

Community Companion

Community Friends Meeting

Volume 15, Issue 8

(513) 861-4353

September 2009

Presiding Clerk:

Doug Burks

Assistant Clerk:

Ken Bordwell

Recording Clerk:

Betty Waite

Ministry & Counsel:

Eileen Bagus

Doug Burks (ex officio)

Byron Branson

Lisa Cayard

Jamie Fota

Evie Hoffmann

Frank Huss

Paulette Meier

Sunny Rhein

Treasurer:

Mary Anne Curtiss

Newsletter Editor:

Deborah Jordan

(djordan@fuse.net)

next submissions due 9/27

Calendar

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

First Day or Sunday: Singing 9:45am. Meeting for Worship 10am Second hour @11:40am

September 4th **Intergenerational Activity** after Meeting for Worship. Followed by **First Carry In (potluck) Dinner** of the upcoming fall season
1:30pm Memorial for John Hubbard

September 11th **7pm Movie Night** “Fresh” and “Friendly Persuasion” Popcorn provided.

September 13th **First Day School Begins** (Children are taken upstairs by their teacher at 10:15am)
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

September 19th **Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys: Meeting Renewal** (see page 8 for condensed version of what was emailed out)

September 20th **Second Hour: Renewal follow up**

September 25th Friday, 6:30pm **Apple Jamboree!** The Community Committee is hosting an end-of-summer apple celebration and invites you to join in the festivities! We'll start with an apple-based potluck dinner, followed by apple crafts and apple games. This is a family friendly event and all are welcome! We encourage creativity in including apples in our potluck food items and we invite Friends to bring any apple craft supplies/ideas or apple games to share. Questions? email: rachelkernst@gmail.com

September 27th **Second Hour: Review of curriculum and programs for youth in the Meeting.**
All invited. Presented by Lisa Cayard for Religious Development.

Welcome back

First Day School and Teen group begin again Sept. 13. The focus of First Day School is Quaker History. Religious Development has cleaned and prepared the classrooms and the basement. Please help us by having your child or children clean up their activities before they leave. Thanks!

Summary of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business – Seventh Month 12

23 in attendance for Monthly Meeting for Business, with Doug Burks clerking.

Items from the Clerk's table:

- Doug provided an outline of his approach to clerking for the next two years. He discussed the spiritual purpose of meeting for worship with attention to business and his hopes for God's leadership as we go forward.
- Doug received a formal request from FGC to host committee meeting for 2010 gathering in October (clarification). We will discuss it under action items, see below.
- Frank Huss raised the issue of Community Quarterly meeting in October (Wilmington) Wilmington Yearly meeting and FGC friends.

Treasurer's report-Mary Anne Curtiss reporting. The treasurer's report was presented and reflected the Horatio Wood donations as going to the general fund, but she emphasized that it can and will be changed if it is the will of the meeting. See action item below.

Capital campaign report, also by Mary Anne-questions were asked and answered regarding the payment in full of the furnace billings. Collectability of pledges receivable was discussed. A moment of worship was taken to appreciate the financial blessings we have received and the level of financial support which has sustained us through the years.

Action Items:

- The Memorial Minute for Horatio C. Wood IV was read by Byron Branson . A moment of worship was observed in appreciation for this memorial minute. The minute was approved. The work of Eileen Bagus was also minuted for her ability to craft the minute to reflect the spirit of Horatio Wood, and to Byron Branson and Ministry and Counsel. Doug and Ken Bordwell shared a few memories of worshipping with Woody.
- The proposal for the allocation of Horatio Wood's memorial funds as well as the David and Jean Stoffregen memorial funds was read by Mary Anne. Doug proposed a minute that states that for special gifts, we create income accounts that identify those funds as blessing and gifts that we have received. A discussion ensued, noting that this minute would apply to all special type/memorial gifts that we receive in the future. The accounting aspects were discussed. Eric noted that as a general rule, this meeting does not accept targeted funds. Mary Anne noted that some of the gifts that were received were restricted to the capital campaign, but that they could be recorded as described and simply moved to the other funds as needed. The minute was approved. Comments were addressed to the issue of the percentage of our bank balance to our annual budget.
- A moment of worship ensued to consider the best use of our financial resources.
- Eileen Bagus noted that appreciation needs to be expressed to those who put a lot of thought into the proposals they put forward, and that those proposals deserve more weight than others because of the level of detail and knowledge that they possess as part of the role that they play that others might not possess. She asked also that we respect the work and the proposal that Mary Anne put forth and approve her proposal. Eugenia stepped aside so that

