

**Quaker Earthcare Witness Continuing Counsel Committee**  
**Electronic Meeting**  
2011 January 29

(Approved Draft on 2011 February 28)

Present Jack Bradin, David Ciscel, Louis Cox, Dick Grossman, Mary Jo Klingel, David Millar, Shelley Tanenbaum, Roy Taylor, Roy Treadway, Rod Zwirner, and Anne Mitchell (*ex officio*).

**Greeting and reading – Dick Grossman and Mary Jo Klingel**

We all joined the call but had problems with people losing connection. **We agreed for Dick to audio record our conversation.** Dick gave a meditation on population, followed by some moments of silence. Mary Jo gave a reading from *Prayers of the Cosmos*, “Meditations on the Aramaic Words of Jesus,” translated from the Aramaic by Neil Douglas-Klotz, interpreting the **King James Version** of the Bible, *Hallowed be thy Name*.

*Focus your light within us - make it useful:  
as the rays of a beacon  
show the way.*

*Help us breathe one holy breath  
Feeling only you – this creates a shrine  
inside, in wholeness.*

*Help us to let go, clear the space inside  
Of busy forgetfulness:*

*so the Name comes to live.*

*Your name, your sound can move us  
If we tune our hearts as instruments  
for its tone.*

*Hear the one Sound that creates all others  
In this way the Name is hallowed  
In silence.*

**Approval of Agenda — Dick Grossman**

**We approved the agenda Dick sent out in advance with one change.**

**Approval of the 2010 November 15 Continuing Counsel Committee (CCC) Minutes – Roy Treadway**

**CCC Minute 2011.01.01 Continuing Counsel Committee approved the Minutes of our 2010 November 15 Continuing Counsel Committee Electronic Meeting.**

**Concurrent approval of minutes – Roy Treadway**

Roy explained a new procedure for approving minutes by which we would formally approve major decisions as the meeting proceeded. We agreed that decisions affecting the Steering Committee should be approved by the Steering Committee as we have done in the past.

**CCC Minute 2011.01.02 Continuing Counsel Committee approved recording minutes of the CCC as we go along, with important decisions being taken to the SC.**

**Priority setting for QEW – Anne Mitchell**

Anne discussed her proposal for setting priorities for QEW. **From conversations she has had with members of the Steering Committee, several themes have emerged: get the word out, collaborate with other environmental Quaker and secular groups, appeal to youth, and frame the discussion on simplicity focusing on the earth is sacred, requiring an understanding of the earth’s system.** We discussed next steps to have one or two members of the CCC to take responsibility for preparing a discussion on these priorities, although we recognize the concern of taking on too much without it being a clear leading.

CCC welcomes a discussion of priorities during our Spring SC meeting Chicago. We wondered if we have a complete list of possible priorities. We agreed that the work of CCC is to be sure we have a focused framework of discussion in Chicago, including the value of unity with nature and the divine aspect of the planet. Our focus on youth is very important. Collaboration with other groups would also be valuable. **By our next electronic meeting, we agreed that CCC should discuss how we move forward to present and consider our priorities for the next SC meeting in April, using the QEW Continuing Counsel list serve.**

**CCC Minute 2011.01.03 Continuing Counsel Committee approved CCC considering by email in time for our next electronic meeting how we as a group can process action on new priorities for QEW at the 2011 Spring SC meeting.**

**Can members of the Steering Committee observe (listen to) Continuing Counsel Committee Electronic meetings? – Dick Grossman**

Before today's CCC meeting, Eric Joy sent Dick a request to listen in by Skype to CCC's electronic meeting. **We have always had persons on the SC being able to sit in on CCC face-to-face meetings.** We raised several questions. Should only SC members be able to listen, or can any one listen, but not talk? How many people can be involved without having too many on Skype calls? If we do allow persons not on the CCC to listen, we need to let all on the SC know that they can listen to CCC electronic meetings. We have a principle of letting Friends listen and not hiding our truth. **We have approved including working group and project clerks to be involved in the CCC, but no one has expressed interest.** Whatever decision we make needs to be general to all people and situations. We can try this today and see how it works.

**CCC Minute 2011.01.04 Continuing Counsel Committee approved Eric Joy joining us as a listener for today's meeting, but will continue to see how we can have Friends join CCC electronic meetings in the future.**

**Relationship with New Zealand Yearly Meeting – Dick Grossman**

Dick has received interest in QEW from Friends in New Zealand, Costa Rico, and Hong Kong. In particular, we have had a request formally from New Zealand Yearly Meeting to join QEW. **We enthusiastically welcome New Zealand Yearly Meeting to join us, recognizing that we might have to make special arrangement with them for tax purposes.**

**CCC Minute 2011.01.05 Continuing Counsel Committee approved having New Zealand Yearly Meeting become a yearly-meeting member of Quaker Earthcare Witness and asking the Steering Committee to endorse having New Zealand Yearly Meeting join QEW.**

