

**Bellingham Friends Meeting**  
**Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**  
**January 14, 2018**

**Present:** John Hatten (Clerk), Allan Richardson, Don Goldstein, Dave Hopkinson, Susan Richardson, Lorina Hall, Mary Ann Percy, Don Reinke, Dusty Anderson, Kirstin McLewan, Mark Hersh, Judy Hopkinson (recording clerk), Janine Bruton, Joanne Cowan, Aurora Fox, Virginia Herrick?.

**2018.01.1** Letter of request for membership from Stephania Manzo was read to MfWfB. M&C will bring this forward for seasoning at our next MfWfB.

**2018.01.2** Review of Agenda and Minutes. Minutes were approved as edited.

**2018.01.3 Ministry and Council Report. (Attached)**

**2018.01.3.1** Susan R. requested volunteers to work on the State of the Meeting report. A Friend suggested that we begin by drawing a chart rather than using words. Another Friend shared that at a recent palliative care conference a graphic recorder was used. Some found it very helpful, others did not. More discussion ensued about what Aurora envisioned as a process. Several people joined in brainstorming how it might work.

The Clerk suggested that M&C include Aurora F. in the planning for the second hour on Jan 28 where the State of Society report process will begin.

A request was made for volunteers to take notes and consolidate the information.

**Aurora volunteered to produce a consolidated drawing.**

**A request for a recorder and an editor for the process will go into the ENews.**

**2018.01.3.2** Follow-up on Meetinghouse second hours. M&C suggested formation of an ad-hoc committee with the following process: Meetinghouse Committee makes recommendations (with others) to Nominating Committee to include people with complementary expertise, resources, passion and wisdom.

In response to a concern from a member of Nominating, Susan R. pointed out that this could occur after Nominating finishes the bulk of its current role.

Virginia H suggested that this should be a standing committee rather than an ad hoc committee since the task is likely to go on for over a year.

Joanne C also felt it should be a permanent committee and that Nominating should be involved in the process.

John H reported that M&C wanted this to be an ad hoc committee specifically so that it would not go on forever.

Other Friends voiced pro and con feelings. A Friend suggested that it begin as an ad hoc committee and then be changed to a regular committee if needed.

Two Friends suggested that if it is an ad hoc committee should have a time-limited task.

A Friend expressed a preference for use of an ad hoc committee so that involvement in and identification with purchase of a meeting house should be shared widely among Friends.

**The Meeting agreed to send this back to M&C for further discussion and definition of the nature the committee to be formed and the responsibilities of that committee.**

**2018.01.3.3** Comments were requested regarding projection of the query during MFB. A Friend shared that she found the noise of the fan on the projector really distracting.

Others were entirely unaware of it. Friends agreed that it could be projected during and for a few minutes after reading the query.

**2018.01.3.4** Comments were requested regarding having presentations during potluck. A Friend shared that it seemed to work well if we do it after people have finished eating. Another Friend expressed concern that people might be leaving rather than staying for the presentation.

#### **2018.01.4 Finance Committee (Reports Attached).**

##### **2018.01.4.1**

It was noted that total contributions were well over the budgeted amount by the end of the year.

Discussion ensued about the \$30,000 in unrealized gains that the Meeting made on investments. Some is for the Meeting house fund and some is not. A Friend noted that funds in our FGC sponsorship and Activity Fund are declining in spite of the unrealized gains in investments. It was clarified that this is in accord with a Meeting decision to allow gains on these investments to be shifted to general funds. A Friend shared that it was good to hear other Friends asking more detailed questions and taking more ownership of Financial decisions.

##### **2018.01.4.2**

The Clerk shared that Lucretia Humphries (from Annual Session) shared that they will be asking that Friends pay what they can rather than apply for scholarships. Annual Session is therefore asking Meetings to make contributions to Annual Session to help cover the anticipated increased cost. A Friend suggested that we not make a contribution immediately, but wait and see how the new system affects the overall balance sheet for Annual Session. Another Friend gave a bit of historical perspective saying that Quarterly Meeting has had a pay as you can system for several years and it has been supported by \$5000 from a bequest by Annelise. They have steadily withdrawn funds to cover expenses and the fund will not last much longer.

