

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting
Monthly Meeting for Business
21 January 2007

Philip Jones clerked the business meeting, at which 30 Friends were present. The meeting began with a period of worship and the reading of the query on meeting for worship. We are beginning a period of reading the queries in order; feedback on this approach is welcome.

Client Committee: Signe Wilkinson reported for the Client Committee. Although the process is not as far along as originally planned and the collaboration between architect James Bradberry and Quaker artist James Turrell has been slow to get started, that collaboration is well under way now. Bradberry and Turrell have met and produced an extremely preliminary draft. The Client Committee has prepared a response, based on all the input from the Meeting to date. Signe characterized the building in the early draft as unified, solid, cohesive, and simple, but the Client Committee feels that it needs to be less imposing. Details in the draft include views to the outside in two directions from the meeting room and a green roof. The Client Committee expects to receive more drafts and give more feedback before a proposal is ready to present to Meeting for Business. The Client Committee will work with the Process Committee to prepare CHMM for working with the plans.

In the discussion that followed, Friends had several questions about the preliminary draft. The response to questions about space for socializing, First Day School, and NPIHN was that the Client Committee has asked that future drafts focus more on these issues and add flexibility to the First Day School space to allow for multiple uses. Other questions concerned the impact of the building on the environment. Signe reported that the draft still places the new building in the corner of the lot with the pine trees, but that environmental concerns are considered throughout the plan, and that part of the Client Committee's response to the first draft was to urge the designers to take even more advantage of solar energy. Geothermal energy is not under consideration; due to constraints of the site, a construction expert familiar with requirements for geothermal energy use, who participated in the meeting-wide design workshop, advised that CHMM might reduce its environmental impact more by planning for a heating/cooling system smaller than usual for whatever size the building is planned to be. Signe also noted that, based on the number of cars in our current parking lot on a weekly basis now, the Client Committee has asked the designers to include space in the plan that might be converted to additional parking spaces.

Peace & Social Concerns: Lynn Mather requested on behalf of Peace & Social Concerns that Meeting for Business endorse the peace march and rally in Washington DC on January 27 organized by United for Peace and Justice and sponsored by many other organizations in which numerous members of our community will be participating and that the marchers receive the Meeting's support in identifying themselves as coming from Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting, by carrying the CHMM banner and putting signs on their buses. The Meeting for Business wished to support both these requests and requested that the recording clerk write a minute conveying that support:

Chestnut Hill Monthly Meeting unites with the spirit of peace in which members of our Meeting will travel to Washington, DC, on January 27, to participate in a rally and march to call on Congress to take action to end the war in Iraq. It is fitting that they identify themselves as Quakers from Chestnut Hill Meeting and we are grateful for their faithful witness for peace.

Lynn also requested that the Meeting for Business give approval for her to write a letter to the editor of the *Chestnut Hill Local* on behalf of CHMM. Some present did not feel able to agree to this request without a letter ready for consideration, but encouraged Peace & Social Concerns to seek coverage by

the newspaper of their participation. A Friend reminded us that we must take time to engage with the moral and spiritual dilemmas raised by the war if we aspire to have a collective voice in response.

Review of Minutes: Minutes of the 19 November 2006 meeting for business were approved with the correction that the report about the deed to our property in fact concerns the title to our property. A question about title to the burial ground, which still belongs to Friends Fiduciary Corporation, does not affect the minutes, but Phil Jones will consult the previous clerk on that issue. Minutes of the 10 December 2006 called meeting for business to share information about financial issues related to the new building were approved.

2006 Financial Report: Jeff Perkins, outgoing treasurer, noted that he is still closing the books on 2006 and that Finance Committee hopes to approve a recommended budget for 2007 in early February that will then come to meeting for business. He distributed 2006 information on our Operating Fund and Acquisition & Building Fund. Regarding the Operating Fund, he noted that revenue was less than budgeted, mostly in the category of member and attender contributions, but expenses were also less than budgeted, most notably in the categories of First Day School salary, repairs, and gas heat, so income was still greater than expenses overall. Regarding the Acquisition & Building Fund, he pointed out the total of contributions to this fund in 2006 and reminded the meeting of the commitments it has already made to the architect, landscape architect, and fundraising consultant that will be paid out of this fund. He also noted that we will soon have to make some decisions about how to deal with current expenses for the new property such as the water bill, which we are now paying from our existing budget.

Dona Garrettson, clerk of Finance Committee, added that Finance Committee is seeking an individual to conduct a financial review at the time of transition to a new treasurer, and the fee for the financial review will be included in the 2007 budget. She also explained that PYM is waiting for covenant information from monthly meetings. PYM is asking for a 9% increase. CHMM will need to determine its covenant as part of approving its 2007 budget, but Meeting for Business did at this time approve a minimum increase of 5% so that that information can go to PYM now.

Care & Counsel Minute for Warren Witte: Dan Evans presented a minute from Care & Counsel to thank Warren Witte for his three years of service as clerk of the Meeting. After a short discussion with some suggestions from the Meeting, the following minute was approved:

You have clerked with humor and grace. Knowing that discerning God's will requires time and reflection, you have paused when we were not clear, but you have also reminded us of those times when God's work required action. You have demonstrated that wonderful combination of simultaneously being firm and flexible!

During your tenure as clerk, you have guided Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting as we purchased land and moved forward with discussions about a new meetinghouse. Framing issues with clarity and sensitivity, you have proposed processes aimed at hearing all voices; you have exercised patience when we lacked clarity, while also gently urging us to seek unity.

You have been a skillful and dedicated clerk, spending countless hours on the Meeting's behalf. Now you deserve a change of pace, but—we do expect continuing contributions from the back benches and another perspective!

Thank you, Warren.

Christmas Breakfast Report: Carolyn Schodt reported that the Christmas breakfast had been a joyous multigenerational celebration of our community. The breakfast volunteers served 70 people. Although the breakfast was not a fundraiser, the event brought in \$336, and after covering expenses, \$130

remains. Carolyn requested and received approval from Meeting for Business for turning over this amount to the middle school Friends for them to discern how it should be used. Carolyn also stated that she is ready to step down from responsibility for Christmas breakfast, and asked Nominating Committee to include two conveners for the Christmas breakfast in the slate to be presented in March. Several Friends agreed that the Meeting should consider the planning and organization of the breakfast. The Meeting minuted its thanks to all those who worked at the breakfast and particularly to the organizers.

Worship & Ministry: Jorge Arauz, clerk, reported for Worship & Ministry Committee. Worship & Ministry is still experimenting with closing meeting for worship and has been offering a transitional moment between meeting for worship and announcements for requests for prayer and holding in the Light. Friends offered some positive responses, but one Friend asked Worship & Ministry to remember that during a similar experiment in the past, Friends going through difficult times found such moments very painful. Worship & Ministry also asks those planning activities for after meeting for worship to consider the actual ending time of meeting for worship and to remember that the time in between builds relationships and our community. Early meeting for worship from 9 to 10 every Sunday continues, and Worship & Ministry is working on a sign to help lessen confusion, especially for newcomers.

Looking ahead to upcoming events:

- Worship & Ministry and Process Committees have called a meeting for worship on 26 January to allow all members of the community to worship together while seeking clarity and testing leadings related to the new building.
- On Sunday 28 January, Deborah Fisch, coordinator of FGC's Traveling Ministries Program, will facilitate an exploration of how meetings support individual Friends with public ministries or leadings. All are welcome to the program from 1 to 3 p.m. and a reception from 3 to 4 p.m. Deborah will be meeting with CHMM support committees for Friends with ministries on the day before.
- Worship & Ministry is also planning two meeting retreats, one for the spring and one for the fall, one to focus on the relationship between our individual spiritual lives and meeting for worship and the other to focus on giving and receiving vocal ministry.

Friends thanked Worship & Ministry for its role in the called meeting for worship following the terrible incident at Springfield High School, and Jorge mentioned that thanks were also due to Christie Duncan-Tessmer and Care & Counsel.

Announcements:

- A lengthy survey on similarities between pacifists and people associated with the military is available from Hartford (Connecticut) Meeting. Interested Friends should request the survey from wrbftaylor@comcast.net.
- A nationwide gathering of young adult Friends takes place at Burlington Conference Center, February 16-18.
- There is an event for middle school Friends at Green Street Meeting, February 9-11. Storm Evans will circulate information about the middle school event on the First Day School parents' email list.
- Property Committee is organizing monthly work days focusing on the new lot; the next one will be 9 a.m. to noon on February 17 (February 24 in case of bad weather).

The meeting closed with a brief period of silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Amey Hutchins, recording clerk

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting
Monthly Meeting for Business
18 February 2007

Philip Jones clerked the business meeting, at which 32 Friends were present. The meeting began with a period of worship and reading of the query on meeting for business. Friends were particularly struck by the query that asked whether difficult problems were “considered carefully with patient search for truth, unhurried by the pressures of time,” and several lifted up thoughts on the ideal of approaching meeting for business in the same spirit as meeting for worship.

Review of Minutes: Minutes of the 21 January 2007 meeting for business were approved with the correction that the Client Committee’s response to the preliminary draft from James Bradberry and James Turrell was that the proposed building should be less imposing, but not necessarily smaller.

Personnel Committee: Philip Jones reported on behalf of the Personnel Committee. In preparation for the consideration of the 2007 budget, he distributed a proposal for a revision of the meeting secretary position as of April 1. The revision would add new First Day School support, newsletter editing, and housekeeping responsibilities to the current secretarial responsibilities and expand the position to an average of 21 hours per week. This increase in hours would allow CHMM to enroll the meeting secretary in PYM’s new employee health insurance program. In part, the money for the increased hours will come from funds that previously were used for housekeeping and the First Day School coordinator. After a discussion of the secretary’s hours up to this point; the impact of Lyle Jenks’s tax resister status on his compensation; and the structure for performance evaluations, Friends approved the concept of expanding the secretary position, pending the discussion of the financial implications in the 2007 budget. The Personnel Committee will finalize an updated job description.