the will of the meeting might stand. Money is such a sensitive issue, even to friends. We were reminded during the discussion by several friends, that God will provide. The action item that the \$995 Horatio Wood Memorial Fund and any additional gifts to the Horatio Wood Family Fund go directly to the General Fund except as designated by the donors (\$100), and that a recent \$2,000 donation in honor of David and Jean Stoffregen be utilized \$475 to pay back our debt to the Stevenson Fund, and \$1,525 to the Capital Campaign Fund was approved, with the notation that further donations from these memorials or from future memorials might be decided differently. Concern was expressed that we should be careful not to depend on the use of memorial gifts and special funds for our operating expenses and that we will spend time in the future to discern this issue.

- Doug received a formal request from FGC to host committee meeting for 2010 gathering in October (clarification) for either of two weekends; tenth month 3rd or tenth month 10th. This would entail housing around 30 people, providing food and hospitality, and possibly some transportation. Friday or Saturday or both nights might be involved. Mary Anne noted that last time we hosted a group it was an absolute delight. Ken Bordwell and Eric Wolff offered their leadership should the meeting approve this action item. It was noted that meeting for attention to business would be on the 11th, so the 3rd would be a better date. Kate Anthony noted that 8-10 would be manageable but that 30 would be more difficult. A tipping point of volunteers was discerned and that we would accept this opportunity with a preference for October 3rd. The minute was approved.

Wider Quaker bodies

Byron reported on MARCC-Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati, noting that their financial support from the City of Cincinnati was cut by 90%. The Archdiocese and the Jewish Federation have tried to work with the City to change their mind to no avail. \$35,000 has been cut from their budget. Now they are making a plea to the community for funds and if they cannot make up these lost funds by the end of August they will have to start cutting programs. Byron encourages anyone who has an interest in this organization to assist them financially.

Doug noted that because of the hour, he was postponing the committee discussions to next month. He reminded everyone to read the reports attached to the agenda and asked for other reports that might be time sensitive. Ken noted a meeting of FCNL upcoming in November. Eileen noted that there is a new member of the library committee.

Announcements

- Eric asked for two more caretaker liaison committee members from Ministry and Council.
- Kate mentioned that next week will have a Meeting for Grieving. In addition, the meeting renewal will be all day on September 19th. Jamie Fota requested recipes for organic veggies for OVYM.
- Doug spent a few minutes describing how he would like to see committee reports conveyed in order to assist in meeting for attention to business being more prayerful, but also timely. A discussion ensued.

Closing Worship

Summary of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business – Eighth Month 9

Opening Worship with a reading by the Clerk from Marcus Aurelius.

11 in attendance for Monthly Meeting for Business, with Doug Burks clerking.

Items from the Clerk's table:

- Upcoming Miami Quarterly Meeting was discussed. Community is responsible for programming. Clerk will contact Roy Joe Stuckey about program ideas for a now joint Quarterly meeting with Miami Center.
- Committee Discussion: Al Jose reported about the purpose and function of the Library. Some discussion ensued about meeting with the committee since there are new members and deciding about new pamphlets and placement at the next Meeting for Business.
- Committee Discussion: Deborah Jordan reported on the newsletter. Some Friends were concerned it was not being mailed out. An eventual web presence will be another place to post the newsletter.
- Byron Branson reported on the upcoming Memorial for John Hubbard to be held at Community Meeting on 9th month, 6th day at 1:30pm. This was arranged with family who will be attending from out of town.

