

Minutes of the Sessions Committee Meeting February 4, 2012 at Oakwood Friends School

1. Those present were Martha Gurvich, assistant clerk of Sessions, clerk of Program subcommittee and liaison with Silver Bay; John Cooley, clerk of Sessions; Heather Cook, yearly meeting clerk; Jeff Hitchcock, yearly meeting assistant clerk, Beth Vardy, Nominating subcommittee and Young Adult Friends rep; Margaret Lew, at large and Youth Committee rep; Dawn Pozzi, JYM coordinator; Fred Dettmer, Witness CC rep; Helen Garay Toppins, yearly meeting staff; Mary Eagleson, recording clerk and clerk of Spring/Fall subcommittee; Cheshire Frager, Nurture CC Rep; Will Strayer, at large and interest group coordinator; Roseann Press, recording clerk; Miriam McGiver, JYM coordinator; Kate Lawson, guest from Youth Committee. .

Regrets were received from Jeffrey Aaron, Claire Simon, Karen Snare, Emrigael Alpern, Christopher Sammond.

2. Friends introduced themselves and told about amusing events in their lives over the past week. Afterwards the group settled into worship.

The spring/fall sessions subcommittee and the program subcommittee met for most of the remainder of the morning. After the morning sessions, the whole committee re-convened.

3. Mary Eagleson read the minutes of the spring/fall sessions subcommittee. **Sessions Committee approved the revised draft of the Spring/Fall Sessions Handbook, to be put on the Yearly Meeting website with today's date.**

4. Miriam McGiver spoke about plans for JYM. The Youth Committee is in charge of the parents' meeting, but there is some question about who will take care of their children during that meeting. The two people who gave that care last year were not asked to do so until Sunday. The Youth Committee will arrange for childcare during that meeting.

5. Martha reviewed the work of the Program Subcommittee. They have defined a theme, integrity, and are ready to start working on the schedule for the week. There is a request from Ministry Coordinating Committee for a time during which to hold a threshing session on our experience in and the meaning of recording gifts in the ministry. Black Concerns Committee has requested a time to hold a birthday party, with a cake, for Bayard Rustin.

Jeff Hitchcock noted that one of the major foundations of Meeting for Discernment is that it is extended worship, and it needs a long period of time to be effective. He asked that the original schedule be restored, rather than having an hour of community worship intervene after lunch. Other Friends shared comments on the meeting for discernment.

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(Program Subcommittee discussion on 2012 Summer Sessions planning, continued)

It is a goal for interest groups that their content relate to the theme of integrity. Another goal is to have content that is available/appropriate for young friends age 10 and older. (It was noted later that an application has already been approved for an interest group on integrity in our business life.)

Ministry Coordinating Committee is asked to develop queries for worship sharing groups based on integrity.

Black Concerns Committee and Youth Committee will be working on events that celebrate the centennial of Bayard Rustin's birth. These will include, but not be limited to, an oral history project, coordination of talks with JYM and other group in the yearly meeting, readings from Rustin's letters, food celebrations, etc.

6. Two alternate proposals for the theme have been made: "Nurturing Integrity" and "Living Integrity," with a subtext of "How can we be faithful to God's call in our compromised world?" **After discussion, "Living and nurturing integrity" was approved. It was suggested that the subtext could be incorporated in the text of the write-up in Spark.**

Jon Watts was suggested as a plenary presenter. He is a musician and, with Maggie Harrison, has started a project called "Clothe Yourself in Righteousness" exploring the topic of spiritual nakedness as a symbol of authenticity in biblical and spiritual writings. He is said to be a lively and gifted speaker and would appeal to Friends of all ages. During the meeting, we learned that Jon Watts is available. He may be interested in holding a concert as well as a plenary; the clerk will discuss the arrangements with him. Participation of Maggie Harrison is pending.

7. **After much discussion, a summer sessions schedule was approved** (copy to be appended).

John Cooley reported on his conversation with David Kisselback Silver Bay. Overlook will be renovated and will house 22 people in 11 rooms, and will be a low-cost option (\$319 for six nights). Spruce Mountain Lodge is reserved for our use in 2013 and 2014. In general, room prices are going up; but meal rates will remain the same as last year. There will continue to be a one-day rate for people coming just for meetings and not using the facilities.

John reported that the Equalization Fund should have enough money to give applicants 1/3 of the cost of their stays.

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We discussed the placement of tents.

8. Golf cart dispatching and driving was a challenge last year. More dispatchers are needed. Dawn Pozzi will review the materials from Don Kissil and communicate with Rose Lynn, who will be involved with the organization of the service this year. It was observed last year that children were using the carts for joyriding. Kate responded that this happened because keys were left in the carts, and that the offenders were reprimanded. This year, the dispatch will be more careful that keys are returned between rides. **Further discussion on this topic is laid over until our meeting in April.**

9. Beth Vardy reported for Young Adult Concerns that on Sunday evening, the “CYF-High School Gathering” is an invitation to high school seniors, but is not for all high school youth. The group also needs to have a larger space in which to gather, since Gray Pavilion is now too small. Beth will email Martha and ask for the larger space.

Beth also asked for a clear set of guidelines for fundraising at sessions. John Cooley will send Sessions Committee members a list of guidelines which has been used or proposed since last year. Beth noted the greatest difficulty is with people who are raising money for causes other than Powell House or the Sharing Fund. This should have been resolved by observing the policy that sales at the Fun(d) Fair are done only by tickets, except for the tagless tag sale.

The clerk will share the policy again with the Sessions Committee and **the Committee asks John to work with NYYM staff to see that this policy is publicized in the May issue of Spark. Everyone who wishes to raise funds must communicate with Sessions Committee about their plans.** The finance subcommittee will review the policy on fundraising at Summer Sessions and report back to the full committee. They welcome comments on the current policy which will be circulated. The spring/fall sessions subcommittee is asked to discuss fundraising at those sessions with the finance subcommittee.

Mary Eagleson, Recording Clerk

John Cooley, Clerk