

Omaha Friends Meeting

Meeting for Business

20 July 2008

Present: Jon, Debbie, Frank, Carol, Nancy, Curtis, and Lynda

Minutes from June 15 were approved.

Calendar:

First Day:

July 29	-	Quakerism 101 – Debbie
August 3	-	Query 8 – Curtis
August 10	-	Intergenerational
August 17	-	TBA
August 24	-	TBA
August 31	-	Business Meeting

Other:

July 29 – August 3 – Yearly Meeting

Query: Query 7 response was approved.

Home and Family

Key to healthy families and homes is finding time to be together. This time facilitates open and honest communication, which is necessary to maintain relationships. Understanding nonverbal cues is a challenge. Listening well is a nurturing skill. When we understand how others listen and process information, we form tighter bonds with each other from the trust that develops. Because different families and cultures use unique sets of rules and practices while communicating, consciously considering the scope of

communication can affect our lives beyond home and family and improve balance in our lives.

Another key aspect of the home is the providing of love and hospitality. Simply put, hospitality provides that those who know us accept us as we are. Families discern what their priorities are and make an effort to meet those. This allows more time and energy for each other. It allows us to feel "at home".

As a Meeting, we believe that equal does not mean the same and that differences must be accommodated. This is true in emotions and in communication, as well as in other areas. We want our youth to leave our homes with a sense that the Meeting cares for them. And we try to find ways to support families financially, emotionally, and spiritually. Preparing for Meeting by worship and study helps us in attaining these goals.

Treasurer: The report was approved.

Donations are needed at this time. Our general fund currently contains less than \$70. In July, we were unable to make our monthly addition to our Meeting House Savings. A quarterly payment on our Yearly apportionment will be due in September. It usually takes a couple of months for us to save for this. Lynda, the treasurer, is glad to receive contributions on behalf of the Meeting either in person or by mail. If you need her address, please call her or contact the clerk. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

Peace and Social Concerns:

A last donation to PULSE will be made in August.

Buildings and Grounds:

Meeting will continue meeting in the park or at Frank's and Lynda's on inclement days and for Business Meeting. Once school starts, we will likely return to Carol's.

We listened to reports from Frank, Marilyn, Debbie, and Hana.

The Congregationalist church is going through remodeling and does not want to rent to us at this time. Marilyn has looked into several ideas which have so far not been promising. Hana did research on several storefront properties. We realized that many of those properties are priced out of what we have been imagining. This encourages us to keep looking, however. Debbie was told that FGC had a loan application on its way.

Please look at the criteria listed below for a Meeting House, and contact the clerk with feedback. The search will continue for a permanent home for Meeting.

A storefront in Benson and open to other suggestions.

We should be able to put up a permanent sign large and bright enough for people to see when driving by.

Ideally, there should be a kitchen or at least a place to jerry-rig one for potlucks and other events.

Climate control

On or near a bus line would be nice but not critical. There isn't much bus service on Sunday anyway, but it would be helpful on other days.

Low maintenance. This is one reason I like the storefront idea. This move will be a significant change, so we should make as easy as possible for ourselves.

Adequate parking, such as a parking lot or enough street parking.

Ministry and Oversight:

Directions from the Yearly Meeting clerk were followed for the State of the Meeting report. It is noted that Marshall found that this report, as required by Yearly Meeting, is not as it had originally meant to be.

Other:

Curtis will choose a Bible dictionary as a gift for Ian's graduation. It will be presented next Sunday. Carol will look at FGC or another place for a Quaker-theme t-shirt for a graduation gift for Rebecca.

Debbie will find flowers for Carol's yard as a thank you for housing us this last year.

Debbie and Carol will find a time to go through materials that may be submitted to the Nebraska Historical Society. We need to be assured copies exist of all materials before given to the archive.

To preserve legal documents, we will rent a safety deposit box from Regency's Wells Fargo bank at about \$40 a year. Papers will be allowed to lie flat with this size box. Debbie and Lynda will go to open the box. The clerk and treasurer will have keys.