



Third Haven Friends Meeting

405 South Washington Street

Easton, Maryland 21601

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February 2009 NEWSLETTER

A ledge of ice slides from the eaves, piercing the crusted drift. Astonishing how even a little violence eases the mind.

Jane Kenyon

Third Haven Friends Meeting Meeting for Business Minutes for the 1st Month 11, 2009

1. Call to order: John Schreiner called to order the meeting for business at 11:40 after a brief period of silent worship.
2. Attending: Leonard Baynham, Paige Bethke, Molly Burgoyne, Lorraine Claggett, Susan Claggett, Tom Corl, Mary Cotton, Leigh Anne Dodge, Doreen Getsinger, Marsie Hawkinson, Peter Howell, Connie Lewis, Lila Line, Joyce Macijeski, Clay Owens, Sumner Parker, Dee Rein, John Schreiner, Candace Shattuck, Cathy Thompson, Norval Thompson, Peggy Walbert, Meredith Watters, Rob Wieland, Ann Williams, John Winterbottom, Winslow Womack, Ralph Young, Frank Zeigler, Joyce Zeigler
3. Minutes: The minutes were approved from the 12th month 2008 after deleting Meredith Watters name from the thanks to the Nominating Committee.
4. Query: The Query "Meeting for Worship" was read during meeting for worship. A Friend commented on the value of reflection, peace and quiet. Two speakers requested that we make efforts to get to meeting early, not make noises during vocal ministry and remind those speaking to do so loudly and clearly.
5. Clerk's Correspondence: A letter was read aloud by the Clerk from Robert Gladney requesting membership to THFM. This was given to the Clerk of Overseers to assign a clearness committee.
6. Alternatives to Violence (AVP) Project: A review of AVP was given to us by Leigh Anne Dodge and Ralph Young. AVP was developed by Quakers more than 30 years ago as a

response to the protests at Attica. It is now used worldwide in 35 countries with more than 2000 facilitators in the USA. Ralph and Leigh Anne completed a 3 day workshop at Pendle Hill last year and have been conducting training at a minimum security facility in Westover, MD since June of 2008. They spend 3 days each month doing workshops and additional time training inside facilitators. Previously, volunteers from Wicomico Meeting were conducting workshops at this facility. Ralph and Leigh Anne hope to have other volunteers trained and working there by June of this year. Hopefully they can then turn their attention to our local detention facility and continue this work locally. They brought this to meeting today to request an endorsement from THFM and to ask for funding for their efforts. They have incurred about \$1000 of expenses thus far and expect about \$325 more by June. The Meeting approved endorsement of the AVP to use our name on publicity and certificates and approved monies already earmarked for Prison Action, approximately \$1817.00, to be used for this project as needed. The Treasurer confirmed that monies set aside for the children's gardens are separate from the Prison Action funds. Budget and Finance will report next business meeting on how these funds are listed in the budget.

7. Interim Meeting Report: There was no Interim Meeting yesterday due to weather. Our representative recommended however that we take the time to look at PYM.org for the section on the Governance Working Group. Our Clerk, John Schreiner will look over this report with Norval and discuss how it may impact our Meeting at the next meeting for business.

8. Library and Outreach: (please see attached report). The Annual Report of this committee was given by the Clerk of committee. The report was approved. A Friend requested that an information pamphlet similar to the one done for the old meeting house be done for the brick meeting house. Another Friend asked if we have approached PYM for funding for outreach. The Clerk answered that this might be considered as part of Quaker Quest.

9. Quaker Quest: Thirty Friends attended the workshop given Jan. 10th at THFM on Quaker Quest. Several members discussed their views of the workshop. Three Friends from Philadelphia gave us an information session regarding this already tried and successful program. Yesterday, we discussed both in reach and outreach and how to be more welcoming. Facts were given stating that 45% of the membership of Society of Friends is now over age 60 and we should concentrate on outreach if we want to continue as a viable entity in the future. Several Friends spoke endorsing this program for THFM. It will require much time and financial support. The Meeting approved scheduling a full day workshop on this program in the next two months to help us learn more and decide whether we should invest further in this program.

