

**Minutes of Blue River Quarterly Meeting
DuBois Center, April 15, 2000**

Minutes of the Fall Gathering were read.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Grayce Haworth, Acting Treasurer. This report was accepted; a copy is appended.

The Nominating Committee Report was given by Dawn Rubbert, offering these names:

Karen Shippen, Clerk
Carolyn S. Treadvay, Recording Clerk
Beth Schobernd, Treasurer

The meeting approved these nominations, for terms extending through Blue River business sessions in September 2001. We offer committee members grateful thanks for their persistence, as we lay the committee down.

There was a suggestion to change the present schedule of officer selection to 3-year staggered terms; no unity being found, the decision was postponed until the Fall session.

Regarding last year's concern to establish a network for communication among our meetings on peace and social concerns, Dawn Rubbert has agreed to work with Kelly Maynard on an email list with a contact in each meeting.

Mira Tanna of St. Louis Monthly Meeting proposed that Blue River Quarterly participate in the Campaign of Conscience which is being organized by the American Friends Service Committee and the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Participants state opposition to the United Nations' economic sanctions against Iraq and contribute money which will be used to buy water purification equipment. The Campaign will apply for permits to take this equipment to Iraq; if permits are denied, they intend to take it anyway. This will constitute an act of civil disobedience on the part of the participants.

In considering this action, AFSC looked at four queries:

1. Where is the leading coming from?
2. Is the situation severe enough to warrant civil disobedience?
3. Have all reasonable avenues other than civil disobedience been tried?
4. Are we willing to undertake possible penalties?

Blue River Quarterly took up these queries. We found unity that this is an appropriate action, given the severity of the situation, and we feel strongly led by the Spirit to take effective action. No other effective action seems available to us.

At the conclusion of the afternoon, one member continued to feel a stop against our taking an action which might have negative legal consequences for future officers on the Quarterly Meeting. We agreed to break for supper and to continue consideration in the evening.

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We reconvened at 7 pm. After deep and prayerful labor, the meeting united in taking action to participate in the Campaign of Conscience, agreeing that while the Meeting stands in potential or actual civil disobedience, the Nominating Committee will inform candidates for officers' positions of this fact. Grayce Haworth, as Interim Treasurer, stands aside in this decision.

Margaret Katranides will speak of this with our newly appointed Treasurer, Beth Schobernd, who is not present at these sessions. Dawn Rubbert agreed to write a page of guidance for future Nominating Committees.

We agreed that our financial contribution to the Campaign of Conscience will be \$250.

It was agreed that report. from monthly meetings and worship groups could be more fully appreciated if we took them up tomorrow morning.

Margaret Katranides, Clerk
Carolyn S. Treadway, Recording Clerk

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April 16, 2000 – State of Society reports

All the constituent groups of Blue River Quarterly were heard from or inquired about, with written reports from St. Louis and Columbia and verbal ones from Urbana-Champaign, Southern Illinois, Springfield Worship Group, Decatur and Clear Creek. Several present had attended the late winter worship/potluck/singing event hosted by Bloomington-Normal and Heartland. Others told of Peoria-Galesburg, Rolla and a new worship group in Kirksville, Missouri. Charleston Friends occasionally attend Urbana-Champaign. Little has been heard from Macomb and Terre Haute.

Overall, this exchange gave a feeling of life and love. Our weekend together has been covered with such a spirit, in the adult program and in the activities of the young folks, who together, toddlers through teens, experienced the beauties and resources of the natural world at this blessed place and time.

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The following dates and locations for future Blue River Quarterly gatherings were confirmed:

Fall 2000 Camp CILCA near Springfield
September 29 - October 1
(c/o small central Illinois meetings)

Spring 2001 Camp DuBois
April 20-22
(c/o Columbia and small southern meetings)

(If the Sept. 29 date is not OK, we will have to meet somewhere else, because CILCA is not available Sept. 22-24.)