

Minutes of the Illinois Yearly Meeting (ILYM)
139th Annual Sessions
Sixth Month 19-23, 2013, Clear Creek Meeting House near McNabb, Illinois

MINUTES OF THE FIRST SESSION, Wednesday, Sixth Month 19, 2013

- Minute 1 The 2013 ILYM annual sessions opened with waiting worship.
- Minute 2 Presiding Clerk Janice Domanik welcomed everyone present to the annual sessions.
- Minute 3 The Clerk recognized the following visitors from outside of ILYM: Katherine Jager, attending Live Oak Friends Meeting in Houston; Katherine Philipson of Capitol Hill Friends Meeting, representing the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL); Rae Lawrence of Multnomah (Oregon) Monthly Meeting; Brian Drayton of Weare (New Hampshire) Monthly Meeting; and Vanessa Julye of Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting, representing Friends General Conference (FGC).
- Minute 4 The Presiding Clerk is being assisted by a Clerk's Committee comprised of Peter Lasersohn, Elizabeth Mertic, Beth Schobernd, David Shiner, and Gwen Weaver. Any concerns about issues involving clerking may be addressed to the Clerk or to any member of the committee.
- Minute 5 Interim Reading Clerk Elizabeth Mertic read an excerpt of an epistle from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative).
- Minute 6 The Epistle Committee for this year's sessions will consist of Brad Laird, Elizabeth Mertic, and David Rutschman. They will be joined by Caryn Renee Wixom Kuhn when she arrives later in the week.
- Minute 7 Joan Pine, Clerk of Ministry and Advancement Committee, explained the role of the Committee of Care and encouraged Friends to bring any issues to members of the committee as necessary. Two orientation sessions for newcomers will be offered, the first one to take place tonight and the second on Saturday morning. They will be hosted by Judy Wolicki and David Finke respectively.
- Minute 8 The Clerk informed Friends about the red notebooks on the table near the front door of the meetinghouse and encouraged them to read their contents, particularly the proposed new Personnel Manual that is being presented by the Personnel Committee.
- Minute 9 David Rutschman gave the first reading of the Nominating Committee report. The report will be updated with additional nominees and submitted for approval later in the week.
- Minute 10 Members of the Faith and Practice Committee read aloud a section on "The Light Within and Its Religious Implications," which is being presented for comment

this year. The committee will solicit suggestions and prepare a revised version in preparation for presentation for approval for a 3-year provisional period at the 2014 annual sessions.

Minute 11 The Clerk noted that *Friends Journal* is no longer publishing exercises such as those ILYM composes during Yearly Meeting, which has raised the issue whether the Exercises Committee should be laid down. The Clerk suggested that the Faith & Practice Committee research historical and current practices concerning the nature and use of exercises and present its findings at either Spring 2014 Continuing Committee or the 2014 annual sessions, with subsequent action (if any) to take place as the yearly meeting is led. Approved. The Clerk then asked those present to discern whether they are called to serve on this year's Exercises Committee.

Minute 12 The Clerk presented the report from the Administrative Coordinator Oversight Committee. Sharon Haworth has taken a new job, so the committee will request permission from Yearly meeting to solicit applications for the position of Administrative Coordinator, in which Sharon has served so ably for many years.

Minute 13 The first session closed with waiting worship.

MINUTES OF THE SECOND SESSION, Thursday, Sixth Month 20, 2013

Minute 14 The second session opened with waiting worship.

Minute 15 Interim Reading Clerk Elizabeth Mertic read an excerpt of an epistle from the Friends Church, Nairobi (Kenya) Yearly Meeting. She encouraged Friends to read epistles from Quaker meetings and churches around the world, which are contained in the black notebook on the table near the front door.

Minute 16 The Clerk welcomed the following visitors from outside of ILYM: Lucy (Buscombe) Davenport of Portland, Oregon, and Northwest Yearly Meeting (Evangelical Friends International); Helene Pollock of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and the Friends of Jesus Fellowship; and Todd Knight of Richmond, Indiana, representing Right Sharing of World Resources. She also welcomed members and attenders of ILYM meetings and worship groups who are attending the annual sessions for the first time.

