

## Minutes of Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting

Saturday, May 17, 2014

Michigan Friends Center, 7748 Clarks Lake Road, Chelsea, Michigan 48118

Attending:

From Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting: John Deikis, Joan Sampieri, Lisa Klopfer, Christa Williams, John Williams, Jeff Cooper, Susan Hartman, Tom Blackwell

From Birmingham Monthly Meeting: Inge Brieger, Geoff Brieger, Ellen Barnes, Marvin Barnes, Ellerie Brownfain, Jonah Brownfain, Pam Melick

From Detroit Monthly Meeting: Carmen Kelly, Mike Kelly, Bill Warters, Pam Melick, Peter Dale

From Kalamazoo Monthly Meeting: Joe Mills, David Howe, Flo Friender, Jeni Payton

From Pine River Monthly Meeting: Don Nagler, Nancy Nagler, Mary Takahashi, Kyo Takahashi

From Red Cedar Monthly Meeting: April Allison

American Friends Service Committee: Natalie Holbrook

From Friends School in Detroit: Mark O'Hara-Fisher

From Michigan Friends Center: Carolyn Holland, Marcos Holland

[1] The meeting began at 10:00 with a half hour of silent worship. Ellerie Brownfain said that Susan Hartman of Ann Arbor Meeting had agreed to act as clerk for today's meeting.

[2] Roll call:

Ann Arbor	- 9
Birmingham	- 8
Detroit	- 3
Grand Rapids	- 0
Holland	- 0
Kalamazoo	- 4
Pine River	- 4
Red Cedar	- 1

[3] Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the Business Meeting of September 21, 2013 were approved. These are available at the web site [leym.org/gpqm/minutes](http://leym.org/gpqm/minutes). For the current meeting, each minute will be approved before proceeding to the next item of business.

[4] AFSC Report

Natalie Holbrook from the American Friends Service Committee Michigan Area Office reported for the AFSC Michigan Criminal Justice Program. The program focuses on prisoner advocacy and prison reform in the Michigan state prison system. This excludes local jails and detention centers. Its principal activities provide conduits for communication in two directions: first with prisoners and their families, and, in the other direction, with the Department of Corrections. Many letters from prisoners are waiting to be answered by five summer interns. In addition, the program has established an ongoing relationship with the state prison administration. This offers a more hopeful avenue for change than lobbying for legislative action in the current legislature. Current goals are improved health care services for prisoners, and adding someone with mental health experience to the state parole board. They are participating with the Citizens Alliance on Prisons and Public Spending to lobby for presumptive parole. New employee Ron Simpson will develop one on one community mentoring for the longest term prisoners. The program recently hosted 11 students from Earlham College as part of the Earlham College Alternative Spring Break.

#### [5] Clerk's Report

In the Clerk's report, Ellerie Brownfain said that clerking has been a challenge this past year due to a lack of volunteers and barely functioning committees. A successful Midwinter Gathering was held on March 7 and 8 in Kalamazoo. There is concern for the continuing vitality of the Quarterly Meeting. The Clerk suggests that we give some consideration to revisiting and revitalizing our processes and programs as a Quarter and perhaps reactivating the Program Committee.

#### [6] Study Group for Friends School in Detroit

The Clerk has formed an ongoing study group to explore the Quarter's expectations and mode of communication with Friends School in Detroit, with the goal of making the relationship transparent and healthy. Current members of this study group are Susan Hartman (Ann Arbor), Mike Holaday (Grand Rapids), Linda Mills (Kalamazoo), Ellerie Brownfain (Birmingham), Jeff Cooper (Ann Arbor) and an unnamed Friend from Detroit Monthly Meeting whom Ellerie was unable to contact prior to the Business Meeting. The Meeting approved the formation of this study group and asks it to bring a report to the September Meeting for Business, also that the study group be in touch with Friends School in Detroit before September. This minute was approved by the Meeting.

#### [7] Nominating Committee

April Allison presented the report of the Nominating Committee, consisting of April Allison, Jonah Brownfain, Don Nagler and Jenn Seif. They have been unable to find nominees to fill the positions of Clerk and Assistant Clerk for the coming year. The Committee hopes that these positions will be filled during the meeting through nominations from the floor. Further consideration of the Nominating Committee report was tabled until later in the meeting.

#### [8] Treasurer's Report

Inge Brieger presented the Treasurer's Report, saying that all budgeted items have been paid, with the exception of the Youth Program, for which no bill was received. Income for the year was \$14,089 from assessments to Monthly Meetings. Expenditures were \$14,861.97 and the current bank balance is \$2,111.42. The shortfall this year is due to two payments of \$500 to Michigan Friends Center which were not budgeted and were approved at the September Meeting for Business. The Treasurer's Report was accepted as submitted, noting that although the second payment of \$500 to Michigan Friends Center has already been made, it was intended to be made in the next fiscal year.

#### [9] Announcements:

Thanks to Birmingham Monthly Meeting for providing the lunch, and to Kalamazoo Monthly Meeting for providing the Children's program.

