

Friendship Times

Friendship Friends Meeting

Calendar

Sun Aug 27	10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun Sept 3	9 am Worship and Ministry, Care and Counsel, Peace and Social Concerns Committees meet 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun Sept 10	10:30 am Meeting for Worship, a potluck meal follows, then Monthly Meeting for Business
Sun Sept 17	10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Tues Sept 24	Deadline for newsletter items
Sun Sept 24	9 am Deeping the Life of the Meeting 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun Oct 1	9 am Worship and Ministry, Care and Counsel, Peace and Social Concerns Committees meet 10:30 am Meeting for Worship

Weekly Meeting for Worship 10:30 am each First Day. Child care available for Worship and Business Meetings.

Artan Hebner, Laurel Holland, Katia Efremoff and Kerry Liam Hobson all have birthdays this month

Weekly events

Tuesday, 12:00–4:30 PM: Quiet Tuesday at the Meetinghouse

Midweek Meeting for Worship, on Wednesday at 7 pm, in the Prayer Room, 7th floor Woolman Hall, Friends Homes Guilford

Bible Study at 7 pm at the Meetinghouse every 2nd and 4th Thursday

Men's group meets at 7 pm at the Meetinghouse every 1st and 3rd Thursday

From the Editor

My intention is to distribute the newsletter no later than the last Sunday of the month. Material should be submitted, preferably by email, no later than Tuesday, September 24.

Month's Query

Are we mindful of Friends testimonies against alcoholic beverages, tobacco and other harmful drugs; and do we refrain from using them or dealing in them, realize that abstinence is the clearest witness against overindulgence? Do we seek to avoid all kinds of gambling and places of diversion that tend to be demoralizing? Do we keep in mind how diverse and widespread are the temptations to grow richer at the expense of others? Are we faithful to our testimony against taking oaths?

**Minutes from Meeting for Worship with
Attention to Business**

2017-74. Opening Minute. At the regular meeting for business of Friendship Friends Meeting, held on the afternoon of 8th Month 13, 2017, at the meeting house. The meeting opened near the appointed hour with a period of waiting worship

2017-75. Annual Meeting of the Corporation. A quorum of the membership being present, the Friendship Friends Meeting corporation held its 2017 annual meeting. The following minutes were approved at this meeting.

1. Friendship Friends Meeting authorizes named officers (clerk, treasurer, and assistant treasurer) to undertake financial transactions for the Meeting. Specifically, Friendship Friends Meeting authorizes Susan Carlyle (clerk), Stephen Holland (treasurer) and Ray Treadway (assistant treasurer) to undertake financial transactions for the Meeting. Each alone can write checks, request withdrawals, and make deposits. This resolution can be used for dealing with Wells Fargo Bank, Wells Fargo Brokerage, Pax World Inc, and Self-Help Credit Union.
2. Ray Treadway will continue to serve Friendship Friends Meeting as our Registered Agent for service of process and all other matters, and that our registered street address will remain 1103 New Garden Road, Greensboro, NC 27410.
3. The 2016 End-of-Year Financial Statement which was presented to

those members present at meeting for business in Second Month 2017 will be attached to the minutes of this Annual Meeting of Friendship Friends Meeting.

4. The meeting approved all changes to the wording of documents such as the articles of incorporation and the bylaws which were made in the process of reinstating Friendship Friends Meeting as a North Carolina corporation. Legal steps taken to consolidate the deeds to various parcels of land held by the meeting into a single parcel and a single owner's name were also reported and approved.

The annual meeting of the Friendship Friends Meeting corporation was then adjourned.

2017-76. The Advices. Darlene Stanley read a portion of the *Advices*.

2017-77. Eighth Query. The meeting heard and united on a response to the Eighth Query. The final text of this response will be prepared by the clerks of Worship and Ministry Committee and the monthly meeting.

