

Albuquerque Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
January 8, 2017

Present: Minor Morgan (Recording Clerk), Tina Kachele (Presiding Clerk), Elizabeth Freyman, Sharon Gross, Pushpa Knottenbelt, Richard Knottenbelt, Carol O'Connor, Kathleen Smith, Sara Thorp, Connie Green, Nancy Rice, Joann Pierson, Rob Pierson, Sara Keeney, Miriam Bennett, Marian Hoge, Chadron Kidwell, Fred Koster, Diana Koster, Sharon Greacen, Tom Greacen, Gail Taylor, Clyde Milner, Dorine Conley, John Bettler, Sarah Malone, Eric Dillon, Phyllis Hoge, Richard Hayes, Judy Hayes, Erin Yane, Russell Doss, Ash Markham, Robyn Wellman, Shirley Kondo.

Friends gathered in worship with attention to business.

1. Recording Clerk read the Action Minutes from the December 4, 2016 MFWFB.

Minor read minutes

2. Review of practices in MFWFB and brief overview of agenda.

Clerk spoke regarding our customs in MFWFB- business is worship, speak as moved by the Spirit. Please seek Clerks recognition to speak. We seek unity of Spirit in all decisions.

3. Announcements or Agenda items from children and families

No announcements

4. Meeting of the Whole : year in review

Clerk reflected on minutes from last year.

A. Personal Reflections on the Period of Rejuvenation

Clerk referenced recommendations from the Temporary Committee. Clerk read minute from one year ago authorizing year of rejuvenation. Clerk summarized some of our activities:

We had a Clerk of the month. In Feb, 2016 there was a feeling we were in crisis. There were also concerns of Right Order. We conducted a review of Faith and Practice and introduced a revised Sunday schedule. We created an alternate schedule for mfwfb. We had discussions on financial support and leadership in the Meeting. There were workshops on transgender issues and compassionate listening. There were many Moments of Witness in the wider world: Standing Rock, Leonard Peltier, Whiteness, budget and stewardship, Planned parenthood

Member comments:

- appreciation for singing on Christmas, thanks to Children's Committee
- a member reflected on success of rejuvenation: we are continually rejuvenating
- a new member asked about the goals of our Meeting, which elicited several responses:

- one member spoke about our testimonies, using acronym spice: simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality and ecology.
- a member spoke about our group decision making and our worship protocol
- another member spoke about the importance of manifesting the Spirit
- one member spoke about the role of stewardship
- one member spoke about the structure of Meeting and how decisions are made by the whole body, including micro and macro issues
- a member advised reviewing the information available in foyer and children's area
- another member commented on increased number of folks at business meeting.

The Clerk discussed the role of all members as leaders of the Meeting.

B. Review of Jan 2016 minute establishing the practice of 'Meeting of the Whole'

Clerk reread the minute authorizing "Committee of the Whole"

Member comments:

- reflecting on "meeting being in crisis", one member noted the large turnout for business meeting but committee membership is still lacking. Perhaps we have too many committees.
- a member questions if we are still the "committee of the whole", as it seems we are now dealing like our customary practice
- one member feels we are still fragile, although business meeting is more robust. We need to build up committee participation
- another member feels we have dropped the accountability aspect and not discussed how other components of meeting can grow
- one member reflects on discussions in 2015 on what we lay down and accusations of how we are doing things wrong. Our current committee structure still makes it difficult to fill positions

C. Threshing Session on Leadership in Meeting: schedule?

Clerk comments that "committee of the whole" and committee participation are related. Clerk queries what the committee of the whole is doing now and states that review of committee structure is appropriate.

Member comments:

- member speaks about taking on a very specific role at Meeting wanting to work with others on her calling
- a new member requests a mentor to facilitate involvement in meeting
- another member speaks about the challenge of Naming Committee in locating members for Nominating Committee. There are two cohorts within our Meeting: experienced members who are very busy and new members who want to help but uncertain of taking on leadership roles of committee. We need to facilitate new members' participation.
- one member speaks about feeling exhausted in committee work when she first came to meeting and a desire not to return to this.
- an older member speaks about their experience at another meeting where when you were asked, you said yes. Work was Spirit led and service was considered an honor. Leaders were not expected to be perfect but to be Spirit led. AMM seems to be more bureaucratic in its

approach and moved away from the caring component. Serving is not a burden but a calling. We need to be tolerant of each other's flaws- there should not be an expectation that our work is "perfect" as this leads us to a more bureaucratic approach, rather than a focus on caring.

