

**Albuquerque Monthly Meeting**  
**Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**  
**November 6, 2016**

**Present:** Minor Morgan (Recording Clerk), Tina Kachele (Presiding Clerk), Marian Bock, Rena Brown, Elizabeth Freyman, Sharon Gross, Richard Knottenbelt, Pushpa Knottenbelt, Carol O'Connor, George Thomas, Kathleen Smith, Shirley Kondo, Erica Samuel, Gail Baker, Sara Thorp, Tylka Vetula, Connie Green, Eric Dillon, John Penery, Erin Hulse, Phyllis Hoge, Nancy Rice, Robyn Wellman, Mark Elliott, Jim Stevens, Alison Nylund, Elizabeth Bailey, Thomas Pierson, Joann Pierson, Rob Pierson, Sara Keeney, Letitia Kinloch, Mirium Bennett, Carol Merrill, Taylor Spence.

Friends gathered in worship with attention to business.

Call to Meeting for worship with attention to business

1. Recording Clerk read the Action Minutes from the October 2, 2016 MFWFB.

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

Clerk read from IMYM Faith and Practice regarding practice of "standing aside".  
Introduction of visitors- several visitors at meeting today.

3. Proposal from Children's Program for Christmas Day Meeting for Worship

Children's Program Committee made the suggestion that since Christmas, 2016 falls on a Sunday, it would be nice to sing Christmas Carols

Comments-

- many members expressed support for singing
- some members expressed support with a reminder to keep the spirit of silent worship
- members expressed support for joining with the children in song on Christmas day

***(2016.11.1) The Children's Program Committee will lead AMM in singing Christmas Carols on Christmas morning during meeting for worship, 2016.***

4. Exploring whiteness. Reflections on the Query: How does whiteness show up in your personal life? How does it show up in your meeting, or in the Religious Society of Friends? What are you called to do about whiteness?

Comments:

- One member is concerned this election cycle has brought out many negative attitudes and member is concerned about how little we have progressed as a society
- Another member speaks about the Native American approach of seeing diversity in all people
- A member speaks about her experience in associating with people of color and "resting on my laurels". She feels the need to seek out interactions that challenge her whiteness

- A member discusses “structural whiteness” and surrounding herself with people similar to her and discovering her own origin story. Her origin story goes beyond skin color to include gender
- Member talks about the books in her child's room: all portray white Anglo characters. Member reflects on her childhood friends as diverse nationalities and how she is raising her children.
- A member reflects on raising her children in a multicultural environment and the lack of issues regarding whiteness
- One member speaks about her feeling of “white fragility” and fear of talking about whiteness for fear of saying the wrong thing.

## 5. Meeting of the Whole & Follow-up on Recommendations for Rejuvenation Period

### A. Personal and group contributions/Year of Rejuvenation (with particular attention to Reflections on Compassionate Listening Workshop in October)

#### Comments:

- A member expresses appreciation to meeting for bringing this opportunity forward
- One member appreciates conversations in small groups and skills learned in how to listen to opinions that are different: facts, emotions, values
- Member expressed appreciation for learning how to listen “without putting my own filters”
- Regarding year of rejuvenation, it felt like “slipping into neutral” where we let a lot of things go unaddressed.
- A member expresses desire to have a “welcoming task force” that goes beyond greeting, and does more extensive followup with visitors.
- Member asked if we have ever engaged in outreach to minority groups
- Member points out that there are many new members at mfwfb.

### B. Schedule FOR MfwfB: discerning the way forward

Clerk recaps our history of trial schedule and notes that last month we were not in unity. Clerk discussed “default options”. Clerk notes that recently business meeting has been well attended.

#### Comments:

- Transition today went very well and “was wonderful”
- A member expresses that “we are just learning how to do this” and the “children will adopt the feeling of continuity”. Member proposes we continue this schedule thru June.

