

Meeting for Business, Twelfth Month 2010

Final Approved Minutes

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business began at 12:00 p.m. on 19 Twelfth Month 2010, with silent worship. Clerk Rick Seifert asked Friends to introduce themselves. Attenders numbered 26.

12-10-01. Prior month's minutes:

Minutes from the Eleventh Month (November) 2010 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business were approved with two corrections: item 11-10-09, Finance Committee report, to read "Money is allocated for the new, incoming Assistant Clerk to attend a clerking workshop at Pendle Hill."

Further in 11-10-1, corrections were corrected, as follows.

- 10-10-2 was amended to read: "Quaker Quest: John Holding and one other facilitator will conduct an all-day Quaker Quest workshop on 29 January 2011, to help us learn more about Quaker Quest and what it would entail for our meeting. This visit is expected to help us discern whether we should continue with a six-month "in-reach" process possibly leading to undertaking the full Quaker Quest program, which includes outreach to the wider community.
- 10-10-8 was amended and corrected with the addition of this sentence in the fourth bullet point, **The Meeting is willing to accept partial payment and hold a five-year mortgage.**

12-10-02. Clerk's Business

Quaker Quest: A sign-up sheet is being circulated for the all-day workshop on 29 January 2011; 35 Friends have already signed up.

Correspondence: a Christmas card was received from Ramallah Friends School in Palestine.

12-10-03. Peace and Social Concerns Committee (clerk Marty Crouch reporting)

The Committee recommends that Multnomah Monthly Meeting approve a donation of \$1080, to come from the 2010 budget for "undesignated concerns," to the Center for Development in Central America to provide food for four Nicaraguan families for six months. This was approved. Former Young Friends are involved in helping the families.

The meeting sponsored Jennifer Lobsenz's attendance at the FCNL annual meeting, November 11-15. Jennifer, along with Marge Abbott, who is on the FCNL board, and Barbara Segal, our meeting representative to FCNL, reported back to the meeting last week.

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee approved a contribution of \$250 from its funds and donations for the purchase of 10 woolen blankets to be donated to JOIN, for homeless individuals and families. The meeting expresses its appreciation to Elizabeth Fischer for her initiative on this issue.

On December 10, Marco Meija reported on his recent attendance at the World Social Forum on Migration, in Quito, Ecuador. This program was sponsored by New Sanctuary Movement Northwest.

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee at NPYM has asked for our help in seasoning a proposed minute on population and sustainability. The minute will be published in the Multnomah Meeting January Newsletter with a request that input be sent to the Clerk of Multnomah Meeting Peace and Social Concerns Committee. The input received will be reported back to Meeting for Business at the February meeting for approval, before submitting the response to the NPYM Peace and Social Concerns Committee.

[See also item 12-20-07, concerning a children's peace library in Africa.]

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12-10-04. Nominating Committee (clerk Theresa Deibele reporting)

Jeff Lumb has been nominated to the Children's Program Committee. The nomination will season for one month.

Nominating Committee recommends that the name of the "Junior Friends Advisory Committee" be changed to "Middle School / High School Friends Program Committee." This was approved.

12-10-05. Oversight Committee: (clerk Eddy Crouch reporting)

Euclid Bautista's letter requesting membership was read. His clearness committee consisted of Carol Uhte (convenor), Carl Abbott, Marty Crouch and Jami Hart. Oversight Committee recommends Euclid for membership. This will season for one month.

Jesse Laird's letter requesting membership was read. His clearness committee consisted of Eddy Crouch (convenor), Peter Ford, and Ann Hyde. Oversight Committee recommends Jesse for membership. This will season for one month.

There are currently five clearness committees and three support committees active.

12-10-06. Willamette Quarterly Meeting

Joyce Zerwekh expressed concern over the lack of participation of Multnomah Friends in quarterly meeting and the apparent division between Portland Friends and Friends in the southern part of Oregon. Another Friend pointed out that there is even a lack of participation from Multnomah Friends in the worship groups under our care, and of participation of those Friends in Multnomah Meeting. Some possible causes of this lack were mentioned: the difficulty of travel, and the plethora of choices about what activities to be involved in. Further discussion and action are needed. Friends agreed that we do want to have an Oregon-wide Friends community.