A Friend asked whether our meeting will contribute at all. A Friend asked whether a Friend in our Meeting who would like to go to Annual Session and could not afford to pay the full amount - whether they could request money from our Activity Fund to augment their contributions. Another Friend said she would like for us to underwrite our own members who wish to go to Annual Session rather than expect other Meetings to underwrite our member's attendance. Another Friend suggested that Finance Committee go back over several years to see how much we have given in financial aid for Annual Session over the past several years. The Clerk suggested that we make a donation of between \$350 and \$500 to Annual Session. A Friend suggested that we get an accurate assessment from the Treasurer. A Question was raised regarding whether this would be an annual donation.

**The Meeting requested that the Treasurer go back over the last several years to tally funds used for scholarships for Annual Session and come back with a recommendation for an annual donation.**

#### **2018.01.5 Children's Program Committee (Report Attached)**

#### **2018.01.6 Meetinghouse Committee (Report to be Attached)**

**A Friend clarified that Mimi F and Virginia H will complete their current term at the end of next April**

**Action item: The Meeting came to unity that it is open to seeking a loan or loans to purchase a suitable property for a meetinghouse.**

**2018.01.7 Interfaith Report. The Clerk has signed the paperwork necessary for our Meeting to apply to be a support community. Apparently both John H and David H signed the necessary paper**

**2018.01.8 Member Concerns**

**2018.01.8.1 - Microphones** - A Friend asked that the signs be reworded to indicate invitation rather than requirement to use the microphones. Dave H. volunteered to draft new signs.

**2018.01.8.2 - Retreat?** A Friend asked whether any thought had yet been given to the yearly retreat.

A Friend asked whether people preferred a Spring retreat or a Fall retreat. One Friend expressed a preference for a Fall retreat. Most Friends in the room were interested in having a retreat. A one day retreat seemed to be the preference of those in the room.

A Friend recalled that we previously decided that the campout will now be held every other year rather than every year. Another Friend suggested that a Retreat might be better held in the Spring when the weather is nice.

**2018.01.8.3** - Don G. asked that we make official the position of "Family Promise Coordinator". The Meeting agreed to have this listed in the directory as a specific job

**2018.01.8.4 - Don G.** asked if we want the Children's facilitator team should be listed in the directory. Virginia H. did not object. However the Meeting agreed that it was not necessary since it is in the News every week.

**2018.01.8.5** Don G. reported that Children's attendance actually increased this past year.

**2018.01.8.6 Meeting approved use of the Quaker Banner in the Women's March this Saturday if sufficient people are willing to help carry it.**

An announcement will be placed in the ENews, and Virginia H will take the sign home.

**2018.01.8.7** A Friend shared that Friends are not coming to Singing Sunday. It was suggested that Friends gather around the piano.

The ENews will announce it more regularly and will encourage those who do not wish to sing to find another place for discussions. Dave will make a gracious sign for the door.

**2018.01.8.8** A Friend brought up a concern about Flu season. Several suggestions were offered to reduce risk of transmission including

- bringing and using hand sanitizer,
- reducing handshaking in favor of bowing
- thanking Friends who stay home when they feel they are coming down with a cold or illness.

**2018.01.8.9** A Friend suggested that we be mindful of over use of signs.

**2018.01.8.10** The Clerk suggested that we try to provide the Meeting with advanced warning about what will be discussed and to consider carefully what we really need to say and how best we can help the flow of the process.

