

1:20

30 Minute Meeting for Worship

Minutes Quarterly Meeting Oct 10, 1987

\* Attendance: (get sign up list)

Minutes Read: from ~~July 25~~ April 25, 1987, St. Louis

Request from Clerk for Minutes to post @ Blue River  
Quarterly Mtg. Who has them? Urbana Champ Mtg?  
University of Illinois? - contact John ~~Hoffman~~ Hoffman

Agenda review

Announcements of events

State of Society reports

Discussion on Ministry + Caring

Minutes should be sent to Clerks, Clerk of next Quarterly  
meeting, + Among Friends, Archives (John Hoffman,

Send state of Society Reports to these also.

Establish notebook of above to hand off from  
Clerk to Clerk.

Send Minutes

to Clerk

Barbara

State of Society reports from Ministry and Caring Committee

- St. Louis (~~enter text~~) Russell Taylor read these

- Decatur who? read Anita Dupree

- UC (on First Day School) (as opposed to M+O above)

Franky Day

April 22-24 -

Oral Report from where by whom?

Anna Mary Wells  
Clear Creek

St Louis

- Oral Report from where by whom?

Retreat

Carbondale? Peg Merton S. Illinois

- George Kidder (ool) Bloomington Normal

Note: Not all meetings aware that State of Society report  
expected at Quarterly

- Pat Nixon (oral) Columbia

## Discussion on Ministry + Caring

<sup>Pat Nixon</sup>  
A. Certificates to babies idea from St. Louis

~~Pat Nixon~~

"We celebrate and rejoice in welcoming  
\_\_\_\_\_ into our Meeting."

Meeting presents, introduces, welcomes  
everyone signs certificate.

Ask St. Louis to send copy to Among Friends  
(Marvin Fridley)

⊥  
Russell Taylor  
B. Functions of Min. + Caring vs Advancement

Some meetings, these are pastoral care functions +  
spiritual health taken care of by "Advancement"

Pastoral care overseen by one overseer / 12 members  
~~take~~ <sup>divide</sup> responsibility for whole meeting given committee  
members.

Spiritual Advancement for leading / <sup>overseeing/nurturing</sup> spirit of group

W+C does pastoral

~~Committee~~ Virginia  
C. Is there a Meeting w/ an established process for welcoming  
new people?

Follow up call. Designated persons?

visitors book, individual responsibility.

introductions of everyone

follow up card

## D. How to attract new members/visitors?

Barbara suggests queries for later meetings <sup>Q</sup>  
when Friends are concerned about members of Friends

① When are you justified in approaching Meeting members w/ legitimate concerns and when is it meddling in private lives

② How do we attract new members?

③ How do we attract and keep families w/ children?

BA suggests BRQ <sup>invite consideration</sup> request monthly meetings to respond to the queries in their State of Soc. reports at next BRQ meeting. ~~Approved~~

Concern re imposing too many queries on Monthlies  
Don't "request", "invite consideration" for sharing at next BRQ

Does your meeting have experiences you'd be willing to share on these queries w/ BRQ? Not focus of State of Meeting reports. Approved

## Announcements

① Posters from London + FGC

② 14M planning meeting on facilities

③ Margaret Harworth post away 10/19  
memorials to AFSC or 14M

④ Friends canoe trip - call Bob Wixon

⑤ Continuing committee in Columbia March

⑥ Next BRQ reports on "spiritual state of society"  
spiritual health of meeting

"Representative  
Concern re lack of ~~Exec.~~ Meeting" for IYM to handle  
business (e.g. Philadelphia YM) during year  
Continuing Committee has more than it can handle  
(Alfred Dupree)

Please correspond w/ Al thoughts  
Bring before Continuing Com.

Thanks to UC Meeting etc.

Barb Bradshaw

BRQ responsible for IYM housing

- ① site prep. before
- ② registration
- ③ housekeeping
- ④ cleanup

Pej Morton

8 Brookside Ct

Edwardsville IL 62025

618-656-8067

Correction: 1) On the April 25, 1987 Quarterly report the  
representative Mary Jane Garrison was omitted  
as the representative from Alba Friends Meeting.

GROUPS OF TWELVE

2) ~~A~~ LIKE MINDED ACTIVE MEMBERS OF  
MEETING ~~AND~~ CAN BE GIVEN PASTORAL CARE BY A LIKE-  
MINDED OVERSEER.

