

Bellingham Friends Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

10 - 08 – 17

Present: Susan Richardson, Janine Bruton, Don Goldstein, Sharon Trent, Dusty Andersen, Joanne Cowan, Lorina Hall, Mark Hersh, Allan Richardson, John Hatten (Clerk), Judy Hopkinson (Recording Clerk), Lynne Lohr, David Hopkinson, Alice Turtle Robb, Wendy Goldstein, Virginia Herrick, Larry Thompson

The Meeting began with silent worship at 11:45 AM.

Following member input and expansion, the meeting agenda was approved

2017.10.01 Approval of minutes. Several additional corrections were made, and the minutes were approved as amended. A long discussion ensued regarding use of names in minutes – i.e, when are individual names necessary and/or appropriate, and when is it more appropriate to exclude names in favor of the term “A Friend”. The sense of the meeting was that names need to be included when specific actions or responsibilities are assigned and when a specific individual presents a report and, of course, in the listing of those present at MfWfB.

2017.10.02 Susan R. Read the Ministry and Council Report (attached). The report included requests for feedback regarding three items:

1. Use of Gender neutral bathroom signs
 - A Friend pointed out that the downstairs bathroom is now gender neutral.
2. Extended worship to begin at 9 AM on occasion.
 - A Friend asked that key persons be notified well in advance if extended worship were to begin at 9 rather than 10, and was assured that that would happen.
3. New wording to be used on the sign posted on door of room for worship which would read: “Meeting begins when the first person sits down to worship”
 - A Friend suggested that the sign needs to include a time for those who have no idea.
 - The purpose was clarified as intended to help Friends settle into silence without distraction
 - It was clarified that the outdoor sandwich board would remain the same.

A Friend asked who would be collecting suggestions / ideas about spiritual deepening practices including time preferences for small groups – It was clarified that feedback should go to M&C

2017.10.03 Virginia H. read the Children's Committee report (attached)

2017.10.04 Nominating Committee – Joanne C reported -

2017.10.04.1 Nominating Committee discussed responsibility for pastoral care. The was not clear where the responsibility should rest. They have asked M&C to meet with them to discern appropriate action.

2017.10.04.2 Request seasoning of Janine Bruton to replace Karen Steen as Key Holder.

2017.10.04.3 The Meeting approved for seasoning the appointment of Janine Bruton as Key Person, with the understanding that Janine may begin exercise of those duties prior to the end of the seasoning period.

2017.10.04.4 There will be a Nominating box in the Enews listing openings. Don Goldstein will organize the box.

2107.10.05 Financial Report Allan Richardson present the reports (Attached)

- A question was raised about the whether the expense for the Gender Inclusivity Minute was approved by meeting. It matters because it needs to be clearly communicated with the treasurer so it can be entered correctly.
- Another question was raised about the Ad Hoc committee line in the budget since it was originally added to provide for the Quarterly Meeting Planning Committee. It was clarified that the line was left more inclusive
- The clerk of Finance will be sending out an email with additional explanation of meeting finances

2017.10.06 Outreach and Welcoming Report – read by Don G. (Attached)

A Friend shared her feelings about “proselytizing” and shared that she is in favor of advertising but that she has never heard anything from OWC about advertising. The clerk explained that they will be having some turnover in committee members and would welcome new voices on the committee with fresh ideas.

2017.10.07. Meeting House Committee –

2017.10.07.1 David H reported on the joint meeting of the finance and Meeting House committees: The committees reached agreement on the following:

- Real Estate property is turning over quickly in the current market and we must be ready to move quickly.
- If we choose to move forward, we need to raise funds now so that we can move quickly.
- Some type of borrowing will be necessary to purchase property any time in the foreseeable future.
- Since some friends have expressed concerns about borrowing, there will be a 2nd hour held on Oct 22 to explore those concern.
- If we decide to hold a capital campaign, it should not be the responsibility of either the finance or meetinghouse committees to plan and manage that campaign.

2017.10.07.2 The next meeting of the Meetinghouse committee will be on Oct 26 at 5 PM at Dave H's place to discuss the logistics of holding our November potluck downstairs at Explorations Academy.

Discussion:

- A Friend asked who would have responsibility for a capital campaign.
- Another member of the committee clarified that a separate committee will be needed and it should be composed of people with relevant expertise and experience.
- The October 22 second hour will include discussion of a need for the capital campaign and it is possible that some decisions may be proposed.
- Larry T. asked that anyone who is interested in working with him to plan that second hour please contact him soon. Virginia H. volunteered to work with Larry to plan that second hour, and, at the request of the Clerk, also agreed to facilitate it in her role as a member of the meetinghouse committee.

2017.10.08 Virginia H. reported on a meeting held with EA staff to discuss use of the facility. Dave, Don, Virginia, and Mark meet with EA and helped to identify places where we could put our library, admin cabinet, and other meeting resources.

Of note:

The library has been moved to the storage room behind the stage

The downstairs freezer will be cleaned

There is a space where we could put cabinets.

