

Blue River Quarterly (BRQ) Spring Session

Fourth Month 12-14, 2019

Minutes: Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business 4.14.19

IN ATTENDANCE

Bloomington-Normal Meeting: Fariba Murray, Christina Schulz (Recording Clerk)

Clear Creek Meeting: Beth Carpenter, Grayce Mesner, Neil Mesner

Field Secretary Judy Wolicki

Northside Friends Meeting: Marie White

St. Louis Meeting: Tim Hetrick, Denise Smith, Steve Tamari, Dave Wixom

Urbana-Champaign Meeting: Sam Davis, Margie Haworth-Davis, Dale Gardner, Liam Gardner Peter Lasersohn (Clerk), Sharon Haworth

MINUTES

We opened the Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business with silence.

Minute 1: Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business opened with a message from Mariellen Gilpin read by Peter: She thanked BRQ for friends she has made, shared memories and experiences of Friends, as well as sent well wishes.

Minute 2: Grayce provided the Nominating Report. Peter has agreed to continue Clerking; Christina, Recording Clerk; Margie, Treasurer; Sean West, Web Master. We should consider who we know who might work with or replace Sean over time. Friends approved the nominations.

Minute 3: Margie provided the Treasurer's Report, which follows these Minutes. Friends accepted the report. Meetings are encouraged to donate \$8/Adult Resident Member.

Minute 4: The following Meetings shared State of Society Reports: Bloomington-Normal (B-N); Clear Creek Meeting; Burlington Worship Group; St. Louis Meeting; Urbana-Champaign; Springfield Worship Group.

Minute 5: Following the B-N State of Society Report, we had some discussion, including checking whether B-N Friends had recommended readings for dealing with difficult situations or ideas for helping Friends who don't feel like they've been heard, in order to offer any guidance to other Meetings who might find themselves going through a similar experience. Related, Judy Wolicki referenced a pamphlet with title similar to "Dealing with Difficult People and Situations," and she affirmed that B-N's threshing as a Meeting to resolve its challenging issue, ultimately, strengthened the Meeting. B-N Clerk Fariba Murray shared that B-N Friends should have spoken to one another and let its situation go on too long before addressing the issue(s).

Minute 6: Discussion of Macomb Worship Group based on (Field Secretary / Friend) visits. They are struggling but ok. Friends asked what we can do to support further.

Minute 7: Historic side note: A cemetery is located at the former site of Prairie Grove Meeting near Burlington. Peter has located it on a map. It was suggested that Friends who visit Burlington make a trip to the site of that former Meeting, which was previously part of ILYM.

Minute 8: Discussion of Columbia Meeting based on Field Secretary knowledge: The Meetinghouse will be sold. Friends there will use UU space and hope to grow the Meeting by being in town, more so than where located at the Meetinghouse. They continue to be a strong, deep Meeting during Worship and run focused Business Meetings. They are doing well but unable to get to Spring BRQ. Judy Wolicki shared a message for BRQ Friends from Ichiro Matsuda of CFM: “My mother always told me, ‘Take care of yourself, so you will have a happy life. My mother lived to be 104. So, that is my message to you. Take care of yourself so you will have a happy life.’”

Minute 9: Discussion of St. Louis Meeting: A question arose about how St. Louis Friends are participating in inter-faith community actions to address concerns for people of color and institutional racism. Also, a record number of kids attend St. Louis Meeting now—a real joy(!).

Meeting 10: Discussion of Rolla: Inactive at present. Discussion of Spoon River: Four Attenders meet every week, are committed to one another, and continue to be a Meeting; Worship is deep; they don’t have a desire to be bigger. They sometimes meet in Monmouth and, other times, in Galesburg, and enjoy singing. Discussion included what can Friends do to encourage and support or develop connections, so they are not separate. Judy reminded Friends that tiny meetings appreciate being contacted by others in ILYM and BRQ. “Visit if you have the opportunity but also by phone or send a card. Let them know they are felt to be a part of larger organization and that you care you don’t get to see them.”

Meeting 11: Discussion of U-C Meeting: Regarding the removal of a beloved, historic tree, Judy remarked that the Clerk allowed the challenges and questions to be addressed instead of saying “decision has been made.” So community building and so well done. A lesson for the rest of us. Peter noted the bind that Attenders can find themselves in when they perceive Business Meeting as reserved for those with stronger commitments to Quakerism but disagree with decisions made.

Meeting 12: Discussion of Springfield Worship Group based on Field Secretary knowledge: New Meeting place; Lewis Memorial Christian Village, an assisted living facility; 3400 West Washington Springfield, which is in the Grace Point Building Room 500. If anyone is interested visiting there, contact Peg Kruger (**spelling?**). They feel a public space will help to grow the Meeting. Today, Friends are participating in an award ceremony for kids who won awards for writing about nonviolence as invited guests. We noted the amount of activities and service among Friends in Springfield who are very active.

Meeting 13: At Fall BRQ 2018, a proposal was made to create two groups within Blue River Quarterly for planning Quarterlies: Northern and Southern Meetings, instead of remaining four groups divided among Small and Big Northern Meetings and Small and Big Southern Meetings. Friends approved the proposal. Going forward, Northern Meetings will plan both the adult and the children’s programs for Spring Quarterlies, and Southern Meetings will plan both the adult and children’s programs Fall Quarterlies. Bloomington-Normal Friends will now be considered “Southern.” The Northern Group will consist of: Urbana-Champaign Monthly Meeting, including Springfield Worship Group; Clear Creek Monthly Meeting, including Burlington and Macomb Worship Groups; and Spoon River Monthly Meeting. The

Southern Group will consist of St. Louis Monthly Meeting, including Rolla Preparative Meeting; Bloomington Monthly Meeting; Columbia Monthly Meeting; and Southern Illinois Monthly Meeting.

Meeting 14: Friends approved giving ILYM the amount above their guidelines up to \$1,000 as a donation to cover 2019 Annual Session speakers.

Meeting 15: Friends discussed the opportunity to engage in outreach with Friends near the 200th celebration location. We will leave it to the Planning Committee for Fall session to make any decisions about outreach.

Meeting 16: Friends approved Margie to reserve Camp CILCA 2020 either the first weekend in April before Easter or the weekend after

Meeting 17: We would like to thank the Middle School Friends and their Adults for the lunch they served us.

Meeting 18: We announced again that the 200th anniversary session at the Old Blue River Meetinghouse in Salem, Indiana will take place 9th Month 27-29, 2019, with accommodations at Camp Pyoca. All Friends are encouraged to attend.

Meeting 19: Young Friends reported out on Children's Program: Worms, Seedballs, songs, walking outside. The focus was on animals and Quakerism and included reading from *Benjamin, The Meetinghouse Mouse*.

Christina Schulz read these Minutes and Friends approved.

Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business closed in silence.