10. Overseers: (please see attached report). The annual report from this committee was given by the Clerk of committee. It was approved by the Meeting. The Clerk answered a question from a Friend that the committee does attempt to keep in touch with attenders as well as members.

11. Other Business: The severity of our upcoming cold weather prompted a Friend's request to allocate more of our extra monies to needy causes in our community particularly those services providing heating funds for those unable to pay their bills. After much discussion, the meeting approved the further allocation of funds. Testimonies and Concerns will meet this next

week and discuss the disbursement of funds and communicate with the treasurer regarding how much and where the checks should be sent. All agreed it was necessary to do this sooner than later as many who live in our community may be suffering during the winter especially during this time of economic hardship.

12. Next Business Meeting We are hosting SQM in May of this year. We need to discuss our plans for a program. A Friend suggested that a program be structured around our 325th celebration. One person asked if tentative plans for the 325th celebration could be added to the Feb. agenda. Clay Owens will look into our speaker system prior to next month's meeting and report back to us on it. A request was made to consider March 22nd or 29th for this year's member and attender luncheon.

Meeting for business was adjourned at 1pm after a brief period of silence.

Respectfully submitted, *Molly Burgoyne*

Third Haven Monthly Meeting Overseers Annual Report Calendar Year 2008

During the year 2008 Overseers, consisting of members Dee Rein, Doreen Getsinger, Norval Thompson, Betty Jean Wheeler, Ann Williams, Nancy Mullen, Helen Womack, Katherine Johnson, Marsie Hawkinson, Irene Williams, Cindy Brown and Candace Shattuck, attended to pastoral care, keeping in touch with members via a calling tree by dividing the membership directory alphabetically and also responding to answering machine and website messages. Should inclement weather take place it is agreed that the clerk of meeting and communications clerk will e-mail closing information to the meeting and Overseers will contact local computer free members and attenders. Overseers goals include providing oversight to the ministry of the life of the meeting and acting as a conduit for clearness, especially in cases of membership, weddings or personal need. Friendly support was offered privately to members experiencing a variety of life challenges.

The file of Declarations of Intentions was reviewed and organized by Nancy Mullen and Marsie Hawkinson. Members wishing to complete a declaration of intentions for death may complete the form in the upcoming newsletter.

Under the organization of John Hawkinson with contacts made by the Overseers the directory was updated.

Memorial Meetings for Worship were held for Bill Lane, Jacob Kemp, Mattie Weiland and Adam Line.

The clearness process as detailed in Faith and Practice was followed for membership requests and marriages under the care of the meeting. Clearness committees may also be used to resolve issues between members in conflict or for confidential clearness around personal issues.

Jane Escher's son Stephen married Patricia Haefele at Third Haven.

New members John Todd, Clay Owens, Joyce Macijeski, Gwen Beagle, Connie Lewis, Bill Lane Jr., Lorraine Claggett, Sarah Claggett, and Laura Claggett were welcomed and each received a 6 month gift subscription of Friends Journal from the meeting.

A request for assistance from the John Martin Trust of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting was completed by Joe Davis and Dee Rein and approved for submission by the meeting on behalf of a senior member of the meeting who was in need.

Norval Thompson and Ann Williams collaborated on a lesson about the role of Overseers for First Day School students.

A new members and attenders luncheon was well attended in March 16th. Speakers included John Todd, Marsie Hawkinson and Pinney Claggett.

Friendly Eights created five groups for January-June 2008.

Members were contacted intermittently throughout the year in an effort to keep in touch and encourage participation in the aforementioned events.

All members and attenders are encouraged to allow Overseers to be of service in times of need. We stand at the ready to help and welcome your ideas for future efforts on behalf of the meeting. We thank all Friends who minister to each other as that is the essence of the Religious Society of Friends, which eschews hiring a minister and ministers to each other.

