

CHESTNUT HILL FRIENDS MEETING  
Monthly Meeting for Worship for Business  
November 21, 1993

**Notes on Initial Discussion on Allocation of Resources** These notes record this discussion in more detail than the minutes of this meeting. They are to be attached to the minutes.

John Gallery, for the Finance Committee, distributed written summaries of the Yarnall Fund's principal, interest grown and distribution over the past five years. This fund is managed by the Yearly Meeting's Fiduciary Corporation, which invests money for a number of Friends organizations and reports to them in June and December of each year. The meeting has approximately 15,000 shares in the Fiduciary Corporation. Income has been relatively stable at an average of \$32,000 over the five-year period.

The expenditures of the money were grouped into five categories: scholarships, Friends organizations, community organizations and social concerns, peace, and Central America concerns. In 1990, the meeting decided to use half the available funds for scholarships; all decisions on this have been made by the scholarship committee and are not brought to meeting. Peace & Social Concerns Committee have brought recommendations to the meeting for allocations of the remaining half of the available funds. The amount to be dispersed each year is calculated by taking 5% of the value of the principal and income over the previous two years and then taking an average of those two figures. This formula has resulted in \$26,000 or \$27,000 per year available for spending. This formula was adopted as part of a decision to reinvest part of the earnings. In practice, the earnings have not been reinvested because of special requests to which the meeting has responded, such as the Arch Street repairs and the Quaker Information Center. As funds for these allocations came from the money we would have invested back into the fund, they did not decrease the 50-50 distribution for scholarships and other allocations. John noted the number of organizations we have supported over the years. These are listed on the fourth page of the hand out.

There was a period of reflection on the four questions to be considered (for discussion, not decision): 1) Does our expenditure of resources reflect our spiritual values? 2) Should we change our allocation formula to provide flexibility to address special needs or programs? 3) Should we recognize Friends organizations as a special category? 4) Should we establish an allocations committee and let it decide on contributions rather than bringing it to full business meeting for approval (many other meetings use this procedure)? The following comments were in response to the questions.

Allocation committees at other meetings operate on the basis of general guidelines established by the meeting as a whole and have flexibility within those to look at special requests. Someone wondered about the relationship between individual contributions and contributions of the meeting. Should an individual contribute to those Friends organizations that the meeting does not support? Someone pointed to the quantitative and qualitative nature of the issues: how much we give and how we decide where the money will go. The 5% formula allows for a constant source on which to draw a specific amount each year. An allocations committee could work on guidelines for deciding recipients of the grants.

Discussion turned to the question of spiritual values inherent or explicit in the guidelines and priorities for giving. It was hoped that we keep the articulation and formulation of values very close to the decision-making process rather than state values that would hold for all time. This could, for some Friends, be too close to a creed. Values also reflect a sense of urgency of the world around us at a given time. It would be helpful to have a discussion of values with this in mind. It was commented that decisions made on the basis of values, more or less articulated, may not be ones that every member and attender totally unite with. We need a note of humility and detachment because there will always be differences of opinion among us. Someone reflected that there are two separate points at which spiritual values come into play: at the point at which we decide to not spend down the principal and the point at which we decide how to spend the amount we have agreed upon. The way spiritual values come into play at each of the two decisions may be different.

Reflections were given on the amount of needs and the limited resources we have to meet them. A question was raised about why we need \$500,000 in the bank rather than using it to address needs. Responses to this were that it enabled us to continue to give more over time.

Tom summarized the discussion as follows. Our reflections have been in the context of an ongoing discussion of spiritual values. While individual and group giving differ, each can grow out of and reflect spiritual values. There are qualitative and quantitative aspects to the choices we make - how much money we allocate and to whom. It is necessary to articulate spiritual values before we know whether our decisions reflect them. At the same time, we should be cautious about defining hard and fast values that take on the nature of a creed. There was some sentiment that the meeting should spend the funds rather than hold on to them. There was some support for the idea of an allocations committee. If there were such a committee, the meeting would entrust it to act and to be in communication with the meeting. The Peace and Social Concerns and Finance Committees were asked to discuss this further and bring back to the meeting a

recommendation for a structure to make decisions on the use of these funds. Because we are on a budget cycle and continue to receive requests for funds, we need to come to some degree of unity on the structure knowing that we will never attain perfection. The Finance Committee would welcome individual written responses to the questions as well as any additional questions for consideration. Tom thanked John for his presentation and everyone present for their thoughtful contributions to the discussion.

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Twenty-six people gathered in silence as Query #8 on the social order was read. Reflections were shared.

**Consideration of Stewardship** (NOTE: A summary follows. More complete notes are available & will be attached to the official minutes). John Gallery distributed and explained written summaries of the Yarnall Fund's principal, interest and allocations over the past five years.

The Meeting then considered the following four questions. 1) Does our expenditure of resources reflect our spiritual values? 2) Should we change our allocation formula to provide flexibility to address special needs or programs? 3) Should we recognize Friends organizations as a special category? 4) Should we establish an allocations committee and let it decide on contributions rather than bringing it to full business meeting for approval? An extensive discussion followed.

