

Minutes of Illinois Yearly Meeting
137th Annual Sessions
Sixth Month, 15 – 19, 2011, McNabb, IL

MINUTES OF THE FIRST SESSION, Wednesday, June 15, 2011

1. Our 137th annual sessions opened with blessed silence.
2. Presiding Clerk David Finke read an old hymn about being called to be together and to love Jesus most of all. He also read from Isaac Penington reminding us to help each other up with a tender hand.
3. We welcomed all Friends, especially those Friends who are with us for the first time, including Eva Hare from Northside Meeting.
4. We welcomed Vanessa Julye, member of Central Philadelphia monthly meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, who is a visitor from Friends General Conference. We read a letter of introduction for her from FGC.
5. The Clerk's Committee members are Dawn Amos, Susanna Davison, Janice Domanik, Margaret Katranides, Pam Kuhn, Elizabeth Mertic, and Tom Paxson. Friends should feel free to speak to any of these members with concerns about our sessions.
6. The Ministry and Advancement Committee is forming a Committee of Care. The members are available to help those who may have needs that arise during sessions.
7. Friends are reminded of our red session notebooks by the door, which contain minutes of the daily business sessions, memorial minutes, state of society reports, and committee and representative reports which are not part of the advance documents packet.
8. Assistant Clerk Janice Domanik read the descriptions of the Epistle Committee and Exercises Committee from our Handbook. The Epistle Committee still needs to be filled. Ted Kuhn and Eva Hare agreed to serve on the Exercises Committee.
9. The Nominating Committee report contained the first reading of the nominations for the coming year which will begin as soon as sessions end.
10. The Nominating Committee was unable to find a core of Friends to serve on the Development Committee. The committee suggests that we may need to wait until our vision is more developed. The committee seeks other advice from the yearly meeting for the Development Committee.
11. Peter Lasersohn gave the report for the Faith and Practice Committee (F&P) (see page ____).

12. F&P read the proposed section on worship groups and preparative meetings. They asked for a provisional approval for a five year period. Friends, grateful to the committee, approve this section with changes to be made by the committee (see page __).

13. Pam Kuhn reported for the Handbook Committee (see p. __). The committee recommends that it no longer distribute paper copies of the Handbook to each local meeting, but rather simply make it available on the ILYM website. The Handbook Committee will continue to send a hard copy to anyone who requests it. Each edition of the Handbook will include the date on which it has been issued. Friends approved.

14. The Handbook Committee recommended changes to the following sections of the current Handbook.

- a) In Section One, number one, list all monthly meetings, worship groups, and preparative meetings by their full, official names under the headings of their respective planning groups. The committee will check to see what the official names are before compiling this list.
- b) Remove the page concerning setting up and laying down a monthly meeting, which is now covered in the “Organization and Structure of Meetings” section of *ILYM Faith and Practice*.
- c) Reorganize the material on pages 6-7 to a section to be renamed “Expectations of Local Meetings (Monthly Meetings, Worship Groups, and Preparative Meetings) to Illinois Yearly Meeting.”
- d) Update the description of *ILYM Faith and Practice* to include approved sections.
- e) Reorganize the material under “Changes in Policy or Practice by the Yearly Meeting.”
- f) Edit the description of the Minute Book.
- g) Delete the description of the Quaker Volunteer Service, Training, and Witness Committee.
- h) Change the title of Section One, part four from “Organizational Governance” to “Organizational Guidance.”

Friends approved all of the proposed changes except those in Item 14c, concerning the proposed section on “Expectations of Local Meetings.” The Handbook Committee will consult with the Faith and Practice Committee concerning those proposed changes, some of which conflict with approved sections of *ILYM Faith and Practice*.

