

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business – October 18, 2009

Attendees: Peggy McDonald, Jimmy Pryor, Steve Miller, Mark Herranen, Mary McKerall, Kathryn van der Pol, Bob Stecker, Valerie Burson, Barbara Cowan, Joanne Go, Joan Stewart, Michael Eckenfels, Eileen Penland, Peg Nosek, Susan Long (acting recording clerk), Larry Marcotte (clerk).

Centering Reading:

In every person's heart there is a secret nerve that answers to the vibration of beauty. I can imagine no more fascinating privilege than to be allowed to ransack the desk of a thousand American business people, people supposed to be hard-headed, absorbed in brisk commerce. Somewhere in each desk one would find some hidden betrayal of that person's private worship. It might be some old newspaper clipping, perhaps a poem that had once touched them, for even the humblest poets are stout partisans of reality. It might be a photograph of children playing in the surf, or a little box of fish-hooks, or a soiled old time-table of some strange back-woods railroad or primitive steamer service that had once carried them into their land of heart's desire. This is as good a preliminary definition of religion as we could wish. It is something that carries one into "the land of heart's desire."

Dr. Rufus M. Jones, of Haverford College, delivered this fifth lecture on "Religion as Reality, Life and Power," at Race Street Meeting House on May 10, 1919.

Preamble: see attached "Observing Mindfulness During Business" from the 57th St Meeting in Chicago. We will try to judge how well we did after the business meeting.

Approval of September 2009 minutes:

The minutes for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business for September 20, 2009 were approved with no changes.

Outreach: (Bob): The handout for new attenders has been updated and is available. We now have an official place for the lunch bunch, which is the Golden Island Chinese buffet on Shepherd, which has plenty of parking and big tables for all of us. (Kathryn): A Friendly 8's plus will be starting up in a few weeks. The information has been posted on the blog. Everyone in the meeting will be receiving an invitation from a designated host to come; the directory has been divided up by zip code, and the hosts will be inviting people that live in proximity. We have asked that the hosts have their event prior to Thanksgiving. An elder will also be present. The discussion will focus on Quaker process. If anybody doesn't receive a phone call within a week, he/she should contact Barbara Cowan. A concern was expressed during the discussion that the timeframe was short, and there wasn't quite enough information for the facilitators yet, but the committee will have the material developed in time.

Kathryn also brought the meeting a gift from Charleston, an "artist's pad". She will be providing more information in the Acorn.

Communications (Susan): the blog (Acorn) is available. We will post links to the blog in the enews, but more personal information (phone numbers, illnesses) will only be included in the enews. The enews will still be sent out by email, but the information will be available on the blog, and people can subscribe to the blog using an RSS reader. We will need an Acorn editor; Susan is filling that role for now.

Property (Larry): An engineer is reviewing the design from Atlantech for the new roof mechanism. Also a structural engineer is reviewing plans to make sure the building doesn't fall in. Bellows will be the contractor. We don't have a date yet but things could start moving pretty rapidly if no changes are necessary. We are going to include repainting and re-sheetrocking to fix the cracks. Also we are going to be putting slinkys on the i-beams to keep the pigeons away!

Planning (Mary): Planning is now taking on the more mundane aspects of planning, making sure that we are making use of what space we have. We have been talking about working with W&M on some kind of meeting-wide session; February will be two years from where we started – to revisit what is our vision, where do we want to go, we have plans on the table that range from do nothing, to an elaborate plan with everything included.

The question was raised: do we need to talk about our vision as a meeting, or do we need to talk about what kind of building we want? We keep hearing things coming up, such as community service, and there seems to be a desire to come together as a meeting to decide what our vision is, and this is separate from the planning of a new building. Joanne Go of W&M said that the committee feels the need for a retreat, possibly in February, to work on these issues. Mary said that she would like to see Planning and W&M have a joint meeting to work on this. Kathryn suggested as a theme “how to strengthen our committee work” (from the Proposal to Enliven Meeting).

Finance (Kathryn): the committee has started meeting again, and we are going to be sending out the pledge letters fairly soon. The operational review is going to include 2009 as well as 2008, because we weren't able to start as early in 2009 as we had hoped, because of the eye surgeries of the accountant.

Care and Concern Report (Steve):

Minute 2009-10 #01: *Live Oak Friends Meeting sadly notes the passing of Jim Barr on Tuesday, October 13, 2009.*

A memorial minute for Jim will be coming later. A memorial meeting will take place when Jann returns from Michigan in November.

Michael Eckenfels will be the clerk of the membership committee for Connie Garson.

News of Friends:

May Munn fell here in the meeting house and broke her hip on Wednesday October 14, 2009; she had hip surgery Friday October 16.

Other Business:

Barbara complimented Karen Vargas and the Library Committee on the new library cart that they have placed in the pre-function area.

We have had a problem with child care during Adult First Day School; one of the Sundays Maria got stuck in traffic, although she's supposed to be here every Sunday. If she's not here, it needs to be brought to Peggy's attention.