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Treasurer's Report: Sixth Month, 2017

Income in June 2017 totaled \$ 2,211.11 with \$ 781.26 to the General Fund, \$1,205.85 to the New Building Fund; and \$224.00 to the Young Friends Fund.

Expenses in June 2017 totaled \$2,418.24. General Fund expenses totaled \$1,856.34 which included: Operating Expenses of \$1,653.48 primarily supporting attendance at FGC and Yearly Meeting (\$650) the Iftar dinner (\$300) and for a website hosting (\$553.79); no Supporting Contributions; and Meeting House Expenses of \$202.86 primarily for utilities. The Communications Committee now has a negative balance due to the three-year website hosting fee. Special Uses Fund expenses totaled \$200 for the Iftar dinner. Emergency Assistance expenses totaled \$361.90.

Treasurer's Report: Seventh Month, 2017

Income in July 2017 totaled \$2,311.57 with \$1,096.36 to the General Fund and \$1,215.21 to the New Building Fund.

Expenses in July 2017 totaled \$4,332.24. General Fund expenses totaled \$4,332.24 which included: Operating Expenses of \$389.64 primarily for Religious Education and supplies; Supporting Contributions of \$3,700.00; and Meeting House Expenses of \$242.60 primarily for utilities.

Friends accepted these reports with appreciation.

2017-80. Yearly Meeting Sessions. Lloyd Lee Wilson reported on the recent annual sessions of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative). Claire Koster, Judy Reece,

Darlene Stanley, and Ray Treadway also added comments.

Report on 2017 Yearly Meeting Sessions at UNC-Wilmington

Lloyd Lee Wilson

109 Friends, including 20 children, gathered for this year's yearly meeting sessions in Wilmington, NC. Visitors included Friends from Ohio Yearly Meeting, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), New York Yearly Meeting, Nashville and Atlanta (SAYMA). The theme of the sessions was "Our Life is Love," with author Marcelle Martin leading daily Bible study and offering the plenary address on Sixth Day evening. Bible Study this year was moved to a time immediately after lunch. This allowed the young Friends to attend and they came in great numbers; the room was filled to capacity each day. Young Friends helped with reading quotations from early Friends aloud, and joined in the discussion frequently and insightfully, to everyone's great joy.

The body appointed our member Gwen Gosney Erickson as the new clerk of the yearly meeting, replacing Nancy Craft of Virginia Beach meeting. Margie Dingman of Durham Meeting will replace Gwen as recording clerk. Susan Wilson participated in a panel discussion on Fifth Day evening entitled "Living Our Love" and also facilitated a Contemplative Practice interest group each afternoon. Judy Williams' request for yearly meeting scholarship support to participate in the Deeper Roots program was approved. As part of the Discipline Revision Committee, Lloyd Lee Wilson and Deborah Shaw offered afternoon interest groups and later presented sections of the proposed new

Discipline to the yearly meeting, which were approved. Carole Treadway continued her long service of making Quaker books available for sale at yearly meeting sessions. Lloyd Lee Wilson's general travel minute for the gospel ministry was endorsed by the yearly meeting.

Fall Interim Body will be hosted by Davidson Meeting on Seventh Day, 10/28. Davidson Friends invite us to stay overnight before or after the meeting - or both - so we can all get to know one another more closely.

Ray Treadway was appointed Registrar for the 2018 yearly meeting sessions, with assistance from Judy Reece. The 2019 sessions will be held again at UNC-Wilmington, if consistent with divine will.

Several important financial matters were decided or discussion was opened for continuing discernment. The yearly meeting decided to change its fiscal year to coincide with the calendar year. Locally, this means that next year's yearly meeting contribution from Friendship should be timed to arrive after 1/1/2018. The Finance Committee is also discerning the proper size of our fiscal reserves. For the yearly meeting as a whole this potentially raises some additional questions. If the reserves are presently higher than the yearly meeting needs, should the excess be disbursed in a series of one-time gifts? To what recipients?