15. We closed with worship.

MINUTES OF SECOND SESSION, Thursday, June 16, 2011

16. We opened with worship.

17. David Finke read an excerpt from a letter from George Fox.

18. Reading Clerk Monica Tetzlaff read from an epistle from Netherlands Yearly Meeting.

19. We held in the Light those Friends who were not able to be with us due to illness.
20. We welcomed visitors from other yearly meetings: Earl Smith from Chicago Friends Meeting in Western Yearly Meeting; Paul Buckley from North Meadow Circle of Friends in Indianapolis, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting; and Mary Garman and David Garman from Clear Creek Meeting, Richmond, Indiana, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.
21. We welcomed ILYM Friends who are here for the first time: Margaret Nelson from Evanston Meeting and Laurie Rippe from Downers Grove Meeting.
22. Steve Kuhn, Noel Pavlovic, and Monica Tetzlaff (ex-officio) will serve as our Epistle Committee for 2011.
23. The Nominating Committee asked the meeting to consider two names on the Nominating Committee report, Val Lester as Co-Treasurer and Fernando Freire on Ministry and Advancement, for immediate approval so that they may start to take up their duties during sessions. Friends approved.
24. Sarah Pavlovic reported for the Nominating Committee. The committee is researching the possibility of increasing the number of Stewards from three to five.
25. The Nominating Committee reported on some changes to the list of nominations since the first reading yesterday. These have been noted in the report in the session notebooks.
26. The Associated Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs has been laid down. Grayce Mesner served as a representative to that body.
27. Noel Pavlovic reported for the Environmental Concerns Committee (see p. __). The committee continues to care for the ILYM grounds, including writing biographies of Friends for whom we have planted memorial trees on the grounds; holding additional workdays to clean up the grounds; and hosting an early morning bird walk during sessions. The committee has planted specialized plants on the roof of the kitchen of the meetinghouse. This is an experimental project. The committee is also developing a holistic vision for the west campus and has a conceptual plan available for study which is being forwarded to the Site Envisioning Committee and for all to see.
28. Several ILYM Friends are involved with Quaker Earthcare Witness activities and have been for many years. This fall the annual meeting of QEW will be in Chicago on October 20-23, 2011, at The Cenacle on Fullerton Ave. All Friends from Illinois Yearly Meeting are encouraged to attend. The theme will be "Food and Biodiversity".
29. Neil Mesner reported for the Maintenance and Planning Committee (M&P) (see p. __). There were a number of maintenance issues this year. The biggest one was the waterline break in the kitchen of the meetinghouse. This will be part of the Stewards' report.

30. M&P reported on various other repairs have been made to the Clear Creek House of Illinois Yearly Meeting and the yearly meetinghouse. These include an instant hot water heater added to the Clear Creek House where the committee also addressed the issue of water in the basement. Also, furnishings have been put into the Clear Creek House. These have enabled Friends to spend the night in the building. In the yearly meetinghouse improvements have been made to the hot water heater closet and new supports were added under the floor of the entire building. A complete list of repairs is in the committee report.

31. In the near future, M&P is planning to paint the east and south sides of the meetinghouse as well as to remove the water pumps and plumbing at the cistern south of the meetinghouse.

32. Chip Rorem reported for Site Envisioning Committee (SEC) (see p. ____). The committee developed a set of queries for monthly meetings and ILYM committees. Eight meetings and four committees have responded. The committee is still asking for other meetings and committees to reply. From the replies received so far, there seems to be a need for building a dining hall and a new dormitory, demolishing some buildings, and creating a position of caretaker. The committee has been asked to incorporate more than just bricks and mortar into their plan.

33. SEC has made a schedule of activities for next year including developing a plan for the integration of the work of different committees. There will be a preliminary presentation in January followed by one at annual sessions in 2012.

34. Carol Bartles gave the Stewards' Report (see p. ____).

35. Along with routine maintenance, the Stewards dealt with the emergency of a broken water pipe that flooded the kitchen in the yearly meetinghouse for several days. Working with the insurance company, which paid for most of the repair, the Stewards were able to hire professionals to clean up the basement, make repairs to damage to the building, and purchase replacement equipment. A list of the work and expenses is in the written report.

36. The Stewards are proposing that the yearly meeting form a Property Use Committee, a committee for one experimental year. This new committee would facilitate the use of the property by groups (Quaker or other) during the coming year including scheduling a local retreat manager for each event. More details are in the report. Friends offered some ideas from the floor of the meeting. This proposal was held over until later in the sessions.