2017.10.09 Member Concerns

- A Friend asked about the group that meets sometimes upstairs now. Another Friend noted that their “worship” begins at 11, but sometimes they start practice earlier.
- Another Friend pointed out that the group is not actually a religious group at all, and suggested that we might invite them to participate in potluck.
- Another Friend ask whether it would be easier to handle the overlap with this group if we meet upstairs .

2017.10.10 Discussion of location of meeting

2017.10.10.1 The clerk asked if anyone objected to meeting downstairs.

- One Friend said she could hear better upstairs, and had heard someone comment that they smelled mold downstairs. However, she understood that some friends need the downstairs for accessibility, so she would not stand in the way.
- Another Friend shared that a former attender had told her that she stopped coming to meeting because of a perceived musty smell *upstairs*.
- Another friend said that she is mobility challenged but has figured out how to make the situation work for her.
- It was clarified that people with mobility issues can park downstairs. Another friend pointed out that some who are not at MfWfB may have reservations particularly about children's program.
- Virginia H. as clerk of Children's Program Committee, shared that the best solution that she is aware of for a Friend's concern about children "getting lost" since we've moved downstairs, -- since there is no appropriate space downstairs for Children's Program -- would be to move our Hospitality and Administrative cabinets down-

stairs, the Children's Program materials into the Commons, and hold Children's Program in the Commons. This at least reduces the area through which children will have any reason to go back and forth.

- Don G. suggested that the ad hoc committee formed to meet with EA meet again to explore additional details that would need to be resolved before a final discernment.
- The idea of approving the move for seasoning was raised.

2017.10.10.2 The Meeting approved for seasoning the proposal to move meeting for worship to the downstairs auditorium for the foreseeable future.

2017.10.10.3 Dave H pointed out that we will soon be signing a contract that will require us to give 4 months notice prior to moving out.

- A Friend pointed out that EA moved our library downstairs and that that might imply that they assume we are moving downstairs.
- A Friend shared that he is hopeful the Meeting would commit to a year of residence at Explorations before considering a move out of deference for the needs of Explorations Academy. One Friend expressed support for the idea. However, many Friends felt that we should wait and evaluate the situation if and when we find a suitable meeting house, and that the current contract which calls for four months notice before moving was reasonable and acceptable to all parties.

2017.10.10.3 - Concerns about the sound system

- John H. responded to a Friend's concern about sound equipment saying that given the age of Friends, we will need to deal with sound issues and equipment no matter where we meet. At this point we are using EA equipment and John H. is bringing 2 wireless microphones. EA's equipment would allow 4 wireless microphones. A Friend asked how much it would cost to buy our own microphones. John H said that two wireless microphones and a receiver would cost ~ \$500. Purchase of an entire setup for a new facility would cost us several thousand dollars.
- Don G. asked about using the microphones on Oct 22 when John will be out of town. John said we could use his microphones then, and Dave H. agreed to pick them up.
- At the request of another Friend, John H. agreed to gather information on costs of microphones and systems we might purchase.

2017.10.10 Judy H. shared that SEC is planning to purchase postcards and postage so that Friends can easily write their government representatives a about issues of concern.

The meeting entered into silent worship prior to adjournment.

**Ministry and Counsel Report
Bellingham Friends Meeting
10-8-2017**

1. Advice: "When you are preoccupied and distracted in meeting let wayward and disturbing thoughts give way quietly to your awareness of God's presence among us and in the world. Receive the vocal ministry of others in a tender and creative spirit. Reach for the meaning deep within it, recognizing that even if it is not God[s] word for you, it may be so for others. Remember that we all share responsibility for the meeting for worship whether our ministry is in silence or through the spoken word." From *Advices & Queries* #12, Britain Yearly Meeting.
2. Second Hours dates and topics:
October 1 - Potluck & Discussion on "Welcoming All Genders" Minute (Virginia)
October 8 - MfWfB
October 15 - Friendly Water for the World (David Albert from Olympia)
October 22 - Discussion on Financing a Meetinghouse (Larry to organize, John to clerk)
October 29 - Intergenerational Activity planned by the Children's Program Committee
November 5 - Potluck
November 12 - MfWfB
November 19 - Spiritual journey with Judy Hopkinson
November 26 - Worship sharing on gratitude
3. We discussed changing sign to remove ambiguity: "MFW begins at 10AM" sign to include the fact that MFW begins when the first person sits down to worship. "Worship begins when the first person sits and begins worship. Please enter quietly and settle into the silence." This will also be added to the website.
4. It has been suggested that we have Gender neutral bathroom signs - M&C requests input about this matter.
5. Retreat Follow-up:
 - a. It was suggested that we set up Spiritual Nurture Groups (Including having one meet in lieu of discontinued mid-week worship monthly or bi-weekly): 4 to 6 people are ideal. To better assess interest and to be better able to set these up we plan to ask interested people to sign-up with information about best times and frequency to meet and willingness to host.
 - b. We also discussed an Extended MFW 1-2x/month which has been found to deepen worship in Santa Cruz: The idea is to occasionally begin Meeting an hour earlier to allow for a deeper spiritual deepening. We will consider revisiting this idea at a future time.
 - c. We want to have **Second Hours for Spiritual Deepening** with the possibility of using some of the exercises from the retreat.
6. PNQM Silent Retreat in Goldbar, starting Friday, January 19 through Sunday, January 21st with an optional additional day on Monday, January 22.
7. Next meeting: Monday, October 30, 3 p.m. at Mary Ann's.