Minute 17 The Clerk again asked Friends about leadings to serve on the Exercises Committee. Wil Brant, Nancy Finke, and Noel Pavlovic graciously volunteered to serve, and will comprise that committee.

Minute 18 Dawn Amos presented the Treasurer's Report on behalf of herself and Co-Treasurer Val Lester. On the whole, ILYM is in a stronger financial position than a year ago, pending events of the final month of the current fiscal year (June 2013). Income and expenses in the operating fund are in balance, although both are significantly below projections at this point. Other funds are in better shape than they were last year. Report accepted. Meeting minuted its deep gratitude to Dawn for her longtime service as Treasurer, which is now coming to a close.

Minute 19 Joan Pine reported for Ministry and Advancement. The committee recommended that care of Macomb Worship Group be transferred from Spoon River Monthly Meeting to Clear Creek Monthly Meeting. Approved. The committee asked that the yearly meeting record affirmation of the continuing endorsement of Carolyn Treadway as pastoral counselor and Beth Burbank as chaplain educator, based on the committee's review and approval. Joan briefly explained the role of Ministry and Advancement and asked for support for the committee from ILYM meetings and individuals. She reminded Friends of the ILYM Sexual Abuse and Harassment Policy, a copy of which is located on the registration table. Report accepted.

Minute 20 Field Secretary Judy Wolicki presented her annual report. She reaffirmed her conviction that her primary work as Field Secretary involves listening to the stories of ILYM Friends and helping people connect with one another. Report accepted with joy.

Minute 21 Faith and Practice reported on its recent work, then read the revised section entitled "Meeting for Worship" and proposed that it be approved for a three-year provisional period, to expire at the 2016 sessions of Illinois Yearly Meeting. Various Friends offered concerns about parts of the proposed text. The Faith and Practice Committee noted these concerns and will bring a revised version of the proposed section back later in the annual sessions. Report accepted.

Minute 22 Chip Rorem reported for Site Envisioning Committee. Report accepted.

Minute 23 Ashlee Miller-Berry reported for the ad hoc Property Use Committee. As an addendum to the report in the advance documents, she enumerated the uses of Clear Creek House of ILYM over the past two years. The committee asked for approval of the revised and updated Property Use Guidelines as a working document subject to ongoing revision by the Yearly Meeting. Approved. The committee also asked that it be continued for an additional year, after which they intend to ask to be laid down, with the responsibilities they have identified to be distributed to the appropriate committee or committees at that time. Approved. Report accepted.

Minute 24 Noel Pavlovic reported for Environmental Concerns Committee. Report accepted.

Minute 25 Roy Treadway reported on the activities and plans of Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW).

Minute 26 Roy Treadway reported for the Stewards. The Stewards recommended that, following the experience at the 2013 annual sessions of ILYM, an appropriate committee of the yearly meeting review the camping guidelines and develop procedures for expanded camping in the west side of the campus at future annual sessions. Report accepted with thanks. Site Envisioning Committee offered to investigate the issue of expanded camping in consultation with other ILYM committees. Approved.

Minute 27 The second session closed with waiting worship.

MINUTES OF THE THIRD SESSION, Friday, Sixth Month 21, 2013

Minute 28 The third session began with waiting worship.

Minute 29 Interim Reading Clerk Elizabeth Mertic read excerpts of epistles from Britain Yearly Meeting, including one from teenage Friends.

Minute 30 Yearly Meeting approved the appointment of Edward (Ted) Kuhn to replace Dawn Amos as Co-Treasurer, and authorized him to have access to the safe deposit box in McNabb, Illinois.

Minute 31 Yearly Meeting authorized Co-Treasurers Edward Kuhn and Valerie Lester and Steward Richard Ashdown to exercise all powers listed in the resolutions with all banks with which we have accounts, including signing checks on behalf of the Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.

Minute 32 Yearly Meeting approved changing our registered agent for the State of Illinois from Dawn Amos to Edward Kuhn.

Minute 33 Neil Mesner reported on the tasks that Maintenance and Planning Committee undertook during the past year and those planned for the coming year. The committee reaffirmed its recommendation from last year's annual sessions that two electric outlets be installed in each cabin to address accessibility and safety issues. Approved, with the caveat that those outlets are not to be used for purposes other than accessibility and safety.