37. Roger Laughlin gave the Co-Treasurers' Report. The report shows the income and expenses year-to-date. At the end of the fiscal year, June 30, the Co-Treasurers will update the report with final income and expenses. The updated report is on page _____. Friends accepted the report.

38. Dawn Rubbert reported for the Peace Resources Committee (PRC) (see p. ____). The committee is planning the following work for the coming year, some of which is continued from last year:

- a) Travel to monthly meetings and worship groups to listen to concerns Friends have regarding difficulties working through conflict or to needs they might have as to how to deepen their relationship to the Peace Testimony.

- b) Give presentations and workshops as requested to facilitate Friends' explorations of their relationship to the Peace Testimony.
- c) Collect stories of Friends' expression of their Quaker spirituality through service.
- d) Review the document "An Ecumenical Call to Just Peace" released earlier this year by the World Council of Churches and circulate it throughout the yearly meeting.

39. PRC raised the concern about the rising cost of travel for the committee members and asked that the yearly meeting adjust its budget accordingly.

40. David Finke read a minute from Blue River Quarterly Meeting (BRQ) concerning the World Council of Churches document, *An Ecumenical Call to Just Peace*.

Minute 15 from Blue River Quarterly.

Friend Tom Paxson had shared with Friends the WCC document, *An Ecumenical Call to Just Peace*. He requested that we distribute the document widely for consideration. On behalf of the Peace & Service Committee of Urbana-Champaign Meeting Bobbi Trist had presented the concern to BRQ and read pertinent sections from the 7-page document. Dawn reported that this document was sent to BRQ Friends via email and that the ILYM Peace Resources Committee considered this statement at their meeting a few weeks ago and is encouraging Friends in the YM to read and consider this statement. It is, or soon will be, posted on both the ILYM website and the PRC blog.

We welcome the receipt of this document and are much appreciative of Friends' influence on its development, particularly the diligent labors of Tom Paxson. BRQ Friends celebrated the growing awareness that has led to its creation, and united with the spirit of this document, recommending it for study by individual Friends, monthly meetings, and by ILYM.

41. The yearly meeting united with the request from BRQ and PRC that the document be disseminated and studied throughout the yearly meeting. During the coming year, PRC will act further on the issue, including the intention to have a workshop on it at next annual sessions.

42. Judy Erickson reported for the Publications Committee (see p. ___).

43. The committee published various documents in this past year, including the 2010 Minute Book which was of record length and therefore an increased cost. The committee also facilitated the change in the web page, using new software which should enhance usability. Friends are encouraged to browse the ILYM website and also look into the possibility for setting up private pages for committees or other work. See Wil Brant or Judy Erickson for more details. Friends accepted the report with gratitude.

44. The Faith and Practice committee read the section on quarterly meetings and the sample membership record form (see page ___). They asked for comments on these in the coming year.

45. We closed with worship.

MINUTES OF THE THIRD SESSION, Friday, June 17, 2011

46. We opened our session with worship. David Finke read a prayer, "Breathe on Me, Breath of God."

47. Monica Tetzlaff read from an epistle from Australia Yearly Meeting.

48. We welcomed Friends who are with us the first time: Cindy Vocat and Angie Thinnes, both attenders at 57th Street Meeting.

49. Beth Schobernd reported for the Ad Hoc Committee for the Mills Property (see p. __).

50. The ad hoc Committee for the Mills Property was charged this year with creating guidelines for the use of the Clear Creek House of Illinois Yearly Meeting. Draft guidelines were posted on the ILYM website in February and made available to groups using the property in the spring. With each use, revisions were made to the guidelines. There are still areas that need to be finalized, but the document is nearing completion. The document, while evolving, is operative for current use of the property, and is available from our Administrative Coordinator.

51. The ad hoc Committee feels that it has accomplished the tasks assigned to it. However, the documentation which the ad hoc Committee has prepared needs to be kept up-to-date, and that task must be assumed by some other body. They recommend that Maintenance and Planning take on that responsibility. While not acting on this recommendation, it will be reviewed again at Continuing Committee.