The Summer meeting of Green Pastures Quarterly will take place in Battle Creek on Sunday, August 17.

For three days prior to Lake Erie Yearly Meeting this summer, the Yearly Meeting will sponsor a work camp opportunity with Cass Community Services in Detroit. A description sheet and a registration form are available on the table.

#### [10] Finance Committee Report

When the meeting reconvened after lunch, Joe Mills reported for the Finance Committee. The Committee did not meet this year. The proposed budget for next year is reduced by \$200 relative to this year's budget: the Adult program is reduced by \$100 to \$1,190 and the meeting's \$100 contribution to Inclusive Justice Ann Arbor will be eliminated. This draft budget retains the current assessment of \$43 per member. This budget will be re-introduced at the September Meeting for Business.

[11] Michigan Friends Center

John Williams reported as the new clerk of the Board of Trustees for Michigan Friends Center. The building received a new roof last October. It is used for local programs attended by Chelsea residents, some joint programming with Friends Lake Community and some rentals. The usage is largely seasonal, in spring and fall. Their project to improve the building's accessibility has raised \$3,900 so far, with a general campaign expected once there is a project design. The Board seeks additional members. It is authorized to have up to 10 members, at least half of whom are Quaker. The five current Board members are Patrick Zieske and John Gourley from the Chelsea community and John Williams, Dina Greenway and Richard Tucker from Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting. They ask that each monthly meeting designate a representative to Michigan Friends Center to serve as a contact for communications with the Board.

[12] Friends Lake Cooperative Community

John Williams also read Richard Tucker's report, since Richard was out of the country. The Friends Lake Cooperative Community has approximately 200 members. It owns the 90 acre lakefront property with the cabins and the beach. It held a successful 50th anniversary celebration over Labor Day weekend last September to which many of the founding teenagers returned. Various improvements are planned; milfoil weeds in the lake seem to be under control. They will hold a visioning retreat this fall on Saturday September 13 and will participate with the Ann Arbor meeting in hosting the Quaker Earthcare Witness Steering Committee meeting in April 2015.

[13] Friends School in Detroit

Mark O'Hara-Fisher reported for Friends School in Detroit. The school year which is just finishing has seen improved communications with both faculty and families. The school expects a full return of faculty next year and good retention of families. There have been no crises and the school is paying off more debt than they are incurring. The current enrollment is 96. Marta Rhea-Johnson will continue next year as Interim Head of School, and Mark O'Hara-Fisher as the Interim Assistant Head of School. One graduating eighth-grader will attend the George School in Pennsylvania next year on a full scholarship. One measure of the school's excellence is its students' future success in high school.

[14] Friends School Trustees

Peter Dale from Detroit Monthly Meeting has joined the school's Board of Trustees and regularly attends the school's Monday morning meeting for worship. His appointment for a three year term was approved by the Business meeting.

[15] Nominating Committee

At this point the meeting returned to considering the Nominating Committee report. The report was approved with the two additions of Mary Takahashi as Clerk for 2014-15 and Joan Sampieri joining the Finance Committee. The position of Assistant Clerk remains unfilled and was returned to the Nominating Committee with a request that they bring a recommendation to the September Meeting for Business. In addition, an ad hoc support committee for the incoming clerk over the summer was formed, consisting of Susan Hartman, Ellerie Brownfain and Nancy Nagler.

[16] Worship Sharing

The Clerk invited worship sharing around the query: What role does Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting serve for us as individuals, as Monthly Meetings, for the outside organizations that depend on us, for Yearly Meeting and for the community at large?

[17] GPQM ad hoc committee

An ad hoc committee was formed to bring a report to the September Meeting for Business about possible changes to the functions and structures of Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting. Its current members are: Joe Mills, April Allison, Ellerie Brownfain, Don Nagler, John Deikis and Pam Melik. April Allison will serve as the initial convener. Ellerie Brownfain will contact the Meetings not already represented to invite their participation in this ad hoc committee. This minute was approved by the meeting.

[18] Following the meeting, April Allison provided a complete summary of the slate of nominations as accepted by GPQM on May 17, 2014:

Position	2014-15 (continuing &/or to be nominated)
Clerk (1 yr)	Mary Takahashi (PR)
Asst Clerk (1 yr, rising to clerk)	Position remains open
Recording Clerk (1 yr)	Tom Blackwell (AA) (year 3)
Treasurer (1 yr renewable)	Inge Brieger (B) (year 3)
Finance (3; 3 yr stagger)	Joe Mills (K) (year 7) Erick Williams (RC) (yr 2 of second term) Joan Sampieri (AA) (yr 1 of first term)
Nomin. (3; 3 yr stagger)	Jenn Seif (GR) (1 year appt) Don Nagler (PR) (2 year appt) April Allison (RC) (2 year appt) Jonah Brownfain (B) (3 year appt)
Trustees (3; 3 yr renewable)	Don Nagler (PR) (2 year appt) Ellerie Brownfain (B) (3 year appt) John Williams (AA) (1 year appt)
Resident Agent	Jeff Cooper (AA) (ongoing)