

Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MWAB)
7-2-2017

Note: Action items are **highlighted in light blue**.

Present: Karen Cormier (clerk), Norma Buckingham, Christopher Foreman, Crayton Bedford, Anne Welsh, Bob Welsh, Paul Hultberg, Evie Hultberg, Emma Churchman, Sue Cannon, Kadir Cannon, Evan Quirk-Garvan, Kerry Kennison, Susan Murty, Marilyn Sobanski, Robyn Josephs, Marvin Schrock, Becky Ledbetter, Nancy Byrd, Melissa Lewis (recording clerk).

Reading: Norma Buckingham

“And a youth said, Speak to us of Friendship.

And he answered, saying:

‘Your friend is your needs answered.

He is your field in which you sow with love and reap with thanksgiving.

And he is your board and your fireside.

For you come to him with your hunger, and you seek him for peace.

When your friend speaks his mind you fear not the “nay” in your own mind, nor do you withhold the “ay.”

And when he is silent your heart ceases not to listen to his heart;

For without words, in friendship, all thoughts, all desires, all expectations are born and shared, with joy that is unacclaimed.

When you part from your friend, you grieve not;

For that which you love most in him may be clearer in his absence, as the mountain to the climber is clearer from the plain.

And let there be no purpose in friendship save the deepening of the spirit.

For love that seeks aught but the disclosure of its own mystery is not love but a net cast forth: and only the unprofitable is caught.

And let your best be for your friend.

If he must know the ebb of your tide, let him know its flood also.

For what is your friend that you should seek him with hours to kill?

Seek him always with hours to live.

For it is his to fill your need, but not your emptiness.

And in the sweetness of friendship let there be laughter, and sharing of pleasures.

For in the dew of little things the heart finds its morning and is refreshed.”

--From *The Prophet* by Kahlil Gibran

Reading was followed by silence.

Bringing the reading for next time: Becky Ledbetter

“Quaker Ed”

Quaker leadership- is it an oxymoron?

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Quakers have been historically resistant to leadership when defined as an authoritative, top-down system. If one of our testimonies is equality then an authoritarian leader is NOT possible. We also minister to each other so there is no one with authority over another. We all have different gifts and can lead in those areas. "A leader in my gift; a follower in yours."

Quaker SERVANT leadership is not an oxymoron. A servant leader is defined as someone whose first impulse is to serve, to use one's gifts for the benefit of others.

The task of followers is to 1) name the gift, 2) support the use of the gift, 3) hold the servant leader accountable when he/she outruns her Guide and 4) not abdicate responsibility to a named leader.

Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA) Report

Report was received about SAYMA sessions this year from those who attended.

7-2-17.1: The following minute was approved, with one Friend standing aside, for sharing with interested Friends, committees and groups in SAYMA. "Swannanoa Valley Friends unite today in a concern that SAYMA's work on racial justice as it develops over the coming months, be led by a group of friends that is open and inclusive."

Concerns voiced during the discussion of this minute will be brought forward to SAYMA's clerk, the SAYMA Ministry & Nurture (M&N) Committee and upcoming SAYMA representative meetings by the co-clerk of SAYMA M&N and by our SAYMA representative. **Clerk will remind the SAYMA rep of this task.**

As a monthly meeting we recognize our current and ongoing struggle with racism. **The clerk will be in touch with the Adult Education and Spiritual Nurture Committee** to make sure that programs will be put in place to help us examine this struggle.

Ad Hoc Committee on Sanctuary

Friend reported that the Ad Hoc Committee on Sanctuary has chosen the name Immigrant Support Committee. They clarified their role with the wider sanctuary movement and provided an update on the progress of the immigrant family we have been supporting. The committee would appreciate contributions to help support attendance for two of the family's children at a camp this summer. Food can also be contributed. Contact Susan Murty if interested.

7-2-17.2: Report was received. *(See Attachment #1 for details.)*

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Peace & Social Concerns Committee

Friend, carrying on our concern for justice in Israel/Palestine, reported on a recent town hall meeting with an aide to North Carolina U.S. Congressional Representative Patrick McHenry. McHenry is proposing House Bill 2856 ("Combatting BDS Act") aimed at punishing those who participate in the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement against products made in Israeli-occupied territories. Friend reports that our concerns as a Quaker meeting were expressed and seemed to be heard.

