

BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING
of the
RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
WARRINGTON QUARTER

CARLISLE FREDERICK/SHEPERDSTOWN GETTYSBURG MENALLEN PIPE CREEK WARRINGTON
YORK

<http://www.bym-rsf.org/quakers/meetings/warringtonQ.shtml>

Clerk: Andy Hoover
Recording Clerk/Treasurer: Leada Dietz

16, Eighth Month, 2009

Number 887

WQ 09-08-01 Friends of Warrington Quarter gathered at Menallen Monthly Meeting, Biglerville, PA on 16th day of Eighth Month 2009 for the 887th Meeting of Warrington Quarter. Meeting began with a period of silent worship. Prior to Meeting for Worship in the morning, our Clerk asked us to consider the proposed Query on Simplicity from the following perspective:

“In thinking about the queries in the new Faith and Practice, I've been wondering about simplicity. I went back and looked at some old Faith and Practices and the closest I could get to simplicity was plainness, which I'm not sure is what contemporary Friends mean by simplicity. It does seem a commonplace though that simplicity is a good thing. Because of that and because of my own lack of clarity on the subject, I thought it might be useful to explore simplicity, particularly what it means to each of us personally. To that end I've prepared the following questions which I would suggest that we respond to one at a time. The questions follow a format used by some Friends to explore callings.

First, what is the essence of simplicity for you? What is it about simplicity that calls to you? If you were to distill the essence of your inner experience of simplicity into two or three basic themes or gestures or images, what might they be? What is your internal sense of simplicity -not so much the externals, but what you are doing inside, when you are practicing simplicity?

Second, what might it look like if you were to practice this "essence" or "core" of simplicity, when you are doing or focusing on something else? How might the basic themes around simplicity apply to other or more aspects and situations in your life? What else in your life connects with this essence that you feel as the core of simplicity for you? If you aligned your life with this essence in the center, how would that be?

Third, see if you can get an awareness of the world as a Whole, with all of the challenges and problems our species is facing. Then ask, what might it look like, if you were to offer your essence of simplicity to the world as a whole - as your own particular form of prayer?”

WQ 09-08-02 Attendance

The following Friends were present:

Carlisle: Joan Anderson, Andy Hoover, Joanne Kitner

Frederick: John Darnell, Katrina Darnell, Kat Darnell, Kathryn Ruud

Gettysburg: Margaret Stambaugh, Dick Wood

Menallen/Huntingdon: Fred Fisher, Peggy Fisher, Mary Gemmill, Mike Gemmill, Al Greist, Kate McCaffrey, Deb McCauslin, Sandy Pyle

Pipe Creek:

Warrington: Faith Basehore

York: Leada Dietz, David Fitz, Lamar Matthew, Wim Neij

WQ 09-08-03 Monthly Meeting Quarterly Reports

Monthly Meeting Quarterly Reports from the following individual Monthly Meetings were submitted and read:

Carlisle: Received

Frederick: Received.

Gettysburg: Received

Menallen: Received

Pipe Creek:

Warrington: Received

York: Received

WQ 09-08-04 Treasurer's Report current balance \$536.19, reflecting the deposit of one apportionment this quarter.

WQ 09-08-05 Business

Several meetings report trouble in finding people to accept the position of clerk. Concern was raised about whether we are really busier than previous generations or have we changed our priorities. One clerk voiced frustration with all the other clerical and maintenance tasks she finds accompanying the position. We were reminded that clerking the business meeting is the only responsibility of the clerk, and that others can do the other tasks, e.g. assistant clerk, correspondence clerk, building and grounds committee. It is important to ask F/friends to share their talents.

Update on F/friends Helping F/friends—nothing new to report. Concerns were raised about possible abuse of the effort to match people needing work with people needing work done, reluctance of those in need to ask for help, and the needs of the larger communities in which Meetings are located. A suggestion was made to email reminders of our desire to be helpful to F/friends in this way to the Meetings in Warrington Quarter every three months in an effort to encourage more word of mouth networking about needs and opportunities for work.

Update on peace festival—May Quarterly meeting might work better for planning because August is a time when people are on vacation and is only two weeks after Annual Session. Those who had expressed interest in the past will be contacted again regarding May 16, 2010 Quarterly Meeting at Menallen as a possible time.

