

MINUTES OF THE BLUE RIVER QUARTERLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

Meeting at Bloomington, 7th Day, 2nd Month 7th 1957

The Meeting for Business was preceded at 1:00 o'clock by a meaningful period of worship

The Meeting for Business was opened by Martin Cobin, Clerk of the Quarter, with 55 Friends present representing each Monthly and Preparative Meeting in the Quarter, visiting Friends, attenders and Friends of the Friends. Present were:

Champaign-Urbana:

Francis Weeks
Dorothy Weeks
Anne Weeks
Rachel Weller
Robert Beach
Sabron Reynolds
Margaret Rausch
Fremo Tasso
Marion Freeman
Martin Cobin

Clear Creek:

Enaretia Franklin
Helen Nelson
Martha Mills
Albert Mills

Peoria:

Cecil Smith
William Witte
Maurine Witte
David Sharp
Ruth Smythe
Charles Harker
Eleanor Harker

St. Louis:

Susanne Wickes
Phoebe Anderson
Sheila White
Lawrence Hollowell
Dorothy Anderson

Bloomington-Normal:

Emily Scott
* John Scott
Clark Bouwman
Patricia Bouwman
James Elder
Rachel Elder
* Carl Andreas
* Carol Andreas
* Richard Andreas
* Warren Quensel
* Margaret Quensel
Dorothy Banfill
* Carl Levine
* Augusta Levine
Alice Wilson * Attenders
* Thelma Force
* Myrtle Byrd
Robert Byrd

It was a pleasure to welcome visitors among us: Barnard Clausen, from the Religious Education Committee of Friends General Conference; George, Elizabeth and Carol Watson from 57th Street Meeting in Chicago; John Standing, who is now living in Champaign-Urbana and accompanied Friends from the Champaign-Urbana Meeting; and five friends visited us from among those who were previously associated with the Meeting at Benjaminville which was laid down a number of years ago. The latter visitors were: Mildred Harris, Raymond Benjamin, Luella Parker, ~~Leola~~ ^{Leola} Bedell and Mr. and Mrs. George Coale.

After introductions, the Clerk called for the State of the Meeting reports from each of the Meetings assembled. The written reports from Champaign-Urbana, St. Louis and the Bloomington-Normal Preparative Meeting are attached. Verbal reports were received from our Clear Creek and Peoria Meetings.

Reporting for Clear Creek Meeting, Lucretia Franklin indicated satisfaction with their Meetings for Worship and First Day School and noted particularly the active Young People's group in the Meeting.

Reporting for the Peoria Meeting Eleanor Harker informed Friends that the Peoria Meeting is now convening regularly each First Day in the home of William and Maurine Witte. Peoria Friends are concerned about several questions which they hope to be able to discuss in the course of this session of Quarterly Meeting. These questions relate to problems of membership and the procedures by which and the pace at which changes can be brought about in Meetings. As enumerated, these questions include:

- 1) Membership - Procedure for attaining membership
- 2) Vocal Ministry - How make this increasingly vital.
- 3) Organization - How much organization and what kind does a small Meeting need. Should organization and appointments to offices be reviewed regularly.
- 4) What is the best time for Meeting?
- 5) Should Business Meeting follow Meeting for Worship or be held separately?
- 6) How cope with the problem of First Day School in a small Meeting.

Lucretia Franklin observed that the answers to many of these questions can be found in our Faith and Practice.

Both Peoria and Clear Creek Meetings indicated that they would welcome more visitors to their meetings from other Meetings in the Quarter.

Satisfaction was noted with the reports from the Monthly Meetings and Friends were asked to express concerns they wished to bring before the Quarterly Meeting.

It was suggested by Albert Mills that announcements and reports of Quarterly Meeting sessions be sent to "Friends Journal." Approved.

Lucretia Franklin, as Chairman of Yearly Meeting Committee of Ministers and Overseers, laid before Friends assembled the thinking of the Committee on Ministers and Overseers with respect to the writing of a new Faith and Practice for Illinois Yearly Meeting. The Committee of Ministers and Overseers is desirous that Friends consider and discuss in their meetings the wisdom of adopting as the Discipline for Illinois Yearly Meeting the Discipline prepared and adopted by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. This Discipline would then be accompanied by an "Order of Business", outlining particular procedures of Illinois Yearly Meeting, together with a brief history of Illinois Yearly Meeting since its founding in 1873. ~~Albert Mills questioned the date noted for the founding of Illinois Yearly Meeting. It was his conviction that the founding took place a year earlier.~~

George Watson brought before Friends information concerning the formation of a Friends Committee on Legislation in Chicago, to serve Friends in the State of Illinois, and perhaps those in Wisconsin. This office would cooperate closely

with the Friends Committee on National Legislation and take initiative, as way opens, in matters of State and local legislative concern in this area. Preliminary explorations have encouraged Friends to go forward. The goal is a budget of \$8,000 for the first year, with an immediate goal of \$3500 before May. Wilmer Cooper, of the FCNL, will meet with interested Friends in Chicago on Friday May 15th and the decision will be made at that time as to whether it will be wise to establish this program. On May 18-19 the Executive Committee of the FCNL will hold its regular meeting in Chicago.

Martin Cobin expressed concern for Friends Peace Testimony. Our peace testimony has come to be too much of an individual concern, left for Friends to follow or not as they will. Should not this testimony mean that we create an atmosphere in which the peace testimony is virtually assumed? While there would be respect for those who deviate from this testimony, it would be made clear that such a deviation is, in fact, a separation from Friends' way of life. We have not created an atmosphere of this kind. It should be as clear to Friends that they must forewear war as it is that they must forewear slavery.

Albert Mills expressed concern that Friends provide firmer and more extensive support for Friends' Missionary enterprises. He asks Quarterly Meeting to take this concern to Yearly Meeting.

Francis Weeks offered support for Albert Mills' concern. We are not a "provincial" Yearly Meeting. We should recognize our responsibility for "outreach". He mentioned Friends' work in Africa and Emory Reese and the need for greater knowledge concerning this work.

Lucretia Franklin mentioned the need for personal concern to participate in Friends' outreach. It is not a matter of money alone. Without this personal concern, gestures of moral and financial support would be meaningless.

Phoebe Anderson informed Friends of her hope to participate in Friends' outreach. In a year or two she would like to make herself available for Friendly visitation under auspices of Friends World Committee.

John Standing, who has recently moved among Friends of the Champaign-Urbana Meeting, mentioned his recent attendance at Chicago Quarterly Meeting at Evanston and the concerns expressed there by visiting Friend Irving Morrisett of Purdue University and other Friends. A particular concern was expressed for the need of communication --- among Friends here at home, not only to Africa.

After some discussion as to the need, the "minutes of the previous Quarterly Meeting were read and, after correction, were APPROVED.

Pleasure was expressed at having friends among us from the erstwhile Benjaminville Meeting.

A concern was expressed to thank Friends of the Bloomington-Normal Preparative Meeting for the arrangements that had been made for the Quarterly Meeting. Approved.

After a few moments of quiet worship the Meeting for Business rose.

Robert Byrd

Recording Clerk
at this time.