Treasurer's report - Mary Anne Curtiss reporting. At 58% through the current fiscal year, we have only received 38% of our budget. Contributions and payments were made so that our bank balance to budget ration is only 2% instead of 10%. Treasurer will repay account a \$200 excess contribution made in error. The successful Capital Campaign fund drive may have lowered contributions to the General Fund. Stewardship is meeting regularly and will write an article for the September newsletter. The committee is aware that money, suggested amounts to contribute, and pledges are difficult subjects for some. Suggestion to have a threshing session to hear Friends' views.

Capital campaign report made by Mary Anne. There is still a \$9000 plus loan from the Cannon Fund to be repaid soon or interest will be added. There is over \$8000 in pledges though. The Capital Campaign poster will be removed.

Committee Reports:

- House and Grounds: Eric Wolff reporting. Recent fire inspection found a gasoline smell in the basement and on the first floor requiring gasoline items to be removed from the garage. The leak is fixed!
- Peace and Social Concerns: Doug Burks reporting. There was a successful Peace Church gathering that members attended. Tender Mercies will be served again in September.

Closing Worship

Nominating Committee Report 6/15/09

Presiding Clerk: Doug Burks
Assistant Presiding Clerk: Ken Bordwell
Recording Clerk: Betty Waite
Treasurer: Mary Anne Curtiss
Archivist: Alvin Jose
Web Page: Eric Wolff, Nick Rhein
Statistician: Lisa Cayard

House and Grounds Committee

Eric Wolff ©
John Sniegocki
Elizabeth Groppe
Richard House (SA)
David Funck
Eugenia Mills
Byron Branson (SA)
Francis Ganance (SA)
Jim Rhein (SA)
Jamie Fota

Religious Development Committee

Lisa Cayard
Deborah Jordan
Wilhelmina Branson
Marjorie Isaacs (SA)
Jim Rhein
Lynn Funck ©
David Funck
Erin Bagus

Ministry and Counsel Committee

Kate Anthony
Lisa Cayard
Eileen Bagus
Frank Huss ©
Sunny Rhein
Byron Branson
Evie Hoffmann
Doug Burks
Paulette Meier

Community Committee

Rachel Ernst ©
Akinah Morriss
Sue Brungs
Sunny Rhein (SA)
Dylan Cahalan
Carol Walk
Agnes Moon
Brett Marshall
Adam Funck

Ken Bordwell
Peace & Social Concerns

Marjorie Isaacs
Ed McAndrews
Doug Burks
Carol Burks
Alvin Jose
Kate Anthony ©
Patricia Terrell
Aaron Milavec
Deborah Milavec
Eugene Marquis
John Sniegocki

Friends in Unity with Nature

Judy Ganance
Sue Brungs
Tom Orr
Karen Orr (SA)
Alvin Jose
Bill Cahalan ©
Eric Wolff (SA)
Jamie Fota
Julie Stubbs (SA)
Elizabeth Groppe

Adult Education

Diana Becket
Eileen Bagus
Aaron Milavec (SA)
Cynthia Sibrel
Tim Leonard ©
Paulette Meier (SA)

Cannon Trustees

Eugenia Mills (6/10) ©
Carol Burks (6/11)
Malcolm Morriss (6/12)

Stewardship Committee

Sarah Hoffmann
Marjorie Isaacs
Mary Anne Curtiss ©
Tom Bennett

Music Committee

Eugene Marquis ©
Chris Morriss

Newsletter

Deborah Jordan ©
Tim Leonard

Quaker Quill

Tim Leonard

Library

Ken Bordwell
Alvin Jose ©
Sarah Hoffmann

OVYM Executive Committee

Frank Huss (6/10)
Byron Branson (6/11)

Miami Quarterly Meeting Rep.

