

**Bellingham Friends**  
**Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**  
**February 14, 2016**  
**Approved**

Present: Joan Ofteness, Virginia Herrick, Susan Richardson, Allan Richardson, Mark Hersh, Dave Hopkinson, Karen Steen, Joanne Cowan, Larry Thompson, Lynn Lohr, Wendy Goldstein, Don Goldstein, Kristen McLewin, Sharon Trent, Lorina Hall, John Hatten (clerking), Judy Hopkinson (recording clerk).

Agenda was amended and approved

**2016.02.01 Minutes of Jan 2016 were approved with minor corrections**  
**2016.02.02 M&C Report**

2016.02.02.1 Suggestions from Ben Lomond conference on deepening quaker workshop were presented and discussion was solicited.

1. The first suggestion was about involving Friends in clerking workshop
  1. One Friend suggested offering a clerking meeting as our annual retreat.
  2. There was general agreement with that suggestion
2. The second was about newcomers workshop. This was referred to OWG for consideration
3. A third suggestion was having a board with pictures for name tags.
  1. A friend suggested this could be physically problematic in our building
  2. A suggestion was made that this too could be referred to OWG and Friends agreed.
  3. John H and Kristen M volunteered to help with name tag organization.
  4. OWG has a meeting Feb 20th at 10:30 am at Don G.'s home to discuss this further
4. Two sets of sets of books were recommended for further study
  1. A friend reported that one of these sets has already been discussed
5. Quaker Eights with a theme was another suggestion
  1. A Friend suggested that, in view of our previous attempts at various forms of Quaker 8s, that we might try a single event rather than a series.
6. Another suggestion: Kids engaging adults by asking adults questions or queries: Do you believe in God/does God exist? Is Santa real? What happens when we die?
  1. A Friend suggested that we consider this as an intergenerational second hour.

2016.02.02.2 (Discussion) Meetinghouse discernment considerations. Friends were asked for input about what is needed

- One Friend said that we needed to focus on what we want to do now
- Another Friend said we need to focus on how to do it better next time.
- Another Friend pointed out that we might need to move sooner than we thought because of the change in administration at Explorations Academy
- Another Friend offered that we might not focus on what we did wrong but rather consider this in a positive view regarding what we can do to guide ourselves through what will be a rocky road in any case

## Ministry & Counsel Report

Bellingham Friends Meeting for Worship for Business, 2-14-2016

1. **(Discussion) Consultation at Ben Lomond Center** in December. Susan R. and Mary Ann shared some ideas they'd gathered, including:
  - a. A practice of always sending two Friends from Meeting to a clerking workshop annually. Since we are all responsible for assisting in the flow of our Meetings, this practice would improve our practice of Quaker process over time.
    1. There's also been discussion of hiring Ann Stevers and Dorsey Green to do the clerking workshop that they offered on Whidbey Island last summer, here.
    2. Having a regular "newcomers series" for four weeks, once or twice a year.
    3. Having a picture board with pockets for nametags – and each pocket has a photo of the member, so names are stored with faces.
    4. Patricia Loring books were recommended for adult religious ed (Maybe for our Spirit Study group?) Also Ben Pink Dandelion's "On Being A Quaker."
    5. Quaker Eights with a theme - same topic and then compare discussions
    6. Kids engaging adults by asking adults questions or queries: Do you believe in God/does God exist? Is Santa real? What happens when we die?
  2. **(Information) Advices and Queries** (derived from the "Shoots" portion of the "Radical Quakerism: Roots, Shoots and Fruits" from the Ben Lomond Center Consultation)): When the way forward is not clear, how can we support one another? How can we listen more deeply to help discern what is rightly ordered and what is not? How can we share our struggles to be faithful to the Light Within? How can we lovingly hold one another accountable?
  3. **(Discussion) Meetinghouse discernment considerations** and best ways to move forward from here. M & C was very heartened to see so many Friends present, and sharing so deeply of their experiences regarding the Bell Tower Studios during Second Hour on Sunday January 31. We recognize that to do so was an affirmation of Friends love and caring for our community and may have taken considerable courage. We recognize some Friends who may have wanted to speak did not have the opportunity to do so given our time constraints. We hope another opportunity to share will help us move forward as a worshipping community. To that end, we are inviting Iris and Jerry to facilitate another MFW for Sharing with us next month.
    - a. Some comments from Friends that we've heard so far were that it was very helpful to have outside facilitators: It helps us listen better to ourselves as well as each other.
    - b. One Friend suggested putting together an ad hoc committee to put together a list of what to do differently next time.
  - c. Iris G. and Jerry E. are willing to return (with Dee Dee), but we're not sure when. If they do return, what would we like from them? How would Friends like to proceed?
    4. **(Discussion) State of Society Report.** (John Hatten is developing a draft, which may be part of this report or may be submitted separately!)
    5. **(Information/discussion) Second Hours:**

