

Blue River Quarterly
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
April 15, 2023

Attendance: Beth Carpenter (clerk), Dale Gardner (recording clerk), Grayce Mesner, Jeff Brotemarkle, David Wixom, Margie Haworth-Davis, Anna Watson, Bobbi Trist, Mary Cunningham, Hilarie Hunt, Judy Wolicki, Carolyn Roth, Peter Roth

1. Opening worship
2. Call for agenda items
3. Treasurer's report (appended)
 - a. Accepted
4. BRQ/UIUC records deposit agreement update by Beth Carpenter.
 - a. Beth has completed negotiations with the University of Illinois Library for the continuation of the deposit of Blue River Quarterly records in their collection. See Fall 2022 BRQ minutes) The agreement required two signatures from BRQ. Beth and Margie Haworth-Davis signed. The original of the signed agreement is housed in the Clear Creek Monthly Meeting safe deposit box in the bank in McNabb since BRQ has no such secure place to put it. Accepted.
 - b. All Monthly Meetings are encouraged to sign their own deposit agreements with UIUC (contact "Krista Gray" <graykr@illinois.edu>). See deposit information below.
5. Nominating committee report by Margie Haworth-Davis
 - a. All current officers continuing. Beth Carpenter (clerk), Dale Gardner (recording clerk), Margie Haworth-Davis (treasurer), Peter Lasersohn (web coordinator).
6. State of Society Reports from meetings
 - a. Bloomington-Normal: Meeting has been recovering from COVID, regaining a sense of connectedness. Relief is felt as the group has returned to the normal meeting space and to the monthly women's Meeting for Eating. Community is reviving. There is a new clerk, Heather Evert. First Day school and youth activities has 3 families participating, including involvement in the Our Whole Lives (OWL) program with the Unitarians.
 - b. Clear Creek: Neil Mesner's memorial took place last spring, filling the ILYM meetinghouse with F(f)riends and family. The return of events to campus has brought joy. Women's Weekend has been happening and Annual Sessions brought back the normal summer activities. Spirits are reviving. There was loss as Shakespeare, beloved service animal to the caretaker, suddenly died, requiring Judy Reese to move away to Wisconsin. Joy as Magnolia Irene Johnson, daughter of Peyton and Rose Dennis Johnson joined meeting. 3 - 4 are attending most Sundays. Meeting always welcome visitors.
 - i. Burlington Worship Group is meeting weekly with 2 couples. It has lost attenders from the pandemic.
 - ii. Macomb Worship Group is not meeting.
 - c. Columbia has been enjoying their new Meetinghouse. Please see State of Society report appended below.
 - d. St. Louis Meeting enjoys gathered meetings for worship. It has recovered from COVID and vitality coming back. Activities include First day school, Quaker readings, meetings

for spiritual growth and social activism. Support is given for people not attending. They encourage reaching out to those in meeting in need. Some feel pushed away by safety worries or by eldering. The desire is to show value to all. Meeting continues to use technology. Meeting strives to educate attenders on Faith and Practice and committee work. Community building proceeds.

- e. Southern Illinois: No report
 - f. Spoon River: No report
 - g. Urbana-Champaign: Meeting continues to adapt to the times. See report below.
 - i. Springfield Worship Group: See UCFM report below. We also heard that they continue with their ministry of meals for the homeless.
 - h. All State of Societies were thankfully accepted.
7. Fall BRQ, Camp DuBois September 15-17, 2023
- a. Discussion about the need for a planning committee. There was a recommendation to have a get-acquainted activity on Friday evening. Should BRQ pay for someone to plan and present the children's program? Should BRQ go back to rotating between host meetings (northern and southern) to encourage better participation from those meetings? Outreach might include postcard invitations and posters. We should strive to make BRQ welcoming to all. Refer to it as a retreat rather than a meeting.
 - b. Fall Blue River Quarterly will be at Camp Dubois in southern Illinois, September 15-17, 2023. Planning group responsible for programming and children's program includes St. Louis, Southern Illinois and Columbia Meetings. Hilarie Hunt will be point person for the planning group. Other meetings are encouraged to passionately promote the retreat.
8. We miss the people who normally come but are not here this weekend, in particular Peter Lasersohn and Sharon Haworth, and wish Peter a speedy recovery..
9. Closing worship.

