

**Blue River Quarterly
Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business**

**Camp CILCA
October 17-18, 1992**

Presiding Clerk: Bobbi Trist

Acting Recording Clerk: Dawn Rubbert

- 1) The Blue River Quarterly Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business opened with a period of silence.
- 2) The clerk read a list of agenda items and additional items were sought from Friends present.
- 3) Announcements were as follows:
 - The 20th Anniversary Friends Float Trip, sponsored by Columbia Meeting, will be held after school is out at a date yet to be decided.
 - Urbana is having a Halloween party-potluck-dinner-dance on Sat., October 31. The day following will be potluck Sunday. Overnight accommodations can be made available.
 - Scott Keyes, long-term attender of Urbana-Champaign meeting died two weeks ago. He was 82. The memorial service will be on October 25th at the Channing-Murray Foundation on the University of Illinois campus.
- 4) Minutes of the Spring 1992 Quarter were read and approved. Friends agreed to approve the minutes of this quarterly meeting within the body of the meeting.
- 5) Pat Wixom read a state of the meeting report from Columbia Monthly Meeting. (attached)
- 6) Ken Southwood reported verbally for Urbana-Champaign. Sadly there have been three deaths in the last year: first Mahlon Day; then Ruth Stillwell whose husband was a regular attender and has renewed his participation since Ruth's death; and lastly, Scott Keyes. Both Fran Weeks and Marion Freeman are in extremely bad health. There has been a major influx of children, however, they are seldom all present simultaneously and First Day School is somewhat tenuous as a result. The meeting continues to be vital. They are taking up the concern of commitment ceremonies for gay and lesbian couples.
- 7) Roy Treadway reported that the Heartland Worship Group was formed this fall and is doing well.
- 8) Dawn Rubbert gave an oral report regarding the activities of St. Louis Meeting.
- 9) Bob Wixom brought a display regarding the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED – pronounced "unsaid"). He expressed openness to further sharing with friends individually.
- 10) Bob also brought information regarding FCUN and urged Friends to promote FCUN issues and participation at their respective meetings.

- 11) Bob also brought a publication, Earthlight, from Pacific Yearly Meeting. Back issues are available for \$1.
- 12) As an illustration of what children can do Bob brought some children's drawings from his Sierra Club activities.
- 13) Friends wondered what our policy was regarding reports from monthly meetings. Grayce Haworth reported that in the past we had written state of the meeting reports in Spring. In Fall there would be a written report on a focus topic (such as advancement). The topic has been chosen by whomever was in charge of the program. Generally Friends liked the idea of having a focus topic for the Fall Quarterly as long as it is clearly not perceived as a requirement. We suggest that queries could be used as the focus topics at the discretion of the program committee.
- 14) At the direction of the last Quarterly Meeting Grayce Haworth opened a checking account at the Farmers' State Bank of McNabb. Currently only Roger Sherman is able to sign checks. There is a need for two additional people to be authorized to sign checks. Friends agreed Grace Haworth should be one person as the account is in her town. The third signer should be from St. Louis for easy communication with the treasurer. Dawn Rubber agreed to accept this responsibility.
- 15) Spring Quarterly (1993) will be at DuBois Center April 2-4, Friday evening through Sunday noon. Our input regarding program was requested. It was generally agreed that it would be ideal to offer a program for Young Friends and to create wide-spread involvement of Friends on the program coupled with an outside presenter.
- 16) Sabina Wangia of Columbia Meeting now has her twin daughters in this country. The Columbia Meeting has created a tax deductible scholarship fund. Friends are welcomed to make contributions.
- 17) In September the Blue River Quarterly clerk received a letter from the Cunninghams, Schobernds, and Treadways stating that they had withdrawn from active participation in Bloomington Normal and have formed a worship sharing group which is temporarily closed. They asked that Blue River Quarterly acknowledge this reality. A letter was also sent to the clerks of Bloomington-Normal Meeting and IYM. Bobbi Trist read a letter from Larry Stout (clerk of Bloomington-Normal Meeting) to the Cunningham, Schobernd, and Treadway families and a letter to Blue River Quarterly from the Bloomington-Normal Meeting. Bloomington-Normal Friends express feelings of pain and loss. They state a desire for reconciliation and assistance from Blue River Quarterly and/or IYM toward that goal. They acknowledge that both groups must share the desire for reconciliation and that reconciliation may not be appropriate at this time.

Following a period of silence Friends shared their thoughts and feelings. Blue River Quarterly Friends express the desire to respond to both groups with love and understanding.

- 18) Following dinner the group reconvened and took up the topic of how to proceed with concerns from the Bloomington-Normal and Heartland Friends Worship Group. Friends felt that in addition to the above minute we need to respond to both groups with a letter. A committee of three will draft the letter for Quarterly approval tomorrow morning (10/18/92). We considered the question of creating a Committee of Concern which would maintain Friendly contact with both groups, express our concern and report to the Spring Blue River Quarterly. Friends approved. Ken and Janet Southwood and Bobbi Trist agreed to serve on the Committee of Concern. We agreed to inform the IYM clerk and the co-clerks of Ministry and Advancement that the Committee of Concern exists and to what purpose.
- 19) Sunday Morning Friends gathered and approved a single letter (attached) to be sent to Bloomington-Normal and Heartland Friends Worship Group.
- 20) The above minutes were approved and following a period of silence the Meeting adjourned.

BLUE RIVER QUARTERLY MEETING
Bobbi Trist, Clerk, 503 N. Fair, Champaign, IL61821

Bloomington-Normal Friends Meeting,
Larry Stout, Clerk,
602 Normal Ave.,
Normal, IL 61761

Heartland Friends Worship Group,
c/o Roy Treadway,
712 N. School St.,
Normal, IL61761

Dear Friends,

Blue River Quarterly Meeting has learned with sadness of the withdrawal of almost half of Bloomington-Normal Meeting into a separate Worship Group. We believe that there must have been long-standing disagreements and personal conflicts to result in such a drastic action.

In our meeting we have expressed heartfelt love and concern for the members of both groups. We have heard expression of hurt from both groups and of the dismay of Bloomington-Normal Friends at what they feel to have been secretive meetings and a sudden withdrawal by the worship group, and of the Heartland Worship Group at what they feel to have been a lack of comprehension and understanding of their pain and needs by Bloomington-Normal Friends. We urge you to reflect upon words of Cromwell, "I beseech you, in the bowels of Christ, think it possible you may be mistaken," as no reconciliation is possible without the realization that we may have hurt or behaved unjustly towards others. We pray that in separate worship after the manner of Friends each and all of you will find healing of the deep hurts which have occurred, and be ready to try once again for greater understanding, tolerance, and acceptance of the needs of each other.

We recognize the sore difficulties your much smaller Meetings will be experiencing. We have formed a committee of concern consisting of Bobbi Trist, and Janet and Ken Southwood, who will be visiting you and will be available for sharing your sufferings. We wish to be sure that you know that confidential mediation and consulting services are available to Meetings in

distress through the IYM committee for Ministry and Advancement (co-chairs Janet Means and Pat Lucas.) Please call on them if you think it might be helpful. You may indicate to them specific Friends you believe would be most helpful to you in this respect. Please be assured that all Friends will be concerned and ready to offer you their love and acceptance. You are all very much a part of the wider family of Friends.

In friendship,
Bobbi Trist, Clerk