

Haddonfield Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship for Business
9/9/12

SEPTEMBER MINUTES

The Meeting for Worship for Business began with a period of silent worship. The Clerk read Extract #32 from Alison Sharman in Faith and Practice.

25 Friends were in attendance.

Karen Dillon reported for the Committee on Structures. The following summarized its report:

- It recommends periodic self-evaluation by each committee, with suggested queries. The ministry of each should be highlighted on the Committee Bulletin Board.
- Regular contributions of news should be made to the Meeting website. More frequent reporting to Meeting for Business was recommended.

Specific recommendations were made with respect to individual committees:

- The Friendship, Library and Children's Inclusion Committees should be laid down.
- Peace and Social Concerns Committee should develop a mission statement, and the Meeting should consider ways to expand participation in the activities of that Committee.
- The Racial *Ad Hoc* Committee should be formally merged into Peace & Social Concerns.
- Nominating should expand its ministry to include training and orientation.
- It was recommended that the Meeting's participation in the Haddonfield Council of Churches be folded into the new outreach committee.
- The Tuition Assistance Committee should have at least one member who does not have a child in the School.
- The Meeting should consider redefining the role of Correspondence Clerk to include assistance to the Clerk.
- The Meeting should adopt Pendle Hill's semi-annual Days of Service.
- The periodic Meetings of Clerks should continue, with dates of the meetings for the year being set in January.
- The Structures Committee should be laid down in October.

A copy of the full report is attached hereto.

A Friend suggested that the Clerk of each committee be responsible for initiating the periodic self-evaluation. Kate Varevice volunteered to coordinate a handbook of committee and Meeting policies and procedures.

The Meeting will hold over the report and consider its approval at the next Meeting for Worship for Business.

Linda Lotz reported for Care Committee its proposal for holding regular meetings for worship for healing on weekday evenings. A copy of the report is attached hereto. These meetings would be held under the guidance of Worship and Ministry and Care Committees. Michele Tartar spoke in favor of the concept. She stated that this was one of the first types of meetings initiated by George Fox. Friends approved.

The Clerk reminded Meeting that the Aging Gracefully retreat will occur at Haddonfield Meeting on October 20. This retreat is a joint project of the Worship and Ministry and Care Committees. There is a sign-up sheet, which will be posted on the Meeting website.

Maria Shivers presented Care Committee's recommendation that Jay Beirne be accepted into membership. The Recommendation was approved and a welcoming committee formed.

Lois Hinski summarized a discussion held at Peace & Social Concerns this morning concerning activities to aid the Afghani people. She had also discussed this with Peter Lems at AFSC. In addition, Lois has asked Sharon Dreese, Head of HFS, if the School wants to participate in service activities for Afghanistan. This will be the service program of HFS beginning in January. All who are interested in participating are welcome. The Meeting will continue with the Mitten Tree at Christmas for a shelter in Camden. Lois also mentioned a DVD that summarizes activities to help women in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Both the Afghan and Congolese programs are well established and successful. Anyone interested in either of these opportunities should talk to Lois.

Pam Perry discussed the Historical Society request to come to our meeting on Sunday, January 27, 2013 from 2-4 pm as part of the Tricentennial Commemoration of the settlement of Haddonfield. There would be a presentation, perhaps a short period of worship and period refreshments. Friends approved reserving the date for that purpose.

Deedy Roberts presented a report on Interim Meeting, a copy of which is attached hereto. Interim Meeting will meet only five times per year. Arthur Larrabee is the Quaker representative to the National Council of Churches and wrote a paper that describes what Quakers believe. This is a personal statement by Arthur, not an official publication by PYM.

The monks are coming to Haddonfield Meeting from Nov. 6 - 10. There will be an event on Friday evening. A sand mandala will be created and then taken down. The sand and ashes will be deposited in a local body of water.

The Clerk mentioned the program by the National Museum of American Jewish History on ~~To~~ Bigotry No Sanction . George Washington and Religious Freedom.+The Meeting received an invitation from the Museum that included a quote from George Washington praising the Quakers for their tolerance.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Kane Williams, Recording Clerk.

Structures Committee Recommendations

- **Periodic Self-Evaluation** – *Each committee, at least once every two years, should hold a committee retreat, threshing session or similar gathering to re-examine its ministry, including queries similar to those first posed by Structures:*
 1. *Does your committee have a clear purpose?*
 2. *What is the Purpose?*
 3. *What functions could your committee pursue that it isn't doing currently?*
- 1. *Are there any factors that impede the committee from doing its work?*

The results of this evaluation including changes implemented should be incorporated into the committee's annual report to the Monthly Meeting.

