

**Quaker Earthcare Witness Continuing Counsel Committee**  
**The Cenacle, Chicago, Illinois**  
2010 April 22 and 24

Approved on 2010 July 15

Present: Jack Bradin, David Ciscel, Dick Grossman, Mary Jo Klingel, Hollister Knowlton, Susan Swanstrom, Roy Taylor, Roy Treadway, Rod Zwirner, and Ruah Swennerfelt (*ex officio*).

**Session 1: 2010 April 22 at 3:30. p.m.**

As Friends gathered from all over North America, we opened with a brief period of silence.

**Appointment of Al Connor as Registered Agent of Quaker Earthcare Witness**

Because of the death of Bill Bliss, QEW's Registered Agent in Michigan, where QEW (formerly Friends Committee on Unity with Nature) is legally registered; the officers of QEW – Dick Grossman (Clerk), Hollister Knowlton (Assistant Clerk), David Ciscel (Treasurer), and Roy Treadway (Recording Clerk) – approved on 2010 April 7 appointing Al Connor, resident of Ann Arbor, Michigan, to be QEW's Registered Agent.

**CCC Minute 2010.04.01 Continuing Counsel Committee approved the action of the officers appointing Al Connor, resident of Ann Arbor, Michigan, to be QEW's Registered Agent.**

**Approval of the Agenda**

The Continuing Counsel Committee approved the agenda which Dick developed.

**Approval of the 2010 March Continuing Counsel Committee (CCC) Minutes**

**CCC Minute 2010.04.02 Continuing Counsel Committee approved the Minutes of our 2010 March 23 Continuing Counsel Committee Electronic Meeting.**

**Report of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Staff Transition**

Jack Bradin, Clerk, reported that three resumés of candidates for the general secretary position had been received and others had inquired about the position. The Committee would be talking to those present at the Steering Committee (SC) meeting this weekend. Roy Treadway has revised the job description for the general secretary and office manager positions for use by applicants and by QEW.

**Threshing Sessions on the Focus of QEW**

Mary Jo Klingel, Clerk, of the Spiritual Nurturance Committee, outlined the process for the Threshing Sessions on the "Focus of QEW" at this SC meeting. The Committee has developed a brief background statement, Advices, and Queries for the Threshing Session. John Payton, Joe Morris, and Hollister Knowlton will first lead three small groups, followed by a sharing together by all and by a "New Light" reflection for half an hour on Saturday.

**Clerks of Working Groups and Projects Joining the Continuing Counsel Committee**

No working group or project clerk has responded to Dick's invitation for the those clerks to join the CCC. We will ask the SC to consider this further this week.

## **Review of the Articles of Association**

Jack Bradin will review the Articles of Association of QEW to affirm that they direct QEW to conduct its business in the manner of Friends.

## **Activities of CCC Members**

Hollister may be asked by the Blacksburg Friends Meeting to help them to be more active in Earthcare. Mary Jo presented a workshop on living lightly on the earth for the Miami Friends Meeting and contributed her honorarium to QEW.

## **Activities at this SC Meeting**

The movie, "No Impact Man," will be shown Thursday evening, with a discussion afterwards led by Hollister. Committees, working groups, and projects are ask to review their memberships at this meeting. Hollister, David Millar, and Mary Gilbert will present on Friends World Committee for Consultation Global Change Project. If QEW does decide to have two meetings a year in Chicago, we will need to develop more nature and environmental activities in the Chicago area. Committees, working groups, and project should bring action items to the Sunday morning business session; full reports of the activities of these groups will be part of the Steering Committee minutes for these sessions.

## **Personnel Committee**

According to Jack Bradin, Clerk, the Committee in conjunction with the Finance Committee, may recommend adjustments to the QEW FY 2010 budget for additional salary and benefits for Ruah and Louis.

## **Nominating Committee**

Rod Zwirner, Clerk, reminded CCC that the Finance Committee and Ann Kriebel / San Luis Project currently do not have clerks. Rod will report on the needs for leadership in QEW during Thursday's business session.

## **Next CCC Meeting**

CCC will meet at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 24, during the open time.

## **Closing**

We closed with silence before supper.

## **Session 2: 2010 April 22 at 5:00. p.m.**

After enjoying nature sights of Chicago near the Cenacle, we opened with a brief period of silence.

## **Reminders**

After we reviewed the agenda, we were reminded to review the membership of committees, project, and working groups.

### **Review of our Threshing Session**

For some persons, the Threshing Session on the focus of QEW was really a worship-sharing session. It did not resolve what QEW's direction should be or how to sharpen our focus. Perhaps what it told us was that we have many directions that reinforce one another.

### **Review of the Agenda for the Houston Annual Meeting**

We reviewed the agenda for the QEW Annual Meeting in Houston in 2010 October. Several important persons will be speaking, such as Jim Blackburn, our keynote speaker. Some alternative activities for local Friends have been planned during business and committee times. The focus is on activism with an intermixing of speakers and business sessions. On Monday, a variety of activities will be offered, including a direct witness, such as vigils, protest, and picketing. The Spiritual Nurturance Committee has developed several queries on Water which may be used during the Houston Meeting.

Since we have planned 9.75 hours of general business meeting time, additional time for committee, project, and working group meetings will be reviewed by Program Committee. More "free" time might also be considered.

### **New Ad Hoc Committee to Plan the Transition to a New General Secretary and Meeting Times**

Roy Treadway and Hollister have agreed to suggest a suitable and meaningful name for this committee.

### **Ad Hoc Committee on Staff Transition**

Dick Grossman will present the brief report to SC about the status of the search for a new general secretary. The deadline for applicants is 2010 June 10.

### **Outreach Committee**

Susan Swanstrom reported that the Outreach Committee will bring a minute to the Saturday evening business session recommending that QEW be involved in the FWCC Global Change process as one specific future focus of QEW, although it would not be the only activity of QEW. The FWCC Global Change process could increase the number of persons active in QEW and provide contacts and inter-generational activity. The FWCC focus is not the full answer to the direction of QEW we addressed during the Threshing Session issue, but it is one direction for QEW. We need to make QEW meaningful in our lives, using tools existing in QEW.

### **Special Funds for Ruah**

After Ruah left meeting, the CCC discussed raising significant funds for an Honorarium to recognize Ruah's 16 years of service. Issues of taxes and of fund-raising for other QEW expenses need to be considered.

**CCC Minute 2010.04.03 Continuing Counsel Committee approved the Personnel and Finance Committees considering this special fund further.**

### **Closing the Meeting**

We closed the meeting after an hour.

Roy C. Treadway  
Recording Clerk