

**FRIENDLY  
CONNECTIONS**

**State College Friends Meeting**

**March 2016  
Newsletter**



*State College Friends Meeting  
611 East Prospect Ave.  
State College, PA 16801  
Phone (814) 237-7051*

## Notes

If your gift includes words, images, or just honest thoughts, please send them to the Newsletter email address: [SCFMNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:SCFMNewsletter@gmail.com)

Please note both December and February minutes from Meeting for Worship for Business are included in this newsletter for review. Apologies for the late newsletter, I think I needed a few more extra days in February instead of just the one. Hope everyone is feeling the quick approach of spring as we actually have sun as I write this! ~ Brosi

## Announcements

First Day (Sunday), 3/6/2016

9:00 am Meeting for Worship for Business

10:45 am Gather for Family Meeting for Worship

11:00 am Meeting for Worship

12:20 pm Potluck

### **Foxdale Meeting for Worship**

Meeting for Worship is held at Foxdale every first Day. All are welcome. We gather a 10:15 in the nurses' conference room.

To find the Meeting, enter at the front of the building, turn left and walk down the hallway to Anthony House. Enter through the security door, walk ahead, and turn right at the second sign for the Health Services Administration. The nurses' conference room will be ahead on your left.

### **State College Friends Meeting Saturday Socials**

Fundraising Dinners for Local Organizations, 5-7pm. Dinner is provided.

All are welcome! Suggested donation \$10/person (more or less)

Childcare will be provided IF people RSVP to Kerry in advance.

Saturday, March 19 – Food Bank

Saturday, April 9 – Housing Transitions

Saturday, May 14 – CC Women’s Resource Center

Saturday, September 24 – Park Forest Pre-School

People who cannot attend, may make a donation for food costs and/or to the organization by writing a check to State College Friends Meeting with the organization name in the note line.

Contact Kerry to volunteer to help: <<mailto:Kgw11@scasd.org>>

[Kgw11@scasd.org](mailto:Kgw11@scasd.org)

### **A Course in Miracles Support and Study Group**

Meets most Wednesday evenings starting around 6 pm before the fireplace in the meeting room. Please feel very welcomed to join us anytime. Contact person is [kerseybradley@yahoo.com](mailto:kerseybradley@yahoo.com).

**Interfaith Coffee Hour**, Mar. 16, 6:30-8 pm, Panera Bread, back room, Convener, Sarah Malone. Topic: Does your ethnic or national heritage (or culture) affect or interact with, enhance or detract from, your personal faith or spirituality?

### **Upper Susquehanna Quarterly Meeting Fiber and Handwork**

**Gathering**, March 12-13, <<https://www.quakercloud.org/cloud/upper-susquehanna-quarterly-meeting/pages/about-huntingdon>> Huntingdon Monthly Meeting, 2206 Cassady Ave., Huntingdon, PA. Come join Friends of all ages for an hour or two or a whole weekend of fun with fiber at Huntingdon Monthly Meeting.

**State College Friends Meeting is seeking to hire a Clerk for Religious Education, 5-10 hours/wk not to exceed 40 hours/month, \$15.00 per hour**

Summary of Job Description:

- convene and clerk RE committee meetings
- serve as liaison between RE and greater meeting community
- greet RE families weekly and maintain contact with them
- support teachers and help to find substitutes as needed
- organize or arrange for family centered activities

Applicants should e-mail a resume and/or letter of qualifications to:  
Kerry Wiessmann, [kgw11@scasd.org](mailto:kgw11@scasd.org)

### **SCFM Winter Camping Weekend**

We will have our "Winter Camping Weekend" at Black Moshannon State Park on Friday through Sunday, April 1-3. We have 5 cabins reserved which means we have room for 30 people to stay overnight, and more can come for parts of the weekend.

