

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 NCFF Meeting for Business at Winston-Salem Friends Meeting
10:00 A.M, Saturday, May 20, 2017

Meetings Represented: Ararat, Jamestown, Winston Salem, Forsyth, Spring, New Garden, Mount Airy, First Friends

Regrets: Scott Wagoner, Frank Massey, Joshua Brown, Clarence Mattocks

Devotional: Silent Reflection

Minutes: Approved

Agenda: Approved

1. State of the NCFF: Reorganizational update.

Mark Farlow presented a comprehensive Power Point presentation reviewing the planned reorganization. This included the financial and legal implications for NCFF as well as its status within what will be the NCYM Society of Friends, Inc. This raised many expressions of concern and a sense that the NCYM Society of Friends, Inc. was continuing to control our freedom of ministry through an overly-regulated control of designated funds. A discussion followed on the benefits of complete separation versus accepting the restrictions and limitations that the proposed re-organization plan required. The group paused in silence to seek Spiritual guidance. Upon continued discussion the gathered NCFF Representative Body held that our identity as, and commitment to, a Christ-centered ministry exceeded the perceived monetary and other organizational disadvantages reflected in the current re-organization plan. It was decided that the earliest opportunity to advance our growth and freedom of ministry would be arrived at by accepting the proposed plan (contingent upon clarification and adjustment of those points noted below) and working through the transition period. With this understanding the NCFF members will make a good-faith attempt to meet their financial obligations to the NCYM through the end of the 2017 calendar year.

Approved: Acceptance of the proposed re-organization plan contingent on the clarification and modification of the following:

- a. Request that there be a clear explication of "moral turpitude" that specifically excludes homosexuality and gay marriage.
- b. More exact language regarding when audits are due and stipulation that they must be by an independent CPA.
- c. Provision be made for a 5-year review to assess the status of NCFF within NCYM Society of Friends, Inc. with the option to separate into an independent Yearly Meeting.

2. Dottie Hobbs (Spring Friends Meeting) has been recommended to the NCYM transitional board but Spring has not joined NCFE. Recognizing that NCFE previously approved individual membership, Dottie requested membership for herself and her husband, Grimsley. This was **approved**.

3. Concern was raised about the lack of a non-discrimination language in the NCYM Society of Friends, Inc. by-laws. There was no movement to challenge this, however, a request was made for NCFE to adopt an official non-discriminatory position and statement. This was **approved**. (A statement will be presented at the next meeting for approval).

4. It was recognized that NCFE would best be served by acquiring the continued services of a bookkeeper who is independent from the NCYM Society of Friends, Inc. This was **approved**.

5. **Finances** -- Treasurer's Report from Clarence Mattocks -- \$700

6. **Report from Visioning Committee** Deferred

7. **Report from nominating committee** Deferred

8. **Organizational action** -- Frank Massey was nominated to be Clerk of the North Carolina Fellowship of Friends. This was **approved**.

9. **Other business--**

a. Mark Farlow reported that the North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State has granted the *North Carolina Fellowship of Friends* official legal/business status.

b. Mark also offered that in addition to meeting the \$20/member charge for Quaker Lake that NCFE propose to the NCYM that we establish an endowment fund for QL that would include another \$10/member with the intended goal of hastening its financial independence. This was **approved**.

c. Mark asked for approval to seek a waiver from NCYM Society of Friends, Inc that all NCFE meetings be released from obligations to repay the Williams fund if they find they withdraw from NCFE in the future. This was **approved**.

c. Lisa Lundeen asked that a minute of appreciation be included acknowledging the gratitude of NCFE for Mark's and Jack's commitment and hard work in the initial organizing and shepherding of NCFE into a viable organization. This was **approved**.

With all hearts and minds clear, the meeting was adjourned.:

Next Meeting: Saturday, June 24th, 10. A.M. **Location:** Forsyth Friends Meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Farlow and *Jack Ciancio*, co-facilitators