

CHESTNUT HILL FRIENDS MEETING
Monthly Meeting for Business
January 13, 1991

There were thirty members and attenders present, including two guests from Plymouth Meeting Friends School.

After a moment of silence Query #1 on Meeting for Worship was read. We considered it in silence before responding with brief comments. One Friend said that she sometimes approached Meeting for Worship with thoughts of what would be given to her rather than what she had to give. Another asked if there were divergence in the acceptance of children in worship. Several responses affirmed the presence of children. One Friend suggested that children could be quieted and gain a sense of belonging to the larger group by sitting with adults other than their own parents.

December Minutes were read and accepted after corrections to the Overseers section in Minute 2 were made.

Clerk Thomas Conrad made the following announcements: Chestnut Hill will host Quarterly Meeting at 12 noon on February 24; a workcamp in Kenya for Young Friends will be held in late July through the end of August; an outreach workshop is scheduled at Fourth and Arch Street Meeting on January 19. Some vigils and demonstrations on the crisis in the Middle East were listed, with a reminder that the Friends Peace Committee is a source for up-to-date information.

1/91-1 Plymouth Meeting Friends School

Shirley Phillips introduced guests Deborah Pancoe, Clerk of the School Committee and staff person Teresina Reed. Shirley explained that their presentation on affiliation between the Meeting and School follows an expression of interest received last year, subsequent discussions, and a proposal that members of our Meeting be appointed to the Plymouth Meeting School Committee.

Deborah Pancoe said that the school wishes to broaden its base of support. To this end they are seeking informal affiliation with meetings which are not already involved with a particular Friends elementary school. Affiliation might involve intervisitation, education about Quakerism, contacts for volunteer activities and service projects, foster grandparents, and fund raising.

The School has undertaken a long-range planning process. Working groups have been formed to examine spiritual and Quaker values and to build internal and external community. A financial planning group is working on making real the long-range goals. They are trying to build their endowment to increase scholarships and salary.

Questions followed Deborah Pancoe's presentation. Stan Myers said that the school's expansion of its Board beyond the Meeting membership was a step in the right direction. Two types of affiliation were named: corporate and neighborly. Neighbors pooling resources was the model Deborah described. The Meeting laughed at a reminder that we are already affiliated through our shared graveyard space.

1/91-2 Membership changes

The following membership changes will be forwarded to Yearly Meeting.

To be added

1/91-3 Yearly Meeting Projects Thomas Conrad

Tom Conrad asked the Meeting to respond to 3 major spending proposals: 1.) structural repair and resurfacing of the roof on the 4th and Arch Street Meetinghouse; 2.) creation of a facility for the Young Friends program; 3.) increased scholarship aid for Friends children to attend Friends Schools. All who spoke to the issue of roof repair felt it was a necessity, although there were questions regarding the need for raising new funds for this purpose. We were not in agreement on the relative merits of the other two funding proposals. Some felt that support for Young Friends might not necessitate construction of a new building. A regionalization model was proposed, and cooperation in the use of existing facilities, especially Friends Schools, seemed desirable. The money available for Quaker children who wish to attend Friend's Schools was seen as a token, and it was felt that the Yearly Meeting needed to take greater responsibility in this area.

1/91-4 Overseers George Garrettson

George announced an inquirers weekend on basic Quakerism to be held at Pendle Hill February 15-17. Bucks Quarter will hold a similar conference in March. Members and attenders interested in having Chestnut Hill hold a 1 day inquirers event should express that interest to Overseers.

Four membership matters were brought to our attention: The Meeting approved the membership of Catherine Essoyan and appointed a welcoming committee, William Ludlow and Carolyn Scholdt. The transfer of George and Genevive Whitford from Radnor Monthly Meeting was accepted with Stanley Myers and Jeanann Hoch as the welcoming committee. Letters of application for membership were received from Jim Cox and from Barbara Buonocore. Clearness Committees were appointed: Alice Terne and Frank Cauthorn for Jim Cox; Stanley Myers and George Garrettson for Barbara Bounocore and her 3 children.

1/91-5 Quarterly Meeting Thomas Conrad

The Executive Committee of Quarterly Meeting's request for the service of a member from Chestnut Hill was referred to Nominating Committee. A request for beverages and dessert to be provided for the February Quarterly Meeting was referred to the Hospitality Committee.

1/91-6 World Conference Thomas Conrad

Natalie Kempner's request for help with the cost of attending the World Conference of Friends in Honduras in July was warmly received by Overseers. The Meeting approved up to \$600, the full cost, and looks forward to Natalie's report of the conference.

1/91-6 Worship and Ministry Phil Anthony (notes left with the Clerk)

Friends were reminded of the adult First Day School bible course which begins January 29. The Committee's Annual Report will be going to Quarterly Meeting and then to Yearly Meeting. Two threshing sessions have been scheduled to consider ceremonies of commitment: 2/18 & 3/3.

1/91-7 Religious Education Barbara Buonocore

Money from the crafts sale and Christmas breakfast will be donated to Trevor's Place. The Committee is interested in hosting a "You Can Do It" seminar. It was suggested that available seminars be listed in the newsletter. The Committee is discussing ways to involve the children in Stapley Hall activities.