The issue of conflicts among plans of committees was raised: for instance, a first day school is planned for the same weekend as the campout. There seems to be a lack of interconnectedness and awareness.

Calendar:

October 23, 24, and 25 – Halloween Campout at Lake Somerville. [no children's FDS]

October 25 9:30 AM Adult First Day School on Quakers in America [continued]

October 25 Folksinging at the rise of meeting

October 29: Planning

October 31 9 a.m. to noon Clerks' Meeting in Little House

November 1 Children's Worship in the Little House 10:30 – 10:50 a.m.

November 1: Finance Committee

November 4 Earthcare Witness Committee at 7:00 p.m. in the Little House

November 5-8 Womens Conference – see brochures in the pre-function room

November 8 Potluck Sunday

November 8: Outreach Committee, after potluck

November 10 Care and Concern Committee 7:00 p.m. at the meeting house

November 10 Worship and Ministry Committee 7:30 p.m. in the meeting house

[changed from Nov. 1]

November 13 Shopping night at Ten Thousand Villages 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. to benefit the Peace Festival

November 15 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business at rise of meeting

November 21: Meeting for Healing

November 20-22 Representatives' Meeting at Greene Family Camp in Bruceville, Texas

November 27: Buy Nothing Day Barter Fair

December 2 Earthcare Witness Committee at 7:00 p.m. in the Little House

December 6 Children's Worship in the Little House 10:30 – 10:50 a.m.

December 6 Deadline for Annual Committee Reports to be turned in at

lofm_archive@yahoo.com

December 8 Care and Concern 7:00 p.m. at the meeting house [time change]

December 8 Worship and Ministry Committee 7:30 p.m. in the meeting house [changed from Dec. 6]

December 13 Potluck Sunday

December 18: caroling and candlelighting (time tba)

December 20 Holiday activity for Children's First Day School

December 20 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business at rise of meeting

December 27 no Children's First Day School

Mark your Calendar and Get Ready for Friendly Eights Plus

Within the next few days, you will receive a phone call inviting you to join Friends in your area of town for a Friendly Eight Plus get together. The purpose of the event is to learn more about and discuss Quaker process for Meeting for Business, Meeting for Worship, and committee work.

Organized by an adhoc committee from Outreach and Planning, the hope is through this discussion and hospitality to deepen our faith understanding and our spiritual relationship within Live Oak Friends.

We strongly encourage your participation.

The way this will work is as follows:

1. One of the following hosts will contact you. (If you are not in the current directory or your information is incorrect, please call Barbara Cowan at the number below so she can make sure you are included. The guest list of each host has been arranged by zip code to the best of the committee's ability.)

The Hosts are:

Victoria Albright & David Wilcox, Hiram Butler, Ally Copony, Barbara Cowan, Joe LoCicero, Peggy and Alex MacDonald, Eileen Penland, Bob Stecker, and Kathryn van der Pol.

2. Each host will have Friends to his home for dessert or potluck, whatever the host decides, sometime before Thanksgiving.
3. If parents wish for their children to participate, they may.
4. Each Friendly Eight Plus group will meet one time unless the sense of that group is that they would like to meet again. Please let us know how we can assist. See our names below.
5. Each group will have an Elder (wise) person to serve as a resource during the meeting.
6. The topic of discussion will be Quaker process. In other words, how do Friends make decisions in Meeting for Business? How do Friends make decisions in Committee work? How do we conduct these meetings in a Friendly way? How do we prepare ourselves to attend Meeting for Worship? Meeting for Business? Our Committees? What about verbal ministry? How do we know when to get up and speak?

It's a lot to cover and very important that each of us make an effort to participate. Whether you are a seasoned Quaker or just recently began attending, we want everyone's insight and involvement.

"Speak in the hope of serving the Meeting's search for Truth. Your personal opinion or your feelings on an issue are relevant insofar as they help in that search." *Illinois Yearly Meeting F&P*

Committee members:

Bob Stecker (clerk) (713) 669-9624, Barbara Cowan (713) 426-2756, Eileen Penland (713) 871-8012, Kathryn van der Pol (713) 516-4282.

PS: If you have not been contacted by October 30, please contact Barbara Cowan.

57th Street Meeting of Friends

OBSERVING MINDFULNESS DURING BUSINESS

In effort to be better at communicating with each other, listening to each other, and respecting each other as we conduct our business, please observe the following goals and be prepared to share your observations at the end of Meeting for Business.

Feel free to use the space provided here to make notes throughout Meeting. Please remember to not use names, but rather speak to the behavior of the Meeting as a whole. Our aim is to call behaviors to task, not individuals, so that we can change our culture in a supportive environment for all:

1. Regardless of their nature, all items of business are brought forth out of silence.

2. There is consistently silence between speakers.

3. Questions regarding an item for business, or one's thoughts about any item for business, are given and answered to the Meeting as a whole (not addressed to any particular individual).

4. Meeting for Business keeps a slow, intentional pace. Those gathered assist the clerk in maintaining this pace.

5. Those gathered each speak only once to an issue.

6. Those gathered use plain, clear, simple speech (and argument or persuasion are not used in regard to any item for business).