2007 Proposed Budget: Dan Evans, treasurer, presented a proposed budget for 2007. The major change was in the line item for the meeting secretary, based on the proposed revision of the position. Dan also drew attention to higher computer/Internet costs; extra funds to Finance Committee to pay for an external review of our finances; the line item for new property maintenance; and a 9% increase in our PYM covenant.

In discussion, two committees raised concerns about rolling funds over into a new year: Peace & Social Concerns, with regard to money left over from fundraising efforts, and Property, with regard to the possibility of setting up a maintenance reserve. CHMM will consider this issue at a future date. In response to a question about contributions to the new building, Dan noted that these are not included in the budget but are in the report on restricted funds given by Jeff Perkins at the January meeting for business. Friends expressed concern that contributions to our regular operating funds might suffer from a focus on funds for the new building, and expressed approval for Dan’s idea that there be a regular update in the newsletter on progress toward our budgeted level of contributions. Dan indicated that contributions from members and attenders in 2007 are budgeted to be

higher than contributions received in 2006, though less than the amount budgeted for 2006, which we did not reach, and reminded the group that we have bigger commitments this year that will not fall under budget. Sarah Whitman offered, on behalf of Adult Religious Education, to organize sessions prior to the sending out of contribution letters to encourage discernment on giving to CHMM. Another Friend pointed out that at all levels of Quaker organizations, as at CHMM, Friends are hiring more paid staff, volunteering less, and giving less money. Friends approved the budget, with thanks to Dan.

Client Committee: John Gallery reported on behalf of the Client Committee that it has been frustrated in its attempts to get James Bradberry and James Turrell working together. Bradberry responded alone to the Client Committee's response to the preliminary draft, and the committee has posted his response in the gathering room but does not feel that the plan is ready to be presented at meeting for business. The Client Committee is attempting to contact both of them and to set up stronger coordination between the two.

One Friend mentioned being troubled by the way Friends sometimes speak dismissively of the slowness of Quaker process, leading others to reflect on how we can honor our traditions while keeping our sense of humor.

Memorial Minute for George Wills Hagner, Jr.: On behalf of Care & Counsel, George Garrettson read the following memorial minute for our former member, whose memorial meeting took place at the meetinghouse on 29 December:

George Wills Hagner, Jr., a long-time member of Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting, died on November 22, 2006, at Stapeley in Germantown. He was 86 years old.

A graduate of Germantown Academy and Oberlin College, George met his future wife, Joan Benbow Seligmann, at Oberlin. Graduating in 1942, they were married that fall.

George spent most of the World War II years as a conscientious objector, serving as a caretaker at Pownal State School in Maine. He then earned an MA in History at Haverford College on a full scholarship that required two years of teaching, which he did at Le College Cevenol in Le Chambon-sur-Lignon in France. Two children were born in France, followed by three more upon return to the United States.

Settling in Philadelphia, George passed his CPA exam and worked at Hagner & Co., his father's CPA business. His professional expertise and advice were much appreciated as treasurer of Chestnut Hill Meeting and frequently called upon in other ways. In addition to involvement at Chestnut Hill Meeting, George was active in several religious and civic

organizations and community groups, including Stapeley in Germantown and the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

George and Joan were avid and enthusiastic campers. In their camper, with their children they traveled far and wide, including to Alaska and Canada; they also canoed the Everglades, and the White and Colorado rivers.

George is survived by his wife Joan and his children Jody, Ann, Emily, and Will. A son Fred died in 1975. Family and friends gathered at Chestnut Hill Meeting on December 29, 2006, to remember George and celebrate his life. We will miss his presence in our midst.

Worship & Ministry: Jorge Arauz, clerk of Worship & Ministry, announced three upcoming events:

- The called meetings for worship on the Thursday or Friday evening before Meeting for Business will continue, to allow all members of the community to worship together while seeking clarity and testing leadings related to the new building. [Recording clerk's addition: the next called meeting for worship will be at 7:30 p.m. at the meetinghouse on Friday, March 16.]
- Worship & Ministry is planning a retreat on how we nurture our souls in daily life. We invite all to join us from 9:30 to noon on Saturday, March 17, for worship and discussion, with a brown bag lunch to follow. One part of the morning will be a panel discussion in which a few members of our community would be willing to discuss their own individual spiritual practices. Friends who feel led to participate in this way should contact either Amey Hutchins or Ruth Pauly.
- A meeting for healing is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 1, at the meetinghouse.

A Friend asked the committee to consider how middle school students might be included in the retreat.

Safety Committee: The clerk reported that the Safety Committee called for in our safety policy is being formed and more details will be available next month.

Peace & Social Concerns: Shirley Philips reported on a new plan for food donations to the food cupboard of the Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry at the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown. CHMM has collected food for this organization in the past. Now Peace & Social Concerns invites everyone to bring their donations on the third Sunday of the month, before Meeting for Business. Shirley distributed a list of needed items, along with refrigerator magnets to keep the lists in sight and in mind.

Art Show: The CHMM art show will take place April 15-22. John Gallery needs volunteers to help.

Announcements:

- Committee clerks should continue to add their committee's meetings and events to the meetinghouse calendar.
- New publications and resources available at the meetinghouse include Michael Wajda's new Pendle Hill pamphlet, *Expectant Listening*; the new Pendle Hill course catalog; FCNL's February *Washington Newsletter*, on the federal budget process; and the newest issue of *Progressive Christian* (formerly *Christian Century*).
- PYM Annual Sessions will be March 23-25, on the theme "Dwelling in That Which God Has Given Us," with Mary Lord, AFSC Assistant General Secretary for Peace and Conflict Resolution, speaking on Friday evening, and Joe Volk, FCNL Executive Secretary, speaking on Saturday morning.
- Events on conscientious objection and tax resistance are coming up at Friends Center and Pendle Hill.

Lyle Jenks concluded the announcements by describing the recent memorial service of Marian Franz, executive director of the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund. Those who gathered for the service were mindful of absent Friends from the AFSC and Mennonite Central Committee who were on their way to Iran with a delegation of religious leaders, and the meeting for business also held them in the Light as it closed with a brief period of silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,
Amey Hutchins, recording clerk

**Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting
Monthly Meeting for Business
18 March 2007**

Philip Jones clerked the meeting for business, at which 28 Friends were present. The meeting began with a period of worship and reading of the query on spiritual nurture, ministry, and religious education. One Friend noted that Quakers are strong in corporate worship and programs, but not in one-on-one encouragement and individual attention to faith journeys; another spoke of the spiritual discipline of eating together before meeting for business, which strengthens our bonds and deepens our roots in community.

Counting Friends at Meeting for Business: The clerk asked about the possibility of counting those present through a sign-in sheet, as opposed to the current practice of asking the recording clerk or others to count during the meeting. In discussion, a preference for the current practice emerged and the assistant clerk offered to take responsibility for counting.

Review of Minutes: Minutes of the 18 February 2007 meeting for business were approved with the corrections that Lyle Jenks is a war tax resister; that the treasurer's report included a reference to a \$1,000 subvention to the new PYM health insurance program for the participation of the meeting secretary that was not yet incorporated into the proposed budget; and that the event at the meetinghouse in memory of George Wills Hagner, Jr., was a private gathering of family and friends, not a memorial meeting.

Nominating Committee: Roy Eisenhandler, clerk, presented a slate of nominations, first thanking all those willing to serve on committees and the other members of the Nominating Committee. Meeting approved the membership of the Worship & Ministry, Care & Counsel, Religious Education, Property & House, Finance, Forum, Hospitality, Outreach, Burial, and Tuition Assistance Committees. The Adult Religious Education and Child Care Committees have only one member at this time and were not ready for approval. The Child Care Committee is supposed to consist of people named by Religious Education, Worship & Ministry, and Forum Committees. The new member of Nominating Committee will be named by Care & Counsel and does not get approved by meeting for business. Several individual appointments were approved, including Jon Landau as draft counselor, Terry Foss as web clerk, Philip Anthony and George Garrettson as representatives to Quarterly Meeting, George Garrettson and Jorge Arauz as representatives to Interim Meeting, and Mickey Abraham as representative to the Northwest Philadelphia Interfaith Hospitality Network. Still to be named are representatives to the Neighborhood Interfaith Movement, PYM Annual Fund, and PYM Nominating Committee. Phil Jones announced that Hollister Knowlton was willing to serve as our representative to the PYM Climate Action Network and asked Nominating Committee to add this position to their responsibilities for next year.

Friends expressed gratitude for those among us who fill many roles, but also concern that new members of our community are not being drawn into and included in committee work. One Friend urged Care & Counsel, through clearness and welcoming committees, to raise the issue of service to the Meeting with new members.

The clerk reminded all committee members that at a recent clerks' meeting the committee clerks strongly encouraged all committees to have a meeting of old and new members for a smooth transition. He also reminded clerks that all committees should send minutes to the meeting office for internal records. He will contact committee clerks soon about the next clerks' meeting. Nominating Committee will send new clerkship appointments to Terry Foss so that they can be listed on the website.

A Friend asked the Meeting to consider how we can incorporate Spirit-led discernment into the nominating process.

Worship & Ministry: Jorge Arauz, clerk, announced that March's called meeting for worship for discernment on the building process, scheduled for Friday, March 16, did not take place due to bad weather. April's meeting was planned for a Thursday, but there was a concern raised that the canceled meeting meant that there had been and would be only Thursday opportunities for several months. Worship & Ministry will consider this and announce a date for the next called meeting.

Worship & Ministry is planning a retreat on how we nurture our souls in daily life. All are invited from 9:30 to noon on Saturday, March 31, for worship and discussion, with a brown bag lunch to follow. One part of the morning will be a panel discussion in which a few members of our community will discuss their own individual spiritual practices.

On Monday, April 2, at 7 p.m., there will be a discussion at the meetinghouse of Thomas Gates's Pendle Hill pamphlet *Members One of Another: The Dynamics of Membership in Quaker Meeting*. Interested Friends can purchase a copy of the pamphlet through Jorge.

Meeting for Business considered a letter of support for Jorge Arauz and Ruth Pauly in convening daily extended meeting for worship at the FGC Gathering. After confirming that the extended meeting for worship is on the Gathering schedule and suggesting a few changes, the Meeting approved the following minute and asked Jorge and Ruth to report back to the Meeting about their experience.

