

Meeting for worship with a concern for business, Oct. 13, 2002

1. Meeting opened with a period of silence. Out of the silence, the clerk read an excerpt from an epistle by George Fox, 1690:

She also read the first of three queries prepared by Ministry and Worship committee in 2002 for meeting for worship with a concern for business :

2. The Meeting noted that a group of members have left the Congregation M'Vaksche Derekh. The clerk is asked to inquire about what has happened and to report back to the Meeting next month.

3. Eunice Laughlin reported for the AFSC Monday Group that two former members of the Congregation M'Vaksche Derekh continue to come to help with the sorting of clothing. The group is up to date with sorting and sewing, but needs someone to take the bags of clothing to Philadelphia.

4. Daniel Hewitt gave the Treasurer's Report (appended). He noted that our income is down by approximately \$9,000 compared to last year, and expenditures are down only slightly. He pointed out that we have made a large contribution to the capital campaign of Friends General Conference; we have pledged a similar contribution next year.

In the discussion which followed, it was noted that, to make our budget, we might need to raise as much as \$22,000 more in contributions. It was suggested that we may need to be more conservative in budget planning for next year.

5. William Seltzer reported for the Finance Committee. He first invited Friends who wish to discuss the finances of the Meeting to communicate with him, so that a session for that purpose can be arranged.

He reported that the lease for the copier which the Meeting has placed in Sing Sing prison has expired. The machine is heavily used and needs to be replaced. The members of the worship group at Sing Sing and the Purchase Quarter Prison Committee have carefully researched how best to replace it, and have negotiated with the administration of the prison for permission. The cost of the new copier would be \$13,500. The prison committee has asked Scarsdale Meeting to buy the copier. If the Meeting agrees, the worship group will give the Meeting \$12,000 immediately, with the remaining \$1,500 to be paid over the next 6 months out of earnings from the copier. The finance committee recommends that the Meeting extend the credit to the worship group, with two conditions: receipt of written approval from the prison administration and approval by the worship group. The old copier would be given to Scarsdale Meeting, which would donate it to Hudson Link, a program and advocacy group within the prison which supports higher education there.

It was clarified that if we purchase this copier, it will belong to Scarsdale Meeting and will be a ministry that we provide the prison community. However, it would be possible for the project to be taken over by Purchase Quarterly Meeting; once it has been purchased, the copier could be donated to the quarter.

The question was raised whether this project would offer an opportunity to come to unity on what Scarsdale Meeting is called to do with respect to prison ministry.

The meeting approved the purchase of the copier and resolved to bring the matter of our prison ministry to further discussion at a later time.

6. Elin Waring reported for Oversight and Counsel committee that there will be a threshing session on October 27 at rise of meeting, on conflict within the meeting. Relevant queries are printed in the October newsletter.

The committee is planning again to send a group photograph as a holiday greeting card to distant Friends; it urges Friends to watch for announcement of the date of the photography and to be present on that date.

7. Robert Lohaus read the following report from Building and Grounds:

Because of the lateness of the time, the meeting agreed to postpone the discussions proposed in the report. The clerk suggested that the matter be referred to the clerks' committee, who would work with Building and Grounds in preparing for a threshing session to be held on clarification of our principles and values and how they inform our policies with respect to how we maintain our building.

The clerk will reply to M'Vakshe Derekh that we need more time to make our decision about the air conditioners, and will place this item first on next month's agenda.

8. The next meeting for worship with a concern for business will be held Nov. 11.