# Ministry & Counsel Report

Bellingham Friends Meeting

Jan 14, 2018

1. Query for January: "Live adventurously. When choices arise, do you take the way that offers the fullest opportunity for the use of your gifts in the service of God and the community? Let your life speak. When decisions have to be made, are you ready to join with others in seeking clearness, asking for God's guidance and offering counsel to one another." #27, Advices & Queries, Britain Yearly Meeting.  
2 Schedule-  
January 7--Potluck-BLQC October Consultation attenders' report  
January 14--MFWFB  
January 21--(Silent Retreat) Spiritual journey by Ginny Herrick  
January 28--State of the Meeting (volunteers?)  
February 4--Potluck  
February 11--MFWFB  
February 18--Virginia Herrick on "Quaker Testimonies"  
February 25--Discussion of Membership (responsibilities, in minutes, process to become, not an end, etc.) as presentation followed by worship discussion (Susan & John and anyone else)  
March 4--Potluck  
March 11--MFWFB  
March 18--Forgiveness (or Mar 25)  
March 25-- Whatcom Peace and Justice Center?  
Follow-up on Meetinghouse second hours: From the first session, "Is the Meeting prepared to take on a loan from a credit union or personal lender?" "Is the Meeting prepared to have a capital campaign for a Meetinghouse?" If so, "What are the ways to structure the campaign?" "Who would do it?" "What is the time frame? What are the parameters?" With all these questions, we recommend that an ad hoc committee to be formed to make a recommendation. Suggested process: Meetinghouse Committee makes recommendations (with others) to Nominating Committee to include people with complementary expertise, resources, passion and wisdom. Criteria: Enthusiasm for a capital campaign for a Meetinghouse plus: previous significant fundraising experience, and/or significant communications experience, and/or comfortable asking people for money, and/or strong organizational and business sense, and/or financial expertise. First goal: Recommendation for design of capital campaign and various vehicles for contributing.
2. Care of Meeting Guidelines revised December 2017 are approved.
4. Spiritual Nurture Groups--Three groups are meeting and some individuals are awaiting groups.
  5. M&C RETREAT - We plan a mini retreat on 3/15 to consider pastoral care at BFM? Shall M&C be split into two committees? These questions will be discussed at a mini-retreat scheduled for Thursday, March 15, 1 p.m.
3. M&C requests feedback about how people feel about having the query displayed. Is projection helpful? Is there another way that would be preferred?
4. We would also like feedback about the shorter presentations we have had following potluck (Family promise and BLQC consultation report). Should these be during potluck or after or at a different time?
5. Our next meeting: Thursday, February 8, 7 p.m. at Mary Ann's

## CARE OF MEETING GUIDELINES

Thank you for being in care of Meeting for worship today. While we all share responsibility for coming to worship prepared and holding our Meeting in the Light, today you have taken the spiritual responsibility of being particularly attentive. We ask that you arrive about 10 minutes early to settle in by example, and also ask that you close worship and facilitate sharing at the rise of worship. Feel free to use your own words, but below are some examples. Words in [brackets] indicate options to be used at your discretion.

**Joys and Sorrows.** About 11:00 (when you sense the worship coming to a close), please rise and offer some form of the following invitation:

*“Welcome, Friends. Continuing in the spirit of worship, we would like to take a few minutes now to invite you to share any joys and sorrows you may have, or to ask Friends to hold you or someone else in the Light. We will introduce ourselves and share announcements afterward.”*

**Introductions.** You may be seated for joys and sorrows, or remain standing if you like. When you feel there has been enough time, start a handshake around the room. We like to try to include children in the last few minutes of worship. If children have not yet arrived, open the door for them (or ask another Friend to do so), so they know rise of meeting has occurred. Then you may stand and say something like,

*“Thank you, Friends. It is our custom to go around the room and introduce ourselves, [and if there's time] and share any afterthoughts that did not rise to the level of vocal ministry.”* [We try to keep introductions brief on Business Meeting Sundays particularly.]

