

Jan. 1982
Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting
Monthly Meeting for Business
December 13, 1981

The December Meeting for Business was held following Monthly Meeting supper. It was opened with a brief period of silence. Twenty-three members and attenders were present.

The minutes were approved as read. It was noted that Arlene Kelly is ill today and unable to attend our Meeting for Business as planned. She is to be invited to the Christmas breakfast.

Nominating Committee: The following persons were nominated and approved for Meeting offices next year: Clerk, Stanley Myers; Treasurer, Kenneth Burnham; Recording Clerk, Dona Garrettson; Recorder, Bryce Kemp.

A minute of thanks should be sent to Alois Gnielka for his many years of help to the Recorder of the Meeting and to Fritz Kempner as Recording Clerk.

Overseers: We welcome Heide Schumann as a new member of Chestnut Hill Meeting. Betty Bodine and Joan Hagner will visit to express our official welcome.

Bonnie Hoffman, finding that she prefers a more liturgical service, has requested a release of her membership to St. Martin's-in-the-Fields.

It was noted that attendance at Meeting for Worship has been larger since Visitors' Day. So that others may be aware of our meeting time, we decided to place ads in the Chestnut Hill Local approximately every three weeks. We might also place small posters in Spring Garden College and other nearby schools. It was mentioned that Friends' General Conference has run an ad in several magazines which may attract further interest in the Society.

Treasurer: Although not particularly applicable to those present, Ken Burnham reported that with only two weeks left in the year, we have received only \$12,500 of a projected \$18,000 in contributions. Although as much as \$1000 may have been received in the last few days, we will probably come up short of our projected budget.

Peace & Social Concerns: Billy Grassie presented an ad that the Peace Committee has proposed to place in the Chestnut Hill Local and the Mt. Airy Express as a kind of Christmas card to the community. The cost would be paid from the Peace Committee budget. After some discussion of the text, the Meeting encouraged the committee to simplify the advertisement and place it.

It was suggested that if the Meeting places ads in these local papers on a regular basis, each might carry a brief message from one of the Meeting committees, in rotation.

Quarterly Meeting: Lois Taber reported on the meeting of the Executive Committee of Quarterly Meeting. Yearly reports are due at the end of this month from Worship & Ministry and from Overseers. Overseers report on the State of the Meeting (life of the Meeting) while Worship & Ministry reports on the spiritual life of the Meeting. The Clerk of Quarterly Meeting requested precise answers to the four queries included in the report so she could summarize them readily in her report.

They would like to discuss these answers at the February Quarterly Meeting.

There was some discussion of the purpose of these reports and of the manner in which they are prepared. Apparently our report did not lend itself to easy inclusion in the summaries last year. It was suggested that we try to follow the standard form more closely this year. Robert Hoffman usually prepares a report for Worship & Ministry which answers four queries from Faith & Practice. The Overseers' report is usually prepared by a volunteer from the Meeting. Betty Bodine will prepare the report for 1981.

Arlene Kelly attended the Quarterly Meeting Executive Committee Meeting. She spoke about the field committee for visitation, and its purpose: to improve communications between Yearly Meeting and the Monthly Meetings. So far they have found: 1) Many Meetings are searching for a meaningful spiritual life. There is need for a sharing of this search among Meetings. 2) Criticism of Yearly Meeting seems to be largely due to a lack of communication. Monthly Meetings would like to see people from Yearly Meeting--not letters. 3) Some Meetings are fearful that failure to grow will mean the death of the Meeting. 4) Monthly Meetings are interested in better communication.

Lois further reported on Stapeley Hall. They are planning for a new addition. The Treasurer of the Board has resigned; Meetings are asked to suggest a qualified person for this vacancy. (Treasurer must be a member of the Board.)

Planning Ahead: We continued our discussion in hopes of preparing a minute to be sent to Yearly Meeting by the end of the year. Some points of the discussion were:

Part of the role of PYM in strengthening Monthly Meeting arises from its size. We have the resources of 100 Meetings for hiring "released time" persons to coordinate our efforts. The group helps us to overcome our shyness in outreach activities. The dilemma is, we need a balance between having Yearly Meeting do things for us, and doing things for ourselves. The Monthly Meeting becomes anemic unless its members become active in Yearly Meeting. We need to get energy and initiative into the Monthly Meetings.

We decided to ask members of our Meeting to take turns attending Representative Meeting, in addition to our regular representative, so that more members could become familiar with its activities. We also decided to ask two members each month to visit another Monthly Meeting.

We considered the possibility of having a discussion at Chestnut Hill regarding a "Quaker tithe". What is appropriate for members to give, in terms of time as well as money? It is hoped that the discussion might help members think about the factors that are important to them in deciding a reasonable level of giving.

After a further discussion of financial support of Yearly Meeting, we decided to recommend that, on a trial basis, the assessment be used only for Administration, and Education & Care of Members, while the Combined Appeal be used for Testimonies & Concerns. It is not certain whether this will help the financial plight of Yearly Meeting, but it was felt that there might be better response if members felt they had

more control over what was done with their contributions. This might also indicate more clearly the specific areas of members' concerns.

Stanley Myers and Dona Garrettson agreed to write a formal minute expressing our areas of agreement on these issues. (Attached)

The Meeting was closed with a period of silence.

Respectfully submitted,

Dona Garrettson
Recording Clerk