

MINUTES OF THE MEETING TO FORM A NEW QUARTERLY MEETING
CONSISTING OF CLEAR CREEK, URBANA-CHAMPAIGN, PEORIA AND
ST. LOUIS MONTHLY MEETINGS OF THE
RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

St. Louis, Mo. - November 8, 1952

Bruce Meserve, the temporary clerk, opened the afternoon session with the following statement: "We are privileged to share the responsibilities involved in the establishment of a new quarterly meeting. May we accept these responsibilities with humility, faith, and anticipation of new vistas of service. Especially as we strive to establish some of the formal aspects of our new quarterly meeting, let us not lose sight of the broad and religious basis of our work together".

The minutes of the Blue River Quarterly Meeting at Peoria on August 2, 1952 were read and approved.

The following representatives of the various monthly meetings were present:

Clear Creek

Edna Wolf
Robert Whitney
Albert Mills
Shirley Glover
Martha Mills
Lucretia Franklin

Urbana-Champaign

Robert Brewster
Nancy Brewster
Grace Fogg
John Fogg
Bruce Meserve
Francis Weeks

Peoria

Charles Harker
Olive Wood
Horatio Wood

St. Louis

Randall McClelland
Jean McClelland
Edward Wood
Dorothy Anderson
Phoebe Anderson
Wolfgang Thron
Verna Wood
Galen Wood
Mary Curlee
Frank Burnham
Stephanie Burnham
Josephine Lockwood
Keith Reeder
Martha Bull
Edward Oldendorph
Gertrude Oldendorph

Harold Flitcraft was present for the latter part of the meeting, as his plane was late in arriving.

The temporary clerk asked for discussion of the method of appointing representatives to quarterly meetings. It was suggested that all attending could be considered representatives, but that one or two be named by each monthly meeting to bring back a report.

Representatives of three monthly meetings read Reports on the State of the Society, and a brief informal report was given for Peoria. Copies of the written reports are attached as a part of these minutes.

The temporary clerk read a suggested list of the order of business, which was approved and followed.

1. A committee to nominate officers for the new quarterly meeting was named, consisting of the following:

Clear CreekEdna Wolf and Robert Whitney
Peoria	Charles Harker and Olive Wood
St. LouisEdward Wood and Wolfgang Thron
Urbana-Champaign.	John Fogg and Nancy Brewster

The committee, to be convened by Wolfgang Thron, was asked to meet during the dinner hour and report back in the brief evening business session.

2. About a dozen names were suggested for the new quarterly meeting and there was considerable discussion. Concern was expressed for keeping the name "Blue River" with all its associations, and it was the sense of the meeting that the new quarterly meeting be known as Blue River Quarterly Meeting.

Later Harold Flitcraft read a very amusing composition on the naming of the two new quarterly meetings.

3. The temporary clerk called for discussion of the scope and activities of the new quarterly meeting. Robert Brewster summarized the concern felt by the Urbana-Champaign meeting that quarterly meetings not be confined to business matters, but should have a broader basis of religious concerns and permit exchange of ideas on First Day Schools, study groups, use of queries, ministry and counsel, advancement, use of music, etc. It was the sense of the meeting that time be set aside in quarterly meetings for discussion of these concerns. The method of programming is to be left to the meeting acting as host.

4. In discussing the structure of the new quarterly meeting it was agreed that no permanent committees need be appointed at this time. In some cases these would be a duplication of Yearly Meeting committees, and in others, such as collection of clothing, the Yearly Meeting has emphasized that such concerns are the responsibility of the monthly meetings.

The need for an assistant clerk to serve when it is impossible for the clerk to preside was recognized, and the Nominating Committee was instructed to nominate a clerk, an assistant clerk, and a treasurer. The practice of having the host meeting provide a recording clerk will be continued.

5. Four quarterly meetings will be held each year. It was thought it might be possible to hold the August meeting in conjunction with Yearly Meeting. It was not considered necessary to have a joint meeting with the new northern quarter, since this would in effect be a second yearly meeting.