Feb. 21 – OWG poetry sharing

Feb. 28 – Steven Aldrich will share on the topic of Personal Circles of Justice, FCNL, & FCWPP

Mar. 6 – Potluck

Mar. 13 – MfWfB

Mar. 20 – FCNL biannual priority-setting (Karen Steen, FCNL rep.)

Mar. 27 – Easter

April 3 – Potluck

April 10 – MfWfB

April 17 – Open

April 24 – Open

**6. Hospitality Committee concern** (Information and Discussion): Hospitality clerk Carole Teshima has resigned and Judy Hopkinson and Don Goldstein are currently sharing her responsibilities. Ministry and Counsel has been concerned this year about the burden of Hospitality (especially kitchen responsibilities) falling on too few shoulders. How can we better share the load?

1. Clarify time for clean up -- the “kitchen” volunteer and the “kitchen helper” people need to decide when they want to cleanup: after second hour is concluded or during second hour..
2. When people approach the sink to do their own dishes, they need to be allowed (and encouraged!) to do this. We recognize there are Friends who will wash whatever dishes are brought to them but ultimately it ends up putting an undue burden on the last person to clean up.

7. Next meeting: 7pm Feb 22nd

**Bellingham Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends**  
**Statement of Financial Activity 2015 YE**  
**YTD 2015**

	Jan - Dec ...	Budget	\$ Over Bu...	% of Budg...
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
<b>4000 · All Contributions</b>				
4010 · Contributions by Check	15,326.00	13,933.00	1,393.00	110.0%
4015 · Contributions by Cash	948.44	400.00	548.44	237.1%
4018 · Contributions in Kind	405.25	427.00	-21.75	94.9%
4000 · All Contributions - Other	40.00	0.00	40.00	100.0%
<b>Total 4000 · All Contributions</b>	<b>16,719.69</b>	<b>14,760.00</b>	<b>1,959.69</b>	<b>113.3%</b>
<b>4030 · Interest Income</b>	<b>165.26</b>			
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>16,884.95</b>	<b>14,760.00</b>	<b>2,124.95</b>	<b>114.4%</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
<b>5000 · Finance Committee</b>				
5011 · State Filing Fee	10.00	10.00	0.00	100.0%
5020 · Equipment	18.37	50.00	-31.63	36.7%
5030 · Liability Insurance	575.00	575.00	0.00	100.0%
5040 · Rent	6,600.00	6,600.00	0.00	100.0%
5060 · Supplies, Postage and Copying	22.64	30.00	-7.36	75.5%
5070 · Quarterly Meeting Assessment	95.00	80.00	15.00	118.8%
5080 · Yearly Meeting Assessment	2,340.00	2,400.00	-60.00	97.5%
<b>Total 5000 · Finance Committee</b>	<b>9,661.01</b>	<b>9,745.00</b>	<b>-83.99</b>	<b>99.1%</b>
<b>5600 · Children's Program</b>				
5630 · Childcare	185.00	400.00	-215.00	46.3%
5650 · Supplies amd Materials	67.85	100.00	-32.15	67.9%
<b>Total 5600 · Children's Program</b>	<b>252.85</b>	<b>500.00</b>	<b>-247.15</b>	<b>50.6%</b>
<b>5700 · Communications</b>				
5710 · Advertising	70.00	70.00	0.00	100.0%
5720 · Directory	67.27	80.00	-12.73	84.1%
5730 · Newsletter	156.50	125.00	31.50	125.2%
5740 · P.O. Box	80.00	80.00	0.00	100.0%
5750 · Website/Other	0.00	30.00	-30.00	0.0%
<b>Total 5700 · Communications</b>	<b>373.77</b>	<b>385.00</b>	<b>-11.23</b>	<b>97.1%</b>
<b>6000 · Ministry and Counsel</b>				
6030 · Gifts	-14.70	50.00	-64.70	-29.4%
6040 · Pamphlets and Subscriptions	87.45	125.00	-37.55	70.0%
6050 · Outreach and Welcoming	122.70	200.00	-77.30	61.4%
6060 · Retreats and Special Events	829.13	400.00	429.13	207.3%
<b>Total 6000 · Ministry and Counsel</b>	<b>1,024.58</b>	<b>775.00</b>	<b>249.58</b>	<b>132.2%</b>
<b>6500 · Other Committees</b>				
6510 · Hospitality	428.11	450.00	-21.89	95.1%
6520 · Library	0.00	150.00	-150.00	0.0%
6530 · Oversight for Lopez P.M.	68.85	125.00	-56.15	55.1%
6540 · Social and Environmental Crns	48.94	140.00	-91.06	35.0%
<b>Total 6500 · Other Committees</b>	<b>545.90</b>	<b>865.00</b>	<b>-319.10</b>	<b>63.1%</b>
<b>6600 · Outreach and Support</b>				
6610 · AFSC	165.00	165.00	0.00	100.0%
6611 · FCNL	150.00	150.00	0.00	100.0%
6612 · FCWPP	150.00	150.00	0.00	100.0%
6613 · FGC	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.0%
6614 · Interfaith Coalition	125.00	125.00	0.00	100.0%
6617 · FWCC	125.00	125.00	0.00	100.0%
6618 · Quaker Earthcare Witness	125.00	125.00	0.00	100.0%
6620 · Right Sharing of World Resource	0.00	125.00	-125.00	0.0%
6630 · Whatcom Peace and Justice	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00	100.0%
6640 · WA Coltn to Abolsh Death Pnlty	50.00	50.00	0.00	100.0%
6650 · W. WA FOR	75.00	75.00	0.00	100.0%
6690 · Belllghm Human Rights Festival	0.00	100.00	-100.00	0.0%
<b>Total 6600 · Outreach and Support</b>	<b>2,265.00</b>	<b>2,490.00</b>	<b>-225.00</b>	<b>91.0%</b>