52. The ad hoc Committee requests that it be laid down. Friends approved with many thanks to the committee.

53. Mike Dennis reported for Youth Oversight (see p. __). The committee helped teens attend a number of Quaker events in various parts of the country during the past year. The yearly meeting youth also assisted in impressive numbers and with even more impressive industry at the Memorial Day Work Weekend. During the annual sessions they have been involved in various activities, including a Clerking workshop, and are planning their activities for the coming year.

54. Youth Oversight calls attention to next year's Quaker Youth Pilgrimage, for both participants and leaders.

55. Beth Schobernd reported for the Ministry and Advancement Committee (M&A) (see p. __).

56. M&A has been working on the following:

- a) In 2010 – 2011, M&A recognized a need for nurturing our nurturers. The committee created regional Days of Spiritual Sustenance, facilitated by Field Secretary Paul Buckley. Friends from several meetings were enriched by these gatherings. Seeing a great need to continue such work, especially among our smaller meetings, the committee is developing a program for the coming year. As described in the vision statement, M&A will expand on the Days of Spiritual Sustenance program especially to include pastoral

care. Friends are encouraged to read the vision statement and bring questions to members of M&A in the outdoor tent following dinner tonight and tomorrow.

- b) Greg Woods has volunteered to help Friends and meetings get on Facebook and Twitter. Contact him at his email address for information. Friends, and especially Friends meetings, are encouraged to be a part of this communication process.
- c) Illinois Yearly Meeting has endorsed Beth Burbank and Carolyn Treadway as pastoral counselors and continues to value their ministries. The endorsement is ongoing; it is reviewed and affirmed by M&A annually.

57. Paul Buckley gave the Field Secretary report (see p. ____). Friends are asked to read that report.

58. Paul spoke of our great need to understand that we have obligations to each other as a community. Thinking of ourselves as rugged individuals and self-contained meetings has caused us to become isolated from each other. We need more interconnectedness, and this problem is greater than any Field Secretary can address. Paul challenged each of us and each of our meetings to create a stronger yearly meeting community.

59. Paul will be laying down his service as Field Secretary sometime this autumn, sooner if a new Field Secretary can be engaged before then. Several Friends spoke the mind of the meeting in expressing our thanks to Paul for his service. We are reminded that Elias Hicks trusted that when he spoke the Spirit would be with him. Paul has brought this trust to us. He has also challenged us to become a better Quakers. M&A selected him knowing that he had different talents from previous Field Secretaries, and it turned out that his gifts were exactly what we needed at this time. The insights that he gave to the M&A committee, as well as his work with our monthly meetings, were truly Spirit-led.

60. Neil Mesner, reporting for the Maintenance and Planning Committee, gave the full list of projects recommended for the coming year along with some approximate prices.

- Paint two sides of the yearly meetinghouse (approximately \$15,000).
- Remove water pumps and plumbing at the cistern on the south side of the meetinghouse (approximately \$350).
- Grade a path between the yearly meetinghouse and the Clear Creek House of Illinois Yearly Meeting (approximately \$500).
- Repair the low places in the septic field east of yearly meetinghouse (may cost \$200).
- Put in concrete entrances to the bath house (approximately \$500).
- Replace the oven, stove, and maybe a fan in the Clear Creek House (expected not to exceed \$5,000).
- Purchase chairs for the Clear Creek House (approximately \$6,000).

Friends approved.

61. Judy Jager reported for the Finance Committee (see p. ____).

62. The Finance Committee recommends adding Valerie Lester, Co-Treasurer (replacing former Co-Treasurer Roger Laughlin) to the authorization for access to our safety deposit box at First State Bank in McNabb, Illinois. Friends approved.

63. The Finance Committee recommends that the following people: Richard Ashdown, Steward; Dawn Amos, Co-Treasurer; and Valerie Lester, Co-Treasurer (replacing former Co-Treasurer Roger Laughlin) be authorized to exercise all powers listed in the resolutions with all banks with which we have accounts, including signing checks on behalf of Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. Friends approved.

64. The Finance Committee requested a change of registered agent for the State of Illinois from Roger Laughlin to Dawn Amos. Friends approved.

