

TO BLUE RIVER QUARTERLY MEETING, OF ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING  
OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS:

On behalf of the Friends in Columbia, Mo. and in Decatur, Illinois, I propose the Quarterly Meeting approve the enclosed Minutes, granting them the authority to meet as established Monthly Meetings, with membership in this Quarter and the Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Society of Friends.

DECATUR

The Decatur group has been meeting together under the direct encouragement of the Continuing Committee of the Yearly Meeting. They have organized their group with a Clerk, Kenneth Tompkins, and have submitted a list of members, all of whom will be transfers from other Monthly Meetings. A special meeting was held in July in which I participated and the over-all business structure of the Yearly Meeting was discussed. They have considered at length their request to be a Monthly Meeting and I believe they understand the responsibilities it entails.

COLUMBIA

The Friends in Columbia, Mo., have also had a group worship for more than a year. They, too, have considered at great length the 'Preparative Meeting status' and the 'Monthly Meeting status'. They have had counsel from St. Louis Friends and Friends in the Missouri Valley Conference. It was at their request that a representative committee of the Yearly Meeting, including the clerk of Blue River Quarter and myself, met <sup>these were John Schindler and</sup> with a Committee of Columbia Friends while all were at Columbia in June. The committee structure and relationship to the Yearly Meeting and Quarterly Meeting were discussed in full--to the satisfaction, I believe, of all present. They, too, have compiled a membership list. Those who will be new to the Society of Friends have been "Quizzed and instructed" so Friends may feel easy of their understanding of the "Quaker Way of Life".

Since I am speaking on behalf of both groups, may I add that each was encouraged to have a committee on Ministry & Counsel and a Recorder plus the Clerk (which they had already both named) as part of their initial appointments. Both groups have been working congregately in service projects. Financial contributions to the Yearly Meeting will be sent to the Quarterly Meeting Treasurer for forwarding, but both groups are reluctant at this time to accept any responsibility for 'work' assignments since they are obviously pretty fully occupied with their respective local needs. They are familiar with "Faith & Practice" (of Philadelphia Y.M. as approved by Ill. Y.M.) and have an enthusiasm that should be of value in the ~~maintaining~~ continuity of a small Meeting.

It is with confidence and prayerful love that I comment to you the Decatur Monthly Meeting and the Columbia Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends!

Helen Jean Nelson

