



Metamorphosis

December 2010

Meeting for Worship Sundays at 10 AM at Explorations Academy, 1701 Ellis Street, Bellingham

Phone 360-734-0244 Mailing Address P.O. Box 30144 Bellingham, 98228-2144 Website

BellinghamFriends.org

Co-Clerks: Mimi Freshley, (933-4566) and Susan Richardson (733-5477), Ministry and Counsel Members:

Mimi Freshley, Alice Robb (366-6005), Dorrie Jordan and Howard Harris (733-9071), Childrens Program

Clerk, Jessica Bee (393-4249)

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Query for December

**How do we make our homes places of friendliness, peace and renewal,
where God is real for those who live there and those who visit?**

Page 44 of NPYM Faith & Practice

Calendar

01/02/11: Potluck

01/09/11: Meeting for Worship for Business

01/16/11: Seeds of Violence, Seeds of Hope: FEC

Virginia Herrick, facilitator

01/23/11: SPICES - session on Integrity

Don Goldstein and Kirsten Ebsen, facilitators

01/30/11: Intergenerational Activity

Speaking Truth to Power

ANWR, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge had its 50th birthday on Dec. 6. After all these years, however, it is still endangered by oil corporations desire to drill for oil. Ask Congress to add ANWR to the National Wilderness Preservation System to protect it in perpetuity.

Eco-suggestion of the Month

To save water, consider purchasing a dual-flush converter for your toilet. Home Depot has a simple one for less than \$20. Hardware Sales has a more complicated one for about \$30

Draft Minutes for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business – December 13, 2010

Clerk: Mimi Freshley; Recording Clerk: Betty McMahon
Present: Howard Harris, Don Goldstein, Virginia Herrick, Doris Ferm, Sharon Trent, Kristin McLewin, Allen Stockbridge, Jessica Bee, JoAnne Cowan, Jeanine Hart-Horner, Susan Richardson, Tom Hall, & Lorina Hall

Our Meeting for Business began with opening silence at 11:35 a.m.

Our History – Howard Harris

Howard spoke about John Woolman and the Native Americans of W. Pennsylvania ~1760's. These were the same people William Penn dealt with a century earlier. The Philadelphia Quakers purchased a farm near the Seneca reservation for the purpose of teaching these Indians how to live in a European world. Up until this time, farming was considered women's work, and even though only some of the male Indians accepted this training, this teaching continued through the late 1950s. A gentleman, named Hansom Lake, had a vision in the 1790s. He tried to teach the Native Americans in a similar manner to the way Quakers taught the Seneca. His religion is still strong among some Native Americans today. His four-day message is repeated (orally) and shares many Quaker testimonies.

Agenda Review – After some adjustment, **the agenda was approved.**

Approval of Minutes – Kristin McLewin's last name was omitted from last month's minutes; the incorrect spelling of Allen Stockbridge's first name was corrected; the comments at the end of JoAnne Cowan's Finance report were her own thoughts rather than recommendations.

Committee Reports

Ministry & Counsel - Susan Richardson

Query: Page 44 of NPYM Faith & Practice: How do we make our homes places of friendliness, peace and renewal, where God is real for those who live there and those who visit? (Mimi will read the query during worship.)

Informational Items:

1. Schedule:

12/12/10: M4B

12/19/10: Holiday program coordinated by Children's Program

12/26/10: No second hour

01/02/11: Potluck

01/09/11: M4B

01/16/11: Seeds of Violence, Seeds of Hope: FEC (Virginia facilitator)

01/23/11: SPICES - session on Integrity led by Don and Kirsten

01/30/11: Intergenerational?

2. Margie White continues to need a ride. There are many people who are willing to transport her to Meeting, and other people can transport her home if needed. Dorrie will coordinate for December, and Susan will do so for January.

3. Daniel Kirkpatrick is the Meeting's Registered Agent, dating back to his being clerk. M& C recommends that Don Goldstein make arrangements to take over this role. (This is an action item, and **the Meeting approved.**)

4. Mimi Freshley will make occasional announcements that Friends should check their e-mail if we receive inclement weather and there is a concern that Meeting will be cancelled.

5. Allen Stockbridge requested scheduling a second hour about NPYM joining FGC. It was decided that Allen will be asked to discuss this at a future business meeting to determine if there is sufficient discussion to require an entire second hour.

