

Haverford Quarterly Meeting

Minutes of October 28, 2001
at Old Haverford Friends Meeting

Friends gathered at the appointed time of 10 A.M. and settled into worship together in preparation for the Meeting for Worship for Business. Forty-one Friends were present before the Meeting ended at 11 A.M.

Minute #1 Friends minuted their thanks to Old Haverford Meeting for hosting this Quarterly Meeting.

Minute #2 At the roll call of Meetings at this time the following Meeting members were present:

Haverford Meeting	6	Radnor Meeting	5
Merion Meeting	5	Valley Meeting	1
Newtown Square Meeting	2	Willistown Meeting	0
Old Haverford Meeting	12		

Minute #3 *Committee Reports*

The Treasurer's Report

The new treasurer for the Quarter is William Roth of Merion Meeting. His address is 101 Ridley Drive , Wallingford, PA 19086 Phone at work is 610-876-1627, home is 610-896-4984 E-mail address is wroth@haverford.edu. He reported a beginning balance on 7-02-01 of \$16,687.00 and an ending balance on 10-28-01 of \$23,336.40 \$7000 has been received in this first quarter from Valley and from Radnor Meetings for the covenant with PYM. Other expenses include \$160 for child care at Quarterly Meetings, postage and duplicating expenses of \$96.85 and program expenses for Quarterly Meeting of \$100. The clerk reminded Friends of the Budget Conference at 1515 Cherry St. on Nov. 10th and asked for information on the covenants from Monthly Meetings for the year 2002-3. Radnor Meeting will increase their covenant by 5 %. Haverford, Newtown Square, and Valley Meetings' covenant will remain the same. Merion Meeting will have to reduce their covenant somewhat. Old Haverford has not yet decided.

The Nominating Committee Report The clerk reminded Friends that we are without a Quarterly Meeting clerk or Recording Clerk. Friends should forward suggestions to the Nominating Committee or to Steve Loughin, outgoing clerk.

Naming Committee Pat Finley and Bruce Livingston from Old Haverford Meeting volunteered to serve on a naming committee to find a fourth member of our Nominating Committee. Merion Meeting might consider sending a member to this committee.

The Ad Hoc Committee on a Coordinator for the Quarter This committee has not met since the last Quarterly Meeting. The focus of the January Quarterly

Meeting will be this possibility.

Minute #4 Evaluation of the Worship and Care Standing Committee

Haverford Meeting reported that their worship and ministry group had prepared a written evaluation citing the difficulties they have had with the queries sent out by the Meeting for Worship and Ministry under the care of the Standing Committee. These queries appear to be prescriptive, not evaluative and do not speak to the needs of a Meeting with members at various stages of their spiritual journey, including college students from two colleges, the majority of whom are not Friends. The queries appear to be creedal and not in keeping with Friends historic openness. Overseers report that they need help from PYM and are not getting it. While Pendle Hill has reached out to overseers in a special gathering, PYM has not. In addition, the Counseling service is sometimes hard to utilize because Friends are precluded for asking for more financial help from the granting groups since they have already underwritten the reduction in fees. However many of the families who need this help desperately are also in considerable difficulty financially. Meetings are helping them with food, childcare, housing costs and often medical bills. The families can not pay even the reduced fees of counseling nor can the Meetings.

Newtown Square also delivered a written report noting the poor relationship the Standing Committee has had with working groups and their excessive criticism and lack of support. The Standing Committee needs to be more careful in its approach to working groups. The relationship between the Standing Committee and the Meeting for Worship and Ministry has been a hindrance to the work of that working group. Scheduled meetings with the group have been changed abruptly with little notice to times when some members were unable to attend. Members of the Epistle Committee have had difficulty because crucial details were neglected by the Standing Committee. This communication ends with the observation that the Standing Committee has been confused about their function, how to nurture the working groups under their care and how to help with discernment in a prayerful way. This is compounded by a lack of clarity in PYM about the Meeting for Worship and Ministry and the lack of nominating Committee assistance in selecting members for that group. The Standing Committee has not been sufficiently nurtured itself in how to carry out its functions.

Minute #5 Minute from Old Haverford Meeting

The following minute was received from Old Haverford Meeting:

Old Haverford has minuted their support for the PYM staff and volunteers who were called upon to represent Friends in response to the Sept 11th terrorist attack. Their quick response to invitations to provide written and spoken

statements about the Quakers point of view has done much to aid the cause of peace.

In discussion this minute was changed as follows and then approved by Haverford Quarterly Meeting for forwarding to Interim Meeting:

"Old Haverford Monthly Meeting and Haverford Quarterly Meeting minute their gratitude to the PYM staff, Thomas Jeavons and Joan Broadfield, and to volunteers, Arlene Kelly and Elizabeth Marsh, who were called upon to represent Friends in response to the Sept. 11th terrorist attack. Their quick response to invitations to provide written and spoken statements about the Quaker point of view and their work in cooperation with other major Friends organizations has helped to raise the voice of Friends for peace in a timely fashion ."

In discussion of this minute Robert Crauder of Radnor Meeting told Friends of the beautifully written letters from Friends United Meeting right after Sept 11th to the President, Senators and Representatives. He is disappointed that nothing similar came from PYM.

The clerk inquired about the response at the Monthly Meeting level. Meetings for Worship at all the Meetings have focused continually on the recent events. Those participating in the vigil at the Liberty Bell report more reaction from passerbys. Some have jointed the vigil, but the dominant response is anger. They have not been directly threatened. A Radnor college student home from college organized a peace walk from Bryn Mawr to Ardmore. Radnor members have visited the Muslim community on West Valley Road in Devon to offer their support. Haverford Meeting is inviting Muslims to join them in their Quaker 8 meals together. A high school student at Newtown Square Meeting reports that she is the only pacifist in her school but she is continuing to courageously voice her position. Newtown Square opened its Meetinghouse for the President's Day of Prayer and 11 people from the community came including two car pools from local corporations. This raised the question of whether or not we should be opening our Meetinghouses for thoughtful discussion for peace.

A concern for the crack down on dissent was voiced and the extent to which the Right is using this as leverage for their political goals.

The AFSC is collecting blankets for Afghanistan. The drive ends in December.

Minute #6 A Peace Coordinator After considerable discussion of the need for a full-time peace secretary at the PYM level, the budget difficulties and the importance of such a position to PYM's ability to have the coordinated response needed to have an effect, Haverford Quarterly Meeting approved the following minute for forwarding to Interim Meeting:

“Haverford Quarterly Meeting minutes its support for a Peace Coordinator at the PYM level and asks PYM to consider a full-time peace secretary either by redirecting the efforts of existing staff or by finding extra funds for this position. Friends noted their desire to see Priscilla Adams serve in this capacity for all of PYM, rather than just her Quarter.”

Minute #7 Request for Help from Newtown Square Meeting Newtown Square Meeting presented the following minute to the Quarter: Newtown Square Meeting is facing some major structural repairs needed for our Meetinghouse. Given our very small membership, we request that two or more members of Haverford Quarter join with us in considering these issues and taking the necessary steps. In response Steve Loughin will join with them and both Valley Meeting and Haverford Meeting will see if members of their meeting with needed qualifications will join them.

Appreciation was expressed for the service of Steve Loughin as clerk and Jane Kronick as Recording Clerk for this Meeting.

This Meeting closed at 11 A.M. to move into Meeting for Worship, followed by a crown bag lunch with soup, beverage and dessert provided by Old Haverford Meeting and then a presentation by the Conscience, Militarism and War Tax Working Group of PYM on shepherding our youth toward their decision regarding registration and the draft.

Jane Kronick, Temporary Recording Clerk