Dear Friends at the Friends General Conference Gathering,

Ruth Pauly and Jorge Arauz are beloved members of our meeting who will be participating in the 2007 FGC Gathering taking place June 30-July 7 at River Falls, Wisconsin. They will serve as conveners of extended meeting for worship on a daily basis there. By helping to make extended worship opportunities available to Friends attending the FGC Gathering, they are witnessing to their concern for the centrality of worship in Quaker life in general and its importance for the spiritual vitality of the Gathering community in particular. Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting trusts Ruth and Jorge's labors will be a welcome contribution to the FGC Gathering. We are holding our Friends and the FGC 2007 Gathering in the Light.

In peace,

Phil Jones, Clerk

Religious Education Committee: Storm Evans, clerk, reported that the First Day School is thriving. The group of middle schoolers, working with Sarah Whitman, includes as many as 8 students. The K-4 group is 13-17 children weekly. First Day School is based on the model of Godly Play, as presented to teachers in a PYM workshop, in which children begin with worship in the form of a story, followed by worshipful play with art materials. The children are getting to know each other and are responding deeply and positively.

Storm distributed a document that the RE Committee has drafted, especially for new parents, in the form of Frequently Asked Questions. The committee proposes that it go on the website and on the table of information for newcomers. Friends had a few suggestions, such as including a question about children who wish to stay in meeting for worship; abridging the document to fit into a trifold brochure; and drawing attention to the worshipful nature of the gathering room during the first 15 minutes of meeting for worship, but overall Friends were impressed with the informative and useful qualities of the document and encouraged the Religious Education Committee to put it to use.

Safety Committee: Storm Evans reported that she has been having difficulty convening the Safety Committee. As approved last fall by Meeting for Business, it is to consist of representatives from the Property, Care & Counsel, Finance, Religious Education, and Child Care Committees. One committee still does not have a representative. The Safety Committee's charge is to include child safety but to go beyond that to a variety of risk management issues. After a number of comments suggesting that perhaps these responsibilities were incompatible, the clerk offered to help identify the remaining member of the Safety Committee and to confer with the previous clerk about the original intent in the formation of the committee. A suggestion that the committee should convene and, as its first item of business, consider its purpose and charge met with some approval.

Client Committee: Signe Wilkinson gave a brief update on behalf of the Client Committee, which will be meeting on 19 March. They will discuss the plan that has been posted on the bulletin board in the gathering room, about which one comment has come in so far. They will send their responses to Jim Bradberry and James Turrell, who will be meeting later in the week. The Client Committee has met with Jim Bradberry and urged him to lead the way in getting the collaboration and the process moving with James Turrell.

James Turrell is on the East Coast in connection with an exhibit of his artwork opening on Friday 23 March at the Pace Wildenstein Gallery on 25th St. in New York City. Signe encouraged Friends to make a trip to see the exhibit, open through April 28.

Ad Hoc Technology Committee: The clerk asked for volunteers to serve on a committee to consider the implications of CHMM's switch to a DSL connection, including a new domain name for our website and email. Dan Evans, Storm Evans, Dylan Steinberg, Thomas Taylor, and Carla White volunteered; Meeting for Business also agreed to ask Terry Foss to serve on the committee.

Reflections on Meeting for Business: Two Friends raised a concern that meeting for business had seemed loving but rowdy and hurried. The clerk responded that he would consider his responsibility for the tone and pace of meeting for business.

Announcements:

- Newsletter deadline is Sunday 25 March. The next newsletter will invite comments and suggestions, but Friends should feel free to contact Lyle Jenks with their input before the next newsletter.
- Information is available at the meetinghouse about NIM events, a Town Hall meeting on casinos in Chestnut Hill on 26 March, an interdenominational Good Friday Stations of the Cross, zero percent loans for college from PYM, and the FGC Gathering.
- PYM Annual Sessions will be March 23-25, additional information is available at the meetinghouse or at www.pym.org/pm/ann.php.
- A letter from the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó, with which CHMM has had contact through Jorge Arauz, will be appearing in an upcoming newsletter. The Community is one of two Colombian groups that AFSC has nominated for the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize.
- Kathy Bergen, program coordinator of the Friends International Center in Ramallah, who will be speaking at Annual Sessions, will also speak at Woodbury Monthly Meeting on Friday 6 April and all are welcome.

Meeting for Business concluded with silent worship.

Respectfully submitted, Amey Hutchins, recording clerk

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting
Called Meeting for Business
29 April 2007

Eileen Flanagan, assistant clerk, clerked the additional meeting for business called to consider the final report of the Nominating Committee. 24 Friends were present. The meeting began with a period of worship.

Eileen then reminded those present of the reasons for the called meeting for business. At April's regular meeting for business, the final report was not available, and the sense of the meeting was that a called meeting was needed because the report was too important to approve automatically; the work of Nominating Committee should be honored; and the report was needed before May's meeting for business. She also reminded the group that much of the report had been discussed at the March meeting for business, so the called meeting for business should focus only on those parts not approved in March and on changes made since March.

She distributed copies of the final report and drew the group's attention to the most recent changes:

Peace & Social Concerns: Dion Lerman, not Lynn Mather, is co-clerk with Donna Kolaetis.

NIM Representatives: Sue Betts and Jean Warrington are no longer serving.

Child Care: Milena Hynes and Anne Bayless have been named, with one more member to be named from the Forum Committee.

The Building Planning Committees were included in the report for the Meeting's information, but they are not nominations to be approved by the Meeting. Shirley Philips and Christine Olinger have joined the Fundraising Committee.

Eileen then invited questions and additions. One Friend noted that Andra Vasco-Ladden is not serving on Forum Committee. Another asked if Ann Jones is continuing on Forum Committee; Eileen reported that Phil Jones had confirmed that she is. Another asked why the report does not list a clerk for Adult Religious Education. The report did list two new nominations to the committee (John Bieniek and Ruth Pauly), and those present concluded that the committee could name its own clerk or convener.

Eileen asked for typographical errors to be submitted to the recording clerk after the called meeting [Secretary's note: The only typo noted was in Ruth Pauly's name as co-clerk of Worship & Ministry].

Friends gratefully approved the final report of the Nominating Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Amey Hutchins, recording clerk

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting
Monthly Meeting for Business
20 May 2007

Philip Jones clerked the meeting for business, at which 40 Friends were present. The meeting began with a period of worship and reading of the query on education. The query elicited several reflections from Friends, including thoughts on the current concern in PYM about Friends schools and financial support; sharing the quest of one school to find its vision of the Kingdom of Heaven and the hope that that vision would bring unity to the school; a concern for individual and meeting involvement in the nearby charter school focused on peace and social justice; and a call, in thinking about school issues, to focus not so much on institutions as the people in them.

Review of Minutes: Minutes of the 15 April 2007 meeting for business and the 29 April 2007 called meeting for business to consider the final report of the Nominating Committee were distributed earlier by e-mail, but with no hard copies available, Friends decided to postpone their approval until June's meeting for business.

Care & Counsel: Meg Mitchell, clerk, reported that Ellen Deacon has requested membership. Ellen is familiar with Friends meetings and organizations but is not currently a member of a meeting, so this is a new application for membership rather than a request for a transfer of membership. Meg encouraged all Friends who have not yet met Ellen to make an effort to do so as she goes through the membership process. Friends approved the clearness committee named by Care & Counsel: Betty Hartzell, Nell Kahil, and Sarah Whitman.

Client Committee: Phil Jones introduced the Client Committee report with a reminder that this is the next step in an incremental process and that some of those present have a 20-year perspective and others a newcomer's perspective, and both groups need to be mindful of each other. He explained that if the meeting for business were to decide to go ahead with the next phase of design, the Fundraising Committee, with help from consultants, would bring a proposal to the June meeting for business for a feasibility study to take place over the summer, with a final decision on going ahead with the new building to be made in the fall. Finally, he summarized some of the major issues from previous discussions: the problems of access and lack of space, especially for the First Day School, in the current building; and the concerns about environmental impact, spiritual clarity, finances, and the impact on us as a community associated with a new building project.

John Gallery, for the Client Committee, reviewed where we are in the planning process. CHMM's agreement with the design team divides that process into three phases: 1) a phase of analysis of CHMM's space and functional needs; 2) a phase of proposing alternative ways those needs could be met in order to choose one alternative to develop in detail; 3) and a phase of detailed work on the selected alternative, leading to a plan and an estimate of cost. From that point, CHMM would be in a position to evaluate fundraising and either move on to the architect's creation of construction documents or pause. The second phase is now ending, and if the Meeting decides that the current proposal is a move in the right direction, then it's time to move on to the final phase of developing a schematic design.

John then reviewed the workshop on Saturday 12 May, which was well attended. Architect Jim Bradberry presented the current design, and then small groups discussed the design from the perspective of issues such as spiritual experience, First Day School needs, and environmental impact. John briefly described the current design: it is arranged around the East-West axis, with the meeting room in the east corner of the lot with pines and rock outcroppings. The meetinghouse overall has a U-shape, with social space on one side and First Day School space on the other. The incorporation of the work of James Turrell has changed significantly in this plan. The Client Committee had assumed that Turrell's contribution would be in the meeting room but did not want that room to end up a copy of his Live Oak (Houston) meeting room. And they were concerned about the progress of the collaboration between Jim Bradberry and James

Turrell. But they made a decision, which John experienced as Spirit-led, to step back and ask the design team how much time they needed. The result of the extra time and collaboration that resulted is that the Turrell contribution is not in the meeting room. A skyspace could not work in the meeting room as currently planned in a tree-enclosed corner of the new lot. The current plan proposes that his work will be in a separate room at the front of the meetinghouse, which would be visible from Mermaid Lane and could be available to the public without the meetinghouse being open. This could nurture not only our own community but also the spirituality of our wider community. The current plan also calls for an artificial light artwork by James Turrell inside the meetinghouse but not the meeting room, which could also be visible in the evening from the outside. All the small groups at the workshop indicated support for the current design, also making lots of specific, detailed comments and asking lots of questions that will be incorporated. The reservations expressed at the workshop were about the project as a whole, not the current design compared to others. The Client Committee's sense of the workshop was that we should pursue and develop the current design.