Clerk discussed scheduling a threshing session around this issue. Elizabeth Freyman said W&M would schedule session if there is support. It seems that the best time is at rise of meeting.

AMM approved the following minute.

(2017.1.1) Amm will conduct a threshing session on the issue of Leadership in the Meeting scheduled for Feb. 12, 2017 at rise of Meeting. W&M will formulate a query for our consideration

D. Examining the work and staffing of Committees in relation to 'Meeting of the Whole'

- one member speaks about the 5 to 1 rule: 5 positive statements to every negative statement
- another member wants to continue this discussion at the February, 2017 MFWFB.

Clerk discussed recommendations from Temporary Committee

BREAK FOR LUNCH

Announcements:

- Facebook posting regarding Women's rights march at civic plaza on Jan. 21, 2017.
- member announced he is beginning school soon and seeks support
- Veterans for Peace welcomes support at march on MLK day. Sat. Jan. 14 march to civic plaza beginning at MLK blvd. Start time is 10:00 a.m. AMM volunteers to carry our banner
- Mary Dudley will be honored on Jan. 20, 2017
- a member seeks to be held in light on her upcoming travels
- Jan. 15 for SOTM report feedback to Chadron Kidwell c.kidwell@paragon-integration.com
- the Childrens Committee formed Abq. Children's Peace Committee.

E. Exploring Whiteness: mid-point review and moving forward in 2017

Clerk discussed process for sharing issues of whiteness during mfwfb and where we go from here. Clerk reflected that we have not minuted our commitment to pursue this topic.

Clerk read some readings on "white fragility". Clerk seeks feedback on meeting direction: there are books, articles, other readings that we could engage with, as well as other activities.

Member comments:

- a member commented about our early history that excluded slaves, Indians and women
- another member expresses support for book or reading group from her perspective of parenting young white sons

- one member expresses support for continuing involvement
- several members want to continue discussion during mfwfb.
- a member wants something interactive
- another member wants to hear feelings from other members and continue the dialog
- one member speaks about difficulty of speaking about this subject and having appropriate language and needing to have the language to speak about whiteness. Member expresses support for addressing “foundational” questions.
- a member spoke about the Jan.30 training at Peace and Justice Center. Clerk discussed option of bringing this 2 hour training to AMM. Clerk discussed curriculum developed by Unitarians.
- a member advocates for small group work where members speak about their own experiences
- another member related her experience in attending a workshop with a Nicaraguan friend and how they both grew spiritually.

Clerk senses support for a 2 hour workshop, with funding. Peace and Social concerns volunteers to provide funding, if needed.

(2017.1.2) AMM supports the ongoing dialogue about Whiteness, white supremacy and racial justice thru inclusion of this discussion at the mfwfb as well as extended activities at the Meeting.

5. Peace and Social Concerns: Defend our neighbors initiative.

Carol Merrill reported on a recent meeting where the issue discussed was “Defending our Neighbors” which relates to support of undocumented children and their families.

Richard Knottenbelt read a proposed Minute in support of the “Defend our Neighbors” initiative.

Member comments:

- a member discussed activities of the NM Faith Coalition in support of immigrant rights. NM Faith coalition supports the language of the Defend our Neighbors initiative.
- a member expresses her need to know more about legal rights of undocumented immigrants before giving full support to the initiative
- several members support approval today of the minute as deadline for publication is Dec. 20.

AMM approved the following Minute, with one member standing aside.

