



Third Haven Friends Meeting

405 South Washington Street

Easton, Maryland 21601

(410) 822-0293

Info@thirdhaven.org

JANUARY 2010 NEWSLETTER

"The Query whether Friends are careful to come to Meetings for Worship 'with hearts and minds prepared' should be extended to include our Meetings for Business as well. It is essential that the period of worship prior to the undertaking of business be long enough to permit Friends to put aside the heat and tumult of the day's anxieties and to enter into the quietness that comes from trust in God and in God's concern for the affairs of men and women."

Thomas Shipley Brown, 1963

Faith and Practice p. 122

Third Haven Friends Meeting Meeting for Business Minutes for the 12th Month 13, 2009

1. Call to order: John Schreiner, Clerk of Meeting, called to order the meeting for business at 11:45am after a brief period of silent worship.
2. Attending: Monimia Barker, Mark Beck, Paige Bethke, Cynthia Browne, Molly Burgoyne, Lorraine Claggett, Susan Claggett, Tom Corl, Leigh Anne Dodge, Doreen Getsinger, Robert Gladney, Tania Harrison, Marsie Hawkinson, Katherine Johnson, Bob Kemp, Bob Marshall, Sumner Parker, Jim Paul, Peggy Paul, Dee Rein, Phil Sayre, Sarah Sayre, John Schreiner, Candace Shattuck, Robert Shattuck, Richard Smith, Meredith Watters, Heidi Wetzel, Rob Wieland, Ann Williams, John Winterbottom, Winslow Womack, Ralph Young, Frank Zeigler, Joyce Zeigler
3. Minutes: One addition was suggested for the minutes from meeting for business 11th month. A statement should be added to clarify how funds may be spent by the Quaker Quest committee. The clerk of this committee is authorized to request funds needed from the Treasurer, consistent with the budget allocation. After this addition the minutes were approved from the 11th month.
4. Query: The Query, "Integrity and Simplicity", was read during meeting for worship.
5. Request for Membership: The Mufson family, Neil, Beth, Charlie and Maeve, wrote a letter requesting membership to THFM. The letter was read aloud by the Clerk. With great joy this letter was passed onto Overseers to set up a Clearness Committee for the membership of this family.

6. Consideration of latest Draft of a minute for Same-Sex Union under the Care of the Meeting: The minute was read aloud and a brief silence followed.

Composite Draft of a New Minute For Same Sex Union Under the care of the Meeting
(compiled on behalf of the study committee by Cynthia Browne, John Schreiner and others
11/28/09)

Introduction:

Friends at Third Haven have, for the past several months, been deliberating in good faith on the issue of same sex marriage under the care of the meeting. Clearly we have built upon the Paul Minute of several years past and have gained further understanding of each other's views and positions.

After tender listening by all attending these sessions, it has become apparent that there has been an incremental and common discernment that --- same sex couples deserve equal treatment in seeking spiritual union, if not marriage, within our Meeting community.

The word *marriage* carries a variety of implications for different Friends. Concerns have been raised over the differentiation of the role of Quaker Meetings vs. that of the State in the union of a couple.

Our collective discernment is guided by sections of *Faith & Practice (Philadelphia Yearly Meeting)* and the words of George Fox. Below are references to the most pertinent passages and Fox's direct quote:

* (*Faith & Practice p50, Quaker Marriage Procedure; defining the clearness process*)

* (*Faith & Practice p84, Advice III*)

* (*Faith & Practice, Query #6, 4th paragraph p210*)

* (*George Fox, letter #264*) **"For the right joining in marriage is the work of the**

Lord only, and not the priests' or the magistrates'; for it is God's ordinance and not man's; and therefore Friends cannot consent that they should join them together: for we marry none; it is the Lord's work, and we are but witnesses."

In the context of this centered discussion and these beliefs concerning the Meeting's recognition of same sex couples, below is a new (Nov 28th 2009) draft of a minute reflecting the work which we as a meeting and its committee have done. It is submitted here for review, deliberation, and possible approval... as we seek unity of spirit.

Preamble:

The meeting is open to everyone; all are welcome. Current Members and Attenders understand that they do not own the meeting but are just custodians and stewards of the spiritual vessel that is Third Haven Monthly Meeting. Those with any sexual orientation are welcome. Despite this, the Meeting is not in unity with regard to marriage for same sex couples and because of this marriage for them is not an option.

Some discern that such a marriage would violate the testimonies of simplicity and integrity because a "marriage" ceremony for a same sex couple would not have legal effect today in Maryland. Others in this group also discern that--- same sex marriage could never be an ordinance of God; in that God's will with regard to marriage pertains only to a man and a woman.

