

MINUTES OF BLUE RIVER QUARTERLY MEETING

Fifth Month 12, 1956
Peoria, Illinois

The business session of the Blue River Quarterly Meeting was opened after a period of silent worship.

The minutes of the preceding Quarterly Meeting held at Champaign, Illinois on fourth day, second month, 1956 were read and approved after the following correction: The name of Emily Scott, listed as a delegate from Urbana-Champaign Monthly Meeting, was added to the delegates of Bloomington-Normal group.
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Roll Call of Delegates

Clear Creek -- Joe Hawks
Gynetha Hawks (not present)
Andrew and Edna Wolf
Lucretia Franklin
Ann Mary Wilson
Visitors from Clear Creek Monthly Meeting:
Catherine Mills
Albert and Martha Mills

Peoria -- All members and attenders present were considered delegates. These were:
Robert and Dorothy Winston
Horatio and Louise Wood
Florence Tjaden
Herbert Crowe
Charles and Eleanor Harker
Blanche Krauel
Larry and Lenna Mae Gara
Jim and Thelma Kemp
Jane McCarty

Urbana-Champaign -- None were appointed but those present were:
Rachel Weller
Marion Freeman
Frances Beer
Martin Cobin

St. Louis -- Clifford and Margaret Haworth
Walter and Marcia Bauer
Marvin and Doris Fridley
Edward and Gertrude Wood
Edwin and Gertrude Oldendorph

Bloomington-Normal -- Visitors:
Dorothy Bonfill
Robert Byrd
Emily Scott

Visitors from Fox Valley Quarterly Meeting:

Harold and Alice Flitcraft
Luella Flitcraft

Charles Harker recommended no hesitancy in introducing ourselves to each other.

State of Society Reports

Clear Creek -- Lucretia Franklin orally reported that the attendance for Sunday School and Meeting for Worship was keeping up but could be better for the Meeting for Business. Otherwise the State of Society was much the same as at last Quarterly Meeting.

Harold Flitercraft questioned the time of the business meeting as the reason for poor attendance, but the time set was the only time possible.

Peoria -- Eleanor Harker orally reported that the Peoria Meeting continues to be a small group meeting once a month. They are pleased that Jim Kemp and his wife recently "found" them. She expressed the pleasure of the Meeting at having Quarterly Meeting in Peoria, thus enabling them to work together.

Urbana-Champaign -- Martin Cobin read the report of the Urbana-Champaign Monthly Meeting. Their concern has centered largely in the meaning of the word "Ministry". The attempt to formulate a "Statement to Visitors" to assist those who come to Meeting for the first time, led to a continuing examination of concepts and experiences regarding vocal and silent ministry as both the means to and expression of unity with God and one another. The "Statement" is considered to still be in the process of development; but, as read, it received several favorable comments.

St. Louis -- Walter Bauer presented the written report of the St. Louis Monthly Meeting. He reported that the regular discussion group has been concerned with a study of "Faith and Practice" and of the practice of eldering. The purchase of a Meeting House is still a major concern. The Meeting for Worship and the First-Day School are both well attended. The marriage of Suzanne Potter and Lester Wicks on March 24 in Lebanon, Illinois was under the care of the St. Louis Monthly Meeting.

Bloomington-Normal -- Recognizing the unofficial status of the Bloomington group, Robert Byrd read "The First Annual Statement Concerning the State of the Group of People Meeting After the Manner of Friends at Bloomington-Normal, Illinois. The report told of the beginning of the group in September, their continuance on each First Day, with attendance for both Meeting for Worship and for Business varying from six to twelve. As yet not affiliated with an established group of Friends, this group had established no formal membership role, but closely associated with them have been four or five families, including fourteen children and four or five single persons. The report expressed a number of concerns, particularly those related to problems of peace, race relations and religious education and told of the study and activities of the group in these areas.

The report was highly complimented and it was suggested that it be included in our Minutes. Edna Wolf expressed the Quarterly Meeting's appreciation of having the Bloomington group with us.

Report from Fox Valley Quarterly Meeting -- Clerk, Edward Wood, asked for a report from Friends visiting from Fox Valley Quarterly Meeting which met in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Harold Flitercraft responded and told of the admission of the Church Street Monthly Meeting of St. Paul, a preparatory meeting of Minneapolis, into the Fox Valley Quarterly Meeting and Illinois Yearly Meeting. This addition brings the number of Monthly Meetings included in Fox Valley Quarterly Meeting to five.

Refugees

Albert Mills brought up the subject of refugees, mentioning that the Bloomington report indicated their interest in doing social service; that the St. Louis Newsletter contained an expression of interest in adopting a refugee; and that Clear Creek Monthly Meeting had given the matter some thought. He suggested that Friends might express themselves to do more than they have in this area.

Walter Bauer reported that the St. Louis Meeting was in agreement to see if they could bring a refugee family to the St. Louis area, but their action is limited now due to the expiration of the act governing such a project at the end of this year. The St. Louis Meeting feels lax in not having acted sooner.

Martha Mills inquired about the Madison Monthly Meeting, and Harold Flitcraft reported he knows of two persons or families sponsored by the Madison Meeting.

