

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting
Monthly Meeting for Business, 15 January, 2006

Warren Witte, clerk, opened the meeting with silent worship, during which the query on Equality was read.

Nominating Committee: With the people being nominated absenting themselves, Barbara Buonocore reported that all of the current officers have agreed to serve for another term of one year: Warren Witte, Clerk; Nell Kahil, Assistant Clerk; Phil Jones, Recording Clerk; Jeff Perkins, Treasurer; Roberta Foss, Recorder; George Garrettson, Assistant Recorder. The Meeting expressed its appreciation the service of these officers.

Neighborhood (formerly Northwest) Interfaith Movement has requested that we identify two people who could represent us at a new congregational and community council, the task of which is to advise NIM on programs that might be needed in its communities. Sue Betts and Jean Warrington were nominated and approved as our designated representatives, but neither can make the 31 January first meeting. Hollister Knowlton will attend in their stead.

Building Committee: John Gallery reported that the Building Committee sent out requests for proposals to about a dozen architects; in return they received ten proposals from those invited. The committee reviewed them and concluded that there were two firms that stood out from others:

- Voith & Mactavish has worked with other Friends organizations, which gave them good references; their proposal was very well done. Daniella Voith will be here on 29 January after Meeting for Worship to make a presentation about the experience of the firm.
- James Bradberry Associates, with an office in Bryn Mawr, likewise has good references. Jim Bradberry will be at the meetinghouse on 5 February to make a presentation.

The Client committee has arranged these meetings to provide others in the meeting an opportunity to meet and give feedback about these candidates. They hope to come to February business meeting with a recommendation to select one of these firms as our architect. A parallel issue is the involvement of James Turrell; he is interested in working with us. He will be here on Friday evening, 27 January, to talk about his work and his interest in this project. The committee's expectation is that at the February business meeting we'll also decide if we will work with him. He will also meet with the two architect candidates.

John noted that one of the architects we invited declined to submit a proposal because he did not find appropriate the inclusion of a work of art by Turrell in the building. He thinks it brings something iconic to our worship. John said that the committee is very sensitive to this concern, and continues to evaluate it carefully.

John reported that once we have made these decisions, the committee will ask for authorization to spend about \$50,000 for the first phase agreement, which would cover a survey of the site and the architect's preliminary work.

The committee has been in contact with Carol Sears, a resident of this block of Mermaid Lane and a contact person for the neighbors, to let her know what we were doing. John has given her a summary which she will then share with the neighbors; they'll evaluate it and let us know if they feel a meeting is necessary.

Jeff Perkins reported that the hearing for UCPA's request for a zoning variance takes place on Tuesday, 17 January; John Gallery will attend that meeting.

Finances: Jeff Perkins summed up the 2005 financial picture after a year-end flurry of contributions. We received a number at the end of the year, bringing us slightly over budget for income. \$64,226 came in, about \$4,000 above budget. Attenders contributed about \$1,000 more than budgeted. In addition, the Meeting received \$15,000 in contributions earmarked for the building and acquisition fund. Jeff expects that when it is closed out, the expense side will be slightly under the amount budgeted. There was also \$1,000 in contributions for Katrina relief; the meeting supported Jorge's efforts and also made contributions to AFSC and Mennonite Central Committee for relief in the south.

Worship and Ministry: Jorge Aráuz reported on a number of recent activities of interest: an extended meeting for worship on 3 December was attended by 15 Friends. In response to this level of interest, Worship & Ministry is offering to host extended meeting for worship starting at 9:30 a. m. on the last Sunday of each month. Child care will be provided.

Concerns have been expressed about how we support each other when we suffer loss. A meeting focused on this need on 17 December; those who were there found it very nourishing. On Saturday, 24 December there was an evening meeting for worship, and again on New Year's Eve. On 20 December there was a special meeting for prayer and healing.

Worship & Ministry Requests: Amey Hutchins and Marcelle Martin will attend an FGC meeting on traveling ministries on 10-12 March; they have requested a traveling minute. Jorge read the minute.

Dear Friends, Chestnut Hill Meeting has recognized Marcelle Martin's ministry of spiritual nurture. Her service includes traveling to other monthly meetings and various Quaker centers and gatherings to lead retreats and workshops and to speak about aspects of Quaker spiritual life.

Amey Hutchins, clerk of our meeting's oversight committee for this ministry, has upon occasion traveled with her. Both of them will be traveling to FGC's March 10-12, 2006 Traveling Ministries Retreat, which has a focus this year on the relationships and mutual accountability between Friends called to travel in the ministry, and their monthly meetings. Friends are asked to attend this gathering in pairs, one who has been traveling in the ministry and another who helps provide oversight and support from their meeting.

We expect that Marcelle and Amey will have much to share about Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting's explorations and experiences related to supporting ministry and providing accountability, and that they will also learn much from the experiences shared by other Friends present. We have agreed to provide some financial assistance to them from our Education Fund, and send them with our warm blessings.

In Peace, Warren Witte, Clerk

The Meeting is offering financial support, and they are applying to PYM's Pemberton Fund for additional support. A few Friends questioned including mention of financial support in the minute itself. Clearly the Meeting was united in its support of their attending this meeting, and ultimately decided that the Clerk would sort out whether we were sending a traveling minute or a letter explaining the financial backing, depending on what is required by the Pemberton Fund. **The Meeting approved this course of action.**

Jorge requested a traveling minute for himself to go to Ecuador and Peru for Alternatives to Violence workshops, which he was invited to facilitate. He hopes to leave on Wednesday, returning two weeks later.

Dear brothers and sisters in Ecuador and Peru, Jorge Aráuz is a member of our faith community, Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers).

Jorge travels with a desire to support the labors of peace among you and to learn from your endeavors. He hopes to help in the facilitation of Alternatives to Violence Workshops, as opportunities for exploring the power of peacemaking in our lives.

Jorge carries with him our greetings and best wishes for you.

In peace, Warren Witte, Clerk

This request was approved; a version in Spanish was also sent.

Care & Counsel: Karen Cromley reported from two clearness committees, the first for Milena Hynes. Trude Fuchs, Beth Zelasky and Shannon Roberts comprised her clearness committee. Milena, though the daughter and granddaughter of birthright Friends, discovered meeting for worship at Germantown Friends School, and found that it spoke powerfully to her. She looks forward to participating in our FDS, as well as the wider Meeting community. She has asked for associate membership for her children, Mollie Elinor and Liam Oliver Hynes. Care and Counsel recommends approval of her request for membership; this was the first reading.

The second clearness committee met to consider the request for transfer for Laura Melly from CPMM. Dylan Steinberg, Dan Evans and Amey Hutchins met with Laura. She is already very active in our midst. Laura is very interested in how the Meeting supports marriages and relationships. Care & Counsel recommends approval of her request for transfer; this was the first reading.

We have had a letter of application for membership from Linda Ruthen. Marthajane Robinson, Mickey Abraham and Nancy Kassam-Adams were approved as her clearness committee.

Each of these recommendations was approved.

A Friend suggested that between now and the February business meeting, those closing meeting for worship might ask these potential new members to identify themselves so that members and attenders can become better acquainted with these candidates. This suggestion was heartily endorsed by the Meeting.

Peace & Social Concerns: Hollister Knowlton reported that we haven't had an official liaison with FCNL for a long time; Nell Anderson, a steady attender for the last few years, has volunteered, and Blake Strawbridge will be her alternate and assistant.

Hollister noted that she is on the policy committee of FCNL. FCNL has been trying to discern how to act around the war in Iraq. FCNL has adopted Sensible Transition for Enduring Peace (STEP) resolution. FCNL's sense from its contacts in Congress is that it would be important to know if there's support for this resolution. Hollister suggested that we season this for a month. Interested parties can find the full text of the resolution here:

http://www.fcnl.org/issues/item.php?item_id=1353&issue_id=35. The minute of support will be in the February newsletter, and the meeting will be asked to approve the minute of support in February.

Hospitality Network Visit: Mickey reported that this stay was a wonderful visit: the mothers were lovely women, and they had great kids. The entire experience was very pleasant and positive.

Pat Witte noted that one of the recent NPIHN families had had a fire in their new house, but their landlord is working hard to fix it. It was suggested that a list of their needs be published in the newsletter.

Ad hoc Marriage Committee: Carla White reported on the background to the need for a new minute by reviewing the Meeting's history of a 1991 minute offering "ceremonies of commitment." What emerged from the process set up and the committee's deliberations was a concern for *all* marriages and relationships; any minute should be a statement about this community's beliefs about marriage. This is our meeting's statement of belief, and is not about the political situation.

"Marriage is a sacred commitment of two people to love one another in faithful partnership with the expectation that the relationship will mature and be mutually enriching." - Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Faith & Practice (1999).

Chestnut Hill Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends bears witness to God's light shining through the marriages in our community, both those generally recognized and those not recognized because of the sex or gender of the partners. We believe that the marriage clearness process is the best means of discovering God's purpose for the couple and the Meeting's role in their commitment. We welcome requests from our members for marriage under the care and oversight of the Meeting, recognizing that God may lead us to take a marriage under our care even when civil sanction of the marriage is not sought or is unavailable.

There was strong support for the intent and spirit of the proposed minute, although a Friend, while recognizing the committee's hard work, felt that it still didn't make clear that the Meeting is willing to marry same-sex couples; it doesn't affirmatively indicate that this is a policy of the meeting. John Gallery agreed to join Dylan Steinberg and Karen Cromley to work over the minute to deal with this vagueness; they will bring the revised minute to February business meeting. The ad hoc committee was laid down.

Announcements: Lyle Jenks urged Friends to be aware of the flurry of activities in the meetinghouse in coming weeks, from a medieval music group to Mt. Airy Learning Tree classes. He reminded committee clerks that on 5 February at 8:30 a.m., they meet with the officers for a seasonal check-in and planning session. The hope is that that meeting will launch a calendar for the year; committees need to think about what should be on it.

He highlighted several activities of interest:

- Middle School Friends Gathering staged by Elizabeth Walmsley. See the PYM Web site for more information.
- Earlham School of Religion Workshop on Reading Sacred Texts as Friends, on 18 February at Arch Street
- On 1 February, an interfaith meeting about exploring expanded means to effectively address the needs of older congregants will take place at 9:00 AM at Center in the Park.

Other business: The Hospitality committee will be asked to coordinate our efforts to welcome Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting to our meetinghouse on Sunday, 26 February, with a meal and other activities.