Respectfully submitted, *Dee Rein, Clerk, Overseers with the considerable aid of Doreen Getsinger.*

Ken Carroll shares his spiritual journey



Governance Project Group for Interim Meeting John Schreiner writes, "For the past couple of years our Friends Norval and Cathy Thompson, Marsie Hawkinson, Doreen Getsinger have traveled to Philadelphia on a regular basis to represent us at Interim Meeting and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Their efforts have kept us connected to our larger Quaker community bringing back reports of the meetings and deliberations there. Now, they are asking us what we as monthly meeting members and attenders here at Third Haven Friends think of PYM's efforts; what do we acknowledge and appreciate, and what changes we would like to see.

The attached report of the Governance Project Group for Interim Meeting shows what they believe needs changed and simplified and it deserves to be read. In the past couple of years we've directly benefited from PYM in terms of supplemental funds for property and grounds projects, Quaker Quest guidance and financial support for outreach. Further they remain a valuable source for guidance (e.g. T&C's search for greater effectiveness) and for literature/printed materials for hand-out and use plus for our first day school. Please do read the report. Your comments are sought on what you see as the strengths, shortcomings, and wish list for PYM. They will be recorded and forwarded. Please send your comments to Norval Thompson: norval@goeaston.net"

Governance Project Group Report to Interim Meeting (February 28, 2008)

The Vision of a Renewed Purpose for Interim Meeting

Please consider the following recommendations as an integral part of a comprehensive plan.

1. Organization, Structure, and Processes

For PYM to be able to clarify the concept of Yearly Meeting, to better organize and prioritize its work, support the staff, and to facilitate a consistency of purpose, the Governance Project Group recommends that PYM-IM have one clerk.

The Governance Project Group recommends that the Clerk of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, alternate clerks, and the General Secretary constitute the "Agenda Committee". This committee would work to assist the clerk with particular attention to agenda setting to make the most efficient and effective use of meeting time. Right ordering of the agenda facilitates good Quaker business process and stewardship of resources. This group would assure that issues being presented or discussed are ready for consideration by the wider body. Through this process we should be able to reduce the length and number of sessions required to conduct our business while continuing to make it possible for volunteers to do the work of Yearly Meeting and upholding the fiduciary responsibility of this body.

The Governance Project Group recommends that a new small committee be named and charged with responsibility to evaluate the performance of the General Secretary of the Yearly Meeting on an annual basis. This committee will make a recommendation to PYM-IM regarding the continued employment of the General Secretary. This will replace the current General Secretary evaluation process. The Governance Project Group discussed the size of Interim Meeting and agreed that it is not a factor affecting the functioning of PYM-IM when all of the recommendations included in this report are implemented.

2. Orientation and Training

No organization - profit or non-profit, religious or lay - can be expected to function effectively for very long without paying attention to orientation of new members and training for its leadership. We recommend that PYM give attention to Quaker leadership training of yearly meeting clerks and all committee clerks. We also recommend that PYM-IM pay particular

attention to the orientation of new appointees and to the guidance and nurturance of all participants in its sessions. The committee feels strongly that Quaker process is a blessing and that it works only when all in the meeting understand that they do not represent a particular meeting or their own views, but the sense of the meeting in which they are gathered - listening to be moved to carry out the will of God for the entire body of Friends. Friends can understand through training and guidance that they can be moved to speak to the body and that, once spoken, their words are not their own, but have been released to the discernment of the meeting. We suggest that a "Membership Day" be held annually for orientation of new appointees and that periodic consideration of the Faith and Practice queries adopted by Interim Meeting to guide its members be intentionally considered.

We recommend that a body of elders (or other name) contribute as a prayerful presence at all sessions holding the meeting in the Light, supporting the clerks, the General Secretary, and the participants in following the leadings of the Spirit, gently reminding us of good order, and intervening to clarify issues when difficulties arise.