In contrast, the discernment of others supports same sex marriage coming under the care of the meeting. They hold that the Friends' testimony of equality forms the basis for this discernment.

Despite these differences, All Members and Attenders recognize that those with same-sex orientation are equally God's beloved children, and can be deeply rooted in the life and teachings

of Jesus, clearly understand the manner of Friends, and find Third Haven to be their spiritual home. All members and Attenders recognize that there is a need to be fully inclusive and welcoming to such Friends, and to provide a way for them to include their partnerships with others within our spiritual community. In this Light, we offer the following minute.

The Minute:

Third Haven Friends Meeting reaffirms its belief in, and support of, the spiritual bond and commitment established by a loving couple in the presence of God, family, friends, and the Meeting. Consistent with our testimonies, Third Haven Friends Meeting gives the same consideration to all written requests for ceremonies of commitment for a spiritual union under the care of the Meeting. These requests, to be under our care, may come only from meeting members and those closely related to them or from Attenders who have become part of our faith community.

The Clerk read an instruction

A Relevant excerpt for our deliberations in Meeting for Business

...from: PYM "When Friends Attend to Business" by Thomas S. Brown

Reaching Decisions

In assessing the sense of the Meeting, the Clerk and the Meeting may quite properly give greater weight to those Friends who over the years have shown wisdom and sensitivity in affairs similar to those in hand. But the Meeting must always be on guard against habitual acceptance of the words of weighty Friends as final and must always beware of accepting the traditional pattern as the right pattern just because it is traditional. Fresh, powerful insights have often been granted to new and younger Friends. In the end, actions of the Meeting should reveal an inner sense of rightness that all present will feel.

In those cases where Friends have labored faithfully over a period of time and most are in agreement, and when deferring the decision still further entails hardship and the diversion of energy and time that might be helpfully used elsewhere, those who do not feel in unity with the action proposed may find it right to adopt one of the following: they may withdraw their objections, trusting that in time their understanding of the leading of the Light will be vindicated; they may stand aside, asking that their objections be minuted, but expressing their unwillingness to block what the rest of those present see as the right way; they may maintain their opposition, asking that their names be so recorded. Although the Meeting may then proceed with the action proposed, it must do so in humility.

Experience has also made it clear that matters of great moment and emotional involvement should not be settled in the session at which they are first proposed if postponement of the final decision is possible.

Although documents to be laid before the Meeting will, of course, be prepared with great care, the corporate light of the Meeting may be greater than that of the Friends who prepared the material. When considering the wording of the documents to be sent out by the Meeting or included in the Minutes, Friends need to exercise restraint in suggesting improvements, granting instead to responsible persons the power to make editorial changes as needed. If the document is such that polished clarity is really necessary and the Meeting's approval important, a few Friends may be asked to withdraw and make the needed revisions after they have heard the objections and suggestions relevant to the document. God's work may very well go on even if perfection of expression is not achieved, for the Kingdom of God does not come Minute by polished Minute.

Many were the Friends who stood and spoke their hearts regarding this minute. Time was allowed for all who wanted to speak to do so.

In summary, there were several viewpoints shared. One Friend stated that if the minute included the word “marriage” as pertaining to same sex unions, he could not support the minute and would not stand aside for the sake of unity. Many Friends then spoke expressing their discomfort with excluding the word “marriage” from the minute. One Friend noted that since 2003, several Yearly Meetings including PYM in 2006 have approved same-sex marriage. Several felt that the term “same-sex marriage” should be included and not doing is not consistent with our value of treating all people as equals. There was concern expressed that we may be setting up a “two-tiered” system where some of us will be considered “married” and others simply having a “spiritual union” ceremony. A statement from Friends General Conference was read expressing the importance of the word “marriage”. Several felt that the minute currently proposed did not allow the same equality to same-sex couples as it does to heterosexual couples and is therefore a statement of “conditional love”.

Several Friends spoke that the minute also troubled them and they would like the statement to be more inclusive and broad but after four months of discussions and many efforts to understand all positions, it seems that in order to pass a minute more inclusive than the “Paul Minute” of 2005, the currently proposed minute may offer our Meeting the best opportunity for unity that we can get right now. Since some of our members have stated clearly that they will not stand aside and setting this issue aside again after a decade long struggle with it seems untenable to many, much of the membership feels it important that we move forward towards a more broad and equitable minute regarding same-sex unions.