6. Our next meeting will be January 3, 2010 at Howard Harris' home (7:00 pm).

Discussion Item - **SPICES**: Some Friends have expressed concern about the shortened time for worship, as well as how this affects first time visitors. We suggest taking a few minutes as part of our report to business meeting to get feedback on this experiment, which we anticipate continuing for the series. {After some discussion, it was decided that worship will last 30 minutes, SPICES will proceed for 30 minutes, and then there will be a short break so people can choose to stay or leave. Hopefully, this will allow for a smoother transition from worship to SPICES, especially for first time attenders.

Children's Program - (Jessica Bee)

Information Items:

1. We will plan to have only one paid caregiver on each Sunday except for (a) Meeting for Business (held on the second Sunday of each month) and (b) special occasions such as SPICES programs or retreats. We came to this decision to reflect BFM's budget needs as well as Christina's sharing the teaching of the younger children on the First and Third Sundays and the recent drop in attendance. We plan to recruit parent volunteers to fill in any extra gaps. Don has recalculated the budget for paid childcare based on these new plans and assumptions and also an increased expectation for the number of weeks during the year that Brooke will not be available, resulting in a \$600 reduction.
2. We have decided to create an allergies board to reflect foods to avoid feeding to certain children. {It was suggested that adding what adults are allergic to would also be helpful. Please share this information with the editor of *Metamorphosis*.}
3. To create a sense of safety and consistency we ask that children be signed in and out for both first and second hour. When picking up children it is important that the caregiver be notified that you are taking the child. This is important because (a) it creates a safety net for the child regarding whereabouts (b) the child will respond to this consistency and be able to follow through with the rules regarding drop off and pick up more readily

if the adults are clear with each other as well, and (c) we will have a clear record of attendance regarding who and when.

4. Streamlined registration forms have been created and printed, thank you Lorina and Christina. We plan to ask parents to fill them out (they are really easy and this coming from a parent of 6!) and leave them with Brooke.

5. A coin drive will be undertaken at the children's request. Kristen will discuss with the children the goals for the coin drive. {What the coins are going to be collected for has not yet been decided. It was mentioned that "Pennies for Peace" is still a vibrant activity.}

6. Next meeting is December 29, 2010 at the Hopkinson home, probably at 6:30 pm.

Nominating Committee - (Virginia Herrick)

1. (Action): Please give final approval to the changes in Nominating Committee's job description, which were accepted for seasoning last month:

"B. When Nominations have been given final approval (one month after they were accepted for seasoning), Nominating committee will send a job description to each Friend taking on a new post. If any Friend has a concern about their job description, they will bring those concerns to their committee, or, if not on a committee, to M4W4B, for consideration."

"C. In calendar years divisible by five, the committee will send out job descriptions to all committee clerks and other Friends after their positions have received final approval, and ask that Friends give a "five year-review" (**or more often as needed**) to all job descriptions. Minor wording changes can be returned to Nominating Committee. Substantive changes should come to Meeting for Worship for Business for Approval. Nominating Committee keeps all job descriptions (with date of last review) on file."

The job description was approved along with Kristin McLewin's nomination to complete Kelly Wyckoff's Hospitality assignment.

2. (Action): Please give final approval to the nomination of Kirsten Ebsen to the Hospitality Committee, to finish out the term for Kelly Wyckoff, who has moved to Skagit County and is no longer able to fulfill the role. This term will be completed in spring of next year. **Final approval was given.**
3. (Information): John Horner has resigned from Earthcare Committee, and another person whose nomination was approved by Meeting has never attended the committee or the Meeting in the interim. Therefore, there are two spaces open on Earthcare Committee, if any Friends are moved toward this work, please let Virginia, Sharon or Judy know of your interest.

