

Bellingham Friends Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Draft Minutes
July 24, 2016

Present: John Hatten (clerking), Lorina Hall, Kristen McLewin, Dusty Andersen, Susan Richardson, Joanne Cowan, Allan Richardson, Lynne Lohr, Don Goldstein, Wendy Goldstein, Sharon Trent, Jean Brechan, Judy Hopkinson (recording)

2016.07.01 Minutes of the June MfWfB were approved with a few additional corrections for spelling to be submitted by Don

2016.07.02 **Ministry and Counsel Report** (attached)

2016.07.02.1 The clearness committee recommended Kristen McLewin for membership. This recommendation was accepted for seasoning.

2016.07.2.2 A video will be shown on Aug 21st and Judy will review the use of EA audiovisual equipment.

2016.07.2.3 M&C announced that they would welcome another participant in planning the campout. Joanne Cowan volunteered

2016.07.2.4 Don Goldstein volunteered to share his story as a part of the proposed Spiritual Journey series.

2016.07.03 Nominating Committee announced an opening in the SEC committee due to the resignation of Wendy Courtemanche. Sharon Trent volunteered to be considered as assistant clerk for the Meeting. Joanne reminded the meeting that there is still an opening for an assistant treasurer.

2016.07.04 Finance Committee Report

2016.07.04.1 Income was at 45% of budget. Expenses were at 49% of budget. Net Income - expenses = - \$680 at this point

2016.07.04.2 Issues of concern:

- Childcare is spending above budget and Finance needs to speak to childcare. Sharon Trent reminded the meeting that childcare had meeting permission to go over budget. Joanne C said that a charge of \$200 from the retreat was charged to childcare and could be charged to the retreat budget.
- Yearly meeting assessment cost will increase during the second half of the year because we have 46 people to cover compared to a projection of just 40 people.

2016.07.04.3 - Discussion of whether or not we should be concerned about deficit: Susan R asked if this means we should ask for increased donations. Sharon T and Mary Anne P and others reminded Friends that donations are usually larger at the end of the year. A discussion ensued regarding whether there might be another way to report that would not cause concern when we are over budget at a particular time of the year. Allan asked if we should have adjusted the budget when childcare obtained

Ministry & Counsel Report, July 24, 2016,

1. July/August query: From New York Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice : “Are we engaged in nurturing and deepening our relationship with all creation? Do we make time to open to the Spirit through contact with nature? Do we strive to live in harmony with the Earth? How can we transform our lives in witness to our right relationship with the Earth, and join with others in active stewardship, realizing that we share one planet, now and in the future?”

For the next 4 months the query will be printed and distributed at worship and written on the white board in addition to being read. We will give this process a four month trial and discuss at Meeting for Worship for Business in November. We invite your comments as to whether you find this helpful.

2. The clearness committee for membership for Kristen McLewin is pleased to recommend her for Membership, and we are presenting her name to accept for seasoning for Membership in Bellingham Friends Meeting.
3. The Yearly Meeting was late in sending out their request for the statistical report this year. We are appreciative of Don Goldstein for suggesting criteria and providing lists of attenders and members and for responding in a timely fashion. Our assessment for Yearly Meeting and Quarterly Meeting are based on this report. We plan to develop a calendar for annual responsibilities and to consult our directory manager prior to completing in the future.

4 Second hours:

1. Second Hours:

July 24 – Meeting for Worship for Business

July 31- Report back from those attending NPYM & FGC Gathering

August 7 – Potluck

August 14 – open

August 21 – Forgiveness video (Lorina)

August 28 – Camping/outdoor worship at Excelsior Group Camp

September 4 – Potluck with OWC activity

September 11 – Meeting for Worship for Business

September 18 – Spiritual Journey: we invite a Friend to share theirs contact M&C

September 25 – Quarterly Meeting

October 2 - Potluck

October 9 Meeting for Worship for Business

October 16 - open

October 23 – Play reading (Don G facilitating)

October 30 – open

November 20 – Quaker Ways (Dusty)

5. New second hour series: Spiritual Journeys.

M& C would like to offer Bellingham Friends the opportunity to learn more about one another in "that which is eternal"--that which we hold most dear, what brought us to our current understandings of the world, how we see our place in it, our relationship with God, Spirit, Jesus, Buddha and/or other spiritual teachers.