	<u>Jan - Dec ...</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Bu...</u>	<u>% of Budg...</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	14,123.11	14,760.00	-636.89	95.7%
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	2,761.84	0.00	2,761.84	100.0%
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Other Income</b>				
4060 · Change in Asset Value				
4062 · FFC Gathering Fund	0.00			
4063 · FFC Meeting House	0.00			
4065 · Scottrade	215.52			
4060 · Change in Asset Value - Other	-913.92			
<b>Total 4060 · Change in Asset Value</b>	-698.40			
8200 · Other Income				
8230 · Received for FCWPP	0.00			
8240 · Western Friend	0.00			
<b>Total 8200 · Other Income</b>	0.00			
<b>Total Other Income</b>	-698.40			
<b>Other Expense</b>				
9100 · Meeting Approved/Out of Budget				
9110 · Sponsored Attendee to Gathering	0.00			
9120 · Funds Approved	200.00			
9150 · Bell Tower Expense	1,863.20			
9100 · Meeting Approved/Out of Budget - O...	200.00			
<b>Total 9100 · Meeting Approved/Out of Budget</b>	2,263.20			
9991 · Voided Checks	0.00			
<b>Total Other Expense</b>	2,263.20			
<b>Net Other Income</b>	-2,961.60			
<b>Net Income</b>	<u><u>-199.76</u></u>	<u><u>0.00</u></u>	<u><u>-199.76</u></u>	<u><u>100.0%</u></u>

## Bellingham Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

## Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison

As of December 31, 2015

02/09/16

Accrual Basis

	Dec 31, 15	Dec 31, 14	\$ Change
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
<b>Checking/Savings</b>			
1010 · WECU Checking	5,516.11	6,897.73	-1,381.62
1020 · WECU Savings	10,539.69	27,374.43	-16,834.74
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	16,055.80	34,272.16	-18,216.36
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	16,055.80	34,272.16	-18,216.36
<b>Other Assets</b>			
<b>1800 · Marketable Securities</b>			
1810 · Friends Fiduciary	151,044.00	133,957.92	17,086.08
1820 · Scottrade	24,944.73	24,729.21	215.52
<b>Total 1800 · Marketable Securities</b>	175,988.73	158,687.13	17,301.60
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	175,988.73	158,687.13	17,301.60
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>192,044.53</b>	<b>192,959.29</b>	<b>-914.76</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>			
<b>Equity</b>			
<b>3100 · Permanently Restricted</b>			
3110 · Meeting House Funds	87,923.63	86,903.63	1,020.00
3120 · Gathering Sponsorship	45,756.21	46,491.21	-735.00
<b>Total 3100 · Permanently Restrict...</b>	133,679.84	133,394.84	285.00
<b>3200 · Temporarily Restricted</b>			
3260 · Mutual Aid	10,215.05	10,215.05	0.00
3270 · Quaker Activity	9,212.04	10,212.04	-1,000.00
3280 · Meeting House	27,523.48	27,523.48	0.00
<b>Total 3200 · Temporarily Restrict...</b>	46,950.57	47,950.57	-1,000.00
<b>3500 · Unrestricted Assets</b>	11,613.88	11,313.88	300.00
<b>Net Income</b>	-199.76	300.00	-499.76
<b>Total Equity</b>	192,044.53	192,959.29	-914.76
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>192,044.53</b>	<b>192,959.29</b>	<b>-914.76</b>