In our discourse we discovered that the definition of “marriage” is interpreted differently. Some feel it describes the “legal” union as defined by the state. Some feel it is defined only when describing a union of a man to a woman. Some feel it is a spiritual union in the eyes of God and that God alone authorizes marriage. However each individual defines the term, it is clear through our discussions that “marriage” and how we define it, strikes close to the heart of many and has shaped how we have written the current minute. Several Friends gave encouragement to the group to please be willing to consider the current minute as at least a step forward towards improved acceptance of loving unions under the care of our Meeting.

In the excerpt read prior to discussion (see “A relevant Excerpt”), several options were presented to Friends to help them make difficult decisions as part of Quaker process. Please refer to the second paragraph on this sheet for review of these options.

Eleven Friends then spoke stating that they could not support the minute but would be willing to “stand aside” for the sake of unity. The still unequal treatment of same-sex unions was the reason given by many, who agreed to stand aside. Those standing aside include; Tom Corl, Ralph Young, Tania Harrison, Leigh Anne Dodge, Robert Weiland, Mark Beck, Robert Shattuck, Robert Gladney, Lorraine Claggett, Sarah Sayre and John Winterbottom. The minute as written was then approved by the Meeting.

The Meeting agreed that the process of developing the minute and the deliberations in the meeting for business were tender and caring, seeking to make progress while appreciating and addressing deep differences within the Meeting. The Meeting acknowledged the great skill and patience of the Clerk throughout this process. Thanks to Cynthia Browne, Bob Marshall and members of the same-sex minute committee were given. This item concluded with a period of worshipful and grateful silence.

7. Committee Reports:

a) Nominating Committee: (see attached report). Paige Bethke, Clerk of committee gave final report. There are two additions from last month. Molly Burgoyne and Dee Rein are added to the nominating committee. Tania Harrison needs to be reinstated to the Communications Committee. Cynthia Browne is listed twice on the T & C committee. Ann Williams needs to be checked with in regards to staying on a TACL representative. Joyce Macijeski requested to be taken off T & C. There are still some vacancies left for those who feel called to fill them. The meeting approved this report.

b) Worship & Ministry: (see attached report). The report was approved by the Meeting without any changes or additions.

8. Other Business: During meeting for business 1st Month, 2010, the Treasurer will give the financial report. PYM has asked for confirmation of their covenant. Friends were asked to consider the article in a recent Friends Journal titled "Is it time to lay down Friends Journal". Frank Ziegler may wish to put this topic on our agenda next business meeting. Meeting for business was adjourned at 1:15pm.

Respectfully submitted, Molly Burgoyne

Worship and Ministry Committee 2009 Annual Report

Worship and Ministry Committee meets to support the spiritual enrichment of the Meeting community and with caring guidance it strives to deepen and strengthen meeting for worship. W & M chose to respond to this mission by organizing the following adult education activities and events.

Spiritual Journeys – Following a very successful Quakerism 101 series last year, W&M decided to look to our own members and Attenders for examples. Thus, we began a series of presentations to explore the histories of our member's spiritual journey and learn how they came to practice Quakerism. September – Bob Marshall, October – Jim Paul, November – Paige Bethke, January - Ken Carroll, February - Ralph Young, March - Tatiana Harrison, April - Frank Ziegler, May - Rob Weiland. W&M expresses our gratitude for their willingness to open their lives to the Meeting. Brandt Bethke willingly provided child care for the Meeting.

Three summer book discussions with an average of 9 attendees were held in the Common Room. June - Tom Corl "Conversations with God an Uncommon Dialogue", Book 1, July - Jamie Du Hoffman "Hope in the Unseen" by Ron Suskinda, and September - Aiyana Paterson-Zincand "Non- Violence: The History of a Bad Idea" by Mark Kurlansky . W&M critiqued the program and how to improve.

W&M arranged for an adult education program that combined living as a Quaker and raising a family and offered it to Third Haven. W&M hosted a four part series with the support of Testimonies and Concern and FDS titled "Exploring Our Quaker Faith and Family Life" with PYM "Parenting Initiative" Coordinator, Harriett Heath. Four Sessions were offered from Sept 27th through Nov 22nd with an average of 12 attendees. 1st Session considered some basic Quaker beliefs and practiced skills that support our efforts to live by our beliefs. 2nd Session looked at Quaker testimonies and how we use the various testimonies as guides when planning our lives. 3rd Session considered the needs and characteristics of our family members as we

strive to live in a Quaker manner. 4th Session looked at how to live with those less supportive and even those who are antagonistic to our beliefs.

