

Quarterly Meeting Minutes of February 1954

Blue River Quarterly Meeting opened its session of February 6 at Urbana-Champaign with a period of silent worship.

The minutes of the Quarterly meeting of November 7 were read and approved.

Representatives of the monthly meetings present were as follows: Clear Creek; Albert Mills, Martha Mills, Lucretia Franklin, Anna Mary Wilson, Helen Jean Nelson; Peoria; Elenore Harker, Charles Harker; St Louis; Phoebe Anderson, Martha Bull, Suzanne Potter, Marcia Bauer; Urbana-Champaign; Bruce Meserve, Gertrude Meserve, Francis Weeks, Dorothy Weeks, Rachel Weller, John Beer, Frances Beer, Elson Sims, Georgie Conard, Christine Slocum, Marian Freeman, Robert Beach, Janet Kerridge, Jack Kerridge, John Fogg, Grace Fogg, Thornton Price, Norma Price, Mildred Rose.

Mary Cadbury, Barrington Dunbar, Margaret Haworth, Clifford Haworth of the Chicago 57th Strett Meeting and Allen Hole and Helen Hole of Earlham College were also with us.

Helen Jean Nelson gave a verbal report on the state of the society at Clear Creek. Clear Creek is giving a trial to a plan based on the recognition that meeting for worship is the base on which the meeting has its existence. Members, whether in agreement ^{with the plan} or not, have been cooperating in this trial. It's essence is the merging of First Day school and meeting for worship thru a brief planned program. They feel that, among other things, it has brought the High School group closer to the assumption of adult responsibilities and consequently to a closer tie with the meeting for worship. The adult study class has as it's topic a study of what "We" are in our spiritual life. Clear Creek is also preparing a pamphlet to be placed in the meeting house which will explain Friend's practices and will be available to visitors.

Elenore Harker reported verbally on the state of the meeting at Peoria. That meeting meets once a month in the home of a member at 4 p.m. Silent Worship is followed by a supper. The change from a morning to an afternoon meeting hour has resulted in a noticeable increase in attendance and a much deeper feeling of a gathered meeting.

The St Louis and Urbana-Champaign reports are attached.

The use of a query as the basis for the Urbana-Champaign report resulted in a wide discussion of the use of Queries generally. The consensus, as a result of the discussion, was that the use of Queries not be allowed to become prefatory in consideration and application.

Lucretia Franklin called to the meeting's attention that now is the time for Illinois Yearly Meeting to discuss whether or not it wishes to play a part in the composition of the new Discipline which the Philadelphia meetings are planning to issue. She suggested that now is the time for all meetings to consider what part they wish to play in voicing a concern for the contents of the new Discipline and that it be given prayerful and intellectual consideration.

Treasurer's report was submitted.

No decisions had been reached by the various meetings on the use of the maps, prepared by Francis Hole, in displays of First Day school work at Yearly Meeting. It was felt that we were not prepared as a Quarterly meeting to state if we should use the map. Monthly Meetings will inform Francis Hole individually what use they will make of them.

Mary Cadbury, Chairman for the Junior Yearly Meeting, spoke on plans for sessions concurrent with the adult sessions. She asked that early support be given Junior Yearly Meeting. Each local meeting will be responsible for supplying least one helper. Men as well as women are urged to volunteer. There will be three groups--pre-school, grade school and junior high.

The clerks of the four Monthly Meetings were designated as a nominating committee to present a slate in April. A clerk, assistant clerk and treasurer are the posts to be filled.

A letter from Eleanor Boardman was read asking for an expression of opinion on a Friends High School. Fox River Quarterly discussed the matter but reached no decision. After considerable discussion on the degree of interest the decision was to take the concern back to the various monthly meetings and ask each to appoint a member to serve on a committee to consider sponsorship with the McNabb member to serve as the convener.

Peoria extended the invitation for next quarterly meeting on May 8-9. This was accepted.

Grace Fogg asked that monthly meetings consider the degree of interest in a family institute and retreat camp with either Fox Valley and Blue River quarterlies jointly or each separately. If sufficient interest is shown an attempt would be made to make a beginning in 1955.

Charles Harker announced the Friends Committee on National Legislation conference on Civil Liberties at Scattergood School on April 2-4. Illinois Yearly Meeting has been asked to participate.

A brief discussion on the clarification of the statistical basis for financial support from monthly meetings to Yearly Meeting was carried on but no decisions were reached.

A possible change in Yearly Meeting dates to enable more people to attend was discussed. No reason for not discussing such a change at Yearly Meeting was offered.

A tea followed the business meeting after which the speakers of the day, ~~Francis~~ and Helen Hole of Earlham College, presented the experiences and activities of their family that were pertinent to the topic of the day--"Helping Children and Young Friends to Realize the Experience of Worship in Daily Living." Their description of their application to family life of the principles of worship and religious experience was stimulating and perceptive.

Dinner was followed by three discussion groups. "Family Business and Discipline" led by Helen Hole; "The Practice of the Presence of God" led by Rachel Weller; and "Teaching Religion in the Home and First Day School" led by Allen Hole. The evening session closed with a summary before the whole group of the various topics covered in the discussion groups.

Many of the attenders remained over night and participated in the Sunday morning forum and meeting for worship.

*Dilledred Rose B.E.M.
Recording Clerk.*