Please RSVP to Kerry (571-8909 or email [kgw11@scasd.org](mailto:kgw11@scasd.org)) ASAP, so that cabins can be assigned, and to be sure that we have room for you in a cabin. We want everyone to come who can. The cabins are paid through Religious Education funds, and we hope to have programs enjoyable for all ages. Hope you can come! Kerry

**Advancement & Outreach Committees will be responsible for refreshments for March.**

## **Pendle Hill Program - Answering the Call to Radical Faithfulness**

As many of you know, Pendle Hill offers a five-month interfaith training program in spiritually-grounded grassroots organizing and nonviolent action. Our program, Answering the Call to Radical Faithfulness, includes four on-campus intensives; weekly readings and online discussions; occasional webinars and online films; and a fieldwork project of each participant's design supported by program faculty and other participants. The fourth session will start late March/early April. For more information <http://www.pendlehill.org/learn/radicalfaithfulness/> or contact Steve Chase, our Director of Education 610-566-4507, ext. 123 or [schase@pendlehill.org](mailto:schase@pendlehill.org).

### **FoodCentre Project**

SCFM Meeting was contacted by Jessie Piece, coordinator of FoodCentres Project team. Their project was the recipient of the Centre Foundation's 2015 CentreInspires grant, a \$100,000 endowment to a brand-new project designed to bring positive change to Centre County's food system. Here is a short synopsis of her letter:

**Mission:** The mission of the FoodCentres Project is to supplement, amplify, and transform the existing food system in Centre County into a vibrant, inclusive, interconnected food community through food-based educational and community programming.

**Project Synopsis:** In conjunction with site partners, the FoodCentres Project is building non-profit food hubs (Food Centres) around the county. These hubs will consist of a commercial kitchen, a community garden, and a shipping container that has been retrofitted into a walk-in cold storage unit. The cold storage units will be packed chock-full of fruits and veggies donated by local farmers and gardeners. This produce will be used in educational and community programs, from cooking classes to community dinners to farm-to-table workshops. The produce stored at the Food

Centres will also be made available to food pantries for distribution throughout the year. Food Centres programming will be available to everyone, with an emphasis on low-income and underserved populations.

**Community Involvement:** The FoodCentres Project has a number of service and involvement opportunities, including:

**Food Reclamation Network:** The Food Reclamation Network program needs volunteers to gather and transport extra food from farmer's markets, farms, grocery stores, and gardens to the Food Centre and/or the food pantry. This is a great way to reduce food waste and hunger at the same time!

**Grow an Extra Row:** Gardeners in Centre County can volunteer to grow an extra row in their gardens to be used in programming at the Food Centre. Participants will receive seeds and/or seedlings for free, and when the produce is ready for harvest, volunteers can come and collect it right from the garden (or from a drop-off point, if that is preferred). If you have a green thumb, this is an easy and rewarding way to give back to the community!

Please do let me know if you would be interested in collaborating on this project! I would love to see our organizations work together for the greater good of our community. Thank you very much, and feel free to contact me with any questions!

Jessie Pierce, FoodCentres Project  
[608-215-6107](tel:608-215-6107) [jessie\\_pierce@hotmail.com](mailto:jessie_pierce@hotmail.com)

### **March 20<sup>th</sup>, Sunday Peace Walk**

State College's first Palm **Sunday Peace Walk** will create a participatory community event focused on bringing together our diverse Christian community to notice and acknowledge the many organizations in State College who are working for peace by serving the people Jesus called us to serve; the poor, the sick, the isolated, the downtrodden and imprisoned. This 1.5 mile walk starting at 3pm on Sunday, March 20th will

begin at University Baptist & Brethren, 411 South Burrowes St and visit several stops along the way to hear voices share about the work being done in our community and pray for our community's healing. We will end at another congregation for a simple soup meal together. All are welcome to participate in this walk regardless of faith tradition. Questions -contact: [ben@3rdwaycollective.org](mailto:ben@3rdwaycollective.org), (215)859-0037 Or to sign up to help with food for the soup meal at the end: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e4daeae28a0ff2-volunteer>

**THINKING ABOUT RACE** (March 2016) – Another “Hard Look at How We See Race” This anecdote is from Jennifer Eberhardt, appears in “A Hard Look at How We See Race,” by Sam Scott, published in **Utne Reader**, Winter 2015, <http://www.utne.com/politics/social-psychology-racial-disparity-zm0z15wzdeh.aspx?PageId=8#ArticleContent>

“Eight years ago, she was flying back to California from Harvard, where her husband was teaching winter term, when the middle of their three sons pointed out a man he said looked like his dad. “Eberhardt was bemused. The stranger was probably the only black male on the plane, but he was crowned with long dreadlocks, not exactly a ringer for her decidedly bald husband. But before she could quiz him for the connection, the 5-year-old added, ‘I hope he doesn’t rob the plane.’

