

MINUTES OF BLUE RIVER QUARTERLY MEETING

Second Month 4, 1956
Champaign, Illinois

Blue River Quarterly Meeting was held in McKinley Foundation, Champaign, Illinois, Second Month 4, 1956. Meeting was begun with a one-hour period of worship. Minutes of the last Quarterly Meeting, held in St. Louis, eleventh Month 5, 1955, were read and approved with these corrections:

1. Martha Mills presented a treasurer's report from the Yearly Meeting. (Not Quarterly Meeting)
2. The State of Society Report from Urbana-Champaign was read by Rachel Weller. (Not prepared by Rachel Weller)

Monthly Meeting representatives present were:

Clear Creek -- Albert and Martha Mills
Joseph and Gynetha Hawks
Helen Jean Nelson
Lucretia Franklin
Edna Wolf

Peoria -- Charles and Eleanor Harker

St. Louis -- Phoebe Anderson
Gertrude and Edwin Oldendorph
(Appointed but not arriving in time for the Meeting for Business)

Also representing St. Louis:

James Wong
Edward Wood
Suzanne Potter
Verna Wood

Urbana-Champaign -- Representing but not appointed

Rachel Weller
Francis Weeks
Robert Beach
Elson Sims
Emily Scott
John Beer
Sabron Reynolds
Martin Cobin
Grace Fogg

Visitors were: From Fox Valley Quarterly Meeting :

Harold and Alice Flitcraft
Francis Hole
Luella Flitcraft
George and Elizabeth Watson

From Bloomington, Illinois Monthly Meeting:

Robert Byrd, Pat Bouwman, Christine Ingram

State of Society Reports

Clear Creek -- Lucretia Franklin read the State of Society Report from Clear Creek. The report emphasized the adult study group and young people's activities which have resulted in increased attendance at Meeting. Clear Creek now has printed applications for membership which the Meeting feels make it easier for interested attenders to become members of the Meeting. Charles Harker added some details of the Newberry Settlement House Christmas project undertaken by the young Friends of the Yearly Meeting.

Peoria -- Eleanor Harker presented an informal oral report of the state of Peoria Monthly Meeting. Although Peoria still meets but once a month, the Meeting is considering holding meetings for worship more frequently. A Christmas project was the principal activity during the past quarter.

St. Louis -- Phoebe Anderson read the State of Society report from St. Louis, answering the question: What is the state of faith of St. Louis Meeting? During the past quarter, St. Louis Friends have been concentrating on the need for a Meeting House and how to solve that need. The ways of solving the need and the attitudes of Friends in approaching and discussing the problem reflect the spiritual state of the Meeting.

Urbana-Champaign -- Rachel Weller read the State of Society report from Urbana-Champaign answering the query on attendance at and quality of meetings for worship and business. The report stressed the need for ministers -- both vocal and silent -- as well as the need for ministry.

Martin Cobin added information about the Urbana-Champaign Meeting's series of television programs. Beginning Monday, February 6, and continuing each Monday evening during February, the Urbana-Champaign Friends will present a half-hour program from 7 to 7:30 p.m. on WILL-TV, Channel 12. The programs will stress putting Quaker ideals into practice.

Informal Reports from Visitors

Robert Byrd gave an account of the founding and progress of the Meeting in Bloomington, Illinois. Bloomington Friends meet at 8 p.m. each First Day evening in the Bloomington YMCA. Their current activity is helping the AFSC with a weekend program on peace education, February 29. They would appreciate contacts with other groups of Friends.

Francis Hole mentioned some of the activities of the Madison, Wisconsin Meeting and gave an account of his recent travels among Friends in Michigan. The Madison Meeting has published a leaflet to distribute to visitors to the Meeting. They have purchased a Meeting House and have received some aid from Friends General Conference in financing it. They are following up their concern in the military service booklet mentioned in the last Quarterly Meeting Minutes.

New Discipline

Albert Mills brought up a concern for publishing a new Discipline for Illinois Yearly Meeting. He inquired whether any Monthly Meeting had discussed the matter of a new Discipline, but it appeared that none had any recommendations ready. St. Louis Meeting, however, has discussed the Discipline. Grace Fogg mentioned a hesitancy in attempting to write anything which would compare favorably with the new Faith and Practice from Philadelphia. Lucretia Franklin reminded the Meeting that the Illinois Yearly Meeting Discipline is out of print and that the Yearly Meeting will have to publish a new Discipline of its own.

Quarterly Meeting Finances

Edward Wood brought up the problem of the Quarterly Meeting's financial contribution to Yearly Meeting, which was also discussed in the last minutes of the Quarterly Meeting. The treasurers had not met as was recommended at the last Quarterly Meeting, although Urbana-Champaign had forwarded its recommendations by mail. The question was asked: How were the present assessments arrived at? No one knew. After considerable discussion, Edward Wood suggested that each Monthly Meeting tell the treasurer how much it can give, that no system of quota or assessment be adopted at present. The Meeting approved.

Friends General Conference

Discussion brought out that many new members of the Monthly Meetings were not familiar with the work of the Friends General Conference. Suzanne Potter suggested that Among Friends publicize the work and activities of the General Conference.

Meeting House for Junior Yearly Meeting

Eleanor Harker reported on plans for providing an adequate Meeting House for the Junior Yearly Meeting. The Junior Yearly Meeting Committee will have to work out the problems, the construction plans, work camps, etc. The Meeting expressed its confidence in the Committee.

Cooperation with Illinois Church Council

Grace Fogg brought a concern for the participation of Monthly Meetings in the work of the Illinois Church Council. This concern was also brought before the last Yearly Meeting (see paragraph 18, page 5 of the Yearly Meeting Minutes). No Monthly Meeting had anything to report in connection with this concern, and Grace Fogg urged the Monthly Meetings to be active in the work of the Illinois Church Council.

Next Quarterly Meeting

The Meeting approved the holding of the next session of Blue River Quarterly Meeting at Peoria, Fifth Month 12-13. The Meeting was then adjourned.

Following the Meeting for Business, Blue River Quarterly Meeting heard two talks by Ralph A. Rose, Associate Secretary, Friends World Committee -- one in the afternoon and one in the evening. The first was on "The Lost Art of Eldering" and the second on "The World Community of Friends".

Edward G. Wood, Presiding Clerk

Francis W. Weeks, Minute Clerk