



Threshing Journal

Updated 5/12/2010

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Summarized Comments Organized by Core Issues

Splitting the Meeting

1. We should consider splitting into two meetings, one located in the general direction of Greenbelt/College Park and the other toward Silver Spring/Takoma Park. Both would grow if they had decent facilities and a strong community from the start.
2. If we get too big we should split. We have split once and it was not successful. We may need to split again if too big.
3. Danger to maintaining community if gets too big; possible split into 3 meetings: Takoma Park, Adelphi, Greenbelt
4. Once our facility is 80% used, people start feeling crowded
5. Meeting for worship should be kept small. If we need more space for an event that is once a year (wedding, funeral) we should go to places that are bigger. Given we have the prohibition of alcohol we should just go to another place.
6. Can we break into smaller groups: plant a Meeting at FCS, keep a Meeting at Adelphi, help TP?
7. Optimum meeting size is 150. Studies indicate that beyond 150 the membership declines and is less functional.
8. We need to preserve the community we presently enjoy.
9. We need to be careful that we don't lose the wonderful community we have now in our quest for better facilities. Some meetings have great facilities but not the spirited community life that Adelphi enjoys.

Relocating

1. Some Friends have a strong spiritual connection/attachment to the present location and do not want to move (two young friends as well as others made this comment).
2. My attachment is to here--I don't want to leave here.
3. One need missing from list: The importance of a sense of familiarity and history of this group of people. I feel an allegiance to this space--spiritually and emotionally connected. This is a complex feeling--this is where I come to connect with these people.
4. This space is special
5. I do not support moving from our campus here. It's lovely and I like being here.

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Relocating to FCS

The scenario concerning Adelphi and Friends Community School sharing space on the FCS campus was one that we included because a number of Friends had raised it. **It should be noted that at this time, we have no idea whatsoever whether FCS has any interest in sharing space, or allowing us to build on their land.** What we do know is that if the Meeting is clear in wanting to explore that possibility, the FCS Board has agreed to talk with us about it.

1. We should not spend money on old buildings. I support moving to FCS and building a new meeting house there.
2. Moving to FCS is a good option since we could use their green building for RE activities.
3. FCS is a positive, natural setting; also use of school facilities; also could provide a meeting house for the school
4. One advantage of moving to FCS is that we could continue to worship in our old building while a new one is under construction.
5. I like Greenbelt (FCS) I like the natural setting. Makes more sense to sell the property and use money to build new building.
6. If we go to FCS the space will be used more
7. I agree--Nice at FCS—would use it more than one day a week.
8. School (FCS) has large space we could use.
9. What is the Meeting's relationship with FCS and how would it factor into our decisions?
10. I oppose moving to FCS or another location.
11. I don't want to go to FCS. I want to be buried in the Memorial Garden.
12. It is very diverse here. If we go to FCS it won't be. Some kids go to BYM camp and have great experiences. FCS is an exclusive and excludes kids around money, learning styles; it is an exclusive institution.
13. We would lose lots of kids if we go to FCS.
14. I need to talk about moving to FCS. I had an excellent experience there. It was a perfect school for my son. But I have lots of friends here that did not have a good experience there. It is an exclusive institution. We run the risk of being seen as an exclusive institution too.
15. Concern about location at FCS; different community; different people might attend
16. On moving to FCS – we need to ask ourselves what our relationship to the school is now and what will it be in the future? The school has very few Quaker kids and families attending there now. Very few if any non-Adelphi families attend the annual birthday party there. There seems to be little interest in our Meeting among most families at the school. This does not bode well for a long-term relationship.

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Priorities

1. We do not need to address the (stated) needs. The needs conflict with the mission of the Meeting. Our primary purpose is to worship, build community, and change the world. Our purpose is more important than these needs stated. We don't need to accommodate these needs.
2. What is more important, if we meet our own needs (spending money on facilities/new WH or MH) or meet the needs of others?
3. Decisions should flow from the Adelphi Mission and Vision Statements
4. What is the right sharing of Adelphi resources? How much resources should be spent on facilities and property vs. outreach and sharing projects?
5. Improved facilities can result in an increase in outreach and sharing activities.
6. Right now we have a relatively small budget so most people don't feel pressured to give lots of money to the meeting. That could change if we borrow a lot of money to pay for new facilities. What will that do to the life of our community? Will we lose people?