3. Culture

The culture of an organization involves its customs and practices developed through time. Friends take joy from the opportunity to serve God and the greater good and to work with one another, supporting each other in difficult times, and acknowledging each person's gifts with gratitude. Friends seek to maintain spiritual unity and live in harmony with the Spirit. Friends are organized into meetings that rely on a core of seasoned members to provide leadership and continuity and to model the Quaker way for newcomers. Trust, transparency, and love are fundamental to friendly communication. Demonstrating our love for and trust in each other will enhance the quality and joy in our work. We must come to meetings with humility and grace, be open to the wonder of God's love, and show trust, courtesy, good humor, and love for each other. Our love and trust will be indicated by clear, honest, and transparent conduct of meetings for worship and business. The members of the Governance Project Group named trust, action, positive results, and invigorating and transforming experience as aspects of the healthy culture they would like to see fostered among Friends in our yearly meeting today. We want to encourage the body to develop a bias for action and be future-oriented and outward-looking in setting and meeting its goals while contemplating the Light of God in our neighbors and in each of us.

The Governance Project Group recommends that the General Secretary and Clerk of Yearly Meeting work closely together as partners for the greatest good of the Society of Friends.

Whether it is agenda setting, working on organizational priorities, policies and procedures with staff, and on and on, these two individuals need to be partners who are working to fulfill the mission of the Yearly Meeting.

We also recognize the importance of accurate timely communication with members concerning the work of yearly meeting and its accomplishments. For the benefit of all Yearly Meeting constituents we recommend that a reassessment of yearly meeting communication methods and processes be made, procedures documented, and expectations set and met (e.g. timely posting of meeting minutes on the web site). We also recommend that job descriptions be created for those called to service. New methods will be required to support the elements of this proposal and the renewed community it envisions.

4. Composition

Designation of individuals as members of PYM-IM is working well. Appointment by monthly meetings encourages both continuity of attendance and seasoned judgment. Reporting back to

monthly and quarterly meetings enhances communication and energizes their dialogue with PYM-IM. We do, however believe there is opportunity to improve on the overall organizational effectiveness through some modifications to composition. We recommend that term limits be established. This will enliven the community and bring fresh insight and diversity. It will also help to widen the base of Friends gaining experience in Quaker business process to further enrich our monthly and quarterly meetings. We recommend that those appointed to Interim Meeting by monthly meetings be understood to be appointees to Yearly Meeting sessions as well.

5. Practice

The Governance Project Group acknowledges that attendance at Interim Meeting sessions is very strong, but notices a disproportionate number of older participants. To provide greater opportunity for participation by younger Friends, the Governance Project Group recommends that meeting times change from weekday evening to a weekend day. This change will help with travel issues and facilitate the involvement of younger adults. We recommend that consideration be given to meeting four times a year. This time would include worship, meeting for worship for business, and fellowship over lunch. Planners would provide an active children's program as well. By having four regular meetings and two meetings of Yearly Meeting in Annual Sessions, we would meet as a Yearly Meeting six times a year.

As in Annual Sessions, attendance is open to all. Visitors will be introduced and welcomed, and, when appropriate, we recommend that the clerk or elders (or other name) will take steps to inform visitors about the good order of Friends' decision-making process. To accurately reflect the fundamental purpose of Interim Meeting, the Governance Project Group recommends that the body and work be renamed "Yearly Meeting Continuing Sessions." Renaming serves to unite our purpose and work with that of Yearly Meeting and reinforces the fact that all Friends belong to Yearly Meeting.

Reflections on the Governance Project Group Report to Interim Meeting:

Remember the time you felt invigorated, refreshed, and renewed by your participation in Quaker business process? Do you recall feeling the Spirit rise in you and the Still Small Voice within you shout, "Yes, Friend, go forth and do my work"? Do you know the feeling of peace that comes from the faith you have in others to fulfill the responsibilities you have entrusted them with? And, do you sense the purpose for which God has placed you here?