12-10-07. Friendly Care Committee (clerk Leslie Hickox reporting)

The committee is purchasing several books on end-of-life issues, for the meeting library. The committee will soon be placing a box for concerns, in either the meeting room or the library, for Friends to place written messages on concerns for members of our community who need healing, prayers, or similar support.

The medical equipment library is being well utilized.

Leslie also mentioned an African Friend, David Bucura from Rwanda, will be visiting the U.S. in May 2011. Bucura, who is a school principal, is heading up a project to collect children's peace books for a library. Leslie asks that the meeting participate in this effort. This item was referred to Peace and Social Concerns Committee.

12-10-08. Finance Committee: (clerk John Wish reporting)

An offer on the Meeting's California property has been received, countered, re-countered and accepted, but has not yet been closed. The purchase price agreed upon is \$30,000, with \$15,000 cash payment and a 5-year \$15,000 note to be carried by the meeting, with 6% interest. The buyer would pay interest quarterly (\$225), with the principal being due in a balloon payment at the end of the five years.

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The proposed budget for 2011 was approved with two changes: the removal of the \$900 for property taxes for the California property (in anticipation that it will be sold), and the addition of \$1400 for bookkeeping services.

For legal purposes, the Meeting, at the request of the Finance Committee, certified that Rick Seifert is the clerk of the Meeting from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2012 and, as such, is authorized to sign documents concerning the sale of the Meeting property in California. The Meeting also certified that John Wish, is clerk of the Finance Committee from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2012, and, as such, is authorized to sign offers and counter offers on the real estate. The certifications were approved. John will coordinate with Marian Rhys, current designated corporate secretary for the Meeting, to produce this document and send it to the Realtor.

“Enterprise” money: Occasionally the Treasurer and/or the Finance Committee receives requests that funds be accepted and tracked for some special “enterprise,” such as the purchase of items for fundraising for an organization supported by Friends but not directly tied to the meeting. Finance Committee is disinclined to accept these requests, as it results in more work for the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, but there are times when the collection and tracking processes for these funds has not met acceptable standards. Finance Committee requests that the meeting consider whether we need a policy or guideline about this process. If so, it may be brought to a future meeting for business.

12-10-9. Treasurer’s Report: (Treasurer Peter Ford reporting)

Our November, as well as our year-to-date, balance of expenses versus income is still slightly negative but is expected to turn around by the end of the year. Oversight Committee overspent its budget by about \$1,000 because of the workshop on clearness and support committees, but they brought in more than this amount in contributions for that workshop.

After Joys and Concerns, the meeting concluded at 1:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Marian Rhys, Recording Clerk
Rick Seifert, Clerk
Betsey Kenworthy, Assistant Clerk

Joys and Concerns

Marge Abbott: Joy that Heather Tischbein recovered from a serious medical incident and continues to bless us with her presence.

Leslie Hickox: Concern for the family within our meeting community who lost two middle-aged children to cancer, within about six weeks of each other. She has a card for them, for those who wish to sign.

John Wish: Joy that the Sunday Morning Adult Discussion group (SMAD) experienced some heartfelt sharing today, after one member expressed his pain about what felt like mistreatment within that group, on the previous week.

Ethan Friend: Joy at realizing that often, when things go “wrong,” there are hidden blessings.

Rick Seifert: Joy at the wonderful diversity of talent and spirit within our meeting. We need to recognize our blessings.

Joyce Zerwekh: Joy at this season which celebrates the birth of someone who brought a message of peace and hope to the world and showed us the immensity of life’s possibilities.

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Marian Rhys: Joy at her upcoming trip to southern California to visit two old friends: one, her professional mentor, now in his 80s, and another a middle-aged friend who has some serious medical challenges.

Glee Lumb: Joy at the vigor and enthusiasm of one of our elderly Friends, at the recent rally sponsored by the Oregon New Sanctuary Movement.

Linda Kocourek: Joy at being part of this meeting community, where she continues to grow and feels safe to share her feelings.