

Quarterly Meeting Minutes of November, 1953

1. Blue River Quarter opened its meeting of November 7-8 at St. Louis with a period of silent worship.
2. The minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of April 4-5, held at Peoria, were read and approved as corrected.
3. The representatives of the Monthly Meetings were as follows:
Clear Creek: Albert Mills, Martha Mills, Edna Wolf;
Peoria: Charles Harker, Eleanor Harker, Horatio Wood;
Urbana-Champaign: Rachel Weller, Marion Freeman, Bruce Meserve;
St. Louis: Keith Reeder, Josephine Lockwood, Helen May, Esther Kolling, Nick Assare, Mary Curlee, Martha Bull, Lester Wicks, Mary Wicks, Galen Wood, Verna Wood, Edward Wood, Theodore Wood, Walter Bauer, Marvin Fridley, Doris Fridley, Dorothy Anderson, Phoebe Anderson, Gertrude Oldendorf, Wolfgang Thron, Ann Thron, Suzanne Potter.

Bernard Walton of Philadelphia and Wilmer Tjossem of Des Moines were also present.

4. Edna Wolf reported on the State of the Society at Clear Creek. She said that Clear Creek Friends feel that the State of the Society report should describe the religious aspect of the Monthly Meeting rather than its activities. Some Clear Creek Friends are concerned with the irregular attendance or absence of other members and wish to find out why this situation exists and whether it might be improved. The Clerks of Clear Creek Meeting will soon send a letter to all members of that meeting urging more faithful attendance at Meeting for Worship and asking for greater participation in the vocal ministry. The situation at present is that many members bring their children to First Day School, but leave immediately after the close of First Day School. The letter suggests that there be a reading from the Bible or vocal ministry at the close of First Day School which would lead directly into Meeting for Worship, making the two continuous.

Eleanor Harker reported on the State of the Society at Peoria. She asked the advice of the Quarterly Meeting on what should be done at Peoria concerning the meeting there. Attendance is almost negligible, often consisting of just two people. Several suggestions were offered such as meeting once a month and making it known to the community that there are Friends in Peoria. Eleanor Harker said that Peoria Friends would take these suggestions into consideration in making a decision.

The reports on the State of the Society at St. Louis and Urbana-Champaign are attached on separate pages.

5. A Nominating Committee was appointed consisting of Edna Wolf of Clear Creek, Eleanor Harker of Peoria, Rachel Weller of Urbana-Champaign and Edward Wood of St. Louis. Since the Yearly Meeting Minutes are distributed in November, it was suggested that Quarterly Meeting officers be selected at a time coinciding more closely with Yearly Meeting so that the names of our officers which are found in the Yearly Meeting Minutes are current. The Nominating Committee was instructed to decide what procedure to follow in making this correction and report its decision to the meeting later. The committee was also instructed to audit the books of the past year's treasurer, Horatio Wood.

The Nominating Committee later reported that the Treasurer's books were audited and found to be correct. The committee recommended that a permanent Treasurer's book be purchased and that hereafter, the Treasurer's report be given in

May rather than in November. The committee also recommended that the present Clerk, Assistant Clerk and Treasurer hold office through Quarterly Meeting in May and that new officers be appointed at that time, to assume duties from May, on.

6. The Treasurer of Yearly Meeting, Martha Mills, reported that Yearly Meeting is asking ~~for the same~~ contributions ~~from the Quarterly Meetings~~ as were given last year, *not be decreased.*

7. The following Quarterly Meeting Budget was accepted:

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| Contribution to Illinois Yearly Meeting | \$ 695.00 |
| Host Meeting of Quarterly Meeting (\$15 to each) | 45.00 |
| Postage | 5.00 |
| Friends Intelligencer | 5.00 |
| Clerk's Travel Expenses | 15.00 |

\$765.00

Yearly Meeting has received several letters from the Friends Committee on National Legislation because it has received no contribution from Yearly Meeting this year. It was decided at Yearly Meeting to discontinue the annual contribution to F. C. N. L. with the hope that Monthly Meetings will contribute individually to make up this loss.

8. The Central Committee of General Conference met at Moorestown, New Jersey this summer. Edna Wolf and Beulah Nelson attended from Illinois Yearly Meeting. The Central Committee plans the Biennial conference of Friends General Conference at Cape May. Edna Wolf reported that the Cape May conference will be held from June 25-July 2 next year. The committee suggested that some of the morning lectures at Cape May be substituted by worship services.

9. Bernard Walton announced a conference on peace to be held in Detroit that will be a preparatory meeting for the meeting of the World Council of Churches which takes place in Evanston, Illinois next year. Friends General Conference has ten places to be filled at the preparatory meeting.

10. An article of interest to Friends was published in the periodical, Society for Social Responsibility in Science. Its title is "Science and Conscience," written by Henry Cadbury.

11. Francis Hole of Madison, Wisconsin Meeting has had printed, at his own expense, a decorative sheet which can be used for writing stationery or display purposes. A copy of his letter to Edward Wood on the stationery is enclosed. As Francis Hole's letter states, the paper will be used in a children's display at next Yearly Meeting.

12. The next meeting of Blue River Quarter will be at Urbana-Champaign on the weekend of February 6-7. Some question arises concerning our Quarterly Meeting dates thereafter. Our original selection of meeting dates on the first weekends of November, February and May were based on the report that Fox Valley Quarterly Meetings would be on the last weekends of October, January and April. However, Chicago Quarterly Meeting Friends have a strong preference for the first weekends of November, February and May. Fox Valley Quarterly and Chicago Quarterly have joint Quarterly Meetings. Because of this conflict, the dates of our May meeting and subsequent meetings in 1954-55 ~~have not been decided~~ *should be reconsidered.*

13. Three discussion groups took place simultaneously shortly after the close of the Meeting for Business. The subjects discussed were "Vocal Ministry and the Meeting" (Bernard Walton, leader), "Advancement and Quaker Practice" (Wolfgang Thron, leader), and "The Meeting and Community Affairs" (Marvin Fridley, leader). For the evening program, Wilmer Tjossem, who has recently returned from a two months' trip to Europe, spoke on his experiences there. A question and discussion period followed Wilmer Tjossem's talk. Viktor Hamburger of Washington University's Zoology Department and his daughter, Doris Sloane, who has participated in several Friends' projects, were invited to join us during the program to bring out the point of view of sympathetic non-Friends towards Friends' beliefs and practices.

Respectfully submitted,

Doris Fridley

Doris Fridley, Minutes Clerk