

BURLINGTON QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
MINUTES OF MEETING
THIRD MONTH 15TH 2008

Friends of the Burlington Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends gathered for fellowship before nine in the morning of Third Month 15th at the Meetinghouse in Crosswicks.

Minute No. 1. Opening Minute. Friends of Burlington Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends gathered for Quarterly Meeting at the Meetinghouse in Crosswicks Third Month 15th 2008 and settled into worship near the appointed time of half past nine in the morning. After a break for fellowship near half past ten, Friends gathered for business at before 11, with 25 Friends present. Clerk was Tad LaFountain, recording Susan White. The Monthly Meetings and numbers of Friends in attendance were: Barnegat: none; Crosswicks 10 Friends; Little Egg Harbor 1; Mt. Holly 3; Princeton 6; Rancocas: 3; Trenton 2.

Minute No. 2. Milestones.

- **Births:** None Reported;
- **New Members** at Princeton Monthly Meeting are: William Strong; Crosswicks Monthly and Jack Caldwell;
- **Passed From This Life** at Crosswicks Monthly Meeting was William Collier, Clifford Spooner, Tucker Murry;
- **Transfers In or Out:** Transfers In: Princeton Nancy Strong; Transfers Out: Princeton Emily Williams; Crosswicks: Mary Ann Meirs.

Minute No. 3. Reports from Monthly Meetings.

Clerk reminded Friends of the schedule of Monthly Meeting reports planned for the rest of this year:

- Third Month Quarterly Meeting from Crosswicks and Trenton;
- Sixth Month Quarterly Meeting from Little Egg Harbor and Mt. Holly;
- Ninth Month Quarterly Meeting, from Barnegat and Rancocas.

A. Report from Crosswicks Monthly Meeting:

John Andrews, Clerk, and other Friends of Crosswicks Meeting, lifted up the following:

- Crosswicks has approved a Minute opposing the use of torture by the U.S. government;
- A Peace Vigil is planned for May 18 in the Peace Garden on the grounds of the Crosswicks Meetinghouse;
- An Easter Egg Hunt is planned which will be open to the community;
- Crosswicks will hold an Easter Breakfast;
- Crosswicks continues to meet on a quarterly basis to work on the issue of same gender unions;
- The First Day School remains vital;
- Crosswicks has restored a Committee on Worship and Ministry;
- Once a month, Crosswicks Friends Volunteer at the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen;
- Crosswicks participates in a local program to feed the homeless who live in motels in the area.

B. Report from Trenton Monthly Meeting

Jada Jackson, Clerk, and other Friends of Trenton Meeting lifted up the following:

- Trenton Meeting is located in a socially and economically depressed urban area in the city of Trenton. Friends of that Meeting are working with the community in outreach programs. Efforts in this area include: tutoring for children, working with local residents on issues of fair housing, and working with the civil liberties group Mercer County Citizens for Civil Liberties.

- Trenton Meeting is continuing to seek funds for further restoration of its historic building. There is a new sign for the Meeting, which can be read from both Hanover and Montgomery Streets, on the corner where the Meetinghouse is located.
- In matters of membership, there is care being offered for older members of Meeting who are no longer able to attend Meeting for Worship. In addition, there are new people coming into the Meeting who are younger than members have recently been.
- There is a new first Day School, open to all, which at present has about five neighborhood children, ranging in age from 5 to 13. Their parents are also coming to Meeting.
- Trenton Meeting has also worked on the following legislative matters: Support of a bill in the N J Legislature which would enable non-legal citizens to pay in-state tuition at state schools - this bill has passed; Work to abolish the death penalty in New Jersey - this bill has passed.
- Trenton Meeting wrote to every Meeting in New Jersey, inviting them to attend a meeting at Trenton Meeting to consider the same-gender marriage issue.

Minute No. 4. Queries.