Dona Garrettson asked that the Meeting send a minute of appreciation for her years of service to PYM to Helen File, who is retiring after many years as coordinator of the PYM presence at Arch Street Meetinghouse. **The Meeting approved this suggestion.**

Jorge Aráuz reminded us of our connection, through his visit there, to the peace community of San Luis Apartadó, which has recently experienced a number of killings (in massacres and assassinations, some by military personnel) of members of their community. He urged us to contact the US State Department and the government of Colombia. Hollister Knowlton suggested that with Jorge's help she would bring this matter to the attention of the Colombian Air Force general whom she met on her visit to Gaviotas, the environmentally sustainable community in that country, as he seemed positively disposed to engaging the military in peace-building efforts.

November Minutes: The minutes of the November 2005 business meeting were approved with several corrections.

The meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip H. Jones, recording clerk

**Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting
Monthly Meeting For Business, 19 February, 2006**

Warren Witte, clerk, opened the meeting opened with silent worship; query 11 on Stewardship of Resources was read. Forty-six Friends were in attendance.

Budget: Jeff Perkins, treasurer, presented the proposed budget for 2006. He noted that the Meeting ended 2005 having spent less than budgeted amounts in a number of areas. The Meeting faces a decision about a capital expense in the near future, as the furnace for the meeting room, office and gathering room is on its last legs. Some Friends questioned the wisdom of replacing this unit with a new one this close to our possible sale of the building, as the proposed budget suggests paying for that large expense by borrowing from the Meeting's operating reserve. There was some discussion of different ways of recording some anticipated expenses (including the furnace), and also the possibility of urging Friends to contribute to a special fund for the replacement of the furnace, so that we would not have to draw down our reserves for what should be a capital expense.

Ultimately the Meeting approved the budget as presented, subject to the two accounting changes suggested during the discussion: moving \$5,000 of expenses related to the work of the Client Committee to the special Acquisition and Building fund and showing designated income to offset the possible expenditure for a new furnace. These changes bring the budget into balance. The inclusion of funds for a new furnace is only to provide for that eventuality should the Meeting decide on the replacement; it does not represent a decision to replace it at this time. Several Friends thanked Jeff and the Finance Committee for their hard work in preparing this budget.

Client Committee Report: John Gallery presented a summary of the Client Committee's findings on matters relating to the new building. He reviewed the criteria by which the two finalists were chosen, and described the committee's processes in evaluating proposals and meeting with individuals. They have not reached unity on which of the two architect finalists to hire, but they have reached unity on recommending that the Meeting engage James Turrell as a consulting architect, to provide some enhancement to the design involving light. (John emphasized that we were not limiting ourselves to a "hole in the ceiling" in the manner of Live Oak Friends Meeting in Houston, as James Turrell has done many different kinds of work with light.)

Signe Wilkinson summarized the pros and cons of James Bradberry's proposal. Its quality was outstanding, and his work with many Friends schools has apparently been very impressive. The committee liked the fact that his firm is small, as we would have more of his attention than with a larger firm. She noted that small size can also be a liability.

Lisa DiGiacomo presented the case for and against Voith & Mactavish, whose reputation in the Quaker community is very good, based on a number of projects for meetings and schools. The size of this firm was seen as both an asset and a potential liability: size allows for breadth in the staff, but also means we might have less of the attention of the principal. V&M is strong in green design, and Daniela Voith is very excited about the prospect of working with James Turrell.

Several Friends were concerned about the relative pricing of the two firms, and John Gallery noted that each has explained their approach to pricing, but it is premature to know exactly what their relative costs would be. John Gallery emphasized that while some Friends might feel that the committee was leaning one way or the other, they were not. They have sought additional information about the two firms, and plan to continue their deliberations, hoping to bring a final recommendation to the March business meeting.

The Meeting then moved to a discussion of the committee's recommendation to accept James Turrell's offer to contribute an installation in the new Meetinghouse. Highlights included:

- A number of Friends spoke of being skeptical of the plan to build a new meetinghouse and having that skepticism turned to enthusiasm after hearing James Turrell and Hiram Butler speak.
- The potential for inclusion of James Turrell in the project having a positive impact on fundraising was noted.

- One Friend, who feels sad about the decision to undertake the building of a new meetinghouse, was open to inclusion of James Turrell in the project, but not as an artist.
- Another Friend spoke of her initial reluctance but her sense that James Turrell would bring a commitment to simplicity to the meetinghouse project and into the planning process with the architect.
- Finally, another Friend spoke supportively of incorporation of James Turrell in the project, noting the history of the 4th and Arch Street Meetinghouse and that of Chestnut Hill Meeting and the importance of the design of these two sites.

The Meeting approved acceptance of James Turrell's offer to contribute an art installation in the new Meetinghouse and to work as a partner with our chosen architect. Jorge Arauz asked to be recorded as standing aside from the portion of the decision related to an installation of art. I did not hear Jorge ask to be recorded as standing aside. I heard Warren ask him if that was his wish, and Jorge twice said that he had a "concern" about the use of Turrell as an artist. To me. He never asked to stand aside. I hear

John drew our attention to a summary at the bottom of his handout, describing the next steps in the process after we've selected an architect. He emphasized that there would be numerous opportunities for the Meeting to participate in design decisions, including questionnaires, meetings with small groups, and design charettes.

The Clerk thanked the Client Committee for the considerable time, energy, and expertise that its members have contributed to this process.

Minute of Religious Service for Carolyn Schodt: Amey Hutchins, a member of the oversight committee that has reviewed Carolyn's request for this minute, presented the committee's findings, and she gave the proposed minute its first reading.

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting recognizes that Carolyn Schodt is called by the Spirit to offer herself as a channel of God's love for those who are isolated in grief by tragedy, shame or loss. The heart of her ministry of accompaniment is making worship in the manner of Friends and worship-sharing available to those who suffer from this isolation. She is led to help them discover the spiritual meaning in their experience. She sees the presence of God, and its positive power, in the midst of loneliness and pain. Her companionship to those who suffer has helped some to see the Light in the darkness and share that Light with others.

To strengthen the centering and grounding that she seeks in prayer, we are providing her with an oversight committee to assist her with discernment, support her with prayer, and keep our meeting abreast of her ministry's vitality and needs. Carolyn and her oversight committee will report annually. At the end of the third year the meeting will revisit its commitment to support this ministry.

We commend Carolyn to all, in the hope that she will be kindly received wherever she serves.

There was some discussion of exactly what Carolyn's ministry consists of in tangible terms. Carolyn described as examples her meeting and worship with family members of Friends who have committed suicide. This minute will be read again at the March business meeting.

Discussion of the proposed minute on the Iraq war was tabled until March because of lack of time to give it adequate consideration.

Care & Counsel: Karen Cromley reported the following membership matters:

Milena Hynes has applied for membership for herself, and associate membership for her two children. The Meeting approved this application. Milena will be welcomed by Christie Duncan-Tessmer and Carla White, with Carla coordinating.

Laura Melly's request to transfer her membership from Central Philadelphia to Chestnut Hill was approved. Her welcoming committee comprises Phil Jones, Carolyn Schodt and Marcelle Martin. Carolyn will coordinate.

Karen gave the first reading of Linda Ruthen's application. In her letter, Linda described her religious upbringing, and some of the steps that led us to Quakerism and to Chestnut Hill Meeting. She has become involved in several activities, most notably adult religious education; she has also attended some workshops at Pendle Hill, and reports that she found them most helpful.

Karen noted that while a clearness committee has met with Carol Lanahan regarding her transfer of membership from Horsham Meeting to Chestnut Hill, we have had no confirmation of the transfer from Horsham Meeting.

Finally, we have had a request for membership from Christine Oliger. Her clearness committee includes George Garrettson, Mickey Abraham (coordinator) and Liz Robinson.

Worship & Ministry: Jorge Aráuz returned the traveling minute that he took with him to South America on his recent trip, with thanks to the Meeting for its care and concern. Several of the people whom Jorge encountered had written messages on the minute, which he turned over to the clerk.

January Minutes: The minutes from the January 2006 meeting for business were approved with minor corrections.

Announcements: Lyle Jenks selected from the numerous items in the mail in basket the following for special mention.

- A celebration today (February 19, 2006) at Fair Hill Burial Ground
- News that leftovers from our last tag sale were sold by AFSC at a fund-raising event for the families of the miners in the recent West Virginia mine disaster.
- A reminder about residential yearly meeting this summer at DeSales University near Allentown.
- A reminder about yearly meeting sessions at the end of March, to which we are asked to send at least two designated representatives. Marcelle Martin and ?? (Dona?) both are planning to attend and are willing to represent us, though someone newer to Quakerism is also being sought.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 after a short period of silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip H. Jones, Recording Secretary

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting **Meeting for Worship for Business, 19 March 2006**

The meeting opened with the reading of Query 8 on Peace; there was some discussion about this theme carrying over from the morning's meeting for worship. Warren Witte, clerk, reviewed the full agenda. Thirty-five Friends were present.

Nominating Committee: Roy Eisenhandler presented the committee's slate of candidates for the committees of the Meeting; he was substituting for Barbara Buonocore, to whom he expressed his gratitude for her hard work. We then went through the committees one by one, considering the proposed new (or returning) committee members and approving each committee before moving on. The omission of the representative to NPIHN was noted; Mickey Abraham fills that role.

The nomination of one Friend to the Tuition Assistance Committee met with some objections, as he rarely worships with us and is unknown to many if not most in the Meeting. After some discussion, four Friends who objected asked to be recorded as standing aside: John Gallery, Phil Anthony, Jim Cox and Carolyn Schodt.

The Nominating Committee recommended that the Library Committee be laid down, as it has been inactive for years. One Friend raised the question of "ownership" of the library, and another Friend suggested that it be made the responsibility of the Adult Religious Education Committee. Sarah Whitman, who is clerk of that committee, was reluctant to approve this without consulting her members, but she said she would do so.

Peace & Social Concerns: Dion Lerman reviewed FCNL's legislative priorities, and Christine Olinger presented the Meeting's response to FCNL's STEP (Sensible Transition to an Enduring Peace) Resolution. A Friend questioned our minute's "concern for the military forces" until it was clarified that the concern was for the individual people in those forces, and not for the military institutions. Another Friend objected to some historically inaccurate statements in the minute about early Friends' attitudes towards war and conflict; these corrections were accepted, and the Meeting approved the minute. Next month P&SC will present another component in this process: our Meeting's legislative priorities.

