

[DRAFT]

Bellingham Friends Meeting

Meeting for Worship for Business

Sunday, June 14, 2015, 11:45 a.m.

Attending: Dusty Anderson, Jessica Bee, Wendy Courtemanche, Joann Cowan, Rob Dillard, Mimi Freshley, Don Goldstein, Lorina Hall, Virginia Herrick, John Hatten (filling in as Recording Clerk), Mark Hersh, Dorrie Jordon (Clerk), Nan Macy, Kristen McLewin, Susan Richardson, Karen Steen, Carol Teshima, Larry Thompson, Sharon Trent, Lylith Velasco, Tom Zylstra

Opening Silence

Agenda reviewed and amended

M&C

Advices and queries

- From Young Friends General Meeting: "Consider the value of communications technology in nurturing or re-establishing relationships and communities where physical distance or time may be barriers. Which form of technology is most appropriate? The written word or electronic images may be interpreted differently when viewed without interaction in person. Be careful of over-dependence on this sense of constant connectivity and consider 'switching off' from time to time. Time alone can provide its own source of spiritual nourishment."

Second hours

Approved:

- June 21 Final session of Quakerism: Experience It! with Sharon Trent
- June 28 Our new *Faith and Practice* with Alice Robb
- July 5 Potluck
- July 12 MfBfW
- July 19 Presentation on Peace Corps with Aurora Fox. This postpones until August the 2nd hour on BFM/Quaker Process: How Committees Help Discernment with Virginia.
- July 26 Electronic communications: What's a listserve? How does the website work? Do we need Google Calendar? How do I get on Facebook? Come hither, Friends, and discern together! Sharing and discussion with John Hatten (website), Jenny Davidow (Facebook), Allen Stockbridge (listserve).

Visiting Quaker Program

North Pacific Yearly Meeting's Outreach and Visitation committee would like to reinstate a traveling visitor program and seeks input from BFM attenders. For anyone with an interest in participating on this committee, please contact Virginia. John Holding is suggested as a person who might be interested.

Changes to Care of Meeting practice

Our current practice of inviting Friends to share joys and sorrows during the last few minutes of worship is a departure from the tradition among unprogrammed Meetings of having the silence of worship broken only when a Friend is moved by their Inner Light to speak. BFM began the practice of inviting "joys and sorrows" during a period when there was little or no vocal ministry among us.

To improve the quality of our shared worship, M&C would like Friends to consider moving the sharing of joys and sorrows to immediately after the close of worship. We are concerned that the practice of inviting Friends to share joys and sorrows (and even, sometimes lately, "afterthoughts") during worship could be having a dampening effect on vocal ministry during that time, and also detracting from our

practice of silent waiting. (To demystify vocal ministry, M&C has recently created a document for posting and distribution, which has been approved by MfWfB, and will soon be distributed and posted.) We ask Friends to consider this practice: The person in Care of Meeting, -- before introductions, and maintaining a worshipful attitude -- would shake hands, rise, welcome everyone, and invite a sharing of joys and sorrows (or requests to hold someone in the Light) and be seated. After a brief time for this sharing, the Care of Meeting person would stand and say, "Thank you, Friends. It is our custom to go around the room and introduce ourselves, and [if there's time] share any afterthoughts that did not rise to the level of vocal ministry."

Virginia will re-write the guideline. The change will be announced in the e-News, Facebook, and Metamorphosis. We will revisit the change in October.

Memberships

BFM has joyfully received a letter (read into the minutes) from La Jolla Meeting, in response to Mary Ann Percy's request to transfer her membership here. Next step is for BFM clerk to acknowledge receipt of that, and for M&C to appoint a visiting committee to meet with Mary Ann, which we will do soon! We also are delighted to receive a letter from Larry Thompson requesting a clearness committee for membership.

Jessica Bee's clearness committee for membership will meet later this month (tomorrow).

Picnic

First Sunday in August: Mark your calendars! We have reserved the Fairhaven Park covered shelter from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sunday, August 2.

Next Meeting of M&C will be at 7 p.m. Monday, June 29, 2015. Please notify Virginia if you have concerns for M&C.

Nominating Committee

Harry Finks is nominated to be our Native American Representative (to the local community). Approved.

SEC

Pride parade - SEC proposes that BFM participate in this year's Pride Parade on July 12 and we would like to use our BFM banner in the parade. Registration is needed for groups planning to participate. The Meeting approves our Meeting to be represented at the parade perpetually.

Information items

- Concern of the Month for June is Growing Veterans. We are also encouraging Friends to participate in a workday at their farm north of Bellingham on Friday June 26th between 8am and 5pm. "Please donate your time and volunteer with the lively Growing Veterans staff to continue work on farm tasks in preparation for the growing season. The tasks will include field preparation, weeding, transplanting fall vegetables, and potentially harvesting produce. Be sure to dress for the weather, wear waterproof footwear, and bring a water container. We'll see you at the farm!" You will need to register on their website www.growingveterans.org and sign up there to volunteer. We can organize carpooling.
- We would like to present "39 Questions for White People" sometime in the fall for 2 weeks as a Quaker activity, as well as for the use of Explorations Academy, and will work with Ministry and Counsel to identify the best time. We are thinking of having multiple tables where small group discussions could take place about the Questions. (We are also exploring offering a public

showing of this art piece in the spring in a larger venue with multiple co-sponsors. We will report back to meeting as this idea progresses.)