Virginia Beach Friends came to the sessions with their own specific request: that the yearly meeting increases its donation to Virginia Beach Friends School from the current \$300 to \$1,500, reflecting that unlike the other NC Quaker schools we support, Virginia Beach Friends Meeting has

corporate control of Virginia Beach Friends School. Questions were also raised about our continuing support of the three Indian missions formerly under the auspices of the Friends Committee on Indian Affairs.

These concerns raise broader questions about the entire donations portion of the yearly meeting budget (roughly 1/3 of the total). Are our donations a symbolic token of support for specific organizations, indicating to other meetings and individual Friends that we endorse their work, or are they intended to provide meaningful support in themselves? How comfortable are we with a process that asks individuals to donate to monthly meetings so that those meetings can contribute to the yearly meeting so that the yearly meeting can donate to outside Friends groups? Is there a better way to indicate to North Carolina Conservative Friends that we endorse these specific organizations? Is there a better way we can help these organizations raise the financial support they need?

These sessions were marked by hearty laughter, deep worship, and moving testimony both within and outside of meeting for worship. There was opportunity for renewing old friendships as well as making new ones, and time to remember whose we are and to what great work we are called. We look forward to gathering in this blessed fellowship once again, if the Lord allows, next year at Guilford College.

2017-81. Communications Committee. During the past year the Communications Committee saw to our monthly and weekly chores, namely sending out George Fox e-

newsletter each week, writing and distributing the monthly Friendship Times and updating the Meeting website pages. George Fox is now sent out in three separate newsletters: **George Fox** with weekly announcements, a more political listing of the week's **Advocacy Opportunities** and a seldom used email list called **Joys and Concerns** which goes out any time giving important updates relating to the Meeting community such as news of a death or birth, hoorays, urgent requests and so on. This should allow people to respond quickly to the news.

The **Friendship Times** has become quite lengthy, even with its editor abstracting minutes and reports. We now average 12-14 pages per issue. Our distribution of the newsletter has also changed. Before the advent of email we were routinely printing and sending out several hundred newsletter copies each month. With using an email distribution list (currently with 116 names) and deaths among our older members, we are now down to printing 8-10 copies, mailing only one and putting the rest out for visitors. So instead of our money going to printing and mailing costs we are using most of our funds to license our website domain (friendshipmeeting.org) and keeping the website going.

There has been much discussion among us and other members about our website. Currently we are using the company GoDaddy to host our site. We have found their costs to be relatively low and find it relatively easy to modify our entries on the site. We did look at what

the Quaker Cloud offers and felt that what we currently have is better, both financially and what is possible through GoDaddy. Comparing our Meeting website with others we feel it is unique for its graphics, simple design and message. Since it has been created in bits and pieces over the year we need to update it. There recently have been problems with corrupted files and we have fixed that by paying for better security.

Ongoing issues the committee is facing all involve modern electronic technology including what to do with the Meeting telephone, whether or not to get an Internet router and how we want to provide projection for forums.

Finally we would like to ask for feedback from you. Are we doing enough? Too much? How easy is it for you to access the website, read the various newsletters and any other concerns you may have? Friends accepted this report with the observation that our advocacy efforts are faith-based rather than politically motivated.

2017-82. Fundraising Committee Report. The magnitude of the task before us is great, and at times appears daunting. We cannot assume a successful outcome will occur automatically. Our continued discernment is needed to ensure we are undertaking the work God calls us to do, and not our own goals, and that we are each and all devoting our best efforts toward reaching God's goal.

2017-83. Ad Hoc Telephone Committee.

The committee discussed how little our current telephone is being used and

whether we actually need it. Currently we are paying about \$900 for a year's phone service with the cable company Time Warner (now Spectrum). We were in unity with recommending that the Meeting give up its current telephone service. Since many people carry a cell phone we saw no need to have a landline phone for emergencies. Also since smartphones are able to search for a place like Friendship and call its telephone we didn't think giving up our listing in a telephone book would be critical. We do publish our telephone number on our website and in the monthly newsletter.

