

Omaha Friends Meeting

Meeting for Business

21 June 2009

Present: Paul, Leah, Debbie, Frank, Carol, and Lynda

Minutes from May 24 were approved with a minor change.

Calendar:

First Day:

- | | | |
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| June 28 | - | picnic at Heartland, Meeting in the Old Market (see below) |
| July 5 | - | Queries 7 & 8 - Carol |
| July 12 | - | "Are We Christians?" from <u>Friends Journal</u> article – Carol |
| July 19 | - | Business Meeting |
| July 26 | - | Expressing our faith – Pam |
| August 2 | - | Yearly Meeting |

Other:

- | | | |
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| July 28 – 31 | - | Yearly Meeting |
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Query: Response to query 6 was approved.

Education

Our studies of other religions have included their origins and practices. Exposure to these other religions deepens our appreciation of who we are as Friends in our silence and patience

and community. We wonder, however, if our eagerness to learn about and appreciate who we are works against us. There is a danger of being too intellectual and not developing spiritual depth and understanding as a consequence. Another danger in the process of our education is our busy-ness. All our activities and obligations can refrain us from developing our ability to listen to and experience God. Hearing God and applying what we learn from experiencing the Divine is how wisdom develops. We believe that through the silence we form that deeper relationship with God but recognize that our learnings of life and God are personal and experiential events and that a way to this relationship cannot be prescribed.

Treasurer: The treasurer's report was approved.

Our Yearly Meeting apportionment of \$540 has been paid.

Donations of \$50 will be sent to OTOC and also to Scattergood Friends School's sustainability fund.

Buildings and Grounds: Omaha Yoga School, at 1066 Howard, has offered us the use of its space on Sunday mornings for free. We will visit it the next Sunday, June 28. Use the entrance to the Passageway. Frank will place sticky notes to direct us to its third floor location. Please bring a folding chair unless you'd like to sit on the floor in the yoga studio. A potluck picnic will follow worship at Heartland Park.

Other:

A thank you note from Jules for the graduation gift was shared.

Marshall will serve as caretaker for our Meeting at Yearly Meeting.

The letter to Sandy Tomer was read and approved. The clerk will mail it.

Ginny Winsor has been appointed as Interim Head at Scattergood Friends School for the new school year. We congratulate her and hope to be able to see her some time during the year.

The following reports for Yearly Meeting were approved: State of the Meeting report with one change, the Peace and Social Concerns report with a couple changes, and Religious Education report with a couple changes.

State of the Meeting Report

Omaha Friend's meets every Sunday for Worship and discussion. We began meeting this year outdoors at a park and then moved into a member's home. Attendance averages 4 or 5 worshipers with 2 teenage members often joining. Worship is calmly uplifting but with few messages over the last year. Our expectations of the Meeting have changed, and we are more at ease in our approach to who we are and what we can do.

Second hour alternates between query discussion, educational study, and Meeting for Business. Social times with potluck breakfast or lunch occurred several times. The social times have enriched the relationships within the meeting.

Concern over the small size and declining attendance since last year has been raised. Three regular attendees have ceased in joining us during this year. Attendees are older and the meeting has had few visitors.

Peace and Social Concerns Report

During the last year the Omaha Meeting of Friends participated in

Co-Sponsorship of a Fundraising dinner for an Anglican hospital in Gaza

Financial Contributions of the Meeting have gone to:

- Pulse (Organization in support of families who have had a family member die from violence)*

- *Friends Committee for National Legislation*
- *Omaha Together One Community (OTOC)*
(*Organization of*
Omaha Churches for Community Action)
- *Nebraskans for Peace*
- *Nebraskans Against the Death Penalty*
- *Monteverde Friends School*
- *FWCC - Georgia relief fund*

Individual members of the Omaha Meeting participated in other peace and justice organizations including:

- *Nebraskans for Peace*
- *Nebraskans Against the Death Penalty*
- *Luncheon honoring mothers and supporters of PULSE*
- *Catholic Worker's House*
- *Omaha Committee for Palestinian Rights*
- *Fund-raise for Holy Family's door ministry to the poor*
- *Sierra Club*

Religious Education Report

Young people's religious Eeducation included some discussions between one of our adults and the two remaining youth (high school students who will be going away to college in the fall). Adult religious education included some sessions following the FGC Quakerism 101 curriculum, including readings from Encounter with Silence by John Punshon the Gathered Meeting by Thomas Kelly, and Friends for 300 Years by Howard Brinton. Other topics included, "How has the Lord dealt with thee since last we met? and What is thy teaching for us this day?", Racism, and Sustainability.

Nominating Committee made a partial report. The following nominations were approved:

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|--------|-------------------------------------|
| Frank | - Buildings and Grounds Coordinator |
| Paul | - webmaster |
| Lynda | - treasurer |
| Debbie | - clerk |
| Carol | - Ministry and Oversight |

Marshall - Ministry and Oversight

The clerk will be contacting people to check on interests for Yearly Meeting committees and to inform them of our decision to meet at the Omaha Yoga School on June 28.