

Blue River Quarterly Meeting
Religious Society of Friends
— Minutes —
July 25, 1987

[*Editor's Note:* 'July' appears to be an error. This meeting is believed to have been held April 25, 1987.]

Present at the meeting for business for Blue River Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends were:

St. Louis Monthly Meeting: (Host meeting) Barbara Bradshaw (Clerk), Tony Bryan, Nancy Duncan, Marvin Fridley, Margaret Katranides, Ichiro Matsuda, Roger Sherman, Amanda Smith, Art Smith (Recording Clerk), Eldora Spiegelberg and Ed and Trudy Wood. Russel Taylor, member of the Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting, but attending St. Louis Monthly Meeting also attended.

Carbondale Monthly Meeting: Wally Elling, Ann Marie Germain and Peg Morton.

Clear Creek Monthly Meeting: Grayce Haworth and Anna Mary Wilson.

Decatur Monthly Meeting: Alfred and Agnita Dupree.

Alba Friends Church (Evangelical) was also represented, but I did not get the name of the representative.

- The meeting opened with a thirty minute meeting for worship.
- Following the meeting for worship, all present introduced themselves and identified their monthly meeting affiliation.
- A report from the MacIntyres, Quakers working in Managua, Nicaragua, was added to the agenda.
- No minutes were available from the last Quarterly meeting, but the following oral notes were made:
 - The meeting was held, as usual, in a retreat center in Urbana, Illinois.
 - The meeting involved a meeting for business, discussion groups, a children's play, and a program by refugees from El Salvador.
 - The State of Society reports were focused on First Day Schools in particular.
 - No old business from the previous quarterly meeting was pending for this meeting.

- Marvin Fridley reluctantly added a concern regarding the Continuing Committee for the Illinois Yearly Meeting to the agenda.
- The St. Louis Monthly Meeting's State of the Society report was read by Barbara Bradshaw. Two corrections were made: Bill Ramsey's sentencing has been postponed to *May 13*, and Ginny Weeks has moved to *Montana*.
- The Carbondale Monthly Meeting's State of the Society report was read by Peg Morton. It was particularly exciting because it showed a great deal of growth and spirit in the Carbondale meeting.
- The Decatur Monthly Meeting's State of the Society report was read by Al Dupree.
- Anna Mary Wilson presented an informal State of the Society report from Clear Creek Monthly Meeting.
- A very interesting State of the Society report from the Alba Friends Church was read which traced the history of that church from early Arkansas and Missouri Quakers.
- A request for a workshop or discussion on Ministry and Oversight (or M. & Caring, M. & Counsel, ...) Committees was added to the agenda.
- A letter from Lucy Talley was read regarding unity between large and small meetings. She had offered to run a workshop for this Quarterly Meeting, but it required a substantial change in format and was postponed pending further discussion at this meeting. This letter prompted a lot of favorable discussion, and it was proposed that the Spring Quarterly Meeting of 1988 be hosted by St. Louis Monthly Meeting in a retreat format. Particular items for this Quarterly Meeting/Retreat that were agreed on were:
 - St. Louis Monthly Meeting will actively solicit and pursue written State of Society reports from all monthly meetings in advance of the retreat so that these reports can be used for discussion. These reports should stress the *spiritual state* of the meetings in particular.
 - The retreat should be strongly publicized approximately two months before it is held to allow members to plan to attend. This publicity should include a description of the high points of the retreat to adequately compete with other Springtime weekend plans.
 - The retreat will run from Friday evening, April 22 through Sunday noon, April 24. No formal plans will be made for Friday evening other than the meeting of the planning committee. The program will start Saturday morning.
 - This meeting/retreat will require extensive *early* planning by the St. Louis Monthly Meeting.

- The request for attention on Ministry and Caring (etc.) committees was discussed at length. It was decided that:
 - This will be the recommended topic for the State of the Society reports for the Fall Quarterly Meeting at Urbana, Illinois. It will also be requested for addition to the agenda for the Fall Quarterly Meeting.
 - A request will be made for a workshop on this topic at the Illinois Yearly Meeting.
 - Those who are interested will discuss the matter at dinner following rise from meeting.
- Barbara Bradshaw brought out specific needs for the Illinois Yearly Meeting. Particularly needed are Leaders for the Children’s Program for the 5–6 and 7–9 year olds. No one in attendance was able to fill this need which left grave concerns for the Children’s Program at the Yearly Meeting. This need will be announced at Meeting for Worship tomorrow, and a very pointed request for help will appear in the next “Among Friends.” Worship Sharing Workshop Facilitators are also needed for Yearly Meeting.
- Due to the length of the meeting and the weighty issues remaining on the agenda, a ten minute break was taken.
- Following the break a report was made by Peg Morton on her visit to the MacIntyre’s, who are Friends working in Managua, Nicaragua. They are involved in many projects including a Mother’s Milk Bank, a Wheelchair Workshop, a Barrio Health Clinic, and SERPAJ, an International Peace Organization working on conflict resolution between Hispanics and Mosquito Indians on the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua. Money and individual talents are needed for all of these projects. Peg distributed reports to representatives from all attending meetings. This report has the address of the MacIntyres for direct contact, and Peg said that she would help coordinate any interest or help.
- Marvin Fridley raised concerns about the “expanding breadth of agenda” of the Continuing Committee of Illinois Yearly Meeting. Marvin was involved in the early stages of this committee, and its original purpose was to oversee the planning for the Annual Gathering of Friends in McNabb, Illinois. At the last Continuing Committee he observed an agenda that had many items that he felt had little bearing on the smooth running of the Annual Gathering, including items that were social concerns of individual Friends. This prompted much discussion including a response by Al Dupree, the Convener of the Continuing Committee. It was decided that the purpose(s) of the Continuing Committee were not clearly agreed on by those in attendance and that Marvin would propose a query to be minuted and placed on the agenda for the Illinois Yearly Meeting. This query was read following dinner and approved at that time. It is:

“Has the Continuing Committee moved away from its original purpose? Is this what we want?”

- Marvin Fridley made two announcements: There will be a Quaker Conference on Justice and Peace at Gilford College from June 19 through June 22. There will also be a New Foundation Gathering at Camp Neekaunis in Waubauskene, Ontario (Canada) titled “Who do they say that I am” from June 26 through June 30. Marvin may be contacted for more details on these items.
- The meeting closed with a moment of silence.

Respectfully submitted by
Arthur B. Smith