

Draft Minutes

Salem Quarterly Meeting, New England Yearly Meeting, Religious Society of Friends 10/25/2009 at Beacon Hill Friends Meeting, Beacon Hill Friends House

19 present, Edward Mair clerk, Mary Hopkins recording *pro tem*.

09-10-1 Opening worship

We opened in waiting worship

09-10-2 Quaker Studies Committee

Sarah Spencer, Beacon Hill Meeting, Quaker Studies Coordinator, reported for the Quaker Studies Committee. Quaker Studies is a joint program of Salem Quarterly Meeting and Beacon Hill Friends House which seeks to give Friends, locally and at a distance, access to Quaker education. Sarah distributed flyers and leaflets describing this year's offerings, and asked Friends to distribute them to monthly meetings. So far this year, 4 programs have been scheduled and held. The 5 programs scheduled for winter 2010 include a course that combines a retreat at Woolman Hill and an online course.

09-10-3 Request that the quarter sponsor a day of extended worship

Jim Elliot, Wellesley Meeting, and a member of the committee planning extended worship, presented a request that the quarter appoint a meeting for worship for a day in February or March in order to provide a time for extended worship.

New England Yearly Meeting (NEYM) approved minute 52 on peace in 2008. That led to a mid-year gathering of the yearly meeting in April 2009 to spend time in extended worship holding concerns about New England Friends' response to war and violence in the world. Friends felt the worth of that gathering. The ecological impact of the travel involved raised some discomfort. At 2009 sessions the concern for extended worship was handed over to the quarters.

To this end, an ad hoc committee under the care of NEYM Peace and Social Concerns, Earthcare Ministry, and Ministry and Counsel brought a request to the quarter for support for a day of extended worship which would include worship, discussion groups, and queries focused on the theme: "Peace: where are we being led?" **Friends approved** appointing a called meeting for worship for this purpose. Salem Quarterly Meeting Ministry & Counsel accepted the responsibility for coordinating with the organizing committee on the quarter's behalf.

09-10-4 Treasurer's report

Ed Mair reported for the Treasurer, Susan Thomforde, who was absent. The Funds Allocation committee met in September. There were no grant requests for the 3/15 or 9/15 disbursement deadlines. This is unusual, and suggests that the quarter needs to do more outreach. Of the income from quarter investments, 12% (from the BBB funds) is reserved for local Friends in need or support of religious programs and is disbursed at the discretion of the clerk of the quarter and the treasurer. Remaining income is divided between quarter expenses and distribution as grants, following the recommendations of the funds allocation committee.

The Funds Allocation committee proposed the following expenses be budgeted: funding for Quaker Studies, participation in the Pride parade, and quarterly meeting business expenses. **Friends approved.**

Of the remaining income, available for grants, the Funds Allocation Committee recommended making an unsolicited allocation to AFSC-NERO in view of their difficult financial situation. They recommended that the balance of income, \$2000.00, be held over to the next disbursement period. **Friends approved.**

09-10-5 Beacon Hill Friends House.

Sarah Spencer, a member of the Friends House board of managers, reported on Beacon Hill Friends House Corporation, to which the quarter names two members. Margaret Benefiel, is the new clerk of the corporation and the board of managers of the House.

The House has full residency, Holly Baldwin continues as director. The Weed Lecture is deferred to November.2010, because to Ben Pink Dandelion, a British Friend and sociologist, will be in the United States at that time. Three new BHFH pamphlets and a new book, *Radical Witness*, are available from the House. <http://www.bhfh.org>

09-10-6 Nominating Committee

Nominating Committee reported that the quarter had four slots open: Assistant clerk (to become clerk by April 2010), Ministry and Counsel co-clerk, one position on Beacon Hill Friends House Corporation, and one position on Nominating Committee.

The name of Judy Goldberger, Beacon Hill Friends Meeting, was brought forward as at-large member of Salem Quarterly Meeting Ministry & Counsel Committee (serving as co-clerk.)

Friends approved.

09-10-7 Ministry and Counsel.

Judy Goldberger reported that M&C had met in early October.

- In 2008 the Working Party on Spirituality and Sexual Ethics sent out an invitation to monthly meetings. M&C are available to help monthly meetings with discernment on this subject, and will compile responses for Yearly Meeting. Please send responses by 3/21/10 Doug Armstrong reminded Friends to see the Working Party's page on the NEYM website, which can be found at: http://www.neym.org/WPSE_Web_Pages/index.html
- At the winter meeting of Salem Quarter on 1/24/10, Young Adult Friends will offer their workshop on sexuality and spirituality Will Jennings is coordinating, and Friends are encouraged to participate.
- M&C works to support community within the Quarter.
- Sarah Spencer is the webservant, Edith Maxwell moderates the email list. Friends are invited to check the SQM web page for guidelines and posting instructions.
- Sarah Spencer offered SQM business cards listing ways to access the quarter electronically to be distributed in monthly meetings.
- The website <http://www.bhfh.org/sqm> has historical information, including notes from programs on outreach and on initiating conversation in the meeting about difficult issues, information on funds, etc.
- Current plans are to enhance the web site using Google calendar, so that many people can input and view information on a common calendar, which may then be used to share information between monthly meetings. Each monthly meeting is invited to appoint 1 or 2 people to work on this, and to send their names to Sarah Spencer.
- Friends are invited to continue sending longer announcements of the email list as before, but to also check the calendar to avoid scheduling conflicts.

09-10-8 Annual theme for Quarter programs?

Friends inquired whether we ought to be choosing an annual theme for programs at the October, January and April meetings of the quarter. Ministry and counsel will consider this concept at its next meeting.

09-10-9 Concerns from Lawrence Meeting about the process by which yearly meeting in sessions made decisions concerning Moses Brown School and the deed of gift. For Lawrence Monthly Meeting, Ralph Gentile brought a letter expressing two concerns about the reorganization of Moses Brown School, one having to do with the process of decision-making at Yearly Meeting sessions, and the other relating to the Moses Brown Deed of Gift and Trust. Quarterly Meeting was not able to unite with Lawrence regarding the first issue, but we hear that there is serious concern and pain behind it. Members of Salem Quarter Ministry and Counsel offered to listen to and pray with members of Lawrence Monthly Meeting. It was felt that the substance of the concern might best be taken directly to Yearly Meeting Ministry and Counsel.

With regard to the second issue, Salem Quarterly Meeting did not feel it had the expertise or time to investigate the question completely, and trusted to Lawrence Monthly Meeting's careful work on this matter. We recommended that Lawrence carry this concern to the Yearly Meeting working party on Moses Brown School, and encourage Lawrence to continue active participation in the Working Party.

A Friend expressed appreciation for the good order of bringing these concerns to Quarter and the meeting united in that appreciation.

09-10-9 Closing worship

Friends closed our work together in waiting worship, planning to meet again on January 24 at Friends Meeting at Cambridge.