

Community Companion

Quaker House:
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<https://www.quakercloud.org/cloud/community-friends-meeting>



Meeting House with solar panels

Volume 22, Issue 8 August, 2016

Presiding Clerk:

Lisa Cayard

Assistant Presiding Clerks:

Mary Anne Curtiss

Deborah Jordan

Recording Clerk:

Rachel Moore

Treasurer:

Lynn Funck

Ministry and Counsel:

Ken Bordwell

Lisa Cayard (ex officio)

Frank Huss

Deborah Jordan

Tim Leonard

Sunny Rhein (SA)

John Sniegocki

SA= special assignment

Newsletter:

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Submissions for the August newsletter due by: Monday, July 25, 2016 to Jean Crocker-Lakness

Calendar

All events and meetings take place at the Meeting House unless otherwise noted.

**Singing 9:45 am, Meeting
for Worship 10 am**

Second Hour or Carry in Potluck @ 11:40 am

August 14 Second Hour: Meeting for Worship with attention to Business

During the summer months, there are no second hours

Save the dates: Sept. 10 annual renewal on Gospel Order led by: Stephanie Crumley- Effinger (see page 7)

Sept. 18 extended worship starts up again at 8 AM

Oct. 29-30 Joint Quarterly at Camp Kern.

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Caretakers: John Sniegocki and Elizabeth Groppe Childcare: Dylan Cahalan and Abby Moninghoff

Eighth Query from OVYM Book of Discipline, 1978: Educational Relations

Do you encourage and support the educational activities of Friends? Are you interested in the schools of your community and concerned to establish practices in these consistent with the values you cherish as Friends? What efforts are you making to increase your understanding of your Quaker and other Religious heritages and their relation to other religions?

Quaker Chuckle from Quaker Chuckles collected and edited by Helen White Charles

On one occasion a group of 15 Kentucky slave owner were trying to recapture their run-away Slaves in Richmond. The slave owner met resistance from the assembled crowd. The only thing that prevented a tragedy was the cool heads of a few Quakers.

Eli Osborn, a quiet Friend, told the Kentuckians that they had better leave town. One of them, with many oaths demanded that the white abolitionist fight him "like a gentleman" with pistols.

With solemn face Eli said to the would-be duelist, "If thee will get off thy horse, I'll play thee a game of marbles" This raised a laugh from the group and the slave owners retired down the street amidst the hilarity of the crowd.

July 10, 2016 Business Meeting Minutes, edited

Fourteen Friends opened the meeting with a period of worship during which the presiding clerk read a section from Listening Spirituality, Vol II, by Patricia Loring

"At the heart of the meeting for business is the experience of the gathered meeting. It underlies our listening, our intentions and our intentionality.

At times, Friends have felt graced by a time of gathering in which their course in relation to a piece of business has become clear and unified. At other times, it is sufficient to re-center and invoke memories of our experiences together as a gathered people. Sometimes we just need to be reminded of the centrality of that experience and its implications, when we seem to be slipping into more secular modes of evaluating questions and making decisions. On still other occasions, we need to remember the gentleness, peacefulness and love for one another that have arisen in such times."

Treasurer's Report (Lynn Funck) – We are still operating in the positive but reserve funds are 1% of our projected expenses, not 6% which is our goal. We spent \$7,083 for a down payment for painting the meeting house and we have made 35% our charitable contributions for the year. The report was accepted. **Cannon Fund Report:** (Mary Anne Curtiss) **The Cannon fund** made four grants so far this year for Friends to attend FGC annual gathering and one to attend a White Privilege Conference. The Fund has spent \$1,700 so far this year and has \$5,073.88 remaining. The PAX funds that hold the Cannon Fund return on our invest was 4.94% this year. We put in proxy and Growth Fund did not reinvest in fossil fuels. The report was accepted.

Meeting of the Community Friends Meeting for Corporation: Our Annual Corporation Meeting was held naming officers and individuals who are authorized to sign and make transactions on behalf of Community Friends. **Peace & Social Concerns Committee Report** (Chuck Moore) – The World Peace Festival will be held October 1st 2016 for Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky. Peace & Social Concerns decided to again sponsor the event (\$50) and take a table so Friends can have a presence during the event. FCNL contacted asking for the name and contact information for our direct liaison between their organization and the meeting. Don Rucknagel agreed to serve as the meeting's contact. Peace & Social Concerns prepared for (and eventually delivered) the June 19th second hour on Pre-School Promise. We discussed House Parties for SPAN with Don Rucknagel and then shared the information with the broader meeting as an invitation.

Unity with Nature Committee Report: (Marjorie Isaacs) The Committee had a woods work day last month. The meeting house was also on a solar Ohio tour featuring our new solar panels. The committee will meet again next month.

Ministry & Counsel Committee Report (Tim Leonard) Sarah Hoffmann attended Ministry & Counsel's last meeting and intends to join officially pending approval. The annual renewal will be held 9am-4pm September 10th, including a catered lunch. Stephanie Crumley Effinger will lead the renewal.