“Even with her vast knowledge of the insidiousness of bias, Eberhardt was floored. Her son grew up in one of the most educated areas in the country, watched little television and hardly seemed to notice race. And yet he had connected blackness and crime and his father, the parent he was probably closer to at the time.

“ ‘He didn’t know why he said it. And he didn’t know why he thought it,’ she says. ‘But at 5, you already have what you need, to come to that conclusion.’” This column is prepared by the BYM Working Group on Racism (WGR)

## **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?



QUERIES  
QUERIES

## **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?

*Note: Both December and February Minutes included for review and approval*

**STATE COLLEGE FRIENDS MEETING  
MEETING FOR WORSHIP FOR BUSINESS  
Second Month 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

Meeting began with silent worship and a reading of the Queries on Meetings for Business from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting:

*Is our meeting for business held in the spirit of a meeting for worship in which we seek divine guidance?*

*Are we careful to keep in the spirit of worship each of the concerns that emerge, whether of nurture, of Spirit, of social concerns, of property, or of finance?*

*Are Meeting decisions directed by prayerful consideration of all aspects of an issue and are difficult problems considered carefully with patient search for truth, unhurried by the pressures of time?*

*How do we respond if we notice the meeting has lost an understanding of the presence of God?*

*Do we recognize that we speak through our inaction as well as our action?*

*Do I regularly attend meeting for business and in a spirit of love and unity?*

*If unable to attend, how do I attend to my responsibility?*

*Do I consider prayerfully the many concerns that are lifted up on any issue, acknowledging that the search for truth in unity involves what God requires, being*

*open to personal transformation as the community arrives at the sense of the meeting?*

Responses to the queries included one Friend who said she had recently seen a video on Quaker process, and one thing she had not highlighted before is the element of surprise. You can go into Business Meeting thinking there is a tough problem but if people are open and creative it can lead to positive results. Another Friend said that contrary to how most of society works, where we are supposed to dominate an issue, we might be open and surprised if we come to Business Meeting with the intention to submit. Another Friends said a Pendle Hill pamphlet by a travelling minister described going to a small Meeting expecting the members to lay it down. However, they had such a spirit of being Quakers they had no intention of laying the meeting down. The speaker said she liked that.

## **REVIEW OF AGENDA**

Selden Smith, clerk, announced the death of Mercedes Richards on Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Memorial Service will be on Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00p.m.

A report from Care and Concern and a report from Buildings and Grounds were added to the agenda.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Peace and Social Action**

Report by Committee of the Whole.

Claudia Wilson noted that as the Meeting's representative to Park Forest Preschool, she is now helping write the United Way Grant. It is a big part of the school's budget. She hopes to see future increased involvement with the school by Meeting members and attenders.

Cy deVries announced a PA Prison Society event at Juniata College, and a 3-day conference April 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> at Juniata College on education for girls in some of the countries in Africa. She will provide more information for those interested.

Selden Smith read an email sent to Renee Crauder and Sue Knox from the AFSC Event Coordinator. She wants to visit Foxdale and present the projects AFSC is working on. No date has been set as this is the initial outreach. Discussion included passing the idea on to Religious Education because the high school group may be interested. Someone else wondered if Friends School might be interested, as well as the Program Committee at Foxdale. We may also want to coordinate it with a time of Meeting for Worship at Foxdale. Selden will respond to the email with these ideas.

Kersey Bradley announced that Campbell Plowden would be speaking at the HUB on the Penn State Campus this Thursday on the Alternatives to Violence Program.

Kerry Wiessmann reported that the bingo night fundraiser for the LGBT group on campus netted about \$800 for the scholarship they give to a graduating high school senior.