TREASURER'S REPORT TO BLUE RIVER QUARTERLY MEETING				
15-Apr-23				
Balance on Hand Sep 16, 2022:			\$ 11,392.88	
DEBITS				
9/21/22	FCNL			500.00
10/4/22	AFSC Midwest Region			500.00
10/22/22	DuBois Center - Fall '22			3196.00
		TOTAL DEBITS		4,196.00
CREDITS				
9/21/22	Fall '22 Fees & Donations			2,815.00
9/30/22	Interest			2.36
10/4/22	Fall '22 Fees & Donations			983.00
10/31/22	Interest			6.25
11/30/22	Interest			4.99
12/30/22	Interest			4.73
1/31/23	Interest			5.05
2/28/23	Interest			4.42
3/25/23	Spring '23 Fees & Donations			833.00
3/31/23	Interest			4.92
		TOTAL CREDITS		4,663.72
Balance on Hand April 15, 2023:			\$11,860.60	
Sep '22 - Apr '23 Meeting Contributions:				
10/4/22	St. Louis	\$558		
3/25/23	Bloomington	\$90		
3/25/23	Columbia	\$200		
Proceeds from sale of books:				
	Sep '22 - Apr '23	\$0.00		
	Accumulated Total	\$135.68		

ILLINOIS HISTORY AND LINCOLN COLLECTIONS University Library, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

DEED OF GIFT

The undersigned NAME of CITY, STATE, as POSITION/TITLE of the Blue River Quarterly Meeting as donor hereby gives, grants, and conveys without consideration and as a gift in perpetuity to the University of Illinois Foundation at Urbana-Champaign (hereinafter referred to as the Donee) for the benefit of the Illinois History and Lincoln Collections unit, a Division of the University Library at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign the papers, photographs, books and other historical material of the Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (hereafter described as the Materials) which are described in Appendix A, attached hereunto.

The Illinois History and Lincoln Collections unit in return undertakes to house, save, protect and otherwise administer according to accepted archival practice all the Materials in the best interests of impartial scholarship, subject to the conditions specified below.

1. Title to the Materials shall pass to the Donee upon their delivery.
2. At any time after delivery the Donor shall be permitted to examine any of the Materials during the regular working hours of the Illinois History and Lincoln Collections unit. Specific items needed by the Donor will be copied by the Donee or charged out to the Donor for administrative or legal purposes.
3. It is the Donor's wish that the Materials be made available for research as soon as possible following their deposit in the Illinois History and Lincoln Collections unit. Researchers who follow rules established by the Illinois History and Lincoln Collections unit for handling and using archival material may have full access to these Materials, including the right to make single copies in lieu of note-taking unless limiting conditions are stated as follows:

NONE

4. The Illinois History and Lincoln Collections unit may dispose of any items that it determines to have insufficient enduring value. Such items will be (circle one):

DESTROYED

RETURNED TO DONOR

5. The Illinois History and Lincoln Collections unit may transfer items included in these Materials to a different physical form to facilitate their preservation and accessibility.
6. To facilitate the research use of the Materials, the Donor hereby give and assign to the Donee those rights of copyright which the Donor has in the Materials as well as any rights of privacy and publicity in the materials which the Donor may hold. The Illinois History and Lincoln

Collections unit is hereby authorized to administer any copyright permissions related to the Materials. In return, Donee hereby grants to the Donor for the duration of the copyright the right to use the Materials for any purpose, including publication. Donor and Donee shall, to the extent possible, inform each other of any major publications.

7. In the event that the Donor or the Donor's estate may from time to time hereafter give, grant, and convey additional papers, and other historical Materials, title to such additional papers and other historical Materials shall pass to the Donee upon their delivery, and all of the provisions of this agreement shall be applicable to such additional items which shall become part of the Materials.