65. Judy reviewed the Finance Committee activities of the year.

- a) An informal audit of the books was conducted by Ann Miller of Evanston Meeting and Elizabeth Mertic of Lake Forest/Evanston Meeting. They were reported to be in right order. This audit led to some changes in the way finances are reported to the yearly meeting. These changes are intended to render the reports more user-friendly.
- b) The Finance Committee welcomed members of the Ministry and Advancement Committee to its May 14 meeting to talk about the new vision the committee has for the yearly meeting and its implications for the budget. The committee was grateful to hear about the program well in advance of the time for budgeting. The committee also welcomed Noel Pavlovic on behalf of the Environmental Concerns Committee, who discussed committee travel and other financially-relevant matters with the Finance Committee earlier in the annual sessions.
- c) The Finance Committee encourages Friends to attend the workshop about managing and archiving records during the afternoons of our sessions this year.
- d) The yearly meeting continues to have some accounts in Urban Partnership Bank, which took control of the former South Shore Bank in an orderly takeover a year ago.
- e) The Finance Committee is seeking clarity about ILYM properties in the form of written guidelines concerning the division of expenses and legal issues between the yearly meeting and Clear Creek Monthly Meeting.
- f) The Review Committee, set up to review expenses 10% or more over the budget in any category, has been very active. Friends are encouraged to contact the committee if they need travel assistance for committee work that exceeds the budgeted amount. Friends are reminded of our travel policy, which is in the Handbook and the Minute Book.
- g) The Finance Committee recommends that the new program based on the Vision Statement from Ministry & Advancement be appropriately funded this year through Illinois Yearly Meeting's Special Gifts Fund.
- h) The committee senses that some meetings are experiencing unusual financial complexities. It is not this year requesting any formal increase in the expected contribution per Adult Resident Member (the ARM). Rather, Finance Committee is counting on the continued generosity of our monthly meetings to make the work of the Yearly Meeting possible.

66. The Finance Committee reported that Roger Laughlin is stepping down as Co-Treasurer after this week. The committee requested that the following Minute of Appreciation be recorded:

For the past eleven years, and for an earlier term as well, Roger Laughlin served as Illinois Yearly Meeting Treasurer. For three to six meetings each year, he submitted financial reports based on our increasingly complex “cookie jar” system, tracking the operating budget and fifteen special funds. Roger evaluated and recorded all the income and expense transactions related to the Meetinghouse restoration, the moving of the Junior Yearly Meetinghouse, and conversion of the dormitory to summer cabins. He managed filing for our incorporation and tax exemption. With the assistance of his wife and our friend Jinny Laughlin, Roger communicated with donors, vendors and Friends doing volunteer work for the Yearly Meeting, assuring each transaction was handled correctly. (Jinny is not only Roger’s email expert, but also will lay a table for six drop-in guests – at 6 AM!) ILYM Friends fondly remember Roger’s precise engineer’s handwriting on reimbursement checks, and his appearance in a green shirt at annual sessions in front of the chalkboard with the operating budget, a presentation of Friendly simplicity. And, in addition to being accurate, dependable, speedy, and thorough, Roger Laughlin is wise, gentle, loving, and very good company. Illinois Yearly Meeting recognizes with love and gratitude the years of constancy and care provided by Roger and Jinny Laughlin, and we pray they will enjoy their retirement from this service well done.

The Meeting approved the Minute of Appreciation with great enthusiasm and immense gratitude.

67. Co-Treasurer Dawn Amos gave the first reading of the proposed budget for our operating fund for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. Significant changes from last year are as follows: increases in committee travel, decreases in representative travel, a decrease in funds allocated for deferred maintenance, a decrease in anticipated committee expenses, and a one-time donation to the World Conference of Friends Travel Fund. Funds previously allocated to the now-defunct Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs have been transferred to the new magazine, “The Quake,” as seed money. Projected increases in travel and other funds for M&A’s developing program will come from the Special Gifts Fund.

68. Adrian Nelson, Dawn Rubbert, and Dawn Amos described the World Gathering of Friends to take place in Kenya in April, 2012. Friends who participated in past years gave testimony to their experiences. The yearly meeting will be sending four delegates – Mark Amos, Rose Dennis, Adrian Nelson, and Dawn Rubbert. There is an appeal to individuals to help financially to send participants to this gathering – not just from Illinois Yearly Meeting but also from around the world. Contributions can be made to Illinois Yearly Meeting and earmarked for the world conference.