Through its prayerful and deliberate consideration of its charge the Governance Project Group has formed a collective vision to share with you of a vital energized Yearly Meeting where our purpose is clear, where business is conducted faithfully and transparently in the manner of Friends, where communication between individuals and groups flows with intention, where leaders serve and servants lead, yet all are guided by principles we know to be true in a process we know to be effective.

We clearly see Friends gathered in worship with the weight of meaningful considerations lightened by the faithful giving of God's gifts by all who have those gifts to give.

We see young adults choosing to participate because we have provided the opportunity and encouragement to do so. Through this participation, depth and value is added to their lives. It is clear that we seek to understand God's will and do God's work. The young adults become our new leaders and visionaries, guided and held in the Light by our treasured elders and witnessing worshipful Quaker business process modeled consistently. They have studied, learned, and practiced what to do and how to do it.

Our process for business is clear, it is Quaker simple, and is followed with joy, rigor, and religious zeal. The organization that frames it provides the support that is necessary to maintain a vibrant and growing faith community with vitally relevant business to discern and accomplish. It, too, has clear purpose and direction relative to the business at hand.

Our community is engaged in addressing the true needs of the world. Our organization's foundation is strong and our process is nimble enough to enable our addressing these true needs. Our precious gifts of time and fellowship spent in this Meeting are joyful and well stewarded in this service.

Background of this report:

At its meeting of 2-22-2007, Interim Meeting approved the appointment of fourteen Friends to the "Interim Meeting Governance Project Group" to "review and take decisive steps in relation to its own composition, size and functioning." The appointment of the Governance Project Group came from the recommendations of the "Report of the Transition Project Group on Issues Related to the General Secretary Job Description, 9-6-2006" and from the Process Committee's report to Interim Meeting on 11-30-2006. In the meetings and interviews the Transition Project Group conducted, it received considerable commentary and concern about the role and functioning of Interim Meeting which it reported in addition to its recommendation that Interim Meeting develop an effective working relationship with the General Secretary. Some Friends believe that the culture of Interim Meeting has suffered in recent years from a lack of clarity about its roles and responsibilities and from issues of membership, leadership, lack of vision, agenda setting, and ineffective process in meetings. These issues have resulted in frustrating experiences for members, diminished abilities and outcomes, and, ultimately, come down the Quaker "grapevine" to shape attitudes about Yearly Meeting and Interim Meeting at the Monthly Meeting level. These attitudes overshadowed the good work that Interim Meeting has done. It is important to recognize that much of the work of Interim Meeting is well ordered and effective.

The Governance Project Group thought it was important to be clear about the purpose of Interim Meeting as a first step in undertaking its charge. Members of an organization need to have a clear understanding of the purpose of their organization in order to carry out their responsibilities and function well. Clarity of purpose guides members in setting priorities and establishing best practices.

Statement of Purpose of Interim Meeting from Faith and Practice: The members of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Friends come together in annual or special sessions to hold meetings for worship for business and other forums to assess the life of the Society, conduct the business, experience spiritual refreshment and commitment, and renew the bonds of friendship. Interim Meeting acts for the yearly meeting between sessions and ensures that the work and witness of the yearly meeting are carried forward in the spirit of yearly meeting in session. Interim Meeting was established in 1756 as the Meeting for Sufferings. In the course of time the name was changed, first to Representative Meeting and, in 1996, to Interim Meeting.

In addition, to undertake our work, the Governance Project Group reviewed the roles and responsibilities of Interim Meeting. These are found in two sources in PYM's literature, Faith and Practice [2002] and "Responsibilities and Authority of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Committees" [2004]. Although an analysis and reworking of the roles and responsibilities was not in the charge of the Governance Project Group, we suggest that Interim Meeting spend some

time reviewing and updating these documents. We feel there is an opportunity to modernize and clarify the roles and responsibilities in such a way as to facilitate better overall communication and functioning of Interim Meeting and associated committees.

The vision presented in the preface is achievable only when all of the components are in place. We present this proposal to be taken, accepted, in its entirety - as a whole.

