

## BALTIMORE MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS, HOMEWOOD

### Brief Descriptions of Standing and Special Committees and Opportunities for Service

#### ***OPEN COMMITTEES***

**GOAT (*Green Organizing Action Team*)** The GREEN Organizing Action TEAM (GOAT) seeks to raise the level of concern for sustainability and environmental justice throughout the life of Homewood Friends Meeting and to witness this concern in the Meeting and the larger community. GOAT organizes educational, recreational, advocacy, and other activities that move the Meeting and individuals toward adopting more sustainable practices and actions in our everyday lives and in the world. Contact person: Gary Gillespie.

**HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE** takes responsibility for overseeing "Simple Lunch" on Sundays. This is a very important ministry of the Meeting, since it enables us, especially families with small children, to visit with one another after Meeting for Worship. This committee also makes arrangements for special meals, and generally keeps the kitchen clean and well supplied. Clerk: Ned Worth.

**HOUSE AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE** oversees the care, cleaning, maintenance and use of the Meeting House. Aside from our monthly meetings, we organize Work Days throughout the year to do routine maintenance and cleaning, and are always looking for ways to decrease the environmental impact of the Meeting House. We have plenty to do to keep all skill levels involved, and we enjoy having the opportunity to give back in service this way to our community. A comfortable and attractive environment contributes to community within the Meeting. Clerk: Susan Johns Smith.

**LIBRARY COMMITTEE** selects and reviews additions to the library, maintains the library systems and facilities, and generally keeps the area attractive and usable. An online catalog of the library's holdings is available. Contact person: Dave Sydlik.

**PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE** strives to serve Quakers' 300-year-old Peace Testimony. PSJ brings peace issues and social concerns to the attention of the Meeting for individual and/or corporate action in support of our Quaker testimonies to reject war, violence, exploitation and repression, believing that of God dwells in every person.

- We seek to serve, educate, spiritually enrich, and to practice peace-building.
- We aim to stand against violence, work to remove its underlying causes, and to promote peace with justice, understanding and unity.
- We act through public witness, direct service, awareness-promoting activities, and campaigns for fair, effective, and compassionate legislation.

Where we can, we network and act with other faiths and non-religious groups which share our non-violent values and methods. The committee is open to the participation of non-members.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE** considers the spiritual education of the children of the Meeting by planning First Day School and special events. First Day School provides an opportunity for children to learn about Quakerism, the Bible and other topics of religion. Special activities such as the spring trip, picnics, and intergenerational activities offer opportunities for community building. Our committee is the place for creativity, for enjoying children and for nurturing the next generation. We currently have a devoted group that could use some additional

organizational chops. Parents are usually well represented on the committee, and we would love to have some nonparents. Clerk: John McKusick.

### ***OTHER SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES:***

**GREETERS** welcome those who come to worship on Sundays. There is a list of regulars and a list of substitutes. Contact person: Kathleen Wilson.

**WORKING GROUP FOR THE ARTS** encourages the artists in our midst to share their gifts with the Meeting community. Contact person: Megan Shook.

**OUTREACH TEAM** focuses on building the Homewood community as a welcoming place for members and attenders as well as for those who are visiting the Meeting. Contact person: Janet Abrams.

### ***COMMITTEES THAT REQUIRE MEMBERSHIP***

**MINISTRY AND COUNSEL COMMITTEE** maintains concern for the spiritual and physical well-being of members and attenders. It provides clearness committees for membership, marriage under the care of the Meeting, and other issues including career and family issues. Periodically the committee offers Introduction to Quakerism classes or other topics for all members and attenders. Contact person: Donna McKusick.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE** taps the talents and interests of members and attenders to serve on the Meeting's committees and be its officers, trying to keep in mind who would work well and strongly together. The committee does almost all of its work during the first six months of the year because committees re-form in July. It particularly welcomes people who have been coming to Homewood a medium amount of time (so we're not stuck best knowing only old-timers). It is a very good way to get to know more people in the Meeting, because our goal is not to fill every space, but to help the people of the meeting become closer, enjoy working together and know the Meeting better. Clerk: Mina Brunyate.

**TRUSTEES COMMITTEE** provides stewardship of the Meeting's financial resources and informs the Meeting community about how we are caring for and using those resources. The Trustees Committee performs four functions:

- Provides oversight of the Meeting's investment portfolio
- Determines annual allocation of funds from the investments for operating expenses
- Formulates a proposed operating budget for the Meeting's approval
- Makes decisions on the award of funds to encourage and support the spiritual growth of Meeting members and attenders such as through scholarships, camperships and partial payment of Quaker gathering fees.

In addition, the Trustees provide opportunities for Friends to explore the meaning and value of money in their lives and the life of the Meeting.

We are not all experts on the committee. We do our best to learn as much as we can as we go and use professional assistance, as appropriate. Nominees for the Trustees Committee must be members of Homewood. We invite thoughts from all members and attenders about how the Meeting manages its fiscal resources and ideas as to how what we do in this realm might be better integrated with our faith and practice as Friends. Contact person: Bess Keller.