Friends Earthcare - (Doris Ferm)

1. Eco-suggestion of the Month: To save water, consider purchasing a dual-flush converter for your toilet. Home Depot has a simple one for less than \$20. Hardware Sales has a more complicated one for about \$30.
2. The Committee talked about a report from Solar Washington on "Virtual Water," which is the water used in growing or manufacturing items. For example, 1000 square feet of synthetic carpet uses 14,750 gallons of water. An alternative is carpet made from recycled plastic bottles, which cuts the virtual water by 86%. To manufacture one clothes dryer takes 16,909 gallons of water. An alternative is a clothesline or indoor racks. Windows with vinyl frames use 11,700 gallons; windows with wood frames use 691.4 gallons.
3. Speak Truth to Power: **ANWR**, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge had its 50th birthday on Dec. 6. After all these years, however, it is still endangered by oil corporations desire to drill for oil. Ask Congress to add ANWR to the National Wilderness Preservation System to protect it in perpetuity.
4. Recycling: Judy Hopkinson has learned that Sanitary Service in Bellingham will now take all kinds of plastic containers (with numbers on the bottom).
5. The committee will meet next on January 4, 2011 at Doris', 7:00 pm.

Peace and Social Concerns – (Jeanine Hart-Horner)

Fellowship of Reconciliation sent P & SC a letter about S.T.A.R.T. (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) regarding the tensions between Russia and the United States regarding nuclear powers. FCNL requests support and ratification-asking our two senators to get behind this issue and our Meeting to endorse it. **The Meeting approved.**

Treasurer's Report (Don Goldstein)

There has been a very encouraging response to the call for additional donations to Meeting during the last month, and especially so in the last couple of weeks. As a result, all budgeted donations out have now been paid and our current year-to-date operating deficit is down to about \$735. If receipts for and payments made to Western Friend Magazine are excluded, as they have been in the proposed budget for 2011, then the year-to-date operating deficit is about \$580.

I anticipate that remaining expenditures for this year and remaining income to be received this year are roughly equal, so my expectation is that our final year-end operating deficit will be around \$600 (excluding Western Friend). This assumes that childcare for December will be paid for by the end of the fiscal (and calendar) year, and that all requests for reimbursement of 2010 expenses will be received and paid out by the end of the year. To the extent that those assumptions are not true, our 2010 deficit will be smaller but the corresponding expenses will be counted in 2011 instead.

Our current cash-on-hand for operating purposes, plus payment for Western Friend 2011 subscriptions, is a little over \$3430. Our financial condition is, therefore, well within the guidelines set by Meeting policies, and I believe that we are ready to consider the proposed budget for 2011 with reasonable confidence that it is realistic.

Finance Report – JoAnne Cowan

Bellingham Friends, 2011 Budget for Seasoning, presented 12/12/2010

<i>Item</i>	<i>2011 Proposed</i>	<i>2010 Budget</i>	<i>2010 Estimated Actual</i>
<u>Operating Income</u>			
Pledged contributions	\$11,020	\$11,660	\$11,175
Unpledged contributions expected	\$3,500		\$3,775
Interest Income	\$10	\$40	\$11
Additional income required	\$461		
Total Operating Income	\$14,991	\$11,700	\$14,961
<u>Operating Expenses</u>			
Finance Committee (and Administration)			
Liability Insurance	\$475	\$475	\$475
Quarterly Meeting Assessment	\$60	\$120	\$57
Rent	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
State license and filing fee	\$19	\$19	\$19
Supplies, postage and photocopying	\$40	\$25	\$35
Transfer to Quaker Activity Aid Fund	\$200	\$200	\$200
Yearly Meeting Assessment	\$1,716	\$1,716	\$1,694
Total Finance Committee	\$8,510	\$8,555	\$8,480
Children's Program Committee			
Childcare	\$2,200	\$1,730	\$1,590
Supplies and Materials	\$100	\$100	\$92
Honorarium	\$0	\$2,400	\$1,600
Total Children's Program Committee	\$2,300	\$4,230	\$3,282
Communications Committee			
Advertising	\$44	\$40	\$44
Directory	\$25	\$30	\$20
Newsletter	\$295	\$300	\$250
PO Box	\$62	\$65	\$60
Website/Other	\$30	\$30	\$30
Total Communications Committee	\$456	\$465	\$404
Ministry and Counsel Committee			
Gifts	\$75	\$75	\$0
Pamphlets, etc.	\$125	\$125	\$155
Other and Suffering	\$200	\$200	\$75
Outreach and Welcoming	\$100	\$0	\$0
Retreat and Special Events	\$300	\$300	\$380
Total Ministry and Counsel Committee	\$800	\$700	\$610

