



## Salt Lake Monthly Meeting Newsletter

5<sup>th</sup> Month

May, 2015

### Top News

The following Query is from Quaker Faith & Practice:

*We do not own the world, and its riches are not ours to dispose of at will. Show a loving consideration for all creatures, and seek to maintain the beauty and variety of the world. Work to ensure that our increasing power over nature is used responsibly, with reverence for life. Rejoice in the splendour of God's continuing creation.*

### Business Meeting Proposed Minutes

5<sup>th</sup> Month Business Meeting

Present: Suellen Rifkin, Brian Martin, Audrey Tanner, Richard Smith, Pat Fish, Diane Hirschi, Rand Hirschi, Dick Loomis, Linda Hansen, Russ Fish, Randy Holladay, Rosanna Hopper, Victor Miele

The minutes from the previous business meeting were approved.

Ministry & Counsel: Met 4/1/15 and 4/29/15. 4<sup>th</sup> month minutes were submitted to the meeting. A friend read the minutes. A friend read a letter requesting membership. Membership was accepted by the meeting. Another friend has applied for membership in the meeting. A prisoner has requested correspondence with the meeting. Report accepted.

Peace & Social Concerns: No Report.

House Committee: Did not meet last month, but the kitchen remodeling is proceeding. Report accepted.

Programs: Poetry reading after the 3<sup>rd</sup> first day's meeting for worship. Report accepted.

Treasurer: Report Accepted.

Nominating: A friend asked if the nominating committee had confirmed with the nominees. The reporter assured the meeting they had. Report accepted.

Library/Archivist: Archivist requested any old information about membership that any friends might have. A friend noted that current structure and practice document is in the library. Active friends should be aware of the document.

First Day School: No Report.

Newsletter: A friend met with next year's friend who is in charge of the Newsletter. Report accepted.

New Business:

Treasurer suggested that monies held by the Salt Lake Monthly Meeting for the Utah Friends Fellowship be distributed between the three monthly meetings. She requested guidance.

A friend noted that the Salt Lake Meeting donated a substantial portion of the funds. Friends spoke in favor of the distribution. Friends spoke in favor of holding the distribution be seasoned until next meeting. Other friends spoke in favor of proceeding with the distribution.

Meeting approved of the distribution.

A friend suggested that both bathrooms become "unisex". A friend spoke and noted that the bathrooms are already used freely by all. Friends approved of the change to the bathrooms.

Change to ad for monthly meeting- The change would delete the reference to first day school. The meeting approved of the change.

A friend suggested that we forgo bringing food to the meeting until the kitchen remodel is completed. Friends approved.

There was a discussion regarding hospitality and organizing the teams for next year.

## Report of the Treasurer

Treasurer Report- May 10, 2015

The SLMM balance for checking is \$14,889 and saving \$1145.

Our payments were a bit unusual in April. Removing the \$2,750 of unusual expenditures, we collected \$49 more than we spent. HOORAY.

I paid for 25 members to IMYM's annual \$50 assessment.

I paid for one scholarship for IMYM.

Quaker Meetinghouse Fund - no change other than interest.

I would like to suggest that since UFF has been dissolved, we split the UFF monies currently held in our savings account between the three entities: Logan, Moab and SL. If Meeting agrees, I need information on to whom I should send checks.

Suellen Riffkin  
Treasurer

## Ministry and Council

### Minutes of 05/01/2015 Meeting and Report to Meeting for Business

Ministry and Counsel (M&C) met April 29, 2015.— Russ Fish, Victor Miele, and Rand Hirschi attended.

After a worshipful silence, the meeting discussed the following matters:

1. Fourth Month Minutes and Report. It was noted that M&C's Fourth Month's Minutes were not presented to Meeting for Business owing to the absence of any M&C member and the late hour at which they were forwarded to the Clerk and the Recording Clerk. It was decided to submit the minutes again, as they were originally prepared, requesting that the Meeting consider them at Fifth Month business meeting:

SALT LAKE FRIENDS MEETING  
MINISTRY AND COUNSEL COMMITTEE

### Minutes of 04/01/2015 Meeting and Report to Meeting for Business

Ministry and Counsel (M&C) met April 1, 2015.— Russ Fish and Rand Hirschi attended. Victor Miele was excused.