(2017.1.3) Minute of Support for the Statement of Purpose of the organization called “Defend Our Neighbors”

Albuquerque Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) has an ongoing commitment “within our strength and Light to work with people of good will, including immigrant organizations, faith communities, human rights and civil liberties organizations to assure that the humanity of every migrant to

our borders is honored and that all are treated with compassion and dignity, regardless of what their legal status may ultimately be determined to be.” (AMM 2014.8.3)

The following is a Statement of Purpose by the Defend Our Neighbors organization:

Defend Our Neighbors is a non-partisan grassroots effort led by concerned citizens to ensure that we, as a community, actively support the rights of the New Mexico undocumented immigrant children & their families to live without fear, without oppression, and with a right to due process regarding their ability to remain in the United States. Defend Our Neighbors believes supporting undocumented immigrants (as the most vulnerable of our communities under threat of persecution) is a significant moral duty. Finally, we believe that not challenging threats to one part of our community can lead to threats to other parts of our community: the Muslim community, the LGBT community, the Native American community, the Jewish community, other communities of color and even the Media. We believe we must actively challenge possible threats to our diverse social fabric.

Albuquerque Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) supports the Defend Our Neighbors Statement of Purpose and agrees to join the Defend Our Neighbors public awareness campaign.

6. Worship & Ministry:

Elizabeth Freyman reported that Worship & Ministry has met and discussed the schedule of mfwfb, and discussion was helpful. W&M continues to discuss this topic and is addressing concerns raised by members regarding the schedule.

7. Request for Membership for Eric Dillon

Clerk read a request for membership letter from Eric Dillon. Normally Oversight & Counsel addresses membership but O&C needs additional members.

AMM approved the following minute.

(2017.1.4) Considering that Joanne Pierson is the only current member of Oversight & Counsel Committee, Joanne will join with the Meeting Clerk and

Rosemary Blanchard, to formulate a Clearness Committee for membership for Eric Dillon.

8. Nominating Committee

Shirley Kondo gave the Nominating Committee report.

Meeting approved the following two Minutes:

(2017.1.5) Albuquerque Monthly Meeting approves the following nominations: Nancy Rice to continue as AMM representative to IMYM Representative's Committee for the period January, 2017 thru January 31, 2019. Diana Koster as AMM Representative to New Mexico Regional Nominating Committee for the period January, 2017 thru January 31, 2019. Elizabeth Freyman and Miriam Bennett to continue on Worship and Ministry thru December, 2017.

(2017.1.6) Nominating Committee brings forward the following nominations: Julianna Ferriera continuing on Building and Grounds committee thru December 2017 . Shirley Kondo continuing on Building and Grounds committee through December 2018. Gail Taylor as a member of Adult Education thru Dec. 2018. Nominations to be held over until February, 2017.

Meeting discussed the status of the O&C Committee and approved the following minute:

(2017.1.7) Meeting approves temporarily sending financial decisions for O&C to Finance committee, until such time that O&C is fully constituted.

9. Naming Committee

After some discussion, AMM approved the following minute:

(2017.1.8) Naming Committee names Debra Harreld, currently serving on Nominating Committee, to extend her term on Nominating Committee through 12/2017. Naming Committee names Fred Koster, also currently serving on Nominating Committee, to serve as clerk of Nominating Committee through 12/2017.

10. 2017 Schedule and upcoming events

Reminder: contributions for State of Meeting Report due January 15.

- January 13-16: hosting IMYM Arrangements committee
 - Nancy reported that all arrangements have been made

- January 22: Date of review of IMYM queries
- February 18-19: Quakers and money workshop
- March: FCNL funding event
- March 5: St. Martins Breakfast
- April 21-23: NM Regional Meeting, Durango, Colorado

11. Rising concerns

- A. Follow-up on compassionate Listening workshop
- B. Follow-up on Trans 101 workshop
- C. Watch our website for news and updates: <http://abq.imym.org/cms>

Final close with silence

Tina Kachele, Presiding Clerk
 Minor Morgan, Recording Clerk

IMYM Fall Queries

1. Re Location: It has been suggested that we have a trial year at a different location followed by a return to Ghost Ranch the following year. What is your Meeting's response to this? What would be the most important criteria in choosing that different location?
2. Re Financial approach: Increasing cost at Ghost Ranch was a major impetus to consider a change of venue. Approaches to cost have been offered including "Pay as Led"*, other ways to gather money (such as a fund raising campaign), or an intensive effort to decrease our costs (different venue, less days, etc.). What is your Meeting's sense about this?
3. Pay as Led is a model which New England Yearly Meeting has tested where each registrant is asked to pay what they are led to for the summer gathering.