

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting
Meeting for Business, January 16, 2005

Warren Witte, clerk, opened the meeting with silent worship. 33 adult friends and one infant were present. Query 4 on Care for the Meeting Community was read. Several Friends shared reflections on ways that we do this well, and other ways that we fail, most acutely realized in how few of us visited Bill Ludlow in his final months.

Nominating Committee: Charlie Philips presented the results of the committee's work. All current officers are continuing: Warren Witte, clerk; Nell Kahil, assistant clerk; Philip Jones, recording clerk; Jeff Perkins, treasurer; Roberta Foss, recorder; George Garrettson, assistant recorder; Philip Jones, newsletter editor. Charlie expressed appreciation for past service from these individuals and their willingness to continue. **The Meeting approved these continuations.**

Property issues: Warren reviewed where we are in this process, recalling the dialog sessions in September and other initiatives designed to provoke discussion and give all members of the community a chance to hear and be heard. The October Meeting for Business requested that an ad hoc committee be appointed to help develop an approach to tackling the big questions we face. The appointed committee (Jeff Perkins, Laura Melly, Hollister Knowlton, Signe Wilkinson) shared an approach at the November meeting: they hope to identify some touchstones or values emerging from the dialogues that seem to have broad support; not positions but values. Laura Melly of that committee presented the resulting document, a set of statements in four categories: core values that we take as our starting point; core values that relate to our special needs as a meeting; outstanding questions; and factors that provide the context for our discernment.

Before Laura discussed the document, Warren noted that the preschool proposal that was presented to November business meeting had been vetoed by our neighbors, United Cerebral Palsy Association, because of UCPA's concerns over interference with their traffic flow and parking throughout the day. They are also concerned about regularized use of our property here; they may need land very close to our building (which belongs to them) for other uses, and they don't want us to establish uses for it that would then be problematical for us both.

Laura then led us through the touchstone lists. She is member of CPMM currently attending Chestnut Hill Meeting, very interested in building faith communities. CPMM is wrestling with bricks and mortar issues too, as is Pendle Hill, where she has also done work. Laura emphasized that in reviewing the document, we should strive to remember that we don't know what the outcome of this process will be; right now we are just trying to discern options. (The original document was numbered but in four separate sets; these minutes will refer to those sets as A, B, C and D, each of which had at least two numbered items.)

A1. Process must be inclusive and spirit-led, consistent with Quaker practice. One Friend felt the phrase "spirit-led" often verged on Quaker jargon, invoked at the start but often soon forgotten. Another questioned how "inclusive" we really mean to be, as some members are not close by and have little basis for an informed opinion.

A2. Maintain balance between worship, ongoing Meeting activities and process for moving ahead on property issues. Friends were in agreement with this item without alteration. One noted that the speakers at last week's forum, from meetings that had been through something similar, all agreed that ultimately their meetings after the process were better equipped to carry on worship and their ongoing activities.

B1. Provide space for our needs (worship, FDS). Some felt our needs ought to be expressed more broadly than worship and FDS. Others were uneasy with the word "needs"; someone suggested using the verb "to seek" to describe our process, implying as it does that we may settle on less than all that we seek.

Several Friends cautioned us not to jump too soon to specific proposals in our discussion; we are trying to tease out core values, not decide on brick patterns.

B2. Accessible to all. A Friend observed that this is an area where it's easy to want more than we might have to settle for, especially in the current building.

B3. Be a constructive part of the neighborhood, used creatively.

The meeting approved these three items (B1-B3), as amended (with the committee to work out the final wording).

B4. Optimistic about meeting's future, but don't envision quantum leap in numbers. Some Friends questioned the second half of this statement; it's premature to say that we don't want to grow beyond a certain size; we need to be open to going where God leads us.

B5. Commitment to preserving special intimacy in worship and fellowship. There was no disagreement with this, but one Friend suggested that we combine B4 and B5 to say: "We are optimistic about the future of our meeting, and are committed to preserving a sense of intimacy in our worship and fellowship."

While there was a good bit of discussion over these two points, several Friends pointed out that tension in itself was not a bad thing, and showed us where the important issues are.

B6. Sustainable meetinghouse (this one or a new one) that is environmentally friendly. There was no discussion on this item; all seemed to agree that it is a core value.

B7. Engaging and paying for professional services to help process. Some expressed puzzlement at the inclusion of this on the list of core values; Warren explained that some groups doing similar work have relied on in-house talent in ways that allowed confused situations to arise. The suggestion to change this item spoke more to its narrowness; a Friend wanted us to include services related to the planning process. Another asked that we add as a core value “paying fairly” for such services. Some expressed the hope that we not rule out using “native talent” - very carefully.

C1. Impact of restrictions placed on us by UCPA, importance of controlling our future. Discussion of this item was quite lively. Many felt that the onerous impact of UCPA had been evident for many years; others felt that we could continue to live with these constraints without difficulty. While this may be an accepted fact for some of us, it isn't as clear to others, and we need to remember our commitment to bringing everyone along in this process, including both those who have labored for many years on these issues and others who are new to them. One Friend noted the irony of stating a desire to be “spirit-led” while also “controlling our future.” There was a general feeling that this is an issue that needs to be reviewed along with others. **The meeting came to agreement on this item, as amplified by the discussion.**

D1-D4. The Meeting concurred with these points with no discussion.

Friends expressed gratitude to committee for its work, and some suggested that we can go ahead and give the committee freedom to make changes as we've discussed, with confidence that they'll make good decisions.

Warren summarized the discussion: we're prepared to propose next steps, and a structure to get there. We are reluctant to get into much detail. He asked Laura to summarize our next steps to move the discussion into more tangible and concrete directions. Laura noted that the committee was charged to develop a process. Several concurrent things are happening. One was last week's forum; another was working with the clerks of standing committees to clarify issues. She suggested that there was a need for four different groups with charge for part of the work. A “**glue committee**” to coordinate the whole process; a **client working group** to start identifying what professional resources we might need, how to interview and how to select them; a **financial feasibility group** to look at financing options, and the steps for fund-raising for whatever the outcome of our process. The fourth group is to look after **interim maintenance needs of the new property.** (There is some thought that the existing Property committee might be asked to take on this role.)

Nell and Warren will consult with the nominating committee to appoint those committees and elaborate on their job descriptions. **The Meeting agreed to this conclusion.**

Jeff Perkins informed us that an important fact is that there may be some grant funds available for sustainable development. There is a grant application deadline of February 15, and he suggested that it might be helpful to get approval for the ad hoc group to develop an application for that money, as long as it's not just for a new building; it would be a design-planning grant. **The Meeting approved this suggestion.**

Worship and Ministry Committee: Jorge Aráuz reported on several initiatives of the committee, including the New Year's Eve and prayer and healing meetings. He said that discussions are under way for running Quakerism 101 classes soon. Jorge then handed out the draft report to PYM Worship and Ministry Committee on the state of our Meeting's spiritual well-being. (This document had been distributed by e-mail last week.) The report gives our Meeting's responses to a set of queries. Jorge hoped that the whole body would approve it. He asked for general reactions to the spirit of the report, whether it was accurate or not; what was missing that needs to be there; also any observations about how things are presented. One Friend called it “one of the most unifying looks at the whole meeting in the recent past.” A relative newcomer to the Meeting was very impressed that she found her views were well expressed in the document.

Several Friends had suggestion for additions: one felt a great blessing from the children, who are such an integral part of the meeting, and for our religious education program. Another mentioned especially the Meeting's newborns as a special source of joy. Another asked that the committee add something about the opening up of the clearness process for membership and marriage to a wider circle than just the Care and Counsel committee. **The Meeting approved the report in principle, and entrusted the committee with amending it and sending it without further consultation.**

Care and Counsel Committee: Karen Cromley reported on membership issues for four people: 1. This was the second reading of Susan Eden's request for membership. **The Meeting approved her membership, and a welcoming**

committee comprising Amey Hutchins and Roberta Foss was appointed. 2. Mindy Lemoine has requested membership; her clearness committee includes Philip Jones, Mickey Abraham and Carrie Eisenhandler. 3. John Nordlof has requested membership; his clearness committee is Storm Evans, Dylan Steinberg and Meg Mitchell. 4. Gihon Jordan has requested membership; his clearness committee is George Garrettson, Dan Evans and Karen Cromley. Further, Gihon and Susan Eden have requested marriage under the care of the Meeting; the clearness committee for that is Betty Hartzel, Marthajane Robinson and Jon Landau. **The Meeting approved all these committees.**

Karen noted that the Hospice project had requested spiritual support from the Meeting; C & C had been asked to consider this request. She said we certainly are prepared to hold the group in the light as it proceeds in its work. Carolyn Schodt asked if the Meeting could minute its support for the project, the minute to be used in grant proposals. Warren suggested that it would be important for Friends to learn more about the project before it could endorse it, and suggested that he, Nell Kahil, and Carolyn devise a means for sharing more information with Friends before the February Meeting for Business. **Friends approved this suggestion.**

Karen circulated a sign-up for drivers for Friends who need help getting to Meeting, all of whom are extremely grateful for this service.

Treasurer's report: Jeff Perkins announced that contributions at the end of the year were very strong, ahead of what we had budgeted by \$3,700. We took in \$57,511 in unrestricted funds. There was a total of 103 contributors. Jeff expressed appreciation for a much more even flow of contributions through the year; fewer waited until December to make contributions. While final figures are not yet available, expenses were also slightly under budget. Jeff promised a full report in February, when the Finance committee will also try to have a budget ready for approval.

NPIHN report: Pat Witte reported that in our hosting in December, we housed and fed 16 people. She invited people who participated to come to a debriefing session at a time to be scheduled.

Art show: John Gallery reminds us that it's that time again; he asked if we still want to do it, and if so, for volunteers to help. Roberta Foss, Jackie Fields and Johanna Barbati agreed to assist. Warren proposed opening on the second Sunday in March (13th), Forum Sunday, to run through the third Sunday in March (20th). Someone suggested that it would be nice if we could keep it open for the community and other meetings. Roberta Foss has volunteered to staff it for some of that time, and to consult with Lyle Jenks on means for spreading the word.

Minutes of the November business meeting were approved with one correction: the year of the minute on same-sex ceremonies of commitment was 1991.

Announcements: Carolyn Schodt said that for tsunami relief \$311 dollars had been collected. Some people have formed an ad hoc committee under the care of Worship and Ministry to find ways to promote "being in relationship with people in the disaster." She invited others with this interest to contact her.

Secretary's Announcements: The FGC national finance and development committees have requested that we allow them to hold a meeting here over the weekend of June 16-17; they will need hospitality in the form of housing for committee members who come from a distance. There is also the opportunity for a social evening with committee members. **The Meeting approved hosting these meetings.**

Peace committee: On February 26, there will be an open mike poetry session at the meetinghouse, as a fund-raiser for the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors. And on April 9, Saturday, there will be a concert by Primal Polyphony, for the benefit of the Friends of the Wissahickon.

George Garrettson said he had details of Friends Neighborhood Guild's day of service on Monday, January 17, if anyone wanted details.

Hollister Knowlton announced that she is now on the Policy committee of FCNL; they are working on a Conscientious Objection minute currently. If friends want to see a draft, they should contact her.

Warren Witte ended the meeting with silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,

/signed/

Philip H. Jones

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting
Monthly Meeting for Worship for Business, 20 February 2005

Warren Witte, clerk, opened the meeting with some moments of silent worship; ## friends were present. The query was not from *Faith and Practice* but was a draft query on aging from the Aging Concerns Group. There were a few brief reflections. Warren explained that ACG feels that aging concerns are relatively invisible in PYM. The group hopes this query or some version of it might be included in a future revision of *Faith and Practice*.

Warren read a letter from the clerk (chair?) of the board at Friends Hospital, announcing that they are entering joint partnership with a health management corporation out of Texas. Without this financial rescue, Friends Hospital would have had to close. He talked about the founding of the hospital as an initiative of PYM almost 200 years ago. The revived institution will carry the name and hopes to continue to function as a Friends organization.