Report from Yearly Meeting: A number of people from Warrington Quarter attended BYM Annual Session this year, and offered the following information:

Peace and Social Concerns Committee will be hosting their annual Fall Networking Day on Saturday, September 12 from 10 am-4 pm at Sandy Springs Meeting in the Community House. Guest speaker in the morning will be Mary Lord, long time peace activist, lunch will be provided, and the afternoon session will focus on what F/friends are doing throughout BYM to take away the occasion for war and how best to support each other in that effort.

Faith and Practice Revision Committee continues their work, adding some more queries, a chapter on clerking, and a glossary. It has been printed in booklet form because that was cheaper to produce than photocopying. One copy has been provided free to each Meeting, additional copies may be purchased for \$5.00 each from BYM's office.

The Gender and Sexual Diversity Committee has offered the following minute for each Meeting's consideration:

Gender and Sexual Diversity Consideration

The Ad Hoc committee on Gender and Sexual Diversity Concerns asks your monthly meeting to consider the following query and send your responses to us:

"Historically Friends held a called meeting for worship to celebrate the religious commitment and spiritual union of two of their members. There was no legal or civil component to these earliest marriages, because the state did not sanction marriage between two Friends in a Quaker meeting house. Today many of our Friends are in a similar position. No legal jurisdiction within the boundaries of our yearly meeting will sanction marriage between two Friends of the same gender. Is it time to encourage a return to this earlier practice of separation of church and state? In accordance with our testimony to equality, should we offer the same marriage under the care of meeting-no more and no less-to all couples, while encouraging couples who are legally able, to have a separate civil ceremony."

Please forward your prayerful responses to:

Denny Hartzell, co-clerk, 44 Rhode Island Ave. NW, Washington DC, 20001
dhartzell@afsc.org or

Margaret Stambaugh, co-clerk, 15014 Mud College Rd. Thurmont, MD, 21788
mostambaugh@earthlink.net

Annual Session also received a minute from Britain Yearly Meeting affirming same gender marriages and calling on their government to do likewise.

Criminal and Retributive Justice Committee seeks pen pals for their pen pal program with prisoners. If you wish to write letters to a prisoner contact: worley.john@gmail.com for guidelines and addresses.

Nominating Committee is still looking for members for the following BYM committees: Youth Programs, Unity with Nature, Religious Education, and Stewardship and Finance. If you are interested in expanding your Quaker experience to the Yearly Meeting level by serving on a committee, please contact Kat Darnell at kinetikatrue@gmail.com

BYM continues to labor on their relationship with FUM. The General Secretary of FUM was in attendance at BYM as well as a yearly meeting clerk from Zimbabwe and the director of Ramallah Friends School. Plenary speaker David Zarembka helped to raise awareness about FUM's work in Africa. While there has been no movement on resuming regular financial support to FUM, intervisitation and participation on the FUM board of directors continues. BYM has also released funds this year to help support Ann Riggs, member of Annapolis Meeting as she takes on the role of Principal for Kaimosi Friends Theological Seminary. Annual Session received communication from Southeastern Yearly Meeting stating its intent to withdraw from FUM.

Vibrant and dynamic youth and camping programs and the energy that young adult friends display in their associations with BYM bring hope and reassurance that BYM will continue to grow and prosper.

Overall the experience of those who had attended Annual Session was that it was enriching and mind expanding and a source of increased spiritual energy to bring back to our monthly meetings. Next year will again be at Frostburg, from August 2-8, 2010. Interim Meeting will be at Goose Creek on Saturday, October 17 and provides a good way to experience Yearly Meeting committees and business.

The Quarter is pleased to send a letter of welcome to BYM's newest member, Abingdon Meeting in southern Virginia, which was welcomed into the Yearly Meeting at Annual Session.

WQ 09-08-06 Minute of Appreciation

The Quarter would like to thank our host, Menallen Monthly Meeting, for their hospitality in hosting today's session.

WQ 09-08-07 Meeting closed with a period of silent worship. Friends of Warrington Quarter will meet again Third First Day, 11th Month (November 15th), 2009 at Carlisle Monthly Meeting, Carlisle, PA, **if so favored.**

Clerk: Andy Hoover (Carlisle Monthly Meeting)

Recording Clerk/Treasurer: Leada Dietz (York Monthly Meeting)