- There will be an FCNL legislative advocacy workshop on Sunday, June 28, 2015 at the Mount Baker Theatre, 2 – 5 pm. “Help End the Endless Wars” workshop will be presented by FCNL staff to support effective public advocacy to repeal the Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF) that has allowed endless U.S. military actions (wars) since 2003 (Iraq invasion by U.S.) Additional details are provided in the BFM weekly e-news.
- We plan to show another movie focusing on farm workers - *The Harvest*- on Thursday, July 30th at 7 p.m. at Judy Hopkinson’s home. This film looks at the experiences of farm worker youth.

Children’s Committee

Recommendation: Hire a person to present lessons and/or provide childcare during Meeting and for second hours. Approved. Details to be worked out between Children’s Committee and Finance Committee. If we can’t find someone this summer, then let’s try again in the fall. There isn’t money in the budget, but there is money available should we hire someone. Suggestion: Have the person hired attend Meeting, and be introduced so that the Meeting can meet and talk to the person during social time.

Retreat Planning Committee

The Retreat Planning Committee has been working on the program for the Meeting retreat scheduled for September 12th and 13th at Camp Lutherwood. We have drafted a tentative schedule of activities and are working on fleshing out various details including a possible keynote speaker, worship-sharing queries, and parameters for interest groups. A request for proposed interest groups will be distributed via the Enews beginning in a week or two, with proposals to be submitted by August 15th.

The committee has been joined by Mark Hersh and is now back to full strength. In addition, Lopez Friends have been informed of the new dates and location and have been invited to join us for the retreat. In addition to the program, the committee has begun detailed consideration of logistics such as registration and meals.

The staff at Camp Lutherwood has continued to be very responsive to our inquiries and flexible in meeting our requests, so we anticipate that the venue will work well for us.

--Don Goldstein, Clerk of 2015 BFM Retreat Planning Committee

Other committee members are Mary Ann Percy, Wendy Goldstein, Carole Teshima, and Mark Hersh

Lopez Oversight Committee

The entire Lopez Preparative Meeting Joint Oversight Committee (JOC) held a meeting in Anacortes on May 22nd, following final approval on May 10th by Lopez Friends of their intention to request monthly meeting status. During that meeting Charlie Janeway shared with us a plan for the Lopez Meeting’s Spiritual Life Committee to draft a formal letter addressing the queries set out in Faith and Practice as appropriate for a group seeking monthly meeting status. A second-hour session to seek input from all interested Friends was scheduled for May 31st and the draft letter was then to be considered for approval at the next Lopez Meeting for Business on June 14th. Bellingham members of the JOC were invited to Lopez for the session on May 31st, and three of us made that trip and participated by observing, supporting, and making a few suggestions for wording.

We expect that the approved letter will be sent to BFM's clerk, Dorrie Jordan, in time for discussion and consideration during our own next Meeting for Business on July 12th. If our Meeting is able to approve the request and is satisfied with Lopez Friends' responses, the next expected steps would be our final approval on August 9th followed by our forwarding the letter, along with our own letter of support, to the Ministry and Oversight Co-clerks and Quarterly Meeting Co-clerks of Pacific Northwest Quarterly Meeting (PNQM) in time for initial consideration and appointment of a Visiting Committee during the fall 2015 session of PNQM. It would be normal for Bellingham Friends to supply either one or two members of the Visiting Committee, and Lopez Friends are entitled to request a specific Friend or Friends if they wish to do so. The balance of the Visiting Committee, and normally a majority of its members, is recruited from other Meetings in the quarter. To the extent that specific Friends are not requested by Lopez Preparative Meeting, or if requested decline to serve, the recruitment is normally the responsibility of the PNQM Ministry and Oversight Committee, and not that of our Nominating Committee.

--Don Goldstein, Acting Co-clerk of BFM contingent of Lopez PM Joint Oversight Committee
Other committee members are Susan Richardson (Clerk), Dusty Andersen, Harry Finks, and Kathy Finks from BFM, and Charlie Janeway from Lopez Island PM.

Member Concerns

- Betty McMahon requests feedback for what interests Friends for the Metamorphosis. Appreciation is expressed that the job Betty is doing. Several Friends expressed a desire to include Meeting Minutes in Metamorphosis, as an attachment is fine.
 - o Email lists: e-News, Metamorphosis, Meeting for Worship for Business, Directory updates
 - o Mail lists: Metamorphosis, Meeting for Worship for Business for those who cannot access email by request (includes attachments). Betty is requested to send out with the mailed Metamorphosis.
 - o John will start posting minutes to the monthly Meeting in the private section of the website. If anyone needs access contact John. Also, contact John with any concerns about the website in as timely a manner as possible quaker@kulshan.net or 360-671-7012.
- Don Goldstein requests that we make a \$200 donation to Pt. Townsend for their Meetinghouse. Meeting agrees that funds to the Pt. Townsend will be collected from individuals.
- Don asked whether we would have Meeting at Explorations Academy (Creekside Building) on September 13 during the retreat. It is agreed a sign will be posted that morning at the Creekside Building that Meeting is being held at the retreat (Camp Lutherwood) starting at 10:30 a.m.

Review last month's minutes

Approved with minor corrections

These draft minutes by John Hatten.