

Quaker Earthcare Witness Continuing Counsel Committee
Electronic Meeting
2010 November 15

(Approved on 2011 January 29)

Present Jack Bradin, David Ciscel, Louis Cox, Dick Grossman, David Millar, Shelley Tanenbaum, Roy Taylor, Roy Treadway, Rod Zwirner, and Anne Mitchell and Ruah Swennerfelt (*ex officio*). Mary Jo Klingel could not be with us.

Opening

We started with silence, out of which Dick read from Saint Bernard de Clairvaux: "Trust one who has tried it. You will find more in woods than in books; trees and stones will teach you what you can never learn from masters."

Approval of Agenda — Dick Grossman

We approved the agenda Dick sent out in advance except for considering the SC minutes. Shelley suggested we consider either today or at a later time concerns on the process for hiring the general secretary. Such a hiring process might be relevant for the hiring of the publications co-ordinator

Approval of the 2010 October 28-30 Continuing Counsel Committee (CCC) Minutes

CCC Minute 2010.11.01 Continuing Counsel Committee approved the Minutes of our 2010 October 28 to 30 Continuing Counsel Committee Meetings in Houston.

We discussed the value of approving of minutes during our Meetings for Worship for Business. There is value in doing so. It could be tried during the Continuing Counsel Committee meeting in January. **Dick and Roy will consider this and come back to the next CCC meeting with a process that might be used.**

Critique of the Houston meeting — Dick Grossman

Friends did not have any comments. We observed that the quality of the meeting was influenced by the absence of valued Friends. Ruah and Louis will send an formal evaluation of the meeting soon.

Recruiting Young Friends to QEW SC Meetings

The "unconference" for young Friends by QEW, which David Millar is organizing, will be important for recruiting youth to QEW. **We need larger scholarships than we offered in Houston to encourage young Friends to come to the SC meeting. QEW funds are available for youth scholarship for SC representatives to QEW, but not for all young Friends to come to the SC meeting.** During our January CCC meeting, we might consider alternative sources of funding. The Publications Committee was asked to explore a process to let young Friends know about the QEW SC Meeting at monthly meetings and elsewhere. The Publications Committee would like to develop an email list of contacts. Roy Taylor will work with David Millar on developing those contacts. **We did have a concern of adding people who have not been asked to be on an QEW email list; we need to consider whether we want to do this. Our current Monthly Meeting Contact lists are probably out of date; the Outreach Committee will attempt to update the list, which Ruah will send to David.**

Ad Hoc Committee on Meetings—Jack Bradin

Jack has sent a report on the two lunch meetings for the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Meetings at the Houston SC Meeting. Jack has listed the responses of nine Friends at those meetings on 11 items. **Jack will send out a report to the SC on the earthcare list and ask for further responses to 11 queries or to add queries.** We discussed the meaning of the of concern over “gated, locked, fearful ecclesiastical settings” and “[m]anifest an atmosphere of ‘Love,’ not Fear.” This appears to include meeting at the Cenacle. Are the issues of “gated and locked” separate from “ecclesiastical” settings? Should the items be revised for clarity even though they are the ones suggested by the nine persons at the meetings in Houston? While the nine persons are those who came to the *Ad Hoc* committee meetings in Houston, other people who might have come to these meetings were not able to come because of conflicts. Ruah suggested adding a couple of general questions about the type of place to meet and frequency of meeting on the evaluation of the Houston Meeting. We could ask about the places we have met, such as Cenacle and the FGC Gathering.

CCC Minute 2010.11.02 Continuing Counsel Committee approved Jack, Roy Treadway, and Ruah (and anyone else interested) collaborating by 2010 December 6 on developing some general questions about QEW’s future meetings as part of the evaluation of the Houston Meeting.

Bylaws Revision — Roy Taylor

Roy Taylor is investigating where QEW’s Articles of incorporation, which Ruah will send to Roy Taylor by email, might serve as the basis for revised, simple, legal bylaws. Roy Treadway has worked on reviewing items in the current bylaws that might be in a procedural manual. Jack Bradin also interested.

CCC Minute 2010.11.02 Continuing Counsel Committee approved Roy Taylor (Convener), Jack Bradin, and Roy Treadway continuing to work on revising the QEW bylaws with a possible manual of procedures, bringing progress on this to the 2011 April QEW SC meetings for confirmation by the SC, and to the 2011 Fall Annual Meeting for approval of the revised bylaws and procedures.

