

**Minutes**  
**FMSA Meeting for Business**  
**July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023**

**Attending:**

- In Person: Bill Wilkinson, Rachael Cundey, Pat Sweet, Bill Sweet, Gary Whiting, Stephen Shearer, Pam Spurgeon, Von Keairns, Dale Keairns, Kara McGinnis, Denise Wilkinson, Gretchen Haynes, Julie Crum
- On Zoom: Carol Redfield, Val Liveoak

**The meeting opened with silent worship.**

**Prior Minutes**

Friends approved the Minutes from the June 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting for Business without corrections.

**Treasurer's Report:** *reported by Bill Sweet*

**Balance Sheet**

- ✓ The semi-annual distribution from Friends Fiduciary of \$5,973.63 was deposited in the Sinking Fund, per Minute 2023.05.1.
- ✓ The change in value from the first to second quarter of the Quaker Growth and Income Fund was \$18,071.70 and the Short-Term Investment Fund was \$1525.69.
- ✓ The Memorial Garden has been completed, with a final payment of \$300.00. The total expenditure was \$18,250.00. As noted in this Report for December 2022, the funds were to be withdrawn from the Friends Fiduciary investment account. The withdrawal was delayed for administrative reasons until the project was complete.
- ✓ The final payment on the Memorial Garden increased the value of Fixed Assets: Buildings & Land to \$812844.73.
- ✓ There is no other unusual activity to report.

**Statement of Activities**

- ✓ Undesignated contributions in June totaled \$1,153.52. Contributions to date are 20.7 % of the 2023 budgeted general contributions at 50% of the year.
- ✓ Income for Facilities Use is \$370.00, 52.1% of budget at 50% of the year.
- ✓ The CPS bill In June is \$240.66 (\$131.44 last month) for 1.895MWh (1.088 MWh last month) of electricity. The Big Sun Community Solar off-site photovoltaic panels gave us a credit of \$177.43 (\$145.32 last month). After charges for additional services, the bill totaled \$113.20 (\$36.07 last month).
  - ✓ Expenditure for electricity is 35.2% of the annual budget at 50% of the year.

- ✓ From the initial connection through June, payment for solar-generated electricity totals \$7096.25, which averages to \$173.08 per month compared to the amortized capital cost of the panels of \$131.40 per month.
- ✓ San Antonio Water System charges in May was \$112.42.
- ✓ Other expenditures were routine.

**DISCUSSION:** Facilities income is expected to decrease as some of our regular renters are decreasing their use of the facility.

Friends accepted the Treasurer’s report with gratitude.

**Naming Committee Report:** *presented by Pat Sweet*

The Naming Committee presents Stephen Shearer to serve on the Nominating Committee for the next 3 years. This is the second reading of his nomination:

**DISCUSSION:** Friends approved Stephen’s appointment to Nominating Committee.

Friends accepted the committee’s report.

**Nominating Committee Report:** *reported by Stephen Shearer*

**Nominating Report - JULY 2023**

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Val, Denise and Stephen met on Friday the 30th to discuss Nominating.

We are offering for 2nd reading in red and first reading in blue

<b>Trustee [1 year]</b>			<b>Nominating Committee [3 years]</b>			<b>Ministry, Care and Guidance Committee [3 years]</b>		
Clerk	Carol Redfield	2023	Member	Julie Crum	2026	Clerk	Julie Crum	2024
Secretary	Pat Sweet	2023	Member	Stephen Shearer	2026	Member	Gretchen Haynes	2024
Treasurer	Bill Sweet	2023	Member	Val Liveoak	2026	Member	Val Liveoak	2024
Member	Bill Wilkinson	2023	Member	Denise Wilkinson	2026	Member	Stephen Shearer	2024
						Member	James Goslin	2025
<b>Monthly Meeting [2 year]</b>			<b>SCYM [2 years]</b>					
Clerk	Jim Spickard	2023	Member	Val Liveoak	2024			
Clerk	Bill Wilkinson	2023	Member	Bill Sweet	2024			
Rec. Clerk	Rachael Cundey	2023				<b>Religious Education [2 years]</b>		
Treasurer	Bill Sweet	2024	<b>FCNL [2 years]</b>			Clerk	Gary Whiting	2024
Recorder	Jim Spickard	2024	Member	Julia Hitz	2024	Member	Gretchen Haynes	2024
						Member	Roberta Russell	2025
<b>Finance Committee [2 years]</b>			<b>Property Committee [2 years]</b>					
Clerk	Pat Sweet	2024	Clerk	Jim Spickard	2025			
Member	Carol Redfield	2024	Member	Julia Hitz	2025			
Member	Bill Wilkinson	2024	Member	Von Keairns	2024			
Ex-officio Treasurer			Resource	Pam Spurgeon	2024			

**DISCUSSION:** Friends accepted the committee’s report.

**Ministry & Care Committee:** *reported by Julie Crum*

M&C met on Wednesday, July 5, 2023. In attendance were James Goslin, Gretchen Haynes, Stephen Shearer, and Val Liveoak who served as clerk in the absence of Julie Crum who is recovering from a bad fall.