Other Committees			
Hospitality	\$225	\$250	\$150
Library	\$50	\$0	\$0
Oversight for Lopez P.M.	\$110	\$100	\$99
Peace and Social Concerns	\$50	\$50	\$40
<u>Total Other Committees</u>	\$435	\$400	\$289
Outreach and Support			
AFSC	\$120	\$120	\$100
FCNL	\$100	\$100	\$120
FCWPP	\$100	\$100	\$125
FGC	\$100	\$100	\$100
Friends Peace Teams	\$100	\$100	\$100
FWCC	\$100	\$100	\$100
Interfaith Coalition	\$100	\$100	\$100
Quaker Earthcare Witness	\$100	\$100	\$100
Right Sharing of World Resources	\$100	\$100	\$100
Whatcom Peace and Justice Center	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200
Contributions each under \$100	\$370	\$370	\$370
<u>Total Outreach and Support</u>	\$2,490	\$2,490	\$2,515
<u>Total Operating Expenses</u>	\$14,991	\$16,840	\$15,580
<u>Net</u>	\$0	-\$5,140	-\$619

Outreach - Allen Stockbridge

The next committee meeting will be held on January 4, 2011 at 9:30 am.
(There was nothing new to report.)

Meetinghouse Scout - Allen Stockbridge

Some Friends have visited the synagogue (Beth Israel). It will not be available for two to three years. Norwood Hall is not for sale nor suitable for our purposes, therefore, it has been crossed off the list as possible meetinghouse locations.

FGC - Don Goldstein

What is Friends General Conference?

The FGC Minute of Purpose (10/2009) states that “Friends General Conference, with Divine guidance, nurtures the spiritual vitality of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) by providing programs and services for Friends, meetings, and seekers.”

FGC is an organization whose members are yearly meetings and monthly meetings. There are currently 15 yearly meetings and several monthly meetings, including Olympia and Wyoming Monthly Meetings.

What is the history of Friends General Conference?

FGC originated in 1900 as an umbrella for several service and education organizations arising from Hick site yearly meetings. It expanded in the mid-20th century with the reunification of Orthodox and Hick site meetings in the Northeast. FGC began to hold its summer gathering outside the Mid-Atlantic region in 1963. By the 1980s its constituent yearly meetings included Friends in Canada and the eastern 2/3 of the United States. Most recently, Intermountain Yearly Meeting affiliated in 2009. Like NPYM, Intermountain Yearly Meeting spun off from Pacific Yearly Meeting roughly 40 years ago and had been one of three “independent” yearly meetings in the western U.S.

What are FGC services and activities?

Bookstore and publications
Annual Gathering of Friends (July)
Small conferences and workshops
Traveling Ministries program
Friends Meeting House Fund
Committee on Ministry for Racism
Youth Ministries Committee

What is the religious spectrum within FGC?

The majority of the meetings within the FGC family are unprogrammed meetings of the sort familiar to NPYM. New York YM and New England YM also include a number of long-established Friends churches. Several yearly meetings are affiliated with both Friends General Conference and Friends United Meeting. There is no overlap between FGC and Evangelical Friends International, which includes Northwest Yearly Meeting based in Newberg, Oregon. FGC has no creedal test for affiliation. As judged by its publications, educational materials,

and range of workshops at its annual summer gathering, FGC is welcoming to liberal and universalistic religious beliefs, progressive, social and political beliefs as well as Friends who identify as Christian.

What are NPYM's current affiliations?

NPYM sends representatives to the governing boards and/or annual meetings of the following:

- American Friends Service Committee (four representatives)
- Western Friend* (three representatives)
- Friends Committee on National Legislation (six representatives)
- Friends Peace Teams (two representatives)
- Friends World Committee for Consultation (four representatives)

What would NPYM members gain by affiliation?

FGC educational materials and publications are currently available to individuals and meetings without the necessity of affiliation. Individuals are free and welcome to participate in the annual summer gathering. Affiliation would open opportunities for NPYM members to participate directly in shaping FGC programs and materials and managing the organization. Affiliation would affirm commonalities with unprogrammed meetings throughout the United States (with the current exception of unaffiliated Pacific Yearly Meeting).

What would be the responsibilities of affiliation?

