

Haddonfield Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship for Business
June 8, 2014

MINUTES

The Meeting for Worship for Business began with a period of silent worship. The Clerk read Query # 5, "Equality," p. 210, Faith and Practice.

27 Friends were in attendance.

Friends approved the minutes of the May Meeting for Worship for Business.

Dave Austin presented the Annual Report of the Religious Education Committee, a copy of which is attached hereto. Highlights of this year's programs for adults were presentations by other committees. The Committee continues to extend its invitation to committees and individuals for suggestions for programs. Changing the children's First Day School start time has resulted in improved attendance. The Committee seeks new members. Dave Austin is stepping down as Clerk and as a member of this Committee. Friends minuted their appreciation for David's good work.

Bob Turrin presented an issue/opportunity from Property Committee. Ventina Hershey advised the Committee that the School is making some repairs to the fence surrounding the School. These repairs were suggested by the Accreditation Committee. Camden Iron Works is doing the work. It has pointed out that while it is doing this work it could restore the fence along Friends Avenue, which is not technically part of the School. The School is asking the Meeting to pay \$2,000 of the \$6,000 cost to repair the fence Along Friends Avenue. The moneys in the Graveyard Fund could be used for this purpose. There is an adequate amount of money in that fund. Friends approved.

Bob mentioned that the gas shutoff valve work has been done. The valve is now located to the right of the oven. Bob will attach a laminated sign to the wall near the valve to highlight it.

The Committee is also having a roofer doing an assessment of the areas in the roof which it knows contain leaks. The Clerk thanked Bob for his report.

Connie Brookes presented the final Report of Nominating Committee, a copy of which is attached hereto. She noted that the Committee is still looking for members of religious Education, Finance and Memorial Service and Graveyard. An IT person is needed for Communication and Outreach. Jay Beirne is an inactive member of Property Committee. Maria Shivers' name should be added to Property Committee. Other openings are also noted on the Report. As committees choose their clerks, they should advise Connie so she can update the report. Friends approved the Nominating Committee Report.

Connie Brookes presented the final draft Budget for FY 2015 on behalf of the Finance Committee, a copy of which is attached hereto. She started at the FY 2014 year end projection. The principal payment to FFC is projected to be \$10,000 this year, and the

FY 2015 Budget includes no funds for that purpose. The loan was used for various property refurbishment projects. Friends approved the use of the Drago bequest for that purpose. The year end projections for contributions to the Yearly and Quarterly Meetings are \$12,000 and \$1,500 respectively. The proposals in the Budget for FY 2015 are \$5,000 and \$1,000 respectively. Friends approved the amounts suggested by Finance Committee for contributions to Quarterly and Yearly Meetings.

With respect to the draft Budget for FY 2015, the Committee was united that the budget should be conservative. Expenses in child care will be stable next year, although those expenses have increased in recent years. Conferences and retreats amounts were increased to help families attend the Tri-Quarter Retreat. Friends approved the final Budget presented by Finance Committee.

The Meeting expressed its appreciation to the Committee for its hard work and seasoned recommendations.

Linda Lotz reported for the Ad Hoc Committee on *Faith and Practice* revision. A copy of her report is attached hereto. The Clerk stated that the Committee has worked very hard over many hours to present this seasoned report. She recommended that Friends consider their suggestions in a thoughtful manner, considering that the Committee has labored over this report. This year PYM's committee on *Faith and Practice* sent out its second draft for review, specifically asking for anything that might be missing and any items included that are extraneous. The key points of the Ad hoc Committee's recommendation were also discussed at a joint meeting of Worship and Ministry and Care Committees. The Committee is recommending that PYM include a discussion of the terminology relating to "God" and that it consider greater use of gender neutral language. It is also important for *Faith and Practice* to reflect the discussions occurring within the Friends community at large on racial equality and white privilege. It is also recommending that the book include more historical background on the development of the testimonies of Friends. The sections on conflict within a meeting should be consolidated with the section on individuals in conflict. Little was included about children in the life of a meeting and the various life stages of members. Friends expressed their appreciation for the enormous good work of the Ad Hoc Committee. Friends approved the report of the Committee to be submitted to the Yearly Meeting in the name of Haddonfield Meeting.