Sign-on procedures — Roy Treadway

We raised the concern whether the working groups, committees, and project are ready to act as “Clearness Committees” when called on to do so by the new sign-on procedure approved in Houston. **After the SC minutes have been approved later in November, Dick will send out reminders to Clerks.**

General Secretary Transition — Ruah Swennerfelt and Anne Mitchell

Currently Anne has email, Skype, and phone with QEW. David Ciscel and Ruah will help train Anne on financial and other procedures in January. **Each member of CCC should let Anne know how he or she can help her. Anne looks forward to consulting with CCC about issues and process and then reaching out to others on the SC.**

Planning for the Steering Committee meeting in April in Chicago — Dick Grossman

We suggested the theme: "The Spirit of the Earthcare Activist," but some felt this theme needed clarification. **Anne and Dick will work on the theme and agenda.** Roy Treadway can help with local activities and information. David Millar suggested we might bring by Skype some of the voices of young Friends who authored: *Spirit Rising*, which can be purchased from Friends General Conference bookstore. **The Spiritual Nurturance Committee will develop the process to plan for time and space at QEW’s April 2011 Steering**

Committee meeting in Chicago to explore in the manner of Friends the phrase “the Light within” as it relates to our work together and consult with the Continuing Counsel Committee.

Planning for the Fall Annual Meeting in Chicago — Dick Grossman

Planning for the Fall Annual Meeting in Chicago needs to start now. This meeting will be for four days and three nights. **Since the theme focuses on issues relating to bio-diversity (which might include industrial agriculture, urban gardens, and environmental challenges in Chicago), Dick will ask for members of the Sustainability: Faith and Action Working Group, Al Connor, Chicago-area Friends, and others to comprise the planning committee.**

Finance and Development Committee – David Ciscel and Ruah Swennerfelt

The preliminary report for FY 2010 indicates we had about \$3,900 less in income than expenses, in part because interest, contributions, and publications sales were lower than last year. If we had reached our budgeted contributions, we would have broken even. Because the Holy Passionate Retreat Center reduced our fees, we did not have a loss on the Annual Meeting. We have \$50,000 in cash reserves, a portion of which is committed to other uses. **The annual appeal letter with the Water Tri-fold has been sent.** In doing so, Ruah was able to set up a process to send it by email to QEW’s printer in Burlington, VT, who was then able to send it to the QEW mailing list. Thus, Anne can do this from Canada.

Nominating Committee – Rod Zwirner

Having one face-to-face meeting will make the Nominating Committee’s job harder.

Outreach Committee – David Millar

Members of Outreach Committee plan to make two calls a month to QEW yearly meeting representatives, urging them to involve members of their yearly meeting in an uncertain topic about earthcare. The committee is arranging a conference call.

Personnel Committee – Jack Bradin

The search process for the new FCNL executive secretary was essentially the same as QEW’s search for a general secretary.

Publications Committee – Roy Taylor

The committee is working on pamphlets, social media, and a review of QEW’s website. It is cooperating with the Outreach Committee on providing more information about QEW to others. QEW does not really try to make money on our publications; rather they are chosen by the importance of their topic.

Should QEW Set Priorities? — Anne Mitchell

We considered whether QEW was just a support group for the earthcare work of its members or whether it should have two or three concerns on which to focus as QEW besides procedural issues, such as the bylaws and number and location of our meetings. Getting young Friends involved in earthcare and sharpening the spiritual basis of our work might be important foci of QEW? **It would be very valuable for QEW to consider together our collective work, both internal and outward; setting priorities, at least over two years, might be a good**

undertaking for QEW. Many agreed that the spiritual basis of QEW helps make QEW unique. We should have an early conversation during our next CCC electronic meeting on how to address considering QEW's priorities as part of the planning for the Chicago Spring meeting.

Department of Public Information (DPI) Badges at the UN — Anne Mitchell

QEW could have two more DPI badges for adults and one more 18-24 year olds. It is desirable have Friends near New York City to represent us. **The UN Support WG is working on finding people to have the DPI badges.**

Next CCC Meeting in January —Anne Mitchell or Ruah Swennerfelt

Our next electronic meeting will be for six or seven hours on one Saturday in January. After some discussion, **we agreed to meet on 2011 January 29 (preferably) or 2011 Jan 22, depending on when Mary Jo is available.** During our January meeting, we might try to find up a regular day and time each month for our electronic meetings. **Dick will contact Mary Jo.**

Thanks to Ruah

We recognized that as General Secretary this was Ruah's last electronic meeting of the Continuing Counsel Committee of QEW.

CCC Minute 2010.11.03 Continuing Counsel Committee approved thanking Ruah for her long and devoted service to the Continuing Counsel Committee of QEW.

Closing

We closed with a moment of silence.

Roy C. Treadway

Recording Clerk