

North Carolina Fellowship of Friends

We are a Christ-centered fellowship of Quaker Meetings and we affirm the autonomy of each Meeting in Quaker faith and practice.

Minutes from April 8, 2017 Meeting for Business held at Ararat Friends Meeting

Meetings Represented: Ararat, Jamestown, First Friends, New Garden, Springfield, Winston-Salem, Mount Airy

Devotional: Lisa Lundeen led the group through a spiritual relaxation exercise.

Regrets: Max Carter, Chuck Fager, Grimsley Hobbs, Beth Joyce, Patsy Cheadle, David Hobson

Minutes: Approved

Agenda: Approved

1. State of the NCFF: Reorganizational update. What follows is a summation of Mark Farlow's meeting with Superintendent Don Farlow (no relation) regarding the current state of reorganization, the process going forward, and the implications for NCFF. Unless specifically indicated, no conclusion should be drawn without first attending one of our Rep. Body meetings for more detail.

- NCFF will continue to pursue establishing itself as a (501)(c)(3) organization. Attorney Bob Saunders who is assisting NCYM in the legal aspects of the reorganization will provide the basic documents for that process.
- Mark clarified the need for NCFF to establish basic by-laws and how *Faith and Practice* can serve as a corporate resolutions.
- NCFF requested the NCYM's current membership contact list Don said he would refer that matter to the Executive Committee.
- NCFF has repeatedly requested start-up monies and in each instance NCYM cited lack of available funds. It did offer an advance against 2018 Trust Fund income. NCFF recommends that the Trust Funds income be used according to the intent of the original donors.
- Estimated Trust fund income is \$34,000, restricted as to use, and \$1600 unrestricted.
- NCFF requested that Trust funds be split and set up as separate accounts for each group, rather than having the income allocated by trustees of the trust funds.
- Since no member meeting or affiliated meeting of NCFF has voluntarily left NCYM (FUM) they should not be held responsible for any existing Williams Fund balance owed.
- Mark encouraged each NCFF member and affiliated meeting to assure that it has the deed to its property and, if needed, begin the process to acquire its deed from NCYM, estimated cost is \$325.

- Hearing the detailed complexities of the separation, there was consensus that NCFE needed independent legal counsel before agreeing to any of the NCYM's offers. The final decision is held in abeyance until the reorganization offer is finalized.

Frank Massey reported that Jamestown has agreed to serve as the financial receiver of monies donated to NCFE as well as act as the temporary physical location for incorporation purposes.

2. Discussion: The paradigm shift to autonomy. An informative discussion was held regarding the expectations the assembled meetings held for the form, function, and relationships within of the NCFE. The discussion also included the various interpretations of the concept of "autonomy." Additionally, the group favored less organizational structure (including fewer committees) and more emphasis on fellowship and ministry. Financially the group favored doing away with set "askings" and relying on the integrity of each meeting to contribute according to its ability. These and other suggestions will be taken into consideration as NCFE begins structuring itself in the next few months.

- A concern was expressed and consensus reached that NCFE should, as much as possible, avoid "authority" in word and implication in any of its defining statements and references to its structure and mission.

3. Finances --

A. Treasurer's Report: Clarence Mattocks: \$300 donated (\$200 donated after the meeting, plus another \$100 pledged). Donations should be made out to Jamestown Friends Meeting, with NCFE on the memo line.

B. Paying and distribution of askings.

1. The member and affiliated meetings **approved** the encouragement of each monthly meeting to meet its askings obligations to the NCYM (FUM) through July.

4. Report from Visioning Committee:

Sara Beth Terrell reported that the Visioning Committee met earlier in the morning and that it was a good start to the process as it explored the various facets and complexities of the aspirations of this budding organization. The discussion of expectations for the organization provided positive guidance for the visioning committee.

5. Report from nominating committee

Frank Massey reported on the ongoing work and needs of the nominating committee. (See below for those committees and members approved). Discussion was held regarding the necessity and function of committees going forward. Consensus was reached that committees should be provisional during the transition and limited in number and function as determined by NCFE future growth. This will be in keeping with NCFE Rep Body desire to maintain low overhead and control, and instead focus on ministry and fellowship.

6. Organizational priorities --

A. Outreach-- Contact lists from Meeting Clerks as soon as possible.

7. Membership: The assembled group re-affirmed its open and welcoming position on dual membership for any meeting and individual to participate in the activities of NCFE. It was also

stipulated that, as with any organization, comes the covenantal expectation that participation brings the responsibility of positively supporting the spiritual and financial growth of NCFF.

North Carolina Fellowship of Friends: Nominating Committee Report
Approved: 8 April 2017, at Ararat Meeting

Administrative Committees: Develop budgets and funding mechanisms for NCFF and its ministries; develop a web and social media presence (the committee does not generate the writings and postings, but solicits from committees/ministries and monthly meetings).

Stewardship & Finance Communication/Outreach

Sarah Johnson Gregory Woods
Wallace Sills Tom Lassiter
Carl Semmler

Ministry Committees: Organize members of meetings, encouraging individuals to use their gifts of writing and teaching, and calling them into their ministry; the committee members are not responsible for doing the work, but listening to needs and calling forth volunteers to undertake some of that work.

Education	Peace/Mission	Nominating
Rachel Cain	Pat Cheadle	Max Carter
Amelia Reeves	Clarence Mattocks	Rachel Cain
Max Carter		Frank Massey

Next Meeting: Saturday, May 20, 2017, 10 A.M. Location: Winston-Salem Friends Meeting, 3151 Reynolds Road, Winston-Salem, NC

All hearts and minds being clear, Joshua Brown dismissed us with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Farlow and Jack Ciancio,
NCFF co-clerks