## STATE OF THE MEETING

Decatur Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

June 1987

Decatur Friends are rebounding from a period of quiescence and low religious activity. The pressure of work, family, and community service wears on us individually and prevents some of us from gathering often in meaningful worship. One of our small number has left Meeting in the sense that she no longer worships with us regularly. We are saddened that she did not find religious fulfillment in the Meeting, but we are happy that she now feels spiritually renewed, and that she still loves us and wants to remain connected with the Meeting.

On June 18, we held a "threshing session" to consider the question of the Meeting's direction over the next few months. One consideration was laying down the Meeting. Our Clerk, Milli Protzman, asked each of us to share a personal statement about what the Meeting and Quakerism means in our lives.

Each of us declared our loving feelings for each other and a commitment to Quaker worship and the religious life of our Meeting. As one put it, the thought of laying down the Meeting filled her with too much sadness to contemplate.

We recognized our failings, as well as our strengths. Our Meetings for Worship are not as often gathered or as Light-inspired as we would like. We have let down our children and ourselves in religious education.

As for our strengths, one of our members saw a "certain core of goodness in the Meeting that is truly spiritual." We still contribute financially and significantly to community concerns, as much or more than some small churches. Although we don't advertise or proselytize our faith, we do not hide it either: By example and when asked, we let our neighbors and acquaintances know we are Quakers.

And finally, as a result of our threshing, there came a new commitment to our religious education. We will start small, with one member taking responsibility for an adult First Day School session once a month, beginning in September. We are scheduled with volunteers through March of 1988.

## 1) Ministry and Caring Committee - St. Louis Monthly Meeting.

This committee is responsible for seeking to strengthen the quality of the meeting for worship and for caring for the physical/emotional/spiritual needs of members and attenders. It seeks to meet the pastoral needs of the meeting and is available for consultation for those facing religious or personal problems.

The primary focus of the committee is on individual need. Examples include contacting members/attenders who are in distress perhaps from a serious illness, a divorce or a financial problem. One person who could not come to meeting because of illness was visited at home. Another person with severe emotional problems has been contacted on a regular basis to keep in touch.

A fund has been set up to help with emergency financial problems. Food has also been distributed on an emergency basis. ~~One person~~ A ride to and from meeting was arranged for a person who did not drive.

(2)

To address perceived needs of the meeting as a whole or groups within the meeting, different activities have been planned. A singles seminar was held where single members/attenders could share the joys, opportunities, frustrations, concerns etc of living without a partner. People who attended formed a group to eat and socialize together, periodically.

Clairmont Dialogue groups have been formed where people share feelings/experiences/views in a non-threatening atmosphere.

Certificates for new babies (and some old) have been prepared and presented to parents when needed.

A "whole meeting" catalogue was prepared which listed reliable resource people in many different areas, ranging from carpenters to psychologists. A list of <sup>mental health professionals</sup> helpers who attend meeting is also being prepared.

Another function of this committee is to assist members/attenders to form special committees of concern to address a specific concern someone may have, and help them gain "clarity" about this concern.

Some of the challenges that have and continue to face the Ministry and Caring Committee is a concern that some people "slip through the cracks". This is, some people who may be aided never come to the committee's attention. This may be partly because the committee is composed of peers rather than a minister that traditional churches have. There may be a concern about confidentiality.

Another concern that is currently being discussed is the overlap in functions between Ministry and Caring and the Advancement Committee. Both committees are having joint meetings to attempt to resolve this issue.



Urbane Chauswiga experiences a problem in that the number of children who appear for first Day School is unpredictable which makes continuity of program a problem. Also it is not easy to obtain teachers from among the adults!

We, additionally, have the continuing debate on what is the best procedure to enable the children to take part in meetings or worship. At the beginning of meetings when meeting is not yet gathered or at the end when their arrival may interfere with the gathering meeting?

The first day school has been moved from the basement to the second floor where it is felt that the meetings concern for the children is better expressed.

We are concerned that inter-generational relations in the meetings be strengthened and to facilitate this we are experimenting with a finger food potluck each 1st day to celebrate the presence of the children in the meetings and help to assure them that they are indeed an important part of our meetings by going in fun & games.