Carolyn Schodt's Minute of Religious Service: Amey Hutchins re-read the minute, and then there was discussion of it. One Friend questioned why there needed to be a minute; Amey and others reminded us that after some early vagueness on how the Meeting dealt with minutes of religious service, we had taken some pains to put in place a process for regularizing this part of the Meeting's business. After some discussion, the minute of religious service for Carolyn Schodt was approved.

Client Committee: John Gallery began his report by reviewing the steps that had brought us to this point, and then the steps that would ensue in the immediate aftermath of our decision today. He reminded us of the three primary criteria (some experience working with Quaker institutions, some experience working in a "green building" process, and some experience with a project of similar size and scope) which had defined the original candidates. He then described the additional scrutiny the committee gave to the two finalists: presentation to the Meeting, extensive interviews, reference checks, visits by the committee to buildings they had designed.

The next steps in the process involve the formalization of contracts with architect, landscape architect and others; the development of a "space program" for the project, defining what spaces we need of what sizes; a design charette to gather the Meeting's input; schematic design of a new facility. There was some discussion of what costs we might incur in that phase, and how exactly we would cover them; an ad hoc financial group is convening next week to discuss this very thing, and John said he was willing to wait until after that meeting to move on to the list of next steps.

Finally, John announced that the committee had chosen to recommend James Bradberry as the architect; he noted, however, that what tipped the balance in favor of Bradberry over Voith & Mactavish was at the level of very subtle nuances, and in fact they felt that whichever way they went the Meeting would be very well served. The Meeting approved hiring James Bradberry's firm as architect on this project.

As the notion of "green design" had been mentioned in the discussion, and one Friend questioned why the committee did not seem to feel that experience in building a LEED-certified (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) structure was an important criterion. John said that while neither of the

finalists had constructed a LEED-certified building, both had built buildings that conformed to LEED criteria but didn't go to the expense of getting the certification itself. He did not rule out the idea of our going for LEED certification, but also was quite clear that the committee – including its most ardently environmentalist members – did not think it necessary.

Another Friend expressed concern over her perception that the decision to build a new meeting room to replace our current one had already been made, based on comments in John's presentation. She felt strongly that such decisions needed to be made by the Meeting as a whole, not by the Client Committee. John replied that in no way had any such decision been made, but that we need to consider the meeting room as one of the numerous spaces involved in this whole project, and so it must be included in discussion of the space program whether we build a new one or enhance the existing one. That Friend had to leave, but another Friend expressed his gratitude to her for keeping our attention focused on right process. Yet another Friend pointed out that what we have accomplished so far by exhibiting trust in our processes and each other is of tremendous importance, and we should acknowledge that.

Care & Counsel: Dylan Steinberg reported on the following membership matters:

- Sarah Whitman's request for membership; clearness committee of Phil Jones, Shannon Roberts, Jen Murray and Betty Hartzell
- Sue Betts's request for transfer of her membership; clearness committee of George Garrettson, Dylan Steinberg, Paul Ricker
- Ruth Pauly's request for transfer of her membership; clearness committee of Meg Mitchell, Karen Cromley and Carla White

The Meeting approved these clearness committees.

- Carol Lanahan's request for transfer of her membership from Horsham Meeting; clearness committee has already met with her and recommends approval; first reading
- Christine Olinger's request for membership; her clearness committee met with her and recommends approval; first reading
- Linda Ruthen's request for membership; second reading; approved. Welcoming committee of Mickey Abraham, Marcelle Martin, Thomas Taylor.

A Friend reminded us of a suggestion made earlier, that candidates for membership be introduced at rise of meeting so that Friends can begin to get to know them better.

Marriage Minute: Dylan Steinberg read the revised minute, which had been circulated in advance by e-mail. There was one correction to the citation from *Faith and Practice*, and one change to the wording of the minute itself. The Meeting approved the following version of the minute:

"Marriage is a sacred commitment of two people to love one another in faithful partnership with the expectation that the relationship will mature and be mutually enriching." - Philadelphia Yearly Meeting *Faith & Practice* (1997).

Chestnut Hill Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends bears witness to God's light shining through the marriages in our community, both those generally recognized and those not recognized because of the sex or gender of the partners. We believe that the marriage clearness process is the best means of discovering God's purpose for the couple and the Meeting's role in their commitment. We welcome requests from all our members, regardless of the sex or gender of their chosen partners, for marriage under the care and oversight of the Meeting, recognizing that God may lead us to take a marriage under our care even when civil sanction of the marriage is not sought or is unavailable.

Lower Lot Ownership: Warren reported for Jeff Perkins that on March 8, 2006, we received formal notification that UCPA's application for a zoning variance had been approved, and subdivision of their property could proceed. We now have until May 8 to carry out due diligence; the closing should be by June 8. Part of the due diligence is a Phase I Environmental Study, which in essence is a study of the lot on paper. Only if there are adverse findings would we go to a Phase II or beyond. This should cost "a few thousand dollars."

We need to clarify who will sign contracts (with architect, landscape architect, civil engineer, etc.).

One Friend suggested that as part of the Meeting's incorporation, the clerk is empowered to sign contracts on behalf of the Meeting. The treasurer and our legal counsel, Phil Lord, will review all contracts and agreements.

Concern was raised about proper stewardship of the lower lot once we own it. Property Committee intends to take this charge on along with maintenance of the current building. Part of our due diligence process needs to be an ascertainment of the amount and nature of rubbish on the lot that we can ask UCPA to remove. John Gallery noted that Carol Franklin has offered to meet us on the lower lot to advise us, even in advance of her firm's actual work, how to begin caring for it. John also said that he would arrange to have Carol Franklin attend the next Property Committee meeting.

Fund Allocations: Thomas Taylor reported for the ad hoc committee (Thomas Taylor, Lyle Jenks, Hollister Knowlton) that was convened to recommend amounts for our regular contributions. This group was not making decisions about the Yarnall donations, but rather for the line items from our budget for a handful of agencies to which we regularly give money. He reviewed the criteria they are suggesting for selecting organizations to which the Meeting might wish to commit regular contributions:

1. Large, national or international umbrella Friends organizations (e.g., FGC, FWCC)
2. National or international Friends service organizations (FCNL, AFSC)
3. Neighborhood interfaith service organizations (NIM, NPIHN)

They urged Peace & Social Concerns Committee to adopt a similar set of criteria for the Yarnall fund allocations.

Their recommendations for the monies from 2005 and 2006 are as follows:

NPIHN	\$1,000, plus \$1,500 from Yarnall in 2005
NIM	\$600 (plus \$400 from Yarnall in 2005)
FCNL	\$700 (increase of \$50 over 2004 dues budget)
FGC	\$500 (increase of \$300 over 2004 dues budget)
FWCC	\$400 (increase of \$250 over 2004 dues budget)
AFSC	\$300 (\$200 from Yarnall were given to AFSC Colombia in 2004; special one-time allocation of \$500 was made in 2005 for hurricane relief)

The Meeting approved this report.

The meeting closed with a brief period of silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip H. Jones, Recording Secretary

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting Monthly Meeting for Business 23 April, 2006

Thirty-eight Friends were present as clerk Warren Witte convened the April business meeting. The query selected was from Australia Yearly Meeting's *this we can say* (their equivalent to PYM's *Faith and Practice*); it concerned how we approach and conduct meeting for worship for business. The query was written by our former member, Roger Walmsley, and inspired numerous reflections on our process in business meeting.

The minutes from the 19 March business meeting were approved.

Meetinghouse Issues Status of Committees: Nell Kahil reviewed the structure of working groups that had been established after the January 2005 business meeting: Client, Process and Fund-raising committees. She noted that they had been kept small so as to be more flexible in responding to the needs of the early part of the process. Members of the Client committee are Lisa DiGiacomo, John Gallery, Signe Wilkinson, Ron Celentano, John Kahil and Hollister Knowlton. The Process committee consists of Laura Melly, Mickey Abraham, Phil Jones and Dan Evans; Lyle Jenks, while not a member of the committee, attends and participates in all meetings in his role as meeting secretary. The original composition of the Fund-raising committee was Don Silverson, Thomas Taylor and Carolyn Schodt; more recently Laura Melly, Jon Landau, Diane Dunning and Nancy Kassam-Adams have joined that group, as its work picks up steam.

Timeline of Decisions: Phil Jones reviewed a time-line document highlighting major events in the Meeting's journey to its present place. Jeff Perkins, treasurer, then discussed a meeting that he and Warren had had with Steve Sheridan, executive director of United Cerebral Palsy Association, our neighbor from whom we are purchasing the lower lot. Their discussion covered debris that we feel has been added since we agreed to buy the lot; confirmed that the title to the land is clear; affirmed that UCPA has the right of first refusal to the current meetinghouse, should we at some point decide to sell it. They discussed how UCPA might use the building if they were to buy it: a staff training center or as a respite center for parents were two possible uses. They would need to make extensive renovations to adapt it to their uses, but noted that they have great respect for our building. The clerk noted that one evidence that UCPA is not likely to leave any time soon is the \$5million they have just invested in their own renovations. He observed that any of the proposed uses were all worthy, and suggested that Friends would find such an outcome to be highly satisfactory.

A Friend asked if there had been discussion with Steve about our continued use of the UCPA parking lot if we build on the lower lot: would we still be able to park on the "upper" lot? The clerk indicated that Steve had no objection to our continuing to use it for overflow parking on weekends, but was not comfortable with our using their parking lot instead of putting in our own parking spaces.

One Friend, referring to the time-line document, felt that it inadequately reflected the objections that some had raised at various steps along the journey it describes. Another Friend suggested that this Friend feel encouraged to write that side of the history, but noted that while we cherish those of our community who have dissented, the Meeting has made a decision and needs to move ahead with it. The first Friend is concerned about how to speak his mind while sharing the Meeting's journey, as he is still unsure about the course of action we have chosen.

The clerk expressed the hope that we not cast discussions of this journey in terms of winners and losers, noting that we have striven to include all members of the community, and to move forward as a united body. Another Friend reminded us that at this point we have committed to a direction and an intent involving our building on the lower lot; this intent is still subject to decisions yet to be made, including decisions about affordability. Others stated their wish that those with dissenting voices continue to express their objections, as they are valuable for others to hear and reflect upon.