Budget: Jeff Perkins presented the budget. On the Operating Fund sheet, he pointed out some salient features. We ended the year in 2004 with a \$17,355 net surplus. Contributions were better than expected, which is an encouraging sign for group facing a probable large fundraising effort. Expenses in 2004 were also under budget. The proposed budget for 2005 has a modest increase in contributions, and expects that use of the meetinghouse will increase slightly. Jeff noted that the anonymous gift to support the FDS coordinator position is decreasing as the Meeting assumes more of that expense.

Jeff noted that the Finance Committee had approved a 15% increase in our covenant payment to PYM, as requested. The Meeting's computer was replaced with a new one, and a new accounting software package (QuickBooks for Non-Profits) was also purchase.

Maintenance expenses for the new property are based on a guess. The budgeted amount could set up the reserve fund as discussed by the Finance Committee. Warren asked Jeff if this budget reflects a meeting that is giving generously and one with concerns about a new property and anticipated financial burdens; Jeff felt that it was a prudent response to those realities.

Phil Anthony noted that we might be asked to increase our contribution to Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting, to support work of the quarter coordinator, whose pay is only funded through June of this year. He doesn't know this for sure, but considers it likely.

Members and attenders lines at bottom of this sheet show the average donation by giving unit (household) was \$697 in 2004. The 2005 budget asks for an increase of \$34 to \$731 in 2005. Jorge Aráuz commented on the item listed as a "Colombia Event"; he has posted some pictures of the person to whom we sent the money raised by this even, and a report on how they handled the money. Also Jorge noted that we've spent less by \$450 on gas than budgeted, reflecting perhaps the insulation efforts of some Friends. Phil Anthony suggested that perhaps the increased electric bill reflects greater use of the building.

The budget notes that our contribution to the City of Philadelphia in lieu of property taxes (\$500 in 2004) has not been accepted; apparently the city has no mechanism for dealing with small amounts that come in from sources such as us. But Jeff has learned from a city department that handles such things that even they can't take undirected funds. So it might make sense for us to target a group that we believe in, like the library. Finance Committee will look into that and make a recommendation.

The Meeting approved the budget, keeping in mind that we might be asked for a mid-budget cycle increase to the Quarter. Warren thanked Jeff and the Finance Committee for their diligence and hard work.

First Day School: Christie Duncan-Tessmer reported on FDS activities. They're working on Peace; they have been trying to discern what they are called to do to promote peace in the world. Several committees have been set up; mostly they've discussed providing support to homeless kids in the area. They are also writing peace letters to randomly selected people in the neighborhood, and to jailed teenagers. They also want to raise some money to buy new clothing for kids; they would like to have a "street fair" at the rise of meeting, performing and taking donations. They want to do a puppet show and have "fair games" to raise money.

Care & Counsel: Mickey Abraham reported on the clearness for membership for Mindy Lemoine; this was the first reading of this application, acceptance of which was recommended by the clearness committee. The Meeting approved; the second reading takes place in March.

Gihon Jordan was also recommended for membership by his Clearness Committee. He uses a bicycle exclusively, so can't participate in evening meetings, but looks forward to being more involved, especially after his imminent retirement. The Meeting approved.

The third clearness committee was for marriage for Susan Edens and Gihon Jordan. Betty Hartzel reported on her perspective the committee's meeting with the couple, saying that the committee supports their application. The Meeting approved. They have asked for Janet Boys, Amey Hutchins and Dylan Steinberg; the latter two have accepted, and Janet has not yet been contacted.

Worship and Ministry: Jorge Aráuz reports that the committee has been looking at the question of whether and how to enable Marcelle Martin to receive contributions in support of her ministry that are channeled through the Meeting. They are looking into this with Finance and Marcelle's support committee. Jorge said he expects that they will bring a proposal to the March business meeting. Amey Hutchins, who is on Marcelle's support committee, wanted to be clear that they're only looking to enable the meeting to receive unsolicited donations on Marcelle's behalf.

The committee is considering the possibility of holding a special midweek meeting for worship, to hold the meeting in the light and to pray for guidance as we discern our way on the issue of our property. The first one is tentatively scheduled for March 1, a Tuesday evening. The committee is not sure if they should be weekly or monthly, but he has personally felt that there may be a need and desire to have them at the meetinghouse more often, perhaps biweekly, beginning at 7:00 pm. A friend who can't attend on Tuesdays expressed the hope that they do it on different days of the week. Another friend asked if this was to be considered a general meeting for worship, as she knows people who can't here on Sundays, but are interested in a general meeting for worship midweek. Jorge replied that this focus on the Meeting's process of discernment was primary, and that they were not suggesting a general meeting for worship.

No approval was needed; the only question is about frequency. Friends suggested weekly or biweekly, perhaps with alternating days of the week. A Friend pleaded for a clear pattern so that people will always know when it is. The Worship and Ministry committee will bring a recommendation to Meeting for Business.

Jorge noted in closing that at least three friends are known to be in the process of discerning their callings. He added that the Adult Religious Education subcommittee is considering asking to become a standing committee of the meeting.

Building Issues: Warren Witte asked the Meeting to take stock of where we are in this process. Jeff reported on speaking to Steve Sheridan about the current state of the land transfer. As of February 11, there had been movement out of the City Planning office and on to the next step. There is still no word on what the timeline is. City Planning had been obstructing the subdivision, but they have now moved beyond that. Jeff wanted to be sure they were still on track; Steve said that they are, but it's costing them more than they had originally envisioned. Jeff expects it might clear zoning hurdles some time this summer. A friend asked if we should be proactive in assisting them through the hearing process. Jeff said that that was discussed that early on, and it is still the expectation, but their biggest problem is the cost for subdividing, and that's their burden, not ours.

Warren reminded us that at the last Meeting for Business we considered touchstones to be articulated as underlying our discernment process. The document representing its current state was distributed; it reflected changes suggested at the January business meeting.

The ad hoc working group encouraged Hollister to apply for a grant to be used to help us through our discernment process. The Sustainable Development Fund gives grants of up to \$25K for energy modeling. We might apply for \$4K to cover our costs for that aspect. But Hollister put together a proposal that asked for funds to facilitate a green building process for the meeting, either to stay and renovate or to build new -- or to move the current building to the new site. She asked for \$28,300, with a match of about \$5K from the Meeting. Warren expressed the Meeting's gratitude to Hollister for doing this.

Warren reminded us that three committees were authorized:

The “glue committee” comprises Dan Evans, Laura Melly, Phil Jones, and Mickey Abraham; Lyle Jenks will convene its first meeting. They will look at our process: how do we provide for discussion, visiting, etc., as well as continuing with all the normal business of the meeting?

The “client” or representative committee deals with vendors and services; it includes Lisa di Giacomo, John Gallery, Signe Wilkinson, Ron Celentano, Hollister Knowlton and John Kahil. Hollister will convene the first meeting of that group.

The third committee – fund-raising strategies – is not yet set, but so far we have acceptances from Don Silverson, Thomas Taylor and Carolyn Schodt; one more person is being recruited. Their job is to conceive a strategy of fund-raising. A Friend suggested that Friends schools, especially smaller ones, might have fundraising techniques that could be good models. Warren noted that Don Silverson has good experience with schools (he has been business manager at Newtown and Abington Friends Schools). Hollister noted that Peter Rittenhouse at Friends Center would be a good resource; he'll also do a workshop at PYM annual sessions on green building.

Warren recalled that at the meeting of committee clerks, someone suggested that there may be some informational gaps for some in this decision-making process. He suggested that the next newsletter include an invitation for people to raise factual questions – things they want to know, so that in our pondering of deeper philosophical issues we don't ignore hard facts. We now have maps which are posted, but other factual questions are invited. He suggested that people use the meeting e-mail address to pose such questions.

Thomas Taylor asked about the status of the insulation project. The ceiling insulation has been blown in; the final seal may not be completed. As for the duct insulation, we were advised not to use aluminum tape to seal the duct joints, but to use a mastic that we don't yet have, and which is dangerous to use to boot. We'll be getting information on that soon.

Minutes of January Business Meeting: George noted that Friends Neighborhood Guild's day of service on January 17 was its largest ever, with more than 200 people. With one correction to the actual contents, the minutes were approved.

Announcements: Dona Garrettson reminded friends that at the upcoming annual sessions of yearly meeting, several of our own members are presenting; she will send descriptions of these sessions for the newsletter.

Lyle Jenks, meeting secretary, repeated Dona's encouragement that friends attend annual sessions, and offered refrigerator magnets to remind us.

Christie described a difference in the banner making this year. Also, at registration, friends will be asked to volunteer home hospitality for friends from far away. There will also be a charge at registration this year.

Lyle displayed a certificate referring to the Meeting's energy use to go with plaque on energy efficiency. He also showed us a copy of the FDS Times, a weekly informative tri-fold sheet to keep families aware of what's going on in First Day School.

Pat Witte, representing the child care committee, announced that Ilea Abraham is leaving, but has recruited her mother to replace her.

George Garrettson reminded Friends of the opportunity to volunteer as interpretive guides at Arch Street Meetinghouse, for those who have time during the day.

The meeting closed with some silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip H. Jones, recording secretary

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting Monthly Meeting for Worship for Business, 20 March 2005

Warren Witte, clerk, opened the meeting with a few minutes of silence. The reading of Query 5 on Peace provoked comments from several Friends.

In reviewing the agenda, Warren noted that there would be no report from the nominating committee; he expects them to make a full report at April's business meeting.

Financial Support of Ministries: Marcelle Martin recently reminded Warren that it has been two years since we first considered a minute of financial support for her ministry. Much ground has been covered, and we have come to unity on a policy for treating such matters. Carla White (standing in for Worship and Ministry Clerk Jorge Aráuz) handed out a paper with background and the minute. Warren expressed the hope that we not feel the need to tinker with the mechanism for handling funds worked out by the Oversight Committee and the Finance Committee. Worship and Ministry and the Oversight Committee are asking for the meeting to accept monetary contributions on her behalf in support of Marcelle's ministry. Marcelle explained that the ministry is one of spiritual nurture, leading retreats and classes, writing, and praying with people. Contributions would be to help her perform this ministry. The minute is CHFM's agreement to receive contributions and to act as bookkeeper. Finance Committee felt that the request was within the parameters of the policy recently adopted for religious service, and that the process they have designed is workable.

Minute: In continued affirmation of Marcelle Martin's ministry of spiritual nurture, CHMM agrees to receive ~~unsolicited~~ contributions in support of Marcelle and her work. CHMM will hold these gifts on Marcelle's behalf and distribute them in response to requests by her oversight committee. The money may be used for living expenses or for costs related to carrying out her ministry, including travel and research materials. This arrangement acknowledges and rejoices in the common understanding on the part of Marcelle, CHMM and donors that her work among Friends grows out of the same Spirit that is at work in our Meeting as a whole.

Then Dona Garrettson explained the process by which the finance committee operated. They worked carefully, knowing that they were setting a precedent for all similar cases. Dona passed out copies of a checklist that they developed to assess each request for such support.

The finance committee is also preparing a memo of understanding between the finance committee and Marcelle's oversight committee. They want to be careful not to overburden the treasurer. Dona mentioned that tax deductions are not always possible for donations.

Nell Kahil corrected a statement that Marcelle does not accept paid employment; this mechanism is not expected to be her sole source of income. This was agreed to be the case.

A friend asked why some contributions would be taxable and some not. Dona's answer was that if the money is spent for direct expenses related to the ministry, then the minister does not count this as taxable income. But if we disperse more than \$600 per year for personal expenses, this income might be taxable to the minister. If we disburse more than \$600, CHFM will issue a 1099-MISC to Marcelle, which means that the money is also reported to the IRS. If money is given to the Meeting for Marcelle's ministry, it would normally be tax-deductible. The meeting has ultimate control over it. Part of the acknowledgment of the gift is that CHFM can spend it any way it wants to. The donation is **not** tax deductible if the donor restricts the donation to application to Marcelle Martin. (Sam Swanson was our legal counselor on this question.)

A friend noted that this was different from how we treated funds for Jorge Aráuz. Warren noted that we expended a year or more with the ad hoc committee, knowing we were changing past practice.