Bill Cahalan

Meeting Directory

Frank Huss

MARCC Delegate Council

Byron Branson
Frank Huss
Alvin Jose
John Sniegocki
Ken Bordwell

Council of Christian Communions

Tim Leonard

Nominating Committee

Sarah Hoffmann
Evie Hoffmann
Richard House
Eileen Bagus
Tim Leonard ©

SA – Special Assignment

(c) – Convener of first meeting after 6/1

Clerking Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

by Douglas Burks

THE PURPOSE OF THE MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS

The Quaker meeting for business is expected to serve at least three purposes. 1) To provide the occasion for group worship out of which participating members may have an experience of spiritual guidance; 2) to provide the setting for group decision making under the leading of the Spirit; 3) to provide the opportunity for exchanging information about the Meeting's activities, the activities of other Friends Meetings and organizations, and for responding to issues laid upon members as religious concerns.

David O. Stanfield. 1989. A Handbook for the Presiding Clerk. North Carolina Yearly Meeting of Friends.

Meeting for worship with attention to business is first and foremost a meeting of worship in which the community discerns the will of God for maintaining a healthy community who share their spiritual journey in life. Friends General Conference advises Clerks of monthly meetings “Whenever we remember that we are in the presence of God, transformation is possible. Every task, no matter how mundane, becomes an act of worship, a word of praise offered to God. This is the basis for Quaker business practice. We call it “meeting for worship with attention to business” because it is grounded in an awareness of God’s presence.”

(<http://www.fgcquaker.org/ao/toolbox/quaker-business-basics>)

One important goal that I have in serving Cincinnati Community Friends monthly meeting is to make meeting for worship with attention to business more worshipful. I hope that in the coming year we can focus more on how committees in their work lead members to growth in their spiritual and religious life. I am asking all committee clerks to provide a written report to the recording clerk, Betty by the first day the week before business meeting. I am hoping that by doing this people can keep abreast of what committees are doing and to focus each month on one committee or two. In doing this I am hoping that we can discuss the mission of each committee, look at ways the committee is serving the community currently, and explore how the committee might try new things

to better serve the community. This means that we will not likely have oral reports from most committees every month but reports will be available as appendices to published minutes. I also am planning on having an agenda prepared the first day before business meeting to be distributed and emailed to members and attenders.

Business items that need action by the meeting will be clearly indicated in agendas. It is important that in working towards discovering God's will and reaching unity within the meeting that good order is critical. Again from FGC:

- *Present each item as if it were a question for worship sharing. Explain the guidelines for worship sharing.*

Make clear that you expect Friends to approach the business in hand in a way that is radically different from ordinary discussion. Here are the basics:

1. Ask the Clerk for attention of the group and try not to have side discussions with others during business worship (added to list from FGC)
2. *Allow silence before and after each person speaks.*
3. *Listen attentively and respectfully.*
4. *Do not react to or critique what others have said, but express your own concerns and insights as deeply and honestly as you can.*
5. *Speak as much as possible from your own experience.*
6. *Expect to speak only once during consideration of a given item.*

- *Quaker Business Basics. FGC. <http://www.fgcquaker.org/ao/toolbox/quaker-business-basics>*

My desire is to serve the meeting so I am open to changing how the business meeting is run and clerked. You can call me @ 513.396.7404 or email @ burksdouglas@msn.com and I will meet with you to discuss any concerns or ideas that you have.

Each Monthly Meeting shall annually name a suitable person to serve the Meeting as Clerk. The duty of the clerk shall be to conduct all business sessions of the Meeting, to see that a full and correct record of all proceedings is kept, and to carry out the instructions of the Meeting on all matters pertaining to the complete accomplishment of its business.