- Member expressed that we are “learning as we go” and we are doing a wonderful job. There are many moving parts all coming together for first Sunday.
- Member expressed concern about folks coming into meeting between 10:00-10:30. Member wants to minimize “drifting in” but allow entry at 10 and 10:30.
- Member talked about possibly losing new members that leave at 10:30 and supports starting all meetings at 10:00.
- Member suggests having children present at beginning and starting at 10:00.
- Member says she can't stay all day because she can't sit
- Newer member expresses her confusion about start time. Member expresses that having children at beginning is good as this allows high energy when people are coming and going.
- Young member with children expresses that as a child she sat with her parents in silence at beginning of meeting
- Young member expressed that earlier in meeting is better as children are not overly excited.

***(2016.11.2) Meeting approves continuing the current schedule for MFWFB through June, 2017 in the spirit of continuing to fine tune and evaluate our process. Clerk will work with Worship and Ministry, Hospitality and the Children's Committee to make recommendations on how to incorporate the various suggestions.***

- Carol volunteers to be on an ad-hoc committee
- Elizabeth offers to send out notifications and agenda

BREAK FOR LUNCH

#### 6. Finance Committee:

Sharon Gross handed out the draft 2017 budget and pie chart and explained that final approval will be in December. George gave the semi-annual Budget Performance report. Minor and George shared reflections on reasons for donating to AMM.

Sara Keeney discussed a proposal for a workshop on "Quakers and Money" led by Eleanor Alden from the Pima, Arizona Meeting.

There was strong interest in the Meeting and many members said they would attend the workshop. Tentative date for workshop is February 17-18, 2017.

***(2016.11.3) The Finance Committee of AMM will sponsor a workshop on Quakers and money presented by Eleanor Alden in February, 2017.***

## 7. Peace and Social Concerns

Tina Kachele has felt called to travel to North Dakota to stand in solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux and is seeking feedback and support from the Meeting. Tina requested to pass the Clerkship to another member during discussion of this topic at MFWFB. Sharon Gross acted as temporary Clerk during the discussion.

Richard Knottenbelt read the following Minute, which was approved by the AMM.

***(2016.11.4) Albuquerque Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) affirms our support for all those engaged in non-violent resistance to stop the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL), and our support for the sovereignty of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in opposing DAPL. This pipeline is being built without full and proper consultation with the Tribe on whose land it is being constructed, and as such, is an assault on Tribal Sovereignty. The Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) will endanger sacred sites as well as the Missouri River and all life that depends on it for clean water. We support the efforts of hundreds of Indigenous People and Tribes, as well as Non-Indigenous People, who are actively opposing DAPL on site (as Water Protectors), and rebuke the violence being perpetrated by police, the National Guard, and security forces against the Water Protectors. We affirm our support for the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People, and we call on all government agencies—most directly, President Obama and the Federal Government, the Government of North Dakota, and the Army Corps of Engineers—to use their power to stop the illegal seizure of land for the pipeline by Energy Transfer Partners, and to honor the Sovereignty and Treaty Rights of all Indigenous Nations in North America. We recognize that this movement to stop DAPL began and continues to be held in prayer and ceremony. As Quakers, we add our prayers and will hold in the Light all who are engaged in this struggle for justice, for the land and water, and for the health of future generations.***

There was strong support for both the Minute and Tina's travel to Standing Rock. Tina shared her thoughts on her pending travel and expressed appreciation for support of the Meeting. Meeting expressed support for a second Minute specifically authorizing Tina to represent AMM. The following Minute was approved:

***(2016.11.5) AMM supports and approves the travel to Standing Rock North Dakota by Tina Kachele in support of the Standing Rock Sioux tribe. Tina will represent AMM at Standing Rock and has the full support of AMM. The following Letter To Travel is approved by AMM.***

***Dear friends of Spirit and Truth,***

***The Albuquerque Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) sends this letter to travel with our presiding clerk, Tina Kachele, as she journeys to Standing Rock North Dakota. Tina travels with a group from UnOccupy Albuquerque, to witness, support, and offer spiritual companionship to the group and those already there. She also travels with our prayers as witness for our community, bearing our minute of support to those supporting the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe through non-violent action. May Tina's presence bless all those she meets and connect our lives and prayers with those of the Standing Rock community.***

Tina discussed the logistics of travel and gave a summary of the camps at North Dakota and details of Unoccupy involvement at the camps. The focus of her work will be on the front lines, with possible arrest. Other roles could be in support of Water Protectors. Tina states "My role is to take orders".

