

## FRIENDS MEETING OF SAN ANTONIO

### Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

October 18, 2015

**Attendees:** David Bristol, Ruth Lofgren, Ken Southwood, Janet Southwood, Marian Carter, Bill Wilkinson, Denise Wilkinson, Carol Balliet, Dianne Vinson, Val Liveoak, Alice Partain, Carol L Redfield, Bill Sweet, Pat Sweet and Michelle DiGiacomo.

The meeting opened in silence, and the clerk read the following quote:

***We do not want you to copy or imitate us. We want to be like a ship that has crossed the ocean, leaving a wake of foam which soon fades away. We want you to follow the Spirit, which we have sought to follow, but must be sought anew in every generation. ---the Elders of Balby, Yorkshire, England, 1656***

#### **1. Minutes of September 20 Meeting for worship with attention to business.**

Minutes were read silently by all attendees. Minutes were approved as read.

A Friend reminded attendees that she had raised the question about reading minutes silently but in no way wished to underestimate the importance of the minutes, especially for history and those not attending.

#### **2. Treasurer's report.**

✠ The treasurer reviewed report details, noting that the total cost of the recent AC and floor damage repairs had exceeded the budgeted amount in our Sinking Fund, but we will replenish those funds as usual, by a continual monthly transfer from our General Fund. Quarterly Meeting held here over Labor Day weekend was an unusual expense but QM attendees' contributions offset it. YTD total income is 10% behind but the amount has been made up in other ways. YTD grounds maintenance is higher than usual due to

rain resulting in more frequent mowing, but this has been offset by lower water usage for grounds care.

‡ The treasurer answered Friends' questions about differentiating multiple small entries on the budget. One Friend said that she appreciated the differentiation, and another asked what happens when a check is donated to Meeting. He explained that donation checks go into the General Operating Fund. For a inquiry about the payouts of FMSA annual donations to local causes and national Quaker organizations, he explained that he made these payments only after being sure that our budgeted operational costs were being met. The income under the Bond Fund line item fluctuates because this fund consists of interest earned on our overall funds invested in the stock market. He also explained that books sold through Amazon are listed under "yard and online sales."

‡ The treasurer's report was accepted as submitted.

### **3. Clerk's concern.**

The clerk stated that she would like us to consider how to continue to be in community in Meeting if faced with a threat or an emergency. This is a follow-up to the forum on how to react to a threatening intruder, led by Ken last Sunday. In considering the matter of self-defense, a strong concern is whether some actions are in violation of Quaker testimonies. It was suggested that we have a threshing session to address and clarify this issue. A Friend defined a threshing session as open discussion without the necessity of a decision to be made. Another emphasized that we should "thresh," not "thrash." Another encouraged us to recognize the power of Quaker silence, the desirability of reaching out to God in whomever appears to be threatening in Meeting, and recognizing that the psychological (i.e., fear response) can shut down the spiritual. The clerk suggested a threshing session

before the end of the year and the attenders agreed.

#### **4. Peace and Social Concerns Committee**

The short report was read by the committee's co-clerk. Upcoming forums were previewed. With no questions or concerns, the report was accepted as read.

#### **5. Ministry and Oversight Committee**

The report was read and then accepted.

A Friend raised the question of continuing the current practice of sharing afterthoughts at rise of Meeting for Worship, as individual afterthoughts can sometimes be lengthy. The Committee has addressed this and agreed that we should continue the same way, as attenders seem to appreciate shared afterthoughts, and they seem to help newcomers to know us better.

#### **4. Nominating committee.**

The Committee had submitted no written report and the committee's clerk was not present, but the presiding clerk asked if a committee member would comment on the question: "How are the committee's small-group sessions working in meeting with newer attenders to explore their personal gifts (skills, experience, and interests) and interest in serving in a committee position?" The member responded that he thought they were working "reasonably well," but it was noted that filling positions is an ongoing concern. Gratitude and understanding were expressed to the committee for the sometimes challenging nature of its work.

With all agenda items addressed, there were further announcements: Friends were reminded that our annual book, CD, and DVD exchange will be held as usual on the first Sunday in December. A Friend received confirmation that she can bring Central American crafts for sale to this event.

A Property Committee member reminded us that the benches must be placed according to Fire Marshall guidelines, with at least 24 inches between the benches and walls, and adequate “aisles” between the benches.

With no further comments or business to be addressed, the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business ended with a period of silence.

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Carol Balliet, clerk of the Meeting

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Dianne Vinson, recording clerk