

FRIENDS MEETING OF WASHINGTON

Minutes

MONTHLY MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH A CONCERN FOR BUSINESS

December 13, 2009

12/09-1 Opening The Meeting opened at noon with a period of silent worship. David Etheridge and Bill Cousins were Co-Clerks, Susan Lepper, Alternate Clerk, and Merry Pearlstein, Recording Clerk.

Sabrina McCarthy joined the clerks on the facing bench holding the Meeting in the Light. The clerks read Advices, Queries and Voices related to community as proposed by Baltimore Yearly Meeting's *Faith and Practice* Revision Committee.

Advices

Meetings can consciously cultivate fellowship and community. The Meeting is enriched when all members and attenders participate actively. The working of the Spirit in our lives is expressed through ministry, pastoral caring for each other, and the example provided by lives lived in the Light. As we worship, work, and laugh together, we forge bonds of trust, understanding, and communication. When need arises to address contentious issues, they then may be addressed openly and honestly. Conflict thus experienced can also build trust and intimacy. When resolution is not immediate, the Meeting can make room for different expressions of continuing revelation, while persisting in earnest search for unity. The larger Quaker community has many resources that can help meetings address internal conflict. Convictions that might divide or disrupt a Meeting can, through God's grace, help to make it creative and strong.

Queries

What helps our Meeting build trust of one another?

How do we get to know one another in community?

How do we make time in our lives for our faith community?

How do our conflicts have the potential to enrich the life of our community?

Voices

The community thrives and is nourishing to its members not because its members are special people – on the contrary, they are very ordinary human beings – but because God is active in their lives, helping them rise above their personal standards and ideals to live together in a special way that blesses each other and the larger community in which they live.

Lloyd Lee Wilson, 1993

Where, then, can seeking men and women find a community in which meditation, worship, religious education of children, common undertaking and adventurous experiments, common festivals, and spiritual therapy are all going on, not as part of an expensive organized professional program, but as part of the informal natural life of a close religious fellowship?

Douglas

V. Steere, *Community & Worship*

It is not easy to find community and fellowship in the modern world. Many Friends view relationships within the local Meeting as similar to partial relationships established with people met regularly at work, at play, and in the neighborhood. It is perhaps too much to expect that we all will make the Meeting central to our lives. But unless the Meeting fellowship can be made to speak to something

deep in our lives, our Society falls short of fulfilling the true spiritual needs of its members.
BYM Faith & Practice, 1988

How can I participate in a fairer distribution of resources unless I live in a community which makes it possible to consume less? How can I learn accountability unless I live in a community where my acts and their consequences are visible to all? How can I learn to share power unless I live in a community where hierarchy is unnatural? How can I take the risks which right action demands unless I belong to a community which gives support? How can I learn the sanctity of each life unless I live in a community where we can be persons, not roles, to one another?
Parker Palmer, 1977

I believe that much could be accomplished by carefully planned intervisitation. There are highly gifted persons in a few meetings, who ought to circulate much more than is now the case. Their absence occasionally from their own meeting would throw the sense of responsibility on other members of it, which would have a wholesome effect, and they would bring fresh life and inspiration where they visited. Rufus M. Jones, 1941

12/09-2 Attendance Approximately 25 Friends were present. Clerk David Etheridge welcomed visitors Steve Coleman, Shelley Karliner and Basil Kiwan.

12/09-3 Clerks' Report Co-Clerk David Etheridge introduced Laura Yeomans, who became the Meeting's assistant administrative secretary effective November 16.

David noted that the Planning Committee wishes to schedule another session for review of the proposed architectural renovation plans for Friends who missed the earlier meeting in November. Friends who are interested in attending should contact Susan Lepper to suggest a suitable weekday evening early in January. The Planning Committee, which is considering the best means of making plans available for review prior to that meeting, will announce the date of the meeting when it has been scheduled.

David announced that a memorial service for Peter Craig would be held in the Meeting Room on Sunday, December 27 at 4:00 p.m.

He noted there would be a pot luck in the Assembly Room at the rise of Monthly Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business.

Finally, David reminded Friends that that they were participating in a Meeting for Worship with Concern for Business whose procedures would be as similar as possible to those of any other Meeting for Worship. Periods of silence will be observed between discussions, and Friends are asked to rise and speak from the silence as they would if called to minister in other Meetings for Worship.

12/09-4 Report from the Nominating Committee Marcia Reecer, Clerk of the Nominating Committee, presented the attached partial slate of persons nominated to serve as officers and committee clerks and members for 2010. Additional nominations will be proposed for consideration next month.