Discussion of the Meeting's Seder revealed 2 important functions: 1.) Bible teaching and 2.) an opportunity for Jewish Friends to share their background with the Meeting.

1/91-8 Peace and Social Concerns Charles Phillips

A group of concerned Friends gathered after First Day Meeting to discuss the crisis in the Middle East. They united around the idea of making a corporate statement to local press. The Meeting approved this concept. Discussion took place on points which might be made: acknowledge the discussion of peace which took place before and during the Congressional hearings; remind the public that casualty figures represent lives; add to a statement of our historic peace testimony what can be done now; incorporate Catherine Essoyan's message to Meeting that this is not a time for paralysis; condemn the invasion and allow time for sanctions to work; frame the conflict as a problem of peace in the Middle East, not a confrontation. The statement will be prepared by Peace and Social Concerns, shared with major committee clerks, and acted upon at a Called Meeting next Sunday.

1/91-9 Nominating William Hoch

The Clerk, Recording Clerk, Treasurer, and Recorder will remain the same in the coming year. Karen Cromley will step down. Appreciation for Karen's years of service were expressed. She will be missed! A form will be sent to everyone, preceded by a newsletter reminder that they should be thinking about how they might wish to serve.

1/91-10 Thanks to the Walmsley's for hosting the New Year's Eve event, and to all those who helped with Christmas breakfast!

The Meeting adjourned with a moment of silence.

Recording Clerk, Sharli Powers Land

CHESTNUT HILL FRIENDS MEETING
Monthly Meeting for Business
February 10, 1991

Twenty-seven members and attenders gathered to do the Meeting's business. Query #11 on Peace and Nonviolence was read. We were very much under the weight of this timely Query. Our attention was drawn to the resources of the Yearly Meeting Office, which has been receiving some 4 calls per hour from Reservists. As one of the only means of training available to the disadvantaged, the Reserve is seen as a trap for those who seek self-improvement.

January Minutes were read and accepted with two changes.

2/91-1 Announcements Thomas Conrad, Clerk

Natalie Kempner thanked the Meeting for the support it will provide for her attendance at the World Conference of Friends.

We gave thanks to the Hospitality Committee and others who helped with the memorial service for John Bodine.

We were reminded of the Threshing Sessions on ceremonies of commitment to be held at the Meetinghouse February 18 and March 3 and of Quarterly Meeting on February 24.

We were asked to keep Catherine Essoyan in our thoughts and prayers as she travels within the Middle East.

2/92-2 Overseers George Garrettson

The membership status of Deleplaine McDaniel III has changed from Sojourning to regular.

After visiting Barbara Bounocore and her 3 children, Stanley Myers and George Garrettson heartily recommend the memberships. This will be brought to the March meeting for a second reading.

The Clearness Committee who met with Jim Cox recommended him for membership. Overseers suggested that further exploration of the peace testimony would be helpful, particularly since Jim has been called to active duty with his Reserve Unit. Karen Cromley, Stan Myers, and Hertha Reinemann will meet with Jim before a second reading.

2/91-3 Worship and Ministry Phillip Anthony

Two suggestions were made on how to introduce new attenders to Quakerism: a pot luck and/or a special information packet. It was decided to keep pot lucks as purely social events, but to prepare packets. Ken Burnham and Trude Fuchs will do this.

2/91-4 Religious Education Barbara Bounocore

We Minuted our thanks for the successful Middle and High School program on the Middle East which Candace Putter and Patricia Walmsley organized.

2/91-5 Yarnall Fund Working Group Roger Walmsley

Roger presented a mid-way report of the conceptual framework the group is developing to guide the Meeting in its stewardship of the Yarnall Fund. Areas considered so far have been traditional peace and social concerns, education of children, and re-investment into the fund to protect the principal. We thanked Roger and the group for its tidy and intentional work.

2/91-6 Treasurer's Report Stanley Myers

Stan Myers presented a statement of income and expense for 1990, a statement of assets, liabilities and fund balances, and an analysis of fund balances. Refugee and Sanctuary funds were also reviewed. The Meeting accepted the Treasurer's Report, subject to an audit. We minuted our appreciation to Stan and to Elvira Brown.

A lengthy discussion of the year's shortfall in contributions followed the Treasurer's report. Stan presented an analysis of 120 households which revealed that 49 of these gave nothing last year. Thought was given on how to increase income rather than how to cut expenses. We asked Stan to write a one page letter using his analysis of our pattern of giving and reminding Friends that the Meeting contributes \$84 to Yearly and Quarterly Meetings for each non-giver. Seldon Smith will prepare a statement about the Meeting's financial needs to be put in the newsletter.

For the discussion of the 1991 budget at next Business Meeting, a judgement will need to be made regarding the income needed. Committees meeting between now and March 10 should reconsider their requests.

A moment of silence marked the close of Meeting.

Recording Clerk,
Sharli Powers Land

CHESTNUT HILL FRIENDS MEETING
Monthly Meeting for Business
March 10, 1991

Twenty-six Friends were present for Business Meeting. We gave prayerful consideration to Query #8 on the Social Order. We were reminded that wars result from injustice; we were asked how we, as a Meeting, help the homeless; and we were thanked for signing a petition to stop a prisoner's execution.