### **Worship and Ministry Committee**

Ann Sidone reported. Nominating Committee needs at least one more member for the upcoming round of nominations. It is our hope that the upcoming called meeting will help to provide clarity on our Meeting's committee structure going forward.

Plans are under way to hold a Called Meeting to address the query "How can we be a welcoming, nurturing, vibrant community with shared purpose?" on March 13<sup>th</sup>. We request approval from the Meeting to hold this Called Meeting during the Meeting for Worship hour at 11:00. It would include worship sharing on the query.

A discussion ensued, with one Friend responding that we need time for regular Meeting for Worship. Another Friend echoed the same thought. Concern was expressed about eating into regular worship time. People come for individual worship, and this is twice the Committee has requested use of Meeting for Worship time for another purpose. This Friend said she had the feeling people come to worship on Sunday and think that is what our Meeting is. But Meeting for Worship is supposed to be the foundation for the rest of what we do as a community. This Friend would rather see a separate Called Meeting.

Another Friend, who is on Worship and Ministry, said she was not disagreeing but the problem is trying to reach more than the few who are likely to attend a Called Meeting. Another Friend said that a Called Meeting is still worship. Other ideas expressed were to do some worship and some worship sharing on the query. Someone from the committee planning the Called Meeting said that a short time would not meet the need to respond to this important query. The Committee thought it really should be about an hour and a half.

It was pointed out that queries are read every month at the beginning of worship. However, since the resulting messages are not always about the queries that were read, it is likely not a Called Meeting if we do it that way. Another suggestion was that each part of the query could be a focus on different First Days. Another suggestion was to do the query in place of the yearly meeting queries on one First Day Meeting for Worship, then have soup and then do the Called Meeting.

*Meeting decided to return the decisions to the ad hoc committee. March 13<sup>th</sup> will not be the date for a Called Meeting.*

Sidone returned to the Worship and Ministry report.

Dorothy Habecker and Campbell Plowden trained six listeners to meet with anyone from Meeting who was interested in giving feedback on what they wished for from adult religious education. Listening sessions were held on three consecutive First Days, after social hour.

Ideas for activities: There is an \* beside ideas expressed more than once: music singing chanting\*; restorative circles; support groups; bible study; meditation practices; listening groups; small community service projects; high school students share about their trips to other churches; Friendly Forum; improv theater; AVP training; movie discussions; study teachings of Quakers; book/pamphlet discussion groups\*; spiritual formation groups; men's groups; breakfast with a theme; share spiritual journeys\*; share outside interests; presentation on the history of Quakerism; speakers; events like the celebration dinner.

Values expressed:

community; personal relationships; getting to know each other/sharing; engaging with issues and ideas and information; desire for spiritual growth.

We are grateful to Dorothy and Campbell and the listeners for doing this work.

Ann went on to say that several adult education events are in the pipeline:

February 21: Giving and Responding to Vocal Ministry

April 16: Quaker Process with Arthur Larrabee. To offset Arthur's fee, travel expenses, and copying costs, there will be a requested donation of \$25 per person for this five-hour workshop. Those who find the cost to be a burden are encouraged to come anyway - financial aid will be available.

May 14: Language of God workshop, given by Yuri Plowden and Dorothy Habecker.

Beth Resko is working with the Interfaith Initiative on collaborating with them, other peace churches, and the Muslim and Jewish community on developing an event of which the working title is "Peace Is Where We Meet: an interfaith worship service celebrating shared values and community."

Worship and Ministry is working on finding the next date to hold meeting for worship at Foxdale.

### **Care and Concern Committee**

Claudia Wilson reported. The Committee is working on a process for asking and receiving emergency funds. The final draft of the youth letter is approved, and they are sending the letters out. Claudia informed the Meeting that Susan A. Donald, a relative of former members Phil and Carol Furnas, had passed away.