Children's Program Committee
Report to October Meeting for Worship for Business, 2017

1. This year our annual retreat was unintentionally scheduled to coincide with the Skillshare Fair, which at least three families with children in BFM attended. As a result, we didn't have any children in attendance at the retreat this year. We wanted to let Friends know what happened!

2. Children's Program cabinet has been reorganized. We are planning to photograph the order of things in the cabinet, and post the photo with labels on the inside of the cabinet door. We encourage teachers and childcare workers to return things to the places they were in before. It's wonderful that we have so many different people working with the kids; our hope is that this and it will be easier for us all to keep track of the available materials.

3. Updated quarterly teaching schedule:

Oct. 15 – Aurora F
Oct. 22 – Sharon T
Oct. 29 – Virginia H
Nov. 5 - Susan R
Nov. 12 – Sharon T

4. Intergenerational Second Hour! October 29, the theme of our second hour is about treasuring one another. This will be a fun activity for all ages, and give all of us an opportunity to get to know one another more broadly and deeply. Please plan to attend!

5. The committee's next meeting will be 5:30 p.m. on October 26, 2017. Please contact Virginia if you'd like to attend, or if you have a concern to bring to the committee.

**Report from Outreach and Welcoming Committee to Bellingham Friends Meeting MfWfB,
October 8, 2017**

(Information) The Outreach and Welcoming Committee recently facilitated a Second Hour that solicited ideas for how our Meeting might better meet the needs of newcomers, especially the need for meaningful inclusion in the life of our community. At our last meeting we discussed a number of these ideas, and two of them in some detail, specifically the idea of organizing an occasional potluck primarily for new attenders and the idea of holding a “Soup and Stories” session, perhaps quarterly, to help all of us get to know one another more fully. We are currently contacting potential hosts for a newcomers’ potluck and also working on a proposal to Ministry and Counsel for a trial run of the “Soup and Stories” idea.

(Information) The Greeter station has been moved downstairs to just outside the auditorium, so that those entering the building upstairs and downstairs have equal access to greeting and name tags. An updated version of the Greeter Guidelines document will be distributed soon.

(Information) Our next committee meeting will be on Saturday morning, November 4th, beginning at 10:30 am at Lynne Lohr’s residence. All interested Friends are welcome, but please let me or Lynne know in advance if you will be coming.

--Don Goldstein, Clerk of Outreach and Welcoming Committee, 10/5/17
Other OWC members are Dusty Andersen, Lynne Lohr, and Don Reinke

10/03/17

Bellingham Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Statement of Financial Position
As of September 30, 2017

	Sep 30, 17	Sep 30, 16	\$ Change
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Checking/Savings			
1010 · WECU Checking	5,261.89	3,912.77	1,349.12
1020 · WECU Savings	10,621.76	10,579.32	42.44
1100 · Donations	0.00	100.00	-100.00
Total Checking/Savings	15,883.65	14,592.09	1,291.56
Total Current Assets	15,883.65	14,592.09	1,291.56
Other Assets			
1800 · Marketable Securities			
1810 · Friends Fiduciary	178,002.90	156,740.64	21,262.26
1820 · Scottrade	30,669.50	26,860.10	3,809.40
Total 1800 · Marketable Securities	208,672.40	183,600.74	25,071.66
Total Other Assets	208,672.40	183,600.74	25,071.66
TOTAL ASSETS	224,556.05	198,192.83	26,363.22
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Equity			
3100 · Permanently Restricted			
3110 · Meeting House Funds	88,688.63	88,343.63	345.00
3120 · Gathering Sponsorship	43,971.81	44,922.81	-951.00
Total 3100 · Permanently Restricted	132,660.44	133,266.44	-606.00
3200 · Temporarily Restricted			
3260 · Mutual Aid	10,215.05	10,215.05	0.00
3270 · Quaker Activity	8,224.54	8,574.54	-350.00
3280 · Meeting House	27,558.48	27,558.48	0.00
Total 3200 · Temporarily Restricted	45,998.07	46,348.07	-350.00
32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	24,308.06	311.74	23,996.32
3500 · Unrestricted Assets	0.00	11,613.88	-11,613.88
Net Income	21,589.48	6,652.70	14,936.78
Total Equity	224,556.05	198,192.83	26,363.22
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	224,556.05	198,192.83	26,363.22