Laura Melly observed that within the Meeting there is a variety of views of the process so far, and of the time-line document. She asked how the Process committee, especially, could be helpful to the Meeting in working out these issues. The clerk suggested that the Process committee give some thought to devising ways to help the meeting community consider how we make decisions, perhaps by devising a

forum or workshop on the subject. The Meeting approved this request to the Process committee.

Fund-raising: Laura Melly then summarized the challenges that the fund-raising committee has identified as it discerns the tasks ahead, at the same time ensuring continued unity within the Meeting. She noted that much of the physical plant and our current financial resources are legacies from families active in the early years of the Meeting; the fund-raising committee feels strongly that with this project the current members of the meeting community need to “put their wallets on the line.”

The fund-raising committee has done a number of things: some members visited an officer of PNC Bank to discuss what would be involved in a mortgage. Others contacted the Philadelphia arts community to gauge the depth of funding support for a James Turrell project.

Laura emphasized that we're going to have to learn how to talk with each other about financial matters; we'll need to widen the now very narrow circle of people with access to the records of contributions to the Meeting. All of this is especially difficult because we still don't know how much money this project is going to cost and because we don't yet know what the specific nature of the project will be. (She urged any Friends who already knew what they might be willing to give to contact a member of the fund-raising committee to discuss it; it's not too early to have such conversations.)

Architect Contracts John Kahil, reporting for the Client committee, reported that our approve architects have submitted proposals, about which the Client committee has some questions; once those questions are settled, we need to sign contracts with the architect and landscape architect. John noted that Jim Bradberry, the architect selected, had already changed some elements of his proposal in response to some of the Meeting's concerns.

The four steps to be covered by the contracts under discussion are the following:

1. Programming and evaluation, in which the professional staff elicits input from the meeting community, using meetings with selected groups, questionnaires answered by a broad range of members of the community, and other means. During this phase, the question of what sort of design charette we use will be decided. At the end of this phase, we'll have a rough idea of the cost of the project.
2. Integrated Design Charette (which is essentially the same as a “green charette”)
3. Schematic Design
4. Production of a model and renderings for our use in fund-raising

John noted the array of professionals that will be brought in at various stages of this project, including a surveyor, mechanical engineers, modeling consultant, lighting and acoustical consultants, cost estimators, etc. At present, the proposals submitted cost about \$120,000; John feels that we would want to be prepared to commit as much as \$20,000 more than that to cover unanticipated contingencies, for a total of \$140,000. This figure does not include any money earmarked for James Turrell's travel or hospitality while visiting us.

The clerk noted at this point that, thanks to an anonymous gift, the Meeting is in a position to cover this cost without raising additional money at this time. Signe Wilkinson mentioned that on a recent trip to Houston, she and Jon had met with members of Live Oak Friends Meeting there; they had also received an early gift, but were relatively undisciplined in the way they spent it. She stated her concern over the prices quoted by the architects to date and her insistence (as a member of the Client Committee) that we negotiate the best contracts possible, and voiced her determination to be the official skinflint of the committee in pursuing this goal.

After more discussion, Warren asked if the Meeting were ready to approve his signing contracts with the architect and landscape architect, pending further negotiations aimed at reducing the current bid costs between those two and the Client committee. **The Meeting approved this step.**

One Friend asked that as meetings are schedule for the next phases of this project, we keep in mind the importance of advance of the dates of these meetings to Friends planning their crowded calendars. In that connection, Warren asked Friends to pencil in Sunday, 7 May, for a possible early meeting with Jim Bradberry and Carol Franklin and at least committee clerks, to discuss how the professional staff

proposes to work with us.

Worship and Ministry report: Jorge Aráuz said that the make-up of the oversight committee planned for Carolyn Schodt's ministry was still not set, but would be coming to business meeting soon. He then read the following traveling minute proposed for Marcelle Martin:

To Friends in Britain Yearly Meeting,

Our member, Marcelle Martin, has felt led to join you at your annual sessions this May in London.

Marcelle is a valued member of our Meeting who has been active on our Worship & Ministry Committee. She has traveled to visit many monthly meetings in our yearly Meeting and beyond. Often her visits include work with those meetings as part of her calling to nurture spiritual life among Friends. As part of that same calling, she was written about prayer, Quaker worship and various aspects of the spiritual life. She has been teaching classes at Pendle Hill, the Quaker study center outside of Philadelphia, for several years and next year will be the Quaker Studies teacher there. She is hoping to broaden her acquaintance with British Friends, to worship with you, and to experience personally and directly some of the Quaker historical sites in England which she has been reading about for a long time.

We commend her to you and send our greetings with her for your 2006 annual sessions.

In friendship, Chestnut Hill Monthly Meeting of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

In response to a question, Marcelle explained that she had been invited to Britain Yearly Meeting, and that one requirement for outsiders attending is a letter from their monthly or yearly meeting in the spirit of this one. **The meeting approved the writing of this traveling minute and asked, if possible, that it be placed before Interim Meeting, as well.**

Care & Counsel: Karen Cromley reported on several membership issues:

- Carol Lanahan's transfer from Horsham Meeting; second reading. **Meeting approved**, and a welcoming committee was appointed: Dan Evans (convener), Mickey Abraham and Donna Seiz.
- Christine Olinger's application for membership; second reading. **Meeting approved**, and a welcoming committee was appointed: Hollister Knowlton (convener), Amey Hutchins, Dona Garrettson.
- Sarah Whitman's application for membership; first reading. Karen briefly summarized Sarah's religious upbringing, noting that she had been "church-shopping" when she found us, and has felt very much a part of the community. Care & Counsel recommends approval.
- Sue Betts's transfer from St. Louis Meeting; first reading. Karen reviewed Sue's history of involvement with Friends, including in Twin Cities Meeting and through her late husband who worked for AFSC. Sue is already active on our Property Committee. Care & Counsel recommends approval.
- Ruth Pauly's transfer from Madison (WI) Monthly Meeting; first reading. Carla White, Meg Mitchell and Karen Cromley met as Ruth's clearness committee. Ruth joined Madison Meeting after the death of her late husband, who had been a very active member. Ruth has already become very active in various aspects of Chestnut Hill Meeting. Care & Counsel recommends approval.

Karen also reported on Care & Counsel's appointment of two new members of the Nominating Committee: Shirley Philips and John Nordlof. While there was some uncertainty as to whether the Meeting needed to approve these appointments, it did so.

Peace & Social Concerns: Dion Lerman reported on an item held over from last business meeting: the list of priorities that Chestnut Hill Meeting wants to convey to FCNL for its legislative priority-setting process. The Meeting approved the following points:

- Remove all U.S. military forces and bases from Iraq, and fulfill U.S. moral and legal obligations to reconstruct Iraq through appropriate multinational, national and Iraqi agencies.

- Promote a framework for national and international security that includes peaceful prevention and resolution of deadly conflicts, active pursuit of arms control (including nuclear) and disarmament, adherence to international law, support for the United Nations, and participation in multinational efforts to address the root causes of war and of terrorism.
- Restore and assure full civil liberties for all persons in the United States or under its jurisdiction, and promote human rights around the world through international institutions and treaties.
- Change federal budget, tax, and fiscal policies to reduce military spending, meet pressing human needs, and address structural economic violence.
- Promote long-term protection of the environment and remove dependence on oil as a source of violent conflict, injustice and environmental degradation, by reducing United States' oil consumption and accelerating development and use of renewable energy sources and encouraging alternate modes of transportation.

Some Friends suggested adding some reference to health care under the fourth bullet; Warren, speaking as someone who had discussed just this issue with FCNL director Joe Volk, urged us to make that concern a separate bullet item. The Meeting **approved** the list with these changes.

Announcements: Meeting secretary Lyle Jenks reviewed the following notices; Friends seeking more details should contact Lyle.

- A letter from Langley Hill Friends Meeting, home meeting of Tom Fox, peace activist recently kidnapped and murdered in Iraq
- Quaker House newsletter with information on its work
- AFSC's "Eyes Wide Open" exhibit too large to travel, but state segments are traveling within their states. Pennsylvania's exhibit is in West Chester on Saturday, 29 April.
- Deadline for a 0% interest loan to Meeting members in college is May 1
- Saturday, 13 May at 8 p.m. at our meetinghouse, a concert by Quidditas, a medieval and renaissance music group

Warren Witte adjourned the meeting after a short period of silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip H. Jones, recording clerk

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting Monthly Meeting for Business 21 May, 2006

Thirty-one Friends were present as assistant clerk Nell Kahil clerked the May meeting for business in Warren Witte's absence. The query on Ministry of Outreach was read; a number of Friends shared reflections on the subject.

Building Project – Process Committee: Dan Evans reported on the proposed meeting at 9:30 on Sunday, June 4, at which both James Bradberry and Carol Franklin will be present. This meeting will orient members of the Meeting community to the process the two firms will use to elicit information about our building needs from all parties. It is especially important that the clerks of committees be present, or their committees represented by someone, as the architects will be interviewing committees that have a say in scheduling space in our physical plant. Jim and Carol will talk about the methods they will use to meet with various Meeting constituencies, and about the design of the questionnaire they will be using. An e-mail reminder will be sent out with final information about the time and exact agenda of this meeting.

Dan asked for feedback from those present as to methods we might adopt to keep people more up to date on what's going on. Two possibilities were a mailing list open to anyone in the Meeting, and use of a page in the Meeting's Web site as a bulletin board for posting documents, pictures and information relating to the project. Friends like both ideas.

A Friend asked if there was adequate commitment to the process at this point, with people saying they couldn't come to the 4 June meeting; might we need to hold off until we had something more approaching unity? John Gallery, clerk of the Client committee, spoke strongly in favor of not pausing at this juncture; he feels that we're already a month behind where we should be in the process.

Building Project – Client Committee: John Gallery reported that the questionnaire Dan had mentioned is being designed to elicit both quantitative – how much space do we need for a meeting room, for classrooms, for bathrooms, kitchen, etc. – and qualitative – what attributes do we want a meeting space to have: natural lighting, openness. He hopes it will be designed and mailed in the next three or four weeks. He also reiterated that the June 4 meeting is intended to orient the meeting community to the interview process. While the Finance committee may use meeting space, it doesn't schedule the use of that space; Religious Education would have more to say about the kinds of space we need. He said that Jim Bradberry and Carol Franklin want an open, informal meeting at which people feel comfortable asking questions. The Client committee is proposing one other meeting with the architects especially to bring out the environmental concerns that people have. Hollister Knowlton and Ron Celentano will convene that meeting with Jim and Carol; it has not yet been scheduled.