8. The Donor affirms that they own said material and that to the best of their knowledge they have good and complete right and title (including the rights noted in paragraph 6) to give the materials to the University of Illinois.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Deed of gift has been signed and delivered this _____ day of , 2022.

Donor, NAME
POSITION/TITLE, Blue River Quarterly Meeting

Archives Program Officer
for Illinois History and Lincoln Collections, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

University Librarian,
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

For the University of Illinois Foundation

2023 Clear Creek Monthly Meeting
State of Society Report
Approved March 19, 2023

At Clear Creek, our State of Society report typically begins with our Easter celebration. This year was a particularly special occasion as we chose that day to celebrate the life of our dear Friend, Neil Mesner. We held Neil's memorial service that morning during the worship hour. It was well attended by family and Friends from throughout Illinois Yearly Meeting. Those present shared stories and memories of Neil and his impact on their lives, then enjoyed a lunch catered by Zach and Kelly Schobernd. We miss Neil's wisdom, kindness, and gentle humor and still feel his presence among us during worship.

We saw the return of events to the campus in 2022, and we rejoiced in welcoming Friends back to McNabb. Women's Weekend in April and Yearly Meeting in June brought Friends to campus for the first time in 3 years. We have missed being able to share our home with others. The influx of additional energy these events brought raised our spirits considerably.

Shakespeare, the faithful service dog of caretaker Judy Reese, passed away suddenly in July. Judy and Shakespeare had become a vital part of our meeting and we grieved his loss with Judy. Unfortunately, Judy's disability prevented her from living in a rural area without a service dog, so she moved to Wisconsin to be near family. We miss both Judy and Shakespeare and their contributions to our spiritual and physical lives.

In September we welcomed Magnolia Irene Johnson, daughter of Peyton and Rose Dennis Johnson, as a member of our meeting. Adding children to our numbers gives us hope for the future of Clear Creek Meeting.

In the fall, our numbers thin. One Friend moves to Arizona for the winter and another spends more time in her alternate home in Urbana, while the weather dictates attendance for some others who live away from McNabb. Most Sundays there are only three or four of us in attendance, but our worship is deep. We are thankful that we are able to be together and that we have Clear Creek House in which to worship. We are always grateful for visitors.

State of Society Report 2023: Columbia Friends Meeting

This was a transformative year for our meeting. We began meeting in person again on March 20, 2022, the first day of spring. We also maintained our presence on Zoom, offering hybrid worship on Sundays so that we can continue to welcome friends from afar (Seattle, WA and Jefferson City, MO) as well as Brad Laird, our Illinois Yearly Meeting Field Secretary. After purchasing a new meetinghouse centrally located on Broadway Street in Columbia in late 2021, we spent 2022 settling into our new home and our new place in the community. In August, we welcomed caretakers to live in the meetinghouse (Joe Decker, a graduate student; Zarchi, an activist from Myanmar; and baby Rosaria, all of whom had been living in Southeast Asia until summer 2022 and who breathe life into the space). We continue to have Midweek meetings on Zoom on Wednesdays. Our regular attendance has expanded to about 20 people each week, and we welcomed several regular new attenders.

First Day School is full and lively, with 4 to 10 children from ages zero to ten attending each week. We have involved some of the older children in our sustainability efforts, as well as in service projects such as feeding unhoused neighbors. We have also expanded our pool of adults who regularly teach First Day School from 2 to 6. The kids join the worship five to ten minutes before the rise of meeting, and they love to introduce themselves and share the projects they worked on.

Our Peace and Social Justice Committee, our Meeting for Learning Committee, and our Hospitality Committee have all expanded their efforts. We have continued our monthly vigil, the focus of which shifts depending on current events. These are now in a much more visible location with dozens of cars passing every hour. We reconsidered the organizations we provide yearly donations to and began having presentations about organizations our attenders are involved in, such as Right Sharing of World Resources. We are also partnering with a local Buddhist organization, Show Me Dharma, to provide meals to unhoused people six times per year. We have also restarted Fun Night once a month, with a potluck supper and games or activities. We renewed our commitment to accessibility by having a ramp constructed to make our meetinghouse more accessible. We continue to consider possible long-range projects such as renovations/expansions of our space, and a garden in our front yard, to be financed by the sale earlier this year of the lot on Rollins Road where we had planned to construct a new meetinghouse.

