

# Omaha Friends Meeting

## Meeting for Business

### 15 June 2008

**Present:** Sean, Debbie, Frank, Carol, Nancy, Curtis, and Lynda

**Minutes** from May 18 were approved.

#### **Calendar:**

##### First Day:

- June 22 - Intergenerational Meeting - Curtis
- June 29 - Quakerism 101 – Frank, chapters 2 & 3 in Friends for 300 Years.
- July 6 - Query 7 – Debbie/Frank
- July 13 - Quakerism 101 – Carol
- July 20 - Business Meeting

##### Other:

- June 22 – 28 - Quaker Camp at Stillwater/  
Barnesville, Ohio (Debbie)
- July 29 – August 3 – Yearly Meeting

**Query:** Query 6 response was approved.

#### *Education*

*We most effectively foster a spirit of inquiry and a loving and understanding attitude toward life by example, by being comfortable with the big questions, by being accepting of ideas though we may not agree. We need to have a willingness to fall flat on our face without being ashamed or feeling that others will ridicule at the time or bring up our short comings in the future. Most of the time when we risk, the outcome is positive. Not having a spirit of inquiry can result in*

*us not being open to the leading of the Spirit. Having a spirit of inquiry prevents some blunders.*

*Reaching out to one another in friendship makes inquiry easier. More can be discovered as we search together. Love overcomes differences. We must realize that if one thing is true it doesn't necessarily mean that other things can not be true.*

*Meeting is a safe harbor where we are nurtured and protected from the outside, where we are not afraid of attack or retribution, a place where we are comfortable with people searching and changing.*

*We are becoming better acquainted with our spiritual teachings, history, principals, and heritage in our monthly, second hour Quakerism 101 study. Several times people have facilitated second hour discussions on books they have read. The First Day School often does Bible study. Many of us, as individuals study or write.*

*We encourage an educational process that is consistent with Friends' values in several ways. We believe the kids teach us as much as we teach them. We make conscious choices of the books, videos etc that are in our homes. Words only point us towards learning. Experience is important. Most learning takes place outside the classroom so we plan for this. We realize that we teach much by our example. We realize it is important to ones education to seek and be with people one aspires to be like. Just as everyone has the Spirit within, we believe that what is learned has a part in us already.*

*Although it is true of individuals, we as a Meeting, do not take an active supportive interest in schools and libraries. In many ways, the internet has replaced libraries. Education goes beyond the academic. Education is how we learn what we need to learn as humans. To be educated we need to take an active interest in such places as the fire station and sewer plant. We need to share our values, talents, knowledge, and spiritual gifts. We are glad the query includes active and supportive interest in educational resources elsewhere. The educational resources we take an active and supportive interest in include the Spirit, each other, and the universe.*

*We prepare ourselves and our children to play an active role in a changing world by teaching hope. We teach it is not too late to make a change. There has always been change and discord. Values will get us through uncertainty. We spread the word of good in the world. We seek to share when a group or person does something right and to tell how they accomplished it. We look for opportunities for adaptation and change. When something that seems to be a catastrophe happens, it is an opportunity to act and discuss so it doesn't seem as big or insolvable. Sometimes dealing with seeming catastrophes provides opportunities to see the best of humans and the Spirit working in the world. We*

*encourage service as a way for people to realize that they can make a change and a difference in the world.*

**Nominating Committee:** The following report was approved.

Buildings and Grounds - change to Meeting of the whole

Peace and Social Concerns

Bob\* Michael  
Dennis

Ministry and Oversight

Marshall  
Frank  
Carol \*

Religious Education

Jules  
Curtis\*  
Bob  
Pam

Representatives to YM – Marshall and Carol

Finance - change to Meeting of the whole

Webmaster

Paul

Treasurer

Lynda

Clerk

Debbie

These are in effect until June 2009

**Treasurer:** The report was approved.

**Peace and Social Concerns:** The report for Yearly Meeting was approved.

*A member served on the organizing committee for the Omaha 2008 Peace and justice Expo and that the meeting also had a booth at the*

*Expo and sponsored Jerry Weiss (AFSC Des Moines Office) to give two workshops at the Omaha 2008 Peace and Justice Expo.*

*The meeting makes financial contributions to PULSE, Dorothy Day House, and OTOC (Omaha Together One Community).*

*Individuals support the work of Nebraskans For Peace and Nebraskans Against The Death Penalty.*

*Members and attenders take leadership roles in OTOC.*

*Members of the meeting have also participated in hosting a drama about Rachel Corrie, in political campaigns, in work against the death penalty. Some are making personal choices to lower the impact on the environment by riding bicycles, using public transportation, and improving fuel efficiency of cars and homes. One, through United Way, is participating in a committee on improving transportation for the elderly. Another, through the American Psychological Association's Division of Peace Psychology is working against psychologists' participation in torture, and for reconciliation and conflict resolution. Two of our teens registered for selective service by mail, writing in the margins of their cards they are Conscientious Objectors.*

### **Buildings and Grounds:**

Frank reported on his visit with the pastor from First Central Congregationalist Church. The trustees are considering our offer of \$150 a month for the use of the church library for worship and a secondary room for First Day School. Considerations of access to the space and to the church's service will be made. If approved by the trustees, Frank will arrange for us to hold a trial Meeting there.

Denise has arranged for a realtor to be looking for a house for us. Frank and Lynda will visit her recent suggestion on North 47th Street. Frank will contact Denise about additional suggestions.

**Other:**

The clerk will send a thank you note to Richard for housing the guests from Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

The Recorder's report will be submitted by the clerk. The change is one member. Lynda will send the clerk the membership form which will be forwarded to the Recorder.

PULSE Is closing August 19. A donation will be sent in July. At the July Business Meeting, it will be decided whether to send a donation in August pending a notification letter said to be arriving from Sadie.

Debbie will serve as Representative and on Nominating Committee for Yearly Meeting. The clerk will ask Marshall and Pam if they are able to be a caretaker or a Representative. Carol and Marshall will be our Ministry and Oversight representatives.