The minute as originally presented included the phrase "receive unsolicited contributions in support of Marcelle"; some Friends questioned the reason for this stipulation that the contributions are unsolicited. Apparently Marcelle and her committee can solicit funds, but the meeting is not undertaking to actively support her by soliciting. After some discussion, one Friend suggested that the minute drop the word "unsolicited" from the minute; **the Meeting approved this change, and adopted the minute as amended.**

A Friend asked if this meant we were now a programmed meeting, because we have a minister. Carla White explained that that was not the case.

The Clerk noted that, while the discussion focused primarily on the financial arrangements, this approval reflects support and encouragement for the substance of Marcelle's ministry, as well.

Worship and Ministry: Nancy Kassam-Adams reported that semi-weekly midweek meeting for worship with special concern for the Meeting community have taken place twice; the next one is on Thursday, 31 March.

Worship and Ministry proposes that the adult religious education committee that has worked under its care, arranging various adult religious education programs since 2002, now become a standing committee of CHFM. Current members of the committee that their function would overlap some with other committees, specifically with the RE and Forum committees. They suggested they might meet with those committees more or less annually to confer. One Friend observed that it is important to set up new committees if there is a need, just as it is important to be able to lay them down. **The Meeting approved the establishment of a new standing committee.**

Meetinghouse: Warren reviewed the three working groups that have been set up to lead us to a decision to renovate or build. He reiterated the hope that we can make that decision by June. Each of the groups then reported to the Meeting.

FINANCIAL OPTIONS COMMITTEE: Thomas Taylor has convened the financial options committee, which comprises Tom Conrad, Carolyn Schodt, Don Silverson and himself. In their one meeting they have spent time brainstorming how we might pay for whatever project we undertake. They note that it is difficult to recommend strategies without knowing how much money is needed, and for what.

Possible ideas that have been discussed: a capital campaign; assuming long-term debt; allocating the Yarnall fund for debt service; including revenue-producing space in a new building; They feel that grants are likely to be available only in very modest amounts. There might be some additional funding if the building is “very green.”

Thomas has made initial contact with a capital campaign consultant to get a sense of the cost of engaging such a person.

CLIENT COMMITTEE: John Gallery reported for this group, which includes Warren Witte, Hollister Knowlton, Signe Wilkinson, John Kahil, Lisa DiGiacomo and Ron Celentano. The group has met twice, and they have specific recommendations. The tasks before us require a clear decision on whether to build or renovate. Thus their present emphasis is on the process we adopt for making that decision. **They recommend that we hold a one-day workshop to look at our goals,** and translate them into space and an end product. This process would allow us to evaluate how well the existing building fits our needs, and would also provide direction for a new building if we go that way.

Some of the goal examination has already been done in our previous efforts in this direction, so the committee is reviewing the materials that came out of those sessions to avoid reinventing those particular wheels. They note that depending on the first one, they might also recommend a second half-day workshop.

They recommend that we engage an outside facilitator to lead us through the process. They are in the process of identifying people to do that; they will interview candidates and select one. We will spend some money on this; the committee would like to be able to spend up to \$2,500 on a facilitator.

The group’s third recommendation is that we’ll need an architect in either case. The process of identifying an architect can go ahead in advance of that decision; they will draw up a list of criteria, and then contact firms asking them to submit proposals. We want a firm with experience working with Friends organizations, and also with green building.

Jeff Perkins asked, in his role as treasurer, that the committees identify a potential budget for the rest of this year. We didn’t include any items for this purpose in this year’s budget, so we need to get a handle on that promptly.

A Friend asked if it would be good to set up a building fund so members and attenders can contribute, to cover this kind of preliminary cost. Jeff felt that it might be premature to actively solicit such funds until we have a better sense what we’re talking about. A mechanism is already in place. But also there is money available; we don’t need to do fund-raising to pay for this phase. **The Meeting approved of a workshop with outside facilitator.** One Friend reminded the committee that it will be important to find ways to involve those who can’t attend the workshop, getting their thoughts in advance and communicating outcomes afterwards.

“GLUE” COMMITTEE: Dan Evans reported for this group, which consists of Laura Melly, Lyle Jenks, Mickey Abraham, Phil Jones and himself. The group’s charge is to ensure that there is communication and coordination of all related activities. They have discussed some ideas, and will meet again next week. They hope to have reserved space on the bulletin board for building-related news posting. They hope that a member of the glue committee can sit in on other committees’ meetings, to be better able to act as liaison among all the groups.

They have talked about holding a Meeting retreat, like one held in 1997 at the Burlington conference center. This is not linked to the client committee's workshop. They also felt that meetings in homes might be a useful way to communicate. They also discussed a "field trip" to the lower lot so that Friends can see the area we're talking about. The newsletter editor has reserved a space on the front page of the newsletter for building-related items.

Warren noted that he and Lisa DiGiacomo will be combing through records of old activities around the possibility of building or renovating; they are sensitive to the need for people who weren't around for those earlier discussions to be able to get some flavor of what took place. One Friend suggested that a visual time line of events over the history of the Meeting might be useful to newer members and attenders.

There was some discussion of the retreat idea, with some feedback that the workshop was more important, and that the retreat was not necessary at this time.

A Friend noted that we don't have existing drawings of our current buildings; he expressed the hope that they might be located.

Hollister Knowlton reported on the grant application for sustainable development assistance. The proposal was denied, because the granting agency said their funds should go to not making decisions; but once CHFM knows which we're going to do – renovate or build – they'd be interested in having us apply. They would like to have a staff person at the workshop as a resource person.

UCPA Update: Jeff reported on a recent conversation with Steve Sheridan of UCPA. Steve believes they're at the last step; the request is going to the Board of Revisions of Taxes, all other hurdles having been cleared. They expect a one- to two-month process with the board, after which the community process would then start. Steve Sheridan said he had been thinking about some sort of joint development effort, possibly something to do with our current property. They are thinking about that and view us as potential partners.

Care and Counsel: Karen Cromley reported the second reading of **Gihon Jordan's application for membership, which the Meeting approved.** As Susan Eden's welcoming committee has not yet done its job, the suggestion was made that the two be welcomed together.

Karen gave the second reading of Mindy Lemoine's membership application. This was approved, and a welcoming committee comprising Carla White, Dan Evans and Johanna Barbati was appointed; Dan will coordinate.

The first reading of John Nordlof's request occurred; he is not applying for his children, nor is his wife applying. His clearness committee – Meg Mitchell, Dylan Steinberg and Storm Evans – recommended him for membership. His religious background is predominantly Mennonite. They came to us after moving to Mt. Airy, and liked CHFM's First Day School and hymn-singing. (Warren suggested that we let RE know that their work attracts new people.)

Karen read from Thomas Taylor's application letter for membership. While he grew up among friends, he has never been a member of any meeting. Now he has roots in NW Philadelphia. In his application letter he cited our childcare and the presence of seasoned friends with significant spiritual gifts, our history as the first united meeting as factors that attracted him. Thomas's clearness committee consists of Mickey Abraham, George Garrettson and Jackie Fields. Mickey will coordinate.

Karen also requested that we look at our announcement process, suggesting that we adopt the method many meetings use: a basket on the way in to meeting collects written announcements. The person closing meeting would read them all. This suggestion was passed on to Worship and Ministry for their consideration. One Friend expressed a concern about the loss of spontaneity, noting that he likes the commitment of the person invested in an event being announced. Another Friend lamented that we feel so rushed as to have to limit this time of being together.

Peace and Social Concerns: Warren read from an e-mail from Lynn Mather. She reported that the tag sale money is going to fund videos and a workshop on energy efficiency for use in community settings and on cable TV. The committee wants to remind people to about supporting Germantown Crisis Ministry with money or nonperishable foods.

Quarterly Meeting: Phil Jones reported on the most recent Quarterly Meeting, at which those present: approved a minute on same gender marriage, and sent a minute on to Yearly Meeting; heard a presentation on a proposed center city Friends retirement center, with the organizing group asking to be taken under the care of the Quarter; heard a report from people involved in forming the Friends Hospice program.

Northwest Interfaith Movement: Phil Jones reported on recent doings at NIM, and especially on NIM's request that all member congregations nominate someone to be honored at NIM's Annual Assembly in June. Phil and Shirley Philips will work as an ad hoc nominating committee for NIM.

Announcements: Interfaith and ecumenical focus of Pendle Hill Peace weekend in April [not sure of date] I don't know it either. Daily attendance at low cost is possible for those who can't afford the whole thing.

Copies of the NIM Memo are available, as are copies of the FGC catalog.

Witness this afternoon at Arch Street on the war, sponsored by /Brandywine Peace Community.

Annual sessions: registration fee is a voluntary contribution. People who can put up friends from afar should let PYM know.

George Garrettson thanked the people who have helped on completing the member list. With the reprieve afforded by the delay in nominating committee's slate of committee appointments, George welcomes further corrections for another.

Carla White announced that adult RE will sponsor Quakerism 101 in April and May, probably on Sunday evenings, maybe with a potluck. John Gallery may lead it.

Warren announced that Friends Council on Education, Friends Committee on Education, and Friends Services for the Aging are jointly sponsoring a project called *Governance Matters*™ to prepare people to partake in Quaker governance of schools and senior care organizations. There is a workshop at annual sessions on Saturday. Another introductory workshop will be held on April 14, both leading to a training session at Pendle Hill in early May. The purpose of this project is to address the dearth of Quakers available to serve on boards of Friends institutions.

Shirley Philips reminded us about their daughter's group's concert at the meetinghouse on April 9, to benefit Friends of the Wissahickon.

February Minutes: Head count at the meeting was 24. Fourth paragraph: new software has not yet been purchased, but it has been budgeted. Seventh paragraph: Members and attenders lines **at the bottom of the budget sheet** show...

The meeting closed with a brief period of silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip H. Jones, recording clerk

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting
Meeting for Business, Sunday, 17 April 2005

Nell Kahil clerked this meeting in the absence of Warren Witte; 27 Friends were present. Query 6 on Equality provoked a number of observations from those present.

Religious Education Committee - Julie Odland reported on the committee's progress on a child safety policy. PYM has asked all meetings to look at *all* aspects of the meeting with respect to their safety for children; this is RE's piece of those efforts, which we had begun before PYM requested it. Julie handed out copies of a draft policy, which she noted that committee had chosen to frame in positive terms instead of as a list of *don'ts*.

Friends had many questions and observations about the policy handed out, first among them regretful acceptance that we have to do this. Some points were questioned, and clarifications suggested. Item 10 needs to stipulate that doors must open between adults and children when one adult is alone with one child. Another friend pointed out that the draft policy doesn't address an area of concern to insurance companies: peer-to-peer incidents. We might need to state that we don't leave children be unattended.

There was considerable discussion of the sequence of events that ensues in the event of an incident. One Friend suggested that the priority listed – contacting parents first and then caring for the child – was backwards, and that our first concern should be the child, while remembering not to usurp the role of the parent. We should then also take care of the adult involved. Another wording change suggested was to remove any terms like "suspicion" and "accusation" in favor of a more ambiguous wording: "the event." The matter of how to define an "incident" without prejudicing subsequent investigation was also discussed at length. A Friend with experience in other meetings' work on these issues noted that any intimation of an investigation constitutes interference with police investigation of a crime. A Friend who has worked in Friends schools for 10 years pointed out that insurance companies do require a written policy; such companies can provide a lot of guidance on what they should contain. Several Friends praised the document's emphasis on a constructive approach, rather than a negative one. Someone else suggested that it would be helpful, too, to review what is appropriate action and interaction, and what is inappropriate, that we don't want to accept. (Another Friend corrected this: such definitions don't belong in the policy, but in the guidelines that go with it.) The document also needs to be clearer about appropriate responses of someone who observes something suspicious.

A member of the childcare committee noted that there is nothing about how we distribute this information to people involved in child care. Do we have meetings, or ask for return of signed copies?

A Friend questioned the wisdom of allowing teenagers known to the Meeting to be approved on the basis of a "blessing" by two Friends from within the Meeting.

