

MINUTES OF BLUE RIVER QUARTERLY MEETING

OCTOBER, 31, 1970

LITTLE GRASSY METHODIST CAMP

MAKANDA, ILL.

Blue River Quarterly Meeting convened about 9:00 A.M. Saturday, October 31 before a roaring fire in the lounge of Little Grassy Methodist Camp, Makanda, Ill. After a period of worship the business session was opened by the clerk, Lee Stauber.

Minutes of the last Quarterly Meeting held in April, 1970 were not available to be read.

Those present introduced themselves by meetings.

State of Society reports followed.

Springfield Preparatory Meeting sent a written report since no member was present. This Meeting was organized in September, 1970 under the care of Decatur Friends Meeting. Attendance averages 10 persons or less. Jerry Storm is serving as clerk.

Urbana-Champaign's report was read by Gene Gilmore and a number of questions followed.

Gene Gilmore brought a request from Bloomington Normal that their Meeting wished to become a preparatory meeting and they sought advice as to how this can be done.

Helen Jean Nelson read the State of Society report from Clear Creek Meeting. She mentioned that she feels these reports tend to be a listing of activities in which the meetings have engaged rather than an evaluation of the meetings themselves. A discussion followed as to the ways State of Society reports are written in the meetings represented.

Decatur and Columbia Meetings were not represented and mailed no reports.

The Carbondale report was given orally by Peg Stauber. She raised several questions which elicited a good general discussion. What does membership in the Society of Friends mean? What guidance should be given those interested in joining? What is the place of the attender in the decision making process? Do you have to be a Christian to be a Friend? She concluded this discussion by stating that attenders are now coming to Friends meetings from widely diverse backgrounds and they approach Quakerism from varied points of view. She feels that the willingness to seek the spirit of God is more important than one's specific beliefs.

The University Meeting (St. Louis Allowed) report was given orally by Calvin DeLeuil. They feel their Meeting lacks the momentum it had last year. The vest pocket park project in the inner city was discontinued because of many problems encountered.

Blue River Quarterly Meeting minutes continued-

Those in the Meeting feel there is a value in a corporate witness and are now examining individual concerns in the hope they will find one in which all can unite.

Suzanne Wicks gave an oral report from Lebanon, Ill. Meeting (St. Louis Allowed). Lebanon Meeting was organized after the moratorium of the fall of 1969. Almost at once they began actively to organize a peace conference in which many east side peace groups co-operated. This project served to bind the attenders of the Meeting together. They have an average attendance of only 8 or 9 but a real sense of community. They are seeking means of greater outreach and feel the need of regular visitation. At present they are discussing Hayakawa's Language and Thought in Action.

Walter Bauer, in giving the St. Louis Meeting report stated that St. Louis Meeting feels keenly the loss of many valued members through moving and the establishment of new meetings. Attendance at meetings for worship remains good in part because of the attendance of a large number of visitors. One of its concerns this past year has been how these people can be reached. Several evening meetings in the homes of members and other meetings after meeting for worship were held in an attempt to get to know these attenders and to learn how we can satisfy their needs. The Meeting is also concerned about ways of developing a feeling of community in a fairly large urban meeting whose members are widely scattered. A number of people in the Meeting have been concerned to find another means of expressing their strong disapproval of the continuing involvement of our country in Southeast Asia. The Monthly Meeting has established an escrow account into which concerned people may deposit the telephone taxes they have refused to pay for conscience reasons.

After a brief intermission the Quarterly Meeting reconvened to hear a talk by Helen Jean Nelson of Clear Creek Meeting on Basic Fundamentals?

At the conclusion of the talk of Bloomington Normal Meeting expressed his deep concern for the residents of Cairo, Ill. and urged that Friends consider some kind of assistance to them. Since the clerk had an obligation to be elsewhere, Suzanne Wicks was asked to chair this continuation of the Quarterly Meeting session. A serious discussion with wide participation followed. The meeting decided to inform Bronson Clark, Executive Secretary of the American Friends Service Committee of the serious situation in Cairo and encourage them to investigate to see whether they or other Friends groups could perform a useful service there.

The following committee was appointed to inform the AFSC:

Horace Browder	Leonard Tinker
Marvin Fridley	Suzanne Wicks
Gene Gilmore	Armand Stalnaker, Chairman
Peg Stauber	

Blue River Quarterly Meeting minutes continued

Armand Stalnaker announced that the newly appointed committee would meet at luncheon immediately following the rise of this session.

The meeting concluded with a brief period of silence.

Signed

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachel P. Stalnaker". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Rachel P. Stalnaker  
Recording clerk, pro tem