

**New Association of Friends
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Proposed Minutes
Spiceland Friends Meeting
401 W. Main St.
Spiceland, Indiana 47385
April 6, 2014**

Opening worship

Roll call * = Represented

Bluff Point *
Dublin *
Englewood *
Friends of the Light *
Friends Memorial Muncie *
Greenfield
New Castle *
Pennville
Raysville *
Richmond First *
Salem
Spiceland *
West Elkton
West Richmond *
Williamsburg
Catherine Griffith * (Irvington Friends)

Minutes of previous meeting (October 27, 2013, at Greenfield Friends) – in separate document

The Minutes were approved as distributed.

Reports from New Association committees, working groups, etc.

- **Budget Working Group (David Brock and Matt Hisrich)**

Report from the Budget Working Group and proposed budget

The New Association of Friends Budget Working Group reviewed current and likely expenses to develop a proposed six-month budget for the remainder of the current fiscal year ending on June 30, 2014. This proposed budget covers basic needs for this period in the hope that as other programming develops and new priorities emerge they can be addressed as either special funds or additional line items in subsequent budgets.

The Budget Working Group requests that the New Association transition to a calendar year for budgeting going forward, to begin in January 2015. This would require a six-month Interim Budget for July–December 2014 to be developed by the working group and brought before the New Association for approval prior to the conclusion of the current fiscal year.

The Budget Working Group also proposes a policy of mileage reimbursement at the IRS volunteer rate.

**New Association of Friends
Proposed Budget
January–June 2014**

<u>Insurance</u>	(2 Quarters @ \$268.75)	\$ 537.50
<u>Fountain City</u>		
Water & Sewer	(6 months @ \$50)	\$ 300.00
Power	(6 months @ \$100)	\$ 600.00
Gas	(6 months @ \$125)	\$ 750.00
<u>Travel Reimbursement</u>		\$2500.00
<u>Communications</u>		
Outreach		\$1,000.00
Publications		\$1,000.00
New website		\$3,000.00
	TOTAL	\$9,687.50

**Recommendation from the Budget Working Group to accept the proposed budget and change fiscal budgeting year to an annual year beginning January 1, 2015.
APPROVED**

- **Communications Committee (Matt Hisrich)**
 - Website Action photos of member meeting activities are needed. Send pics to Matt Hisrich.
 - Program suggestions
 - Gathering suggested for the fall of 2014 to celebrate what we have accomplished as the New Association of Friends.
 - Fellowship gatherings in the summer months
 - A gathering at FUM Triennial that Annie Glen will coordinate getting on the schedule. This was approved by the meeting.
 - Joshua Brown suggested paying attention to the weather calendar when scheduling meetings during winter months.
 - A Friend suggested gatherings to nurture the mustard seed which we have planted at an association.
 - The Fountain City Meetinghouse was suggested as a possible gathering place.
- **Nominating Committee (Tom Hamm)**
 - Trustees: Richard Goodwin, Jeff Hinshaw, Fred Daniel
 - Program Committee: David Edinger, Karen Coffee, Chris Sitler, Derek Parker, Nancy Shawver
 - Recording Committee: Rita Reeves

- FUM Triennial Representatives: Margaret Fraser, Catherine Griffith, Linda Brock, April Vanlonden, Stan Banker, and one more to be named.
- FWCC Representatives: Ed and Chris Nicholson

The recommendations of the Nominating Committee were approved and they were further empowered to fill other openings to FUM Triennial.

Note: The nominating committee was asked by the Recording Clerk to nominate a replacement as soon as practical.

- **Recording of Gifts of Ministry (Josh Brown)**
 - Josh held an informative workshop prior to the business meeting.
- **Steering Committee (met Jan. 19 at Bluff Point)**
 - **Family Camp Memorial Day Weekend at Quaker Haven May 24-26 – see Barbara Jenkins for flyers and forms**

Many Friends would also like to have an annual gathering to which visitors from other yearly meetings would be welcome, incorporating an intergenerational camp where minimum necessary business would be carried out and community is built.

The Steering Committee on January 19 considered:

- a) accepting Richmond First Friends' invitation to everyone connected to the New Association to join its family camp each Memorial Day weekend at Quaker Haven, and to combine that with an annual meeting, or
- b) accepting Richmond First Friends' invitation to everyone connected to the New Association to join its family camp each Memorial Day weekend at Quaker Haven, and to designate another time and place for our annual meeting.

In view of the time that we have lost due to the weather, it seems that (b) is the right solution, at least for 2014. It would be left to the Program working group to propose a date for a one-day annual meeting later in the summer.

- **Could/should membership matters be among this group's responsibilities?**

APPROVED FOR NOW

- **Treasurer (Bud Shore)** – December report pp. 11-12 (or so) in March 2 agenda

The balance in the checking account as of 04/04/14 was \$19,429.51. Since the January statement we have **deposited** \$900 of contributions and checks totaling \$1,929.31 have cleared the bank. The breakdown of the checks **cleared** since January 17th are as follows:

Utilities	\$1,227.20
Expense Reimbursement	\$350.36
Insurance	\$268.75
Advertising	75.00

We have un-deposited checks of \$200.00 that will be deposited on 04/07/2014

We have written a \$1,500 check as a deposit for a new website that has not cleared the bank

We have written a \$77.58 check for utilities that has not cleared the bank.