February's Minutes were read and accepted after one correction was made.

3/91-1 Announcements Thomas Conrad, Clerk

- 1.) There will be a benefit performance for the Northwest Interfaith Movement (NIM) on April 11 & 12 at Germantown Friends School. Performed by the Underground Railway Theatre, it is called "Home is Where."
- 2.) Betty Bodine has written a thank you letter for the meaningful memorial service held for her husband, John Bodine.
- 3.) Plymouth Meeting Friends School welcomes our participation in Grandparents' day to be held this coming Friday.
- 4.) The budget to be presented at Yearly Meeting will be for a 3-year period, and to make it a balanced budget, substantial cuts are proposed.
- 5.) After several failed attempts to obtain State tax exempt status, NIM has asked member congregations to write to Harrisburg by March 18 urging that it be recognized as a non-profit religious organization. Karen Cromley agreed to write on behalf of the Meeting.

3/91-2 Budget Stanley Myers

The Meeting's proposed budget for 1991 has a deficit of some \$10,000. Treasurer, Stanley Myers said that in his long experience at the Meeting this was the first budget "crunch". He wondered if the process of simply asking Committees to present figures and then making a budget ought to be changed to include a review process. Stan suggested several areas where small changes could be made, like eliminating child care and professional cleaning services during the summer months, and seeking volunteers to defer the \$200 lawn mowing bill.

John Gallery pointed out that if the large figures for scholarship and building repair were eliminated, the budget would balance. Discussion concentrated on scholarships. Mary Lou Hurwitz reminded Friends that she has been the sole member of the scholarship committee until she was joined by Carolyn Scholdt this year. For many years small stipends were granted to the one or two children needing help with tuitions of some \$500. In 1991 there were 6 applications and \$1500 was taken from the Needy Friends Fund. George Garrettson said that because Overseers use the Needy Friends Fund to respond to crises, he felt it would be a misalignment to link it to scholarships. Candace Putter said that scholarship aid makes the Meetings' relationship to Quaker Schools direct, and that either we commit the Meeting to the schools or we cut the ties.

After several suggestions were made on how to handle scholarships during this transitional year, it was decided to take \$4,000 from accumulated unspent interest from the Yarnall Fund, and \$1,000 from the operating budget.

We agreed to ask the Treasurer and the Finance, Scholarship and Education Committees to consider the pros and cons of funding scholarships from within and from outside the operating budget.

The large expenditure budgeted for maintenance included \$2,500 to repair termite damage to a beam near the fireplace. We agreed to defer that work.

We also discussed ways to increase income. Overseers agreed to review the membership roles for inactive members who could be approached regarding continuation. The Treasurer will write a letter to members and attenders stating the Meeting's needs and possibly suggesting amounts to contribute and options.

We thanked Stan for the year-round work he does as Treasurer, work we see only occasionally.

3/91-3 Worship and Ministry Philip Anthony

Worship and Ministry Minuted appreciation of Robert Tatman's service to the Committee.

At the second Threshing Session on Ceremonies of Commitment it was felt that the topic was ready to bring to Business Meeting. To include as many as possible in the decision making process, it will come to 2 Business Meetings, and a summary of the Threshing Sessions will be prepared for the newsletter by John Gallery and George Garrettson.

Trude Fuchs showed samples of the basic information on Quakerism she gathered for interested attenders. Additional ideas were mentioned, and Nancy Lewis and John Gallery volunteered to work with Trude and with the other member of the committee, Ken Burnham. One of the suggestions was to include information on ways to contribute financially to the Meeting.

3/91-4 Overseers George Garrettson

A decision about Jim Cox's membership was postponed until he is available to meet with the group appointed last month. We approved the membership of Barbara Buonocore and her 3 children and appointed a welcoming committee of Mary Lou Hurwitz and Peg Myers.

A welcoming committee of Stanley Myers and George Garrettson was appointed for Stuart Land, whose transfer from Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting was enthusiastically endorsed.

3/91-5 Religious Education Alice Terne

A sign-up sheet for the pot luck Seder will be posted next week. First Day School is collecting school supplies for Nicaragua.

3/91-6 Peace and Social Concerns James Alexander

Jim Alexander proposed an inter-faith project designed to help the homeless in our section of the City. Our Meeting would be paired with a host congregation which would house a family for one week at a time five or six times each year. We would be asked to help with meals and companionship. Peace and Social Concerns hoped that this project would involve everyone in the Meeting, but too few remained at the end of Business Meeting for such a commitment to be made. Peace and Social Concerns agreed to appoint a working group which would survey members to determine if there is enough support to meet the demands of this project. They will act for the Meeting at large, and after we have had some experience with the project the working group will report to Business Meeting.

3/91-7 Nominating Committee Steven Gable

Steve announced that Alice Terne has agreed to serve as the new Assistant Clerk. The Meeting approved this appointment.

We adjourned with a moment of silence.

Recording Clerk,
Sharli Powers Land