Clerk read Queries from *Faith and Practice* for the upcoming quarter of the year, that is for Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Months. These are: Query 4, Care for our Meeting Community; Query 5: Education; and Query 6: Equality. Clerk offered that Quarterly Meeting is a Meeting for Worship within our Religious Society, even as our Monthly Meetings are, and that it could be well for us to consider the Queries as do our Monthly Meetings

Minute No. 5. Treasurer's Report. No report.

Minute No. 6. Coordinator's Report.

Fran Campbell, Quarter Coordinator, lifted up the following highlights of her work in the last quarter.

- She is now at Mansfield at least one day a week, usually on Wednesday, and looks forward to being there on a daily basis once telephone and Internet service is installed. For Mansfield, she reported that highly effective basic cleaning that has been done by several Friends; and that she has made better arrangements for the furniture.
- She had reminded Friends across our Quarter of the Threshing Session on the Future of the Burlington Meetinghouse Conference Center, and encouraged their attendance. This was held Third Month 9th just past, and was well attended, with a strong energy to support and continue use of that facility. Every Meeting in our Quarter was represented, with 22 Friends from the Quarter in attendance.
- She continues to participate in planning sessions for Summer Sessions of our Yearly Meeting, and offered that if we have items of business we want to see addressed there, we should send them to her as soon as possible.
- She is encouraging Friends to participate in the Young Young Friends Gathering at Blairstown which will be held May 9, 10 and 11. Fran offered that this is a wonderful weekend for children and adults. Children's ages are usually 7 to 13, but all ages are welcome. Grandparents sometimes come with grandchildren, for example.
- She is encouraging Friends to suggest workshop ideas for this fall's Tri-Quarter Gathering. This is a fall weekend where Friends of Burlington, Haddonfield, and Salem Quarters come together for worship and fellowship, and to build community. Friends of our Quarter are especially encouraged to suggest workshop topics, to encourage attendance from our Quarter.
- Fran encouraged Friends to attend the upcoming March Sessions of our Yearly Meeting at Arch Street, and lifted up details of the programs planned to be held there.
- She is working with a class from Rutgers University which is studying Other Religions, and which has chosen Quakerism for the focus of a special project in that class.
- She has participated in monthly meetings of the Oversight Committee

A Friend lifted up appreciation for the emails which the Coordinator sends out to remind us of upcoming events.

As to Yearly Meeting, a Friend asked what matters of business are addressed at the March sessions, and which at Summer Sessions. This is a shifting topic among us, but business is not planned to be addressed at the March Sessions. Also, the Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee now makes appointments to be completed at the end of Seventh Month each year, instead of Third Month, so consideration of appointment previously considered at the March Sessions has now shifted to the Summer Sessions.

A Friend asked if Mansfield is reaching out to the local community. Fran reported that the Meetinghouse is close to ready for regular visitors, but now quite yet. There is still cleaning that needs to be done. Clerk lifted up a sense that this needs careful planning.

Minute No 7. Ad Hoc Committee.

A written report from the Ad Hoc Committee was distributed to Friends present. Joy Smith, clerk of the Ad Hoc Committee, lifted up the following from that report:

We recommend that the Clerk of Steering Committee, then the Clerk of Trustees, and then the Assistant Clerk of Trustees, in that order, serve as the Acting Clerk of our Quarter when needed.

But in no case would the same Friend serve as Clerk of Quarter or Clerk of Steering, and also serve as Clerk or Assistant Clerk of Trustees.

Friends of Burlington Quarterly Meeting approved this recommendation.

Joy noted the clarification that the Mansfield Property Committee is a subcommittee of the Trustees of Burlington Quarterly Meeting. She also lifted up a recommendation from the Ad Hoc Committee that it continue its work, and plan to report back to Sixth Month Quarterly Meeting. Friends of Burlington Quarterly Meeting approved that committee doing so.

Minute No. 8. Called Session on Quaker Quest.