This year our meeting had several losses. Our attender Alex Metro, father of Rose Metro, died in March, and meeting hosted a hybrid memorial service for him. Bill Kountz, who had longtime connections with Quakers and had recently begun attending again, also passed away.

This has been a year of significant growth for our meeting. We are hopeful and excited for the future.

Urbana-Champaign Friends Meeting

State of Society Report 2022-2023

The last year has brought us closer together as many Friends have returned to the Meetinghouse to worship in person indoors. Ministry during worship has gradually increased and we have grown together through worship-sharing and our traditional Quaker Q&As. Some are newly eager to socialize. We have united to provide spiritual and practical support to members who have suffered from serious illnesses. The invaluable contributions of two long-time Meeting members have been joyously affirmed in their Celebrations of Life. We have also welcomed new energy from a vibrant youth education program and from regular visitors that include young families and graduate students.

We strive to improve our technology at hybrid Meetings for Worship and Business with a goal that everyone can hear both in the Meetinghouse and on Zoom. We are learning to keep our introductions and announcements brief and audible as we sometimes have 18-20 folks in the Meeting House and several on zoom. The Ad Hoc committee on Reopening the Meeting House continues to make adjustments to our protocols to reflect current conditions and comfort levels.

We have embraced a rich menu of adult education offerings. We explored, on zoom, how to encourage others to fight climate change, inspired by an online talk by Katharine Hayhoe at Faith in Place's Green Team Summit. Many participated in two post-Meeting Quaker Q&As and a worship-sharing session focused on the January Query: "What is your experience of the divine or the spirit in your life?" Fueled by a *Friends Journal* article, "Confronting the Legacy of Quaker Slavery," we strove to discern our own responsibilities for that legacy. We have discovered that providing separate in-person and on Zoom discussion sessions promotes lively conversation and deep sharing.

We newly relish socializing in person after a long hiatus: first at a July evening potluck and an October picnic after Meeting for Worship, both intergenerational--with croquet. In addition, we joyously resumed our annual holiday celebration; this began with a concert where young Friends performed a cello trio, a clarinet solo and a song solo, and an interpretive dance. Afterwards everyone delighted in holiday cookies and animated conversation with friends we had been missing. In April, the Stone Soup Supper will have a new format: an afternoon picnic followed by an indoor talent show. Finally, we were happy to host the Continuing Committee for ILYM. It gave local Friends who attended or helped the opportunity to engage with Quakers from other Meetings.

The fall theme for the First Day School, meeting twice a month, was social justice movements. The first (hybrid) meeting provided a lesson on the movement; during the second (in person) session, the children actively participated. Memorably, a film on the struggle for disability rights was followed by a session where each child experienced firsthand the inaccessibility of our Meetinghouse by using a wheelchair to maneuver through the front door. Subsequently Building and Grounds met to determine how to make our Meetinghouse more accessible. More recently, children had a lesson on protest songs and then jointly composed their own, which they

performed together with zest after Worship with everyone joining in for the chorus. One of our teen members serves as an adored babysitter for the younger kids and another teen has stepped up to become an assistant convener of the Peace and Service Committee.

After years of talking about such a visit, our clerk and the co-convener of the Ministry and Care Committee visited the Springfield Worship Group in August for their hybrid Worship and Business Meeting; other U-C Friends attended on Zoom. There was easy rapport among the Worship Group members and the attenders from our Meeting. They let us know that they are grateful for our care and are content to remain a Worship Group. Subsequently a member of their Worship Group joined us for a Meeting for Worship.

We continue to improve our beautiful grounds where, when weather permits, we appreciate worshipping together. Young Friends enjoy lessons, games, and running around outdoors. We have received a grant through Faith in Place which will pay for acquiring and planting native shrubs and trees. We consulted a professional landscaper who provided ecologically friendly designs. We look forward to enjoying these for years to come. (713 words)