When all checks and deposits clear our checking balance will be \$18,051.93

The treasurer's report was approved.

- **Trustees**
 - **G. Sawyer Fund – committee needed**
Pam Ferguson has been working on forms and guidelines. She needs a lively committee to work on this project with her.
Barbara Blake volunteered to serve and the Nominating Committee is requested to bring forth other nominations to this working group.
APPROVED
 - **Fountain City property (see summary document) -- Ed Nicholson reported and summarized the summary document bringing a recommendation that the Trustees and the Fountain City Working Group be empowered to enter into a three year lease to a third party to be determined for one dollar per year as outlined in the summary document. The recommendation was approved.**

Looking to the future for the New Association of Friends

- **The next Steering committee meeting will be held at Dublin Meeting on October 5, 2014 with regular email communications between now and then.**
- **The next general meeting of the New Association of Friends will be held October 26, 2014 at Richmond First Friends.**
- **Issues related to membership, boundaries and identity, mission and purpose (numbered items below from March 2 agenda)**
 - 10 Mutual Help on Property Renovation
Some meetings are struggling to maintain old properties, and would benefit from listening ears and helping hands. There is experience and expertise among members of NAOF. Is there someone willing to convene a work team program so that needs can be identified and prioritized and volunteers recruited to participate in work crews?
 - 11 Other challenges facing some meetings
In addition to property maintenance, some meetings are struggling with declining membership, some members in failing health, and in some cases problems in paying utilities. At the same time, it could be said that the message of Friends, and our actions, could serve the communities in which they are situated. If a meeting comes to the reluctant conclusion that it needs to lay itself down, we should be able to accompany it as it does so; but in this early time of our life as an association, it seems important to offer support in exploring other possibilities first.
In what ways could the New Association support meetings to explore such matters?
 - 13 Boundaries

As we enter a new year, it may be time to revisit our geographical boundaries.

Our de-facto practice seems to be that:

- every person who is a member of one of our meetings, wherever they happen to live in the world, is automatically a member of the New Association of Friends;
- we are open to accepting as individual members Friends who live in the USA and who are in sympathy with our broad aims;
- we continue to move slowly from our starting point of meetings that were formerly part of Indiana Yearly Meeting.

Would it be accurate to say that while we would welcome affiliation from other nearby meetings, we see ourselves primarily as a Midwest(ern) Association of Friends? Or would we prefer to see ourselves as a movement of meetings, churches and individuals "that supports worship, ministry and service through the cultivation of Christian faith in the Quaker tradition?" – that does not necessarily have a geographical boundary?

Other comments:

- **With the internet, boundaries are non-existent.**
 - **How do we nurture meetings and individuals outside of our geographical boundaries?**
 - **In our discernment we must remain vulnerable and open to the Spirit**
- **Could we refer these matters might be referred to the Steering Committee for threshing? APPROVED**

Relationships with other Friends

- **Friends Committee on National Legislation**

Only Abby Malcolm (West Elkton) was able to attend FCNL's annual meeting in Washington, DC in November on our behalf. However, several members of our meetings did attend, including Jim Coats and Kathie Scott of Friends of the Light. Abby's report is p. 13 or so on the March 2 agenda.

- **Friends United Meeting**

- Deceased members for memorial booklet at Triennial (deadline for submission was April 15 to Annie Glen)
- Representatives to Triennial June 11-15 (see Nom. Com. report, above)
- Housing international visitors

The FUM triennial, hosted by Indiana Yearly Meeting, will be held at Indiana Wesleyan University June 11-14. The New Association of Friends has offered assistance as needed. FUM has asked for housing for international visitors (mostly from East Africa) for two days before and after the event. Linda Brock of Spiceland Friends has agreed to assist in finding accommodation in the Muncie, New Castle and Spiceland areas, and Dortha Meredith of Richmond First Friends has agreed to assist in finding accommodation in the Richmond area.

If you can offer a room or two to a visitor on June 9 and 19, and/or June 15 and 16, please tell Linda or Dortha, depending on where you are located.

- Stewards (see PDF form)

In January

We are looking for North American young adults who are inquisitive, have recognized leadership qualities, are good listeners, are interested and desire to experience global Quakerism, are prepared to be with Friends from across the landscape, are self-starters, and able to participate for the entire time.

This program is for young adult Friends between 18 and 27 and by invitation only. We are counting on you to select a few individuals within your yearly meeting who might benefit from this program and fit the above qualifications. Only ten young adults will be selected, but we'd like to have a good selection.

3/28/14

Terri Johns says they have not received any applications from young adults 18–28 to be stewards at the FUM triennial, and they are thinking of laying the program down. If your meeting has a name to propose (and that person is willing to serve for the entire triennial, June 11–15) please get in touch with her. terrij@fum.org

Deadline is April 18.

- **Friends World Committee for Consultation** -- Representatives to regional consultations
 - Bonita Porter and Bob LaGesse, at La Paz, Bolivia
 - Ed and Chris Nicholson, at High Point, North Carolina
 - Margaret Fraser, at Sacramento, California

Closing worship