Other business: W&M reviewed and discussed the same sex marriage minute as requested by the Clerks Meeting of 29 August 2009. W&M met with Overseers to review the spiritual health of Meeting. W&M continues the practice of reading the Queries and Advises during Meeting for Worship as a reminder of our Faith and Practice. We discussed and approved a group discussion on the topic of suicide which will be offered to the Meeting in January and facilitated by Cindy Browne.

Respectfully submitted, Co-Clerks Meredith Watters and Paige Bethke; Committee Members Tom Corl, Tatiana Harrison, Bob Marshall, Jim Paul, Connie Lewis, Denny Bliss, and John Winterbottom.

Annual Report of the Nominating Committee

Third Haven Clerks, Representatives & Committee Members

Clerks for 2010

Clerk - Monthly Meeting - John Schreiner
Assistant Clerk - Candace Shattuck
Recording Clerk - Molly Burgoyne
Assistant Recording Clerk - Nancy Mullen
Recorder - Candace Shattuck
Treasurer - Rob Wieland

Committees for 2010

Budget & Finance: Joe Davis - clerk.

Mark Beck, Bob Day, John Hawkinson, Bob Kemp, Bill Lane, Jr., Sumner Parker, Aiyana Paterson-Zinkand, Rob Wieland (Treasurer of the Meeting)

Common Room: Ann Williams (clerk)
Beth Mufson, Winslow Womack

Communications: John Hawkinson (Clerk)
Molly Burgoyne, Tatania Harrison, Nancy Mullen, Dee Rein, Ralph Young.

First Day School: Beth Mufson & Paige Bethke (Co-clerks)
Mark Beck, Brandt Bethke, Laurence Claggett, Jr., Susan Claggett, Leigh Anne Dodge, Emma Leibman, Marcie & Patrick Malloy; Godly Play – Candace Shattuck & Cathy Thompson

Hospitality: Ann Williams & Cathy Thompson (Co-Clerks)
Peter Howell, Emma Leibman, Beth Mufson, Sam Mullen, Heidi Wetzels, Ann Womack, Ralph Young.

Library: Joyce Macijeski (Clerk)
Valerie Mazur, Peggy Walbert, John Winterbottom, Frank Zeigler.

Nominating Committee: to be announced

Outreach: Joan Wetmore (Clerk)

Lorraine B. Claggett, Robert Gladney, Adrienne Rudge, Frances Vaughn.

Overseers: Dee Rein (Clerk), Doreen Getsinger (Asst-Clerk)

Mollie Bond, Lorraine T. Claggett, Marsie Hawkinson, Bob Marshall, Nancy Mullen, Adrienne Rudge, Candace Shattuck, Norval Thompson, Ann Williams, Irene Williams.

Property and Grounds: Laurence Claggett, Jr. & Clay Owens (Co-Clerks)

Lorraine T. Claggett, Stephen Gerni, Butch Kemp, Priscilla Morris, Kenny Russ, Sally Vermilye, Meredith Watters, Rob Wieland, Tylor Wrightson, Winslow Womack, Joyce Zeigler.

Quaker Quest: Tom Corl (Clerk)

Larny Claggett, Marsie Hawkinson, Susan Leibman, Connie Lewis, Joyce Macijeski, Aiyana Paterson-Zinkand, John Schreiner, Candace Shattuck.

Scholarship: Mark Beck (Clerk)

Monimia Barker, Laurence Claggett, Jr., Lorraine B. Claggett, Peter Howell, Sumner Parker

Testimonies & Concerns: Leigh Anne Dodge & Jamie duHoffmann - (Co-clerks)

Gwen Beegle, Cindy Browne, Lorraine B. Claggett, Susan Dabney, Norman Hackland, Joyce Macijeski, Connie Pullen, Sarah Sayre

Detention Center Library Volunteers: Gwen Beegle, Paige Bethke, Leigh Anne Dodge, Chloé Weiland, Ralph Young.

Alternatives to Violence Program: Leigh Anne Dodge, Ralph Young

Worship & Ministry: Paige Bethke (clerk)

Denny Bliss, Tatania Harrison, Katherine Johnson, Connie Lewis, Jim Paul, Chris Polk, Mike Pullen, John Winterbottom, Helen Womack, Joyce Zeigler, Frank Zeigler.

