

**NC Fellowship of Friends Fall Business Meeting
10 November 2018**

Springfield Friends Meeting

555 E Springfield Rd, High Point, NC 27263

The following **Committees and Working Groups** meet in the morning:

- Nominating & Discernment
- Stewardship & Finance
- Meeting Nurture
- Youth & Children Working Group
- Outreach (Mission) Working Group
- Social Witness Working Group

Business Meeting

Marcy Shipwash, (Springfield Meeting) shared devotional thoughts to center our time together as we discerned our work and witness.

Friends APPROVED the Agenda

Friends **APPROVED** the minutes of 7 April 2018.

Friends **APPROVED** the minutes of 18 August 2018.

The Clerk read a **Letter of Introduction** from Carlos Gutti, clerk of Miami Friends Meeting, introducing Sandra Gomez (letter attached)

Treasurer and Stewardship & Finance Committee: Clarence Mattocks (Jamestown), Treasurer, presented the third quarter financial report (attached) reviewing our commitments to NCYM, Inc. and Quaker Lake Camp. The Treasurer reported the Alicia Sharp (First Friends) will serve as clerk of the Stewardship & Finance Committee. At this time the committee does not wish to recommend a 2019 Budget. The “Askings” will remain the same for 2019 (\$9 for NCFE, \$11 for NCYM, Inc, \$20 for Quaker Lake, and \$10 QLC Endowment for a total of \$50 per member).

Youth & Children Working Group: Marcy Shipwash (Springfield) presented the report for the Working Group, detailing the plans for a mid-winter retreat at Quaker Lake Camp and the plans for the year.

Young Friends Mid-Winter Retreat

Theme: Back to the Basics

Dates: January 18-21, 2019 at Quaker Lake Camp
cost -\$30

Registration and additional information will be placed on the NCFE website (ncquakers.org) and the NCFE Facebook page.

The Meeting **APPROVED** a \$5,000 budget for the work of the Young Friends Working Group.

Social Witness Working Group: Cassandra Israel (First Friends) presented the report and the Minute approved by the Working Group, with the request that the Meeting approve the minute.

Minute to Create a NCFE Newsletter and to Establish Financial Support For the Social Justice Working Group

The NCFE Social Justice Working Group discussed various areas of concern and explored how our member meetings were working on these issues. Out of our conversation, there arose these main issues:

- Racism
- Environmental and Climate Change Concerns
- Homelessness / Hunger/ Tiny Houses

We discovered that there are many programs being actively carried out in all of our various meetings. We agree that more communication among our meetings is necessary, with the NCFE being our means of dissemination of information about our efforts.

The Working Group for Social Justice, in order to facilitate this dissemination and the sharing of ideas, proposes that the NCFE create a quarterly newsletter that each working group may contribute to. The newsletter will report the activities of individual meetings.

In addition, the Working Group seeks the financial support of NCFE to sponsor a forum where speakers will be invited to address the issue of structural racism, our focal point of justice work for the next year. For example, the working group would like to invite a member of the Southern Poverty Law Center to join us to speak to our member meetings.

The Social Justice Working Group asks the NCFE to support our programming for the next year, if funds are available.

APPROVED, 10 November 2018

NC Fellowship of Friends held at Springfield Friends Meeting

Outreach Working Group: Becke Jones reported for the Working Group, reporting on how they are seeking to learn more about the endowment funds, and their designations, that provide much of the funding opportunity of NCFE. The members are developing procedures for receiving requests for funding.

Nominating Committee: Sara Beth Terrell asked for volunteers to serve as our representatives to Friends Committee on National Legislation and to the American Friends Service Committee.

Church Extension: Statesville and Bethel meetings provided funding requests from Church Extension funds. These funds, from the endowment income are to assist meetings with facility improvements and/or pastoral assistance support.

Friends raised a concern about the communication and knowledge of these Funds, and asked that the clerk communicate to all NCFE meetings about the fund and how meeting might apply for assistance.

