

2011 Fall Continuing Committee Meeting
11/5/2011
at St Louis Religious Society of Friends Meetinghouse

Attending: Dawn Amos, Diane Dennis, Mike Dennis, Janice Domanik (Presiding Clerk), Judy Erickson, David Finke, Nancy Finke, Mariellen Gilpin, Chris Goode, Sharon Haworth, Judy Jager, Margaret Katranides, Peter Lasersohn, Grayce Mesner, Neil Mesner, Noel Pavlovic, Sarah Pavlovic, Maurine Pyle, Bridget Rorem, Chip Rorem, Dawn Rubbert, Mike Ruberton, David Shiner (Recording Clerk), David Wixom, Judy Wolicki.

Minute 1 The Continuing Committee session began with opening worship.

Minute 2 The Clerk made the following requests of Monthly Meetings: (1) Meetings are asked to send replies to the Queries from the ad hoc committee on Quaker Voluntary Service to Elizabeth Mertic; (2) Clerks are encouraged to communicate with each other about matters about which they have mutual concerns. She also asked committee clerks to submit reports to Sharon Haworth by the date that is stipulated when such reports are requested, and to include designation of action items in those reports.

Minute 3 Mariellen Gilpin reported for the Ministry and Advancement Committee. The committee recommended the appointment of Judy Wolicki as ILYM Field Secretary from today through the 2014 annual session. Approved. Judy has met with the three most recent ILYM Field Secretaries in order to learn their sense of the scope of the work and to receive their support, which is ongoing.

Minute 4 Continuing Committee minuted its deep appreciation for Paul Buckley's service as ILYM Field Secretary, 2008-2011. Quakerism in ILYM has gained immensely from his passion—and his vision—for educating about Quakerism and nurturing our spiritual nurturers. His innovations in the way we serve our meetings (particularly through the regional Days of Spiritual Sustenance), and his gifts for coordination and eldership have helped to light our way, both as a Committee for Ministry and Advancement, and as a group of ILYM Friends seeking to grow Quakerism in our region. He has blessed us with his service, and we in our turn bless whatever it is Spirit leads him to do next. Approved.

Minute 5 With respect to a new worship group in Macomb, the committee recommended appointment of a committee-at-large, made up of Ministry and Advancement committee members Beth Schobernd and Mariellen Gilpin, with Steve Tamari and Christina Schulz from St. Louis Meeting, chosen by Macomb Friends, in order that Ministry and Advancement Committee might nurture and support this new worship group as it follows the process in ILYM's Faith and Practice. Support for the worship group, which is under the care of Spoon River Monthly Meeting, will include an Inquirers Weekend and encouraging people to join them in worship. Approved. Members of ILYM are encouraged to worship with Macomb Friends.

Minute 6 Ministry and Advancement is working with Adult Young Friends. The committee has also been in contact with Blue Island Evangelical Friends and is actively looking to make contact with other Friends and Friends groups who are not currently part of ILYM. Due to the small numbers on the committee, M&A has appointed several seasoned Friends to serve as adjunct members who will visit ILYM meetings. M&A has also decided on the responsibilities of committee members for the work of M&A, adopted a travel policy for M&A members, and participated in a retreat with Brent Bill at which a number of possible future M&A initiatives were worshipfully discussed.

Minute 7 Dawn Amos presented the Treasurer's Report. Continuing Committee was asked to approve the FY11 year-end financials that appear in the 2011 minute book. Those financials show a .7% (\$796) deficit for the fiscal year, as unanticipated extra site expenses were almost entirely offset by underspending by ILYM committees. Approved.

Minute 8 The Treasurer presented three additional reports. The first of those reports crosses the 2011 and 2012 fiscal years. The meetinghouse kitchen flood cost ILYM only \$978 out of pocket, which was less than the \$1,000 deductible, on a repair costing approximately \$38,000. The painting of 1/2 of the meetinghouse, plus some repairs, came in less than 10% over budget. The other two reports displayed the state of ILYM's finances for FY12 to date. The report was accepted with thanks to the Treasurers.