John also noted that more of the meetings will involve Jim Bradberry, who will probably be at all of them, than Carol Franklin, whose need to meet with meeting members is less specific. One group she will definitely meet with, however, is Religious Education. After the initial needs assessment period, the architects will make a presentation to tell us what they've heard, and so that we can respond if we feel that they have missed important things.

One Friend expressed confusion over where the design charette came in the sequence of events; John reminded us that the charette is scheduled once the architects have some design ideas on paper, based on what they've heard in the programming phase. We're still very much at the beginning of the programming phase. The Client committee has set aside one full day and a follow-up half day for the design charette, but whether or not it follows the principles of "integrated design" or not has yet to be decided.

At this point the clerk asked for a sense of the meeting: had concerns about pace been met, and were Friends ready to move forward? The Meeting agreed that we should go ahead and schedule this June 4 meeting.

Building Project – Fund-raising Committee: Thomas Taylor reported on this group's activities. They are looking to engage a fund-raising consultant to instruct them in how to conduct a feasibility study that would evaluate the capacity of the Meeting itself to raise money. They hope to have a recommendation for presentation to the June meeting for business. Another group is beginning the task of "prospecting" within the Meeting.

John Gallery asked how much money the committee had raised to date. Thomas did not have an exact figure; the amount of the one major gift is still confidential, though we do know that it is enough to cover the contracts we have signed to date. Beyond that the committee has commitments for about \$5,000. John

expressed the hope that from now on the Fund-raising committee would have a hard figure to report at each business meeting.

Worship & Ministry: Jorge Aráuz reviewed our procedure for conducting annual reviews of ministries that the Meeting has recognized and supports with oversight committees. Amey Hutchins then gave such a report from the committee that oversees Marcelle Martin's ministry (Mickey Abraham, Nell Kahil, Grace Moses and Amey Hutchins, clerk). She reviewed highlights of Marcelle's accomplishments in the recent past, including publication of her second Pendle Hill pamphlet, *Holding One Another in the Light*. In short, the committee feels that Marcelle's ministry is flourishing, bringing spiritual sustenance not just to our Meeting but to others as well. One Friend expressed the hope that when Marcelle is in residence as Quakerism studies teacher at Pendle Hill for the 2006-07 term, the committee will find ways to maintain her connections with us.

Lyle Jenks, meeting secretary, read a note appended to the traveling minute that Amey and Marcelle attended, from the convener of the Friends General Conference retreat on traveling ministries, thanking Chestnut Hill Meeting for nurturing Marcelle's ministry in our midst so that she can share it with others.

Jorge is planning to attend Friends General Conference Annual Gathering this summer, where he plans to offer daily extended meeting for worship for participants who seek that. He has requested financial assistance from the Pemberton Fund, and is drawing on meeting funds earmarked for his work for additional support.

A Friend asked that the Worship & Ministry committee take up the matter of how we can deepen our spiritual practice while engaged in the building project. His hope was for help in discerning for himself (and for others in the Meeting) how to let go of things that we as individuals don't need to control. He suggested that perhaps queries written for the purpose might help us through the building process to become a stronger community. Jorge asked that this Friend submit his worthy suggestion in writing to guide the committee in thinking how to comply. Dan Evans of the Process committee noted that that group is looking at similar issues.

Care & Counsel – Membership Matters: Karen Cromley reported on the following membership processes:

- Second reading of Sarah Whitman's application for membership was approved by the Meeting. Her welcoming committee is John Gallery, Mickey Abraham and Karen Cromley, with Mickey coordinating.
- Second reading of Sue Betts's request for transfer of her membership from St. Louis Monthly Meeting was approved by the Meeting. Her welcoming committee is Storm and Dan Evans and Amey Hutchins; Amey will coordinate.
- Second reading of Ruth Pauly's request for transfer of her membership from Madison (WI) Monthly Meeting was approved. Her welcoming committee is Signe Wilkinson and Nell Kahil, with Nell coordinating.

Peace & Social Concerns – Yarnall Fund Distributions: Jon Landau reviewed the criteria and process that the committee uses to reach their decisions: recipients must be tax-exempt organizations, with a preference given to those that are local, and/or have some connection to members of our Meeting community. He pointed out that in addition to contributions from the Yarnall Fund income, we also have line items in our budget for three organizations that we support more directly: NIM, NPIHN and FCNL.

Applicant	2006 Grant	Request
Action Reconciliation	600	600
Bolivian Quaker Education Fund	600	600
Fair Hill Burial Ground	1220	1000
Fairhill Ministry	1020	-
Fellowship of Reconciliation	200	100+
Friends Journal	720	500
Friends Peace Teams	720	500
Greene St. Friends School MLK day of service project	500	500
Journey's End	400	-
National Campaign for Peace Tax Fund	100	-
NIM	400	-
NPIHN (Hospitality Network)	1500	1500
Quaker Earthcare Witness	820	600
Taller Puertorriqueño	500	500

The Meeting approved these grant recommendations, totaling \$9,300.

Peace & Social Concerns – Book Drive for Fairhill School: Lynn Mather read Christine Oliger's request that the Meeting endorse her proposal to organize a book drive for a Philadelphia Public School that serves the area

around Fair Hill Burial Ground. She hopes to take the proposal to Quarterly Meeting as a suggested activity for the Quarter. The Meeting approved our participation in the book drive, and approved the following minute referring it to Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting.

“Chestnut Hill Monthly Meeting endorses Christine Olinger's proposal for a book drive to benefit the Fairhill Elementary School near Fair Hill Burial Ground, to begin in September, 2006, and commends this project to Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting for its support.”

Religious Education – Summer Plans: Storm Evans discussed the committee's plan for a summer curriculum, but also mentioned that there was some interest in giving the children additional time for worship, as they seem to be asking for it. There was discussion of whether we want to foster this kind of separation of worship times; the clerk of Worship & Ministry was concerned that parents might feel torn between attending worship with their children and attending the “grown-up” worship. The Religious Education committee will consider various models for testing this summer, and will present a concrete proposal to the June business meeting.

Announcements: Lyle Jenks shared various announcements from PYM and other sources. One to remember is a listening session scheduled for 3 p.m. on Sunday, 11 June, at Plymouth Meeting, being held by the search committee for the new General Secretary of PYM. He also noted that clerks of both Yearly Meeting and Interim Meeting have announced their intention to resign, so there are additional job openings.

Nell Kahil closed the meeting with a period of silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip H. Jones, Recording Clerk

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting Monthly Meeting for Business 18 June, 2006

Twenty-one Friends were present as clerk Warren Witte opened the June meeting for business. A query drawn from the Financial Stewardship Committee's questionnaire to monthly meetings was read.

NPIHN Hosting: Mickey Abraham reported on the successful conclusion of our most recent hosting of the Hospitality Network, with several lovely families. Rachel Falkove, director of NPIHN, spoke briefly, thanking the Meeting for its participation. She said that the families had been very comfortable while staying with us. A couple of the participants in the program were moving on to programs involving jobs and transitional housing, testifying to the continued success of this program.

The Meeting then approved the following minute:

Chestnut Hill Monthly Meeting is grateful to Mickey Abraham for her most generous contribution of time and caring in coordinating the two-week stay of the NPIHN guests this month at the meetinghouse.

Mickey spent three to four hours each evening as well with the guests to provide consistency of oversight and concern. Her commitment astonishes and inspires us.

May Meeting Minutes were approved as written.

Building Project: Jeff Perkins reported that on June 14, the Meeting took ownership of "Parcel A", which we have been calling "the lower lot." As part of this transaction, we granted United Cerebral Palsy Association of Philadelphia right of first refusal on our current property, should we decide to sell it in the future. To that end, **the Meeting approved the following minute authorizing the transfer of the deed to this property from Friends Fiduciary Corporation to Chestnut Hill Meeting.**

[Insert Jeff's minute.]

The clerk expressed thanks to Jeff and to Phil Lord, for their tireless work in shepherding this transaction through its many twists and turns. **The Meeting approved the following minute:**

Chestnut Hill Monthly Meeting minutes its gratitude for the foresight of James Yarnall and Hertha Reinemann, without whose financial contributions we would not have been able to contemplate the purchase of a lot for relocating the meetinghouse.

Phil Jones reported on the trip of eleven members of the Meeting community to Greenwich, CT, to see two works by James Turrell. Everyone who went felt that the trip was well worth it; several people who went spoke about how exciting Turrell's works were. Lyle Jenks reported on the status of plans for a delegation of twelve from the meeting community to visit Roden Crater, Mr. Turrell's huge work in Arizona. So far eleven people are confirmed as going.

Signe Wilkinson reported that when James Turrell spoke recently to the Fairmount Park Art Association, he said that in our project he wanted "the highest level of art, of architecture, and of environmental design." As a result of Mr. Turrell's talk, we have had pledges of donation of the lighting hardware and programming.

Fund-Raising Committee: Jon Landau reported on the activities of this group, which has been augmented since its original composition was announced. He feels there is very significant depth and breadth of fund-raising experience in the group now. They are in the process of selecting a fund-raising consultant to guide our efforts. To date we have received eight contributions totaling \$267,000. The committee plans to divide into two subcommittees, one to concentrate on internal and the other on external fund-raising. For the external effort, the committee is looking into the feasibility of establishing a 501(c)(3) entity to receive contributions from foundations that won't or can't fund religious organizations. Some Friends expressed misgivings about the honesty of creating something to make us appear to be something we aren't. Others pointed out that other Friends organizations regularly do this in order to receive such funds.

The committee has narrowed the consultant candidates to two: Shelton Williams, and Ted Swanson and Associates. They hope to bring a recommendation to a business meeting to be called in July. The date for that called meeting was set for Sunday, July 23 at the rise of meeting for worship. The possibility of a social gathering on the preceding Friday evening was also discussed with favor.

One Friend expressed reservations about hiring a consultant essentially to do our work for us. Jon responded that the consultant's role is to guide us in designing a campaign that will be effective, and helping us to build mechanisms to keep ourselves on track. Another Friend noted that we all will need to learn how to ask for

money, something many of us are reluctant to do.

Nominating Committee: Betty Hartzell has stepped forward to take on the role of clerking the Forum committee.