Care and Concern has been working with Religious Education teachers and trying to assess the needs of RE. They discussed the need for a paid RE Coordinator, but decided, along with Finance Committee, that a paid clerk position was a more necessary choice at this time. The RE clerk, as they vision it, would increase community communication and provide supervision and support for teachers. There is no money in the budget for the position, but money from a Friends Fiduciary fund could provide two years of the position with a maximum of 40 hours a month. Kerry Wiessmann has drafted a job description. It does not include arranging for childcare, but is specific about expectations. Expectations do not include curriculum development. The idea is to bring the joy of the RE program back to the Meeting. They want the children to leave Meeting feeling joyous and loved, and wanting to know more about Quakers. Care and Concern would offer support and would supervise the RE clerk. Care and

Concern and Finance Committee are requesting approval for a paid clerk at \$15/hour and continuing the process.

One Friend expressed support. The RE clerk “pulls it all together” for the Meeting. Another Friend said she supports oversight by Care and Concern.

*The Meeting approved hiring a paid RE clerk and continuing to work on the process.*

Heidi Loomis expressed gratitude as a parent of young children for everything the teachers and RE have done for the children. Her children are happy to be here. She noted that University Baptist and Brethern Church is thriving with a paid RE person, but Millville Meeting is thriving without one.

Kerry Wiessmann requested a hiring committee that would be ad hoc and short term. She, Karen Anderson, and Lynne Grutzeck volunteered.

### **Finance Committee**

Connie Wheeler, treasurer, presented the Year End Report. The biggest item to report is that the Meeting received \$9000 less than was budgeted. That loss has been carried over to this year. The Meeting will need to cover that this year.

Kerry Wiessmann reported for Finance Committee. The Committee approved a financial review to be sure we are doing everything correctly. That will be paid out of the Finance Committee budget. Kerry passed out the Committee’s Policies and Procedures and noted some minor changes. The biggest change is that there is no longer petty cash; they now use credit cards with a limit on each card. Kerry asked for approval for the changes.

*The Meeting approved the changes in the Finance Committee Policies and Procedures.*

Kerry noted that next month the Committee might ask for changes in the amount paid to the yearly meetings. While there were more contributors to the Meeting last year, the amount declined. Therefore we may need to change what we send to yearly meetings.

Some mugs were leftover from the Harvest Dinner sale. The green ones have been added to the kitchen. The blue mugs will be hand-delivered to Foxdale residents along with the annual appeal letter. They will also be given to new-comers.

Finance Committee would like to renovate the garden level to make it available to rent. Various ideas have been proposed, but the general idea is to finish the floor and create defined spaces. They also would like to see a shed built for equipment, so less dirt is brought in to the garden level.

Support was expressed by those present that the garden level be made attractive, and be a nice space for RE.

Connie Wheeler noted that Friends Fiduciary is changing their contract. Withdrawing money will now require two signatures and will need to be in writing. She requested approval to sign the contract.

*Meeting approved signing the new Friends Fiduciary contract.*

Kerry said there is now a tentative schedule for fundraising socials. The first will be Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 7:00p.m. to raise money for Interfaith Human Services. It will be called "Soup and Such." They need people to serve and clean up. Kerry will have Betsy send out an email. She is encouraging everyone to come, and bring his or her friends. She is planning to put a sign out on the street. Lynne Grutzeck noted that the Interfaith director is excited we are doing this. Kerry said they plan to make food for 75 people. If they run out of food, they will do what other churches in the area do: meet people at the door and tell them the food is gone.

## **Buildings and Grounds**

Larry Greenleaf reported. The air testing results in the garden level indicate that it passed. A final walk-through with Gil Morrison has not yet occurred. Exterior work to disperse the roof run-off will continue in the spring. They will test the results when there are heavy rains. Reconstruction inside the garden level will not occur until they are sure water is no longer coming in.

The Committee considered a request to upgrade the recycle bins outside the kitchen door. The issue was tabled until an interested person comes forth to design and implement a solution. The main issue is the need for a good way to separate the recycling. One of the emergency lights in the breezeway is still not working. They will replace the ceiling there once they get it fixed.

## **Memorial Committee**

Lynne Grutzeck asked for help moving benches back into the Meeting Room for Mercedes Richards' memorial service. She also asked for volunteers to help with the service and noted that we have permission to use the Christian Science Church lot, though not the one across the street; we have to enter from Hamilton Avenue.

## **Foxdale Meeting for Worship**

Cy deVries encouraged everyone to try to attend MFW at Foxdale at 10:15 a.m. in the Nurses's Conference Room in Anthony House. The residents love having the connection with other Meeting members and attenders.