Justin Loughry presented an issue from Peace Social Concerns. Twice in the last year the Committee has sent letters to various local WalMart stores encouraging them to increase their wages. Most of WalMart customers come from a struggling community, and the Committee recognizes the value of their being able to purchase items at low cost. Justin read the draft letter to the new President/CEO encouraging them to increase wages and to cease retaliatory actions against employees who are trying to make the company a better place. As CEO he can choose to contribute to the growing inequity in our communities or to share some of the company's wealth with those who carry out your mission every day. The Committee requests that the Clerk send this letter officially on behalf of the Meeting. One Friend suggested that the Clerk include in her signature the number of members and attenders in the Meeting.

One Friends mentioned that the family that owns WalMart earns a lot of money from the stores because of the low wages it pays its employees.

Friends approved the letter.

The Clerk discussed the correspondence she has received:

- The Community Calendar correspondence was directed to the Communication and Outreach Committee.
- The Borough is repairing the sewer main on Lake Street in July.
- A letter from the PYM Indian Committee was referred to Peace & Social Concerns. It included numerous materials on the work being done to support indigenous communities.
- Brochures and information on Annual Sessions. She asked Deedy Roberts to coordinate car pooling. It is important for Meeting members to attend, and the event is fun.

The Clerk questioned whether we need to have Meetings for Worship for Business in July and August. We usually need one meeting in the summer, but the Clerk didn't know which would be preferable. She suggested that we meet in August and asked that Friends contact her with agenda items. If necessary we can have a called meeting in July. Friends approved.

The Meeting expressed its appreciation for the Clerk's work and her efforts to keep the monthly meeting engaged in the wider world of Quakers.

The next Meeting for Worship for Business will be on August 10.

Monthly Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business concluded with a period of worship.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Kane Williams, Recording Clerk.

Annual Report of the Religious Education Committee for 2013-2014

Committee members:

David Austin (clerk), Michelle Tartar, Elena Lahr-Vivaz, Mary Noland, Christian White, Rob McDevitt

- Our committee budget for this year was \$1000. The committee thanks the Meeting for its generous support of our work. The budget for the upcoming 2014-2015 year will be \$750.
- The theme for this past year's program was "21st Century Quakers."
- Highlights of our Adult First Day School program this year included several guest speakers and programs organized and presented by other committees within the Meeting.
- Highlights of our Children's First Day School program included special sessions leading up to Mothers' Day, and the year culminated in a garden party/closing celebration.
- The Committee continued to work with other committees within the Meeting on the planning and presentation of First Day School programs. In the coming year, the Committee will continue to extend this invitation to other committees and to individual Friends who have a specific leading or interest.
- Over the course of the year, our Committee made some adjustments to the Children's First Day School program, which including having Rob act as our Adult Lead Teacher every week and changing the start time for CFDS programs to 10:30. This change has improved attendance.
- The Children's FDS Program continues to grow in terms of the number of children we potentially have each week.
- The theme for the 2014-2015 year will be "Quakers in the World Today," focusing on what Friends and Friends' organizations are doing around the world, but programming ideas will not be limited by that theme.
- Attached you will find copies of the calendar for the past year.
- The Committee seeks new members. We have some committee members rotating off this year and next.
- As of June, I will be stepping down as Clerk and as a member of the Committee. It has been an honor and a blessing to serve the Committee and the Meeting in this capacity, and I wish to extend special thanks to everyone with whom I have served while acting in this capacity.

Respectfully submitted to the Meeting, First Day, 8th Day, Sixth Month, 2014.

David Austin

Haddonfield Monthly Meeting

Proposed Comments on Faith and Practice

Presented 6/8/14 to HMM Meeting for Worship for Business.
by the ad hoc committee: Bob Brookes, John Donch, Linda Lotz,
and Bill Patterson, with additional input from Mary Anne Gaffney.
Suggested changes are in *italics*.

Background:

Meetings were asked to review a draft chapter on “Experience and Faith” for the revised Faith and Practice. Divided into three sections for review purposes, the text addresses how we as Friends live out our faith in our personal lives and as a meeting. In presenting this text, the revision committee notes: “Because these drafts will likely change, we don’t want Friends to become too attached to these drafts. There will be opportunities for further seasoning of the revised drafts after Annual Sessions.”

Keeping in mind this request to focus on the *content*, meetings were asked to respond to the following questions for each of the three sections:

- Is the meaning clear?
- Is anything missing?
- Is anything extraneous?