7-2-17.3: Report was received. *(See Attachment #2 with the previous SVFM minute from May 31, 2015 on the BDS movement.)*

Nominating Committee

7-2-17.4: Meeting approves of the following names for the Ad Hoc Visioning Committee: Ames Tryon, Anne Welsh, Christopher Foreman, Crayton Bedford, James Hyde, Karen Cormier, Evan Quirk-Garvan, Melissa Lewis, Katrina Stoll, and Beth Anderson.

[Karen Cormier will set up the first meeting.](#)

Nominating committee urges those who have been contacted regarding their interest in serving on a committee to please respond.

Meeting ended with silent worship.

Next MWAB: Aug 6, 2017

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Attachment #1: Report from Immigrant Support Committee

Report from Immigrant Support Committee (previously named Ad Hoc Sanctuary Committee)
Submitted to Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business July 2, 2017
By Susan Murty, convener

Susan Murty, Bob Welsh, and Kerry Kennison are members of the committee. Erica Burns is exploring areas of service with the Meeting and attended our meeting June 20. We hope that Ellen Farrow will participate when she is able.

We discussed the name of the committee and agreed on the name "Immigrant Support Committee." We clarified the role of the committee in relation to the sanctuary movement in Western North Carolina. We as a meeting are part of the sanctuary movement. Members of our committee will attend meetings concerning sanctuary in our area. We will bring information to the meeting for action in relation to the sanctuary movement and ways we can help. We are also committed to building relationships with immigrants in the Black Mountain and Swannanoa area and actively supporting families in need. We are also interested in educating the meeting and the community about the current needs and issues confronting immigrants in our community.

We plan to work with the AFSC Program in Greensboro and their program for immigrants. We will also explore relationships with other congregations in our local area to see if they are interested in working with our committee in supporting immigrants.

We continue to be involved in supporting a Latino family in which the mother has been seriously ill. We are continuing to raise funds to assist the family and are involved in helping them pay bills, pay for medicines, and we are planning activities for their three children to participate in this summer. Contributions can be made out to Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting with Latino family on the memo line. We have a list of volunteers willing to provide transportation as needed for immigrants. We are coordinating with Bounty and Soul and Catholic Charities to meet this family's needs.

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Attachment #2: Previous minute on Israel/Palestine BDS Movement

We hold the Israelis and the Palestinians in our hearts. Everyone suffers in the cycle of violence rooted in their struggle over land. We want to support everyone enmeshed in this struggle who rejects racist and violent values. We stand with Jewish people everywhere who have suffered anti-Semitism for centuries and with Jewish Israelis who fear for their national security. We stand with Muslims everywhere who suffer from profiling and hate speech because of the misguided actions of extremists. And we stand with Palestinians who suffer under an Occupation of their lands and who suffer hardship and discrimination in Israel, in the West Bank, in Gaza, and exiled in many nations.

Love moves us, without regard to religious or cultural identity, to express solidarity with those who are oppressed and as well to address with compassion those who suffer because they oppress. In the pursuit of justice, which is the only foundation for a true and lasting peace, we are prompted to different expressions, depending on our gifts and leading. In this spirit, we ask SAYMA Friends to consider acting as led in any or all of the following ways:

- Support nonviolent peace-building organizations working in the region, especially those involving collaboration across political lines.
- Call for and support cooperative efforts by Israelis and Palestinians to rebuild the shattered communities of Gaza.
- Express our concerns to the international corporations that actively support the Occupation or engage in discriminatory labor practices.
- Avoid purchase or use of products manufactured in Israeli settlements on Palestinian land.
- Lobby Congress and the President to suspend military aid to Israel.

We are convinced there will be the possibility of security and peace for Israelis and Palestinians only when the Occupation is ended. We believe in the transforming power of love manifest in nonviolent practices that can lead to a just and sustainable peace and can yield opportunities for forgiveness and reconciliation.

5.31.2015.1 This minute was approved