

Community Companion

Community Friends Meeting

Volume 15, Issue 11

(513) 861-4353

January 2010

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 2/2

Calendar

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

First Day or Sunday: Spirit-Led Gathering 9am. Singing 9:45am.

Meeting for Worship 10am Second hour @11:40am

January 3rd Carry In Lunch following Meeting for Worship

January 10th Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

January 15th Friday, 7pm Movie Night

January 16th Saturday, FUN Woods Work Day

January 18th Monday, 7pm Peace and Social Concerns Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center representative presents Adopt a School program in Cincinnati to address “Before You Enlist”

Feb. 7th 12:30pm Friends’ Education with Mary Ellen Newport, Assistant Head of Olney School and Director of Admissions and Lucy Hartsock, featuring an Olney slideshow (*following carry-in potluck*)

In the Light

Sue Brungs and family after the death of her mother on Christmas Day

Gratitude

For the shed builders: Eric Wolff, Jim Rhein, Dylan Cahalan, and Adam Funck

For another memorable Christmas play – Thanks to all the performers, Director Jason Dean and

Author Rachel Logan Wood

Summary of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business – Twelfth Month 13

1. Approval of proposed agenda was requested, after being read by Doug Burks. It had been emailed to all prior to meeting for worship with attention to business. A few additions were made and the agenda was approved.
2. Action Item –Approval of the nominating committee was requested. The list was read by Doug Burks, approval was expressed that young people were included on the listing of the committee. Another person may be added to the committee in January. The listing was approved. Approval for the charge to the committee was requested, having Tim Leonard convene the first meeting, at which time the committee will choose a clerk for the remaining meetings. The charge to the committee was approved.
3. We entered worship sharing mode to share our varied experiences of the holidays in light of our testimony of simplicity.
4. Committee reports
 - Treasurer's report-reported by Doug, the end of the month bank balance is 12% of our budget which is an improvement. Of concern were the cuts to the various Quaker charitable bodies and organizations. Clerk Doug Burks noted that our budget for 2010 will be finalized in January, at which time those cuts could be revisited. Noted also that individuals were encouraged to support the charitable bodies. It was remembered that if funds are available, contributions might still be made to some of these organizations. The remaining balance on the capital campaign loan is \$1,903. The treasurer's report was accepted.
 - Ministry and Council-Lisa Cayard reporting, February 13th is tentatively meeting renewal.
 - Peace and Social Concerns- Kate Anthony reporting. See attached. Adopt a School, IJPC will be considered to participate, and will be invited to the next meeting. The committee continues trying to set up a volunteer event with the Freestore. The letter writing campaign happened today. Local violence will be a topic for second hour next year. Tender Mercies dinners continue.
 - Adult Education-Tim Leonard reporting, they are meeting on the 3rd of January. Paul Chapels is visiting, the author of a book on peace, will be in Cincinnati on February 1-4, 2010, and there is hope to have Paul speak here on leadership on making peace, inviting other Quakers and Peace churches to collaborate. He is seeking input as to which date would be the most effective for this event. Tim will ask him to come on Tuesday, February 2nd.
 - Cannon Trustees-Carol Burks reporting, market is up a bit, still working on repaying the loan.
 - Webpage-Eric Wolff reporting, website is moving along slowly. Eric requests all committee clerks to bring up in their meetings how they can help the website committee, to spread the efforts. He is actively asking for volunteers for a community events calendar as well as for a coordinator for art/pictures/videos/collages for the website.
5. Wider Quaker bodies- FCNL-Frank Huss and Ken Bordwell attended meeting, FCNL exec secretary, Joe Volk, is retiring March 2011, and nominees are being requested to replace

him as executive secretary. He read a job description. See www.fcnl.org/jobs for more information. Senator Voinovich might be able to be convinced to vote for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. We should encourage him to do so. Yard sign and bumper stickers declaring War is not the Answer are available

6. Announcements

Goals and Items for 2010-Our overall goal has been for the nourishment and growth of our spiritual journeys. This overall goal was confirmed. Other goals were requested and are as follows:

The Memorial gift policy

Reaching discernment on whether or not the meeting needs a finance committee to meet with the treasurer.

A policy on signage in our yard for items supporting causes, but not particular candidates.

Byron requested that we add the issue of affordable housing facing the City of Cincinnati. 3CDC is a private organization doing community development, displacing many low income families.

Another issue relating to Obama's speech in Norway and Just War Principle was raised as something to consider as a goal especially as it relates to how the local community responds. It was suggested that Tim write a newsletter piece articulating the issue. If unity within the meeting resulted, we could produce a minute that could be distributed to the wider community.

Fit for Freedom, not for Friendship (the book) was also suggested as something to consider for Adult Education.

Minutes were approved with gratitude.

Closing Worship

Holy Baboon: A Mystical Moment

On a Dec. 22nd NPR news broadcast, Radio Lab producers told a story about an anthropologist who spent 2 years studying baboons in Kenya by following them for 10 to 11 hours a day, 7 days a week. The most unusual behavior she ever noted was one time when a group of 30 baboon adults and youth sat down on some rocks by a stream, staring into the stream quietly for 5 minutes. No sound! The producers said it was Quaker-like, several times. They said this could mean that baboons can reflect and wonder and give thanks. May we all reflect on the stream of the living water.