*“Members of the Ministry and Counsel Committee are here to receive any questions, concerns or ideas that you might have about our Meeting. Their nametags are identified with a green dot.”*

*“If you are new to Meeting or returning after a long absence, please share a little about how you came to be here this morning.”*

*“If you would like, we invite you to share with us the gender pronouns you prefer. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ [and I prefer [she, her, hers]][he, him, his]][they, them, their]][male pronouns]][female pronouns]][gender neutral pronouns]][any pronouns you choose for me because I am so totally grounded and yet so totally fluid with my gender]] and I am in care of meeting today.*

**After everyone has been introduced, continue:**

**Guests.** *“Welcome guests; please sign our guest book on the table and fill out a Welcome Card if you would like to receive our weekly electronic*

*newsletter or other information, or to request a permanent name tag.”*

**Donations.** *“We have a donation box on the table.”*

**Sign-ups.** Check to see if there are enough people signed up for cleanup after meeting. If not, announce the need. For example, *“I notice that no one is signed up for cleanup helper today. Please help if you can. It is very much appreciated!”* and then, *“Our Meeting is run entirely by volunteers. Please take a look at the sign-up sheet being passed around and sign-up to help with the meeting if you are able.”*

**Children.** (If children are present) *“What did the children do today?”*

Children’s departure: *“The children may leave for snack.”*

**Announcements.** *“Please be brief. Use the calendar to record the date and time of upcoming events.”*

**Second hour.** (If not already announced) *“What is today’s second hour?”*

**Snack.** *“Thank you to those who brought snacks. Please remember to clean your own dishes. We always need volunteers to stay and help with clean-up.”*

Revised December 2017

# Meetinghouse Committee Report

Report to Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

January 14, 2018

The report of the Meetinghouse Committee for December 10, 2017 mentioned as a conclusion of the Joint Meeting of the Finance Committee and the Meetinghouse Committee that: *purchase of a property for a meetinghouse will require borrowing money.*

Inadvertently left out of that report:

*The Meetinghouse committee will make a recommendation to Meeting for Worship for Business that we seek unity around obtaining a loan as a way to purchase a Meetinghouse if a suitable property is found by the scouts. We are seeking approval in concept, rather than actually seeking pre-approval of loans, etc.*

The Clerk of the Meetinghouse Committee finds it difficult to reconcile the role of Meetinghouse Liaison with the role of Clerk. Moving the Meeting to the auditorium ("The Rookery") downstairs has made the Liaison task more complicated. Virginia Herrick will assume the responsibilities of Clerk of the Meetinghouse Committee. Dave Hopkinson will remain on the Committee, not in the role of Clerk.

A manual for setting up the audio equipment prior to Meeting has been created. One purpose of the manual is to help train Friends in the steps required to make the audio equipment ready for meeting, so that John Hatten and Dave Hopkinson are not the only persons able to do so. Don Goldstein has expressed interest in learning how to set up the audio equipment.

Allen Stockbridge has returned to Baltimore where he will remain for at least several months. Mimi Freshley and Virginia Herrick have fulfilled their terms as members of the Meetinghouse Committee, but both are inclined to remain on the Committee.

The next meeting of the Meetinghouse Committee is on Jan 30th at the Hopkinson home.

# Children's Program Committee Report

Bellingham Friends Meeting for Worship for Business

January 14, 2018

1. **Facilitator change: Rachel Van Boven is resigning from the Children's Program Facilitator Team. Mary Hansen is joining.** Brief review of how team works: Invitation to interested Friends to join the team.
2. **State of committee.** Children's Program has been blessed by an extraordinary team of volunteer teachers who have shown up to teach each Sunday all year without fail. We hosted an intergenerational second hour that gave adults and children an opportunity to play together. Children have experienced many discussions, enjoyed art projects, and played games. We are grateful for the work of our two regular childcare helpers, Dora Kovas and Anna Row, and our new childcare helper, Lily Bee. Their steady presence helps make our youngest Friends feel safe and welcome on Sunday mornings. We have had lower attendance this year than in 2016, as one family with young children has been unable to attend because of moving and other stresses. We also have been grieved by the death of Jesse Bee, formerly an attender in our children's program for many years.