Stewardship Committee Report – (Lynn Funck) Stewardship committee met on 7/7/2016. The Treasurer reported that we have only \$624.81 in our General Fund and that expenditures exceeded income. Though we are 50% of the way through the year, we have received only 34% of our budgeted donations. We are working with Duke Energy to see if the \$150/mo we pay just to keep hooked up can be lowered. We continue to work on our Gift Policy with the intent of answering last month's Business Meeting concerns. We have previously agreed to meet the House and Grounds to create a proposal by the July Meeting for Business how to fund our Building Reserves. House and Grounds gave us a list of priorities with estimated costs and timing. We worked on this long and hard, but we were unable to produce a proposal due to income restrictions. We will continue to collaborate energetically with House and Grounds and among ourselves on this issue, understanding that the challenge will be ongoing. The committee expressed appreciation to House and Grounds committee for their hard work. Stewardship has been unable to open a Parnassus account. In order to do this we need to name trustees empowered to communicate and to request withdrawals. The committee requests that the Treasurer and the Clerk of the Meeting be designated trustees for the Parnassus account, and that both signatures be required for withdrawal requests. This request was approved.

Nominating Committee Report: (Rachel Moore) Sarah Hoffman's name was brought forward as a member of Ministry & Counsel. This was approved.

Community Committee Report - (Sue Brungs) Community Committee is preparing to have a picnic August 7th for our carry in with simple games afterwards. There is a proposal for a Community outing to a Red's game August 19th or 20th. Please let Ken Bordwell or Susan Gerke know if you would like to attend.

Minutes from July 10 business meeting, continued

FCNL Advocacy Group: (Mary Anne Curtiss, Thomas Bennett, Frank Huss) FCNL is focused on reducing mass incarceration. A Kentucky subgroup was created to lobby for these efforts with Kentucky's Republican representatives. For these representatives the focus is on the ineffectiveness and cost of mass incarceration rather than focusing on the human rights issues. Letter writing and ecumenical efforts are also being made. There will be a group meeting with Winstrop to lobby against mass incarceration on July 19th. July 26th there will be a training for a lobbying group at 6:00 pm at Community Friends.

Rachel Moore, Recording Clerk

A box turtle visits the Meeting House photos and quote from Paulette Meier

Elyce Benke taking photos
(below)



From the author of **Animal Speak**, Ted Andrews, says this about the "animal wisdom" of turtles. Here's the last paragraph in the section on turtles:

"Turtles remind us that the way to heaven is through the earth. In Mother Earth is all that we need. She will care for us, protect us, and nurture us, as long as we do the same for her. For that to happen, we must slow down and heighten our sensibilities. We must see the connection to all things. Just as the turtle cannot separate itself from its shell, neither can we separate ourselves from what we do to the Earth."

From Paulette Meier “this latest post by Stephen Davison in his blog provides a nice summary about preparing for worship and giving vocal ministry”

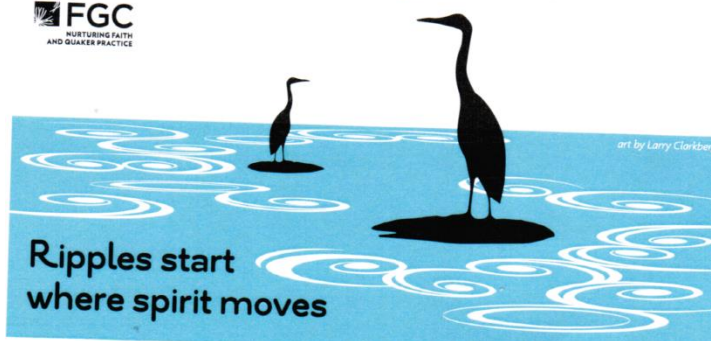
The Practice of Vocal Ministry Prompted by recent experience in my own meeting with vocal ministry, I want to share a concise guide to the practice of vocal ministry among Friends, as I understand it. I have ordered these “conventions” chronologically, that is, as they apply during the progress in time of the meeting for worship. These are not hard and fast rules, but rather practices that Friends have found over the centuries to foster a deeper worship experience.