Ministry and Counsel Offers Support with Conflict Resolution

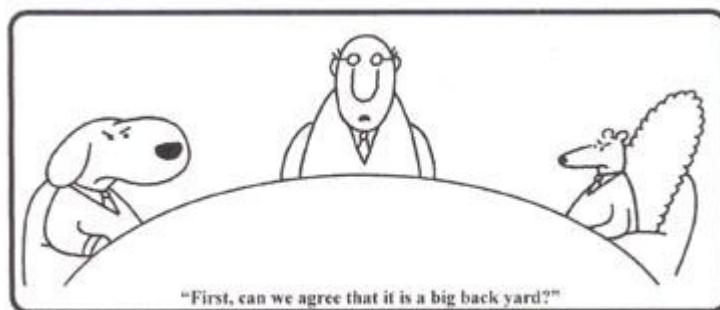
Over the past few years, Ministry and Counsel Committee has worked to provide opportunities to deepen our spiritual community and to nurture the spiritual life of the meeting. Many of us have found that close spiritual friendships in the meeting sustain us, encourage us, stretch us and challenge us. Like an extended family, the meeting community offers opportunities to share openly and honestly when there is an atmosphere of caring, trust, and commitment.

However, as in a family, there are also times when unresolved conflicts can undermine the trust and closeness within our meeting community. Conflict makes us uncomfortable, so we may tend to avoid discussing misunderstandings and disagreements that create conflict among us. We Quakers do like to be friendly and comfortable and agreeable! Unfortunately, hurt or angry feelings caused by unresolved conflict can linger and weaken our spiritual community. When we are able to sit in

a safe space to face and discuss conflict openly, however, we may find a deeper level of understanding and compassion with one another.

Ministry and Counsel Committee has several members who are trained and experienced in conflict resolution and active listening, and we are available to support any Friends in the meeting who are in need of such ministry. We can provide a loving and open space of listening when those inevitable conflicts arise. Please feel free to contact any member of Ministry and Counsel to request such a listening meeting or just to share your concerns. Remember that support is available as we face the many challenges of living together in loving community.

submitted by Lisa Cayard



"First, can we agree that it is a big back yard?"



President Obama's Nobel lecture was quite remarkable. That a president of the United States would argue for peace while that country is engaged in two wars was ironic to say the least; but he rose to the occasion, and has been praised across the world for his words. Mr. Obama acknowledged that in terms of his accomplishments in seeking and achieving peace he was far less worthy than past recipients such as Gandhi and Martin Luther King. Additionally, he said, there are millions around the world who strive for peace every day in obscurity who are more deserving of this honor than he. The humility of the lecture is one of its best features.

In a manner that called Lincoln's Second Inaugural to mind, he said in spite of all our efforts, wars come, and that non-violence sometimes permits the worst of evils to be perpetrated on innocent people. The fact of war, he said, is universal in human history.

The basis of his argument was that just wars may be waged in the interest of peace – it was an argument for just war, and the need for international collaboration to bring about justice within and between nations. Quakers have long since sought international collaboration. In fact, Quakers, through the Friends Service Council in London, and The American Friends Service Committee and were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1947 for the witness they bore in World Wars I and II and the years between for “the strength to be derived from faith in the victory of the spirit over force.” As admirable as his speech was, Mr. Obama’s view of peace differs from the Quaker peace testimony, which may be summed up by the words of A.J. Muste, “There is no way to peace. Peace is the way.”

Quakers have traditionally argued that a just war does not exist, but since Mr. Obama argued from the theory that there are just wars, the speech can be examined in terms of that theory. The theory can be summarized by examining the following principles:

1. The state has a basic right to wage war, but only as an extreme measure of defense against an unjust aggressor.

2. War must always be waged only as a last resort after all reasonable options have been exhausted.
3. There must be a reasonable hope for success before war is waged.
4. Peace must be the aim of war: a peace preferable to that which might be attained without war.
5. The weapons and means of war must be proportional to the cause of the war.
6. Civilians are never permissible targets of war.

In the speech, Mr. Obama claimed the war in Afghanistan is a just war, but there is little evidence that our involvement in the war meets those principles, particularly principles 2 through 6.

All reasonable non-violent options have not been exhausted. Mr. Obama inherited war conditions from his predecessor, but there has not been a public discussion of the myriad non-violent actions that might be workable to help bring about peace. Karl Eikenberry, Ambassador to Afghanistan doubts that principles 3 and 4 hold up, for he has seen first hand that the Karzai government will remain corrupt, and there are reports that U.S. moneys are being sent to Taliban and alQaida forces. Moreover, the aim of the war is so vaguely stated that there can be no actual hope of success, for what would be the measure of success? As far as principle 5 is concerned there are alleged to be no more than 100 alQaida activists in Afghanistan, the rest having moved to Pakistan. A total of 100,000 troops for 100 members of the enemy, is hardly proportional. As for principle 6, too many civilians have already been killed to say they are not targets of war. As Mr. Obama admitted in his speech, conditions of war in our time show that more civilians die in war than combatants. That being the case, it is difficult to make the claim that civilians are not the targets, no matter what the public relations arm of government says.

Thus it seems clear that even on Mr. Obama’s own principles, the war in Afghanistan cannot be justified. – submitted by Tim Leonard

Final Thoughts

From Essays on the Quaker Vision of Gospel Order:

“To the extent that individual Friends have learned how to be still and listen to God, the gathered faith community will be enabled to hear the Inward Guide corporately. At times an individual may arrive at the place of meeting in a distinctly ‘unquiet’ state, and that person’s ‘noise’ and agitation will ripple outward throughout the gathering. After a time, however, the prepared spirits of the gathered worshippers will absorb the jangling of his/her spirit and draw that individual into the silence, as a pond absorbs the disturbance of a falling stone and returns to stillness.” ~ Lloyd Lee Wilson

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Websites:

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting:
<http://ovym.quaker.org/>

Community Friends:
www.communityfriendsmeeting.com

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3960 Winding Way
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