Another Friend pointed out that **all** paid employees have to go through the criminal check, not just those working with children. It's difficult for someone who has never worked with kids to be able to prove satisfactory performance with kids; we need to loosen that requirement.

A Friend who attended a workshop given by PYM's insurance carrier said that there are specific requirements in the written policy, but most important is the existence of the policy itself. The second most important thing is that we show that the policy is being followed. Therefore monitoring of it in the future needs to be defined. So it's most important to have a policy that we can implement; we can't adopt and then shelve the policy. But how do we know they're being implemented? Phil Anthony, in his role as coordinator of Salem Quarter, has access to some approved documents, which he offered to share with the RE committee. He will send copies to Julie and to Dona. Julie will bring back changes to the May meeting.

Nominating Committee: Nell thanked Charlie Philips for his and the committee's work. Charlie noted that the Meeting's officers have already been approved. He pointed out the existence of a new committee, Adult Religious Education, and pointed out that he had assigned its members somewhat arbitrarily to two different "classes" or years of term expiration.

Officers: Clerk - Warren Witte; Assistant Clerk - Nell Kahil; Recording Clerk - Philip Jones; Treasurer - Jeff Perkins; Recorder - Roberta Foss; Assistant Recorder - George Garrettson

Committees (terms end on 3/31 of year in parentheses after name); clerk indicated by name underlined

Worship and Ministry: Johanna Barbati (06); Philip Lord (06); Jorge Aráuz (07); Jim Cox (07); Chris Elbich (07); Jackie Fields (07); Marcelle Martin (07); Laura Melly (07); Carla White (07)

Care and Counsel: Mickey Abraham (06); Karen Cromley (06); Trude Fuchs (06); George Garrettson (06); Betty Hartzel (06); Marthajane Robinson (06); Philip Jones (07); Margaret Mitchell (07); Shannon Roberts (07); Dylan Steinberg (07); Daniel Evans (07)

Nominating: Barbara Buonocore (06); Roy Eisenhandler (07); Dona Garrettson (08); Mary Lou Hurwitz (09)

Meetings of these three committees are not open. Meetings of all committees below are open, and members and attenders are encouraged to attend. It may be wise to contact the clerk to check for last minute changes in time or place.

Religious Education: Jim Cox (06); Patty Davis (06); Storm Evans (06); Nell Kahil (06); Beth Zelasky (06); Renata Aráuz-DeStefano (06); Kathryn Newlander (07); Mindy Lemoine (07); Melanie Monk (07)

Adult Religious Education: Sarah Whitman (06); Hollister Knowlton (06); Nancy Kassam-Adams (06); Linda Ruthen (06); Jackie Fields (07); Carla White (07); Carolyn Schodt (07)

Peace and Social Concerns: Jim Cox (06); Jackie Fields (06); Jennifer Fusco (06); Aaren Perry (06); Liz Robinson (06); Peter Warrington (06); Jon Landau (07); Lynn Mather (07); Andra Ladden (07); Dion Lerman (07); Christine Oliger (07); Shirley Philips (07); Jean Warrington (07); Jean Haubert (07); David Wootton (07)

Property: George Benz (06); Ron Celentano (06); George Garrettson (06); Diana Marder (06); Bob Reynolds (06); Paul Ricker (06); Shannon Roberts (06); Peter Warrington (06); Roy Eisenhandler (07); John Kahil (07); John Roberts (07); Sue Betts (07)

Finance: Elizabeth Killough (06); Dylan Steinberg (06); Thomas Taylor (06); Louise DeWald (07); Dona Garrettson (07); Jon Landau (07); Ex Officio members: Warren Witte, Clerk; Jeff Perkins, Treasurer

Forum: Pauline Doyle (06); Roberta Foss (06); Ann Jones (06); Linda Rosenwein (06); Jackie Fields (07); Betty Hartzell (07); Pat Witte (07)

Library: John Gallery (06); K. Linn Vaughters (06); Mickey Abraham (07); Margaret Mitchell (07)

Hospitality, Kerry Krieger, clerk; Kerry Krieger (06); Barbara Buonocore (07); John Bieniek (07); Dion Lerman (07); John Nordlof (07); Julie Odland (07); Christine Oliger (07); Ruth Pauly (07); Phoebe Titus (07); Peter Warrington (07); Carla White (07)

Outreach: Michael Hollinger (06); Paul Laskow (06); Susan Bergin (07); Chris Elbich (07); Storm Evans (07); Amey Hutchins (07); Signe Wilkinson (07)

Burial: George Garrettson, John Kahil, Shirley Philips, John Roberts, Shannon Roberts

Tuition Assistance: Joe Falso, Dona Garrettson, Nancy Kassam-Adams, Charles Philips

Child Care: Nell Kahil, Jennifer Murray, Pat Witte

Draft Counselor: Jon Landau; **Web Clerk:** Terry Foss; **Quarterly Meeting Representative:** Philip Jones

Interim Meeting Representative: George Garrettson; Alternate: Jorge Aráuz

Northwest Philadelphia Interfaith Hospitality Network meeting representative: Mickey Abraham

Staff Persons: Meeting Secretary Lyle Jenks; FDS Coordinator, Christie Duncan-Tessmer; Assistant FDS Coordinator Julie Odland

The meeting approved the entire slate; the list above reflects the final form of the list, with all corrections.

Charlie discussed whether the Library Committee's work could be done as well by having the secretary do the day-to-day work, and have committees request books from a budget line. The alternative is to continue with library committee as it is. The Nominating committee recommends asking the committee whether it wants to lay itself down or to continue. If it lays itself down, we need to be clear how the work gets done.

Child Care committee needs one more person. One member is designated by each of three committees, and they feel they need a fourth. A Friend pointed out that Adult RE uses child care often; that would be a good source of another child care member. Nominating committee will look into that possibility.

One Friend reminded us that the Meeting had approved putting the names of spiritual care and oversight committees for people with minutes of religious service in the directory, even though they are not appointed by the Nominating committee.

Care & Counsel: Karen Cromley gave the second reading of John Nordlof's membership application, which **the Meeting approved**. George Garrettson and Amey Hutchins will welcome him, with Amey coordinating.

Thomas Taylor's clearness committee recommended him for membership; Amey Hutchins substituted for Mickey Abraham; George Garrettson and Jackie Fields were the other members of his clearness committee.

Karen reminded the Meeting of its 1991 minute on same-gender ceremonies of commitment. She said we have begun discussion of **marriage** (as distinct from *ceremonies of commitment*) being offered to all couples. We had a forum on the topic last week. There is no process yet for making this decision, but we want to make sure that people who have concerns feel that they can share their concerns. If anyone does, they should speak to members of Care & Counsel or Worship & Ministry.

One of Care & Counsel's major charges is pastoral care. We try hard, but we can't always cover everyone. Karen reminded friends to feel free to call someone on Care & Counsel if you wonder if we're aware of someone needing special attention.

Building/Renovation Working Groups: Fund-raising – Don Silverson reported on progress on funding strategies, and how a capital campaign might work. This group also includes Carolyn Schodt and Thomas Taylor.

Don reported that they have made some assumptions: our current building is 3800 square feet. It would cost some \$400,000 to renovate this building. That's one option. Another is to relocate and build a new meetinghouse down the street. Let's assume we build a 4000 square foot building that would cost \$1.2 million. (It will be easy for us to get comparison costs (on per sq. ft. basis), once the Client committee retains an architect.)

But how would we fund this? There are ways we could make it work. Funding of such a transaction falls into three components: sale of the current property, a mortgage on the new building, and equity from the Yarnall fund (about \$450,000). A mortgage would need to be for 20 years or longer. If the loan is at 6%, it would cost us \$35,000 per year, but we might want to finance it for longer than that.

This would vary depending on how much we could raise from a capital campaign. With our current giving patterns, we raise about \$60,000 per year. Such campaigns are usually structured like a pyramid: a small number of gifts at top of pyramid, say two gifts of \$25,000 each. Some gifts might come from Quaker funds that may make gifts at that level. The next tier would comprise ten gifts of \$5,000 each. Further tiers make up \$225,000. We'd probably want to hire a fund-raising consultant.

One way to deal with the need for increased funds would be to build a building that could produce income, or to operate another enterprise, like a pre-school. We might contract with an organization, or might take on such a project directly. Plymouth Meeting Friends School's pre-school program was started a few years ago. Currently, a program for about 20 children brings in \$25,000 to the school: it has been very successful. Other meetings have done similar things; there are many models of successful programs. Other ideas: office space for a non-profit organization; meeting space incorporated into the design. If the decision is made to go forward with a new building, this committee will advance some of these ideas.

There was discussion of various resources on "green buildings" that are available to us, as Swarthmore, at Friends Center, and from other sources.

Process: Dan Evans reported that this group (Mickey Abraham, Laura Melly, Lyle Jenks, Phil Jones, and Dan) met March 28. The first activity they have planned is a "field trip" to the lower lot for April 24 after Meeting for Worship. At the same time there would be a self-guided tour of the current building. To accompany the client committee's workshop for planning, the process group has suggested that it provide a means of alternate input if Friends can't attend the scheduled session. The bulletin board

now has photographs, and a description of the lower lot. Nell reminded Friends to contact members of the Process committee with their questions and concerns.

The Client committee has begun interviewing possible facilitators for an all-day workshop. John Gallery proposes Saturday May 14 as a possible date for workshop.

NIM Annual Assembly Honoree: Phil Jones reviewed the nature of the NIM nomination: someone from our congregation who has done work to cross boundaries and accentuate commonalities. He and Shirley Philips have identified some candidates, but have not yet been able to speak to them. He asked that the Meeting authorize them to go ahead without having to come back to the May meeting for approval. The Meeting agreed to this.

There was considerable discussion of the appropriateness of singling out someone to honor from our midst. Some Friends felt that it was a form of outreach to lift up good works that are making a difference, so that people from other congregations know that Quakers too are involved and engaged in the world. Others wondered if an award like this was perhaps a cheap way of honoring such work, and that we might want to look for a more substantial way. In the end **the Meeting approved proceeding with the ad hoc committee being authorized to contact and put forward an honoree.**

The minutes of the March 2005 Meeting for Business were approved as submitted

Announcements: Property Committee reminded Friends that the spring cleanup is on April 24. Jorge Aráuz said that at 5:30 on Friday, May 6, at Arch Street Meetinghouse, there will be an opening of an exhibit on three peace communities in Colombia. Pat Witte said she would send an e-mail about a potluck supper before our next NPIHN hosting, scheduled for this summer.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip H. Jones, Recording Secretary

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting
Meeting for Business, Sunday, 15 May 2005

Warren Witte clerked the first part of the meeting, at which some 24 Friends were present. The query on Stewardship of Resources from the 2002 *Faith and Practice* was read.

Building Considerations: Warren Witte summarized the working session of Saturday, 14 May, planned by the Client Committee (John Gallery, Hollister Knowlton, Jon Kahil, Signe Wilkinson, Lisa DiGiacomo, Ron Celentano). Twenty-seven people met in the gathering room, with Nancy Muth, pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Germantown, as facilitator. She led the group through a series of exercises that led to the eventual emergence of five themes about the meeting and its future: 1) Nurturing worship and spiritual life, including religious education for all ages; 2) Outreach and connection with the surrounding and larger communities; 3) Concern for the uses of the meetinghouse for our needs and those of others with whom we might seek to share it; 4) Support of the Meeting's community witness; 5) Growth with concern for diversity. The group then explored the space implications of these themes. Some aspects that were highlighted were: the need for full-time access to our space; the capacity for others to use the space; environmental considerations; a sense that our space in the current meeting room is nearly ideal, with maybe a little more space desirable; more space for FDS; flexibility in storage; adequate office space; outdoor areas; and good interior natural light.

Warren's impression of the day was a sense of optimism about the Meeting and its future. There is a clear link between our Meeting's use of the current building, and a meetinghouse that invites others to join us, as well as other groups to use the building. Overwhelmingly evident was the importance of the Meetinghouse as the center for worship.