### 3. Winter Quarterly Teaching Schedule

Jan. 14 – Sharon T.

Jan. 21 – Susan. R.

Jan. 28 – Aurora F.

Feb. 4 –

Feb. 11 – Sharon T.

Feb. 18 –

Feb. 25 –

4. Our next meeting will be at 5:30 Feb. 1 at Aurora's.



01/08/18

**Bellingham Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
As of December 31, 2017

	Dec 31, 17	Dec 31, 16	\$ Change
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
<b>Checking/Savings</b>			
1010 · WECU Checking	3,789.70	5,471.55	-1,681.85
1020 · WECU Savings	11,635.17	10,590.04	1,045.13
1100 · Donations	0.00	300.00	-300.00
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<u>15,424.87</u>	<u>16,361.59</u>	<u>-936.72</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	15,424.87	16,361.59	-936.72
<b>Other Assets</b>			
1800 · Marketable Securities			
1810 · Friends Fiduciary	185,979.15	159,639.29	26,339.86
1820 · Scottrade	33,004.46	28,116.69	4,887.77
<b>Total 1800 · Marketable Securities</b>	<u>218,983.61</u>	<u>187,755.98</u>	<u>31,227.63</u>
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	218,983.61	187,755.98	31,227.63
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><b>234,408.48</b></u>	<u><b>204,117.57</b></u>	<u><b>30,290.91</b></u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>			
<b>Equity</b>			
3100 · Permanently Restricted			
3110 · Meeting House Funds	104,756.90	88,538.63	16,218.27
3120 · Gathering Sponsorship	43,971.81	44,922.81	-951.00
<b>Total 3100 · Permanently Restricted</b>	<u>148,728.71</u>	<u>133,461.44</u>	<u>15,267.27</u>
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
<b>Total 3200 · Temporarily Restricted</b>	<u>45,998.07</u>	<u>46,348.07</u>	<u>-350.00</u>
32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	8,414.79	-245.00	8,659.79
3500 · Unrestricted Assets	0.00	12,170.62	-12,170.62
Net Income	31,266.91	12,382.44	18,884.47
<b>Total Equity</b>	<u>234,408.48</u>	<u>204,117.57</u>	<u>30,290.91</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<u><b>234,408.48</b></u>	<u><b>204,117.57</b></u>	<u><b>30,290.91</b></u>