**Recording of Sign-on to the United Nations Human Rights Commission – Anne Mitchell**

On 2011 Jan 7, the UN Support Working Group requested that QEW sign onto to a statement to the UN Human Rights Council, "The undersigned civil society organizations request that the UN Human Rights Council establish a new Special Procedure on the Impact of Climate Change on the enjoyment of Human Rights." **After some discussion, with some reservations but no member of the Steering Committee opposing, on 2011 January 10, QEW approved the requested sign-on.**

**CCC Minute 2011.01.06 Continuing Counsel Committee approved recording the sign-on by QEW on 2011 January 10 to the request to the UN Rights Council to establish a new Special Procedure on the Impact of Climate Change on the enjoyment of Human Rights.**

### Preparation for April meeting – Dick Grossman

Dick discussed the background of the proposed theme: “Nourishing the Soul of the Earthcare Activist.” Roy Taylor felt the theme did not speak to him. Roy Treadway said we have a lot going on with priority setting and considering the “Light within.” **Dick will work with Anne, Shelley, and Mary Jo on a suitable theme, focus, and plans for the April Meeting.** Rod suggested that a common reading for the April SC meeting be "Dispatches from the Lamb's War," by Noah Merrill writing in the Young Friends Anthology, *Spirit Rising*, from Friends General Conference (3 pages).

### Bylaws Revisions – Roy Taylor

Roy Taylor has found QEW Articles of Incorporation with its background of QEW and statements of purpose. Our goal is to move our bylaws to a separate clearly written statement how QEW, as a Friends organization, does business. **Our bylaws would then be a simple statement for legal purposes. In conjunction with the new simplified bylaws, we will create a new document that defines our procedures. Roy Taylor, Jack Bradin, and Roy Treadway are working on the bylaws, but others are welcome to join the group.** Shelley will send the bylaws of the Quaker Institute for the Future, and Roy Treadway will obtain the bylaws of Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of Americas.

### How to Support Young QEW members – Dick Grossman

One way to support Young Adult Friends for Activities in QEW is to offer scholarship funds. **To do this, a special fund raising project would be needed outside regular QEW funds.** The Outreach Committee needs to be informed about fund-raising for youth scholarships but cannot focus on it.

We closed this section with silence to return in 15 minutes.

**After our break, we started again with silence** and then a reading by Mary Jo quoting from Saint Bernard de Clairvaux (courtesy of Dick Grossman).

*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.*

### QEW Bylaws on Representative Members – Roy Treadway

**During the break, Roy Treadway reviewed the QEW Bylaws, which limited representatives to the Steering Committee of QEW from Yearly Meetings in North and Central America and the Caribbean.** We agreed to extend eligible yearly meetings to QEW from all over the world.

**CCC Minute 2011.01.07 Continuing Counsel Committee approved having any yearly meeting or similar regional association of the Religious Society of Friends in the world be invited to appoint not more than two representatives (or one representative and one alternate) to serve on the Steering Committee.**

**This change in the Bylaws will require approval by the Steering Committee during the 2011 April Meeting.** We agreed to invite New Zealand join us in all QEW activities and will work out as soon as possible technical issues of their representation on the Steering Committee.

eric joy joined us as a listener.

## Spiritual Nurturance Committee – Mary Jo Klingel

Mary Jo read the report of the Spiritual Nurturance Committee report sent earlier today by email. The Committee has discussed responses to the primary focus of the meetings in Chicago as stated in the Spiritual Nurturance Minute from Houston: “The Steering Committee approves that the Spiritual Nurturance Committee consult with the Continuing Counsel Committee on planning for time and space at QEW’s April 2011 Steering Committee in Chicago **to explore in the manner of Friends the phrase “the Light within” as it relates to our work together.”**

The process of the Committee has been very deep and gratifying. In the past the Clerk, Alternate Clerk, and General Secretary have planned the Spring Meeting, but this Spring they would like help from the Spiritual Nurturance Committee. **The fish bowl process, with two circles, one inside for worship-sharing and one outside for witnessing, might be used to facilitate this exploration. The committee suggested as a possible theme “Nourishing the Soul: Finding Unity within Diversity.”** The planners need to work with the SNC about whether to have one session or several sessions. We appreciate the SNC for bringing this well-considered proposal to CCC and felt we should honor its request. Having a retreat within the Steering Committee structure would be very valuable. Mary Jo appreciates the support of the CCC.