Announcements: Lyle Jenks brought several items to our attention. He noted that over the summer, Worship & Ministry and Care & Counsel committees will be reading up on how the meeting can care for marriages within its community, a topic that they will discuss at a joint meeting in the fall. He reminded Friends that the PYM Annual Appeal was coming down to the wire; it ends on June 30. Lyle encouraged Friends to make plans to attend Residential Yearly Meeting.

George Garrettson noted that Arch Street Meetinghouse is in need of volunteers to staff the meetinghouse for guiding visitors to that historic building. Training is available, and a minimum commitment of three hours/week is sought.

The meeting closed with a period of silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip H. Jones, recording secretary

**Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting Called Meeting for Business
23 July, 2006**

About 30 Friends were present as clerk Warren Witte opened a special called business meeting after the rise of First Day worship. Diane Dunning reported for the Fund-raising Committee on its recommendation for engaging a consultant to guide the first phase of the financial aspect of our building project. The committee considered several candidates and narrowed them to two, both of whom submitted proposals. The budgets they submitted were very close.

There were several factors that swayed the committee in favor of Ed Swenson & Associates, at least one of which was that this firm has experience with Quaker organizations (notably, Abington Friends School) but also has good connections in the arts community.

The committee also offered a proposed budget for fund-raising expenditures for the remainder of the 2006 calendar (and fiscal) year. In addition to the \$30,300 for the consultant, \$5,000 was earmarked to supplement the meeting secretary's pay for time spent on this effort. \$900 was set aside for "office consumables."

Additional amounts were requested for the following categories of spending:

Graphic design	\$5,000
Printing & materials	\$5,000
Meetings & events	\$4,000
Volunteer expenses	\$2,000
Travel	\$1,500
Miscellaneous	\$1,000

There was discussion of these additional amounts. One Friend was reluctant to commit money to producing print materials in advance of the outcome of the feasibility study to be done by the fund-raising consultant, feeling that it assumed a favorable outcome of that study. Members of the fund-raising committee noted that if there is not some overlap in the timing of the study and the preparation of print materials, valuable time will be lost – assuming the outcome of the feasibility study is positive – between the time the study results are delivered and the time when we can have print matter and other materials ready for use in fund-raising. One committee member noted that the committee hopes to come in well under budget but put these figures forward so as to avoid the necessity of coming back to Meeting for Business repeatedly for further authorizations. One Friend noted that the Meeting is really being asked to put these funds into the care of the committee, trusting that they will use them prudently.

After more discussion, the meeting approved the allocation of \$54,700, as requested by the committee. The clerk admonished the committee to be particularly zealous about keeping the Meeting informed of progress on the feasibility study, and also on the expenditure of the additional amounts listed above. John Gallery asked to be recorded as not approving this decision, but as standing aside.

Jorge Aráuz asked what a Friend should do who did not wish to stand in the way, but who also does not accept the entire framework for the project. One Friend suggested that it is important that such positions continue to be recorded and acknowledged, not merely for accuracy but also to remind all Friends to examine closely their positions on the project.

The meeting closed with a brief period of silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip H. Jones, Recording Secretary

Meeting for Worship for Business First Day, 24 September 2006

The meeting opened with silent worship, with Warren Witte as clerk. 32 Friends and attenders were present during the course of the meeting. Amey Hutchins, substituting as recorder, read the query on outreach.

Minutes from June Meeting for Business: The June minutes were not available for approval, but will be by October Meeting for Business.

Worship & Ministry: Jorge Arauz reported that an oversight committee has been formed to support Carolyn Schodt's ministry of accompaniment. Its members are Mindy Lemoine, Dion Lerman, Howard Lesnick, Linda Ruthen, and Peter Warrington. Mindy will serve as a liaison between the oversight committee and Worship & Ministry. **CHMM approved the committee**, which has already begun meeting with Carolyn. Jorge also reminded the group that two other members, Phil Anthony and Marcelle Martin, have oversight committees and that there are two groups at CHMM formed for mutual spiritual support. He urged everyone to consider their needs for spiritual growth and to make Worship & Ministry aware of those needs.

Design Workshop review: About 60 attended, investing considerable energy, time, and enthusiasm. Most reflections on the workshop were positive; one Friend also commented that the day had felt rushed. John Gallery, speaking for the Client Committee, reported that there will be a follow-up meeting with the architect, not yet scheduled, in the next few weeks.

Homecoming review: Several visitors offered photographs related to the history of CHMM. George Garrettson volunteered to assemble an album, and **the offer was enthusiastically approved**. Warren expressed CHMM's gratitude for the displays George had created for Homecoming from photographs in CHMM files. The Meeting especially **minuted its thanks to Carolyn Schodt** for her work on this event.

Principles for Use of CHMM Meetinghouse: Warren circulated a set of principles based on a called meeting in August on this topic and asked for discussion on their content and usefulness. Friends volunteered material that they felt was missing and should be included, such as using our space to serve the underserved, making our outdoor space available to the wider community, welcoming the weddings and memorial meetings of individuals not welcome in other faith communities, and demonstrating the environmental aspect of our faith. In general, those present welcomed the statement as useful, but agreed with the calls for some revision to make the principles more outwardly-focused, more welcoming, and more expressive of the vibrancy and vitality that a good set of principles would represent and foster. The meeting was comfortable leaving the revision in Warren's hands; he will recruit co-editors as needed.

Proposed Discussion with UCP: The design workshop raised the possibility of building in stages and continuing to use the existing meetinghouse, but not continuing to need all of it. Warren proposed opening a discussion with UCP to raise the topic of leasing space to them and to gauge their interest. **The Meeting approved a conversation** to exchange information and to explore the idea of joint use, apart from the issue of which party might own the building.

Union/Non-Union Labor for Construction: John Gallery reported for the Client Committee and outlined some of the issues that would be involved in CHMM choosing to work with a union or open shop. There are positive and negative

experiences to report on both sides from the building projects of other institutions. The difference in costs between the two approaches could be as much as 20%. To help CHMM continue to inform itself before this decision must be made, the Client Committee seeks the approval of the Meeting for exploratory conversations with open shop contractors and with a lawyer who has experience in construction issues. In the discussion that followed, Friends expressed a desire to consider issues such as the implications for minority contractor participation and worker compensation, and more broadly, the ethical and spiritual aspects of this decision. One Friend expressed his desire to support the organization of workers and his discomfort with the idea of hiring an open shop. Another asked for more information about Friends organizations and labor relations. John suggested that the exploratory conversations would provide more information in some of these areas. The Meeting agreed that time needed to be found to discuss these issues more deeply and fully, but **approved the exploratory conversations.**

Advisory Group for Fundraising Committee: On behalf of the Fundraising Committee, Diane Dunning presented a proposal to gather an external advisory group of about 15 to 20 people who would be from other organizations with potential interests in the new meetinghouse project. The organizations might be Chestnut Hill community organizations, cultural institutions, environmental groups, or Quaker organizations. The advisors would be sources of expertise and support for the fundraising committee. The Meeting wanted to know that the group would be advising on fundraising, not on the building itself. Diane confirmed this. The Meeting also discussed an implication of having an external advisory committee: the public nature of the new building. Some wondered whether CHMM is ready for this; others compared the public aspects of the project to outreach and witness. **The Meeting approved the creation of the campaign advisors group.**

Property Committee: The Clerk reminded the Meeting that our furnace broke last winter, and that a decision had been made to include the funds to replace it in our budget for this year as a line item and to seek earmarked donations to cover its cost. George Garrettson presented the proposal for purchasing a new furnace. It was very lucky that our furnace could be fixed last winter, and parts will not be available to make repairs in the future. The Property Committee originally obtained estimates of \$7,000 and \$15,000 for a high-efficiency furnace, but the Meeting was concerned about the high cost. The Property Committee later obtained an estimate of \$3,800 for an 80%-efficient Coleman Echelon gas furnace purchased through ECA (Energy Coordinating Agency). This estimate includes a new furnace, ductwork, and connections; insulation of ductwork in the crawl space beneath the worship room; and installation of a steel liner in the chimney to protect the masonry from condensation. The cost may turn out to be slightly higher than the estimate, which was made in March. One Friend felt that the Meeting should still be considering the higher-efficiency furnace as a matter of integrity and of considering future generations. Other Friends emphasized the many other smaller steps that could be taken to make the current meetinghouse more environmentally friendly and the big improvement that an 80%-efficient furnace would represent over our current, highly inefficient system. The Meeting **approved the purchase of the furnace through ECA and will seek donations to cover the cost**, but will go ahead with the purchase and installation now.

Peace and Social Concerns:

Combatants for Peace: Lynn Mather presented a proposal that CHMM endorse the Combatants for Peace tour in which a former Israeli soldier and a former

Palestinian fighter who are now committed to peace will take part in a number of events in our area. Two will be speaking at CHMM at the Forum on October 8. There was also some discussion of whether CHMM would accept donations on behalf of Combatants for Peace. Since Veterans for Peace made arrangements over the summer to accept such donations, CHMM decided not to take on this role. The Meeting did **approve endorsing the Combatants for Peace tour and also minuted its thanks to Lynn** for putting her energy into this timely issue and bringing it to CHMM.

West Philadelphia Economic Justice Listening Project: Donna Seiz presented information on this joint project of PYM, AFSC, and ECA, in which two-member teams will conduct in-depth interviews with West Philadelphia residents to explore their views about rising energy prices and other problems they perceive as priorities for improving their quality of life. PYM is seeking “listeners” from local monthly meetings. Two people at CHMM are interested in volunteering. George Garrettson noted that a similar, complementary project is underway in North Philadelphia under the auspices of the Friends Neighborhood Guild. **CHMM approved endorsing** the West Philadelphia listening project.

PYM Climate Action Network: Donna Seiz informed the Meeting that the PYM Climate Action Network is seeking liaisons in monthly meetings to keep monthly meetings informed. CHMM is willing to have such a liaison, if someone in the Meeting is interested in volunteering. The clerk will appoint the liaison after seeking volunteers.

CHMM Tag Sale: The annual tag sale is scheduled for October 21 unless that turns out to be the only option for the design workshop follow-up meeting. A recipient of the proceeds is yet to be identified.

North American Quaker Tapestry: Dona Garrettson gave some background on the original Quaker tapestry in England. One panel of a North American Quaker tapestry is almost done and will be in the exhibition of photographs of the English tapestry planned for the Arch Street Meetinghouse. Dona sought approval from CHMM to take a proposal to Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting that the Quarter create and complete a second panel of the North American Quaker tapestry, about Philadelphia. **The Meeting approved.** Those interested in doing lots of stitching or just a little should let Dona know.

