00**

**Income less Expenditures** **-\$576.00**

**BALANCE IN CHECKING, 6/30/24** **\$2,934.06**

Change in balance -\$576.00

Outstanding checks \$0.00

Outstanding deposits \$0.00

Actual balance **\$2,934.06**

## GPQM Draft Budget, 2024 - 25

	Budget 2022-23	Actual 2022-23	Budget 2023-24	Actual 2023-24	Draft Budget 2024-25
<b>Income</b>					
Meeting Contributions	9,720	9,576	9,600	9,504	9,504
Assessment per member	36	36			36
Other (Adult Program)	300	0	300	115	200
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>10,020</b>	<b>9,576</b>	<b>9,900</b>	<b>9,619</b>	<b>\$9,704</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Administration	30	20	30	20	30
Adult Program, gross	1,000	420	1000	525	600
Youth Program	200	0	200	0	200
Contributions to Organizations					
Michigan Friends Center	1200	1200	1200	1200	1,200
AFSC, Michigan Office	8050	8050	8050	8050	8,050
Alternatives to Violence	400	400	400	400	400
Total to Organizations	9650	9,650	9,650	9,650	9,650
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$10,880</b>	<b>\$10,090</b>	<b>\$10,880</b>	<b>\$10,195</b>	<b>10,480</b>
<b>INCOME LESS EXPENSES</b>	<b>(\$860)</b>	<b>(\$514)</b>	<b>(\$980)</b>	<b>(\$576)</b>	<b>(\$776)</b>