## **SEC Report to MfWfB – February 14, 2016 February 2, 2016**

### **Information items:**

#### 1) Concern of the Month – **Unist’ot’en Camp**

2) Several Friends met with Satpal Sidhu recently to discuss ways in which Friends can build bridges and show support to the local Sikh community, if that is something that would be welcomed. In their conversation together, they explored ideas to increase interfaith awareness and goodwill in Whatcom County. As part of this discussion, Satpal invited interested Friends to attend the Sikh ceremony for Vaisakhi, one of the most important Sikh festivals, at his temple in April. We will keep Meeting informed about details as we learn of them.

We are still waiting to hear from Satpal about the possibility of joining forces with Interfaith Coalition to develop a Multicultural food festival for Bellingham.

3) Our Meeting will host **Prayer Vigil for Peace in the Middle East** on Monday, April 18 from 5:30 - 6:00 pm. We have hosted this in the past, although not in a year or two, so this is a renewal of our participation. It is hosted by a different faith group each month on the 18<sup>th</sup> of the month with St. James Presbyterian Church organizing the schedule.

4) **Betsy Pernotto** of Jobs With Justice, will be presenting second hour in March or April to discuss the state initiative for minimum wage.

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## **Lopez Update February 2016**

At fall Quarterly Meeting, Lopez initiated the process to become a Monthly Meeting. This entailed laying down the Lopez Oversight Committee of Bellingham, and setting up a Visiting Committee to make a recommendation. The Visiting Committee was set up by PNQM, including Susan Richardson, clerk, and Don Goldstein from our Meeting plus 3 others from the Quarter. We made two visits to Lopez, in November and in January, and are recommending Lopez for Monthly Meeting Status, and are sending our report to Spring Quarterly for Consideration at that time. We encourage you to attend Quarterly to support Lopez becoming a Monthly Meeting; it has been under our care the last several years. It will be our turn to plan Quarterly in the near future.

Susan Richardson

- Another Friend shared concern about those who are not returning because of the conflict and consider how to reflect on this without involving the ego part so that when we work toward a decision we do not have a lot of fallout
- Another friend said that we spend a lot of time talking about listening and being heard. She said if we hope for a unified meeting going forward that we need to give that more time. She felt that if we don't intentionally follow through with exploring how to deepen listening that we cannot expect anything different next time. She felt that this needs more intentional work.
- A Friend asked that the building Liaison check with EA to see if our contract will continue.
- John offered that he has no indication that our situation will change with respect to EA.

2016.02.02.3 Iris G. and Jerry E. are willing to return (with Dee Dee), but we're not sure when. If they do return, what would we like from them? How would Friends like to proceed?

- A Friend said that trying to listen was done well, and we need to consider what could be done differently
- A Friend suggested that we might find other ways to hold silence between speakers so that people did not feel as though they could not get a word in edgewise.
- Another Friend suggested that we might explore the variety of suggestions that people have offered about how we might proceed differently, and we might also get some clarity on what people really want in terms of a meeting house.
- Another Friend asked that any meeting be March 20th or later.
- The clerk expressed a concern that others who are not present may still feel a need to be heard and that this could lead to some discomfort if we move forward.
- Another Friend expressed a desire to address the fundamental issues regarding desires for a building in the abstract.
- Another Friend reminded the meeting that we were told at the end of the meeting with Iris and Jerry that there would be other opportunities to speak about the issue.
- Virginia H asked for patience and input as M&C moves forward on this issue

2016.02.02.3 - Upcoming Second Hours Feb. 21 – OWG poetry sharing

- Feb. 28 – Steven Aldrich will share on the topic of Personal Circles of Justice, FCNL, & FCWPP
  - Mar. 6 – Potluck - with "get acquainted" game by OWG
  - Mar. 13 – MfWfB
  - Mar. 20 – FCNL biannual priority-setting (Karen Steen, FCNL rep.)
  - Mar. 27 – Easter April 3 – Potluck -
  - April 10 – MfWfB
  - April 17 – Open
  - April 24 – Open - Quarterly Meeting
- A Friend reminded the group that the interfaith Chöre will be performing at 3 on Feb 21



2016.02.02.4 - Hospitality is currently without a clerk. Judy H and Don G are sharing that roll temporarily. M&C suggested that Kitchen volunteer and kitchen helper talk to each other ahead of time. They also suggested that we want to create a culture in which people do their own dishes - perhaps by having people who are doing dishes step aside to let individuals wash their own dishes.