Warren reminded us that this was not a decision-making session. Clearly some felt that there is a compelling basis for moving forward with a new meetinghouse, but others weren't ready to agree to that. He continues to hope we can decide in June which track to pursue. We don't want to go much further considering which of the two paths to put our energy into. That doesn't mean the chosen path is inevitably the one we will ultimately adopt, as we might find obstacles we didn't anticipate to either plan. Warren asked people who were there to share their perceptions of the day.

Several Friends had high praise for the committee's preparations, and for the facilitator. Nancy Muth brought clarity and humor to the occasion. Another Friend was concerned for the people who were not present. They may have been unable to attend for a variety of reasons; we need to continue to engage those people in the conversation about these matters. A Friend noted with satisfaction the mention of our involvement in ecumenical activities with our neighbor congregations.

A Friend who has been a member for many years found the day extraordinarily helpful. This Friend had been thinking we didn't need to move, but talking about our mission and vision turned out to be very inspiring, and even challenging. Seeing the string around our property line made this Friend realize how constrained the Meeting is by UCPA's size and needs. This Friend came away hoping that the mission will be the same wherever we are, but that for the vision we need to seriously consider moving.

Another long-time member felt clearer after yesterday that we could house CHFM's internal activities adequately in the existing building by making thoughtful adjustments. But this building wasn't ever intended to be shared, and we can't do that now because of UCPA's restrictions. If such co-use is a major part of our mission, we need to be able to do that. We want to help provide services to other Quaker and non-Quaker community groups.

Lisa DiGiacomo, one of the members of the Client committee, felt strongly that individuals in the Meeting look to the physical space as the embodiment of their spiritual home. We can do much of that without this meetingroom or even this property. But what struck her was the strength of the desire to provide outreach, coming from a strong desire to take what is special about our worship to the world at large and especially to the immediate community; it's important to have a place where the community fixes its mind around us as a group. It can be this space or any other space. She asked Friends to give weight and value to the work of the Friends who have been working on this so far.

A younger member of more recent arrival had been detached until yesterday, not having strong feelings about the outcome, and genuinely fearful of people being hurt. This Friend wasn't able to stay for the afternoon session, but felt sorry to leave, observing that we don't have as many opportunities as we think we do to talk with each other about the most important things. This Friend expressed gratitude at having that opportunity yesterday, and felt the love that was clear between those there and the Meeting, and among Friends for each other.

Warren then discussed how we might, between now and the June business meeting when we hope to take the next major step, make time for more conversation. He observed that the decision will be made by those who participate in the process. To assure that there are no questions that have not been addressed and that there are ample opportunities for conversation, he suggested that we might create opportunities for discussion on the questions involved before June 19. Some Friends proposed having informal group meetings in homes; others felt we might continue to have such discussions at the meetinghouse also. One said it would be useful to come to some loose “sense of the Meeting” before we try for a formal one.

One Friend appreciated the opportunity to hear more about how people feel, a desire to engage with those friends directly who seem to be farthest away, to be persuaded, to understand. The Friend said that we need new information about not only the financial and environmental costs, but also the spiritual costs of either decision. What do we gain in spiritual growth, in coming closer to God, in this process? Do we do more with less, or more with more?

Warren asked the Process committee to try to find a couple of dates for the meetinghouse to be open for those who want to talk about this between now and June. One member of the Client committee asked that the Meeting write a letter to Nancy Muth thanking her for her leadership. Warren will do that.

Safe Meetings: This is the report back from the Religious Education committee following its presentation at the April business meeting. Warren noted that the Safe Meeting effort goes beyond concern for our children, to our property and exposures to risk in many areas. This is one piece of what may emerge over time.

Christie Duncan-Tessmer, RE coordinator, reported, handing out a copy of the revised proposal. Julie Odland pointed out what was different from the last version, and mentioned that the policy will be dated so we know which version we’re dealing with.

Christie noted that this subject is a really difficult one for us. If we were a big corporation, this would be fine without dealing with issues of trust and belief. Christie wanted to hold up for special attention what the first paragraph says as crucial: “Physically, spiritually and emotionally, our children must feel safe and be safe to grow in God’s Light. We take care to deliberately build community among the children and between children and adults, we carefully guide them through conflict, and a large community of adults keeps an eye on children as they play in and around the meetinghouse.” For kids to grow in the Spirit, all of it needs to be true. Nobody likes to think about these issues, but the fact that we’re getting better at doing so is a good thing.

The following points were raised in subsequent discussion:

- In the very last section, “In the event child is being hurt outside of the meeting...”, the first step doesn't involve the child's parents and it should; Christie agreed, and will make that change.
- It was suggested that the policy include an explicit statement that we are requesting background checks to comply with our insurance carrier's requirements. Christie noted that paperwork alone doesn't protect anyone. What does protect our children is our being a community that's aware of these issues. Much of it is not putting adults in positions where misunderstandings can arise. It is important that we not change the culture of this safe loving place. But there are situations where we're more vulnerable than in other situations.
- We need to be explicit in stating our concerns and expectations. Our open space is good for keeping all things visible. This Friend also has a hesitation about complying with regulations that assume no trust as their basis. Background checks from the government don't touch the important things about people who work with our children. We should say to our insurance companies that we've put in place precautions, based on trust. Nell Kahil, assistant clerk, who has been involved in the meetings to create this policy, reminded us that this process started before we understood the insurance implications. This policy is also a protection for those of us who work with children, against future charges of abuse. Someone who had called the yearly meeting office dealing with these matters was told that insurance companies didn't require background checks. Someone else familiar with these matters at the yearly meeting level amended that: they do only for people on overnight duty or off site with kids. What insurance companies all require is that we have a policy.
- It was noted that the family of a child can be the accuser. We are trying to protect not only our children but our assets. This is about our relationship with parents who bring their children to us. We are assuming that some parents involved may act not in a Christian way, but in the world's way. What covenant do we make with everyone who comes into our meetinghouse?

- Even the most trusted people can sometimes violate boundaries, and government does sometimes protect us. Therefore this Friend was in favor of accepting this policy. People who work with children need to be protected from false accusations, sometimes years and years later. Just thinking about it is a big step.

The Clerk noted that this policy broadly has the support of everyone here. It deals with difficult issues, one of which is responding to external directives. This has been worked on for over a year by the Religious Education committee. After further discussion, the Meeting approved the policy as a working draft to be reviewed within the next year, with the following modifications:

- a. The policy should have a preface stating that the meeting community is based on trust;
- b. Point 6 of page 1 currently states that, if the background clearance process discloses a prior conviction, a clearness committee is convened, with responsibility for judgment of the situation. The committee should be designated as an *ad hoc* or *discernment* committee rather than a clearness committee.
- c. The provision that requires a background check for employees and certain teachers should be made an option that is available to these individuals, should the individuals conclude that it would offer them protection.

PYM Financial Stewardship: PYM regularly surveys monthly meetings about their priorities. This year it's made very urgent by an expected shortfall of funds. PYM may have to eliminate a major staffed position. They are asking for each meeting's considered judgment on its priorities for things to be cut. Warren has suggested that we identify programs that are most useful to us, instead of picking those that don't interest us. Warren asked for a committee to collate the responses of the standing committees; both George and Dona Garrettson were willing to participate. Peter Warrington and Jorge Aráuz will help them. George will convene this ad hoc group. Dona Garrettson will send the survey form to Phil Jones for inclusion in the newsletter.

Nell Kahil, assistant clerk, assumed the role of clerk at this point in the meeting.

Same Gender Marriage: This topic was discussed in the 8 May clerks' meeting. The clerks' recommendation for our next step is to have an ad hoc committee, comprising two people each from Care and Counsel and Worship and Ministry, to meet over the summer to come up with a recommendation for how to proceed on next steps for reaching a decision about whether to amend our existing minute. Phil Jones and Dylan Steinberg are C&C's members; W&M will bring forward names at the June business meeting. Peace and Social Concerns will contribute ideas but no committee member. Support is requested for those two committees to carry forward. One Friend noted that it is good that they will start by asking what marriage is, regardless of who is being married. The Meeting approved formation of this ad hoc committee.

Care and Counsel committee report: Karen Cromley reported on two membership issues. First was the second reading of Thomas Taylor's request for membership. The Meeting approved his application. His welcoming committee consists of Mickey Abraham, Carla White and Julie Odland, with Carla to coordinate. Second is a request from Ruth Cameron asking for transfer of her membership to Shrewsbury Meeting, in the UK. The Meeting approved this transfer.

At the clerks' meeting, Karen mentioned that a member of Care and Counsel had asked about interest in the Meeting sponsoring a couples enrichment program in the fall. She asked if there was interest in such a program. One Friend hoped that we as a body would welcome the initiative and support it. Another Friend notes that a meeting's care of a marriage often ends with the wedding; this is a way of extending that care further. An item in the June newsletter will ask for suggestions of facilitators, ideas for the program, and some indication of the level of interest. Responses will be directed to Karen Cromley.

Worship and Ministry committee report: Jorge Aráuz reported on two items. 1) Carolyn Schodt requested a clearness committee in the fall to help her articulate her ministry and discern what her major focus should be. The committee sent a report, which Jorge distributed. He noted that there are two steps to this process: in the first, a clearness committee is requested; in the second, the report is heard by the monthly meeting, which appoints a meeting clearness committee. That committee meets with the individual, to make sure that the Meeting really understands the ministry. What exactly is being requested by the person? How might support be offered? Is the meeting ready to give that support? Is this a minute that it is rightly ordered to be brought to the whole Meeting for support? Jorge reminded us that this was not the time to approve the minute we had in our hands. Four friends have accepted appointment to the meeting clearness committee: George Garrettson, Jean Warrington, Amey Hutchins and Meg Mitchell. He then asked if there were a fifth person who wanted to join, or if Nell and Warren might be empowered to add a fifth person. The Meeting approved those names with the understanding that another person may be appointed.

Jorge reported on the recent biweekly midweek meetings for worship, mostly for holding the Meeting in the Light as we go through the process of working out our building issues. He hopes to go on with this through mid-June. He also remembered that it has been our custom to have midweek meeting for worship weekly in the summer. The committee hopes to offer that opportunity if there is interest. He passed out pieces of paper for people to indicate their interest in attending, and in hosting it in their homes; an item in the newsletter will also measure interest. (Lyle Jenks noted that the meetinghouse is available on Wednesday and Thursday evenings.)

Signe Wilkinson, of the Outreach committee, asked if we could advertise a regular midweek meeting for worship, as it would provide more opportunities for worship. She felt that having it in homes is more likely to appeal to newcomers, especially younger adults going to a younger adult's home.

Peace & Social Concerns: Lynn Mather had given Nell a minute that she hoped the Meeting could approve:

The teach-in and conference Beyond Oil to be held in September in Philadelphia reflects the environmental and peace goals and concerns of Friends. The event is sponsored by the Shalom Center, Pendle Hill and a number of other local religious and environmental organizations. Chestnut Hill Monthly Meeting endorses this conference.

The Meeting approved this minute.

Northwest Interfaith Movement (NIM) Annual Assembly: Phil Jones, who is on the board of NIM, reported on the Meeting's nomination of Jean Warrington to be honored for her work at Fair Hill Burial Ground. He asked for contributions for an ad in the program booklet calling attention to the FHBG project; several Meeting members responded generously, so we will have a half-page ad.

Northwest Interfaith Hospitality Network (NPIHN): Mickey Abraham reported that she'll have sign-up sheets next week for members of the Meeting community to indicate their interest in staffing the guests' stay at New Covenant Campus. The Meeting approved the dates of the stay: Sunday, June 26 through Sunday, July 17, 2005.

Announcements: Lyle Jenks brought the following three items to our attention.

- A called session of PYM will meet on 4 June on the topic Climate Change: what we are called to do.
- Stacy Schanno, who visited Chestnut Hill today, invited Friends to the next Quarterly Meeting, on 5 June at Unity Meeting.
- Ecumenical Outreach: we have been invited to participate in the installation of a new pastor for Restoration U-U Church, to be held at the Unitarian-Universalist Society of Germantown on Lincoln Drive at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, 22 May, 2005.

Nell Kahil adjourned the meeting with silent worship.