Urbana-Champaign is to be host for the next quarterly meeting to be held the weekend of February 7, and later meetings will be scheduled at that time.

6. Martha Mills, treasurer of the old quarterly meeting, read the financial report, showing a balance on hand of \$118.70.

It was agreed that Harold Flitcraft should be given \$25 toward his plane fare, as he was appointed at the August quarterly meeting to attend the meetings for setting up the new quarters. The remaining funds will be divided equally between the two new quarterly meetings.

Robert Whitney reported the recommendations of Illinois Yearly Meeting as follows: The two quarterly meetings are asked to contribute \$1,295 for this year's operation of Yearly Meeting. The southern quarter is asked to give \$695 and the northern quarter \$600, based on the way this has been handled in the past. It was recommended that it be left up to the quarterly meetings to decide what the individual monthly meetings should give.

The responsibility of contributing \$695 was accepted. It was decided that the quarterly meeting will prepare a separate budget instead of considering it to be 5% of the amount contributed to Yearly Meeting. Martha Mills explained that in the past the money collected by the quarterly meeting treasury had been used for quarterly meeting speakers and traveling expenses.

It was approved that we collect from the monthly meetings \$750, of which \$55 would be for quarterly meeting expenses and \$695 forwarded to Yearly Meeting. A committee was appointed, consisting of the treasurers of the monthly meetings, with the treasurer of quarterly meeting as convener, to arrive at an apportionment of the \$750 among the monthly meetings, and report to the next quarterly meeting in February.

7. A report received by Edna Wolf on the meeting at Salem, Indiana indicated that it is completely inactive. However, it is desired to maintain contact with them, since the meeting has not been laid down and they are still members of Illinois Yearly Meeting. It was the sense of the meeting that we plan to go to Salem in the Spring to hold a meeting for worship in their meeting house.

8. It was the sense of the meeting that the funds remaining in last year's Yearly Meeting budget for "Friends Here and There" be used for a newsletter to be published by Illinois Yearly Meeting. (This has already been approved by the northern quarterly meeting.) Doris Peters of Rockford Preparative Meeting is willing to assume the editorship and Eugene Boardman of Madison will take care of multilithing and mailing. It is requested that each monthly meeting appoint someone to furnish news items to Doris Peters, whose address is 1716 Rose Ave., Rockford, Ill.

9. Lucretia Franklin requested that monthly meeting clerks be responsible for seeing that reports on the State of the Society for Yearly Meeting are in her hands by July 1.

Urbana-Champaign meeting will hold a "Little Oxford Conference" on November 22 and 23, and invited all who could to attend.

The afternoon business session adjourned, and after a brief recess, Robert Wilson, of LaPlata, Missouri gave an interesting account of the Oxford Conference. A dinner and social period followed, and the meeting reconvened for a short business session.

The recording clerk read a brief resumé of the business transacted during the afternoon session.

The Nominating Committee submitted the following recommendations for quarterly meeting officers, which were approved.

Clerk Bruce Meserve

Assistant Clerk. . Edward Wood

Treasurer. Horatio Wood

Their report stated that the clerks should feel free to draw on the quarterly meeting treasury for traveling expenses.

Bruce Meserve requested that the clerks of the monthly meetings advise him in advance of matters to be taken up at quarterly meetings.

It was the sense of the meeting that we use a new loose leaf book for our minutes and that the old Blue River Quarterly Meeting minute book be turned over to the Clear Creek Meeting House for safekeeping. It will be the responsibility of Harold Flitcraft to make an entry in the old minute book concerning the creation of the two new quarterly meetings.

The following minute was read: "The Friends of Blue River Quarterly Meeting express their appreciation to Friends of St. Louis Monthly Meeting for arranging our meeting and fine hospitality."

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Houston Smith of the Department of Philosophy of Washington University gave a talk on the spiritual light to be gained from oriental philosophies and religions.

Bruce E. Mesewe
Clerk

Mary Curlee
Recording Clerk