The Client Committee will meet with Jim Bradberry to go over the comments from the workshop. The original agreement with the design team calls for three months to develop the schematic plan, so the next set of designs, which would be a refinement of the current plan and would give more of a sense of what it would look like, would be ready at the end of the summer. They would be posted for a few weeks before another Saturday workshop and presentation at meeting for business would mark the end of the third and final phase.

The first question following John's report was whether the comments from the May workshop could be shared. John said he could make them available, and he informed Friends that the Client Committee is open to receiving more comments on the current plan. Another question concerned the cost of the third phase and the source of funds to cover the cost. John explained that \$20,000 for the third phase has already been approved by the Meeting and is available now to pay for the work. There was some discussion about the purpose and spirit of Turrell's work and the meeting's support for it: does it represent a reliance on something external for the experience of the search for the Inner Light, or a joyful vision of what the Meeting can offer to a wider community? Important questions raised in this discussion that are still open and must be worked through with Jim Bradberry include the accessibility of the main entrance; the possibility of incorporating a basement and/or second floor in part of the building; and what details and costs would need to be included in a new building in this configuration to make Ron Celentano's preliminary energy analysis, which found this building plan could be almost as energy-efficient as a more compact one, a reality.

Friends devoted considerable discussion to the question of whether the costs and benefits of staying in the present meetinghouse are well understood. One Friend proposed the formation of a committee to study and present these costs and benefits. Others present felt that this information has already been gathered and presented (as in Patricia Conway's report on CHMM building history and alternative proposals, sent out to the meeting community in September 2006) and the formation of a committee was not approved. There was, however, a strong sense in the meeting that this information needs to be part of the discussion in the fall when the schematic design comes to meeting for business for approval, and one Friend's suggestion that the costs and benefits of staying in the current building be presented at that time by someone who favors staying was well-received. John assured Friends that the Client Committee is acutely aware of the many concerns about the implications and consequences of a new building. The Client Committee is striving for a simple, efficient, easy-to maintain, and long-lived building. To know whether that is possible depends on the next phase, but Quaker values and environmental sensitivity are the guiding principles of the Client Committee.

Another detailed discussion focused on the relationship between the current design (the result of the second phase), the schematic design (the result of the third phase), and the work of the Fundraising Committee. Although more detailed understanding of costs will accompany the schematic design, John

said that the Client Committee has sufficient information now that they can share with the Fundraising Committee to allow the feasibility study (a set of interviews with individuals both inside and outside the CHMM community) to go forward over the summer. In response to a question about whether the feasibility study could include questions about the feasibility of fundraising for the costs of staying in the current building, Laura Melly, of the Fundraising Committee, suggested that one aspect of the feasibility study is to test the Meeting's unity in undertaking this project and that ambiguity in the study itself would undermine its ability to do that. John asked that the Fundraising Committee consider having a question about fundraising for work on the current building only in interviews with individuals who are part of the CHMM community. The clerk asked the Fundraising Committee to include information about this issue when they present their proposal at the June meeting for business.

The clerk's summary of the sense of the meeting was that the Meeting needs the information that would come from moving on to the third phase based on the current design; that the Fundraising Committee needs to go forward with its work on the feasibility study over the summer; and that the Meeting will make a final decision on the new building in the fall based on the schematic designs and the feasibility study. The Meeting accepted the clerk's formulation of the sense of the meeting. One Friend suggested that the Client, Fundraising, and Process Committees should all meet together before the June meeting for business, and the clerk will see to it that such a meeting happens.

NPIHN Hosting: Mickey Abraham relayed a request from NPIHN that CHMM serve as hosts at New Covenant August 19-25 and at Second Baptist December 16-22. The Meeting approved this request.

Personnel Committee: Before turning the floor over to Eileen Flanagan on behalf of the Personnel Committee, the clerk informed Friends that since the last meeting for business, the Personnel Committee conducted an evaluation of Lyle Jenks's performance in his job, which Lyle has been requesting for some time.

Eileen reviewed the situation with Lyle and the IRS: each year Lyle calculates what he owes in federal taxes, gives the percentage corresponding to FCNL's calculation of the percentage of the federal budget spent on the military to peace organizations, and sends the remainder to the IRS with a letter of explanation. He keeps his income intentionally low to reduce the amount of money he owes to the government. Previously the IRS has attached his bank account; now the IRS wants CHMM to pay approximately \$24 per month to pay off the amount they consider Lyle to owe from previous years. At the April meeting for business, Friends directed the clerk to contact the IRS to let them know that he is not empowered to respond on his own and that the next opportunity for the community to make a decision will be at May's meeting for business. The clerk sent this letter. Friends also asked Personnel Committee to gather information and to bring a proposal back to meeting for business.

After the April meeting for business, the Personnel Committee met with Lyle to hear his experience. Lyle also offered a particular proposal to help the Meeting deal with the current situation but he and the Personnel Committee have an understanding that the Personnel Committee will continue to work on developing a policy towards employees and war tax resistance. His proposal was that since he had not yet been paid at the new, higher rate approved at the February meeting for business, the rate should be renegotiated downward so that his income would be below the level where he is statutorily exempt from a levy by the IRS. The Personnel Committee offered him more days of paid vacation as a different category of compensation. This arrangement was acceptable to the Personnel Committee because it was consistent with Lyle's history of keeping his income low and because he had not yet received a check at the higher rate that would now be changed. If the Meeting approved this course of action, the clerk would send a letter to the IRS informing them that Lyle's income is below the statutory level for exemption from levies.

Friends had a number of concerns. One Friend wanted to be sure that Lyle will still be eligible for the PYM health insurance program; he will, because eligibility is based on number of hours worked rather than income. Another suggested that the Meeting commit to raising Lyle's salary whenever the statutory

level is raised. Eileen said that would depend on Lyle's wishes, and the clerk agreed that the Meeting should stay on top of these details, especially as the IRS does not necessarily act in accordance with all their own rules. Many Friends expressed gratitude that Lyle has raised this question with us and were reluctant to set it aside as completed business, despite Lyle's proposal, which means that the Meeting will not run any risk. One Friend reminded the Meeting that Lyle is the one who is witnessing and making sacrifices; the Meeting is not running any risk of its own.

The Meeting approved the change in Lyle's compensation and directed the clerk to write the IRS as described. The clerk and Lyle have met with individuals at PYM and the Personnel Committee is gathering information in preparation for developing a policy for the long term. They will bring the proposed policy back to meeting for business. Friends expressed interest in learning more and being more involved, perhaps through work on the wider national policy issues. The clerk agreed to keep this desire in mind and to maintain awareness of this challenge in the Meeting.

Peace and Social Concerns: Donna Kolaetis, clerk, reported that Neighborhood Interfaith Ministry has asked CHMM to propose an honoree for NIM's Annual Assembly, a dinner on June 7 at the Germantown Jewish Center. With very little lead time, the committee has had difficulty proposing an honoree. The Meeting approved the suggestion from P&SC that Mary Day Kent be our honoree, if she is willing. P&SC will put the NIM Annual Assembly on their calendar for next year so this discussion can begin earlier. Donna also noted that Hollister Knowlton is stepping down from her role as FCNL contact for CHMM and Kathy Miller will take up this responsibility.

Jon Landau reported for the Yarnall Fund subcommittee, which consisted of Jon, Christine Olinger, and Jean Warrington. The subcommittee brought two recommendations to meeting for business. The first is that CHMM approved the continued use of the old formula (2.5 percent of the balance of the Yarnall Fund on December 31) to determine how much money is available for distribution in grants. This year that amounts to \$9,300. The second is that the Meeting approve the grants recommended by the subcommittee, which Jon circulated to the group. The subcommittee recommended grants to Action Reconciliation, Awbury Arboretum, Fairhill Burial Grounds, Fairhill Friends Ministry, Friends Hospice, Friends Journal, Green Street Friends School, Germantown Crisis Ministry, Journey's End Farm Camp, Peace Tax Fund, Quaker Earthcare Witness, Teller Puertorriqueño, WILPF, and Youthbuild Charter School. Every organization that applied would receive a grant, though not necessarily of the full amount they requested. In response to questions, Jon explained that FGC, NIM, and NPIHN were not included because they receive money directly from our annual budget, and Stapeley and Friends Neighborhood Guild did not receive grants because they did not apply, although they were invited to do so. The Meeting approved the use of the old formula and the grant amounts recommended by the subcommittee.

Christmas Breakfast: The planning of the Christmas Breakfast came up at the recent clerks' meeting. The past planners of the breakfast are ready to be relieved of this responsibility. The clerks will bring a proposal for an ad hoc breakfast committee to June's meeting for business.

Announcements: Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting will be on Sunday, June 3, at Green Street Meeting.

The meeting closed with silent worship, in which the reflections of the opening query and some of the day's business returned in prayer. One Friend prayed that the building explorations might be an adventure the Meeting experiences together, rather than an experience that divides us into opposing camps. Another prayed for Quaker teachers and other teachers wanting to bring a vision of peace to public schools, and for the teachers, students, and administrators in Friends schools. The Meeting also held in the Light Mary Lou Finch, approaching the end of her first year of teaching in public school; and Tom Hoopes, PYM staff member, and his wife Beth Castiglione.

Respectfully submitted,

Amey Hutchins, recording clerk

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting
Minutes of Monthly Meeting for Business held 17 June 2007

Philip Jones clerked the meeting for business, at which 39 Friends were present. The meeting began with worship and reading of the query on equality. The query elicited several reflections from Friends, including one Friend's realization that equality extends to children and the need to treat children with the same respect that we treat adults; the observation that there are two other sources of prejudice in Friends meetings, based on education and social status; and a concern about the difficulty of identifying and rooting out implicit racism.

Review of Minutes: Minutes were reviewed and accepted from April 15, April 29, and May 20, with two corrections. On the April 15 minutes, the word "emptying" on page 3 paragraph 3 was changed to "minimizing the importance of." On the May 20 minutes it was noted the person's name recommended for FCNL representative was Kathy Miller, with a "K" and not a "C."