To that end, we'll be offering Second Hours, perhaps monthly, for a Friend to tell their spiritual journey. We envision having approximately 30-40 minutes for the Friend to share, followed by 15-20 minutes of question and answer.

Mary Ann experienced the deepening, connecting, and healing potential of these talks at La Jolla Meeting over several years. There, Friends who were anxious about being accepted/welcome due to their (self-identified) Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, Atheist, Agnostic or other beliefs/views experienced tremendous healing and connection from the love and warmth they received from the listening Friends.

The first opportunity for such a Second Hour will be on September 18th. Please let us know now if you're interested, or contact a member of M&C.

6. Camping Trip Aug 27-28. Larry and Susan are seeking a third volunteer to help organize details for our upcoming camping trip at Excelsior in August. We also are seeking someone to lead a bird walk. Please contact one of us if you are interested.

7. There is a free 3 week online course, "Radical Spirituality: The Early History of the Quakers" offered by Lancaster University in England, beginning Oct 3. More on this.

8. M&C is planning a half-day retreat in October to consider broader goals than our regular meeting time allows.

Children's Program Committee Report
Bellingham MfWfB July 24, 2016

1. Children's Program Committee met July 11. Virginia H., Dorothy D., and Laura H attended. Kristen McLewin was absent.
2. Attendance: Over the past seven weeks, we have had two Sundays with no children, and five with at least one child.
3. Upcoming schedule:

July 24: Rachel Van Boven facilitating, Dora Kovacs doing childcare.

July 31: Dorothy DeFremery (or substitute TBA) facilitating, Anna Row doing childcare.

Aug. 7: Eric Bablinkas facilitating

Aug. 14: Vacancy. Friends interested in becoming a substitute or a regular facilitator (once per quarter), please contact Virginia at virginiafherrick at gmail dot com.

Aug. 21: Virginia facilitating

Aug. 28: Campout.

4. Children's Program Committee would like to confer with Friends going to the campout who are interested in spending time with the kids during worship so their parents can attend.
 - a. Parents are encouraged to let Virginia know if their children will be at the campout.
5. We have some Friends Through Time curriculum which has not been used in some time. Laura was planning to scan and send to John to post on the website. Anyone interested in using that curriculum could access it via the website. Facilitators who would rather receive a paper copy can contact Virginia.

5. Next Meeting: August 25th 5:30 p.m. Please let Virginia know if you'd like to attend.

Report from Outreach and Welcoming Committee to Bellingham Friends Meeting MfWfB, July 24, 2016

The online photo gallery of BFM members and attenders is slowly growing but is still far from as complete as we would hope for. There are, as of this writing, seven photos posted and another seven or eight photos have been sent to John Hatten for posting in the gallery. The Outreach and Welcoming Committee has become more active in inviting Friends to be photographed or submit their own photos, and hope that we have the support of Bellingham Friends Meeting in that endeavor. Wendy would be happy to take your photo today if you are not yet in the gallery.

Regarding the Western Washington University Student Information Fair, the dates have been confirmed as September 19 and 29 (a Monday and Tuesday) and the hours are 11 am to 3 pm each day. With help from Allen Stockbridge I've made contact with the WWU office that coordinates the fair and expect to receive the registration materials very soon. With 8 total hours of exhibition time, we need 16 shifts to be covered in order to have two Friends at our table at all times. So far, five shifts have been volunteered, along with three batches of cookies to use as giveaways. So, we are only part-way there and definitely need more volunteers for both staffing the table and to donate home-baked cookies. If we register and then need to cancel we must do so by about September 8th, so that is the deadline for volunteers to step forward. Announcements in the weekly BFM E-news will continue. Meanwhile, the committee is working on identifying the handout literature that we believe will be most effective and ordering or printing appropriate quantities.

