

Minutes of the Blue River Quarterly Meeting  
held at St. Louis Monthly Meeting  
October 24, 1959

Present from Monthly Meetings:

Clear Creek: Albert and Martha Mills, Andrew and Edna Wolf

Urbana-Champaign: Marian Freeman

Peoria: Cecil Smith and Herschel McCarty

St. Louis: Marvin Fridley, Phoebe Anderson, Hallie Wood, Clifford and Margaret Haworth, Verna Wood, Faith Meek, Edward and Gertrude Wood, Mary Barber, Josephine Lockwood, Lester and Suzanne Wicks, Gertrude Oldendorf, Ann Hubbell

Visitors: George and Eleanor Bent, Lake Forest Meeting, Lake Forest, Ill.  
Jim and Kathryn Parnell, Jefferson City, Missouri  
Robert Byrd, Clerk Illinois Yearly Meeting, Chicago, Illinois

After a moment of silence the Minutes of the May Quarterly Meeting were read. The clerk then gave a resume of the August Quarterly Meeting which was held in conjunction with Illinois Yearly Meeting at Madison, Wisconsin.

Edna Wolf expressed willingness for Clear Creek to be host for the May Quarterly Meeting in 1960 inasmuch as Clear Creek Monthly Meeting will be relieved of much of the responsibility for Yearly Meeting in August, 1960.

States of Society

Marian Freeman read the State of Society for Urbana-Champaign Monthly Meeting, which gave a detailed account of the responsibilities and rewards involved in sponsoring the docudrama, "Which Way the Wind?" An enthusiastic discussion on the possibility of undertaking such a program followed.

Edna Wolf read the report of Clear Creek Monthly Meeting. They have stressed attendance at Meeting for Worship and feel gratified that so great a proportion of their membership attend regularly.

Cecil Smith, in reading Peoria Monthly Meeting State of Society, said that membership and attendance is small. They have questioned the value of Friends' tradition of taking oaths in the light of its pertinence today.

The above States of Society are included herewith.

Phoebe Anderson gave a verbal State of Society for the St. Louis Monthly Meeting, which is summed up as follows: While some of the St. Louis Friends feel that the Meeting is adequately supplying the needs of its members others are of

the opinion that since the Meeting serves such an extensive metropolitan area, we should make it more than a Friends Meeting. Though the Meeting for Worship is central in importance; yet this is not enough, we need to see more of each other. In view of this need the Study Group Committee, in planning its program for the coming year, is selecting six topics vital to the life of the Meeting. Some of these subjects are: effective ministry in the Meeting, the future of Quakerism, the peace testimony, our children and silent worship.

Statistics of the St. Louis Meeting: there are 14 families, totalling 79 members. During the past year we have added three members by birth and four by request.

In terms of service we are investigating the possibility of sponsoring an Indonesian refugee family. On the side of spiritual growth we note that there is more ministry in the Meeting for Worship, and that this ministry is coming from new sources.

Continuing with the business of Quarterly Meeting Cecil Smith brought forward a concern urging unity and cooperation within the Yearly Meeting. This unity and cooperation must be felt among individuals and among Monthly Meetings before it can encompass the entire Illinois Yearly Meeting. Marvin Fridley suggested a list of queries for Monthly Meetings to consider in this connection. Marvin Fridley and Cecil Smith were appointed to write these queries to be approved when Quarterly Meeting reconvened for the evening talk.

Suzanne Wicks announced that Friends World Committee is sponsoring a Quaker Businessman's Seminar, December 7, 8, 9, and urged that delegates encourage members of their Meetings to attend.

In view of the shortage of time Clifford Haworth asked that members consider the following three topics and be prepared to discuss them at the following Quarterly Meeting in February:

1. Should Friends conduct Quarterly Meetings, and if so, what should their functions be?

2. Is it possible to review and approve the Minutes of Quarterly Meeting at a later hour of the same day rather than wait three months for the next Quarterly Meeting?
3. What are Friends' ideas regarding a dormitory to be erected at the Illinois Yearly Meeting location at Mc Nabb, Illinois.

The following Queries submitted by Marvin Fridley and Cecil Smith were approved by the Quarterly Meeting:

Queries addressed to the Monthly Meeting of Blue River Quarterly Meeting pertaining to the spiritual unity of Illinois Yearly Meeting:

1. Do we as a Meeting and as individuals tend to be too limited and self-centered in our thinking and our sentiments as to what we judge to be the best for Illinois Yearly Meeting with regard to
  - a) Location of the site of Yearly Meeting?
  - b) The role of Yearly Meeting in our spiritual development?
2. Do we as a Meeting and as individuals tend to overlook the importance of promptness in responding to all written correspondence related to Yearly Meeting business in developing a spiritual closeness within the Yearly Meeting?
3. What can we as a Meeting and as individuals do to prompt a greater sense of spiritual unity within Illinois Yearly Meeting?

Gertrude Wood  
Minute Clerk

Clifford Haworth  
Clerk,  
Blue River Quarterly Meeting