Comments:

- Money donated by AMM will probably go for the bail fund, or possibly other needs
- Tina's concern is staying warm, she may stay in a hotel.
- Members wanting to donate can donate warm clothes, supplies and cash. Tina is taking a wood stove and other items.
- A member recommends putting in newsletter the possible ways to give
- Another member suggests creating a support committee for follow thru and support and to hold Tina in the Light.
- Tina described the 500 clergy that arrived on Thursday, Nov. 3, and the clergy burned the "Doctrine of Discovery". 14 clergy arrested and some are still in jail.

### 8. Worship & Ministry

Elizabeth discussed conflict resolution in the Meeting and reported she has started a "peaceful parenting support group." This group meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of month at 10:00 a.m. They are reading from the book "peaceful parenting". All parents are invited to participate.

Feedback on the "Compassionate Listening" workshop was excellent. There was much support for inviting Julia back for "Listening 201"

Elizabeth then discussed the "State of the Meeting" report and there was some discussion regarding the purpose of the report. Some members noted the importance of the report for IMYM. The following Minute was approved:

***(2106.11.6) Worship and Ministry proposes a process for writing the annual State of the Meeting Report. Worship and Ministry has heard a desire in the Meeting that the State of the Meeting report be written in a thoughtful and timely manner. Therefore, at the December MFWFB three friends will be nominated, or volunteer, in the face of the Meeting to serve on an ad hoc committee to write the State of the Meeting Report (SOTM). Committees will submit a paragraph to the ad hoc SOTM committee by January 15, 2017. The ad hoc committee will gather input from Meeting at large and submit a draft of the SOTM to the February, 2017 MFWFB.***

9. Recorder:

A membership transfer request has been received and the Meeting approved the following Minute:

***(2016.11.7) Albuquerque Monthly Meeting approves the request for transfer to State College Friends Meeting for both Bernie Hoffnar and Ingrid Hoffnar.***

Nancy Rice handed out a "Membership Record" form and requested that folks complete and return to her. The purpose of the form is to create a database with important information on all members and attenders.

11. Nominating Committee

Shirley Kondo gave a report on current nominations. The Meeting approved the following Minute:

***(2016.11.8) Albuquerque Monthly Meeting accepts the Nominating Committee Report as follows: The Nominating Committee nominates the following: Frederic Koster to Presiding Secretary of the Albuquerque Monthly Meeting Corporation (December 2016 through December 2018); Richard Knottenbelt to Worship and Ministry (December 2016 through December 2018); Minor Morgan continuing as Recording Clerk through December 2017; Clyde Milner continuing on Finance Committee (Member at Large) through December 2018; Henry Selters continuing on Adult Education through December 2017. These nominations will be seasoned for one month until December 2016 MFWFB.***

12. 2017 Schedule (upcoming events)

Sharon Gross explained that in order for us to be compliant with our tax-exempt status, we must announce the annual Meeting of the Corporation in a Minute. The annual corporation meeting will occur at the December, 2016 MFWFB. The Meeting approved the following Minute:

***(2016.11.9) Albuquerque Monthly Meeting's annual meeting for the purpose of electing corporate officers and directors will be held during Meeting for Worship for Business on December 4, 2016.***

The following items were discussed:

- On January 13-15, 2017 AMM will be hosting the IMYM Arrangements Committee.
- In February we will be having the Quakers and Money workshop
- In March, FCNL will be meeting in New Mexico although not at the meeting house. It's an opportunity for Meeting to see the process of FCNL.
- In April the NM Regional Meeting will be in Durango, CO. Date not set.

Clerk discussed the issue of leadership in AMM. Worship and Ministry has postponed the threshing session, but we still need to consider this. The issue is we have problems staffing committees. Worship and Ministry does not feel the calling to shepard this issue.

Final close with silence

Tina Kachele, Presiding Clerk  
Minor Morgan, Recording Clerk