

# MINUTES AND QUERIES

March 2015

A note from the editors:

Due to concerns expressed about the newsletter, we are collecting comments and input about the presence, position and utility of the newsletter in our Meeting.

While we are collecting this information, we are simply providing a document containing the Queries and Minutes of the Meeting for Worship for Business.

- Deryn Verity and Marianne Stevens

## QUERIES

### Baltimore Yearly Meeting

#### *The Meeting Community*

Are love and harmony within the Meeting community fostered by a spirit of open sharing? Do you endeavor to widen your circle of friendships within the Meeting, seeking to know persons of all ages and at all stages of the spiritual journey?

Does the Meeting provide for the spiritual refreshment of all members and attenders? Do Friends provide spiritual and practical care for the elderly, the lonely, and others with special needs?

## Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

### *Spiritual Nurture, Ministry, and Religious Education*

Does our Meeting encourage the ministry of both word and deed? How does our Meeting recognize, develop, and nurture the gifts of our members and attenders of all ages?

Does our Meeting prepare all its members and children for worship and for a way of life consistent with the principles of the Religious Society of Friends? How do we teach about Quaker practices in business and worship and their importance to the functioning of our Meeting community?

In what ways do we support each other in order to seek God's will and act upon our understanding of truth? Is there opportunity in our Meeting to share the excitement of religious discovery and the possibility of religious transformation?

Does our Meeting provide opportunities for all in the Meeting to learn about:

- the Inner Light, the living Christ within, the Bible, the writings of Friends, our Christian heritage, other religious traditions and their respective roles in the history and formation of Friends' principles?

- the common testimonies Friends declare?
- the variety of expression Quaker faith takes today?

Do I maintain as part of my personal and family life those daily practices that focus on continued spiritual growth, with disciplined worship, inward retirement, and communion with the divine spirit?

Do I frequently read the Bible and other religious literature, including the records of the lives and experiences of Friends? Do I take the time to explore these resources with others, and likewise encourage my children?

Do I share my own faith and spiritual journey, and encourage such sharing within my family?

## **Minutes for Meeting for Worship for Business**

February 1, 2015

The meeting began with silent worship. The clerk read the queries for meeting for business from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. There were no responses. The clerk reviewed the agenda.

**Peace and Social Action: Committee of the whole:** The clerk reported that Johanna Jackson will be the liaison with Baltimore Yearly Meeting committee on Unity with Nature. She will

contact Campbell to serve with her on a committee from our meeting. Others are welcome to join the committee. Campbell Plowden reported on Mujaddid Rahim Muhammad, who Campbell met in McKean federal prison through AVP workshops. Mujaddid has been denied parole after serving his federal sentence. Campbell has been visiting Mujaddid and he would like to continue visiting him in Ohio over the next year. Campbell is asking the meeting for financial support to pay for gas and food expenses for four visits over the year. Campbell has hospitality from local Quakers for these visits. He is also requesting a \$50.00 amazon.com gift card that Mujaddid could use to buy books because his books were taken from him when he was moved from the last prison. Campbell requested the funds from finance committee. Finance committee thought the decision should be made by either worship and ministry committee, or meeting for worship for business. A lengthy discussion ensued. One Friend voiced concern about the money coming from the current operating budget. It was suggested that the money could come from the Diane Spanier fund or the Meyers fund. There is currently \$4,000.00 in the Spanier fund and \$13,000.00 in the Meyers fund. While one Friend stated that endorsement from a committee is important, another Friend considered that this ministry would come under peace and social action committee. One Friend reminded the meeting that over the past year the meeting has voiced support for doing more personal ministry. Included in the discussion was a concern about whether these kinds of requests for money should be considered when the person requesting the funds (or the person's spouse) is in the room. It was suggested that Campbell could go through the process to be a released minister to do this work. Unity was not found and the clerk asked for silent

worship. It was suggested that the expenses for the first of Campbell's visits be provided to Campbell; that the money be taken from the operational funds until it can be taken out of the Diane Spanier fund; and that the full issue be taken up in the future. Meeting for worship for business approved these three suggestions.

Meeting approved the following minute of support: *State College Friends Meeting would like to affirm their support and appreciation for Campbell Plowden's long term work and ministry to support peace and social justice in the prison system.*

**Worship and Ministry Committee:** Clerk Margy Frysinger reported. Members of Worship and Ministry have been working on follow-up workshops to the one held in the fall. The first one will be held on February 15<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 2:30. It is called "Bringing Our Differences into the Light: Moving Forward." This is an opportunity for the meeting to continue our quest for clarity in understanding one another's viewpoints. All are welcome—you don't need to have participated in the first workshop to attend. Some additional information is in the Bulletin. If you have questions please talk with Ann Sidone, Lynne Grutzeck, or Dana Mitra.