1. Preparation. Ideally, Friends spend the morning before going to meeting for worship in quietude, rather than exposing themselves to the news, mass media, or anything else that might activate the busy brain. Even better if you can spend some time in spiritual preparation, in meditation, prayer, scripture or spiritual reading, fasting, walking in the woods, listening to music, playing an instrument, or whatever.
2. The worship starts. We understand the meeting for worship to start when the first person sits in the meeting room and settles in to worship. At this time, conversations or other activities in the meeting room should move out of the meeting room or cease. Very often, these early Friends are spiritually preparing, not only themselves, but also the meeting space, so that others who enter the space immediately feel drawn into the worship.
3. Arrive on time. Each person entering the meeting space causes at least a little ripple in the energy of the worship. Latecomers delay the time when those gathered can begin their deepening without this disturbance. If you do arrive late, be as unobtrusive as possible; do not traipse across the whole meeting room to some distant spot. Do not enter during someone’s vocal ministry.
4. Time before the first vocal ministry. The convention is to leave about twenty minutes before the first vocal ministry. This is even more valuable if tardy Friends have been entering the meeting room during this time. Many traditions agree on twenty minutes as the minimum amount of time it takes for the circulatory and other systems of the body to adjust to deep stillness and for the mind to slow the busy brain enough to find the path into the spiritual depths. In the elder days, Friends called this spiritual space “the silence of all Flesh”, understanding “Flesh” as the Apostle Paul did in his letters to include, not just the body, but all of the world’s distractions.
5. Time between messages. Allowing a meaningful time between messages allows those gathered in worship enough time to truly hear a message, to let the Holy Spirit do the inner work that is the Spirit’s intention in the ministry. It also allows anyone who might be feeling some prompting to speak to return their attention from the message to their own discernment, time to settle in with the inspiration, to know it and test it.
6. We do not speak twice.
7. Content. We rely on the Holy Spirit to inspire and shape the message. We do not come prepared to give a certain message, or to read a specific text, for instance. We do not enter into dialogue with previous messages or refer to specific previous speakers. This does not mean that themes do not develop in the course of the worship; they often do, and this often brings the meeting into a deep feeling of satisfaction. But direct response to a previous message tends to ignite or reinforce what we call a “popcorn” meeting, in which one message leads, often very quickly, to another and to another in a cascade of dialogue that keeps the messages on the surface of the meeting’s spirit.

2017 FGC Gathering

July 2 to 8, 2017

Niagara University • Niagara Falls, New York



FGC's Gathering at St. Benedict College in Minnesota



Above clockwise from top left: St Benedict College was a beautiful location. Jennifer Snow Wolff took the Books and boxes workshop. She found it amazing. Richard House had a blast singing both in the Soulful Singing workshop and the Broadway Singalong with George Lakey on piano. Jim and Jean Crocker-Lakness (photo by Paul Kriese) Jim also really enjoyed the Broadway Singalong. Jean particularly found the "Who are these Women, The Story of St. Benedict's Monastery" which was about the pioneering women who were brought to this country from Bavaria to educate the German children inspiring. Rachel Ernst Stahlhut with Oliver. She enjoyed being part of the junior Gathering program with Oliver. She had meaningful conversations with Friends about deepening the life of the spirit in our lives and individual meeting. Eric Wolff was too busy to make any comment for the newsletter. You see him here busily looking forward to his next activity.



Peggy Spohr (above left) She liked that there were spaces for solitude, opportunities for meeting new people and meaningful worship. She took John Calvi's workshop "Abandon All Weariness" Dylan Cahalan was also in this workshop. Possibly it is Dylan in the photo to the left playing Frisbee on the lawn. He must have been having a gathering experience because I never saw him again. Top center is Shannon Isaacs who was always surrounded by admirers. I was able to tear her away for a statement. She says "It has been wonderful to connect with old friends and to deepen spiritually. I hopefully have had an impact on FGC and AYF (adult young friends) Paul Buckley (above right) Paul Served as the Friend in Residence" which meant he did whatever the Clerks of the Gathering needed done and he "held the Gathering" One highlight for him was spending 6 hours of worship in the middle of registration- Which was a big, rather chaotic room. But everyone did get registered, thanks to Paul. Paul even was able to carve out some time to play with Oliver (bottom left)

And did I mention that the food this year was exceptional. There were always several vegetarian options and on the simple meal lunch. There were 3 choices of rice and beans!

COMMUNITY FRIENDS MEETING 2016 FALL RENEWAL REGISTRATION

Our Fall Renewal will be on Saturday September 10th at the Meetinghouse.

Stephanie Crumley-Effinger, Director of Supervised Ministry at Earlham School of Religion, will be our facilitator. The theme for our renewal this year will be *Living Together in a Faith Community*, based on Sandra Cronk's Pendle Hill Pamphlet on Gospel Order. Copies of the pamphlet will be available ahead of time.

Child care, games and crafts will be provided for children from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

The schedule for our day will be as follows:

8:45 am Gather with coffee and light refreshments.
9:00 - 11:30 Program, beginning with worship
11:30 - 12:30 Catered lunch
12:30 - 1:45 Break for taking walks, games and conversation
1:45 - 4:00 Afternoon program

We will provide light morning refreshments and a catered vegetarian lunch.

A voluntary \$15 donation is suggested per adult for the cost of the meal. Funds are available to cover the cost for those who cannot make a donation. There is no cost for children. If you choose to make a donation, you may give a check to Ken Bordwell or bring it on the morning of the renewal.

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RENEWAL REGISTRATION FORM

If you plan to attend, please send the following information by email OR by returning this form to Ken Bordwell (kenbordwell@zoomtown.com) by September 4th so we can give the caterer a meal count.

Name(s): _____

Number of adults attending: _____

How many will be eating lunch? _____

Number of children attending: _____

Payment: _____