Minute 34 Ted Kuhn reported on the Capital Assets Management Plan (CAMP). CAMP consists of a spreadsheet that is used for tracking the present and future needs of the ILYM campus. Maintenance & Planning Committee uses CAMP to keep track of the state of each aspect of the campus, and Finance Committee uses it to determine budgeting needs.

Minute 35 Judy Jager reported for Finance Committee. Report accepted.

Minute 36 Dick Ashdown asked that, if a purchase price can be agreed upon for the adjacent land to the southeast that ILYM previously agreed to try to purchase, the farmer who currently owns the land will be offered the option to continue to use it for a minimum of five years beyond the purchase date. Approved.

Minute 37 Judy Jager presented the proposed budget for the 2014 fiscal year. For a number of reasons, the committee's current recommendation includes a deficit of \$5200. The budget will be considered for approval during tomorrow's session.

Minute 38 David Finke reported for Development Committee. The financial support of the yearly meeting has been primarily done by monthly meetings. Individuals have

provided support for special appeals, but less frequently for operations. The committee is in the process of developing tools for aiding in the fundraising process. Report accepted.

Minute 39 Peter Lasersohn reported for the Faith and Practice Committee. Peter read revisions to the section entitled “Meeting for Worship” which had been presented yesterday. This section was approved, with revisions as noted, for a three-year provisional period, to expire at the 2016 sessions of Illinois Yearly Meeting.

Minute 40 Mike Dennis reported for the Personnel Committee. The committee recommended contracting Charles (Chuc) T. Smith, from St. Louis Monthly Meeting, to handle payroll services. The clerks of committees that oversee personnel (Administrative Coordinator Oversight Committee, Ministry and Advancement Committee, Youth Oversight Committee, Finance Committee, and the Co-Treasurers) are asked to send W4, W9, and salary documentation to Chuc in June so that he can take over payroll starting on July 1, 2013. The clerks of Maintenance and Planning and others who employ temporary staff and contractors are asked to do the same. Approved.

Minute 41 Mike presented the Personnel Manual for approval as a working document for two years. Approved.

Minute 42 The Administrative Coordinator Oversight Committee requested permission to initiate a search process for a new person to fill the Administrative Coordinator position and to be authorized to fill this position before Fall Continuing Committee. Approved.

Minute 43 The Meeting minuted its thanks to Sharon Haworth for her years of loving service to our community in the Administrative Coordinator position. We wish her all the best in her new endeavors.

Minute 44 Phyllis Reynolds reported for Peace Resources Committee. Report accepted with thanks.

Minute 45 Judy Erickson reported for Publications and Distribution Committee. Report accepted with thanks.

Minute 46 The third session closed with waiting worship.

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH SESSION, Saturday, Sixth Month 22, 2013

Minute 47 The fourth session began with waiting worship.

Minute 48 Reading Clerk Caryn Renee Wixom Kuhn read an epistle from Australia Yearly Meeting.

Minute 49 The Clerk welcomed the following visitors from outside of ILYM: Tom Roberts of Noblesville (Indiana) Monthly Meeting (Western Yearly Meeting), Brenda

Beadenkopf of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, and Jason Shank of the Elkhart (Indiana) Worship Group and South Bend Friends Meeting.

Minute 50 Judy Jager presented the fiscal 2014 budget for approval. \$100 was removed from the proposed donation to Friends Peace Teams, reducing the contribution to that organization from \$400 to \$300 and the projected budget deficit from \$5200 to \$5100. Approved.

Minute 51 John Hackman, rising co-Clerk of Maintenance and Planning Committee, presented a number of maintenance items for approval, payment for which would come from the Deferred Maintenance Fund. They were as follows:

ILYM Meetinghouse:	
Paint west side	\$5600
Repair and paint two west-side windows	575
Paint west & north sides of bathroom additions	900
Tighten attic cables	115
Bathhouse roof	1564
TOTAL	\$8754

Approved.

Minute 52 Maintenance and Planning Committee asked that the Review Committee be authorized to approve bids for septic system repairs and repairs to the south wall of the bunkhouse. Approved.