Third Haven Representatives for 2010

Southern Quarterly Meeting - Winslow Womack

Talbot Partnership - Susan Leibman

NAACP, Talbot County - Doreen Getsinger

FCNL - Frank Zeigler, Connie Pullen, Mike Pullen

TACL – Ann Williams

Website & Newsletter Editor - John Hawkinson

Not Named

PYM Annual Giving

PYM Interim Meeting Representatives

Interfaith Housing Shelter

Interfaith Housing Development Corp of the Eastern Shore

AFSC- Mid Atlantic Region (representative from T&C)

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Young Friends Gathering at Third Haven



Our own young Friends at Godly play

Finding Jesus in Leviticus

Contributed by Tatania Harrison

<http://www.funnelsWebDesign.com>

Earlier this year, I was approached by a f/Friend who wanted to know if I'd help her read the Bible. Always up for a good challenge, I agreed. Unfortunately, life became too busy for her and the others who originally agreed to read the Bible along with me; but that's neither here nor there. This is the schedule I've been using: <http://www.thefunnel.org/bible.html>.

But as I read through the selections, something surprising happened: I started to actually enjoy the readings. I began looking forward to them. I realized that the selections were not enough; I've started filling in the gaps the last couple of weeks. I don't know if I'll read the entire Old

Testament before next year, but I think I'd like to try. What's most important, though, is that I continue to be as open while I read.

A few days ago, I tackled Leviticus. I have a lot of history with Leviticus, most of it bad. When I first read Leviticus in high school, I started joking that maybe it should just be tossed out of the Bible. In recent years, my perception of Leviticus has been tainted by those who use it to deny rights, respect, love to anyone who's not straight. "Abomination!" pretty much summed up what I thought Leviticus was about and how I, in turn, felt about Leviticus.

But hidden amongst the messages about what's clean or unclean are glowing bits of Light that shone through and reminded me, surprisingly, of Jesus: "The wages of a hired servant shall not remain with you all night until the morning." Leviticus 19: 13 This God cares about the kind of people who would need the money right away and can't wait until morning to be paid.

"You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God: I am the LORD." Leviticus 19: 14 This God cares about people who don't fit bodily norms. This God cares so much about people not taking advantage of the blind or the deaf that He ties it in with fear of Him: if you fear God, you don't mistreat the blind or the deaf.

"You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD." Leviticus 19: 18 Love your neighbor as yourself. And, as we know from Jesus' teaching about the Good Samaritan, the question isn't who is our neighbor, but who isn't. (Answer: everyone is our neighbor.)

"When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God." Leviticus 19: 33-34 This God cares about immigrants and wanderers. This God cares about the homeless, the gypsies, the strangers. This God not only wants us to be kind, but to treat these people who are passing through as if they were natives and love them as much as ourselves. That is pretty awesome.

"If your brother becomes poor and cannot maintain himself with you, you shall support him as though he were a stranger and a sojourner, and he shall live with you. Take no interest from him or profit, but fear your God, that your brother may live beside you." Leviticus 25: 35-36 This God cares about families, and not just those members who are easy to love or live with, but those who perhaps we sometimes think of as deadbeats or bums. It's not just the people we don't know personally who we're supposed to love as much as we love ourselves, but the people closest to us: especially those who need our help. This God reminds me of Jesus.

Third Haven Monthly Meeting Announcements

Meetings for Worship

First Days 10am	Fourth Days 5:30pm
	December 30
January 3	January 6
January 10	January 13
January 17	January 20
January 24	January 27
January 31	February 3

Friendly Eights is an enjoyable way to become better acquainted with the Meeting community. Each group of eight gathers for a monthly dinner from January to June. The sign up poster prepared by Overseers is available in the common room - please join us!

From January 3 to January 10 the Talbot Interfaith Shelter will be housed at the Third Haven common room.

new e-mail address: Lorraine T. Claggett lorraine.claggett@gmail.com

New attenders: Chris & Patricia Britton chbritton@yahoo.com

Please send all new announcements to 3rdhaven@gmail.com

Our meeting's website is ... <http://www.thirdhaven.org/>

The Trustees of Third Haven Meeting are Monimia Barker, Ken Carroll, Laurence Claggett, Jr., Marsie Hawkinson, Allan Mielke, Sumner Parker, and Diana Rein. They are a corporate body which has the responsibility of preserving and maintaining the physical property of Third Haven Meeting. Contributions to **Trustees of Third Haven Meeting** become the endowment of the meeting property and should be addressed to Allan Mielke, Treasurer and mailed to 405 South Washington Street, Easton, MD 21601 or to PO Box 701, Easton, MD 21601

Please consider making a contribution to:

Third Haven Monthly Meeting (to support the annual budget) c/o Treasurer, Third Haven, P.O.Box 2379, Easton, MD 21601

Contributions to Third Haven Scholarship Fund should be addressed to the Treasurer, Third Haven, P.O.Box 2379, Easton, MD 21601

Contributions to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Annual Fund should mention Third Haven and be mailed to PYM Development Office, 1515 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102.