Respectfully submitted, Philip H. Jones

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting
Meeting for Business, Sunday, 19 June 2005

Warren Witte, clerk, presided over a meeting with 41 Friends in attendance. The meeting opened with the first part of the Query on Stewardship; to this was added a query that a visitor from Northampton Friends Meeting had given us: *What gifts is God trying to give us by presenting us with this decision at this time?*

Property Concerns: The clerk reviewed the agenda, explaining the ordering of the most important business first, and reminded Friends of the time constraints imposed by the 3:00 p.m. service of our Sunday tenant, the Living Waters congregation. He then reviewed our Meeting's history of involvement with United Cerebral Palsy Association, and specifically with negotiations over the lower lot. He ended this recitation of the chain of events by noting that while the subdivision of UCPA's property for the required zoning changes was dragging on, we know of no reason why the sale will not eventually go through.

As that has been in process, the Meeting has focused on informing ourselves about the issues involved in either remaining in our current building with a commitment to renovating it, or building a new structure on the lower lot. Warren reviewed the core values document that was approved in our January 2005 business meeting, which has guided our deliberations through the first half of this year. He noted that the meeting feels optimistic about itself: about the quality of worship, the steady flow of newcomers, our thriving First Day School program. We also have concerns: about the accessibility of our building, and the limitations on our use of the building imposed by our neighbors. While there has been a general movement towards building a new structure, there have also been those who, out of concern for natural resources and the resources of the Meeting, felt that renovating the current building was more consistent with Friends' belief in simplicity and concern for the environment.

Our task in this business meeting was to come to unity on the major direction for our activities from this point forward, as pursuing both courses is no longer practical. The clerk noted that even in making such a decision we would not be closing off the other avenue completely, as it was always possible that obstacles could arise on either path that could render it unworkable.

There were a very few factual questions Friends posed: what were we paying for the land? (\$475,000) How much is left in the Yarnall Fund? (about \$300,000) What do we know about UCPA's plans for development of the land right around our current meetinghouse? (They have none that we know of, but are also reluctant to have us act as if we'll have unrestricted use of it forever.)

The discussion that followed proceeded in a worshipful spirit and ranged over many points. One Friend, fairly new to the Meeting, asked about the Meeting's history of "leaps of faith"; Friends remembered our participation in the Sanctuary movement in the early 80s, the decision to hire a part-time religious education coordinator, the building of the first addition, and the Meeting's dealing with a disturbed attender.

There was much reflection on the day-long retreat held in May with an outside facilitator, and of the themes that were developed there. Several Friends expressed concerns over the *emotional* cost of building a new structure, especially the danger of that project sapping our energies for tending to the other routine aspects of our meeting community.

Other Friends expressed the hope that if we were to decide to build a new building, we not rush into breaking ground soon, but proceed carefully to determine our needs and think very carefully about what we need for such a place to be. How we deal with the current building during the construction period and afterwards was of great concern to many Friends.

One Friend observed that we can't foresee the needs of our meeting community for the next hundred years; we can only discern what they are for us now, and plan for flexibility for many different kinds of uses in the future.

Another Friend, self-described as at first reluctant, and more recently willing to go with either decision, asked if any Friends felt called to be leaders in the building project, as she knew she didn't feel so called. John Gallery answered that he had thought a lot about these matters. The fact that he has built buildings and raised money doesn't necessarily mean he should do it. But he felt that his work on the building could be a reflection of the incredible importance of Quakerism in his own life, to answer honestly the question of how a building can speak to and represent our community's ministry.

Signe Wilkinson noted that she is already well identified with the proponents of building a new structure, and for that reason was reluctant to speak. She felt that the reasons for her involvement were predominantly practical: we want a meetinghouse surrounded by land where our children can play and be safe, from where we can proclaim Quakerism's message without timidity. But to sit in our meetinghouse with our light low denies the

treasure of that message to the world. She feels that we have to move, and she is willing to devote her energy and skills to that project.

Another Friend suggested that another way to be active for the greater good would be for us to campaign for more environmentally friendly zoning laws that would allow for use of more sustainable materials and techniques.

The issue of leadership was not so much a question for another Friend, who wanted to be assured that within our community we had ample “followership” resources. While there were few specific responses to this challenge, the general sense was that many Friends felt strongly that we do have good resources of this kind.

Hollister Knowlton said that she had found the process very difficult because she felt she was going in a different direction from most of the meeting community on this issue. She realized that she wasn’t able to let go of her environmental and sustainability concerns, but that she was weary of having brainstorming sessions that seemed not to be acceptable to the larger group. She finally realized that she feels called to do other things that have a chance at changing society more broadly. “My energies aren’t here; you need to do what you need to do without me.” She assured us that even as she stood aside from this decision, she felt a strong attachment to Chestnut Hill Meeting as her “beloved community.”

A Friend with young children, while admitting that she still didn’t know what “God’s big idea” for us was, kept hearing that there’s a lot of work for us to do joyfully. But she said that the process of making such a place happen can’t just be about the dry stuff; being engaged in that is also part of what we’re called to do. She doesn’t want it to separate her from her family for yet more meetings; yet she is willing to be engaged, and hopes that kids can be involved too.

At this point, the clerk summed up the themes that he felt were emerging in the discussion:

- Concern about use of the time between decision and actual building, and how can we use that time effectively while not rushing the process.
- Concern that we may not have sufficient unity to take on this project. Some sense that we don’t and should work on seeking clarity within the Meeting; others sense that unity emerges in the process of taking on big projects.
- Concern for environmental issues, and concerns about the constraints placed on us by our physical circumstances.
- Concerns for the focus of personal and corporate energies, and fears that a building project would preempt those energies. (He noted that we have continued to have weddings, babies and new members, and have begun addressing weighty matters such as same-gender marriage, during all of the considerable energy expended so far on this project.)

Jorge Arauz has felt torn about what was the proper course and said that he had tried to remain open, and realized that if the decision was to build a new building, he would feel sadness at leaving our beloved current space. He felt that an early Friend such as John Woolman would not point us in the direction of a new meetinghouse. He hoped that if we do move to a new structure, we give much thought to how we will fulfill our responsibilities of stewardship for the current building instead of leaving it behind, abandoned.

A Friend who apologized for not having been more involved in the process thus far observed that it felt to her as if there was no joy in our decision-making; we seemed heavy with lack of unity and joy. Another observed that, having followed this argument for something like 15 years, she felt worn out by our inability to move ahead; she imagined relief rather than joy if we could make a decision. Others felt that the process was not at all joyless, but was respectful of the stance of people committed to a different path.

Another Friend felt that the actual differences between the “two sides” were really very small. She didn’t feel that the process was joyless, but that we were trying very hard to listen to each other, and to muster our courage.

John Gallery pointed out that there was a lot of “either/or-ness” in this discussion, and that that wasn’t appropriate to the situation. There’s nothing that says we can’t build in phases as needs suggest and as way opens, with perhaps “just” a meetinghouse and gathering room on the lower lot, but a continued and expanded First Day School program in the old meetinghouse. We are still thinking about how the two properties can work together. Another Friend of very long standing in the Meeting said she was thankful to have the chance to have two houses, which could slowly give us the opportunity to do more. We can’t look into the future, but we shouldn’t be afraid of difficulty; we also must accept our limits.

Warren asked if the Meeting were prepared to begin the process of looking towards building on the lower lot, in all likelihood, incrementally, taking into account how it relates to the current property and our use of it. We would continue to be attentive to simplicity and to resource issues, to openness and flexibility in our planning, but most importantly to our unity as a community as we move forward. This would include a commitment not to let our current building deteriorate. **The Meeting approved.** One Friend asked that the minutes reflect the solemnly enthusiastic quality of that approval. Hollister Knowlton reiterated her wish to stand aside, but said, "Friends, I did hear a resounding YES." Jorge Aráuz asked to be recorded as silent.

Peace and Social Concerns: Jon Landau presented the committee's recommendations for this year's allocations of the Yarnall Fund income. The amount was \$9200, less than last year. Requests had been solicited from the Meeting and the wider community, and the following gifts recommended: Action Reconciliation, \$300; Energy Coordinating, \$929; Fair Hill Burial Ground, \$1,000; Fairhill Ministry, \$500; Friends Journal, \$500; Friends Hospice, \$500; Greene Street Friends School, \$500; Journey's End Camp, \$371; NIM, \$400 (in addition to our \$600 dues to that organization); NPIHN, \$1500; Stapeley in Germantown, \$500; St. Mark's After School program, \$700; WILPF, \$1,000; YouthBuild Charter School, \$500. It was noted that these grants supplement an increasing level of budgeted giving to these and similar organizations, and that Peace and Social Concerns intends to continue its recent pattern of organizing fundraisers during the course of the year. **The Meeting approved these disbursements.**

Care & Counsel: Karen Cromley reported that Adam Waxman had asked for a sojourning letter to the meeting at Guilford College, where he is a student. **The Meeting approved this request.**

Religious Education: Nell Kahil reminded Friends that with Christie and Julie both departing (as coordinator and co-coordinator), the committee asks for recommendations of people within our community and in the wider Quaker community who would be good candidates. The Meeting also asked Nell and Karen Cromley to write a minute in appreciation of Christie's and Julie's fine work.

May Business Meeting Minutes: The minutes were approved with the addition of Jorge Aráuz and Karen Cromley to the ad hoc committee to make recommendations about how we conduct the conversation around same-gender marriage issues in the fall. [The other two members of that committee will be Carla White and Jackie Fields. That information was not a correction, but was announced at today's meeting.]

Announcements: Lyle Jenks reminded Friends that the PYM Annual Fund is still behind in its goal, so that programs may still have to be cut. He urged Friends who haven't yet made a contribution to do so before the end of June. Dona Garrettson still hopes to hear from people as to what programs we want to be sure not to cut.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip H. Jones, Recording Clerk

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting Business Meeting, 18 September 2005

27 Friends were in attendance as Clerk Warren Witte opened the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. Excerpts from two queries were read for their pertinence to religious education in our Meeting.

Minutes of the June 19, 2005, meeting were approved without correction.

Hospitality Committee: Phoebe Titus, representing the Meeting's hospitality committee, announced that the committee is considering taking over the coordination of meals for special needs, as well as the lunch for business meeting days. Kerry Krieger would be the primary contact person for special meals, but anyone else on committee will also be available as a contact. **The Meeting approved this suggestion.**

Property and building discussion: John Gallery, reporting for the Client committee, discussed a likely timeline for the building process, as the committee had begun to sense that many in the Meeting had an unrealistic idea of how rapidly such a project might unfold. He sketched out the following sequence, which is an estimate based on his experience and those of others on the committee with similar projects.

1. September through December, 2005: process of identifying and selecting architect to work with us. The committee already has a list of potential candidates, some of them Friends.
2. January through March or April, 2006: first phase of work with architect. In this phase we will make decisions about how we build — in stages or all at once; what environmental standards we will apply, etc. We could expect to spend \$25,000 to \$30,000 in that phase.
3. March or April, 2006, through June or July, 2006: decisions about site, when to bring in neighbors and Chestnut Hill community association for possible zoning variance, etc. The Client committee feels it's reasonable to bring the neighbors into the process early on.

The end result is that in about a year from now, we'd have a final high-level design of what we want to build and know what it would cost. At that point, the Meeting would have two options: tell the architect to proceed to prepare construction documents. If the money for this phase is available, the architect goes ahead with construction documents. If the money is not ready, the architect waits while fund-raising continues. If we tell the architect to go ahead, after another 6 months we should have everything ready to start construction. This brings us to the middle of 2007. Depending on what we build, the actual construction phase schedule will vary from six months up to eight or ten. This would have us completing construction at the beginning of 2008.

John pointed out that there are several points where the Meeting needs to make decisions: to proceed, slow down or stop. Costs will come up as we move along. The committee will refine this timeline, and hopes to distribute a copy with the minutes of this meeting. In response to some questions, John noted that we'd know what we were building at the end of the second phase.