## **Preparation for 2011 October Annual Meeting – Dick Grossman and Shelley Tannenbaum**

While the proposed theme for the 2011 Annual Meeting is “Preservation of Biological Diversity,” approved at the Houston Annual Meeting, others have suggested including food as a important aspect of biological diversity. As David Millar pointed out, food will be an crucial issue for many years to come, ecologically and politically. Roy Taylor felt that the complexity of food and biological diversity overlap. We also wondered if having the same topic for more than one year might lead to more continuity and focus by QEW. **A meaningful, pertinent theme to our witness might be “Food Justice and Integrity of Creation.”** We might ask the Cenacle about using local food as well as the vegetarian food we currently use. As we carry out our planning, we need to be true to what is being considered, and the committee should not change direction as we go along.

As we considered possible members of the committee planning the 2011 Fall Annual Meeting, **Roy Taylor** was willing to serve because of his interest in food and preservation. **Roy Treadway** also supports having food added to the theme and would help with local planning. Others suggested were **Al Connor, Donn Kesselheim, David Millar, Tracey McGowan, and Anne Mitchell.** **We should invite others on the Steering Committee to join the committee. Dick will invite these persons to serve on the Planning Committee.** We need to start brainstorming speakers soon. The Planning Committee should post minutes and its planning on the internet so that everyone is aware of what is happening.

We ended this session with silence to return in 30 minutes.

**To start our afternoon sessions,** Mary Jo read from *Integrity, Ecology and Community: the Motion of Love*, by Jennie M. Ratcliffe, *Pendle Hill Pamphlet*, 403, p. 28.

*It often seems that we are hopelessly trapped in our Promethean project of economic growth, the scientific and technological exploitation of "resources" and endless conflict. The idea that we could create a sustainable future for ourselves and the creatures we depend on seems naïve and frankly impossible to many. Yet the ecological crisis may well be a time of **kairos**, a time of transformation in which we will experience not only enormous changes in this beautiful planet we call our home, but also the "global revolution in the sphere of human consciousness" that Vaclav Havel calls for if we are to avoid a worldwide ecological or social catastrophe. Perhaps our only task is, simply, to respond to what Friends call "the promptings of love and truth in our hearts," to turn and keep turning in the direction of an integral life and to love as best we can, knowing that we are not alone, but sustained, however mysteriously and uncertainly, by the wholeness and integrity of*

*the earth, of God and of all that is.*

### **Spiritual Nurturance Committee – Mary Jo Klingel**

The Spiritual Nurturance Committee had nothing further to add from the planning for the Chicago SC Meeting.

### **Publications Committee – Roy Taylor**

The Publications Committee is considering the possibility of recording the gathered Spring and Fall meetings and adding those recordings to the QEW website. Some expressed concern over also adding recordings of CCC and SC business meetings to the QEW website.

**The committee has been undergoing a review of our publications for timeliness and relevance. The population pamphlets are being reviewed to rewrite some and consolidate others.** The process for reviewing publications has been well worked out; Roy Taylor will share that information with Anne.

### **Personnel Committee – Jack Bradin**

The Committee has no formal report to present. Jack is available to help Anne Mitchell with her work. **Anne thanks all who have helped her in the process of her work as General Secretary.**

### **Outreach Committee – David Millar**

David has posted the Outreach Committee report by Instant Messaging on Skype, but many CCC members could not receive it. **We need more youth involved in the unconference. It is planned to be held at at Scattergood School before the Friends General Conference Gathering, but it needs more interest by youth.** The Outreach Committee has sent emails to yearly meeting representatives and placed an article in *BeFriending Creation*. George Lakey and Ingrid Lakey have been invited to be speakers. The Committee has had useful conference calls, but needs more ambassadors to yearly meetings this year. **QEW also lacks representatives from New York, North Carolina Conservative, and North Carolina FUM Yearly Meetings.** The Outreach Committee and the Publications Committees will discuss the value of creating a DVD about QEW for use in outreach. Scattergood, Olney, and The Meeting Schools plan to have a presence at the FCG Gathering in the QEW Earthcare Center.

**We discussed whether we should continue QEW's separate listserv for Yearly Meeting representatives, but changing it from Yahoo to Google Groups.** David Miller, Anne Mitchell, and Roy Treadway will consider continuing it as a listserv on Google Groups.

### **Nominating Committee – Rod Zwirner**

**Bill Holcomb is now Clerk of the Mini-grant program. We need to recruit members of Finance Committee now as well as a Treasurer and a Recording Clerk in October.** Rod Zwirner will check with Barbara Letsch about her rejoining the Nominating Committee.