# Bellingham Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

## Statement of Financial Activity 2017

YTD 2017 - 100% of fiscal year

	Jan - Dec 17	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
<b>4000 · All Contributions</b>				
4010 · Contributions by Check	16,608.58	16,846.00	-237.42	98.6%
4012 · Contributions to Meetinghouse	0.00			
4015 · Contributions by Cash	1,368.40	400.00	968.40	342.1%
4018 · Contributions in Kind	535.70	450.00	85.70	119.0%
<b>Total 4000 · All Contributions</b>	<b>18,512.68</b>	<b>17,696.00</b>	<b>816.68</b>	<b>104.6%</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>18,512.68</b>	<b>17,696.00</b>	<b>816.68</b>	<b>104.6%</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
<b>5000 · Finance Committee</b>				
5010 · Bank Charges/Fines/Penalties	22.00	0.00	22.00	100.0%
5011 · State Filing Fee	10.00	10.00	0.00	100.0%
5020 · Equipment	0.00	50.00	-50.00	0.0%
5030 · Liability Insurance	575.00	575.00	0.00	100.0%
5040 · Rent	7,200.00	7,200.00	0.00	100.0%
5060 · Supplies, Postage and Copying	0.00	30.00	-30.00	0.0%
5070 · Quarterly Meeting Assessment	112.50	90.00	22.50	125.0%
5080 · Yearly Meeting Assessment	2,490.00	2,760.00	-270.00	90.2%
<b>Total 5000 · Finance Committee</b>	<b>10,409.50</b>	<b>10,715.00</b>	<b>-305.50</b>	<b>97.1%</b>
<b>5600 · Children's Program</b>				
5630 · First Day Support	1,550.55	2,000.00	-449.45	77.5%
5650 · Supplies amd Materials	331.82	500.00	-168.18	66.4%
<b>Total 5600 · Children's Program</b>	<b>1,882.37</b>	<b>2,500.00</b>	<b>-617.63</b>	<b>75.3%</b>
<b>5700 · Communications</b>				
5710 · Advertising	48.00	70.00	-22.00	68.6%
5720 · Directory	92.09	60.00	32.09	153.5%
5740 · P.O. Box	90.00	86.00	4.00	104.7%
5750 · Website/Other	41.00	50.00	-9.00	82.0%
<b>Total 5700 · Communications</b>	<b>271.09</b>	<b>266.00</b>	<b>5.09</b>	<b>101.9%</b>
<b>6000 · Ministry and Counsel</b>				
6030 · Gifts	0.00	50.00	-50.00	0.0%
6040 · Pamphlets and Subscriptions	105.00	125.00	-20.00	84.0%
6060 · Retreats and Special Events	859.00	600.00	259.00	143.2%
<b>Total 6000 · Ministry and Counsel</b>	<b>964.00</b>	<b>775.00</b>	<b>189.00</b>	<b>124.4%</b>
<b>6500 · Other Committees</b>				
6510 · Hospitality	483.28	450.00	33.28	107.4%
6520 · Library	0.00	150.00	-150.00	0.0%
6540 · Social and Environmental Crns	11.42	50.00	-38.58	22.8%
6550 · Outreach and Welcoming	58.83	250.00	-191.17	23.5%
6555 · Ad Hoc Committee	7.04	50.00	-42.96	14.1%
<b>Total 6500 · Other Committees</b>	<b>560.57</b>	<b>950.00</b>	<b>-389.43</b>	<b>59.0%</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 · Quaker Voice	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	125.00	125.00	0.00	100.0%
6630 · Whatcom Peace and Justice	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00	100.0%
6640 · WA Coltn to Abolsh Death Pnlty	75.00	75.00	0.00	100.0%

	Jan - Dec 17	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
6650 · W. WA FOR	50.00	50.00	0.00	100.0%
6690 · Belllghm Human Rights Festival	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.0%
<b>Total 6600 · Outreach and Support</b>	<b>2,490.00</b>	<b>2,490.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>16,577.53</b>	<b>17,696.00</b>	<b>-1,118.47</b>	<b>93.7%</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>1,935.15</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,935.15</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Other Income</b>				
4020 · Interest	45.13			
4040 · Dividend Income	2,432.12			
4060 · Unrealized Change in Value				
4061 · FFC General Savings	6,978.26			
4062 · FFC Gathering Fund	1,910.92			
4063 · FFC Meeting House	5,948.40			
4065 · Scottrade	4,887.77			
<b>Total 4060 · Unrealized Change in Value</b>	<b>19,725.35</b>			
4070 · Friends Fiduciary Dividends				
4071 · General Savings	3,434.52			
4072 · Gathering Fund	929.43			
4073 · Meeting House	2,706.21			
<b>Total 4070 · Friends Fiduciary Dividends</b>	<b>7,070.16</b>			
8200 · Other Income				
8240 · Western Friend	0.00			
<b>Total 8200 · Other Income</b>	<b>0.00</b>			
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>29,272.76</b>			
<b>Other Expense</b>				
9100 · Meeting Approved/Out of Budget	200.00			
9991 · Voided Checks	-259.00			
<b>Total Other Expense</b>	<b>-59.00</b>			
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>29,331.76</b>			
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>31,266.91</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>31,266.91</b>	<b>100.0%</b>