NPYM would be expected to send three representatives to the East Coast for the annual meeting of the Central Committee (four representatives if our current membership of 900 grows past 1000). Each Central Committee member is also expected to serve on a FGC program or administrative committee. One of the Central Committee representatives is also expected to serve on the Executive Committee, meeting twice more per year.

What would be affiliation cost?

FGC yearly meetings make an average annual contribution of \$3 per member, which would currently translate as \$2700 annually for NPYM. FGC meetings take place in Philadelphia. Minimal travel would be two representatives to the FGC annual meeting and two trips of a representative to the Executive Committee. Fuller travel would involve three representatives, two Executive Committee trips, and two or three trips for standing committee meetings. At

\$600 per trip, travel would range from \$2400 to \$4800 per year. Total: \$5100-\$7800 per year; The NPYM budget for 2010-11 is \$58,220, although we often underspend. The assessment per member is \$44. FGC affiliation would imply an assessment increase of \$5-8.

North Pacific Yearly Meeting and Friends General Conference: Queries for Meetings

North Pacific Yearly Meeting is considering affiliation with Friends General Conference (FGC) and has appointed a committee consisting of Carl Abbott (Multnomah), Lynn Fitz-Hugh (Eastside), Tom Head (Bridge City), Otis Kenny (Boise Valley), and Lee Neff (South Seattle). We are asked (1) to investigate the implications of affiliation and (2) to solicit opinions and comments from the NPYM community. We have prepared the attached two-page fact sheet which we are sending to all meetings and worship groups, as well as posting on the NPYM website. We are also posing the following queries to guide consideration:

- 1) How might affiliation with FGC affect the spiritual life of NPYM and its members?
- 2) How might affiliation with FGC affect the activities and programs of NPYM?
- 3) Would NPYM have the financial and human resources to participate in the governance and committee work of FGC? What would be an adequate level of participation?

We request that meetings and worship groups consider and season these queries in the manner that seems most appropriate, such as adult discussion, threshing session, or business meeting. We are not necessarily asking for a yes/no recommendation on affiliation, but rather for thoughtful comments and responses. If you would like to talk with a member of the committee or wish additional information, please contact Carl Abbott by email at abbottc@pdx.edu. Please send feedback from meetings, worship groups, and individuals to Carl Abbott by **March 2011** to allow the committee to prepare a report for 2011 Annual Session.

FCWPP

Action Alert: With a special session of the WA State Legislature scheduled for Saturday, December 11, 2010 to make drastic budget cuts, the programs in our state's fraying safety net are on the line. Please email, ASAP, the state senator and representatives in your district. Urge them to retain funds for the Basic Health Plan (**BHP**), Disability Lifeline (formerly **GA-U**), and Temporary Aid to Needy Families (**TANF**). The Disability Lifeline is a program to provide needed support for individuals unable to work due to severe disability. We as Friends and others from the religious community can uniquely frame these issues from a moral and a compassionate perspective that can compliment the economic needs perspectives others bring to the issues. We suggest that you identify yourself as a Quaker or a supporter of Quakers so that legislator will recognize our common commitment.

Honoring Carol Estes: The Washington Association of Churches honored Carol Estes, a former FCWPP Legislative Advocate, at their December 5, 2010 annual event. Carol, founder of University Beyond Bars, has dedicated 10 years to the well being of inmates and development of secondary education opportunities for them at the Monroe Correctional Complex. Working as a volunteer with the black prisoners caucus, lifers and other inmates, she has established classes for which students receive university credit. Carol recently received a grant that will pay her some salary and expand the University Beyond Bars to other prisons in the state of Washington.

Member Concerns – We will be keeping our current hospitality lunch for Meeting for Business as is. Betty McMahan will be reimbursed for the cost of the lunch ingredients, and those Friends who partake of the lunch are invited to make a small donation to the basket that is provided.

Our Holiday Party is scheduled for Sunday, December 19, 2010 following rise of meeting. Unfortunately our newsletter will not be distributed before this time, but we are hoping a special email gets circulated announcing this event.

Mimi brought up that she is receiving lots of information from NPUM. It will be decided at a later day exactly what she should be doing with this information. At present, Alice Robb is our secretary, and Don offered to help with this.

We will continue to receive committee reports ahead of scheduled business meeting. One can choose to read them or not.

Our business meeting concluded at 1:30 p.m.
Submitted by Betty McMahan, Recording Clerk