Announcements: Lyle Jenks made several announcements and urged everyone to check the bulletin boards for more information. Warren and Nell announced some events coming up in the next week and Warren also reminded the Meeting that PYM is now actively searching for candidates for the position of General Secretary. Those who are interested for themselves or who wish to make nominations should contact Connie Blood at PYM.

Respectfully submitted,

Amey Hutchins, Acting Recording Clerk

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting Business Meeting October 15, 2006

Note: At the rise of the meeting for worship that preceded this business meeting, Friends had been invited to stay to engage in a worship sharing exercise to look at the process we've been through to this point with respect to the building project, and to reflect on how they were feeling about the process, regardless of where they stood on the building-related issues.

Warren Witte opened the business meeting, at which about 23 Friends were eventually in attendance; the query on care of the meeting community was read, and several Friends responded with reflections.

Combatants for Peace: The clerk asked Lynn Mather to report on the visit of the Combatants for Peace, who had spoken at the meetinghouse on 8 October. Over the span of their visit the two visitors participated in 15 events, including presentations at two Friends schools, at numerous congregations including synagogues and at least one mosque, at the White Dog Cafe, Temple University and the Peace and Social Justice High School. They met with an aide to Senator Specter, who was very moved by their story, and promised to take their message to the Senator. There were numerous requests for events that they were unable to fulfill.

They did visit City Hall, and City Council passed a resolution, the full text of which will appear in the next newsletter. Here are the final two paragraphs:

WHEREAS, we citizens of Philadelphia still aspire toward William Penn's vision of a diverse and peaceful society today, and find inspiration in the story of Combatants for Peace; be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That we hereby honor and commend these two men, Sulaiman Khatib and Yonatan Shapira, for their work with the group, Combatants for Peace.

Lynn mentioned that she sees coming out of this experience some program for arranging dialog groups to carry the conversation forward, between people on different sides of the issues. She also envisions a second Combatants for Peace visit to the region next year.

Business Meeting Minutes: Minutes of the last two meetings, September and June, were reviewed and approved.

Worship & Ministry/Care & Counsel Joint Meeting: Jorge Aráuz reported that the agenda considered care of marriages and relationships within the meeting, and guidelines on pastoral care for Care & Counsel. The matter of care of marriages came up when we labored with the issues surrounding same-sex unions. The two committees agreed that we need to look carefully at what we now do to support people in relationships, and what more we could be doing. A joint working group comprising members of both committees will carry on that work, looking at retreats, couples enrichment sessions, and other activities. The pastoral care guidelines are still being refined, but Jorge reported that the conversation was fruitful. He also noted the importance the two committees attached to addressing the special concerns of those who are grieving.

Religious Education: Storm Evans reported that they've been very busy. They have expended considerable effort on clarifying communications with parents, and have instituted a permission slip system for trips away from the meeting property. She noted that at the Homecoming event there were 15 children, *not counting middle school age children*. She said that the committee has taken on the coordinating of First Day School activities without a paid staff person, and that seems to be going well, with each committee member taking responsibility for one or more aspects of the program.

Use of CHFM Building and Grounds: A document setting out principles for use of our building and grounds has already been discussed; at the last business meeting, some changes were suggested to that document. The handout of the current version is what the meeting is being asked to consider. Much of the document consists of a hierarchy of priorities designed to aid those scheduling use of the building in resolving conflicting requests for building use.

One Friend suggested that we might want to give marriages and memorial services for our members priority over requests from outside groups or activities. Another Friend felt that the wording of the reference to our lowering rental rates for non-profits might be adjusted so as to avoid problems with our insurance company.

Another Friend felt that the fourth priority placed building uses arising out of leadings of individual members after corporate leadings of the whole Meeting; he felt that true leadings would spring more likely from an individual first.

The clerk noted that the value of prioritizing is to provide guidance to the meeting secretary as he deals with requests for building usage, to decide what activities and which requesters take precedence over others. Any priority listing still requires judgments. One Friend asked how often actual conflicts over scheduling arose.

Lyle Jenks, meeting secretary, said that currently the meetinghouse is in use seven days a week. Community groups always know that if the need for a memorial service in "their" time slot arises, they could be bumped. That said, he also mentioned that the hardest part of scheduling is for events within the Meeting.

A Friend suggested as a way forward that we conditionally approve the guidelines as discussed today, with the intention to revisit them in a few months, to focus more closely on the priority listing, and to evaluate whether or not they are working well. The Meeting approved adopting the modified document now, provisionally, and revisiting the guidelines early in 2007.

Announcements: The meeting secretary announced numerous activities of interest, and pointed Friends to bulletin board spaces dedicated to particular groups or causes. The Quaker college fair takes place this week. He reminded us that the Meeting receives several extra copies of the FCNL newsletter, available to interested Friends.

The Shalom Center sent details of a vigil outside the Federal courthouse this Tuesday, tied to vigils outside White House to draw attention to legislation to be signed that restricts civil liberties. He reported that the chimney has a new lining; the new furnace will be installed in the coming week. The Meeting still welcomes contributions earmarked to defray those costs.

The clerk reminded Friends of the opening for role of General Secretary of PYM. We all have big stake in how that is filled. Friends who are themselves interested, or who think of people who might be appropriate, should talk to Warren Witte or Lyle Jenks.

Christmas Breakfast: Warren announced that the RE committee has declined the opportunity to put on a Christmas breakfast this year. The Lesnick-Schodt family has offered to coordinate it instead. NPIHN won't be asking us to host families at the meetinghouse, but we will supply volunteers at another location, so scheduling won't be as tight as it has been in the past.

Calendar: Saturday, 28 October, is the date of the memorial service for Steve Gable, a former member of the Meeting who died in Plainfield, NJ. That day there will also be an extended meeting for worship in the morning.

On Sunday, 29 October, James Turrell will be here for worship with us and conversation afterwards.

Next monthly meeting is on 19 November, when the client committee hopes to have a recommendation for the meeting to approve, arising out of the second design workshop session on 21 October, and the reports from the architect and landscape architect. Nominating Committee will announce its slate of officers for next year.

The clerk asked Friends to hold December 10 as the date for a possible called meeting for business.

Respectfully submitted, Philip H. Jones, recording secretary

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting Business Meeting November 19, 2006

Warren Witte clerked the business meeting, at which 37 Friends were present. The query on peace was read, which evoked a few reflections. One Friend spoke of the demonstrations at Fort Benning, GA, against the School of The Americas, where Latin American military personnel come for training; many have returned to their countries and have been involved in gross violations of human rights.

Minutes of the 15 October business meeting were approved as distributed.

Nominating Committee: Roy Eisenhandler presented the slate of officers, which the Meeting approved after some discussion: Clerk, Philip Jones; Assistant Clerk, Eileen Flanagan; Treasurer, Dan Evans; Recorder, Roberta Foss; Assistant Recorder, George Garrettson. The Meeting expressed its appreciation for the new officers' willingness to serve. More than one Friend spoke with warm gratitude for the work of the outgoing officers — clerk Warren Witte, assistant clerk Nell Kahil, and treasurer Jeff Perkins. The Meeting minuted its thanks for their faithful service over the past few years.

Worship & Ministry Committee: Jorge Aráuz reported that the committee has been examining its role and various aspects of the Meeting's spiritual life. Two queries in particular struck them as crucial: How do Friends prepare hearts and minds for meeting for worship? How do our lives as Friends evidence living in the light? They concluded that the basic preparation for meeting for worship occurs as we live our lives during the week. They are looking into offering a series of retreats to examining the spiritual dimensions our daily lives. They're also considering how we might use the queries to nourish our spiritual life. Jorge asked the Meeting for their suggestions on how we use the queries printed in *Faith and Practice*.

A Friend recalled that at one time in the past our practice was once a month to read that month's query in meeting for worship. Another Friend reported visiting a meeting in another state where a query was read at the end of worship. More than one Friend spoke against the practice of selecting a query thought to be topical, and preferred instead the older practice of reading them sequentially throughout the year. Yet another suggestion was to read the corporate components at meeting for business, and perhaps read the individual queries during meeting for worship. A Friend with young children felt it would be helpful to families to have a reminder in our homes of the queries; they could be sent by postcard or e-mail once a month, with perhaps a children's version appended.

Jorge continued his report by discussing the committee's search for better balance on announcements at the rise of Meeting. They seek to strengthen connections and affirm our community, while also smoothing the transition from the inward state of meeting for worship to daily life that follows. One Friend felt that the current experiment was too controlling, and expressed the hope that we might return to some variety and spontaneity in the announcements. Others who have thoughts about how to change this aspect of our community life were urged to pass them on to the Worship & Ministry committee. Another Friend observed that this was a good opportunity for all of us to let go of specific ways we think things ought to be done and allow some space for new things to happen.

Finally, Jorge reported that Worship & Ministry had responded to a request by some First Day School teachers for early morning meeting for worship from 9 to 10, so that the teachers don't have to miss a dedicated worship period. All are welcome. He also announced a meeting for worship for healing to be held at the meetinghouse on Monday, 27 November, 2006, at 7:00. On 28 January, 2007, from 1:00 to 3:00, the committee is holding a retreat on traveling ministries to look at questions of how we support public ministries or leadings. They are promoting this to neighboring meetings.

Client committee update: John Gallery reported on the committee's meeting with James

Turrell, Jim Bradbury and Carol Franklin. The committee members feel that they can't go much farther in the design process without more participation from James Turrell. Bradberry, Franklin and Turrell agreed with that they will work in a concentrated way in December, so that they can come back to the Client Committee in January, who in turn hope to return a concrete recommendation to February business meeting.

The professional staff (Bradberry, Franklin and Turrell) have identified some issues on which they want clarification from the Meeting. The client committee has looked at them, trying to see what the sense of the meeting is on those issues. To get a better idea, they are planning either next week or the following to convene a small group of representatives from the standing committees to run by them the Client committee's sense of the "sense of the Meeting" to see if the committees agree. They'll relay this information to the professionals.

Warren reminded Friends that the called meeting for business on 10 December is a time to talk about the financial issues related to a new meetinghouse. He doesn't expect it to be as long as a usual monthly meeting, as it has only one agenda item.

