

Omaha Friends Meeting

Meeting for Business

15 March 2009

Present: Marshall, Debbie, Frank, Carol, and Lynda

Minutes from February 8 were approved.

Calendar:

First Day:

- | | | |
|----------|---|---|
| March 22 | - | Potluck/fellowship 10:45 |
| March 29 | - | Quakerism 101 – Frank (see below for reading assignment) |
| April 5 | - | Quakerism 101 continued |
| April 12 | - | Easter – brunch following Worship |
| April 19 | - | Meeting for Business |
| April 26 | - | “How has the Lord dealt with thee since last we met? What is thy teaching for us this day?” - sharing how we daily live our faith |

Other:

- | | | |
|-------------|---|--|
| April 25-26 | - | Midyear Meeting at Bear Creek near Earlham, IA |
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Query: Summary responses to queries 12, 2, and 3 were approved.

Query 12: *Peace and Nonviolence*

Our meeting does several things to reduce violence such as the following:

Discuss the news with others, letting them know our concern about violence

Write letters to the newspaper

Visit members of Congress to advocate peacemaking

Support PULSE

In the face of language in the news obscuring the violent character of event, naming acts of war as acts of violence would help de-legitimize war.

Query 2: Outreach

Our Meeting is fairly homogeneous, which is not unreasonable for a small group. If there were too many differences among us, it could be hard to be drawn together.

People are often surprised to learn there is a Quaker Meeting in town and wonder where we meet. It seems that not having a permanent place makes us lack credibility and makes it hard to invite someone to come to Meeting. We feel we are below a critical mass of where someone new would be comfortable, particularly since we are not an active group. For action, we often cooperate with other groups with whom we share concerns.

Query 3: Meeting for Business

Meeting for Business has become short, sweet, and routine, with no controversy or need for much discussion often. No active committees sets this stage. The last large controversy we addressed resulted in losing a few attendees.

Treasurer: The treasurer's report was approved.

Religious Education:

For March 29 and April 5, Frank will facilitate the discussion for the next chapter in Quakerism 101. The reading assignment is as follows:

- Encounter with Silence by John Punshon: pp22-28, 58-65, 74-91
- «The Gathered Meeting» by Thomas Kelly
- Friends for 300 Years by Howard Brinton – chapters 4 & 5

Midyear Meeting's theme this year is «Reflections on Quaker Service». The presenter is Susan Corson-Finnerty, the editor of «Friends Journal». To let Bear Creek Meeting know you are planning on attending, please email Wanda Knight at rwknight@wesleythevillage.net. Debbie has registration forms, too. If you need suggestions for lodging, either Wanda or Debbie could help. It is the last weekend of April, the 25th and 26th.

Peace and Social Concerns:

There are summer workcamps in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda in June and July. All ages are accepted and no specific skills are required. If interested, email Dawn Ruppert at aunt dawn@charter.net or call her at 314.647.1287. These are organized through the African Great Lakes Initiative/Friends Peace Teams.

Nebraskans for Peace is having a Beyond War rally and march at the state capitol at 12:30 on Saturday, April 4th. This is in commemoration of ML King's Beyond War speech against militarism, racism, and social and economic injustice. The fourth is the anniversary of King's assassination.

Creighton University is hosting a community conference March 29th from 12:30 to 5 at the Harper Center ballroom. The conference is titled Faith and Environment: Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and Native American Ways of Addressing Environmental Issues.