Aspects of Interim Meeting: Issues and Recommendations

In undertaking the listening, worship, and deliberations over the last nine months, we found that our leadings and recommendations can be captured under the five headings delineated in the report: 1. Organization, structure, and processes, 2. Orientation and training, 3. Culture, 4. Composition and 5. Practice. The body of this report above defines the issues that were of concern and the resulting recommendations.

Wedding news Sandra Herbert writes, "Our daughter Sonja was married at Berkeley Friends Meeting House on January 10 -- the Berkeley Friends were very hospitable -- Sonja and Joel used a number of Quaker traditions -- the marriage certificate for example in the ceremony. Richard Berryman was the host person."

Testimonies and Concerns January meeting included a presentation by their Unitarian Universalist guest, John Stevens.



Third Haven Monthly Meeting Announcements

Meetings for Worship

First Days 10am	Fourth Days 5:30pm
February 8	February 11
February 15	February 18
February 22	February 25
March 1	March 4

There will be a Memorial meeting for worship For John Shoffner at 2 pm on Saturday, February 21st.

Each Thursday evening from 5 to 5:30, there join us for a Silent Peace Vigil in front of the courthouse on Washington St. Weather conditions have not interfered with the vigil. Many signs are available or bring your own. Join this protest to support the cause of non-violence in the world.

Volunteers are needed to continue the library program at the Talbot County Detention Center. Contact Leigh Ann Dodge: 410-822-5998

PYM Interim Meeting will now be held on the second Saturday of each month from 9:30am - 1pm. The next meeting will be on Saturday, February 14, 2009. If anyone is interested in going along, please contact one of the Third Haven representatives, Marsie Hawkinson, or Cathy and Norval Thompson.

The primary food pantry in Easton at the Neighborhood Service Center is in need. In the past year, the growing number of families served each week by the pantry has doubled to 150. Several faith communities in Easton are regularly collecting non-perishables for this pantry. On a bench along the east side of the common room is a plastic container marked "*Third Haven Food Bank for the Neighborhood Service Center*". It is hoped that members and attenders will bring at least one non-perishable each time they attend a Meeting for Worship.

*Announcements and text for the newsletter may be sent by e-mail to hawkjm@goeaston.net
Please let us know if you have moved: e-mail and other address changes are always welcome at this address.*

<http://www.thirdhaven.org/> is your website - what would you like added that is not there? -Do you have a message that should be included?

REMINDERS

To contribute to our meeting please address your contribution to Third Haven Monthly Meeting, and mail to Third Haven Treasurer, PO Box 2379, Easton, MD 21601

To contribute to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Annual Fund (mention Third Haven) mail to PYM Development Office, 1515 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102.

SAVE THE DATES

March 27 to 29, 2009 for the March sessions of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting to be held at the Arch Street Meeting House

May 17, 2009 - Third Haven Monthly Meeting will host Southern Quarterly Meeting as part of the celebration of our 325th anniversary.

July 29 to August 2, 2009 for the PYM summer sessions at DeSales University.

June 27-July 4, 2009 - Friends General Conference "Wings of Joy. Fire of Love" is the theme for the 2009 held in Blacksburg, VA. If you are interested in attending, please speak to Susan Claggett about early sign ups and financial aid. She plans to drive there this summer.

COMPLETE TEXT MATERIAL - Please review the full accounts updated December 14, 2008 of coming events listed by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and other major Quaker organizations which may be found on the Third Haven Website, <http://www.thirdhaven.org/> click on Complete Text Material on the home page. Find more information at www.pym.org

Interfaith Homeless Shelter Third Haven Monthly Meeting took its turn with its partner faith communities, hosting the Interfaith Homeless Shelter for a week in the Common Room. Guests referred by Social Services received dinner and breakfast as well as a warm safe place to spend the night. When chaperones were available during the day, guests could stay on site.



First, the set up, getting things organized in the Common Room



Daytime activity



Too many chefs?? Never!



Dinner time for Friends

and Guests