Minute 53 David Rutschman presented Nominating Committee recommendations concerning ILYM officers and committee members, with several names added since the first reading of the report. Approved. David also asked for corrected ending dates of service for several members of the Nominating Committee whose ending dates had previously been incorrectly recorded. Approved. The Meeting minuted its gratitude to Nominating Committee for its work.

Minute 54 The following minute was presented: "Illinois Yearly Meeting authorizes Richard Ashdown, Steward, Valerie Lester, Co-Treasurer, Edward Kuhn, Co-Treasurer, and Grayce Mesner, member, to have access to our safe deposit box at First State Bank in McNabb, Illinois." Approved.

Minute 55 The following minute, a revised version of Minute 31 from Friday, June 21, 2013, was presented: "Illinois Yearly Meeting authorizes Richard Ashdown, Steward, Valerie Lester, Co-Treasurer, and Edward Kuhn, Co-Treasurer, to exercise all powers listed in the resolutions with First State Bank in McNabb, Illinois, including signing checks on behalf of the Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends effective Monday, June 24, 2013." Approved. This will replace the authorization that was previously approved in Minute 31.

Minute 56 Kate Gunnell reported for Youth Oversight Committee. Report accepted with thanks.

Minute 57 Chris Goode and Chip Rorem, representing Site Envisioning Committee, recommended that the following projects be approved in concept pending availability of funds:

- 1) Conversion of the water heater room on the west side of the Meeting House to a bathroom. Approved.
- 2) Construction of accessible bedrooms and bathrooms in Clear Creek House. Approved.
- 3) Renovations to the campground bathhouse. Approved.

Meeting approved prioritization of the above projects as follows: (1) Meeting House bathroom, (2) campground bathhouse, (3) bedrooms and bathrooms in Clear Creek House. The first two of those projects may proceed once funds have been procured without further consideration by the Yearly Meeting.

Minute 58 Noel Pavlovic, representing Environmental Concerns Committee, requested \$1000 from the Property Improvement Fund for development of a stable pathway between the Meeting House and Clear Creek House. Approved.

Minute 59 The Clerk recommended that, in response to some concern that had been expressed about the timing of future annual sessions, the Ministry and Advancement Committee will craft and disseminate a survey on the subject, with results to be presented at the 2014 annual sessions. Approved.

Minute 60 Following the presentation of a concern from Northside Friends Meeting, the following minute was proposed:

Illinois Yearly Meeting is welcoming of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex people and encourages its monthly meetings to seek ways to express their Meetings as welcoming environments. The yearly meeting Faith and Practice contains a section on the practice of same-sex marriage under the care of a Meeting. The yearly meeting supports legislation for marriage equality of same-sex couples and encourages members to contact their legislators regarding marriage equality of same-sex couples.

This issue was held over until tomorrow's session.

Minute 61 The fourth session closed with waiting worship.

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SESSION, Sunday, Sixth Month 23, 2013

Minute 62 The fifth session began with waiting worship.

Minute 63 In response to the concern raised by Northside Friends Meeting and discussed in earlier sessions, the Clerk proposed a minute that was amended by the assembled body to read as follows: "Illinois Yearly Meeting affirms the legitimacy of the concern about support of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex people that Northside Friends Meeting has brought forth. We encourage the Chicago North section to use this and related concerns and the issues raised by them as the basis for our programming at the Yearly Meeting sessions in 2014." Approved.

Minute 64 Friends heard outgoing reports and epistles from the 3-4 year olds, 5-7 year olds, 8-9 year olds, 10-14 year olds, high schoolers, and Adult Young Friends.

Minute 65 On behalf of the Epistle Committee, Caryn Kuhn read this year's ILYM epistle, which will be sent to other yearly meetings. Friends approved.

Minute 66 The members of the Exercises Committee read this year's exercises. Friends approved.

Minute 67 The 139th annual sessions of Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends closed with grateful waiting worship, as we prepared for Sarah Pavlovic's Plummer Lecture and looked forward to next year's gathering at the Meeting House near McNabb on Sixth Month 18-22, 2014.