

BLUE RIVER QUARTERLY

April 22, 1989

Quarterly Meeting started with silence followed by introductions of those in attendance. A letter was read from Grayce Haworth, Clerk, who was unable to be there. The minutes of the Oct. Quarterly were read. State of Society reports were made from U/C (Bobbie Trist), St. Louis (Nancy Duncan), Columbia (Bob Wixom & Hank Koch), Clear Creek (Al Frels), Southern IL (Peg Morton), and Alba Friends Church - Evangelical Friends Alliance (Mary Jane Garrison). Meetings not represented were Bloomington-Normal, Springfield, Decatur, Peoria-Galesburg, Rolla and Friends Hill.

Friends had a lively discussion on the role and need for Blue River Qrtly. Meeting. (Thoughts expressed on ~~attached sheet~~ ^{BACK}.) There were many warm feelings expressed for the memories of past quarterlies and the role they played in the spiritual life of Friends. The suggestions are: 1) Lay down the Quarterly for the time being and re-examine the question in say, three years. 2) Divide the Quarterly into two, with one center in U/C, the other in St. Louis, with local meetings affiliating as they wish. 3) Keep the Quarterly as is, with attempts to revitalize it spiritually and organizationally by having a well-planned program with possibly a retreat format and also a time-schedule that can be passed on to each group planning Quarterly.

Meanwhile, the Quarterly gratefully accepts the invitation of Urbana/Champaign to meet there October 21st at which time we will help them celebrate their 50th anniversary. The question of the future of the Quarterly will be further discussed at the current gathering by a small group of Friends (A report from this group follows.) Further consideration can be given by all at the fall meeting in Urbana/Champaign.

This report should be sent by the end of May by the Blue River Quarterly Clerk, to the Clerk of each constituent monthly meeting, preparative meeting and worship group for review and further consideration in preparation of a response, written if possible, to be presented at the fall Quarterly in U/C.

Following announcements, meeting ended with worshipful silence.

Peg Morton, Acting Clerk

Liz Oldham & Bobbi Trist, Recording Clerks

REPORT FROM THE AD-HOC QUARTERLY MEETING COMMITTEE

- 1 - The committee members recommend a division of Blue River Quarterly Meeting as most likely to meet the needs of the involved Friends.
- 2 - Involvement of quarterly meeting attenders should include preparation for the next quarterly meeting. The plans for the next meeting should be adopted during quarterly meeting sessions since any quarterly meeting only exists while in session.
- 3 - The quarterly meeting planning committee should include at least one member from each meeting in the quarter, and the quarterly meeting Clerk.
- 4 - Each quarterly meeting should endeavor to meet at least four times a year.
- 5 - It is suggested that St. Louis and the other member meetings adopt the name "Ozark Quarter", leaving the Blue River name for Urbana-Champaign and the other member meetings.
- 6 - The committee feels the root cause of the problems with the existing structure of Blue River Quarterly Meeting is the distance between the southern portion of the Meeting and the northern portion. This distance/time problem will prevent implementing structural problems identified in items 2 through 4 above.

Ted Edgerton

Russell Taylor

Mary Phillips

Bobbi Trist

Charles Stevens

Bob Wixom

Discussion of Role of Quarterly April 24, 1989

- MP: Some roles of quarterly had been taken over by Continuing Comm.
- JS: Feels the representatives to CC know far in advance when the meeting is, whereas noone is appointed to go to Qrtly. and we don't always know in advance when it is. Those who are appointed to CC feel a responsibility to attend. Those who have a concern are more likely to bring it to CC where they can depend on a well represented turn-out.
- ES: Has seen such a deterioration of Qrtly. since she started in St. L. 24 years ago. In bygone days there were important speakers on Sat. night and the wider community was invited in. Feels that Qrtly. ought to be laid down until we see if it's really wanted.
- BW: Qrtly. has a split personality, business and nurture of the spirit. Which is it? He feels it should have a spiritual emphasis.
- CS: Reported on a Qrtly. in Baltimore YM from 20-30 years ago. The 3 small meetings liked to have the folks from the large city meeting come out, to make it worth while to have enough people for a meeting.
- PM: Experiences of Qrtly. while raising children. Family depended on the regional mtgs. for the contact they provided for children to know other Quaker children. Things were always planned for the children and local people brought theirs. Their mtg. was insufficient to nurture their family. The Qrtlies., IYM, and family retreats were vital. The St. Louis winter retreat, which started out in winter, has gradually encroached on spring Qrtly., the energies going there. Would be very sorry to see the Qrtly. laid down. Agrees we need to know in advance when the Qrtly. is going to be, an announced topic, and plans for the children. Perhaps then, there would be more participation.
- MP: There are about the same # of people who are actively involved from large meetings or small.
- BT: Has become more active in CC because that is where there are children the ages of her children, whereas Qrtly. has been disappointing.
- JS: At the last St. Louis MM; presented the report of IYM Rel Ed, which included a request to hold a meeting here. Concerns of 3 major meetings in the spring - RE, Qrtly., and the family retreat. Perhaps the RE mtg. could be combined with Qrtly. Many people have expressed concerns about their children.
- UJG: Would abide by decision, but would hate to see the Qrtly. laid down. The mtgs. have been spiritually uplifting.
- CS: It's awfully hard to set off for 4 hours' drive after work on Fri. for something which we have no idea what it is.
- BW: Again stresses the need for knowing the date 2 months in advance.
- CS: Points out that the last order of business is to set the date for the next mtg.
- RT: Feels it is incumbent upon the Qrtly. Clerk to see that the date is set.
- BW: If date is set soon enough, the date could be announced in Among Friends.
- DB: Why must we always reinvent the wheel? Much of the time schedule is really routine. Can we put together a package timetable?
- PM: Feels she hears people saying, let's keep Qrtly.
- RT: Feels we should accept Urbana's invitation for next fall, then decide there.
- CS: Suggests reorganizing into 2 Qrtlies. We are too large a geographic area to be a functioning Qrtly. Better 2 small working Qrtlies. than one non-working large one. One should be centered in St. Louis, one in Urbana, and each mtg. chooses.
- ND: Worship-sharing should be included.
- BW: Wants to be sure the minutes reflect many warm feelings about Blue River Qrtly.
- HK: There is nothing wrong with the death of an institution if it's not meeting the needs of the constituency.
- JS: What will this do to IYM because we receive assignments as a Qrtly. If we lay this down, then where would someone with a concern go instead of CC? (MM and IYM)

Hopefully, these expressions are fairly close to what was said at the meeting. They are thoughts that will perhaps invoke discussion and thinking within your own monthly meeting. Plan to come to fall Quarterly Meeting, share with us the thoughts from your meeting and help Urbana/Champaign celebrate their Meeting's 50th Anniversary!!