### **Finance Committee – David Cisel**

David reviewed our budget documents, which were sent out by email before this meeting. Of note, income is generally lagging behind contributions of the last five years or so. On the balance, about \$15,000 has been reserved for Ruah's sabbatical. Expenses have been modest so far, but might increase in January, February, and March (in part to reflect costs of the general-secretary transition). The Finance Committee has been quiet and not

very active, but will be doing more in Chicago, and possibly by Skype in the next month.. **Unfortunately, the end of year fund-raising was below expectations. It is clear that we will need a fund-raising effort discussion in Chicago in April. We appreciated the work of David Cisel for setting up the accounting system and tracking the finances of QEW.**

#### Ad Hoc Committee on Meetings – Jack Bradin

Before this meeting, Jack sent again the committee's report from two lunch meetings at the Annual QEW Meeting in Houston at the end of October, but it did not contain the results of the survey sent out by Ruah on future meetings in late 2010 November and early December. **That survey showed that out of 15 responses, 13 liked Chicago and the Cenacle, one did not like Chicago and the Cenacle, and one said "maybe." Seven favored meeting face-to-face once a year, seven wanted to meet twice a year, and one did not respond.** Combined with the responses of those who met in Houston, **it is clear that we are quite divided on how often we should met, and this needs to be resolved before we address many other issues (bylaws, nature of meetings, and so forth) pertinent to how we meet.** CCC felt it was unlikely that QEW could make a decision by April on the number of meetings we had a year, but these issues should be discussed further in April. Thus, we agreed we would focus on whether to have one or two face-to-face meetings a year. Perhaps the the FCNL three -day annual conference in Washington could be a model for us, but the Executive Staff makes most decisions. Roy Treadway agreed to ask the Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of Americas how they handle conducting business by face-to-face and other meetings. **By CCC's next electronic meeting at the end of February, using QEW Discussions, Jack will follow up with a another set of questions on how often we should meet face-to-face; as a result CCC might make some sort of recommendation to SC.** We recalled that more than ten years ago, QEW met three times a year, including a retreat before the FGC Gathering.

#### Sustainability: Faith and Action Working Group – Donn Kesselheim

This working group had no report.

#### FCNL Support Working Group – Rod Zwirner

FCNL encourages Friends to read Marcia Cleveland's Green Team blog on the FCNL website. **QEW has good attendance at FCNL meetings, but needs to work together to have a greater presence and impact on policy.**

#### UN Support Working Group – Phil Emmi

Phil presented no report. David Millar reported that he would be going to the French part of Africa shortly after this CCC meeting to attend a conference, focusing on what youth and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) are doing. Mary Gilbert will have a chance to meet with others at a UN conference in Nairobi that will be working through a process with many UN agencies to make some decisions on Climate Change; as it does this, it is making compromises on using carbon offsets in the developing world. **QEW has a role to focus on issues through human rights to avoid damage of rich companies buying carbon rights in developing countries.** Many things are coming out of the process that we do not like. **Our being able to be part of the process is the value of QEW joining with the UN NGO's in 1999.**

#### No Name Working Group – Roy Taylor

This working group has been meeting monthly electronically. There has been no attempt to name the group. **It focuses on everything being connected to everything. Conference calls have been very important to deepening contact among the members of the group.**

### Finca la Bella Project – Bill Howenstine

**Bill Holcome has taken interest in the Finca La Bella Project, plans to visit the project in March, speaks Spanish, and will try to help those there to resolve legal problems.**

### General Secretary's Report – Anne Mitchell

Anne has reviewed her work in her report, which was sent out before this meeting. **She asks for help in working out her priorities; she has been invited to give speeches, but needs guidance on what she should do.** Perhaps others can help with giving talks. Anne expects to be learning about QEW's decision-making processes – such as how agenda items go from committees and are brought forward and discerned for QEW action – in the coming months. **Dick, Rod, and the Personnel Committee will give her support.**

### Process of Hiring Staff – Shelley Tannenbaum

According to the 2010 November 15 CCC 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 coordinator.”

**The main problem perceived by some was in presenting the General Secretary to the SC by the time the transition had to be underway, and it was too late to make a negative decision. We suggested that we ask other Quaker organizations how they handled sequencing of making personnel decisions.** Roy Treadway and Shelley have expressed interest in doing this. Roy Treadway will ask the FWCC-SOA. Other members of the CCC could be helpful as well.

### New Business – Dick Grossman

**We agreed to have our next electronic meeting on Monday, February 28, at 8:00 p.m. EST for no more than two hours.**

**eric joy expressed that we need to have a decision on our future Meetings in a face-to-face worship experience in Chicago this Spring, but that the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Meetings can develop the ground work for our decision.** CCC could season the report and bring it to SC in Chicago. It might be a listening meeting, out of which an outcome **might** come (but not certainly so). **There is no one right answer but we seek a constructive solution to the many issues at about how often we meet.**

### Closing – Dick Grossman and Mary Jo Klingel

Mary Jo read from Black Elk.

*The first peace, which is the most important, is that which comes within the souls of people when they realize their relationship, their oneness with the universe and all its powers, and when they realize at the center of the universe dwells the Great Spirit, and that its center is everywhere, it is within us.*

eric joy expressed appreciation for his being able to listen to the CCC meeting.

**We left the electronic meeting after a few moments of silence**

Roy C. Treadway  
Recording Clerk