Two friends suggested that specific details be worked out by hospitality. Sharon T volunteered to join the hospitality committee.

There was a question about how the kitchen people would be appointed.

**2016.02.03 Finance Committee** (See attached) Income exceeded budgeted expenses and with unexpected expenses, the net for the year was - \$199.

In response to a question from a Friend, it was clarified that the \$9120 item should be \$400 rather than \$200, and the 9100 item for \$200 should not be there.

**2016.02.03.1 The reported was accepted as presented.**

- A Friend expressed a concern that someone needs to review our allowance for FGC scholarship because the allowance of \$1000 no longer covers the expenses.
- The Treasurer suggested that our FGC rep, Don G. provide a recommendation for an appropriate amount. Don G. agreed to do so and to bring that to finance committee.
- A discussion ensued about whether Friends can/should contribute some of the expenses.

**2016.02.04: State of Society Report**

John H drafted a State of Society report and read it aloud.

A Friend suggested that we place more emphasis on the strong process and positive work of the meeting house committee.

Two other friends suggested removing the work 'blunders'

Other Friends suggested replacing "socializing" with "fellowship".

A Friend suggested featuring the "Quakerism: Experience it!" program and celebrating some of the good things that arose from the meeting house discernment process.

A Friend also suggested that we emphasize that our meeting appears to be open to greater spiritual deepening.

Two Friends suggested that we emphasize that we took on a great challenge in considering the meeting house.

Other Friends expressed their delight in and appreciation of our annual retreat - the first overnight retreat in a long time and it was very valuable.

Another Friend suggested we organize it in chronological order.

Friends are encouraged to communicate with Virginia who will be the master editor.

Another Friend shared that serving on the meeting house committee was a peak experience and exemplified quality committee work.

**2016.02.05: Social and Environmental Concerns Committee** (Report Attached)

**2016.02.06: Outreach and Welcoming** - reminded friends of the second hour on Feb 21st and the welcoming exercise coming at potluck in March.

**2016.02.07: Lopez Oversight Committee** - (Report Attached)

Don G asked whether the oversight committee had been laid down. We will explore that and reconsider it in May if it has not.

Don G mentioned that Lopez Friends are still working on what their name should be.

**2016.02.08: E-News** - Judy H asked whether committee clerks whether they would be willing to post committee announcements directly to the E-News. Clerks agreed and Judy H will meet with them and train them.

**2016.02.08.1 Meeting minutes its appreciation to Judy H for the creation and publication of the E-News.**

2016.02.09. A Question was asked about Metamorphosis - what will happen with it. Nominating committee shared that the current Metamorphosis editor may be feeling that she is called to lay down that leading.

Friends felt that we may need to wait and discern whether the meeting has a particular vision for the Metamorphosis.

Lorina H suggested that we might start by asking Betty whether she has suggestions/ ideas for the evolution of Metamorphosis

**2016.02.09- Member Concern regarding proposed radio show sponsorship.**

Don G reported that there is a great deal of turmoil and no clear proposal and we are still waiting. OWG has some concerns about the process.

**2016.02.10 Virginia H reported that she and Carole T met with Nadeem**

**Israr at Copy Source to discuss potential interface with Muslims.** Nadeem said that he is not religious but that their "mosque" accepts visitors but they do not have long services. Virginia and Carole asked him about the best way to have an interface. He offered to come and talk with us about Muslim beliefs, but that it would be great to have questions in advance so that he could bring those questions to spiritual leaders in advance. Nadeem said that there has not been that much outward hostility, but that it is hard to find work here - which he feels is in part an expression of racism. Virginia asked about recent hostility. He said there has been some - for example raw pork left on their mailbox - but they did not want to make a big deal about it. She suggested that we invite him to speak and lay some ground work to build relationships ahead of time.

A Friend asked whether we want to work with BUF and create a larger audience.

2016.02.11 Nominating Committee asked to be held in the Light

The meeting closed with silent worship