Care and Counsel: Nell Kahil spoke as a member of Ellen Deacon's membership clearness committee, which also included Betty Hartzell and Sarah Whitman, and, after relating some of Ellen's faith journey, recommended membership for Ellen. This was the first reading of this request.

Worship and Ministry: Jude Brandt, clerk, made several remarks about the ongoing work of the committee. First, the guest book, which was moved into the meeting room earlier in the spring in order to relieve traffic problems in the gathering room, will be moved back into the gathering room after several Friends expressed concern. Second, Worship and Ministry is feeling a bit short-handed for the size of the meeting, and is thinking about asking Friends who have been on the committee in the last five years to help out with discrete tasks, such as serving on clearness committees. Third, the committee has started several small groups to work on making activities during rise of meeting more productive and worshipful; develop with the safety committee procedures to handle emergencies and inappropriate behavior in meeting; and encouraging Friends to participate in a spiritual formation program sponsored by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Fourth, there will be no midweek meeting for worship during the summer due to the recently started family dinners on Wednesday nights. Fifth, Jude noted some of the recent activities of the committee, including working on clearness committees and hosting meetings for worship around the building process. Finally, the committee will be hosting a meeting on Tuesday evening, July 17, called "Speaking out of the Silence."

One Friend, responding to the idea of drawing on former members of the committee for clearness committees, mentioned that Care and Counsel has generated a list of people willing to serve on clearness committees, and suggested that the list be shared with Worship and Ministry.

Traveling Letter: The Meeting approved Jorge Arauz's request for a letter of introduction for his trip to visit Friends in Bolivia.

Building Process

Client Committee: John Gallery reported that at the last meeting of the client committee, its members felt that there were too many unresolved design issues that required more information about how much money we could raise. It became clear to the committee that it was not appropriate at this time to ask for refinements from the design team. Therefore they have told the architects put any design work on hold until September.

John reported that the Client Committee forwarded to the Finance Committee an estimate of costs per square foot for the building of between \$200 - \$300, with \$300 representing the cost if no corners were cut. He noted that the Finance Committee took the higher number for its own estimates.

Finance Committee: Dan Evans presented the Finance Committee's working estimate of building costs. They came up with a total cost of \$4.1 million as a no-corners-cut cost. This number broke down to \$75,000 for furniture, \$250,000 for architects fees, and \$3,775,000 for actual construction costs, including allowances for higher construction costs in the future. The committee also added \$150,000 for fundraising costs and an additional 5% allowance for higher construction costs, bringing the total building cost to \$4.4 million. The Finance Committee also recommended keeping any mortgage on the project to \$800,000, a number which the committee felt was the maximum that the meeting could absorb into its annual budgets.

Fundraising Committee: Jeff Perkins began by talking about the building process as a journey, and referred to his own comments back at the December 10, 2006, called business meeting. Using the inputs developed by the other committees, he described what is becoming a clearer picture of the fundraising needs for the new building. With working numbers now for the building cost, meeting resources, and financing, the fundraising committee now has a number to present to the fundraising consultants to test in the feasibility study they will conduct this summer. Below is the diagram that Jeff presented:

Cost	\$4.4 Million
Fundraising	\$2.84 Million
Meeting Resources	\$760,000 (Building \$400K, ½ of Yarnall Funds \$180K, Net Gifts for Building, \$180K)
Financing	\$800,000
Net	\$0

Jeff noted that in order to meet the payments for an \$800,000 mortgage, giving by members and attenders would have to increase by 40%, given the current numbers. He noted also that if overall attendance were to go up in the future that the level of giving per person would go down from that 40% increase.

There was much discussion about this presentation. One Friend suggested that the Finance Committee look at alternative sources of mortgages, including the

Reinvestment Fund and the Quaker Meeting House Fund, because these funds may offer lower interest than banks will. It was also suggested that grants might be available to support green construction projects. One Friend asked about a \$1 Million gift for the project, and why it has not been discussed with the meeting or included in fundraising estimates. Several Friends spoke to this concern, suggesting that it was not yet appropriate to consider that gift a done deal.

One Friend spoke about the need to realize how many people outside of the Meeting are excited about this project. This Friend noted how the new Live Oak Meeting in Houston has had a profound effect on its community; how a new meetinghouse would be an expression of Quakerism opening itself up to the larger community; and how many people will be excited about building a green meetinghouse, as evidenced by excitement over the recent renovations at 1515 Cherry Street. This Friend was also concerned that the Finance Committee was using very conservative numbers in their cost estimate, noting that the \$400K figure for the worth of the current meeting house is based on an appraisal from four years ago, and that prices have increased substantially since then.

It was also mentioned that Live Oak Meeting generates a good stream of revenue from renting the meeting space.

One Friend raised the issue of how to handle financing given that often gifts come in over several years. Thomas Taylor, on behalf of the Fundraising Committee, noted that discussions with bankers have included the possibility of large initial lines of credit to handle immediate financing, with the longer term mortgage established once all the gifts are received.

Fundraising Consultants: Ted Swenson and Jennifer Shropshire presented what they will do in the Feasibility Study. They will go out into the community and talk to 30-40 individuals and institutions, both in the Meeting and in the region. They will return a two-part report. The first part will present, anonymously, feedback on the project from their interviews. The second part will present recommendations in terms of resources by constituent group and a leadership and management approach for a fundraising campaign.

Several Friends had questions and comments about the presentation. There was some discussion about what numbers are best to present to potential donors. One Friend asked if it is better to present high numbers or low numbers. Ted answered that it is best to present numbers that accurately represent your institution and its values. Another Friend mentioned that the meeting has already spent about \$600,000 on the building project already, and wondered if that number should be factored into the overall budget to represent the Meeting's commitment to the building project. Another Friend asked whether it would be better to present to donors a fundraising goal that does not factor in a mortgage and see how much we could raise. Another Friend asked if the consultants would follow up on leads generated through the interviews they would be doing. Ted responded that part of the interview process would include asking for names of other people who may be interested in the process, and that the consultants, in consultation with the Fundraising Committee, would follow up on appropriate leads (or at least pass promising names on to the committee).

Some Friends expressed more general concern about the direction of the building project. One Friend asked if the consultants and Fundraising Committee would be willing to look into the possibility of fundraising to raise the funds needed to stay in the current meetinghouse long term. Jeff answered that it had already been decided against this approach, as the fundraising consultants felt it would be too confusing to approach potential donors with two contradictory plans at the same time. Another Friend expressed concern that the building project is a privilege of the privileged, and, reflecting on the query on equality, noted that many people without the same level of privilege would have to look at their needs in a very different way.

There followed a significant period of discussion about the status of the building project. One Friend expressed his personal belief that it was the sense of the Meeting to build on the new property, while another Friend felt that the Meeting has not made such a decision. One Friend noted that while she understands the desire to stay in the current building, she feels frustration in hearing continued reservations about the building process after serving on a number of committees over the last ten years, all of which have concluded that it would be too expensive and otherwise impractical to stay.

Another Friend noted that he had read back over the minutes of past business meetings recently, and confirmed that in June 2005, it was agreed at the business meeting that, since it would be impossible to both plan on building and staying put at the same time, the meeting would go ahead to explore the idea of building on the lower lot.

The clerk's summary of the sense of the meeting was that though there are doubts, the Meeting needs to move ahead on the fundraising feasibility study using the numbers presented by the Fundraising committee. The meeting accepted the clerk's formulation of the sense of the meeting. The clerk also noted that there were several items on the agenda that had not yet been discussed, and announced that because there are no more scheduled business meetings over the summer there would be a called meeting for business on Sunday, June 24, to finish the rest of the agenda.

A Friend pointed out that the Meeting had just reached a significant turning point, and asked that we "sit with that" for some time. The meeting closed with several minutes of silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,

John Nordlof, acting recording clerk

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting Called Meeting for Business, 24 June 2007

This meeting was called to complete the agenda for the June meeting for business, begun on 17 June 2007. Philip Jones clerked the meeting; Nell Kahil substituted as recording clerk. Twenty-six Friends attended the meeting.

Community Activities: Carla White, representing Hospitality Committee, reported the group's plan to observe "fifth Sundays" – the four or so times a year when a month's calendar contains five Sundays – for potluck lunches after the rise of meeting. The first such opportunity is on Sunday, 29 July, 2007. In discussion of this proposal, one Friend suggested that different groups within the Meeting might each want to develop a theme for one of these gatherings. Carla also mentioned that 30 December, 2007, is a fifth Sunday, and the Meeting might want to entertain the idea of observing our Christmas breakfast on that day, as a more informal potluck.

Christmas Breakfast: The Lesnick-Schodt household, which has so faithfully overseen Christmas Breakfast for the past several years, has informed the Meeting that they are retiring from this ministry. The need for some group to take responsibility for the event was laid before the Meeting; Sarah Whitman, who has worked with the middle school FDS group this year, suggested that she would be willing to work with Carla White, who is teaching middle school in the coming year, to develop Christmas Breakfast as an activity of the middle schoolers. One Friend commented that in years long past, the fare for this event was simpler than it has become of late; Sarah assured us that the middle schoolers' menu would be on the simple side, with an emphasis on the fellowship involved.

Lunch for women: Sarah Whitman is organizing an after-meeting lunch for women on Sunday, 22 July, at Karen Cromley's house. She hopes to organize other women's activities as well.

Quarterly Meeting: George Garrettson delivered Phil Anthony's report from the most recent Quarterly Meeting, which was held at Green Street Monthly Meeting. Barbara Wybar of Germantown Meeting described her work establishing a vocational school in Uganda. Emma Chubb of Friends Neighborhood Guild, also discussed the reorganized Friends Workcamps Program, now under the aegis of the Guild. They have held four very different workcamps, and encourage monthly meetings to consider participating in one.

George also reported that there was discussion of a minute from Arch Street Meetinghouse that expressed concern over communications among various constituencies at the meetinghouse. The minute needs to come to our own monthly meeting, ideally in September so that we can carry a report back to the next quarterly meeting, in October.