NPIHN: Mickey Abraham reported that NPIHN has asked us to host families *in our building* for three weeks from 7 January to 27 January. We are already committed to staffing their stay at another site for a week in December. A Friend asked if Germantown Meeting had committed to partnering with us; the answer was not known. After considerable discussion, the clerk observed that this challenge comes at a bad time for FDS, and might continue to be difficult ongoing. One Friend observed that if there's a way we could host and have FDS not be the part that bears the brunt of it, then we should do it; it doesn't make sense to put FDS at odds with NPIHN. Warren suggested that the sense of the business meeting seems to be that this coverage isn't realistic for us at this time. The suggestion was made that we offer to help another congregation; one Friend urged us to identify a time when we could do that. The clerk asked Mickey to find an unhurried way to discern how we're engaging with NPIHN going forward.

One Friend noted a spiritual dimension to this dilemma: tension between a cherished activity (FDS) and a commitment to reach out to those in need, not only to homeless families but those who are helping them. He reminded us that early friends didn't have FDS; all met at the same time. Could we perhaps try that for a period? It would be a difficult discipline, but might be worthwhile and allow us to open our space to those who need our hospitality.

Warren reminded us that we have a commitment to NPIHN, so we ought to try to find a way, though it seems clear we are not in a position to do this in January. This NPIHN request adds weight to the notion of having a called meeting early in the new year to reexamine our relation with NPIHN, so we can level with them. RE and Childcare would like to look at that with the parents. **Decision:** The Meeting's decision was "an unhappy 'no' to NPIHN" for this request.

Care & Counsel committee: Karen Cromley reported on the Pastoral Care Guidelines document, distributed as a handout. The original impetus for drawing up these guidelines came from Carolyn Schodt and Janet Boys, though there has been a lot of input from many corners. The outcome is a set of guidelines to remind us of what C&C in particular and the meeting community as a whole can do. The committee is dependent on everyone in the meeting for alerts about situations needing pastoral care. Karen asked for feedback, and suggested that the document be printed in the next newsletter.

Child Safety: Warren noted that our child safety guidelines were approved a year ago, but we lost track of one piece of it: the formation of a committee. Dan Evans reported that the policy says a committee should be formed with representatives from Child Care, RE, Property and Care & Counsel; he suggests that perhaps we should add Finance too. Their purpose would be to review policy and procedures annually. This committee could also look at other areas of risk (handicapped access, for example) and risk management.

There was discussion of how such a committee would be organized. Each participating committee will nominate its representative; the clerkship could rotate among the committees. The clerk suggested that RE take the lead in convening the first meeting. He asked the committees (Property, Childcare, RE, Care & Counsel and Finance) to name their representatives by January. One Friend suggested that committees might want to look outside their existing membership to ease the burden on those currently doing each committee's work. **Decision:** The Meeting approved forming this group on child safety and risk management.

Property Title: The clerk reported that the title to our property, which had been in the custody of Friends Fiduciary Corporation, has now been transferred to us. A Friend asked if that included the burial ground; Warren was not sure, as he hadn't asked that question.

Finance: Dona Garrettson reported on discussions of the PYM covenant for next year. PYM needs either to raise an extra \$150,000, release three employees, or sell a building to meet its obligations in the coming year. The costs of the infrastructure that we own are eating us up. Our fiscal problems are not due to the stock market, but to the fact that we're shrinking, and are carrying some meetings that probably should have been laid down. 15% of the PYM membership contributes to the annual fund. This will be a very difficult year to come up with a budget for PYM. Hard choices are coming.

The PYM Financial Stewardship committee hasn't been able to make up its mind about how much to ask for in covenants from meetings. They would, however, like to see covenant amounts by January 10. We are behind in our own budget as well, but we know that PYM is going to need at least as much money as we gave them last year. Warren proposed that we use this information as we prepare for discussions of our budget, and asked Finance committee to come up with recommendations for us.

Announcements: Jorge Aráuz attended a NIM meeting to discuss violence in our neighborhoods and its effects on congregations. There is a followup meeting on December 4 at 7:00 at 2nd Baptist. Donna Seiz and Carla White offered to attend.

Christmas Breakfast: Carolyn Schodt and Howard Lesnick, Kerry Krieger, Paul Laskow, Mary Lou Finch and George Benz form the core of the ad hoc committee organizing this beloved event for Sunday, 19 December. Carolyn urged interested Friends to contact any of them to volunteer.

The meeting closed with a brief period of silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip H. Jones, recording secretary

Contains corrections made at January 21, 2007, Monthly Meeting.

Called Meeting for Worship for Business First Day, 10 December 2006

The meeting opened with silent worship, with Phil Jones as clerk. 36 Friends and attenders were present during the course of the meeting. Phil Jones explained that the Client Committee had asked for the called Meeting in an attempt to gauge the range of opinions on different financial issues related to the meetinghouse project, so the purpose was not decision-making but rather consideration of different scenarios.

Jeff Perkins, treasurer, who was the primary presenter at the Meeting, listed his goals for the called Meeting: they were to frame the financial issues, highlight forks in the road where decisions will need to be made, offer time for reflection on financial issues, and determine what issues need further seasoning. He asked all those present not to let numbers drive values or decisions, to suspend concerns about the difference between projected and actual values, to be willing to go on a journey together without baggage to an unknown destination, and to trust in the integrity of those who make recommendations based on the work that has already been done.

Jeff explained that the four unknown financial variables are cost on the one hand, and fundraising, meeting resources, and financing on the other. In the end, these need to add up to zero. They also have an impact on the CHMM operating budget. Jeff then led a consideration of each of the four variables.

Cost: Aspects of cost include size, appointments (materials and furniture/equipment), timing, and phasing. John Kahil spoke about some of the factors of phasing: if a building is built in phases, there is some extra cost and work in what has to be undone in an earlier phase when a new phase is added; phasing adds time and inconvenience in general; and it might affect the siting of the building on the lot. In the discussion that followed, those present raised issues including the danger of not completing later phases; the impact of owning two buildings at once (old building is no longer a financial resource devoted to the new building, higher maintenance costs if CHMM owns two buildings); the possibility that if construction costs rise faster than interest rates (as they are doing now), it would be cheaper to borrow money to do the whole project at once; and the possibility of building a complete shell and phasing within it to cut down on what needs to be undone. The one advantage of phasing is that it requires less money up front. The timing of the phases is determined by how long it takes to raise the needed money. John Nordlof reported on behalf of the Religious Education Committee that RE has concerns about phasing that are both philosophical, in that they don't want First Day School separated from Meeting for Worship, and practical, in terms of disruption and the difficulty of moving children between buildings. Jeff noted that a fork in the road is coming on the phasing question: the architect will need guidance soon. One Friend offered a reminder that the cost would also be impacted if we did not build at all.

Fundraising: Jeff drew a distinction between internal and external funding. Internal fundraising refers to the substantial funds that have to come from the CHMM community. External fundraising might draw on the arts, Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, and wider Quaker communities. CHMM has not yet come to a fork in the road on this issue, as the feasibility study is not yet done. Finance Committee considered their comfort with relative percentages of internal and external funds and at this time as a group is comfortable with external fundraising up to 50%. In the discussion that followed, those present raised issues including a tension between artistic involvement and Quaker simplicity; a suggestion that the distinction between Quaker and non-Quaker sources of external funding was important and that a higher percentage of Quaker external funding might make CHMM more comfortable with external funding; the characterization of a mortgage as external funding and the suggestion that the difference between grants and loans in external funding is important; the expectations that might come with external funding; concerns about the complexity of fundraising that comes along with complex plans; a tension between simplicity and activity; and a reminder that artistic doesn't necessarily mean fancy.

Meeting Resources: Jeff listed the current resources that CHMM can bring to bear on this project as the current building, the Yarnall funds, and the operating reserve (approximately \$90,000 at this time). Concerning the current building, the issues that came up were that UCP has the right of first refusal but we set the price for the sale of the building, and that an independent buyer of the current building (i.e., a buyer other than UCP) would need variances because the meetinghouse property was grandfathered in to its R-5 zoning, so it doesn't meet the requirement that the building can't occupy more than 50% of the lot. Concerning the Yarnall Funds, Jeff mentioned that Finance Committee was comfortable with using them for short-term financing. Those present expressed a wide variety of opinions, from not wanting to use the Yarnall funds at all to reporting the opinion of visitors to the Homecoming (including a member of the Yarnall family) that the Yarnall family would have been comfortable with this use of the funds. Those present also raised concerns about the current use of these funds for Peace & Social Concerns and scholarships, whether we have an implied commitment to continue to support those receiving scholarships, and whether CHMM would ever raise enough money to cover the current uses of the Yarnall funds if those funds were used for a new building.

Financing: Jeff explained that CHMM needs to consider its comfort level with borrowing money. Financing or borrowing brings up a tension between the responsibility that the current community takes on for the project and the responsibility it leaves to the future community to settle the debt. Jeff reported that the Finance Committee was most comfortable with borrowing one-quarter to one-third of the cost, but he also noted that at this point the amount that CHMM could get and the interest rates are unknown variables. He pointed out that CHMM is at a big fork in the road if we are not comfortable with borrowing. He also pointed out that as CHMM considers its comfort with borrowing, we should

remember that we lend money by buying bonds with Yarnall funds. In the discussion that followed, those present expressed a wide range of opinions, including the characterization of a mortgage as a tool that allows people to give larger amounts over a longer period of time and to translate the community's future money into currently available funds; the characterization of a mortgage as a gesture of faith in the future; and a desire to leave borrowing to the end of the process, keeping it to a minimum and not weighing down the future. It will be necessary to make the decision about financing once the feasibility study is done, because if CHMM can't raise all the money, financing will be necessary to go forward. There was interest in the idea of setting the fundraising goals high enough that there will be money to give to others, as a way of keeping our privilege in mind as we raise money for ourselves.

Scenarios: Jeff distributed a handout with theoretical figures for the four financial variables in four different scenarios. He again emphasized that the purpose was not to consider the numbers on the page but the relationships between the variables. The scenarios portrayed different levels of costs, fundraising, use of Meeting resources, borrowing, and interest rates. Jeff then used two of the scenarios to consider how the decisions we make about these variables will affect our operating cost projections, highlighting changes such as higher costs for utilities, housekeeping, and grounds maintenance, but also possible new sources of funds such as higher numbers of visitors, new attenders and members, and perhaps a partner organization such as a nursery school.

The Meeting thanked Jeff for his hard work in preparing and presenting this material.

Respectfully submitted,

Amey Hutchins