## **CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE**

Selden Smith reported that the Meeting received a thank you letter from Friends General Conference for the Meeting's contribution.

Selden also thanked Brosi Bradley for agreeing to do the Meeting newsletter.

**OTHER FRIENDS ORGANIZATIONS**

Karen Anderson said she had attended the Baltimore Yearly Meeting Women’s Retreat with two others. She had a fantastic time.

**JANUARY BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

It was noted that Dorothy Habecker’s name was omitted from the list of those who assisted with the basement cleanup. With that correction, *minutes from January were approved.*

**Next Business Meeting for Worship: March 6<sup>th</sup> and April 10<sup>th</sup>.**

Respectfully submitted,

Selden Smith, Clerk

Margy Frysinger, Recording Clerk

**Attending:**

Connie wheeler  
Claudia Wilson  
Lynne Grutzeck  
Martin Melville  
Brosi Bradley  
Elizabeth Pennock  
Kerry Wiessmann  
Gary Fosmire

Polly Dunn  
Darlene Clark  
Cynthia M. deVries  
Kersey Bradley  
Heidi Loomis  
Karen M. Anderson  
Ann Sidone  
Renee Crauder

## December Minutes

### STATE COLLEGE FRIENDS MEETING MEETING FOR WORSHIP FOR BUSINESS Twelfth Month 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Meeting began with silent worship and a reading of the Queries on Integrity and Simplicity from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting:

*What does our Meeting understand to be the meaning and implication of our testimonies on simplicity and integrity?*

*How do our Meeting's actions demonstrate this understanding?*

*As a Meeting, what are we doing to encourage members to embody integrity and simplicity in their everyday lives?*

*How do I strive to maintain the integrity of my inner and outer lives – in my spiritual journey, my work, and my family responsibilities? How do I manage my commitments so that overcommitment, worry, and stress do not diminish my integrity?*

*Am I temperate in all things? Am I open to counsel and advice on overindulgence and addictive behavior, such as gambling? Do I take seriously the hazards associated with addictive and mood-altering substances?*

*Am I careful to speak truth as I know it and am I open to truth spoken to me? Am I mindful that judicial oaths imply a double standard of truth?*

*Do I refrain from membership in organizations whose purposes and methods compromise our testimonies?*

Responses to the queries included recognizing the complexity of the concepts of integrity and simplicity. Integrated has the same stem, and that led one Friend to try to integrate integrity in all that she does, whether

successful or not. It is hard to integrate it into every aspect of life, such as enjoying sports that are competitive and can harm humans. Another Friend echoed that the increasing emphasis on honoring soldiers tests her integrity because she is so against sending people to be hurt.

Another Friend noted that integrity always made him think of mathematics. An integer is a whole number. We strive towards wholeness but none of us makes it. We try not to be split up and different with different groups. One can also think of it geometrically as trying to be a sphere so we look the same from each angle. We can never complete it but we have to keep trying.

## **REVIEW OF AGENDA**

Search for a newsletter editor and a Black Moshannon weekend coordinator was added. A report from the committee of the whole on Peace and Social Concerns was also added.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Nominating Committee**

Gary Fosmire reported. It has come to the attention of Nominating Committee that Care and Concern is in need of members and a clerk. Gary has been asked to join and clerk or co-clerk. This was approved with gratitude for Gary.

### **Care and Concern Committee**

The request for membership for Connie Wheeler was happily accepted by the Meeting. Johanna Jackson has also requested membership and met with a Clearness Committee composed of Karen Anderson, Kersey Bradley, and Gary Fosmire. They are recommending Johanna for membership. As is our practice, this will be held over for a month to announce Johanna and introduce her at the rise of meeting.

## **Buildings and Grounds Committee**

Larry Greenleaf reported. The Committee met with Gil Morrison and looked at two contracts: one from PA Groundwork for the drainage work, and one for the drywall and mold removal from the classrooms from Mold Erasers. The cost for the drainage work is quoted at \$19,789 and for the drywall and mold removal the quote was \$10,525. The Committee approved both contracts and work has begun. There will be some inconveniences – the dumpster in the parking lot, and removal of the concrete in the front. The Committee will get liability insurance certificates and workman’s comp certificates from both companies. Michael Grutzeck organized the cleanup of the garden level and our obligations have been fulfilled. Registers have been removed as well as the toilet and plumbing. The outside work has started, and the inside work starts on Monday.