- **Committee Bulletin Board** – *In conjunction with the Clerks' Gatherings, the convening committee might be given the opportunity to highlight its ministry and activities on the Bulletin Board outside the auditorium for a three-month period. The board can be used as needed by any group but would be coordinated through the Clerk's Gathering.*

- **Use of Technology** – *Committees should regularly contribute news and status reports to the Meeting web site. The website is www.haddonfieldfriends.org and information can be submitted to Pam Anderson or Sarah Greenblatt.*

- **Reporting to Meeting for Business** – *The committee recommends that committees that perform regular functions consider more frequent reporting to the Monthly Meeting and not rely solely on an annual report. Examples of this are Property Committee and the Finance Committee which report as needed.*

Restructuring Certain Committees

In some cases, it became clear that a committee was not functioning properly, had lost its sense of mission, or was no longer as relevant to the life of the Meeting as perhaps it was when it was formed. Some functions that are important to the Meeting did not seem to rest within the domain of any existing committee. In still other cases, the committee structure may have operated inadvertently as an obstacle to individual Friends or groups with interests and leadings because they overlapped with a committee's jurisdiction.

With respect to committees that may be under-functioning or have functions that do not match the needs of the Meeting in 2012, Structures Committee makes the following recommendations with respect to the organization of committees:

- **Friendship Committee** - *Friendship Committee has drifted from its original purpose of supporting intergenerational activities. For a time it was thought to be a good*

committee for new members and attenders to get to know the Meeting and be introduced to committee work. Even its function of providing hospitality at meeting events has diminished. Today, it has few members and mainly is responsible for supplying and caring for the kitchen, overseeing summer hospitality, and reminding each committee when it is their month to provide hospitality. It is the recommendation of Structures, along with Friendship, that the committee be laid down. Supplying the kitchen for hospitality can be delegated to committees at the quarterly clerks' gathering. Re-energizing the community life of the meeting through hospitality and social events is addressed below under ____.

- *Children's Inclusion Committee - The Children's Inclusion Committee's mission at one time was to find ways to integrate our meeting children into the life of the meeting. It no longer generates interest and members have been difficult to find. Its only function currently is to hire and arrange for payment of child care providers, which is not sufficient to warrant a full standing committee. We recommend that this committee be laid down and the Meeting consider as an alternative asking one or two Friends to volunteer to perform this function outside of the committee structure.*
- *Library Committee -the library Committee could be laid down.*
- *Peace and Social Concerns Committee – The sense of the committee is that, in our Monthly Meeting, the Peace and Social Concerns Committee should play a more central role in the community life, given that we are committed to Friends testimonies. This is an observation about the Meeting and not on the Committee itself, which is comprised of dedicated Friends following Spirit-led leadings. Our recommendations are that the Meeting should consider developing a mission statement from Faith and Practice to make the Meeting more aware of the potential that this Committee presents for nurturing leadings and practical support for others' leadings. The meeting needs to find a way to become more involved with current endeavors, such as The Garden Project in Camden, Books Behind Bars, and film screenings regarding social issues. The Committee is developing new meeting-wide projects such Habitat for Humanity. This would suggest that membership should consist of those with personal leadings as well as those interested in promoted activities for the Meeting.*

The second recommendation is that the Meeting attempt to support these causes both through action and monetary support.

The third recommendation is that the racial ad hoc committee be merged into this group.

It is further recommended that First Day Schools be given about each concern either as a group or individual cause at least once a year.

- *Nominating Committee – The committee recommends consideration of the expansion of this committee's ministry to include training and orientation for committee and clerking service. This might include a name change to reflect the change in function.*
- *Council of Churches-The recommendation was that this be folded into the new outreach committee or that the representative report to the committee.*

- **Tuition Assistance Committee**-The recommendation is that this committee should have at least one member who does not have children in the school on the committee to show that we do support the children.
- **Structures**-The committee recommends that it be laid down at the end of this process in October.

Leadership Positions

- **Corresponding Clerk** – The committee recommends that the Monthly Meeting consider redefining and expanding the role of Correspondence Clerk to include assistance to the Clerk in drafting outgoing correspondence for the clerk's signature and maintaining correspondence files as well as templates for certain kinds of correspondence as necessary. The correspondence Clerk would also communicate internally within the Monthly Meeting to follow up on outstanding and pending business items raised at Meeting for Business.