Minute 9 Sarah Pavlovic reported for the Nominating Committee. The committee submitted the following names for consideration by Continuing Committee:

- For Steward, to complete the term left vacant by the resignation of Tim Narkiewicz, Roy Treadway for a term beginning January 1, 2012 and ending in 2015. Approved.
- For ILYM Committees:
 - Maintenance and Planning: Mason George, effective upon approval for a term ending 2014;
 - Personnel: David Rutschman, effective upon approval for a term ending 2014. Approved.
- For Representative to the AFSC Corporation: Bridget Rorem, effective upon approval for a term ending 2014. Approved.

Nominating Committee also reported that Finance Committee has appointed Sandy Huntley as their representative to the Personnel Committee.

Minute 10 In the absence of Assistant Recording Clerk Pam Kuhn due to her recent move out of Illinois, Nominating Committee is seeking someone with experience as Recording Clerk to act as David Shiner's mentor and back-up if necessary during his first year as ILYM Recording Clerk. Nominating Committee is also continuing to seek individuals to serve on the Faith and Practice Committee, an additional Friend to serve as an "at-large" member of the Personnel Committee, and individuals to serve as ILYM

representatives to FGC's Central Committee and to Scattergood Friends School. Friends are invited to give suggestions concerning these positions to any member of Nominating Committee. Meeting minuted appreciation to Sarah for her continuing service as Clerk of the Nominating Committee.

Minute 11 Peter Lasersohn reported for the Faith and Practice Committee. F&P has been working on a new section of text on meeting for worship, which they hope to have ready for initial presentation to the yearly meeting at the 2012 annual session. Several proposed amendments to drafts of text that was approved last summer have been crafted. Over the coming year F&P plans to revise the section on marriage with the intention of submitting the revised version to the yearly meeting in June 2012 with a request for approval for an indefinite period, as the 5-year provisional approval of the existing text expires at that time. Friends and meetings are urged to read the current text carefully and to send any suggestions for additions or revisions to Peter or any of the other committee members.

Minute 12 The F&P Committee has profoundly missed the presence and contributions of member Larry Stout, whose health and well-being are their constant prayer. The support to the committee of Larry's spouse, Susan Burt, is also sadly missed.

Minute 13 Following a period of worship during which many Friends shared stories about and concern for Larry Stout, Continuing Committee minuted the following: "Illinois Yearly Meeting is deeply grateful for the longtime service of beloved Friend Larry Stout. Larry has rendered invaluable service to the Yearly Meeting in many ways, particularly on the Faith & Practice Committee of which he is the sole remaining charter member. He has always provided steadiness at the helm, both in formal leadership roles and informal quiet guidance. Many individual ILYM members have benefitted greatly from Larry's kindness and compassion. With a mixture of joy and sadness, we celebrate all Larry has done for us and all he has meant to us."

Minute 14 Neil Mesner reported for the Maintenance and Planning Committee. M&P met at Clear Creek House last month to review recent developments and future needs of the ILYM buildings and grounds. They have painted the east and south sides of the Meetinghouse and made a number of repairs. The committee reported on a number of other matters pertaining to the upkeep and renovation of various parts of the property.

Minute 15 Judy Jager reported for the Finance Committee. The committee is working on a number of issues, including oversight for the travel budget, preparation of a conflict of interest policy, and planning workshops on record-keeping.

Minute 16 Finance Committee presented the following minute to Continuing Committee: "We note there is a task of the Yearly Meeting that is not being done, which impacts our Committee work. The work of our Finance Committee is to manage the finances of the Meeting and develop budgets. It is hard to do this without insight on pledges and individual gifts, or supplemental Monthly Meeting gifts. And, we note we have begun to depend on a gift stream (which includes some very significant donations)

that have become constant over time – but which may, or may not, continue. We urge the Yearly meeting to find a better way to nurture and educate our donors and potential donors so that we can better budget and then manage the budget – and to also ensure there is a communications link to Finance Committee with fiscal information that will impact our budgeting processes. As Ministry & Advancement and Site Envisioning plan and grow their plans we feel an increased urgency to have the role of development more closely managed. This is a piece that seems to be falling between the cracks. For example, donors assume the Treasurer knows about their pledges, but the Treasurer does not have this information – they do not have historical pledge information – so they can correspond gifts to pledges, if appropriate.” In response to this minute, the Clerk of ILYM asked the clerks of Finance Committee, Site Envisioning Committee, and Maintenance and Planning Committee to study and define issues concerning the focus and tasks of a Development Committee, to confer with each other and perhaps others, and to review and if appropriate revise the current Development Committee description in advance of the March meeting of Continuing Committee. Approved.