Outreach exercise: Christine Oliger and Christie Duncan-Tessmer led Friends in a short exercise asking us to think about the ways that newcomers are welcomed. We indicated as they read through a list of actions which ones we regularly performed, only sometimes did, or never did; actions included speaking to visitors at the rise of meeting, inviting them to Friendly 8s, etc. Their point was to remind Friends of the importance to visitors of friendly gestures on the part of meeting regulars (attenders and members alike).

Announcements: Lyle Jenks, meeting secretary, emphasized the importance of Friends' support for the Yearly Meeting, not just financially but by involvement in residential sessions, and educating ourselves about weighty issues that are coming before the yearly meeting at those sessions. Lyle mentioned that the annual fund goal had been met.

The meeting closed with a brief period of silent worship.

These minutes are based on Nell Kahil's notes.

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting

Monthly Meeting for Business

16 September 2007

Philip Jones clerked the beginning of the meeting for business, at which 33 Friends were present. The meeting began with a period of worship and reading of the outreach section of the query on the ministry of outreach. The query elicited several reflections from Friends, including expressions of gratitude for the newcomers who continue to be drawn to Chestnut Hill Meeting; of concern over whether we are too inwardly-focused on our own busy Meeting; of the challenges of reaching out to those who are not present (a homebound member, residents of retirement communities), to those we don't understand, and to each other; and of desires to greet visitors not out of obligation but in a fully present way.

Thanks from PYM: The clerk relayed the thanks of Arthur Larrabee, General Secretary of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, to CHMM for sharing Lyle Jenks's time while he serves as interim assistant to the general secretary. A search is under way to fill the position permanently.

Review of Minutes: The minutes of the meeting for business on 17 June did not record that CHMM approved Jorge Arauz's request for a letter of introduction for his trip to visit Friends in Bolivia. The minutes were approved as amended, with thanks to John Nordlof and Nell Kahil for acting as recording clerks in June.

Personnel Committee: The clerk noted that the Personnel Committee was reporting on their continuing work to develop a war tax resistance policy and not asking for a decision at this time. Eileen Flanagan gave the report, beginning by describing the current status of this issue. CHMM has sent a letter to the IRS stating that Lyle's income is below the level at which a levy can be applied to his wages. This means that the Meeting is not under a threat of litigation or under time pressure, but we are under the weight of a concern. Eileen noted that the Personnel Committee wanted general feedback on the draft of a policy that had been circulated and particularly input on what more the community needs, such as more background information or more opportunities to grapple with the issues (she invited Friends to send specific wording suggestions directly to the Personnel Committee). She explained that the Personnel Committee had developed the draft after reviewing the policies of other Quaker organizations. As examples of two different positions in the spectrum of policy, PYM takes a very strong position and refuses to levy the wages of employees who are war tax resisters, while FCNL takes a more conservative position and is willing to refuse to levy if the employee agrees to bear all financial responsibility for the consequences. The Personnel Committee felt that CHMM has not engaged enough with the issues to take the strong position but still respects Lyle's witness and wishes to support him, and they drafted a possible CHMM policy from that perspective.

Friends had a number of concerns. Several suggested that the clerk and the Personnel Committee continue conversations with those at PYM who are involved with the policy there, such as the general secretary and staff who work on financial and legal matters. Other Friends focused on the Meeting's clearness: how much would the Meeting be involved in an employee's decisions about handling money not paid in taxes? does the policy, which depends on the employee asking the Meeting not to honor the levy give the Meeting an easy way out? is the Meeting prepared to respond to a called witness, like a call to ministry? how will the Meeting support an individual witness without taking it up as a corporate testimony? Eileen noted several references in the policy to a clearness process, but also recognized the concern about that clearness being primarily on the part of the employee. Another Friend expressed a desire for the policy to show more of its spiritual grounding by opening with some recognition of the reasons behind the policy

and leaving room for continuing revelation by closing with an acknowledgment that the policy is the result of our best discernment at present.

Several Friends asked for the Personnel Committee to provide more information, such as what the law is and where government regulations may conflict with our testimonies. Eileen summarized the message of Meeting for Business as telling the Personnel Committee not to drop the matter and not to rush it.

At the conclusion of this matter, Eileen took Phil's place as clerk for the remainder of Meeting for Business because Phil had an obligation elsewhere.

Care & Counsel: Meg Mitchell, clerk, brought forward the second reading of Ellen Deacon's request for membership, and Friends enthusiastically approved. Ruth Pauly and Carla White volunteered to be Ellen's welcoming committee.

Meg also reported that Ernest Cuff has applied for membership. Care & Counsel proposed Mickey Abraham, Dan Evans, and Phil Lord to serve on the clearness committee for Ernie, and the Meeting approved.

Worship & Ministry: Before the committee report, Eileen Flanagan reported that Jude Brandt has stepped down from the co-clerkship of Worship & Ministry and resigned from the committee.

Ruth Pauly, clerk of Worship & Ministry, announced that early meeting for worship is resuming, 9-10:15 a.m. on Sundays. She mentioned that the early meeting has met the needs of First Day School teachers, those who seek a smaller or quieter meeting for worship, and those who seek opportunities for extended worship.

Worship & Ministry will hold a meeting retreat on vocal ministry on Saturday 6 October, 9:30-noon, followed by a brown bag lunch. The morning will include worship, small group discussion, and large group discussion.

There are a few members of CHMM who are in the early stages of seeking minutes of religious service. Ruth asked the community to review the policy on minutes of religious service approved by CHMM in 2004. Copies were available in meeting for business and Friends may also access the policy through our website. Ruth invited Carolyn Schodt to give some background and answer questions as someone who has gone through this process. Friends were not clear on the reason for discussing this issue. Because the CHMM policy calls for the formation of clearness committees to test the Meeting's clearness in response to requests for minutes of religious service, one reason is to prepare the Meeting, after an interval without requests, to respond to new requests. Discussion will continue as requests come forward.

Forum Committee: Betty Hartzell announced that after consulting with Nominating Committee, Forum Committee has brought on two new members, Mary Day Kent and Kerry Krieger. The schedule for the fall is set, but the spring schedule is still in progress, and Betty invited anyone with a suggestion for a topic to contact a member of the committee. War tax resistance is a possible topic for January.

Interim Meeting: George Garrettson, CHMM representative, announced that the Arch Street Interpretation and Outreach Working Group has been formalized under the PYM Standing Committee on Support and Outreach, and the volunteer greeters welcome others who have an interest in interpreting the Society of Friends to visitors at the Arch Street Meeting House.

Quarterly Meeting: George Garrettson, CHMM representative, urged Friends to support Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting and its clerk. The next session of quarterly meeting will be on October 28 at Unity Monthly Meeting.

Friends Neighborhood Guild: George Garrettson has served on the Board of Friends Neighborhood Guild for many years and would like to find another Friend to take his place.

Letters of Introduction for Traveling Friends: Jorge Arauz returned the letters of introduction from CHMM that he took with him on his travels this summer. The first was one that CHMM sent with Jorge and Ruth Pauly to the FGC Gathering, where they convened daily extended meeting for worship. The extended meeting had seven faithful attenders and other occasional attenders. Friends who didn't attend expressed appreciation for the grounding and the reminder of God's centrality that the extended meeting gave to the Gathering. The letter that Jorge returned had endorsements on it from Marian Beans, presiding clerk; Liz Oppenheimer, clerk of the Workshop Committee; and Lynn Kirley, clerk of the FGC Worship Committee.

Jorge also returned the letter of introduction that he took when traveling among Friends in Bolivia, now covered with a number of endorsements from Bolivian Friends. He offered two workshops as an AVP facilitator while in Bolivia and described a conversation with a man who found an understanding of AVP's transforming power in Ephesians. He also reflected on the blessing of interacting with poor Quakers who face great hardship daily but still make their relationship with God central.

Announcements & Closing: Lyle Jenks, meeting secretary, reported that more and more requests to use the meetinghouse are coming in from various community groups. He reminded Friends that it is necessary to check with him when planning CHMM events at the meetinghouse. He will be consulting with Property Committee about building use and encouraged us all to be thinking about right use of resources and right balance of community and Meeting use.

Lyle also made announcements of a number of upcoming events:

29 September: opening and dedication of visitors center at Pennsbury Manor; Peace Fair at Buckingham Friends Meeting; opening of the new exhibition "American Friendship: Herbert Hoover and Poland" at Arch Street Meeting House.

13-20 October: events at the Arch Street Meeting House celebrating the 325th anniversary of William Penn's founding of Pennsylvania.

Information on various topics is available at the meetinghouse:

Nonviolent Peace Force invites people to "work a day for peace" and give one day's salary to their efforts to launch nonpartisan unarmed peace forces composed of trained civilians.

The School of the Spirit and Pendle Hill are co-sponsoring a program in 2008-2009 called The Way of Ministry for Friends who have a call to ministry. There will be an exploratory day for interested Friends at Gwynedd Meeting on 17 November 2007. Contact Marcelle Martin or Laura Melly for more information.

Information is available on Quaker schools and their open houses.

Friends expressed their gratitude to Mickey Abraham for providing lunch and Donna Kolaetis for providing child care during meeting for business, and the meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Amey Hutchins, recording clerk

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting
Monthly Meeting for Business
21 October 2007

Philip Jones clerked the meeting for business, at which 39 Friends were present, including 4 visitors from other Meetings. The meeting began with a period of worship and reading of the query on stewardship of the environment. Friends offered reflections on the individual choices we make and gratitude for the example of members of our community; another Friend asked how individuals can broaden the witness of their choices without being judgmental and how we can keep learning and changing in order to come into harmony with the world and with God.

Building Project: Wendy Kane of Newtown Meeting, Connie Lezenby of Gwynedd Meeting, and David Philips of Fallsington Meeting described completed building projects at their respective meetings. Although the projects differed, each of those projects consisted of additions to meetinghouses for gathering rooms, classrooms, bathrooms and kitchens, and improved accessibility, but not rooms for meeting for worship. The projects for Newtown Meeting and Gwynedd Meeting also included new entrance or lobby areas for those meetinghouses. All three visitors felt that the building projects had had positive outcomes although discernment had taken a long time, and that they were experiencing increased activity internally as well as engaging more with their communities following the building projects. Connie added that the building project had led to a sense of empowerment, with people taking ownership and starting new activities.