Three primary criteria guide the selection of an architect: whether the firm has worked with Quaker institutions before, or has principals or partners who are Friends; whether the firm has worked on a project of similar size within the last couple of years; whether the firm has a track record of taking environmental concerns into consideration, and preferably is LEED or Green Building certified. Next month the committee hopes to invite a short list of firms to send us answers to general questions. Through this process they will identify four or five to interview. An interview process will be structured so as to involve the Meeting itself, and will lead to the selection of one firm that we felt comfortable employing.

The landscape architect has been chosen differently, as the committee wanted to move ahead quickly so that we can be prepared for action when we finally own the plot. Carol Franklin, of Andropogon Associates, is the daughter of Margaret Levy, the long-time Meeting member who created the bronze statuettes on the mantelpiece. The committee toured her work at Morris Arboretum, and those present were very impressed. Her firm is nationally recognized for its environmental awareness. She has ideas about getting Morris Arboretum to be a partner with us in planning our use of the site. The committee's recommendation is to retain her as landscape architect; she has said that her short term advice will be without charge. In preparing real plans for the actual development of the site, she may contribute her personal time, charging only for the work of people in her office. The committee hopes to have in October a half-day discussion of the site.

Jeff Perkins reminded us that we don't own the property yet. He spoke to Steve Sheridan recently; UCPA is as frustrated as we are, but they are also paying attorneys' fees. He thinks it's at the last stop in the City Planning process. We need to be clear about that with Carol.

The Meeting approved engaging Carol Franklin as landscape architect. Jeff will communicate to UCPA our interest in beginning work with her in advance of actual ownership, so that we can be prepared with an action plan when the property does become ours.

Katrina Working Groups: After the called meeting on 11 September, we set up three groups to report back to the meeting: 1) with things the Meeting might do corporately; 2) a statement for public distribution; 3) a mechanism to allow Meeting members and attenders to support Jorge in his volunteer work in the Gulf Coast region. Jon Landau sent a proposal on behalf of P&SC; Jeff Perkins guided discussion of the proposal.

Corporate Action: The working group brought three recommendations:

1. The Meeting will provide \$1,000 to Jorge Arauz out of the Meeting's operating budget to cover his un-reimbursed expenses in volunteering to assist with counseling victims of Katrina in the South for a two week period. Members and attenders are encouraged to make earmarked contributions which will help defray this expense. In addition, others are encouraged to approach the Meeting through Care and Counsel with their needs resulting from their efforts on behalf of Katrina victims. Any unexpended earmarked funds will be donated to groups working on relief efforts such as AFSC and MCC.
2. The Meeting will ask Peace and Concerns to organize a series of regular volunteer activities within local disadvantaged neighborhoods (such as clean up projects, painting, or helping with neighborhood gardens) that Chestnut Hill Friends members and attenders can engage in together as a way to give all of us immediate opportunities to address the needs of these communities collectively.
3. The Meeting will ask Worship and Ministry to set up a half day Called Meeting to consider the deeper issues that underlie the nation's response to Katrina, and to see if there is a witness that we would like to undertake to address these issues.

One Friend asked if there had been any consideration of making a contribution to AFSC directly, as its reach was presumably wider than that of one individual. Apparently that was not discussed by the group. This Friend suggested that we give \$1,000 to AFSC for their broader reach. Another Friend noted that AFSC doesn't have any programs on the ground in this area, and would work through the Mennonites; she suggested that our contribution go to MCC.

The Meeting then approved the three recommendations of the working group, clarifying that financial support for Jorge Arauz included both un-reimbursed out of pocket expenses and support for him in relation to his lost income during the period of his volunteer work. In addition, it approved an allocation of \$1,000, \$500 to AFSC and \$500 to MCC.

Statement: Dan Evans reported on the draft statement, developed by himself and Eileen Flanagan. Dan distributed the draft. One Friend declared that he was tired of comments that governments failed. They don't resonate with him; he would rather see us expressing our concern for people affected, and acknowledging appreciation for the NGOs that are responding. Then perhaps we can draw attention to issues of how society can allow conditions of poverty and disadvantage.

There was some discussion about whether or not it was important to point out alleged failures of government at this juncture: what good would such a statement do? A Friend felt there was no good reason to approve this statement except to affirm it for ourselves.

One Friend recalled a sense of the called meeting that some way be found to communicate to victims that we were ashamed of how they were abandoned. How would we get this statement to the right people, the victims?

After more discussion, Dan Evans observed that he felt no sense of the meeting on this message, and proposed that he either take it back for more work by the ad hoc committee that drafted it, or abandon it altogether. The Friend who had first expressed discomfort with the draft suggested a different audience from the victims: our members of Congress, expressing disappointment with the governmental response.

The clerk said that in view of these observations, he and the Meeting secretary would prepare a statement for the *Chestnut Hill Local* about our actions, and the **Meeting agreed that there was no point in attempting to redraft a public statement at this time.** and our determination to look more deeply at underlying causes.

NPIHN: Mickey Abraham reported that Rachel Falkove has asked us to take families for two weeks in December, but that we'd be paired with another congregation to support us. Mickey said she had originally intended to suggest that we take a year off from NPIHN, but — especially in view of the similarity with problems in the Gulf Coast region — we really need to be involved. We need to commit to that now. There was

considerable discussion of the disruption that this timing would cause to our First Day School program, but the conclusion was that this is important work, and we can deal with the disruptions, as we have in the past. **The Meeting approved hosting from December 4 to December 18.**

Marcelle Martin's Support Committee Report: Amey Hutchins reported; she, Mickey Abrahams, Nell Kahil and Christie Duncan-Tessmer comprise the committee.

Marcelle's ministry continues to flourish and the members of this committee continue to be grateful for our experiences with her and with each other. The year since our last report has included some major changes for Marcelle. She was the recipient of Pendle Hill's Kenneth L. Carroll Scholarship, which supports Quaker students at Pendle Hill as they concentrate on Biblical and Quaker studies for the benefit of their local meetings. This scholarship allowed Marcelle to be a resident at Pendle Hill for the winter and spring terms. The committee met monthly through the fall and offered care and support to Marcelle in a variety of issues touching on her ministry, particularly in her discernment about her focus during her upcoming time at Pendle Hill. This emphasis reflects Marcelle's ongoing attention to the nature of her calling. Marcelle has continued to have opportunities to speak and to teach. These are clearly an outgrowth of her calling to a ministry of spiritual nurture and have also been one area of development for Marcelle this year as she strives to be attentive to divine guidance not only in the planning of workshops and courses but also in the very act of teaching. Nevertheless, in the past year her focus on writing has persisted and intensified, and this priority also emerged in Marcelle's decisions about the best use of her time at Pendle Hill.

Since Marcelle's shift to Pendle Hill in January, our meetings have been somewhat more irregular, although Marcelle has visited CHMM and committee members have visited her at Pendle Hill. Even so, two things have kept her very much in contact with CHMM. One was that our committee worked with the Worship and Ministry and Finance Committees to bring to Meeting for Business in March a minute establishing a process by which CHMM would accept donations from individuals for Marcelle's work. By bringing this minute to the meeting, we felt aware of opportunities on one hand to remind the meeting of Marcelle's work and its grounding in our meeting and on the other to further the meeting's ongoing consideration of individual ministries and meeting support for them. We celebrated when the meeting approved the minute! Another way in which Marcelle continues to have an impact on CHMM even while living at Pendle Hill is through her impact on all the members of this committee: all of us experience deeper understanding of faithfulness, of listening to and living by the Spirit, and we bring that experience with us into Meeting for Worship and all our other work and play at CHMM.

There was discussion of how Marcelle's ministry relates to the meeting, and consideration of what we might do further to support it. Marcelle spoke briefly, and Amey pointed out that a number of people were continuing working with the method that Marcelle had taught in the "experiment with light" workshop.

Worship & Ministry: Proposal About Extended Worship. The committee has put forward a proposal for a day of extended worship, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, November 19. This would be another in the series of seminars or workshops on worship. This would be an all morning Saturday meeting for worship, followed by a meal, then more worship in a worship-sharing format, focusing on what the extended worship felt like. A Friend on the Outreach committee asked if this would be open to people outside the meeting. The committee members present said they didn't want to make it primarily an outside activity; they wanted it to focus on CHF, though of course anyone would be welcome. This Friend would like to see it done as an outreach activity some time.

There will be a Meeting for Prayer and Healing on Tuesday, October 11 at 7: 30 at the meetinghouse.

Care and Counsel: Karen Cromley reported that there has been a request for transfer from Central Philadelphia MM for Jude Brandt. We already have the transfer papers, as it has already been approved by CPMM. Our practice is to treat transfers like new requests for membership. The Clearness Committee includes Mickey Abraham, Karen Cromley and Storm Evans. **This committee was approved.**

Friends Journal has asked for two sets of address labels for a promotional mailing advertising a one-time special price. (The second label is for the return piece of mail.) **The Meeting approved this request.** The Meeting secretary and the clerk will work out the mechanical details.

Marriage Issues: Since 1991 we have offered ceremonies of commitment to anyone requesting one, without regard to gender of the couple. C&C and W&M feel it's time to offer marriages (as opposed to ceremonies of commitment) to any and all members, regardless of gender. A joint committee drawing from W&M and C&C has come up with process to encourage the Meeting to give this matter careful consideration. Several small

gatherings have been set up for people to discuss the queries that were published in the September newsletter. They take place on six dates at four different places; Karen encouraged people to sign up.

Religious Education: Nell Kahil reported that some people did step forward in response to Beth Zelasky's plea for teachers. Nominating committee has been diligent in trying to add members to the committee, but with not much response. The search for a religious education coordinator continues. Those still interested should contact Beth or Nell Kahil.

Peace & Social Concerns: E-mail notices on social action issues There was discussion at the clerks' meeting about the need to limit the use of the Meeting's e-mailing list. Because most of the social action issues that we are likely to alert people to involve local action, we don't want to send everything to everyone. So the clerks suggested that P&SC look into developing at least one "opt-in" mailing list for social issues, or possible more than one, with issues being grouped by theme. **The Meeting approved this suggestion.**

Shirley Philips, representing P&SC, reminded those present of the proposed minute that was printed in the September newsletter, from our involvement with the Movement for Peace and Justice. Pointing out that such diverse bodies as the Philadelphia City Council and Clergy & Laity Concerned have published statements, Shirley asked if Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting wanted to prepare a statement. She suggested following the five major points that were printed in the September newsletter. There was some discussion, and a number of people felt uncomfortable with the statement as it was constituted, and it was noted that there has been little or no structured discussion within the Meeting on the war in Iraq. Because of this lack of a sense of the meeting on one clear message, the Meeting referred the matter back to P&SC with the suggestion that they devise some mechanism for engaging more of the Meeting in the issues involved.

Signe pointed out that this speaks to similar issues we dealt with in considering the Katrina situation. Again, we really need to have the deeper conversation. Another Friend suggested that those not comfortable with the proposed wording review the article in the newsletter and communicate the gist of their disagreements to P&SC committee.

Calendar changes: Warren brought up the suggestion, made at the clerks' meeting, for CHFM to change its calendar so that officers be nominated and approved in April or May, with committees being named in May or June, but with those chosen not taking office until September. This plan would also change the date of publication of the directory to September. This way, new officers and committee appointments would have the summer to ease into their new roles, and the directory production process would have more time to put out a proper publication. There were suggestions of minor alterations to this timetable, but one Friend cautioned that there may be substantive reasons why it might not be a good idea. One Friend suggested that we might also consider changing the dates of our fiscal year at the same time, to bring it more into line with our "program year", which runs from September to June. The Meeting felt that there were too many issues for us to decide their impact right now, so the suggestion was referred to the Nominating Committee for their thoughts on the impact of such a change. Any consideration of change in the Fiscal Year should be considered by the Treasurer and Finance Committee.

Announcements: Because both our regular Interim Meeting representative and his alternate are out of town, a volunteer was sought to represent the Meeting this Thursday. Phil Jones will attend on our behalf.

Willistown Friends Meeting is sponsoring an Environmental Stewardship Festival on Sunday, October 16; this might be of interest to many of our members and attenders.

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
October 16, 2005

15 Friends were in attendance as Nell Kahil opened the Meeting for Worship with attention to Business. A query was read regarding care for the meeting community.