Friends **APPROVED** granting Statesville Friends Meeting \$4,600 per their request. Friends asked that the clerk communicate with Bethel Meeting asking for clarity and a refined request for the body to consider in the future.

Meeting Nurture and Development Committee: Scott Wagoner (Deep River) reported for The Meeting Nurture and Development committee met for an open conversation around how this committee could best serve the needs of the meetings in NCFE. There were five folks in attendance. Each person represented a different meeting within NCFE so it was good to hear the different needs and concerns.

In our open conversation, the following themes surfaced as possible needs that could be addressed:

- 1) **Support for the Pastoral Ministers** - This could come in the form of fellowship, learning opportunities, retreats, and regular gatherings.
- 2) **Support for local Ministry and Counsel Committee** - This could be retreats that focus on resourcing and encouraging Ministry and Counsel's in their work as well as helping develop leadership in local meetings.
- 3) **Calling and Giftedness** - One area is coming to an understanding of what it means to be called to ministry and what discernment looks like for each meeting as well as the place of Recording within NCFE. This will involve a much broader conversation with the working group on Recording.
- 4) **Spiritual Formation** - Spiritual renewal is a much needed element within our local meetings. How can we provide experiences, gatherings, and events that pool our resources and are enriching for those that are seeking a deeper experience?
- 5) **Stewardship** - Finances are a concern for many meetings. How can the Meeting and Nurture Development Committee provide encouragement and resources for meetings struggling in the area of finances? We might even look into tapping the resources of Everence, a faith-based Stewardship organization that partners with Friends United Meeting.

No plans or "Action Steps" were developed since we wanted to have this opening conversation. It was discussed that a "next step" would be a "Called to Ministry" gathering designed by the Meeting Nurture and Development committee in partnership with the working on group on Recording. This gathering would focus on the themes of discernment, giftedness, and how God calls individuals and local meetings to ministry.

Friends World Committee for Consultation (on our request for membership in FWCC)

Friends heard a report from the FWCC Executive Committee recommending our membership:

The Executive Committee of FWCC Section of the Americas unites in recommending your Fellowship to full membership among Yearly Meetings which want, and need, and know how to talk to each other across our distances and differences.

FWX18-80 [...] The Executive Committee recommends to the Section of the Americas the acceptance of the North Carolina Fellowship of Friends as an affiliate member of FWCC- Section of the Americas. [...]

While the Section Meeting in March 2019 still has to exercise the proper discernment and authority to approve this recommendation, I can assure you that the presentation from the visiting team you so generously welcomed, and the request for the expected approval will come at the earliest possible point during our business meeting. After which approval any Friend appointed by your Fellowship as Representative to FWCC, Section of the America will take their place among us in the work and the joy we will be given.

During this last decade, one of my most intense concerns at Section Meeting has been to find Friends who belong to separating Quaker bodies, and to encourage and make visible their desire to stay in conversation and in the love we have for one another. It has been very moving to have the "ostensibly separated" Friends sitting next to each other, protected by the surrounding love and understanding, witnessing to their hunger for the love in the unity left behind, and to the openings abundantly placed before them."

NC Council of Churches

Deborah Suess, NCCFF's representative to the NC Council of Churches, reported on some of the activities of NCCC. She requested a financial contribution to support that work. Friends

APPROVED a grant of \$500 to NCCC.

Annual Session Planning Group: Kathy Adams agreed to convene a planning group for the 2019 annual gathering planned for Quaker Lake Camp. Dottie Hobbs, Edith Shepherd, Marcie Newell, and Khaleelah Gantt agreed to work with Kathy. Kathy has permission to invite others to join in the planning.

Calendar of our meeting dates:

30 March 2019 at Deep River Friends Meeting

10 August 2019 at Quaker Lake Camp (annual session)

9 November 2019 New Garden Friends Meeting

Closing Worship

Friends **ADJOURNED** to meet again on 30 March 2019 at Deep River Friends Meeting, God Willing.

Respectively Submitted,

Frank Massey

clerk