The emergency lights have been fixed in the breezeway ceiling between buildings. The contractors will also make the front door stoop even with the door and remove the tree roots. They are trying to save the tree.

One Friend spoke up that she believes the tree should come out, and wondered about a called meeting to discuss the tree. It shades the solar panels and makes the roof deteriorate. Or perhaps it should be a Business Meeting for Worship agenda item?

Another Friend said that there had been two work parties to clean out the garden level. We don’t have a list of all who participated, but a minute of appreciation is needed.

## **Worship and Ministry**

Ann Sidone reported. Foxdale’s auditorium has been reserved for Meeting for Worship at 11:15 on December 20. Kerry Wiessmann is planning a pageant to be performed after rise of Meeting. Also on December 20, there will be a potluck from 4:00-6:00, followed by the annual candlelight service

at 6:30. Thanks to Kerry for taking on the pageant, and to Yuri and Campbell Plowden for organizing the candlelight service!

We have several adult education sessions planned in the winter and spring: Giving and Responding to Vocal Ministry, The Language of God, and Quaker Process with Arthur Larrabee. Dorothy Habecker is also going forward with the listening project she proposed last month, with eleven volunteers signed up for training in January. They hope to do the listening in January and present results to the February Business Meeting.

Worship and Ministry feels a deep concern regarding the Syrian refugee crisis, and we are looking into holding a Meeting for Peace with members of the Muslim community. Sarah Malone has expressed willingness to help with this endeavor.

We'll be continuing with our gentle reminders about Meeting for Worship's 11:00 start time, and reserving the back two benches for latecomers.

There were several responses to the Worship and Ministry report. One Friend said she loved the idea of the Meeting for Peace and wondered if the Committee was considering having other religious groups join. Ann Sidone replied that it was being considered. Selden Smith will ask Ben Wideman about joining us when he meets with him (see Clerk's Correspondence). Another Friend asked that RE be kept informed about the Meeting for Peace because the high school students have expressed interest in meeting some Muslims.. The book, "Non-Violent Soldier of Islam," was recommended by another Friend as a very important book to read. The author worked with Gandhi. It was suggested that perhaps another book club meeting could be formed around this book.

### **Advancement and Outreach**

Polly Dunn reported. An article has been submitted to *Friends Journal* on the new solar panels. Someone from the publication expressed interest in

discerning how the decision was made by the Meeting. Polly is not sure when the article will be published. The Meeting secretary, Betsy Gamble, is working on having rotating pictures of the Meeting placed at the Pasquerilla Center on the Penn State campus.

### **Finance Committee**

Kerry Wiessmann reported. The final numbers are not yet in for the Harvest Dinner, but about \$2000 was raised after expenses. The exact figures will come later.

Kerry discussed the current year's budget. The Committee anticipates spending about 90% of this year's budget but we need \$11,000 in contributions to come in before the end of 2015. Otherwise we will have to dip into the Deborah Austin bequest fund. A discussion ensued about money sent to the two yearly meetings. We give more to PYM than to BYM because of membership numbers, but that may have changed. We might need to discuss whether we want to change what we send the yearly meetings – maybe a called meeting or a discussion in Business Meeting. We also have not yet given any money to Upper Susquehanna Quarter. Though the Deborah Austin bequest has not been designated by the Meeting for any particular project, the Committee would like operations to be covered by donations rather than using the bequest.

Some discussion ensued about money for the yearly meetings. One Friend said since she would not be present for the next few months, her suggestion is that we should speak with PYM about changes in membership. Kerry responded that we have consulted with PYM and there are lots of details to share. Another Friend suggested we honor our commitments for this year but discuss future commitments in January. A follow-up suggestion was that we tell the yearly meetings this is based on expected contributions this year but next year will be based on the percentage of money donated to the Meeting. Kerry noted that this relates to the Queries on Integrity.