Changing the Meeting House

1. We don't need a new kitchen, seems functional, what is the problem? I don't see any problem with the kitchen--it works fine. If there is a real concern with drainage or concern with the kitchen, we should do something--could damage the space.
2. Some level of genteel shabbiness is a good idea
3. Meeting House is so poorly designed that it should go.
4. The fellowship space we have is shabby. One needs a nicer space down stairs. We need a kitchen that is easy to use and keep clean and feel prod of and that we can share with guests.
5. Aesthetics: property has a disheveled look; foyer is cluttered; should have a neat & cared for look
6. Simple does not have to be ugly: should be attractive, calming, spiritually encouraging appearance with quality material design, design encourages inclusiveness.
7. It would be nice to improve the building.
8. We need more space, both in the meeting room and the basement of the meetinghouse – feels very crowded now.
9. There should be more emphasis on the aesthetics of the Meetinghouse. We need the light from the windows. I would like to keep the shape and configuration of the inside of the Meeting room. We can raze the building but would like it to be rebuilt in a similar shape.
10. Need: Attractive social space (currently too small & the pits)
11. The need for natural light should be on the needs column.
12. Have severe drainage problem--hard to just fix it

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13. Basement floods, but don't raze the Meeting House
14. Adelphi facilities should accommodate friends confined to wheelchairs
15. I can hear all the messages in this Meeting--there is no trouble with hearing. If we need new equipment, I could work on it.
16. Need: Better acoustics IMPT
17. We need to have good acoustics in the Meetinghouse. We need to be able to hear each other.
18. Need: New kitchen
19. Do need new appliances.
20. Need more commercial size kitchen.

21. Space for weddings, memorial services, etc.

22. Weddings, receptions, memorial services are a central part of our Friends Meeting, so we should be able to accommodate
23. Bigger space for weddings and funerals does not justify significant expenditure.
24. What is more important is we have this space appropriate for everyday use. We don't need extra space to deal with one a lifetime needs. (Weddings, Funerals) We are a humble meeting versus having space for events that happen once in a lifetime.
25. How many weddings, memorials in a year?
26. We need more social space.

Better housekeeping.

27. Housekeeping: Many of the issues are simple failures of housecleaning over the long term; where is the schedule for cleaning? We've not had well-attended work days in eons. There's no delineation of weekly chores for resident and members for a long time. We have been a "housekeeping avoidance" meeting!
28. It is wrong to think that a new building will avoid problems. We should take good care of what we have.
29. Also need to add in the needs column that the grounds need to be cared for better.
30. Productive work days; assign small groups to small projects; work ticket
31. Need to think about how we care for our property; need a regular schedule for maintenance

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Changing the White House

1. We don't need more space for first day school if it means the kids will have to be told to be quiet. The sliding doors won't work. Kids will be noisy. It will be very disruptive to worship with movable walls.
2. The Middle Schoolers don't need any more space. The bathroom needs to be fixed. We can reconfigure the nursery so it will work. The problem with using the (Meeting House) basement is the kids are invaded and can't put up their artwork. Fourth and fifth graders need a real room.
3. Concerning space for RE. We met in basement and had more space than we needed. Like the upstairs--cozy. Everyone likes it. Other rooms are small.
4. Concerning First Day School, kids have established spaces; don't want to raze White House; don't like that idea; it is our space. Maybe we could sometime redo; worried wont make it a funky space; will lose 10 years of history. We have made it our own.
5. (White House) is really low maintenance; don't need to knock down whole building; can just fix steps. The whole building is important.
6. First day school facilities are disgraceful
7. We have a large First Day school--it could really use the money.