--Don Goldstein, Clerk of Outreach and Welcoming Committee, 7/21/16
Other OWC members are Dusty Andersen, Wendy Goldstein, and Kathy Long

Report from Pacific Northwest Quarterly Meeting Representative to Bellingham Friends Meeting MfWfB, July 24, 2016

When Pacific Northwest Quarterly Meeting(PNQM) met in April of this year, the upcoming host meetings for the fall 2016 QM session had not yet identified a theme or produced a flyer to publicize the dates and theme. A theme was announced just recently, although there is still no flyer as far as I know. Here are the wording and description of the upcoming theme:

Gender, difference, and spirituality

North Pacific Yearly Meeting and Pacific Northwest Quarterly Meeting are engaged in a process of becoming more supportive of people of all genders.

Let's move beyond the cultural assumption that there are only two genders and that our gender identities are fixed at birth!

Learning from the experiences of others around gender, as well as sharing our own journeys, will help us become a more inclusive and whole community.

The dates of the session are September 23 to 25, and the location will be Lazy F Camp and Retreat Center near Ellensburg, as usual. Online registration should already be available at pnqm.org.

--Don Goldstein, BFM Representative to PNQM Continuing Committee, 7/21/16

permission to spend more money. Larry T explained that it is usually counterproductive to try and adjust the budget for relatively minor changes during the year.

2016.07.05 **Outreach and Welcoming Report** (Attached) Don brought a few of the materials that might be put on display at the WWU information both. He asked for comment and/or suggestions. Sharon T asked whether there would be contact information for the Meeting on the handouts and whether students could obtain rides to meeting. Sharon Trent, Lorina Hall, and Kristen McLewin volunteered to offer rides for students. Lorina H, Joanne C, Don R, Jean Brechan, Lynne L, and Sharon T volunteered to do shifts at the table. Jean Brechan asked whether we might create a rubber stamp so that we could stamp each handout with our local information. Don will look into the possibility of creating a rubber stamp. Judy H suggested having information about the young Quaker who is a part of the Our Children's Trust law suit. She will get that to Don.

2016.07.06 Quarterly Meeting Planning Committee approved the previously-proposed theme for the Quarterly Meeting in April 2017. The next committee meeting will be Thurs July 28th 10 am at Don and Wendy's

2016.07.08 Report from Pacific Northwest Quarterly Meeting Representative (attached). Mary Ann P suggested that information be brought to meeting for the literature table.

2016.07.09 Sharon T. reported that Friends were very generous in their donations for the Whatcom Homeless Connect materials donations coordinated by Interfaith Coalition project. Interfaith also needs volunteers for their sandwich ministry.

2016.07.10 Children's Program Committee report (attached). John Hatten read the report.

2016.07.11 **Guidelines for Committees in Decision-making.** After discussion and review of last month's minutes, it was decided to change the term "Decision-making" to the Quaker term "Discernment", and to allow this document to season further until the next business meeting.

2016.07.12 Member Concern - Jean Brechan asked whether her name was in the directory. Don G. responded that she is in the electronic directory (although not the once-a-year printed version), of which the latest version is distributed about every two months.

2016.07.13 Member Concern - Dusty A expressed concern that flowers in the center of the room are distracting. She suggested they be placed on a counter or somewhere. Judy H expressed appreciation for the beauty of the flowers in the center of the room. No sense of the meeting was reached.

2015.07.14 John H asked whether we would like to have an asterisk by our name/picture in the online photo gallery to indicate membership. The sense of the meeting was that we would prefer not to be identified as members vs. attenders.

2015.07.14 Jean B expressed a concern about the noise outside during meeting. Kristen volunteered to remind the child care group about closing the Commons door if possible.