Clerk reminded Friends of the Called Session on Quaker Quest of our Quarterly Meeting which was held Second Month 9th. In considering this session, a Friend suggested that Quaker Quest could be a powerful tool for outreach. It may well be that several Meetings in our Quarter will be led to combine their resources to provide the necessary support for a successful program. Haverford Meeting in Haverford Quarter is putting on a Quaker Quest Program this spring, the first one in North America. The program was developed by Friends in Britain Yearly Meeting over the last five years. Our Coordinator plans to attend Haverford sessions to learn more about the program, and welcomed any Friends who are interested to go with her.

Minute No. 9. Threshing Session on the Future of the Burlington Meetinghouse Conference Center. Friends considered the Threshing Session of the Future of the Burlington Meetinghouse Conference Center held there Third Month 9th. Clerk noted that while the announcement of this session was phrased in terms which did not bode well for Burlington's future, there was at the session support expressed for this facility and for the programs held there. Of special note at the session were the following:

- The financial situation for the facility was examined, and it was noted that the endowment has not provided the income which had been planned;
- Programs held there are highly successful in meeting the financial goals set for them;
- Three Yearly Meeting Coordinators - for Middle School Friends, for Young Friends, and for Young Adult Friends – each reported that Burlington is an excellent facility for their meetings and events;

- A Friend lifted up the possibility of using the building for community outreach.

By the time that the Threshing session was done, there was encouragement for continuation of the programs, and a sense that we need to work on getting better financial support for the facility.

As Burlington Quarterly Meeting considered the Threshing Session, a Friend lifted up appreciation for the energy and value of the work being done with our youth by our Youth Coordinators, and other Friends concurred.

Minute No. 10. MidWeek Worship at Burlington.

Jada Jackson brought to Friends of Burlington Quarter a leading that there should be a Meeting for Worship at the Burlington Meetinghouse on Wednesday nights. She has looked into whether there are evening mid-week Meetings for Worship in New Jersey, and there do not appear to be any. Friends present reported that Crosswicks Meeting has a Meeting for Worship at 10:30 on Wednesday morning. Another Friend noted that Brainerd Street Commons in Mt. Holly has a Meeting for Worship from 12 until 12:30 on Thursday mid-day. In the past, Princeton had an evening mid-week Meeting for Worship in the summer on the Meetinghouse porch, but does not do so at the present time. However, no evening Meetings for Worship are held at present in our Quarter.

A Friend lifted up a sense that we should go forward with this proposal on faith. Another Friend offered that we could go forward informally with this proposal, and then work on a more permanent arrangement at a later time.

Clerk then lifted up the lack in our Quarter of a Worship and Ministry Committee which might season the possibility of mid-week Meetings for Worship in the Quarter. Could this leading be an impetus to create such a committee?

Friends then offered that we could both work to develop a Quarter Committee for Worship and Ministry, and another for Religious Education, and at the same time bless this Friend's leading to open mid-week Meeting for Worship at Burlington.

Friends then offered blessings for Jada to go forward. Fran Campbell offered that as our Coordinator she could support this effort. Jade will work with the Interim Director of Burlington Meetinghouse, to go forward as way opens. She welcomes both blessings and help from others in the Quarter.

Minute No. 11 Announcements and Minutes

Friends were reminded again of the upcoming March Session of our Yearly Meeting, Young Young Friends Weekend at Blairstown, and Tri-Quarter Gathering in the fall. Also, Crosswicks will bring forward to Sixth Month Quarterly Meeting a minute opposing torture by the U.S. government. Little Egg Harbor will bring forth a Minute of Celebration for its 300th Anniversary.

Minutes of today's meeting were then read, corrected, and approved.

Minute No. 12. Closing.

After a period of worship, with 20 Friends present, meeting rose near the hour of one in the afternoon, to meet again in Steering Committee Fifth Month 19th 2008, and in Quarterly Meeting Sixth Month 21st, 2008, according to Divine Will.

Susan White, recording clerk