Recommended Approaches

1. I support enlarging the meeting house westward, keeping the present north, south and east facing walls but adding to the north and south walls new gable ends to accommodate the wider space and new roof A frames, sheathing, and shingles.
2. Why don't we build a new meetinghouse on the grassy area behind our existing meetinghouse? Then we could continue to worship in the old building until the new one is finished. Then we tear down the old building and plant grass.
3. We should consider using a temporary structure of some sort at our current location for a meeting room while our meetinghouse is being renovated or rebuilt.
4. We could also excavate around the basement and enlarge the social hall kitchen and bathrooms and reseal the walls and provide for proper drainage.
5. I would also recommend as the properties to the East of the White House become available for sale that we purchase them in order to expand our parking and memorial garden space.
6. We should start a building fund now and not wait until a final decision is made about what we're going to do. That could take years and in the meantime we could be accumulating the money we'll need down the road.
7. Mobile chairs would allow for affordable handicap access in both buildings to all levels and is much less expensive than elevators.
8. A mechanized stair climber can be as effective and much less expensive than an elevator.

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9. I like #2. Doesn't destroy space. Many things we can do to keep larger problems being created. We could replace a door versus have fix the porch.
10. I like Scenario #3--the one that adds space. We need commercial and dedicated classroom space.
11. Construct new first day school across back of property
12. Move the Meeting House back on a slab and build social space + classrooms where the meeting house is
13. Work in moderation; not millions
14. Don't raze both buildings
15. Consider cost-effectiveness

Complete Listing of Comments, by Threshing Session

Comments Recorded from Peace and Social Concerns Meeting and Men's Group

1. I would prefer that we renovate our existing buildings, not tear down and rebuild. (several people said this)
2. Have you considered building a geodesic dome for an addition?
3. We should consider sharing our space with another organization, such as a day care center.
4. Even if we decide to move we should renovate the buildings so they would be easier to sell.
5. We need more space, both in the meeting room and the basement of the meetinghouse – feels very crowded now.
6. Moving to FCS is a good option since we could use their green building for RE activities.
7. Whatever we decide to do will change our community.
8. We need to be careful that we don't lose the wonderful community we have now in our quest for better facilities. Some meetings have great facilities but not the spirited community life that Adelphi enjoys.
9. I'm worried about what will happen to our property if Metzerott Rd is widened in the future.
10. Right now we have a relatively small budget so most people don't feel pressured to give lots of money to the meeting. That could change if we borrow a lot of money to pay for new facilities. What will that do to the life of our community? Will we lose people?
11. During the construction phase, assuming there is one, we need to find a way to keep the community together while we don't have our usual meeting space. Langley Hill met in NW DC for a year, at Sidwell Friends School. Not everyone made the trip over there every week and not everyone came back after the construction was done.
12. One advantage of moving to FCS is that we could continue to worship in our old building while a new one is under construction.
13. Why don't we build a new meetinghouse on the grassy area behind our existing meetinghouse? Then we could continue to worship in the old building until the new one is finished. Then we tear down the old building and plant grass.
14. We should consider using a temporary structure of some sort at our current location for a meeting room while our meetinghouse is being renovated or rebuilt.
15. We should consider splitting into two meetings, one located in the general direction of Greenbelt/College Park and the other toward Silver Spring/Takoma Park. Both would grow if they had decent facilities and a strong community from the start.

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Comments Received via Email

1. Is anyone keeping track of the type of regulations that may be triggered by major repairs or renovations? For example: will handicapped access be triggered by renovations?
2. We need to preserve the community we presently enjoy.
3. I oppose moving to FCS or another location.
4. I strongly support reconfiguring the White House to better accommodate our first day classes and provide for solar or wind energy generation, new better insulation and siding. If this reconfiguration could provide for expanding the southern room (where the fireplace presently is) to twice or more its size, we could temporarily meet for worship there while we enlarge the meeting house.
5. I support enlarging the meeting house westward, keeping the present north, south and east facing walls but adding to the north and south walls new gable ends to accommodate the wider space and new roof A frames, sheathing, and shingles.
6. We could also excavate around the basement and enlarge the social hall kitchen and bathrooms and reseal the walls and provide for proper drainage.
7. I would also recommend as the properties to the East of the White House become available for sale that we purchase them in order to expand our parking and memorial garden space.
8. Mobile chairs would allow for affordable handicap access in both buildings to all levels and is much less expensive than elevators.