*The Meeting approved paying the budgeted amounts to the yearly meetings this year (2015).*

Kerry then presented the 2016 Draft Budget. One noted increase is \$500 to the Women's Resource Center. Kerry said the Committee's concern about the budget is the same as this year: we are not meeting the budgeted donations. If we want to change what we will send to the yearly meetings in 2016, we can make that decision during the year in Business Meeting. However, in Kerry's opinion, we should talk with the yearly meetings in the first quarter of the year if we are going to change what we send so they have time to reorganize their finances. She noted that we switched our budget to a yearly budget because that is how both yearly meetings set their budget.

*The Meeting approved the proposed 2016 Budget.*

### **Advancement and Outreach**

Selden Smith reported. Deryn Verity has been doing a wonderful job on the newsletter but needs to step away. **Please consider taking over the newsletter!** It is done on your own schedule and you never have to go to a committee meeting. And it is a very valuable service to the Meeting. A minute of appreciation was requested for Deryn and Marianne Stevens for their work on the newsletter. Selden also announced that the Meeting now owns its domain name.

### **Care and Concern**

Gary Fosmire reported. RE continues to have limited enrollment in some classes, and no clerk. Gary, for Care and Concern, sent emails to all teachers and assistant teachers and is collecting information from them. Care and Concern hopes to meet with RE in January after Business Meeting. Gary and Darlene Clark will help teach a class. RE needs more help, and volunteer teachers so that regular teachers can sometimes attend Meeting for Worship. The Committees would also like to discuss hiring a part time coordinator. Dorothy will be the convener for the meeting. Please

hold the RE Committee and the program in the light. We consider this to be an essential component of the Meeting.

Selden Smith announced that we need a coordinator to set up the Black Moshannon weekend. It is a popular annual tradition, but do we have the commitment to set it up? This need made him mindful of the query read previously about over-commitment leading to stress which can lead to less integrity. If someone does not commit to planning the weekend within a short time line, then it doesn't happen. He also noted it does not have to be a winter event.

Dorothy Habecker asked what the process is to hire a RE coordinator. The position had been approved, so it is vacant. But no one is sure of the process. She wondered if money is budgeted for the RE coordinator position, or should we be looking for an RE clerk to do information coordination. Kerry Wiessmann said that no money is budgeted for RE Coordinator. She also noted that she has concerns about hiring anyone since no personnel committee exists except for Gary Fosmire. We first need to supervise the employees we have, and have a job description.

### **Peace and Social Action**

Several people reported for the committee as a whole. Selden Smith said Friends Committee on National Legislation put out a call for Friends to support an act in congress on climate change that has been sponsored by Republicans. Campbell Plowden reported that he had a wonderful trip to Peru this fall. Three villages there want to use the money they have earned to replant trees. They are sponsoring 50 work parties to plant the trees. Dorothy Habecker asked the Meeting to continue holding Ann Ward and Denise DeGeorge in the light. Kerry Wiessmann reported that an ecumenical group is putting together a Palm Sunday Peace March. She and Kersey Bradley have been attending the group and they ask Friends to keep in mind the opportunity to participate. The group is not just the traditional peace churches. Polly Dunn noted that Friends should look at both bulletin boards in the social room for information about work that

Meeting people are doing. Selden Smith thanked Polly for doing the bulletin boards.

**Review Minutes from November Business Meeting for Worship**

*The Meeting approved the November minutes.*

**Clerk's Correspondence**

Selden Smith noted that he plans to meet with Ben Wideman from the Third Way Collective. Ben is the Mennonite minister on the Penn State campus.

**Next Meeting for Worship for Business: January 3, 2016**

Meeting concluded after closing worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Selden Smith, Clerk

Margy Frysinger, Recording Clerk

**Attending:**

Ann Sidone

Gary Fosmire

Marjorie Nelson

Darlene Clark

Dorothy Habecker

Larry Greenleaf

Kersey Bradley

Polly Dunn

Yuri Plowden

Campbell Plowden

Cathy Drapcho Klein

Kerry Wiessmann

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**RETURN REQUESTED**