

Haddonfield Monthly Meeting

Meeting for Worship for Business

March 12, 2017

MINUTES

The Meeting for Worship for Business began with a period of silent worship. Friends read aloud the following Queries:

- Does our Meeting encourage the ministry of both word and deed? How does our Meeting recognize, develop, and nurture the gifts of our members and attenders of all ages?
- Does our Meeting prepare all its members and children for worship and for a way of life consistent with the principles of the Religious Society of Friends? How do we teach about Quaker practices in business and worship and their importance to the functioning of our Meeting community?
- In what ways do we support each other in order to seek God's will and act upon our understanding of truth? Is there opportunity in our Meeting to share the excitement of religious discovery and the possibility of religious transformation?

27 Friends attended.

The Clerk reported on Member News. PJ Bielevitz and Megan McHenry are now officially members of this Meeting. Judy Owens, John Donch and Lucy Savarese will be the welcoming committee. Care Committee has approved the transfer of Deb Reese from West Virginia Meeting to Haddonfield Monthly Meeting. Friends welcomed her.

Josh Ponter reported that David Smith has settled into Brookdale. He has a full suite with kitchenette as well as provided meals. Tuesdays and Thursdays are good days to visit, but please call ahead.

Lois Hinski presented the Community Outreach and Membership Annual Report. Assigned seating enabled attendees to enjoy the Progressive Dinner and get to know each other. In February there was a Soup and Bread Night, with many attendees. Poems were read, including some written by attendees. The Committee communicates with Matthew Sharp about ways to strengthen the Meeting's relationship with the School. On March 25 at 7 pm there will be a Coffee House with live music. There will be a retreat at Pendle Hill on May 20 - 21. Attendance is free, although there are charges for meals and overnight stays. Friends may attend for all or a part of the weekend. Inspira Williams will be the keynote speaker. The Committee has not resolved the issue of child care but is focusing on it. On April 29 at 6:30 pm there will be another pizza, salad and film night, focusing on a drug infested area of Camden. Donations will go to the Refugee Assistance Fund. The report was accepted with thanks.

The Clerk announced the following upcoming events:

Mike Merryman-Lotze, the Palestine-Israel Program Director of AFSC, will speak during covered dish on the US role in Syria, Yemen, Iraq and Israel-Palestine March 19

PYM Continuing Sessions March 25 at Arch Street Meeting House.

Feed our Starving Children on March 25

Coffee House March 25

Ten Commandments Hike April 8. Haddonfield Meeting will host the time period 1:25-1:50 to discuss "Thou shalt not steal."

Haddonfield Friends Seder April 10 Rabbi Abby from Temple Beth-El will officiate. Friends should bring food for the pot luck dinner. This event is sponsored by the Religious Education Committee.

HFS annual Spring Auction May 13 6-10 pm at the Haddon Fortnightly. The School really needs the support of the Meeting. On the second floor the children will play games and create crafts, some for Mother's Day which is the next day. On the first floor will be the auction and finger food contributed by six area restaurants.

Pendle Hill May 20 and 21

The Clerk raised the following items as New Business and/or topics for the April Meeting for Worship for Business:

Ally Kolaski - minute for affirmation of the marriage on June 3 in Moab, Utah. The Clerk will draft the minute and circulate it for signature at the next Meeting for Worship for Business. The Clerk is looking for memories to be included. He will contact the School also.

Minute rejecting the practice of division. Friends approved the minute in concept on March 5, and the attachment reflects changes suggested at that time. Friends approved the final version. Doug Campbell will circulate the minute with Peace and Social Concerns Committee, Haddonfield Quarter and the Haddonfield Council of Churches.

Friends approved the minutes of the February 2017 Meeting for Worship for Business.

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

Reports due in **April, 2017:**

Preliminary Monthly Meeting Budget

The next Meeting for Worship for Business is scheduled for April 9.

Respectfully Submitted,
Patricia Kane Williams, Recording Clerk.

HADDONFIELD FRIENDS MEETING REJECTS THE PRACTICE OF DIVISION

Fifth day, third month, 2017

First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out— because I was not a Socialist.

Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out— because I was not a Trade Unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out— because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

Pastor Martin Niemoller

We Grieve for our divided Nation. We are pained to see fear empowered, hate emboldened and our neighbors' safety and freedoms at risk. We pray for the wisdom to speak love into that divide. In this climate it is hard to live out Jesus' commandment that we love one another, and yet that is what we must do.

We Support a Spirit of Understanding and echo the words spoken by early Quaker Margaret Fell to the King of England in 1660: "We are a people that follow after those things that make for peace, love and unity. It is our desire that other's feet may walk in the same."

We Reject the practice of division, pitting one group of Americans against another, enacted in laws and regulations which make these actions legal, yet still immoral and unjust.

We Envision an American society which welcomes all willing to live peaceably in this great experiment of democracy, in a society that does not pit neighbor against neighbor.

We Repent the ways we may have excluded others from our fellowship. The ways we ourselves see and treat people as "other," consciously and unconsciously.

We Commit to doing all in our power to stand against the practice of division wherever we encounter it. We commit to acting in our resistance with love for those whose views and actions we are called upon to oppose.

In Faith,

Presiding Clerk, Haddonfield Monthly Meeting (NJ)