Book of Discipline of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Religious Society of Friends 1978

For the furtherance of this purpose the method is as follows: When a matter requiring decision is placed before the Meeting either by the clerk or by any other member, time should be permitted for careful and deliberate consideration. All members who feel concerned to express a judgment or to present any helpful viewpoint should be heard. When it appears to the clerk that the Meeting has reached a judgment based on mutual consideration of various views, the clerk should compose a minute and ask whether it truly represents the judgment of the Meeting. The approved form of the minute shall be written by the recording clerk to become part of the permanent record of the Meeting and it should be accepted by the members as final unless called up for reconsideration.

It is the privilege of any member to offer a substitute for the clerk's minute if so desired, and the Meeting may concur in, modify or reject it, in exactly the same manner as if the minute had been submitted by the clerk.

Book of Discipline of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Religious Society of Friends 1978

Exploring Our Spiritual Journeys: Meeting Renewal

Saturday Sept 19th from 9AM to 9PM

We will start promptly at 9AM, so please come early for coffee, tea, and light refreshments, provided by kate, your friendly local workshop leader. MeetingHouse will be open by 8:30 AM.

9am Exploring the spiritual journey theme (through worship, worship sharing, art, music, walking meditation)
Lunch: A shared brown bag lunch (bring your lunch!)

Afternoon: Shared work, possible cooperative games and intergenerational activities; humor sharing: bring your favorite Quaker jokes, humorous stories . Followed by a last session on the spiritual journey.

Dinner: Catered

Evening: Presentation by teens about the Alaska trip. Followed by creative sharing by participants.

No charge. Child care will be provided during workshop sessions. We encourage everyone to come!!

Things to bring: brown bag lunch, perhaps some fruit and light snacks to help get through the day, notebook, Quaker humor, games and creativity to share.

Stewardship Committee minds the Light and the Budget

Stewardship committee has been asked by some people in Meeting to distribute a letter disclosing an average dollar amount each person or household could use as a guideline for how much money to contribute each year. In the past such an average number was sent to each household. The committee added up the predicted year's expenses, then divided by the number of individuals or households provided in the Meeting Directory. A number of people found this information to be a helpful guideline. The letters resulted in both increased contributions and numbers of people contributing. Stewardship has also received feedback indicating that such a "fair share" letter is Unquakerly. Both positions, although contradictory, have significant validity.

The general understanding of Quakers is that transparency is endorsed through both encouragement of "plain speech" and the Integrity testimony. On the other hand the Equality Testimony, as well as the fundamental concept of the Inner Light would guide us to avoid specifying an amount. Everyone has essential value regardless of any financial contribution they may be able to make. Publishing a number might alienate people who sit side by side contributing to our Meeting for Worship. There is no way to quantify each person's (or household's) contribution to the group energy which transforms us into the true community which IS Community Friends Meeting. Furthermore, there is nothing "fair" about the plain fact that some people's work leads to greater financial compensation than others'. Additionally, there are multiple variations in life circumstances which might enable one person (or household) to donate more while another with the same assets or income might be able to offer less money in any particular year. A child's educational choices or needs, healthcare bills, and season of life are just a few general examples of situations which complicate any calculation of what is equitable. An arbitrary average number cannot determine what our Treasury is due. Each person (or household) can determine that amount "minding the light".

All of that said, Stewardship has discerned that a "budget index" can be a starting point. By changing the wording from "fair share" to "budget index" we intend to clarify and broaden the process of each individual's discerning their financial contribution. In this spirit we will send outreach letters including a "budget index" to everyone. In spite of the difficulties involved in determining how much one "should" give in financial support, we have accomplished many things in the past few years. Some of them seemed impossible when first presented. Somehow, Community Friends Meeting made them happen anyhow. If we can raise \$44,000 in less than a year as we did, Stewardship has faith that each adult can determine their own right contribution to the financial needs of our Community Friends Meeting.

In the Light, Marjorie Isaacs, Sarah Hoffmann, Tom Bennett, and Mary Anne Curtiss

The Stewardship Committee