Minutes of the September 18, 2005 Meeting were read. To clarify, Mickey Abraham will continue to coordinate lunch for business meeting and meals for special needs. Thus amended, the minutes were approved.

Client Committee: John Gallery presented a chart with a timeline for proceeding on creating a new meetinghouse. There is ongoing discussion about whether to include a work by James Turrell as part of the design of the building. The tentative goal is that about one year from now a final plan will exist such that an architect can be engaged and proceed. (Turrell is the artist whose piece is central to the Live Oaks Friends Meeting in Houston; he spoke at CHFM a few years ago.) Fund-raising activities need to begin as soon as possible. The chart included cost estimates at various points in the timeline. It is estimated that \$135,000 might be needed to arrive one year from now with a completed plan such that a contractor can be engaged. The fund-raising committee is considering ways in which the Turrell project could be included in this building, and this committee is enthusiastic after a meeting with representatives from the Art Museum. The Museum representatives were very enthusiastic about supporting this aspect of the project, and will help us raise the funds for it. Jeff Perkins noted that UCPA is committed to selling the property but the legal process for subdividing the property is moving forward slowly.

Care and Counsel: Karen Cromley described the clearness committee meeting with Jude Brandt, her religious background, and some of her interests. Jude Brandt is requesting to transfer her membership and the care of her marriage from Central Philadelphia Meeting to Chestnut Hill Meeting. Jude Brandt is requesting associate membership for her two daughters, Daria Joy Brandt-Moses and Lily Tevy Brandt-Moses. Karen, speaking for the clearness committee asked that the meeting accept this transfer.

Worship and Ministry: Jorge reported on plans for having extended meeting for worship here at the meeting. The planned date is Saturday, December 3, 2005 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Lunch will follow the rise of the meeting. There will a time for worship sharing afterward between 1:30 and 2:30. Child care will be provided. Jorge also reported on his travels south to the Gulf Coast as a volunteer for the Red Cross. He thanked the Meeting for support in all its forms. He described some of the details of this experience and his feeling of both being blessed and saddened by the experience. (Some comments from people with whom he worked, recorded on his traveling minute: "He is dedicated and hard-working, and he also offered valuable support and advocacy for his fellow workers. It has been an honor to know him, and I would welcome the opportunity to work on his team at any time. His presence was very calming and reassuring during times of great stress." "Jorge assisted American Red Cross Disaster Mental Health Services with dedication, compassion and Socratic intelligence. He was a great asset to his clients") He returned his minute to the meeting.

Marriage Working Group: Carla White reported this ad hoc committee's efforts considering Chestnut Hill Meeting and same-gender marriages. She reports that the sense of this working group was that Chestnut Hill Meeting could take under care marriage for any members of the meeting. The group also felt that all clearness processes should be done carefully and with guidance in the light. The group is aware that there may be legal issues raised by our sanctioning such marriages. The group is recommending changing the present minute regarding same gender unions if that is the sense of the entire meeting. Carla stated that it was unclear to her if this working group is charged with constructing a new minute offering care for same sex marriage. The consensus of the Meeting for Business charged this working group with creating this new minute to submit to the meeting at large. Nell thanked the working group for all their efforts in this matter. (Note: This working group comprises three members from Worship & Ministry – Jorge Aráuz, Carla White and Jackie Fields – and three from Care & Counsel – Karen Cromley, Dylan Steinberg and Phil Jones.)

Religious Education: Beth Zelasky stated that many members have been responded to requests for help as teachers and she is grateful. A coordinator is still being sought. She also mentioned the proposal to change the date for Christmas Breakfast from December to January 15. She thought there would not

be enough time and energy to have the breakfast in December due to the guests being in the Meeting House the first part of December. Nell mentioned that January 15 is also Business Meeting and thus would require special effort to coordinate both activities. One member suggested having the business meeting the following Sunday, the 22nd. This would allow more time to prepare the financial report (as the "books" will not be closed until January 10). George Garrettson pointed out that this change would suggest that a Christmas pageant will not occur this year. Beth said the Religious Education Committee had decided not to have a pageant. Nell suggested that either the breakfast or the business meeting could be moved to the 22nd. Further discussion ensued and the decision was to move the breakfast to January 22, 2006. Christie Duncan-Tessmer remarked that there be a conscious process to work with the children to explain the reason for these changes. Nell thanked the Religious Education Committee for being flexible regarding these changes. There was some discussion as to the best name for this breakfast gathering/celebration.

Announcement: Carla White announced for the Adult Religious Education Committee that Jorge Aráuz offered to host five sessions at the Meetinghouse this fall on homosexuality and the Bible. Dates: October 30, November 6 and 13, December 4 and 11. Exact times to be determined.

Nell reported the receipt of a letter from Robert Hernblad, Clerk of the Philadelphia Quarterly introducing himself as the new Clerk of Quarter, with thoughts on how to grow the Quarter. Nell announced that there is a meeting Saturday, October 22 at the Meeting House at 4th and Arch Streets. Its purpose is to discuss PYM's role in Arch Street Meeting. George Garrettson expressed that the meeting on October 22 is an opportunity to discuss the role of Yearly Meeting and Arch Street Meeting in our religious lives. Donna Garrettson mentioned that volunteers are always needed for the Saturday visitor education at Arch Street Meeting House.

Minutes submitted by Peter Warrington, substituting for Philip Jones

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting
Meeting for Business Meeting, 20 November, 2005

Warren Witte, clerk, opened the meeting with a period of silent worship, during which Query 11, on Stewardship, was read. 18 Friends were present, including one guest, Hiram Butler, from Live Oak MM in Houston, TX.

Building Project: Jeff Perkins gave an update on the property ownership issue. UCPA's application to the Board of Zoning Appeals to subdivide was rejected, as anticipated, so now they must apply for a variance. UCPA thinks the zoning process could take about sixty days. Do we anticipate difficulties in the variance process? Jeff noted that in our early communications with neighbors, people seem to see our general plan as positive. While there have been issues of traffic with neighbors in the past, access and parking have nothing to do with the zoning issues facing us. When we have plan for a building we will have to go through a similar zoning process to get a variance in order to use it. We want to communicate with neighbors what we're doing so that they're on board. A Friend noted that the Chestnut Hill Community Association can be an ally or an impediment, depending on how we approach them.

Signe Wilkinson gave an update on the client committee's work. They have been sending requests for proposals (RFPs) to architects in the area who have been recommended. Their criteria were: some familiarity with Quaker worship and practice; had worked with a Quaker institution in the past; had environmentally sensitive experience; and had done similar work at a similar price *recently*; they were also asked, if the project included collaboration with James Turrell, how they might approach that. Proposals are due back at the end of November, at which time the committee will review and select the three or four best. Then they will come back to the Meeting for wider participation. Hiram Butler, our guest from Live Oak Friends Meeting in Houston, met with the client and fund-raising committees; now the Meeting needs to make a decision about whether or not to include a Turrell piece. They hope to catch Mr. Turrell when he's in New York City and bring him to meet with Chestnut Hill Friends in the next weeks; that will be the next step. They have met with Carol Franklin, our landscape architect. She has pointed out a number of things we can do already, as soon as ownership is transferred. She is very exciting to work with, very practical and helpful. Jeff Perkins said that he hoped Carol could give us an estimate of costs involved, for budgeting for next year.

The clerk noted that it seems reasonable to allocate some money to the client committee; he suggests that we make \$3,000 for the client committee's use for current miscellaneous needs. **This was approved.**

Worship and Ministry: Carla White reported on the committee's support for Phil Anthony's ministry. Phil recently made a visit to Pennsdale Meeting (near Williamsport), with Jen Murray along as his elder and companion. Carla read from a response Phil got the day after his visit from someone in the meeting, who was very appreciative.

Marriage Working Group: Dylan Steinberg said that the group is seeking input from some members and attenders of the Meeting about wording ("same sex" vs. "same gender"), and whether we should mention that issue in the minute at all. He asked that Friends with thoughts on these matters should contact a member of the committee.

Care & Counsel: Dylan reported on several membership matters:

- Transfer from CPMM for Jude Brandt and associate membership for her two daughters, and for the care of the marriage of Jude and Grace. Friends considered what care of a marriage means for us, and were united in not being sure. After some discussion of whether we were ready to take on the marriage issue if we weren't clear what was meant, **the Meeting approved accepting the recommendation for membership**, and taking on the care of their marriage as long as they are willing to help us find our way in doing that. It was suggested that Care and Counsel consult with Central Philadelphia meeting to see what their practice has been. The welcoming committee for Jude comprises Mickey Abraham, Carla White and Marcelle Martin.
- A request from Milena Hynes for membership. Her clearness committee comprises Trude Fuchs, Beth Zelasky and Shannon Roberts.
- Transfers
 - Laura Melly: clearness Committee is Dylan Steinberg, Amey Hutchins, Dan Evans
 - Carol Lanahan. Clearness committee is George Garrettson, Meg Mitchell and Mickey Abraham.

Finance: Jeff Perkins, treasurer, gave a quick report on where we are this year; the treasurer's letter is coming soon. We are behind on contributions from both members and attenders. We are running below budget except for heating costs, which still reflect last winter's cold.

Covenant with PYM: Dona Garrettson noted that the timing for this has changed; we are asked to report by January 10. PYM has a bare bones budget; it contains no huge surprises, and is asking only for modest cost of

living increase. PYM has suggested a 4% increase, but Finance has recommended 5 %, or \$22,184. This would be for PYM's 2007 budget. Jeff noted that for the past two years we had increased by 15%, in response to PYM's budget crises. **The Meeting approved a covenant reflecting a 5% increase.** We will inform PQM and send money to PYM.

Bank resolution: We have an investment account with PNC Advisors. It has been there for a number of years, but Jeff and our other current officers are not yet in the bank's records. He needed a resolution of the business meeting in order to authorize that. **The Meeting approved.**

Allocations to Quaker Institutions: We have budgeted funds to make contributions to large umbrella Quaker institutions: last year it was \$1,000 divided between FCNL, FCG, FWCC (as well as NIM). This year we budgeted \$1500, but we haven't made the contributions or decided how to allocate them among these agencies. Warren proposes that we carry this money into 2006 and ask a committee of three to come up with a rationale for how we do this, and to decide long term what groups should be included in Friends organizations that we fund; and finally to recommend a specific allocation at the January business meeting. Assistant clerk Nell Kahil and Warren will appoint this committee; **the Meeting approved.**

Announcements: Lyle Jenks had several items from the Meeting's mailbox.

- One of the components of FWCC is the Wider Quaker Fellowship; there are packets of information that come out, several of interest. Lyle passed them on to Worship & Ministry for possible use. A Friend from Care & Counsel suggested that that committee should look at our membership with an eye to those who are distant as possibly having an interest in Wider Quaker Fellowship membership.
- Tuesday evening, 22 November, NIM Thanksgiving Interfaith Service at Summit Church, Greene and Westview.
- Our own Christie Duncan-Tessmer, in her new role at PYM, sends out a newsletter on religious education for children.
- Positions at Friends Center: fundraising coordinator for capital campaign; PYM coordinator of marketing and hospitality for Arch Street Meetinghouse.

Timing of nominations and installation: There has been recent discussion of changing the cycle of nominations and installation of officers. Clerks felt that the current timetable is awkward, and that there might be value in nominating in the spring, and people assuming their new responsibilities in September. There was considerable discussion of various different timetables, and the one thing Friends agreed on was that an overlap period when old committee members and clerks met with new members and clerks was highly desirable, and in fact **should become the settled policy of the Meeting.** The clerk noted that as we didn't seem to have unity on the broader subject, we should stick with the existing timetable: installation of new officers in January or February, with committees in March. The hope was expressed that the new officers could be appointing in November to start the following January.

NIM has request appointment of a Meeting representative to a Congregation and Community Council. **The Meeting agreed to ask Nominating Committee to appoint someone as quickly as possible.** Friends interested in this role are encouraged to inform the Nominating Committee.

Nell Kahil announced that the Religious Education committee has hired Rebecca Cox as the new R.E. Coordinator.

The meeting closed with a short period of silent worship.

Respectfully submitted, Philip H. Jones, Recording Clerk