Comments Recorded from the Kick Off Meeting, 3/38/2010

1. Should the Meeting be Split?
2. Optimum meeting size is 150. Studies indicate that beyond 150 the membership declines and is less functional.
3. Decisions should flow from the Adelphi Mission and Vision Statements
4. What is the right sharing of Adelphi resources? How much resources should be spent on facilities and property vs. outreach and sharing projects?
5. Improved facilities can result in an increase in outreach and sharing activities.
6. New construction may be less green overall than renovations to existing structures
7. Bigger space for weddings and funerals does not justify significant expenditure.
8. Some Friends have a strong spiritual connection/attachment to the present location and do not want to move (two young friends as well as others made this comment).
9. A mechanized stair climber can be as effective and much less expensive than an elevator.
10. Adelphi facilities should accommodate friends confined to wheelchairs
11. Access from the road should accommodate non-walkers, including handrails
12. Parking: Maybe more of us need to walk from the beltway lot or use a furnished shuttle
13. Couches in White House may be well meaning donations gone awry
14. Housekeeping: Many of the issues are simple failures of housecleaning over the long term; where is the schedule for cleaning? We've not had well-attended work days in eons. There's no delineation

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of weekly chores for resident and members for a long time. We have been a “housekeeping avoidance” meeting!

15. Entire Property: Completely demolish and rebuild; become a green and env. Friendly meeting; guarantee accessibility; teach first day school ways objects get revised, brain storming sessions; tulip garden is a problem; larger memorial garden space; more and better trees; stream, water source
16. Structures: rebuild and extend basement; remodel kitchen; better living conditions for meeting; giant mural; paths in back of meeting handicap accessible; wood workshop; geothermal heating/cooling system; solar powered air conditioning/electricity; rebuild and organize shed; giant outdoor pagoda for meeting outdoors on nice days. ASL video screen
17. Bad experiences at one meeting warn against hiring members to perform major work for the Meeting.
18. We want to avoid the loss of additional trees on the property as a result of construction
19. What is the Meeting’s relationship with FCS and how would it factor into our decisions?
20. What kind of square footage is envisioned in each of the options?
21. A young Friend suggested that we add a curtain to the window in the bathroom in the Meetinghouse basement

Comments Recorded from Threshing Session, 4/18

1. We do not need to address the (stated) needs. The needs conflict with the mission of the Meeting. Our primary purpose is to worship, build community, and change the world. Our purpose is more important than these needs stated. We don’t need to accommodate these needs.
2. It is wrong to think that a new building will avoid problems. We should take good care of what we have.
3. Concerning space for RE. We met in basement and had more space than we needed. Like the upstairs--cozy. Everyone likes it. Other rooms are small.
4. Need more commercial size kitchen.
5. What is more important, if we meet our own needs (spending money on facilities/new WH or MH) or meet the needs of others?
6. We have more space than we needed (re RE) The upstairs is cozy. Everyone likes it. There are no problems with the White House--it has low maintenance.
7. We don’t need a new kitchen, seems functional, what is the problem? I don’t see any problem with the kitchen--it works fine. If there is a real concern with drainage or concern with the kitchen, we should do something--could damage the space.
8. Concerning First Day School, kids have established spaces; don’t want to raze White House; don’t like that idea; it is our space. Maybe we could sometime redo; worried wont make it a funky space; will lose 10 years of history. We have made it our own.
9. People are not getting hurt. Our school, if we knock it down, the exhaust from construction vehicles will be worse than the old building could produce.
10. It would be nice to improve the building.