The first question in a period of discussion was how these meetings had considered environmental issues and the possibility of working within their previous structures. Each of the visitors described the sense of their meetings that it was time to grow, change, or evolve and all agreed that now they were doing things that they might have been able to do in their old buildings but didn't. Gwynedd Meeting did make environmental concerns a priority in their planning and Connie, who was the architect for the project, described ways in which their new arrangement was environmentally superior (they gained insulation and got rid of the mold that had been in a prior addition that was removed). Another Friend asked what most contributed to these positive experiences. Wendy emphasized that everyone was involved constantly and that they had had the time to talk without needing to decide quickly. She noted that one family had left Newtown Meeting because of the building project. David agreed that it had been positive to have everyone involved in lots of small decisions. Mickey Edgerton, who was visiting with Connie from Gwynedd Meeting, added that their Planning Committee included "unlikely people," representing a broad spectrum from their meeting. When another Friend asked how the new spaces spoke for their meetings, all three agreed that their new spaces had a sense of welcome. In addition, Wendy described the Newtown addition as expressing the warmth and energy of her meeting, and Connie saw the Gwynedd addition as valuing history and expressing the talents of its members.

The clerk described Chestnut Hill Meeting's next steps: at the November meeting for business the topic of what we might do with a new building will be on the agenda, and the results of the feasibility study will be presented at a called meeting for business on December 2.

John Gallery has resigned as clerk of the Client Committee but will continue as a member of the committee as he is able. The Client Committee needs a new clerk and a successor for Lisa

DiGiacomo, who has moved out of the area. **Meeting for Business minuted thanks to both John and Lisa** for their hard work.

Care & Counsel: Meg Mitchell, clerk, reported that Mickey Abraham, Dan Evans, and Phil Lord met with Ernest Cuff as a clearness committee following his request for membership. The committee reported that after a search in other faith communities, Ernie has found Chestnut Hill Meeting to be a welcoming community. His own faith is centered on Jesus and the Bible, but he is respectful of other views. The committee noted that Ernie is already participating in a variety of CHMM activities and recommended him to the Meeting for Business. This is the first reading of his request for membership and Meg urged Friends to be sure to meet Ernie in the coming month.

Meg also read a letter from Paul Laskow requesting a transfer to Monthly Meeting of Friends of Philadelphia (Arch Street) but promising to continue to help with the Christmas Breakfast. Friends expressed regret and appreciation for Paul's past presence in meeting for worship and the Meeting community. Care & Counsel will confirm with the Laskow children that they wish to transfer their memberships at the same time and will write the letter of transfer.

Care & Counsel has received a membership request from Kathy Miller. The **Meeting approved** Liz Robinson, Dan Evans, and Karen Cromley to serve as a clearness committee. Mary Day Kent has also submitted a membership request; the **Meeting approved** Nell Kahil, Dylan Steinberg, and Storm Evans to serve as a clearness committee for her. Meg invited Friends who are interested in serving on future membership clearness committees to contact her.

Treasurer: Dan Evans, treasurer, announced that he is beginning the budget process for next year. Committee clerks will soon receive an e-mail. Dona Garrettson, clerk of Finance Committee, added that PYM is asking monthly meetings to set their covenants in November and increase the covenant amounts by 4% over last year's level.

Review of Minutes: The minutes for the September meeting for business were approved as **submitted**.

Worship & Ministry: Ruth Pauly, clerk, reported on the meeting retreat on vocal ministry that took place on October 6. 14 people attended this opportunity to consider how we listen, respond to, and deliver vocal ministry. The participants suggested that Worship & Ministry consider offering something more instructional for newcomers; this need will partly be addressed by the Outreach Committee breakfast on November 4, which will include a discussion on when to speak in meeting for worship.

Laura Melly and Eileen Flanagan, who are requesting minutes of religious service, have each met with clearness committees to test their leadings. The next step in CHMM's process is for the Meeting to name clearness committees to test the Meeting's clearness before bringing the minutes to Meeting for Business. The Meeting approved Milena Hynes, Marcelle Martin, Dylan Steinberg, and Carla White to serve as the Meeting clearness committee for Laura's minute. The Meeting approved Amey Hutchins, Shirley Philips, and Carolyn Schodt to serve as the Meeting clearness committee for Eileen's minute. Dona Garrettson, clerk of Finance Committee, urged the Meeting clearness committees to consider whether the minutes have financial implications. Some Friends had a concern about individuals who are close to those requesting minutes of religious service serving on the Meeting clearness committees considering those minutes. In response, Worship & Ministry committee members explained that each group of names

intentionally included a member of Worship & Ministry, a person familiar with the work described in the minute, and a person who could offer the challenge of questions about the minute or minuting process. The clerk reminded Friends to review the documents about minutes of religious service that are available on the CHMM website.

The clerk reported two appointments to Worship & Ministry on behalf of Nominating Committee: Jeff Perkins has agreed to complete a term ending in 2008 and Ellen Deacon the term ending in 2009. **The Meeting approved these appointments.**

Announcements: Lyle Jenks, meeting secretary, reported on a number of resources and upcoming events, including the arrival of the new Pendle Hill pamphlet *Spirit-Led Eldering* by Marjorie Mears Larrabee; an open house at George School on October 28; events associated with the AFSC Annual Gathering on November 2-3; and the Neighborhood Interfaith Movement's interfaith Thanksgiving service on November 20. Lyle also announced that he is finishing his interim work as assistant to the general secretary at PYM this week.

George Garrettson, who served on the search committee for a new director of Arch Street Meeting House, announced that the position has been offered to Nancy Gibbs, currently the coordinator of visitor services there. He also announced the next session of Quarterly Meeting, October 28 at Unity Meeting in Frankford.

Dion Lerman of Peace and Social Concerns Committee encouraged Friends to participate in the human chain organized by United for Peace and Justice, taking place from 12:30 to 2 p.m. on October 27. P&SC has endorsed the event and taken responsibility for Market Street between 12th and 13th Streets.

War Tax Resistance: The clerk offered time for comments and questions concerning Lyle Jenks's witness and the Personnel Committee's work to develop a policy for CHMM employees who are war tax resisters. Phil noted that the next pamphlet discussion organized by Jorge Arauz will focus on Elaine Crauderueff's pamphlet *War Taxes: Experiences of PYM Quakers*. Jorge added that the pamphlet discussion is postponed because of difficulty in obtaining the pamphlets. There was no further discussion.

Closing: Meeting for business closed with silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Amey Hutchins, recording secretary

**Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting
Monthly Meeting for Business
18 November 2007**

Philip Jones clerked the meeting for business, at which 21 Friends were present. The meeting began with a period of worship and reading of the query on stewardship of resources. Friends offered reflections on how stewardship differs from ownership, in that the resources at our disposal are gifts, not possessions.

Review of Minutes: With the recognition that Nominating Committee does need to find a successor for Lisa DiGiacomo on the Client Committee but will never find a replacement, the minutes for the October meeting for business were **approved as amended**.

Nominating Committee: John Nordlof brought forward the slate of officers, whose terms will begin in January. All those serving in 2007, including Philip Jones, clerk; Eileen Flanagan, assistant clerk; Daniel Evans, treasurer; Amey Hutchins, recording clerk; Roberta Foss, recorder; and George Garretson, assistant recorder, are willing to serve another term. **Meeting approved.**

Religious Education: Johanna Barbati reported that Michael Gibson, who has been heavily involved in the use of the Godly Play storytelling method in religious education in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, will visit CHMM on December 23. He is part of a group that has been developing Godly Play stories for use by Quakers. The story for December 23 is titled "Gifts," and Michael will be the storyteller, using the Quaker-rewritten "Gifts" story. The whole Chestnut Hill Meeting community is invited to join the children in the FDS room at 10:30. It is important for all to arrive on time: Michael will explain the entrance procedure and then all participating will enter. Meeting for Worship will go on as usual at the same time. **Meeting minuted ongoing thanks to the Religious Education Committee for their work.**

Care & Counsel: Meg Mitchell, clerk, gave the second reading of Ernest Cuff's membership application. **Meeting approved.** Jeff Perkins, Phil Anthony, Hollister Knowlton, and Ruth Pauly will welcome Ernie, with Jeff serving as convener.

Meg gave the first reading of Mary Day Kent's membership application. Nell Kahil and Dylan Steinberg served as her membership clearness committee. Her contact with Friends goes back to working with AFSC in the 1970s. She is aware of the responsibilities of a member, having served in the past on a PYM committee and currently serving on CHMM's Forum Committee. Friends noted her regular presence in meeting for worship. Meg encouraged everyone to make an effort to meet and talk with Mary Day Kent in the coming month.

Finance Committee: Thomas Taylor reported that PYM is asking monthly meetings to increase their covenant amounts by 5% over last year's level, and Finance Committee recommended that CHMM do so, which would amount to \$25,390 for PYM's fiscal year 2009 (July 2008-June 2009). This means that our budget for the covenant for 2008 would be \$24,785 (the second half of our 2007-2008 covenant and the first half of our 2008-2009 covenant). The covenant represents a little less than 1/3 of our annual budget. The Finance Committee believes the Meeting will be able to support a higher covenant level because our budget for this year is only slightly higher than last year's actual income, and we have growing numbers of members and attenders. One Friend gave a reminder that Friends will also be asked to contribute individually to PYM's annual appeal. **Meeting approved the 5% increase in the covenant with PYM.**

Worship & Ministry: Ruth Pauly, clerk, reported that the committee at its November meeting reviewed an annual report from Carolyn Schodt of her work in connection with her minute of religious service. Peter Warrington, a member of Carolyn's oversight committee, attended the committee meeting to respond to questions. In the past year, Carolyn has completed a chaplaincy internship and is discerning about continuing with chaplaincy. She continues to meet with families isolated by shame and loss. She has also recently taken up the directorship of the Alternatives to Violence Project at Graterford Prison.

The committee is addressing several other requests for minutes of religious service. Hollister Knowlton has just submitted a request and will be meeting with a clearness committee. The committee to consider CHMM's clearness on Eileen Flanagan's minute has just met and is preparing a report. The clearness committee to consider CHMM's clearness on Laura Melly's minute has not yet met.