There was no further discussion.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Joe Hawks gave the following report:

July 6, 1955	Balance on hand	\$142.48
July 6, 1955	Deposited - Clear Creek	525.00
	Peoria	42.00
	Urbana-Champaign	64.00
March, 1956	Deposited - St. Louis	\$105.00
	Total	\$878.48

Expenses read totalled \$726.87, leaving a balance as of May 12, 1956 of \$151.59

Edward Wood suggested the names of Martha Mills and Walter Bauer to audit the Treasurer's books. Approved.

Appointment of Clerk's Committee

Edna Wolf, Eleanor Harker, Marvin Fridley and Marion Freeman were named as a Committee to appoint the clerk and officers for next year by Edward Wood, who also suggested limiting the term of office to two years. This was a precedent set by Bruce Meserve. Approved.

Horatio Wood suggested the name of Edward Wood be added to the Committee to appoint the clerk. Approved.

Next Quarterly Meeting

Edward Wood told of the Quarterly Meeting held eighth month, 1955. Since this meeting is held at Yearly Meeting, McNabb, Illinois, it was agreed to meet the sixteenth day, eighth month, 1956 at 12 noon, for a short meeting. There will be no State of Society Reports, but matters that might come up at Yearly Meeting will be discussed

Harold Flitcraft mentioned that there would be appointments to be made to one or two Yearly Meeting Committees.

Reports on the Discipline

"Faith and Practice", a book of Christian Discipline, of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, published in 1955, was considered by the Monthly Meeting and individual members in respect to its use by Illinois Yearly Meeting.

Clear Creek, as reported by Edna Wolf, has had a few meetings to study the Philadelphia Discipline and has come to the conclusion that they could not adopt it as is. The history is that of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting rather than Illinois Yearly Meeting. Most sections in the first part were approved. Questionable, due to the many changes in science, was the section on Religion and Science. There was, though, nothing objectionable. The section on Schools and Colleges would not apply as Illinois Yearly Meeting has none at this time.

The business procedure as outlined in Part II differs from that of Illinois Yearly Meeting. The work of the Yearly Meeting is carried on by a Philadelphia Representative Meeting while ours is an executive committee. The set-up of ministry and counsel is different than ours is now. We no longer record ministers.

The third part on Quaker Faith was well-liked.

Peoria had just received the Discipline and therefore had no discussion. Horatio Wood, reporting for himself, saw much to admire and like. His suggestion was that Illinois Yearly Meeting use the Philadelphia Discipline as a springboard to re-think and evaluate our ways, with thoughts of benefitting by such thinking.

Urbana-Champaign had no discussion as a meeting but Martin Cobin expressed a personal concern for us to grow in our own spiritual development by trying to evolve our own statement rather than to reproduce that already written.

St. Louis, Clifford Haworth reported, feels they should go along with a new discipline but came to the following conclusions:

1. Nothing will suit all of us. We need to be tolerant.
2. It is not practical at this time in terms of time, effort and money.
3. Disciplines change.

At first the group, meeting since January, was reluctant to get into it, but interest increased and discussion was stimulating. There were wide divergences of opinion. There was no thought or comment on technical differences. Actual procedures could, perhaps, be inserted. One group thought the language could be brought up to date. Part III, the anthology, was criticized for the omission of a whole period. Others thought the present Illinois Yearly Meeting Discipline, since out of print, could be loaned instead of given.

Other comments: Charles Harker of Peoria saw the need of a well thought out discipline defining the relationships, effects, translations etc. Many questions come up for which there seems to be no guide or answer. The anthology of the Philadelphia Discipline, part of which is from another book, he thought good, but questioned the usefulness to the Illinois Yearly Meeting.

Clifford Haworth personally thought that the Philadelphia Discipline could be used; that its use would minimize differences.

Edna Wolf commented that if the Philadelphia Discipline was adopted we would have to change our business procedure. Also that Madison Monthly Meeting is working on a new discipline.

Horatio Wood remarked that the finished job of a new discipline might not be what we would have thought of ourselves, but might be fine enough to suit all of us.

Clerk, Edward Wood, suggested that the minutes be presented to the Yearly Meeting to show our thinking.

American Friends Service Committee

A report from John Willard, Executive Secretary of the Chicago Regional Office, was read. In it he outlined the program of the coming year in the areas of Peace Education, Community Relations, and Work and Study, and appealed for funds. Robert Byrd spoke to the report emphasizing the serious need for contributions.

Religious Education

Edward Wood reported word from Rachel Oesting asking those interested in Religious Education to meet and formulate a report of their activity for Yearly Meeting.

After a short recess, during which time committees met, the Meeting for Business reconvened.

Auditing Committee

Martha Mills reported the approval of the books by the Auditing Committee

Clerk's Committee

The committee appointed earlier named as next years officers the following:

Clerk: Martin Cobin
Assistant Clerk: Marvin Fridley
Treasurer: Joe Hawks

Request for Affiliation

The group meeting at Bloomington, Illinois expressed an interest in becoming affiliated with Blue River Quarterly Meeting. Edward Wood named the following to visit and counsel with them:

Albert and Martha Mills
Charles and Eleanor Harker
Edna Wolf
Lucretia Franklin
Martin Cobin
Rachel Weller

Approved

Announcements were made of the literature available.

Edna Wolf announced Friends General Conference at Cape May, New Jersey.

The Meeting for Business was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

(signed) Jane McCarty
Acting Recording Clerk