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11. It is very diverse here. If we go to FCS it won't be. Some kids go to BYM camp and have great experiences. FCS is an exclusive and excludes kids around money, learning styles, it is an exclusive institution.
12. There should be more emphasis on the aesthetics of the Meetinghouse. We need the light from the windows. I would like to keep the shape and configuration of the inside of the Meeting room. We can raze the building but would like it to be rebuilt in a similar shape.
13. I like scenario #5-- replace the Meeting House and renovate the White House. I'd like to stick with the same footprint.
14. Have severe drainage problem--hard to just fix it
15. Would like to make more space for parking using " pervious pavement." (Sp.?) We need to do more carpooling.
16. My attachment is to here--I don't want to leave here.
17. Would we lose the windows if we build a connection between buildings--maybe we should build up two levels so not lose them. Need an elevator.
18. The need for natural light should be on the needs column.
19. Also need to add in the needs column that the grounds need to be cared for better.
20. I like #2. Doesn't destroy space. Many things we can do to keep larger problems being created. We could replace a door versus have fix the porch.
21. (White House) is really low maintenance; don't need to knock down whole building; can just fix steps. The whole building is important.
22. We would lose lots of kids if we go to FCS.
23. I can hear all the messages in this Meeting--there is no trouble with hearing. If we need new equipment, I could work on it.
24. It is ok to add space, but I don't like it to be called a classroom. Don't like the word classroom. Like to discuss ideas. A classroom reminds me of Bible study.
25. Maybe we could add skylights
26. The fellowship space we have is shabby. One needs a nicer space down stairs. We need a kitchen that is easy to use and keep clean and feel prod of and that we can share with guests.
27. Do need new appliances.
28. I have strong environment concerns. Need to address these areas.
29. We need to have good acoustics in the Meetinghouse. We need to be able to hear each other.
30. I like Scenario #3--the one that adds space. We need commercial and classroom space.
31. One need missing from list: The importance of a sense of familiarity and history of this group of people. I feel an allegiance to this space--spiritually and emotionally connected. This is a complex feeling--this is where I come to connect with these people.
32. We don't need more space for first day school if it means the kids will have to be told to be quiet. The sliding doors won't work. Kids will be noisy. It will be very disruptive to worship with movable walls.

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33. The Middle Schoolers don't need any more space. The bathroom needs to be fixed. We can reconfigure the nursery so it will work. The problem with using the (Meeting House) basement is the kids are invaded and can't put up their artwork. Fourth and fifth graders need a real room.
34. Meeting for worship should be kept small. If we need more space for an event that is once a year (wedding, funeral) we should go to places that are bigger. Given we have the prohibition of alcohol we should just go to another place.
35. What is more important is we have this space appropriate for everyday use. We don't need extra space to deal with one a lifetime needs. (Weddings, Funerals) We are a humble meeting versus having space for events that happen once in a lifetime.
36. The basement of the White House needs fixing and is more welcoming.
37. I need to talk about moving to FCS. I had an excellent experience there. It was a perfect school for my son. But I have lots of friends here that did not have a good experience there. It is an exclusive institution. We run the risk of being seen as an exclusive institution too.
38. People will leave Meeting if we go to FCS. Their kids were excluded from FCS. We should take it off the list. We would leave (Meeting).
39. Accessibility is very important. Maybe we could get motorized stairs. The outside is difficult.
40. If we need to give more money to build this new building, I won't be able to give more money and therefore I can't come here anymore.
41. I want to protect diversity...if we have a fancy community building might lose diversity.
42. We have a large First Day school--it could really use the money.
43. If we get too big we should split. We have split once and it was not successful. We may need to split again if too big.
44. Was clerk here when building was built and we decided not to have curtains on windows so get more light.
45. School (FCS) has large space we could use.
46. I was clerk when we moved into this building. We had an architect had plans to have a connection between the two buildings. We said we could not afford it and he was furious--said it undercut his vision. The connection between the WH and MH could get rid of the drainage problem. But the archway between the buildings would have space for the kids.
47. The fellowship space we have is shabby. One needs a nicer space down stairs. We need a kitchen that is easy to use and keep clean and feel proud of and that we can share with guests.
48. Do need new appliances.
49. I have strong environment concerns. Need to address these areas.
50. We need to have good acoustics in the Meetinghouse. We need to be able to hear each other.
51. I like Scenario #3--the one that adds space. We need commercial and dedicated classroom space.
52. Needs:
53. Basement floods, but don't raze the Meeting House
54. Optimum location needs to be determined, especially if we decide to move; other meetings, members, public transit