Regarding Community Life:

- It is recommended that the Day of Service, a Pendle Hill initiative, become a permanent initiative that is scheduled in both the Fall and Spring. This is not a committee function but rather an individual from the Gardening Group who agrees to schedule and organize the two days of service.

A Quarterly Meeting of Clerks has been initiated; to date we have had four. The Clerks Meeting provides an opportunity for committees to share their work, concerns, ideas, and opportunities. Recommendation

- Continue and make permanent the quarterly clerks' gathering to exchange ideas and news, provide support and consultation for the clerk, foster good communication and cooperation among Monthly Meeting leadership
- is that the clerk or alternate clerk set the dates for the four meetings in January and use Faith and Practice as a resource for setting the agenda. Each committee would be responsible for chairing a quarterly meeting; that would mean about every two years a committee clerk would be responsible for a meeting. It is further recommended that the bulletin board be assigned to a committee for a period of three months. That committee would be responsible for decorating, maintaining, and disassembling the board.

Terminology –

It is recommended that we examine our use of the term Ad Hoc Committees. Ad Hoc implies that the committee has an end date and is not a permanent entity.

The use of the term subcommittee links a smaller entity to a larger group. It also implies that a reporting status is expected.

It is recommended that the Racial Justice ad hoc Committee become a subcommittee of a larger committee.

Reminder

It is recommended that committees follow the process of contacting Nominating when members no longer are participatory in the work of the committee. Committees appear to have more members than they really do. This would enable Nominating to replace committee members as needed.

Volunteers Needed

Structures has felt that a handbook would be useful for newcomers and could be a part of the welcoming packet. It would contain a brief description of each committee's responsibilities and activities that occur regularly.

Proposal for holding regular Meetings for Worship for Healing at Haddonfield Monthly Meeting

At the conclusion of the Spring, 2012 retreat/workshop on holding people in the Light, sponsored by Worship and Ministry Committee, participants agreed it would be wonderful to begin holding Meetings for Worship for Healing at Haddonfield Meeting. This idea was subsequently considered at a joint meeting of Worship and Ministry and Care Committees, and a small committee was asked to consider this idea further. Following is the recommendation being put forward by Judy Barnes, Linda Lotz and Diane Snyder, and incorporating suggestions from Religious Education and Worship and Ministry Committees. It was approved at the August, 2012 meetings of Care and Worship and Ministry Committees.

Process moving forward: Presentation at Meeting for Business for final approval (September).

Proposal: Hold a Meeting for Worship for Healing on a periodic basis at Haddonfield Meeting.

The Meetings for Healing will address the need for healing of mind, body, and/or spirit.

Meetings for Healing will be held on a weekday evening (Monday). Initially, the sessions will be held every two months.

For the first session, we hope Kate De Reil will introduce her exercises for those who may not have attended the Spring retreat, and as a refresher for those who did.

At subsequent sessions, a facilitator will gently guide the group: starting the session, introducing new participants to our practice, praying for the well-being of everyone present and those we hold in our thoughts, inviting individuals into the center for special attention, and closing as a full group. As we gain experience, some changes may develop in our practice.

Meetings for Healings will be held under the guidance of Worship and Ministry and Care Committees.

PYM Interim Meeting
September 8th, 2012
Jada Jackson, Clerk

Interim meeting is changing its schedule from eight Saturdays per year to five. Many regretted this and will miss the friendships we find when we attend.

The clerk of Peace and Social Concerns for Medford Meeting announced to the body that Haddonfield Quarter is alive and well. She was celebrating the gathering of Care Committee/Worship and Ministry clerks which has already taken place.

Help is needed for the children at SHARE when they work with homeless children.

On October 13th we celebrate Arch Street being accepted onto the National Register of Historic Buildings. Alan Crossman says the state has approved them forming a corporation. There is a grant of over \$75,000 which will be used for staffing. While the 501-C3 status is getting established PYM will administer this.

Much discussion was generated by Arthur setting his beliefs on paper. We have a non-creedal religion and people were at first quite frightened to see actual beliefs on paper. After the initial flurry we realized that the simple things Arthur had written down to help himself answer frequently asked questions were, in general, beliefs held by us all. Arthur's paper would be a wonderful vehicle for worship sharing on a special Saturday or for First Day School. Arthur's paper came from his home address and not from 1515 Cherry Street. In the future his paper might be considered by the group which updates our Faith and Practice.+

Jenny Sheeks reported on the Annual Giving. Those who give gave much much more this year. Still, the number giving is very small. 14.63% of Haddonfield's membership gives.

Please feel most welcome to attend Interim Meeting.

Respectfully,
Deedy Roberts