

Minutes of Blue River Quarterly Meeting
held October 20, 1962 at St. Louis, Missouri

I. After an opening period of silence, the report of Blue River Quarter at Yearly Meeting was read. (*Should this be simplified?*)

II. The treasurer's report was read and is appended. (*This will need to be obtained from the treasurer.*)

III. Reports on the state of the Society were read from Urbana-Champaign, Clear Creek and St. Louis, and are appended. Comments on the reports were as follows: It seemed to one member as if a lack of satisfaction with the spiritual life of the meeting were common to all reports, which would indicate a need for concern. This same Friend was concerned about the emphasis on group action at the expense of individual action within the monthly meeting. There seems to be a lack of experience-sharing within the meeting.

In discussing the multiplicity of our lives, Friends expressed opinions concerning the problem of selecting the appropriate channels to express our social concerns, the problem of increasingly numerous financial solicitations, which in at least one meeting are referred to the Social Service Committee for investigation and recommendation for action.

We were reminded that our forefathers had the same organizational troubles and problems concerning the most fruitful use of one's time. Urbana-Champaign felt under the weight of the over-abundance of causes demanding its attention, but the Quarterly Meeting was reminded that one should welcome the multiplicity of causes, if only because of realizing the motivating reasons for seeking help-- a valid and oftentimes deep concern.

IV. Representatives to Quarterly Meeting from the monthly meetings were introduced: Martha Mills, Anna Mary and Arthur Wilson from Clear Creek; Francis Weeks from Urbana-Champaign; Galen Wood and Edward Wood from St. Louis. Wilbur Pieter Bijhouwer was introduced as a guest from 57th St. Meeting in Chicago, and also Philip Leahy, who participated in the San Francisco-Moscow peace walk, and who talked to us in the evening of his experiences on the walk.

V. The following concerns were brought to the attention of the Meeting:

1. The recent article by Lawrence Miller in the Friends Journal on quarterly meetings was mentioned and there was some discussion of the point it raised concerning the need for occasional professional help.

2. One need of the Quarterly Meeting seems to be the need of a special project (or projects) to draw the Meeting together. The organization of the Quarterly Meeting is often too loose and the business transacted in a desultory fashion. Perhaps the half-yearly meeting will provide a solution. There seemed to be some difference of opinion in defining a business meeting. Should the Quarterly Meeting send out an agenda before each session? The usual concern about small attendance was expressed. Because of this it was felt that the state of the Society report is

especially important. There was deep concern that we do something meaningful in order to maintain the visibility of size. Perhaps at sessions where the amount of business to be transacted is small, the time for meeting for worship should be increased.

3. 3. Concern was expressed about the need for contact with Bloomington and Peoria.

4. A report was made concerning the attempt to activate student Quaker fellowship at the University of Illinois.

5. Next Quarterly Meeting is scheduled for May 11, but the possibility seems likely that this date will be changed to late in April.

After a brief silence, Quarterly Meeting adjourned.

Amanda H. Fraser
Recording Clerk for the session