Minute 17 Chip Rorem reported for the Site Envisioning Committee. In September the committee reviewed input from standing committees and monthly meetings. They also reviewed a master plan map of the property, which they presented during this Continuing Committee session. They reviewed a draft of the chronology of site development from the first visioning retreat to the present, prepared by Maurine Pyle, which has been refined and will be published in the winter edition of *Among Friends*. The committee will meet at Clear Creek House with representatives of the ILYM standing committees later this month to review the master plan, to be followed by an open meeting for all interested Friends on January 21. They subsequently expect to amend the plan in preparation for presentation in draft form at the March 2012 session of Continuing Committee.

Minute 18 Dawn Rubbert reported for the Peace Resources Committee. The committee has begun to discern where each PRC member might lend their efforts across five project areas: The Peace Testimony Workshop; the "How Do You See Peace?" blog project; a fledgling Quaker Peacemakers audio archive project; Peace House on the Prairie visioning; and continued work on the Ecumenical Call for Just Peace as called for by the World Council of Churches. PRC is planning a retreat at Clear Creek House in early 2012 and is investigating several initiatives on matters of peace that would serve the Yearly Meeting.

Minute 19 Noel Pavlovic reported for the Environmental Concerns Committee. The committee gathered at Clear Creek House in September to work on the ILYM grounds. The committee is planning a nature walk during the 2012 annual session to show off the new wildlife and beautification plantings.

Minute 20 David Wixom reported for the Youth Oversight Committee, announcing four upcoming quakes. The first of those quakes will take place at St. Louis next weekend, the second probably in Evanston during Martin Luther King Junior weekend in January, the third at Clear Creek on Memorial Day weekend, and the fourth at the same location during the ILYM gathering in June.

Minute 21 David Finke called attention to Minutes 79-80 from the 2011 annual session regarding ILYM's request to the American Friends Service Committee to urge TIAA/CREF to divest in companies which make weapons and equipment that are used against Palestinians. The new General Secretary of AFSC, Shan Cretin, has acknowledged the request, expressed appreciation for ILYM's concern and communication, and stated that the AFSC Board has agreed to take the requested action.

Minute 22 Several Friends have expressed concern about the lack of socially responsible controls on the part of Friends Fiduciary Fund concerning the issue of weapons and equipment used against Palestinians. The Yearly Meeting does not have funds in this foundation, nor did any monthly meeting representative indicate that their meeting has funds there.

Minute 23 The Clerk asked for advice concerning our need to hear from ILYM's representatives to Quaker organizations. We want to hear about the issues with which those organizations are dealing and give them input on what we believe they should be doing. We might be well advised to allot time for this by cutting time for reports at meetings of ILYM. This can be achieved if fuller reports are distributed in a timely manner and if Friends read them prior to the meeting. Friends discussed these matters in an informal and generally favorable manner.

Minute 24 Reports were given concerning preparations for the 2012 Annual Session. Concerning Program planning, Bridget Rorem announced that the theme will be "Compassion" and that Mark Mattaini will give the Plummer Lecture. Noel and Sarah Pavlovic will meet with members of Chicago South meetings to plan Food. Janice Domanik reported that Ted Kuhn, who was not present at Continuing Committee, is working on FUN. Beth Schobernd announced that all but one of the site coordinator slots has been filled and exhorted everyone to come for site preparation and for cleanup, and to sign up for chores at the annual session.

Minute 25 The next meeting of Continuing Committee will take place at Lake Forest Friends Meeting on March 3, 2012.

Minute 26 The meeting minuted the following expression of appreciation to St. Louis Meeting for hosting Continuing Committee: "We are deeply grateful to St. Louis Friends Meeting for hosting today's gathering. Their hospitality, as always, has been far beyond the call of duty. We are especially grateful to Dawn Rubbert, who organized everything perfectly, even matters about which she learned only at the last minute. The food, lodgings, and Meetinghouse preparation were sublime. As long as St. Louis Friends continue to set the gold standard for hospitality, they can expect to continue to be asked to host gatherings of ILYM and its committees."

Minute 27 The Continuing Committee session concluded with closing worship.

Janice Domanik
Clerk

David Shiner
Recording Clerk