69. We closed with worship.

MINUTES FROM FOURTH SESSION, Saturday, June 18, 2011

70. We opened with worship after our memorial meeting for worship.

71. David Finke spoke of the joy of our fellowship.

72. Monica Tetzlaff read excerpts from an epistle from Intermountain Yearly Meeting.

73. We welcomed visitors who were with us for first time, including Heather Evert from Bloomington-Normal Meeting.

74. Sarah Pavlovic, Clerk of the Nominating Committee, expressed gratitude to those who have served in the past year and those who agreed to serve in the next year. She presented changes to the final list of Friends to be serving the yearly meeting in the coming year (see p. __). Friends approved.

75. The Nominating Committee in consultation with the Stewards is continuing to explore how many Stewards we should appoint and will report to the yearly meeting at the Fall Continuing Committee meeting.

76. Dawn Amos added the following information to the budget presented yesterday. The Finance Committee is anticipating some releases from our designated funds in the coming year, including those releases mentioned earlier for Ministry and Advancement to fund their new programs. Dawn read the amounts that the Finance Committee projects will be in these designated funds at the end of the next fiscal year. The meeting reviewed the operating budget and these anticipated expenses in our designated funds (see p. __). Friends approved.

77. The Stewards had previously brought a proposal for a Property Use Committee. The yearly meeting has a shared concern with the Stewards about the good administration of the property. A number of questions were raised and suggestions were made about this proposal. Friends are encouraged to send other concerns and suggestions to the Stewards and Presiding Clerk. The proposal is referred back to the Stewards for further seasoning in consultation with other committees and the Presiding Clerk. A new proposal or progress report may be brought to Continuing Committee for action.

78. Elizabeth Mertic, a member of the Ad Hoc Committee to Study Volunteer Concerns, gave some information about volunteer service following up on minutes 68 – 70 from 2010 sessions. The ad hoc committee made a report to the Fall Continuing Committee. The committee subsequently sent queries to monthly meetings. Only a few meetings responded to these queries. Some monthly meetings are willing to try again to respond to the queries during the coming year. The ad hoc committee offered to resend the queries and continue to meet for one more year. Friends approved extending their term of service. The committee will make a report at a Continuing Committee meeting and the next annual sessions.

79. David Finke read a minute from Blue River Quarterly Meeting which referred to a minute from St. Louis Meeting concerning the pension fund, TIAA-CREF. The company, which claims

to make socially-responsible investment for pensions, invests in companies that make weapons and equipment used against Palestinians, including Veolia, Elbit, Caterpillar, Motorola Solutions, and Northrop Grumman. The St. Louis Meeting minute asks the American Friends Service Committee, which has employee pension funds in TIAA-CREF, to put pressure on the firm not to invest in these companies. Dawn Rubbert read the minute from St. Louis Meeting (see p ____).

80. The yearly meeting asks our representatives to AFSC to bring back information from the AFSC annual meeting concerning the issue outlined above. Additionally, the yearly meeting unites with the request from Blue River Quarterly that our Presiding Clerk send a letter from the yearly meeting to AFSC asking that AFSC approach TIAA-CREF to strongly urge that they divest from companies noted in the St. Louis Minute.

81. The Fall Continuing Committee meeting will be on November 5, 2011. St. Louis Meeting has graciously agreed to host the meeting.

82. We ended this session with worship.

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SESSION, Sunday, June 19, 2011

83. We began our session, joined by our young Friends, in worship.

84. We heard outgoing reports and epistles from the 3-5 year olds, 6-7 year olds, 8-11 year olds, Middle School Friends, High School Friends, and Adult Young Friends (see pp. ____).

85. The Epistle Committee read the epistle to be sent from Illinois Yearly Meeting to other yearly meetings. Friends approved with gratitude.

86. The Exercises Committee read the exercises, a description of our annual sessions. Friends accepted. This will be in our minute book and sent to *Friends Journal*.

87. We ended our 137th annual sessions with worship and in anticipation of the annual Plummer Lecture.