Christmas Breakfast: Sarah Whitman reported that the middle school Friends have formed committees to prepare for the Christmas Breakfast. The goal of the event will be for the middle schoolers to embrace this responsibility and learn to work in committees. The food will be simpler than in the past. One Friend asked if Friends could help by bringing food; Sarah responded that this would depend on the discernment of the middle schoolers. In response to a question about whether the breakfast would be a fundraiser as in the past, Sarah expressed her hope that for this simpler event, a request for donations would cover costs. Sarah asked the Meeting for Business to set the date. **Meeting decided to hold the breakfast on December 16 and to extend a special invitation to the regular Blue Moon (5th Sunday) potluck on December 30 to college students who are home on vacation.**

Quarterly Meeting: Phil Anthony reported on the most recent session of Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting, held on October 28 at Unity Meeting in Frankford, the oldest active meetinghouse in Philadelphia. The finances of the Quarter are on a solid footing. Regarding a proposal that Unity and Frankford Meetings join, the Quarter urged the two Meetings to take this proposal back for seasoning. Phil encouraged our Meeting to support these Meetings with prayer. The Quarter may also help through visitation and listening, and PYM can offer resources at the request of monthly or quarterly meetings. One Friend asked how we might care for the other meetings in the Quarter, perhaps by forming a group to visit the other meetings. Friends suggested that a clearness process was necessary before taking up such a concern and that Worship & Ministry might help. Another Friend lifted up the possibility of the First Day School making a field trip to Unity Meeting when it studies the Underground Railroad this year. The next session of Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting will be at Germantown Friends Meeting on February 24.

Called Meeting for Business: The Fundraising Committee has received a draft of the feasibility report from the consultants; **there will be a called meeting for business after meeting for worship on December 2.** The timing of the called meeting will be announced after the clerk consults with Mickey Abraham and Hospitality Committee. The Fundraising Committee will present the report, give some context for its results, and answer questions, but the Meeting will not be asked to approve the report at this meeting. The clerk will ask the committee if the report can be distributed in advance so that Friends unable to attend the called meeting may still participate.

Potential Sharing of a New Building: At the October meeting for business the clerk had expected that the November meeting for business would include a discussion about other possible uses of a new meetinghouse and other groups that might share it with us. One group especially eager to investigate this possibility had hoped to send representatives to meeting for business, but they were unable to attend. The potential space-sharers would not have been limited to the group attending the meeting and the discussion would not have been for making decisions, but to begin thinking about this subject, because this will be an early decision that will need to be made if the meetinghouse project goes ahead.

War Tax Resistance: The clerk reported that Elaine Crauderueff's pamphlet *War Taxes: Experiences of PYM Quakers* is now available for \$4 and the discussion is scheduled for Monday, December 10. Other materials are available in the gathering room in response to the Meeting's request for more information, including the *Handbook on Military Taxes and Conscience* (1988). The January forum will be devoted to this topic. The Personnel Committee is continuing to work on a policy but will not meet again until after the pamphlet discussion.

Announcements: Lyle Jenks, meeting secretary, reported that CHMM's end-of-year contributions to Quaker organizations are going out and the budget reminder letter for contributions from members and attenders to CHMM will also go out this week. He relayed thanks from a member of London Grove Meeting for the use of our meetinghouse for spiritual direction meetings and from Annette Benert of Lehigh Valley Meeting for the use of our meetinghouse on Saturday mornings by PYM's Substance Abuse Education Project. He announced that Donald Kraybill, author of *Amish Grace*, would be speaking at the Germantown Mennonite Church later in the day and that the NIM Interfaith Thanksgiving service would be at 7:30 on Tuesday, November 20, at Mt. Airy Presbyterian.

Closing: Meeting for business closed with worship, with particular attention to holding the Garrettsons in the Light while they face family health issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Amey Hutchins, recording secretary

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting December 2, 2007 Called Meeting Summary

Philip Jones, clerk, began with a brief period of silent worship. 38 members and attenders were present. The clerk reviewed the agenda, and recapped how we have arrived where we now are. In the late spring of 2007, the Meeting commissioned Edward F. Swenson & Associates to conduct a feasibility study to assess our capacity to raise money for a new meetinghouse. The executive summary of the 50-page report was sent to the CHFMs e-mail list on 28 November.

Ted Swenson and Jennifer Shropshire presented a summary of their report. Over the summer and fall, they interviewed people, 12 from within the CHFMs community and 17 from outside. They were originally asked if CHFMs could raise \$3.7 million; they recommend that we raise \$3 million. They felt that half of that money could be raised from within the CHFMs community, about \$1.2 million from external sources, small amounts from Quaker funds and \$200,000 from the larger community of Friends.

The study saw as strengths the following factors:

- Support for the design of the new meetinghouse
- A sense that the time is right for the meeting to build
- James Turrell's involvement in the design
- The plan for public access to the art installation
- The meeting community's extensive network of connections in the larger community

Our challenges are:

- Low visibility of the Meeting: non-Quakers don't know that we are here.
- How our program carries out our beliefs and values in the community is not always apparent.
- The size of external gifts to the campaign seems related to potential donors' personal experience with Turrell.
- Most of those surveyed felt that our religious nature of our community would not be an obstacle to giving; in the foundation world, however, it is.
- The importance to outside donors of full participation from our own community
- Need for campaign leadership and support to be visible.

To proceed, the Meeting must empower a group to do the work of leading this effort. We need to:

- Identify our prospects in the community and in CHFMs, and cultivate these potential donors.
- Refine our statement of our programming needs.
- Clarify what we will do differently in our new space and how we will bring this message to the public.

Fundraising Committee: Diane Dunning and Jon Landau then reported for the Fundraising Committee. Diane elaborated on the challenges to our community; she stressed the importance of 100% participation, in willingness to give and in participation on all levels. We will start with one-on-one

solicitation. The Meeting has many talented people whose skills we will call on to develop creative ways to raise money; she mentioned art shows and bake sales as examples of activities that can involve people at all levels. All can help; all can give.

In the external community we need to work with potential partners like the Morris Arboretum, or Chestnut Hill College. We need to work with the Philadelphia arts community to organize a Turrell exhibit in Philadelphia, as well as visits with Turrell nearby or to the crater in Arizona. We will need to help the arts community understand how Turrell's work relates to the CHFM community. It is an opportunity to show what and who we are.

Jon added that by working on the new meetinghouse we are giving back to the community of Friends. Our current meetinghouse was given to us by Friends in the past. It is our turn to give to Friends in the future.

We need to work on minimizing the amount, currently about \$660,000, that would need to be financed by assuming debt. The more we can raise towards the \$3 million lowers the burden on the future CHFM community.

We need to seize the moment and use 2008 to keep things rolling. Interest in Turrell is high, as is building "green"; conversely, building costs are rising, so we need to use the momentum we have to get going.

Fundraising is a way to build community, there are lots of ways to do this, many of which give us opportunities for great outreach. At the same time, we must maintain our programs while doing fundraising, so that our fundraising activities complement the program.

The larger Quaker community needs to be asked for support and we need to work to reach them. This meetinghouse is important to all Quakers in the Philadelphia area. It is the only "green" meetinghouse being built in the country at this time. This project will be a challenge to us administratively and organizationally. We need to learn to be comfortable about asking for money.

Discussion

Friends expressed the following reactions and concerns:

- We need to keep the focus on our life as a spiritual community.
- Would there be paid administrative staff and paid advisors for this process? Ted Swenson said that successful campaigns of this sort usually employ someone to organize the administrative aspects of the process. It is also common to engage consultants to guide the progress of the process.
- We need to clarify what will be transformed or enhanced in the new building.
- We need to continue to focus on our message of openness, tolerance and peace.
- A question was asked as to Turrell's commitment to the project beyond the donation of his time, fees and artwork. The consultants used a figure of \$500,000 as the value of his additional pledge.
- A question was asked about the sample of those interviewed: were they chosen to be representative of the financial standing of our meeting community? The list of people was drawn up by the Fundraising Committee, and was oriented towards those whose gifts might be sizable.

Client Committee Update: Signe Wilkinson reported on their recent work. She noted that they had slowed down over the summer after a busy fall and spring, to wait for results of the feasibility study. They have, however, discussed how to improve the design, focusing on the centrality of the worship room as the core of the project. Mr. Turrell has given additional thought to some different design concepts, among them integrating his contribution with the main building. He is continuing to refine the plan and is eager to move forward.

Further discussion and questions:

- We need to clarify what body will be making day-to-day decisions, if the Meeting decides to go ahead.
- How much of the money do we need to have committed before we could break ground? Decisions need to be worked out relating to timing. Ted Swenson said a general rule of thumb is to have 88% of the total cost in hand before beginning construction.
- We need to develop a capital budget for this project; what we are planning to spend in 2008? We currently have about \$220,000 to \$240,000 in hand with which we could start a capital campaign and move forward on the design. The estimated cost for the capital campaign is about \$200,000.
- Would a decision to build mean that we would lose the Yarnall Fund income (which currently funds our Peace and Social Concerns and scholarship outlays)? One Friend from the Finance Committee noted that that group had looked at documents from the time when the Yarnall funds were given, and it seemed clear to them that the donor's intent included use of some or all of the money for a building. We need to be clear how such a project will affect our operating budget.

One Friend requested that Worship and Ministry committee resume the meetings for worship to consider the new meetinghouse. Other Friends noted that we need to pay attention to one another, as we seek unity of support; if we undertake this project we need to pay attention to our connection to the Light, and to our meeting family.

Next steps

A summary of this meeting [this document] will be circulated. Friends were urged to think about what kinds of additional information they needed to discern our way forward, and to communicate those needs to the clerk and others involved in the process so that that information can be shared before the January business meeting. While approval was not requested for the feasibility study, it is simply a report that is available to members of the meeting community. (Those wishing a copy of the entire report can request one from Jon Landau. We won't place it on the Web site because it contains some sensitive information about potential donors.)

Our January meeting for business will center on our decision whether to proceed with this project.

Philip Jones, clerk

Based on extensive notes by Christine Olinger