

MINUTES OF THE BLUE RIVER QUARTERLY MEETING OF FRIENDS
held 10/21/89 at the Urbana-Champaign Meeting House

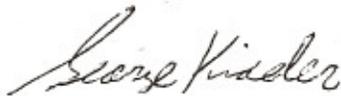
1. Meeting gathered at 1:10 PM, following the announcement that Al DuPree would act as clerk in the absence of Grayce Haworth, who was attending her 30th reunion at Earlham College. We worshipped together for about an hour.
2. State of the Society reports were received from Bloomington-Normal, Columbia, Decatur, Urbana-Champaign and Southern Illinois Monthly Meetings, each followed by questions and discussion.
3. We paused following silence at 3:30, for refreshments.
4. The meeting regathered at about 4:00.
5. We (belatedly) introduced ourselves. Bloomington-Normal, Columbia, Decatur, Southern Illinois and Urbana-Champaign Monthly Meetings were represented; Clear Creek, Friends Hill, Peoria-Galesburg, Springfield and St. Louis Monthly Meetings had no members present.
6. The meeting approved the following minute for transmission to Southern Illinois Monthly Meeting:
"Beloved Friends,
We at Blue River Quarterly Meeting are saddened with you to hear that so many of your established Friends have moved away. We want you to know that our love and concern is with you, and we hope to have continued visitation and contact with you. Please let us know if any of us can be a resource in any way. We would be glad to hear of specific Friends who you would like to have visit you, or of specific subjects which you would like to have a visitor equipped to deal with. We wish you Light in your continuing deepening, both as individual Friends and as a Meeting. "
7. The question of the future of Blue River Quarterly Meeting was discussed. The three options seemed to be a) to lay down Blue River Quarterly Meeting, b) to divide into two Quarterly Meetings, one containing the more northern Monthly Meetings and the other the more southern, and c) a trial period during which some meetings would be held separately by each putative section of the Meeting, and some perhaps held jointly. The discussion centered on the travel time and distance to attend meetings in the other half of the Quarter, the perception that division of the Quarter was the desire of the St. Louis Monthly Meeting, and some feeling of lack of unity should we divide. Monthly Meetings had considered some aspects of this question in advance, and reported the decision of their Meetings. After various attempts to write a minute expressing our views, the question was referred to a committee charged with writing such a minute for consideration at a brief terminal meeting after supper.
8. The meeting recessed for supper at about 5:30.

9. We regathered at 7:00 to conclude our business. The committee to write the minute presented three alternate draft minutes, essentially embodying the three concepts in Minute 7. Friends could not unite on any of these versions, and time prohibited any revisions.

10. Alternate dates for the next Quarterly Meeting were discussed. We agreed that subject to the approval of the host meeting, we would gather *** on 4/21/90 at the St. Louis Monthly Meeting meeting house.

11. The meeting concluded with a period of silence at 7:20 PM.

for the Blue River Quarterly Meeting of Friends,



George Kidder, Acting Recording Clerk.

*** 11/29/89 Grayce Haworth talked to Nancy Duncan. St. Louis would like to have the spring Quarterly in conjunction with their spring retreat. A date has not been selected yet. However, 4/21/90 is the date of a women's workshop led by Elizabeth Watson to be held at McNabb.

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DRAFT MINUTE UNAPPROVED BY BLUE RIVER QUARTERLY
MEETING, 10-21-89

It is agreed that three suggestions be referred to Monthly Meetings for further discussion at Spring Quarterly Meeting:

#1 The first suggestion is to divide Blue River Quarterly Meeting into northern and southern parts. As a trial, it is suggested that there be at least four Quarterly Meeting events each year, two planned primarily by and for the northern Monthly Meetings and two by and for the southern Monthly Meetings. Schedules should be coordinated to avoid conflict of dates and all Monthly Meetings should be invited to each event.

#2 The second suggestion is to divide Blue River Quarterly Meeting into northern and southern parts. We suggest a trial separation of two years, asking a committee of Yearly Meeting to assist us with the structure during those two years, also helping us prepare structures for separate Quarterlies if we decide to make the separation permanent.

#3 The third suggestion is that Blue River Quarterly Meeting should reorganize itself into a northern and southern grouping. Each grouping should hold one Quarterly Meeting each year, each of these reporting to one meeting of the whole at a central place between Springfield and St. Louis. In addition each grouping is free to organize additional meetings or retreats. A committee drawn from both groupings is asked to investigate the existence of suitable residential central meeting places such as church camps, state parks with dormitories, etc. If the division is successful, growth into two Quarterly Meetings may occur and be formally approved by Illinois Yearly Meeting.

Quarterly Meeting warmly welcomes any reorganization which leads to greater fellowship and spiritual growth among monthly meeting and worship groups.

