

Meeting For Worship with a Concern for Business • 2nd Month 10, 2008

And while waiting upon the Lord in silence, as often we did for many hours together, with our minds and hearts toward him, being staid in the light of Christ within us, from all thoughts, fleshly motions, and desires, in our diligent waiting and fear of his name, and hearkening to his word, we received often the pouring down of the spirit upon us, and the gift of God's holy eternal spirit as in the days of old, and our hearts were made glad, and our tongues loosed, and our mouths opened, and we spake with new tongues, as the Lord gave us utterance, and as his spirit led us, which was poured down upon us, on sons and daughters.

Edward Burrough, *Epistle to the Reader*, 1659

Attending: Jeff Menoher, Sean Higgins, John Black Lee, Judy Meikle, Munro Johnson, Ed Shaw, Michel Loth, Susan Telesco, John Steere, Frances Salant, Marilyn Atkin, Woody Schempp (clerk), Laura Higgins (recording clerk)

Ministry and Oversight:

2008-02-01 State of the Meeting Report

Meeting approves and accepts the report from Ministry and Oversight with minor changes.

Finance:

Munro Johnson read the Treasurer's report in Rich Francis' absence. Meeting accepted the Treasurer's report as is until a more complete report is presented in Third Month Meeting for Business.

Rich's report summarized that contributions in the fourth quarter were \$28,960 and approximately \$40,000 for the year. Expenditures for the year were as expected. We have paid all our bills and covenant commitments to Quaker organizations.

Help Increase the Peace (HIP) Report:

Because Judy Meikle's work is partially supported by the Peggy Smith legacy, wanted to update Meeting on her work.

Judy said that having a leading can be a lonely thing and all the distractions of her volunteer work with AVP and the death penalty. She was on the agenda of the Norwalk clergy association. The NAACP meeting had a report on the "state of our youth." Judy has realized that getting the program into Norwalk is very politicized. At least three different groups have formed to address youth violence. Norwalk Neighbors Helping Our Teens asked Judy to facilitate their first meeting and she used the AVP process. Part of the overall reaction was that they loved the process. They also appreciated that no politician was grandstanding. Judy will continue working with this group, but having the teens conduct the meetings. In addition, she is going to start a series of mini-AVP workshops throughout Norwalk at various locations. Pieces are starting to come together in terms of how to get the kids to come through new contacts. The CFS parents, who do the school's graphics, are also donating their time to help Judy's work. So, although it's been an arduous five weeks, she is extremely encouraged and excited.

Judy closed with a request to get together with her committee of care.

Meeting reconfirmed that we are holding Judy in the Light for her wonderful progress. The sense of the Meeting is that Judy's work reflects Meeting's concern to reach out to the broader community. One friend reflected that we should be changing our thinking towards children from "law and order" to "love and order."

March 5 is the next meeting of Norwalk Neighbors Helping Our Teens. Norwalk residents are encouraged to come. The location has not been announced.

Update on Friend Jolene Festa's family

In a very violent car crash, Jolene's sister-in-law was killed. Jolene's brother was hospitalized for a brief time. One of their daughters Maddie (age 12) was severely injured. Her prognosis is good, but she will be in a Bridgeport hospital and rehab for a very long time. Jolene is balancing keeping her own family well and supporting her brother. She has difficulty traveling up to CT, because she is unable to drive.

Meeting closed with silent worship.

It is an overwhelming experience to fall into the hands of the living God, to be invaded to the depths of one's feelings by His presence, to be, without warning, wholly uprooted from all earthborn securities and assurances, and to be blown by a tempest of unbelievable power which leaves one's old proud self utterly, utterly defenseless, until one cries, "All thy waves and thy billows are gone over me." Then is the soul swept into a loving center of ineffable sweetness, where calm and unspeakable peace and ravishing joy steal over one.

– Thomas R. Kelly, "Holy Obedience," in *A Testament of Devotion*, 1941