**Review of worship:** We noted the presence of visitors at Meeting.

- Several Friends have suggested we **resume handshakes** or other brief greetings at rise of Meeting. The Committee was in agreement, suggesting that the Clerk announce it and remind Friends that they can offer a handshake, a fist bump, prayer hands (Namaste) or a bow or even a hug. Nobody needs to respond in a way that is uncomfortable for them, but we remind Friends that the person initiating the greeting should ask or be very respectful to the acceptance or lack thereof by the Friend they wish to greet. We ask Friends to wait until after announcements and afterthoughts have finished to have conversations or greet Friends not nearby.

**Reinstating mid-week meeting for worship, soup, and fellowship:**

- We thought that this activity could resume as well, in the Fall. It would be held in the Common Room unless there were enough people to set up on the Porch. We would add to the monthly service sign-up sheet someone to be responsible to arrive early, set up the filters in the Common Room and Meeting Room, and other opening tasks. We believe that we'd prefer not to call it a potluck, although we would not discourage Friends to supplement the soup. Soup-making would be added to the monthly service sign-up. We propose to hold this event monthly on the 3rd Wednesday, with soup and fellowship from 6-7pm and worship from 7-7:30pm.
- Wednesday nights SCYM holds online weekly worship that starts at 7:30 pm, and a Yoga group has used it till 7:30; at this writing, they have not reserved any Sept. dates. The RCGSA uses the Meetinghouse on the 3rd Thursday, but otherwise, Thursdays are not scheduled.

**August Query:** We had a solid initial suggestion that will be refined by email.

**Forums:**

- July 9: Visible mending and how it speaks to my Quaker values (Stephen)
- July 23: Quaker foundational texts (Gary)
- August 13: Encountering Transcendence (Jim)
  
- We may have an idea for the Aug. 20th forum, and plan on having fellowship time on the 29th. Friends are reminded to let M&C or the Religious Education Committee know about any Forums they feel led to offer or request.
- We think it would be good to address, **Quakerism Basics** in the Fall. Previously, we offered a series of evening topics, aimed at newer attenders. We would like some discussion at MfB regarding Friends' preferences for an evening series or Sunday Forums. We would like to have childcare available during these sessions. Gretchen has agreed to facilitate the process. We think the issue of membership should be addressed in this series.

### **Children's program**

- With four Story Tellers, we can begin the Faith & Play program in Sept and each will have three sessions in a year. We will have one or two training sessions in the summer and each will be able to select the preferred story kit. We have five parables and seven Quaker topics. Each kit has figures or symbols, a script, and follow-up questions.

### **Concerns for Friends:**

- Concerns re: individual friends, reaching out to absent friends. We discussed several Friends' situations and made plans for working with them.

### **Discussion of how to request/approve financial support of friends**

- Since 2021, FMSA has given supplementary financial support to a Friend from the Relief Fund, and we transferred some money into that Fund as well as accepting donations dedicated to the Relief Fund from individual Friends. The Relief Fund's balance has declined to an extent that we believe we need to deposit more funds into it, as the Friend's need continues (we anticipate up to \$15,000 for the rest of the year) and there may be other situations that also may need to call on the Relief Fund.

#### **We propose the following Minute:**

- As promptly as possible, FMSA will transfer \$15,000 into the Relief Fund that is under the care of M&C.

#### **Additionally, to streamline the M&C disbursements to the account of the Friend in need, M&C approved this [Committee] Minute:**

- We delegate the coordination of sending funds from the Relief Fund to the Friend's account to Val Liveoak who will liaise with the Friend's Power of Attorney, Dan Guajardo and the FMSA Treasurer for remittances of up to \$5,000 at a time.

**Next meeting:** M&C's next meeting in person will be on Wednesday, September 6, at noon. Friends are invited to bring any concerns they might have to M&C before that meeting. If a concern requiring our attention arises before that meeting, please contact the M&C Clerk, Julie Crum, or any other member of the Committee. We have agreed to consult remotely for any concern that might arise.

**DISCUSSION:** Six new attenders have indicated that Sunday would be the preferred time for a Quakerism Basics session. It has also been discussed that holding the activity on Zoom may help increase attendance. A Friend suggested we could record the presentation if Friends were comfortable. M&C will continue seasoning this idea.

A Friend asked whether parents would prefer to have childcare every Sunday. This issue could be explored further in the fall.

Another Friend asked if we have outreach to local colleges. Although we have some Friends who teach at local colleges, we do not have formal outreach on campuses. A religious education class at Trinity would sometimes send students to us as a practical experience of another faith tradition, but that has not happened in a couple of years.

Friends are comfortable with reinstating handshakes/fist bumps/other greetings at the rise of Meeting starting in September.

A Friend felt that Meeting activities should take precedence over potential renter activities. The Friend also did not want to prevent Friends from participating in SCYM Wednesday evening worship. We could have midweek soup and worship on Thursday as we did before if we avoid the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday. The committee will determine the best time and return to Business Meeting in September.

The Children's Program Faith and Play program will begin the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in September.

**MINUTE 2023.07.01:** FMSA approves the transfer \$15,000 from Friends Fiduciary Growth and Income Fund into the Relief Fund that is under the care of M&C.

Friends approved the minute.

Friends accepted the committee's report.

**Other Business:**

- Friends discussed displaying the fabric art projects from The Gathering of FGC some years ago around the Meetinghouse grounds. Friends were not comfortable with having them permanently displayed in the meeting room itself but were more comfortable with other rooms on the property, perhaps in the windows.

**The Meeting closed with silent worship.**