

Called Meeting of the Executive Committee for the Purpose of Aiding Fall Creek Friends Meeting

December 9, 2017 Telephone Conference

Betsy Neale began the meeting calling for gathering worship.

Roll Call

Officers

Presiding Clerk: Betsy Neale

Assistant Presiding Clerk: Martha Viehmann

Recording Clerk: Terre Holada

Treasurer: Wilson Palmer

Assistant Treasurer: (vacant)

Statistician: Frank Huss sends regrets

Committee Clerks

Adult Young Friends: (no representative present)

Auditing: Veronica Frost sends regrets

Braddock Fund: Wilson Palmer

Budget & Finance: Fred Feitler sent regrets and a message

Earthcare: Marjorie Isaacs not present

Faith & Practice: Betsy Neale

Nominating: Richard Mitchell

Peace & Social Concerns: Richard Mitchell

Personnel: Paul Kriese and Paul Buckley

Religious Nurture & Education: (no representative present)

Web Administrator: Lonny Burger

Yearly Meeting Planning: Carol Simmons

Youth Services Committee: (no representative present)

Quarterly Meeting Clerks

Miami: Veronica Frost sends regrets. She joined the call later.

Whitewater: Terre Holada

Monthly Meeting Representatives

Bloomington: Elaine Emmi

Campus: (no representative present)

Clear Creek: Cathy Habschmidt

Community: Deborah Jordan

Dayton: (no representative present)

Eastern Hills: Wilson Palmer

Englewood: (no representative present)

Fall Creek: Diann Herzog

Fort Wayne: Terre Holada

Lafayette: Michele Tomarelli

Lexington: Richard Mitchell
Louisville: (no representative present)
Miami: Lonny Burger
North Meadow: Dinah Duvall
Oxford: (no representative present)
White Rose: (no representative present)
Yellow Springs: Carol Simmons

Staff

Administrative Secretary: Deborah Jordan
Youth Secretary: (vacant)

Others in Attendance

David Duvall

Discussion on helping Fall Creek regarding its meetinghouse repairs:

Updates from Diann Herzog

She shared that having the support from Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting boosts the spirits of Fall Creek Friends and gives them the strength to go on.

There is a new member who is a great help in the project of repairing the meetinghouse.

David Duvall made a report on condition of the building. This report was distributed to the Executive Committee in advance of this meeting. He gave an oral report on his findings.

Three issues:

- Basement flood damage needs to be repaired as soon as possible. The first step would be to remove material from the basement because of the mold. Drainage needs to be added to the exterior to prevent future flooding.
- The building is not entirely accessible especially since the only bathroom is in the basement, which can only be reached via stairs. To make this accessible may be a long-term project. A restroom could be installed in the upstairs resting room, but that room needs extensive repair before such a conversion can be done.
- The building has a basic good structure, but some work should be put into making the property and building more pleasant and workable for Friends' use.

David also shared information on obtaining matching funds from the Indiana historical preservation agency.

A friend said that there is a Quaker tradition that we do not over-value a building or land because our faith is in the people and the Spirit, not the property. Friends do not believe that any place is holy.

Another Friend noted that the veil between the Spirit and Friends is thin at the Fall Creek Meetinghouse. Diann noted that Fall Creek Friends have undergone discernment regarding their meeting and their building, and they have decided that the meeting will continue whether or not they are able to make the building viable for their use.

Fred Feitler, Finance Committee sent this:

My thinking is that Fall Creek would like to address their physical plan problems and not have to be laid down. Similarly I would guess the Yearly Meeting would like to help with a solution, if possible. As a member of Budget and Finance Committee, I believe we have funds that could be used to help with Fall Creek expenses. The Yearly Meeting might also be able to assist with raising special funds to be used and paid back. Another possible solution to help is the Friends Meeting House Fund that is under the care of FGC. My guess is this is a situation that might require more time and consideration than a simple phone call. Perhaps having interested persons meeting with Budget and Finance Committee could continue further discussion and problem solving.

Diann asked that right now Friends are needed for a work party next Saturday, December 16th at 10:00 am to clean the mold in the basement. A few people present volunteered. Others will ask Friends at their Meetings tomorrow. Friends are asked to confirm with Diann during the week. Her number is 765-778-7143.

Martha mentioned the money that is available in the Capital Fund that can be given to Fall Creek, as discussed at the November meeting of the Executive Committee. Wilson explained that other money had been earmarked in the past to aid Friends who didn't pay their taxes as a testimony. If Friends were to change the purpose of that fund, it might be available to assist Fall Creek. At the November Executive Committee meeting, we discussed making a loan from existing funds to Fall Creek. One Friend expressed concern about Fall Creek FM's ability to repay a loan. Two Friends said they felt that we should not make a loan unless we are prepared for the possibility that it may not be paid back in full.

It was requested that the Budget and Finance Committee be asked to look further into the issue of a loan and/or a grant to Fall Creek.

Ownership of the building was brought into question, but Diann believes that this issue is close to resolution, and the ownership of the property is still with the Meeting.

Diann said that by the February Executive Committee meeting, the estimates of the cost of the needed work should be more accurate.

The clerk asked if the Budget and Finance Committee, small as it is [Fred Feitler and Wilson Palmer (*ex officio*)], could look at this issue before the February EC Meeting. Friends agreed. Diann will prepare a report and get it to Wilson and Fred, who will bring their recommendations to the February Executive Committee meeting.

The Meeting closed with silence.

The next Executive Committee Meeting will be February 3rd at 10:00 am, via conference call.

Minutes prepared by Terre Holada, Recording Clerk