The Ad Hoc Committee wishes to present the following recommendations, based on careful review and discussion, and then seasoning of this document. Key points from the “Overview” section were presented to, and accepted by, the joint Care-Worship and Ministry Committee in May. In addition, comments were received from Mary Anne Gaffney, co-clerk of Worship and Ministry Committee. One other member read portions of the document but did not provide any recommendations.

Our feedback, laid out below, will be entered into the PYM Survey Monkey following today’s business meeting. Additional information about the revision process can be found at: <http://www.pym.org/faith-and-practice-revision-group/invitation-to-monthly-meetings/>

OVERVIEW

The Committee finds the documents fairly well done. It wishes to raise the following broad issues, as well as some detailed suggestions provided in the full report, with the hopes of providing additional clarity and strength to the text.

- 1) The use of multiple terms for “God” without definition or context was confusing. In particular we lift up the following suggestions:
 - a) Friends hold diverse ideas about God, however these are not presented clearly or consistently.

- b) Some terms give the impression that Friends experience a belief in the Trinity. (Note the use of the words “Christ” and “Holy Spirit” for God.)
- c) Several terms reflecting a masculine God are used, but no feminine terms are offered.
- d) Avoid over-emphasis of the name “Christ” for “God”. (See especially the Advices).

2) Given the extensive documentation and subsequent discussion arising from *Fit for Freedom* and the growing participation of Quakers and Friends organizations in the national movement to address white privilege and broader class issues, the updated *Faith and Practice* should acknowledge current issues of race, privilege and class within meetings and the Religious Society of Friends and provide some guidance and encouragement to individuals, meetings and other bodies to address these issues. This is especially important now, as the US is becoming a more diverse nation and Friends are continuing outreach efforts.

3) Several testimonies are addressed in section IIA, however the text addressing peacemaking, citizenship, etc. would benefit from re-thinking and reorganizing. People involved in FCNL or AFSC might be helpful in broadening the perspective on peacemaking. We particularly note the absence of discussion re the testimonies of integrity and community.

The best way to address this would be to create a section that addresses all of the Testimonies in the same place with a similar format, addressing *very briefly*: the origins of the Testimony and its historical context, an overview of current issues, and suggestions for action by individuals and meetings. This could be preceded or followed by the section on individual and meeting roles and responsibilities in living out and promoting these testimonies as a citizen.

4) The IIA section on the Meeting in Conflict should be consolidated with related issues in IIB Faith Reflected in our Organization. The text now in IIA should be revised to note that issues may arise between individual members, and refer readers to the consolidated section.

Note:

- Usage varies within the text re capitalization of *Meeting*. The final text should be reviewed to assure this has been addressed.
- There should be consistent use of the term “meeting for worship for business.”
- Sometimes, updated and/or direct language is more helpful than long-used terms (i.e. find way)

Haddonfield Monthly Meeting

June 8, 2014

Doug McMillon
Walmart Home Office
702 SW 8th St.
Bentonville, AR 72716-8611

Dear Mr. McMillon,

We congratulate you in becoming the new President and CEO of the world's largest and richest retail company. We encourage you to listen very carefully to your employees, since it is their work which has enabled Walmart to become one of the most powerful companies in the world.

In particular, we urge you and your executive team to move quickly to end the poverty wages paid by Walmart and its illegal retaliation against workers who are trying to make the company a better place.

We believe all workers should be treated with dignity and respect. Walmart's practices including part-time positions, low wages and irregular scheduling, make it difficult for workers to support themselves and their families. Since many workers earn less than \$25,000 per year, many families are forced to live in poverty and rely on food stamps and other public programs. These same policies have enabled the Walton family to gain control of 42% of America's wealth.

Every major faith tradition affirms the dignity of work, and as people of faith we are called to honor and protect the basic rights of all workers, including the right to provide for their families without fear of retaliation for addressing issues of discrimination, safety at work, status or organizing.

You - personally, and your company - have an enormous influence over our nation's economy. As CEO, you can choose whether to contribute to the growing inequity in our communities, or you can choose a new path by sharing some of your company's wealth with those who carry out your mission every day. We urge you to act in a responsible way, by listening to your employees and those whom you hope to retain as customers.

Thank you,