Tom summarized the discussion, which has been in the context of an ongoing discussion of spiritual values and stewardship. While individual and group giving differ, each can grow out of and reflect spiritual values. There are qualitative and quantitative aspects to the choices we make - how much money we allocate and to whom we give it. It is necessary to articulate spiritual values before we know whether our decisions reflect them. At the same time, we should be cautious about defining hard and fast values that may take on the nature of a creed. There was some sentiment that the Meeting should spend the funds rather than hold on to them. There was some support of the idea of an allocations committee. If there were such a committee, the Meeting would entrust it to act and to be in communication with the Meeting. The Peace and Social Concerns and the Finance Committees were asked to discuss this further and bring back to the Meeting a recommendation for a structure that would make decisions on the use of the funds. Because we are on a budget cycle and continue to receive requests for money, we need to come to some degree of unity on the structure knowing that we will never attain perfection. The Finance Committee would welcome individual written responses to the questions as well as any additional questions for consideration.

Tom thanked John for his presentation and everyone present for their thoughtful contributions to the discussion.

**Minutes of September and October** The minutes of September 19 and October 17 were read. One sentence in the September minutes needs rewording. In the October minutes, clarification of the Property Committee discussion is needed. With these changes, the minutes were approved.

**Announcements** Roberta Kramer announced the annual citrus sale of the Friends Neighborhood Guild. Orders can be made through Roberta or through an order form in the gathering room.

Tom announced a Youth Conference on Peace at the Atwater Kent Museum on Saturday December 4. This is an activity for young people through high school age.

Tom read a letter from the Plymouth Meeting Friends School Head Anne Javsicas in response to Tom's letter reporting the Meeting's decision to no longer have an official relationship with the school. Tom reminded the meeting that Alice Terne had circulated a questionnaire asking members and attenders to consider how they might support the school.

After discussion, it was agreed to have **the next monthly meeting at 6 pm (after potluck at 5 pm) on Sunday December 12** rather than the third Sunday because of Christmas breakfast on the 19th. The regular schedule will resume in January.

There was a plea for help in First Day School either as teachers or assistant teachers.

**Overseers** A letter was received from Lois Taber's son, Dick, thanking the meeting for her memorial service and giving a gift in her name. The meeting will give a Bible and Faith and Practice to Hilary Nicholas-Alexander. Peter Samuel has requested in writing that all of his children be recorded as members of the meeting. The meeting agreed to accept into membership Peter Samuel and Carol Wolfe's four children: Zoe, Mia, Ella and Ava Samuel.

**Peace and Social Concerns** Tricia Walmsley said the hospitality network sometimes lacks hosting space, especially around Christmas. She asked whether the meeting could agree to provide space if needed, when the nursery school is not in session. The meeting agreed to do this in an emergency, if the Nursery School is not in operation.

**William Penn Birthday Celebration** Tricia attended an Outreach Day on this event at Swarthmore and encouraged Friends to be thinking in committees and as a meeting what activities for this event we can initiate with the local community as well as within the meeting. This will be the topic of the first half-hour discussion at December's monthly meeting.

**Worship and Ministry** Mary Lou Hurwitz read a minute for consideration but not yet for decision on recording Marthajane Robinson for the Ministry. The full Recommended Minute is as follows.

**Recommended Minute to Record Marthajane Robinson for the  
Ministry Prepared by: Worship and Ministry Committee of the  
ChestnutHill Meeting November 21, 1993**

Friends have traditionally understood that all among us are ministers, and Chestnut Hill Meeting gratefully recognizes the diverse forms of ministry by its members within and outside of the Meeting.

Chestnut Hill Meeting joyfully affirms Marthajane Robinson's ministry in pastoral care. We recognize her gift to nurture those who are broken and to help them find meaning in their pain and loss. She carries out this ministry through her centered, prayerful presence, her music, her use of Therapeutic Touch, and her pastoral counseling.

We see Marthajane Robinson's commitment to be a clear and true leading, and a tangible expression of Chestnut Hill Meeting's commitment to service in the world. Our Meeting is enlarged and enriched by her ministry of faith and love. We are clear about our responsibility to nurture her gift.

Chestnut Hill meeting formally records Marthajane Robinson as a minister. We recognize that her work may be made more valuable by her sharing her pastoral experience with the Meeting, as well as by the Meeting's identification with her work. We ask that she report to the Meeting the ongoing progress of her work and that she continue to inform us of ways we may be of help to her. (END OF MINUTE)

The meeting will be asked to consider this minute at the January Monthly Meeting. In formulating the Minute, Worship and Ministry considered the revised section in Faith and Practice on recording of ministers (in the Chapter on Monthly Meetings). See the excerpt from this section elsewhere in the Newsletter.

**News of Friends** Tricia reported that Paz will be here over the Christmas holidays. Tom visited with Catherine Essoyan Hopen, Rene Hopen and their son Bjorn in the Netherlands. Cat asked to be remembered to the Meeting.

The meeting adjourned after a period of silence.

Roberta Foss, Recording Clerk