

Blue River Quarterly Meeting 4/3/04  
At Camp CILCA, near Springfield IL

Minutes

Present: Clerk Mariellen Gilpin (Urbana-Champaign), Dawn Amos (Southern Illinois), Lisi Bansen (St. Louis), Ellen Baranowski (Urbana-Champaign), Michael Dennis (Bloomington-Normal), Nancy Duncan (St. Louis), Eve Fischberg (Springfield), Sharon Haworth (Urbana-Champaign), Chris Jocius (Rolla), Nancy Jordan (St. Louis), Margaret Katranides (St. Louis), Nathan Lasersohn (Urbana-Champaign), Peter Lasersohn (Urbana-Champaign), Gabby Lawson (Peoria-Galesburg), Grayce Mesner (Clear Creek), Neil Mesner (Clear Creek), Lori Paton (Peoria-Galesburg), Beth Schobernd (Bloomington-Normal), Scott Searles (Columbia), Bobbi Trist (Urbana-Champaign), Bob Wixom (Columbia), Elizabeth Mertic (Lake Forest and FWCC Section of the Americas)

After hearing reports from Elizabeth Mertic, clerk of FWCC Section of the Americas, and IYM representatives to FWCC Dawn Amos and Liz Oldham, we settled into silent worship to begin consideration of business.

Scott Searles read the minutes of our Fall 2003 meeting.

State of Society reports were heard from four Meetings and considered.

Urbana-Champaign MM is almost ready to move into their new meetinghouse. They have found the opportunity to introduce the professionals building the meetinghouse to Friends' approach to resolving conflict. Their Meeting is growing and creatively active.

Clear Creek MM feels its losses and gains, as they watch the physical changes at the Yearly Meetinghouse, and also have lost three elderly members to death. They are benefitting from monthly First Day School Sundays with other Meetings from their area; other Friends expressed appreciation for Clear Creek's hosting of these gatherings, which provide a wonderful resource for smaller Meetings with few children.

St. Louis MM is growing, and worship is generally good. There is concern about low attendance at meeting for worship with concern for business, and about loss of momentum in some activities to help Friends and attenders deepen their spiritual life. They are joyfully raising money to support two impoverished schools in Burundi.

Heartland WG has decided to lay itself down, with gratitude for the meaningful part it has played in their lives during the past ten years. We discussed procedural issues related to this transition. Michael Dennis and Nancy Duncan were asked to prepare a letter of response to Friends of Heartland WG, for consideration by this meeting on Sunday morning. IYM's Ministry and Advancement Committee will continue to work with these Friends to maintain supportive organizational relationships.

Treasurer Grayce Mesner reported. Income since 8/2/03 has been \$1386.51 and expenses \$1818.58, leaving a balance of \$2022.99 on 4/3/04.

Quarterly Meeting agreed to donate \$500 toward the expenses of David Westling's work at the Burundi workcamp and with the African Great Lakes Initiative last year.

We discussed our contribution to Project Lakota, and expenses for possible Lakota guests at IYM. A phone call to Candy Boyd produced an estimate of about \$1000 for travel expenses for two Lakota from Pine Ridge to McNabb. The meeting did not feel we could commit that much at this time. We agreed to donate \$700 to Project Lakota, for materials and scholarships at the AFSC/IMYM Joint Service Project.

Upcoming Blue River Quarterly Meeting arrangements will be under the care of:

small southern Meetings in fall 2004  
Urbana-Champaign and Decatur MMs in spring 2005  
St. Louis MM in fall 2005  
small northern Meetings in fall 2006.

We will meet 9/26-28/04 at the Dubois Center near Mt. Vernon. The dates of 4/15-17/05 are available at Camp CILCA.

A question was raised as to whether the IYM teens' Easter Quake could be held on the same dates, and in the same place, as spring Blue River Quarterly Meeting. It was suggested that concerned individuals raise the matter with Youth Oversight Committee. No action was taken.

Nominating Committee, Ellen Baranowski and Margaret Katranides, reported that they had not yet been able to find a recording clerk. We still need a recording clerk for fall '04 and spring '05. Scott Searles volunteered to serve at these sessions, with the understanding that he will not continue after spring '05. Meeting approved.

We established a new Nominating Committee, consisting of Nancy Jordan, and other(s) to be named later, to bring nominations for clerk, recording clerk and treasurer to the spring '05 session, these officers to begin serving after that session closes.

We adjourned with silent worship, leaving two items of business to be completed on Sunday morning. Margaret Katranides, recording clerk pro tem

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The meeting began at 9:30 a.m., after silent prayer. Present were Dawn Amos, Grayce Mesner, Neil Mesner, Bob Wixom, Mike Dennis, Mariellen Gilpin (clerking), and Scott Searles (recording).

Clerk announced that the Nominating Committee will be Nancy Jordan and Lori Paton.

The following Minute, composed by Mike Dennis and Nancy Duncan in response to Heartland Worship Group's letter to Blue River Quarterly Meeting, was read and approved:

Blue River Quarterly Meeting recognizes that the Heartland Worship Group has laid itself down. We welcome your continued participation in Blue River Quarterly Meeting and in broader Quaker groups. With all of our love and concern, we also welcome your seeking out a regular source of fellowship and worship.

Bob Wixom reported that a group consisting of him, Dawn Amos, Bobbi Trist and Scott Searles has started to plan the fall meeting in September at the Dubois Center.

Following approval of these minutes, the meeting was closed with silent prayer at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Scott Searles