Report from Clearness Committee for Rosanna Hopper: The clearness committee assembled to consider Roseanna Hopper's application for membership met with her at her residence and then reported to Ministry & Counsel that it found clearness and no impediments of any kind to her membership in Salt Lake Friends Meeting. Accordingly, Ministry & Counsel recommends with joy and love that her application be accepted and she be admitted to membership in our Meeting.

Here is Roseanna's letter of application:

1 February 2015

To the Salt Lake Monthly Meeting:

I would like to request membership in the Salt Lake Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends. I have been attending meeting for worship and meeting for business here for about two years now and I have felt that this could be my spiritual home since my first visit.

I am grateful for the measure of welcoming and respect I have always received from the members of this community, as well as the invitation to participate here as fully as I would like.

At this point I would like to formally apply for membership in the SLMM as a sign to myself and the world that this is my home, my community and preferred spiritual practice. This past year I took the opportunity to cut all of my formal ties with the faith of my ancestors and resigned my membership from the LDS church. Although resignation did not change anything about my day to day life it was fulfilling to make a formal step in removing my name from an organization in which I no longer wish to participate. Similarly, I expect that formal membership in the Society of Friends will not change much about my day to day participation in worship and in this community, but will signify my allegiance and commitment to it.

My family, friends and my partner have all been supportive of my attendance at Quaker meetings and have accepted my resignation from the organized Mormon religion. The pieces of Mormonism which I still cherish in my heart are compatible with the values I feel draw me to Quaker practice.

Please accept this request and let me know what the next step will be.

In love and light,

Roseanna Hopper  


#### Application for Membership:

Robert Lindsey has applied for membership in our meeting. A clearness committee has been composed, but all proposed members have not had a chance to respond at the date this report is prepared. Clerk Brian Martin and M&C convener Rand Hirschi have written to Robert Lindsey about the meaning of such an application and the procedures that will now be followed.

#### Letter to All Members.

M&C discussed the advisability of a letter to members concerning membership obligations, but decided that as things stand, such a letter was not needed.

Other matters were discussed briefly.

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*world. Work to ensure that our increasing power over nature is used responsibly, with reverence for life. Rejoice in the splendour of God's continuing creation.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Rand Hirschi  
Convener

2. Pending Membership Applications: Audrey Tanner has applied for membership in our Meeting. A clearness committee is being formed with Russ Fish as convener.

Robert Lindsey's clearness committee has not met, as a date available for all members has not been determined.

3. Letter from Prison. M&C's attention has been directed to a letter from a prisoner at Draper who would like to correspond with a member or members of our Meeting. No reply had been made to him. M&C has asked Rand Hirschi to reply to the writer, acknowledging his letter and explaining that his request had received some initial attention in the meeting and that it would be announced further. In addition to this reply, M&C proposes to announce this request at the rise of meeting for two or three meetings. Anyone who would like to read the letter may ask Rand.

4. There was a general discussion of any needed outreach by the Committee or the Meeting.

5. Message for Fifth Month:

Early Friends felt no need for formal membership; they were a community of seekers who recognized in each other a similar hunger, a similar quest. Seeking the 'hidden seed of God', they were prepared to recognize it wherever they found it.

People still become Friends through 'convincement', and like early Friends they wrestle and rejoice with that experience. Membership is still seen as a discipleship, a discipline within a broadly Christian perspective and our Quaker tradition, where the way we live is as important as the beliefs we affirm.

Like all discipleships, membership has its elements of commitment and responsibility but it is also about joy and celebration. Membership is for those who feel at home and in the right place within the Quaker community.

Membership is also a way of saying to the meeting, and to the world, that you accept at least the fundamental elements of being a Quaker: the understanding of divine guidance, the manner of corporate worship and the ordering of the meeting's business, the practical expression of inward convictions, and the equality of all before God.

*Selected from 11.01 "The meaning of membership" in Quaker faith & practice of Britain Yearly Meeting.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Rand Hirschi, convener

## **Newsletter**

This will be my final newsletter. Ellen Hibdon will now be organizing the newsletter.

-Victor Miele