

Blue River Quarterly (BRQ) Fall Session

Ninth Month 18-20, 2020

Minutes: Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business 4.14.19

IN ATTENDANCE

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

Clear Creek Meeting: Grayce Mesner, Beth Carpenter

Columbia Meeting: Nancy and David Finke

Macomb Worship Group: Erin Taylor

St. Louis Meeting: Steve Tamari, Margaret Katranides

South Bend: Braid Laird

Southern Illinois: Dawn Crimson

Urbana-Champaign Meeting: Peter Lasersohn (Clerk), Sharon Haworth, Margie Haworth, Bobbi Trist
Jude Reese

Phyllis Reynolds

NOTES

Due to the Coronavirus:

- Spring 2020 Quarterly was canceled.
- Fall 2020 Quarterly sessions were held via videoconference, including our Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business.

MINUTES

Minute 1: Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business opened with silence.

Minute 2: Margie provided Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's Report (follows these Minutes). Friends accepted the report.

Minute 3: Peter requested whether any Friends present would be willing to serve on a nominating committee. Peter, Christina, and Margie have volunteered, and Friends approved.

Minute 4: Regarding, Meeting archives at the University of Library: The library has asked to negotiate a new agreement. Standard-contract language indicates that ownership of the Minutes would be transferred to the University, so it can decide what files have enduring value to continue archiving. Friends discussed. We decided to consider this as an informational item more than a decision item. We are open to considering our options, including possibility of archiving with Earlham or Swarthmore. ILYM has appointed a committee to negotiate a new agreement. Presumably the Quarterly could sign onto such an agreement once negotiated. Our input for Peter is that if the best agreement is one in which they retain right to throw things out, then insist they consult with us before doing that.

Minute 5: Peter observed that we failed to plan this Quarterly Meeting as outlined in our articulated process. For the past three Quarterlies, Peter did a large portion of the planning. While acknowledging

other Friends' contributions to past Quarterlies, including to volunteer program topics and IT support, Peter pointed out it's not the responsibility of the Clerk to do the planning. Friends discussed the possibility of naming a planning Committee for Spring 2021 while in this Business Meeting. We also discussed the ease with which Friends do not assume responsibility for planning and the type of system for planning that would result in Friends taking responsibility for planning, instead of waiting and evading. Friends decided to give up on the existing system of alternating planning responsibilities between northern and southern meetings. Instead, we will move to a new system in which the Quarterly appoints 1 or more friends to coordinate planning for the following session. Steve Tamari and Margaret Katranides volunteered to coordinate Spring 2021 Quarterly.

Minute 6: Meeting: Reports from Meetings. Across all Meetings, Friends shared their transition to Meeting in Zoom. Business Meetings and mid-week Meetings have also been occurring. We noted some people prefer Zoom, so Meetings are seeing folks they wouldn't normally see in person, but some people who prefer face-to-face are not attending via Zoom. Meeting-specific reports included:

- **Southern Illinois:** Will find ways to include new people well served by meeting virtually when they return to physical meetings.
- **Clear Creek:** Friends are visiting other Meetings via Zoom, including Burlington and Bloomington-Normal. Clear Creek held a work day in July preparing for Jude and Shakespeare. Beth Carpenter reported that Meeting for Eating has been on hiatus but had a send-off recently for Barbara Burke who moved away.
- **Macomb Worship Group:** Has decided it's time to lay down the Worship Group. They are three families with many kids and busy schedules. It hasn't worked to schedule Meetings over time. They will reach out to Clear Creek to discuss further.
- **St. Louis:** Held a threshing session about youth membership and discussed whether kids are a different category of Friends. There's some concern about how to keep children as they enter into their teen years.
- **Columbia:** Nancy and David reported mid-week Meetings on Wednesdays has drawn in people from out of town.
- **Bloomington-Normal:** Held their end-of-summer picnic on Zoom in Friends' own homes, where they watched each other eat and played games afterward. They watched and had a fantastic discussion about *13th*, a Netflix documentary about mass incarceration. Steve Tamari gave a presentation on the incarceration of Palestinian children.
- **Urbana-Champaign:** In addition to Zoom, they've held outdoor, in-person Meetings on Meetinghouse grounds—well apart, wearing masks. Friends held an online fundraiser and raised over \$14,000, most of which was divided among three local agencies serving homeless and immigrant communities, especially those who are undocumented and who get no government help. Friends are also working on a statement on police violence, especially to people of color, which will be read at Business Meeting on September 20.
- **Springfield:** Has been volunteered for a local shelter, packing meals being handed out.

Minute 7: Spring BRQ will be April 9-11, 2021, and Fall BRQ will be September 17-19, 2021.

Christina Schulz read these Minutes and Friends approved.

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