

MINUTES OF BLUE RIVER QUARTERLY MEETING, URBANA-CHAMPAIGN, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1983. Helen Soderburg, Clerk, Peg Morton, Recording Clerk

Meetings represented were: Bloomington-Normal, Clear Creek, Southern Illinois, St. Louis and Urbana-Champaign, and Peoria-Galesburg.

Meetings not represented were: Columbia, Decatur, Friends Hill, Rolla, Springfield and Sun Rise.

I. Minutes of the previous quarterly meeting, Saturday, April 16, 1983, in St. Louis, were accepted as read.

II. Blue River Quarterly has responsibility for program at this summer's Illinois Yearly Meeting. Nancy Duncan facilitated discussion about this. We chose a general theme involving the spiritual base for life choices, but closed still seeking a good title. Final decision about title will be made at Continuing Committee, Nov. 12. Ideas were to be communicated to Nancy within 2 weeks.

Specific jobs were allocated: Bloomington-Normal, workshops (Carolyn Treadway); Southern Illinois, children ages 0 – 3 (Peg Morton); Peoria-Galesburg, children ages 4 – 6 (Donna Smith); Columbia, worship sharing/kinship groups; Clear Creek, Recreation (Grayce Haworth); St. Louis will help Nancy coordinate. The Religious Education Committee has volunteered to be in charge of children ages 6 – 11. During the year, Peter Theodore will be building a network of leadership for junior high and high school Young Friends, and with them will organize and facilitate these groups. Urbana-Champ., evening program.

Concern was raised that evening activities be planned for children, and that parents have supervising responsibility for those who do not participate. It was recognized that children need free, creative time, both together and alone, and that that time should exist in scheduling. At the same time, there was concern that some children do become irresponsible when there is no adult keeping an eye on them, and that planned activities can limit the amount of rough housing.

Suggestions were made for the Jonathan Plumber lecture and for the keynote speaker. Nancy Duncan will approach people for the Plumber lecture, and the Urbana-Champaign Meeting will carry the responsibility for the keynote speaker.

It was mentioned that the IYM program scheduling need not be seen as cemented. It could be changed.

III. Helen Soderburg asked for consideration of alternatives to monthly meeting status for very small meetings. In response it was stated that official membership in the Society of Friends must be through a Monthly Meeting and not a worship group, and a worship group cannot legally perform a wedding. However, worship groups are listed in the minutes of IYM, are tax deductible if appropriate application has been made, and do receive IYM and other mailings.

IV. Nancy Duncan and Peg Morton volunteered to be the nominating committee to make recommendations for Clerk and Recording Clerk of Blue River Quarterly, to report back to the spring Quarterly meeting in St. Louis.

No State of Society reports were presented at this quarterly meeting, following concerns expressed at earlier such meetings that there is no need for the reports to be quite so frequent. They will be presented at the next quarterly in St. Louis.

The next Blue River Quarterly meeting will be in St. Louis, Saturday, April 14. This will include a gathering for Young Friends (junior and senior high) planned by Peter Theodore and others.

MEETING WITH PETER THEODORE

Friends met with Peter Theodore in the late afternoon to discuss concerns for junior high and high school Young Friends. Peter was released by the Illinois Yearly Meeting in August, 1983, to work with this group for one year. He had met with some Young Friends during the afternoon.

He is planning a series of visits to monthly meetings, to talk and have fun with Young Friends, in this way gearing up towards regional gatherings. He informed us of dates still open so that we could plan with our meetings. During his meeting with young friends earlier in the day, several themes of interest had been developed, that could be used when he visited meetings. These were: “Quaker parents—how to deal with them”; “What is this thing called the Light?”; El Salvadore, the Freeze, drugs and alcohol, and sexuality. We urged him to plan special activities for this group for spring quarterly. There is a problem of space, and one idea was to let young friends take over the meeting house, while adults went elsewhere. It was clear that those meeting with him felt this to be important.

Peter also plans to facilitate a newsletter, by and for Young Friends, and another idea is to have a work-camp at IYM for the purpose of fixing up the space for Young Friends.

Peter reported that his St. Louis committee consists of Tom Thirkle, Doris Fridley, Trudy Wood and Judy and Tom Paxson. It has been helping with practical decision-making and will help him evaluate activities. He has already facilitated activities with Young Friends at Northern Half-Yearly Meeting and at Walden IV gathering. For exact financial information, we should contact Mary Nurenburg, 20655 Myrtel Rd., South Bend, IN 46614. Peter wants nothing to do with fund-raising. He has been receiving \$371.00 every 2 weeks, and the fund recently had \$1,800 in it. (N.B. Much more recent information is that donations are not coming in as expected and pledged, and more donations are urgently needed.)

Friends recommended consideration of a large, week-long summer gathering for regional Young Friends. Peter believes it is too late to plan well for this summer, but is responsive to the idea. Everyone was appreciative of the work Peter is doing.

Other Quarterly Meeting Happenings

The format of Quarterly was changed this fall to permit participation in an Urbana-Champaign Euromissile demonstration which was part of many demonstrations internationally that day. We were greeted at the meeting house with a soup and salad lunch, and then could leave for the demonstration or socialize informally. Younger Friends met with Peter Theodore, and later went to Empty Tomb, a non-denominational center for social service, where they worked on cleaning and painting.

The evening discussion was on the subject: “What are, should, or could, be Friends’ present actions in support of the Peace Testimony?” The spontaneous focus was on the question of sanctuary for refugees from Central America. Participants shared knowledge and experience. Friends wishing to obtain information may write to: Religious Task Force on Central America, 407 S. Dearborn St., Rm. 370, Chicago, IL 60605.

The discussion prior to meeting for worship on Sunday morning on “What is the significance of the Meeting for Worship in the corporate life and witness of Friends at this time?” led to some important personal sharing.

Good eating and socializing, plus madrigal singing of excellence at the evening potluck, added to this very special week-end, as did the always significant Sunday meeting for Worship. Many thanks to Urbana-Champaign Meeting.