

**MINUTES FOR BLUE RIVER QUARTERLY MEETING
SIXTH DAY, FOURTH MONTH, 1984, ST. LOUIS**

Meetings which were represented were: Bloomington-Normal, Clear Creek, Columbia, Peoria-Galesburg, Rolla, Southern Illinois and St. Louis.

Meetings not represented were: Decatur, Friends Hill, Springfield, Sun Rise Friends Worship Group, Urbana-Champaign, Willow Springs Worship Group.

1. The Minutes of the last Quarterly Meeting, October 16, 1983, Urbana-Champaign, were read and accepted after clarification stating that the Quarterly Meeting approached Elise Boulding to be the keynote speaker at IYM, and Urbana-Champaign will plan the other evening programs.
2. Prepared State of the Society reports were presented by Clear Creek, Peoria-Galesburg and Southern Illinois. Informal verbal reports were given by other Meetings. Religious ferment and searching were evident in our Meetings and First Day Schools. A variety of Friendly concerns on war and peace, religious education, FCNL, peace vigils, letter writing, workshops and Central American refugees, continue to be on the minds of Friends. One Meeting is growing "from within," i.e. two babies in utero. The several visits of Peter Theodore brought new light, ideas and energy to the Meetings which responded. The powers of this world continue and will tend to blowing tents with shallow moorings: Drive in your stakes and loosen the ropes of your spiritual tents.
3. FCNL faces new challenges in the year ahead with the momentous decisions being made and to be made. Contributions are particularly needed. Each Meeting should designate an FCNL contact person. A concern was expressed to uphold the Quaker practice of honesty and integrity, relating specifically to giving earmarked contributions to FCNL through our Monthly Meetings in order to obtain a tax deduction. The constituent members of Blue River Quarterly Meeting are encouraged to carefully consider this concern.
4. The Nominating Committee consisting of Nancy Duncan and Peg Morton recommended for Blue River Quarterly Meeting: Ginny Weeks, Clerk, and Chris Tighe, Recording Clerk. Both are members of the St. Louis Meeting. The service of these individuals was accepted and will be appreciated.
5. The theme of Illinois Yearly Meeting Program was decided as "Making Life Choices in the Light." Nancy Duncan is our coordinator for the overall program. Division of effort among Monthly Meetings was accomplished at the last Quarterly Meeting. Elise Boulding will speak on Saturday evening, and Jim Garretson will give the Plummer lecture. Bruce Hickman, Bloomington-Normal, reported that workshops will include sanctuary, war tax resistance, possible a women's support group, and others. Worship-sharing/kinship groups will be split, with St. Louis making advance contacts and Columbia Friends making on-site arrangements at IYM. After discussion, it was decided

that the Program will schedule the first meeting of the Women's Support Group on Wednesday evening, leaving the group to decide the subsequent times for meeting.

6. The new Clerk, Ginny Weeks, will decipher the location and date for the October 1984 Blue River Quarterly Meeting. Meetings should explore their willingness to travel the extra distance for a future Quarterly Meeting in our far western Columbia, MO Meeting (2 hours west of St. Louis on I-70).
7. The annual Quaker Family Canoe trip will be Saturday, June 9, 1984, on the Current River, north central Missouri.

Peg Morton, Clerk, substituting for Helen Soderberg
Bob Wixom, Recording Clerk, substituting for Peg Morton

Notes from the Substitute Clerk

Many thanks to the St. Louis Meeting for planning a stimulating program for us:

Panel discussion on Listening to that of God in ourselves and others — in Meeting for Business, Meeting for Worship, in leadings of the Spirit, when there is conflict.

Evening session on communication and conflict resolution.

and for the hospitality of its members who provided us with so much good food as well as welcoming shelter.

Query:

It has seemed to me that an undue amount of our very precious time together in Blue River Quarterly Meetings is spent making practical arrangements for fulfilling our responsibilities at Yearly Meeting. Many Quarterly attenders come from very small Meetings. All of us come seeking spiritual and social refreshment and growth from this expanded Quaker community. Many attenders at Quarterly are unable to benefit from attendance at IYM. Are there other ways that planning for Yearly Meeting could be handled, so that Quarterly time involvement in the planning could be minimized? One idea would be that Continuing Committee representatives from Blue River Quarterly would huddle at Continuing Committee meetings, choose a coordinator, divvy up the responsibilities, and make some of the practical decisions.

Finally: Thank you, Bob Wixom, for jumping in at the last minute to be the Recording Clerk, and for the excellent minutes.