Gary Fosmire and Louise Sandmeyer are clerks of Nominating Committee but the Committee needed more members. Worship and Ministry are asking for approval for Loretta Jeffreys, Johanna Jackson, and Renee Crauder to be on Nominating Committee. Meeting for worship for business approved the three new members of nominating.

**Finance Committee:** Clerk Kerry Wiessmann reported. Deborah Austin allocated \$23,000.00 to State College Friends

Meeting in her will. It will be deposited into our checking account. There will be a discussion in the future about how to use these funds. Philadelphia Yearly Meeting is offering a credit card service for donations. Meeting for worship for business approved Kerry registering for this service. Last year there were 67 contributions to meeting totaling \$67,000.00. These are the donations that can be tracked. Finance committee has invited Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's clerk of finance committee to meet with them. All are invited to the meeting; you don't have to be a member of finance committee to attend.

**Treasurer's report:** Treasurer Connie Wheeler reported. The 2014 balance sheet is now complete. The Norma White fund is specified for serving people with disabilities. The Mook fund and the Myers fund are unencumbered. The payment to the pianist comes from worship and ministry funds. There are no major changes in the 2015 budget. One change in the budget for 2015 is that Lawrence Jones is now an employee of the meeting. Another change is that \$250.00 has been added to the peace and social action budget. The budget for 2015 was approved with thanks. The meeting also approved that Connie Wheeler, Kerry Wiessmann and Kim Kelmor are authorized signers for our investment house.

**Religious Education:** Clerk Sam Findley reported. Sam reported on the planning for the RE winter retreat. Sam reported that attendance is down in religious education and the children who do come do not attend regularly. He asks that meeting as a whole begin thinking about outreach to young families and how to invigorate attendance. The children who attend come from four families. There are usually 6 children and 12 is the

maximum. It is difficult to maintain a critical mass that makes it a good experience for the children.

**Buildings and Grounds:** Clerk Larry Greenleaf reported. The committee met January 12, 2015. Attending were Kathy Drapco Klein, Kersey Bradley, Lance Lehman, Jim Adams, David Jeffreys, Gary Fosmire, Michael Grutzeck and Larry Greenleaf. Meetings began and ended with a moment of silence. The committee had asked Jason Grotini of Envinity to attend. Envinity is one of the two companies that Buildings and Grounds is considering to supply the solar electricity generation for the Meetinghouse. (Sun Directed is the other). Envinity is a State College based construction company that sells and installs photovoltaic panels as part of its business. They have installed over 600 kilowatts. Our system would be 18 kilowatts. Mr. Grotini explained his company's proposal to provide 100% of our current electrical needs using 54 Suniva PV panels mounted on the front southeast facing roof of the Education wing. The system would be tied to the "grid". The cost of the system is \$46,887. The recovery of this cost includes a savings of \$2,001 per year in electric energy savings at \$0.11 per kwh, energy rate inflation average of 5% per year, 18 SREC per year at the current rate of \$40 per credit (\$720 per year). This means a 6% rate of return or a payback period of 14.5 years. The system is warranted to provide at least 80% of its original production at the end of 25 years. The committee did not approve the proposal at the time of the meeting.

On another matter, the committee has received a proposal from Gil Kelmoron for the basement/mold remediation project. The next Buildings and Grounds meeting will be held Monday, February 9, 2015 at 6:30 P.M. in the social room.

**Care and concern committee:** Clerk Dorothy Habecker reported. Kerry Wiessmann asked care and concern to find a person or persons to join the newly formed Centre LGBTQA organization as a representative of meeting, and to act as a support person for her in her LGBTQA work. Brosi Bradley and Kersey Bradley volunteered to be those support persons. Kerry also requested that someone from meeting be the meeting representative at a booth at the organization's fair. Selden Smith volunteered to do this.

**Other matters:** Claudia Wilson reported that she has organized a discussion group to read and discuss the book *The New Jim Crow*.

Rich Lyle from Foxdale Retirement Village is working on providing transportation for Foxdale residents to attend churches in the community. It was suggested that Norma White funds be used to pay for the transportation. Selden will continue to contact with Foxdale on this matter.

Meeting for worship for business approved the minutes from December and January.

The next meeting for worship for business is March 1<sup>st</sup>.

The clerk ended the meeting with silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,  
Clerk, Selden Smith  
Dorothy Habecker, substitute recording clerk

Attending:

Claudia Wilson  
Connie Wheeler  
Lynne Grutzeck  
Michael Grutzeck  
Larry Greenleaf  
Sam Findley  
Campbell Plowden  
Brosi Bradley  
Kersey Bradley  
Cynthia Merriwether-deVries  
Ann Sidone  
Margy Frysinger  
Kerry Wiessmann  
Polly Dunn