We saw two alternatives to our current phone. The first would be a simple cell phone with or without a data plan. Two examples are Republic wireless which costs \$25/month for data and service and Tracfone at \$20/month for 1Gb data. There are several others. Purchasing a simple smartphone would run about \$100. The telephone cost would thus be about \$300-400 for the first year. If purchased the phone could be hidden in a place like the file cabinet.

The second alternative we discussed would be to use Google Voice, a free service from Google. With Google Voice, you get a free phone number for calls, text messages, and voicemail. You can use the Voice app on smartphones and computers, and you can link your number to any mobile or landline number. The phone service includes a number of interesting features. All incoming calls are recorded and transcribed. Thus you can read your voicemail. You can send text from your computer or mobile phone, have a personalized greeting and get protected

from spam calls. You can route the calls to another phone such as the clerk's and you can screen a call before answering. They assign you a phone number although we believe you can ask for a particular area code (336). Dave's son Gavin just signed up for Google Voice and he believes that if you pay for it you can keep your old phone number. One attractive feature is that whoever answers our phone would not have to come to the Meetinghouse first to listen to recorded calls and can answer sooner rather than wait until First Day.

The committee was in unity with suggesting that the Meeting give up its Spectrum phone and go with Google Voice, a service particularly suited to our needs and one that is free.

Friends accepted this report and asked the Ad Hoc Telephone Committee to do more research on the details of the recommended transition. Two specific concerns were whether the meeting would be able to keep its current telephone number, and that we can be confident of telephone access in case of emergency.

2017-84. Progressive Dinner for New Members of the Guilford College Community. Ash-leigh Brown, Susan Wilson, Kembra Howdeshell and Maureen Burns volunteered to facilitate the progressive dinner dessert course for newcomers to the Guilford College community, scheduled for 8/25/2017 here at the meeting house.

2017-85. North Carolina Yearly Meeting (FUM). Friends here noted with sorrow and regret the recent events in North Carolina Yearly Meeting (FUM). in recent

weeks. Our prayers are with these Friends as they try to find a path forward in very difficult circumstances.

2017-86. Closing Minute. No further business appearing and hearts being generally clear, Friends adjourned, purposing to meet again at the appointed time in Ninth Month, if consistent with Divine Will.

Query 8: Do we observe simplicity and honesty in our manner of living? Are we careful to live within the bounds of our circumstances, punctual in keeping promises, prompt in the payment of debts, and just in all our dealings? Do we choose those activities which will strengthen our physical, mental, and spiritual life; and do we avoid those harmful to ourselves and others?

As a meeting, we maintain simplicity in our worship and fellowship times together. Friends are generous with healthy food offerings at our gatherings. We are careful to practice promptness in our financial

dealings; when there are urgent needs or important dates to be met, we make every effort to comply. As individuals, we continue to wrestle with how best to support one another in simplicity, honesty, and healthy choices, since no definition of any of these fits everyone's needs and circumstances. Maintaining transparency in our dealings with others and eliminating the superfluous in our lives is an ongoing challenge. Since "simplicity" can refer to activities and responsibilities, we also wrestle with how to accomplish the work of the meeting and maintain our meeting house property without overburdening particular Friends. One way is by using sign-up sheets for greeting, mowing, and cleaning, to accomplish these tasks without hiring others to do them for us or concentrating the work in our small committees.

Friendship Friends Meeting
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www.friendshipmeeting.org

Susan Carlyle, Clerk
Stephen Holland, Treasurer
Claire Koster, Membership/Statistics
Recorder
Lloyd Lee Wilson, Recording Clerk

Ray Treadway, Assistant Treasurer
Miriam Biber-Peterson Assistant
Membership Recorder:
Dave MacInnes, Newsletter Editor

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