Marcia noted that terms are for three years. Persons whose names are fully capitalized are new nominations. The number "2" in parentheses denotes a person being nominated for a second term. Persons being named for a third consecutive term are identified by the number "3" in parentheses; these nominations require a special exception. It was noted that the listing of Hayden Wetzel as historian is technically an announcement rather than a nomination requiring approval.

Finally, Marcia announced that the hospitality committee is making an experimental designation of Susan Thompson, Sara Satterthwaite (substituting for Sabrina McCarthy), Beth Cogswell and Marcia Reecer as persons who will provide assistance in the kitchen but not attend regular meetings of the committee. The Meeting APPROVED these nominations and the special exceptions required.

(Subsequently, a Friend noted her understanding that nominations should be held over for one month. Other Friends spoke in support of that position. Co-Clerk David Etheridge noted that at least in recent history nominations have not been held over, and referred the matter to the Nominating Committee.) The Meeting also minuted its appreciation for the service of those Friends whose terms have expired and who are rotating off committees.

12/09-5 Membership Committee Molly Tully, a member of the Membership Committee, noted that some of the persons whose memberships it had recommended last month be terminated have recently indicated their wishes to remain associated with the Meeting. The Membership Committee will make an updated report and recommendation on this issue in January.

12/09-6 Search Committee Clerk David Etheridge reported that the Search Committee has nominated Meg Greene to the Nominating Committee through 2012 and Marcia Reecer for a term ending in June, 2010. Marcia will also serve as interim clerk until a replacement has been named and approved. The Meeting APPROVED these nominations.

12/09-7 Update from the Finance and Stewardship Committee Loie Clark, Clerk of the Finance and Stewardship Committee, reported that the Meeting experienced a deficit of \$5,100 through November, with contributions approximately \$6,400 less than the amount budgeted. The year end appeal has been sent to persons who have contributed in the past three years. It is hoped it will be more successful than the broader appeal sent to entire mailing list in September, which produced only 32 responses.

12/09-8 Approval of Minutes The Minutes were read and APPROVED.

12/09-9 Adjournment With approximately 28 Friends present, the meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m., to reconvene as way opens on Sunday, January 10, 2010 at 11:45 a.m. in the Meeting Room.

Attachment: Partial Slate of Officers and Committees, 2010

FMW Nominating Committee

Partial slate for 2009

Officers of the Meeting

Co-clerks, David Etheridge, Bill Cousins

Alternate Clerk, Susan Lepper

Recording Clerk, Merry Pearlstein

Treasurer, DENNIS HARTZELL

Assistant Treasurer, Loie Clark

Assistant Treasurer, Bob Meehan

Financial Coordinator, Ed Husted

Historian, HAYDEN WETZEL

Finance and Stewardship

Loie Clark, clerk

Willie Wilson (2)

JOHN HURVITZ

Hospitality

Frank Weiss, co-clerk (3) **needs exception**

ALEX MATHEWS, CO-CLERK

Pam Callard (3) **needs exception**

ROBIN STANTON

LYNSEY WOOD JEFFRIES

SUSAN THOMPSON

SABRINA MCCARTHY

BETH COGSWELL
(Hospitality continued)

MARCIA REECER

Library

Andrea Cheney, clerk

Virginia Harris

Marriage and Family

Martha Solt, clerk

SHELLEY KARLINER

Jane Edgerton (2)

Christine Lynn (2)

Meg Greene (2)

Membership

Harry Massey, clerk

Elise Stork (2)

Janet Dinsmore (2)

Ministry and Worship

Faith Williams, clerk

Peace and Social Concerns

Malachy Kilbride, clerk

Amy St. Clair (2)

Meg Greene (2)

PATRICK LYNHAM

STEVE BROOKS

(Peace and Social Concerns continued)

GRACE SIKORSKI

ELLEN MASSEY

Personal Aid

Merry Pearlstein, co-clerk

Mary Campbell, co-clerk

PAM CALLARD

BEVERLY READER

Personnel

Bill Strein, clerk

ED HUSTEAD

MICHAEL CRONIN

Property

Ken Forsberg, co-clerk

STEVE BROOKS, CO-CLERK

STEVE COLEMAN

JANET DINSMORE

MARTHA SOLT

NEIL FROMMING

BILL PALMER

Bruce Kellog, (2)

John Gale (2)

Records and Handbook

Montague Kern, clerk

JE MCNEIL

TODD HARVEY

GRACE SIKORSKI

Religious Education

Tracy Hart, clerk

Virginia Avanesyan (2)

EILEEN HANLON

KATHLEEN FINN

Garden Committee

Mark Haskell, clerk

Mary Jane Simpson Scholarship Committee

Anne Kendall, clerk

AFSC Representative

Beverly Reader

BYM Ministry and Pastoral Care Representative

Michael Cronin