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55. Health concerns; moldy now. We need livable space
56. Simple does not have to be ugly: should be attractive, calming, spiritually encouraging appearance with quality material design, design encourages inclusiveness.
57. Attractive social space (currently too small & the pits)
58. Better acoustics IMPT
59. Capable of intense use also important; multifunctional & outside groups
60. Temperature: maintain evenly; no drafts; quiet; dehumidifier rather than A/C
61. A/C popular
62. Air quality (filter). Full house needs to heat
63. A/C would make it more useful for other groups
64. Only back benches are padded
65. Need more space for first day school and adult RE; intensive use for committee meetings
66. Dance floor
67. Garden space/landscaping
68. Social spaces; basic resources for activities; easily flexible space
69. Capable of intensive use by outside groups (can be difficult); need extra for repairs
70. Productive work days; assign small groups to small projects; work ticket
71. Aesthetics: property has a disheveled look; foyer is cluttered; should have a neat & cared for look
72. Better storage space
73. How many weddings, memorials in a year?
74. We don't need larger accommodations for weddings, receptions, memorial services
75. Weddings, receptions, memorial services are a central part of our Friends Meeting, so we should be able to accommodate
76. More space
77. Bathrooms need upgrading
78. Larger meeting room for Meeting for Worship
79. New kitchen
80. Better acoustics
81. Better parking
82. Danger to maintaining community if gets too big; possible split into 3 meetings: Takoma Park, Adelphi, Greenbelt
83. First day school facilities are disgraceful
84. Some level of genteel shabbiness is a good idea
85. Humility of the meeting house is a plus

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86. Need to think about how we care for our property; need a regular schedule for maintenance
87. Storage
88. Scenarios:
89. #3 scenario can be phased in over time
90. Construct new first day school across back of property
91. Current buildings represent considerable investment that would be lost if we move or haze
92. Quaker Quest as a goal for fixing up/routine maintenance
93. Replacement of downstairs bathroom
94. Feasibility of phases; displacement
95. Worry about money
96. Concern about location at FCS; different community; different people might attend
97. FCS is a positive, natural setting; also use of school facilities; also could provide a meeting house for the school
98. This space is special
99. Move the Meeting House back on a slab and build social space + classrooms where the meeting house is
100. Work in moderation; not millions
101. Don't raze both buildings
102. Consider cost-effectiveness
103. Meeting House is so poorly designed that it should go.
104. Can both buildings be replaced with a well conceived single building?
105. Must deal with transition logistics and cost; staged construction, continue to meet in MH while razing WH; Meeting could go to FCS in interim
106. Money is close to the driving force
107. Can we continue to use current property while building elsewhere?
108. Worry about divisiveness
109. We have to do more than #1
110. We're not interested yet in #9
111. We need to thresh issues around size.
112. People will come and worship in a welcoming space.
113. Once our facility is 80% used, people start feeling crowded
114. Can we break into smaller groups: plant a Meeting at FCS, keep a Meeting at Adelphi, help TP?
115. I don't want to go to FCS. I want to be buried in the Memorial Garden.
116. I think we should set aside 1-1 or 1-4 matching funds for the Meeting building funds and money to be used for good works in society. Where are the Quaker good works? The Quaker drug rehab

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centers?

117. Why do we need a place for weddings? We can go someplace else.
118. We need to start the building fund now.
119. We need a nice place to talk to large groups for talking about Go Forth projects.
120. Need multi uses of our facilities—need to get more out of our facilities—like a childcare center or something
121. We need some medium size space for social things.
122. I like Greenbelt (FCS) I like the natural setting. Makes more sense to sell the property and use money to build new building.
123. If we go to FCS the space will be used more.

Comments Recorded from Various Threshing Sessions Since 4/18

124. We should not spend money on old buildings. I support moving to FCS and building a new meeting house there.
125. I do not support moving from our campus here. It's lovely and I like being here.
126. I do not support sharing facilities with another group, including FCS – there are too many problems with that. Remember our experience with the Adventist church, which did not go well.
127. On moving to FCS – we need to ask ourselves what our relationship to the school is now and what will it be in the future? The school has very few Quaker kids and families attending there now. Very few if any non-Adelphi families attend the annual birthday party there. There seems to be little interest in our Meeting among most families at the school. This does not bode well for a long-term relationship.
128. We need more social space.
129. I think we should consider sharing our facilities with another group.
130. We should start a building fund now and not wait until a final decision is made about what we're going to do. That could take years and in the meantime we could be accumulating the money we'll need down the road.