

A REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS REGARDING TRUSTEES OF THE CHAPEL HILL FRIENDS MEETING . . . for the February 18, 2018 MWAB Matt Drake, Tom Munk, assisted by Wade Barber

BACKGROUND: The Chapel Hill Friends Meeting trustees hold the Meeting’s property (meetinghouse, schoolhouse, playground, parking area, and associated grounds) in trust for the Meeting. Legally, the trustees are considered the owners of the Meeting property. Trustees serve as signatories of legal documents for the Meeting. These may be “in-house” documents, such as conscientious objection letters written by Meeting members and attenders and approved by the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MWAB). Trustee signatures are also required on formal contracts with individuals and companies. For example, trustee signatures were required in the spring of 2017 on construction contracts with the company overseeing the renovation of the lower level of the meetinghouse.

CHFM HISTORY: The trustees’ responsibility of holding property in trust for the Meeting was evident with the February 5, 1950 purchase of the land for the future Friends meetinghouse at 531 Raleigh Rd, Chapel Hill, 27514. The deed states that the owners, W.C. Coker and his wife, Louise Venable Coker, conveyed their property to “. . . D.D. Carroll and A.W. Hobbs, Trustees for the Chapel Hill Monthly Meeting of Friends, their successors in office and assigns, that certain tract or parcel of land situated, lying and being in Chapel Hill Township, Orange County, North Carolina, and bounded and described as follows . . . “

RESOURCES AND SUPPORT: Resources and support for the Meeting’s trustees include a copy of Chapter 61, of the North Carolina General Statutes, which can be found in the Trustee file in the library. The North Carolina General Assembly enacted the Religious Societies Act in 1796 authorizing religious societies to appoint trustees to receive and hold property. This is codified as Chapter 61, Religious Societies in the North Carolina General Statutes.

As authorized under 61-1 (a) of the NC General Statutes, Chapel Hill Friends Meeting trustees are selected upon the recommendation of the Nominations Committee for consideration and approval by the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MWAB), the governing body of the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting. In accordance with 61-2, trustees of the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting (CHFM) may hold property in trust for the Meeting and be accountable to the Meeting for the use and management of such property. In accordance with 61-3, the title to lands owned by the Meeting is vested in the CHFM trustees. In accordance with 61-4, the CHFM trustees may mortgage or sell any land owned by the Meeting, when directed to do so by the Meeting.

A further support for the Meeting trustees consists of liability coverage via Director, Officers and Trustees liability coverage through the Meeting’s contract with the Church Mutual Insurance Company. (See Finance Committee records.)

AN UPDATE ON THE CURRENT TRUSTEES:

- A. Asta Crowe and Emilie Condon are willing to continue serving as trustees, years to be determined by MWAB.
- B. Bettie Flash will serve through June 2018 and then will step down as a trustee

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Meeting names three trustees.
2. A trustee must be a member of the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting.
3. Trustees serve staggered terms.
4. If a trustee resigns before the end of her/his term, the MWAB will name another member to complete the term.
5. The Meeting will continue to maintain trustee liability coverage as part of the Meeting's insurance policy.
6. The Meeting clerk and/or committee clerks and/or committee members are expected to alert trustees beforehand about the need for them to read and sign contracts. The trustees should be provided with explanations of the purposes and descriptions of the documents that need to be signed and with time in which to consider the documents before signing.
7. Trustees are encouraged to gain whatever information they need to sign a contract that will serve the Meeting well. The trustees may consult with those involved in the contract and may, on behalf of and with the approval of the Meeting or the clerk of the Meeting, employ an attorney's services if the trustees and the Meeting clerk agree that such assistance is necessary.
8. Signatures of two of the three trustees on any one document are usually sufficient.
9. Nominations Committee will propose to a 2018 MWAB the number of years in a trustee term and the number of consecutive terms a trustee may serve.
10. Nominations Committee will propose to a 2018 MWAB the years of the next terms of the on-going trustees and the name of a Friend to serve as the third trustee, starting in July 2018