

Minutes of the Illinois Yearly Meeting (ILYM)
140th Annual Sessions
Sixth Month 18-22, 2014, Clear Creek Meetinghouse near McNabb, Illinois

MINUTES OF THE FIRST SESSION, Wednesday, Sixth Month 18, 2014

- Minute 1** The 2014 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 ILYM: Vanessa Julye of Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting, representing Friends General Conference, Lucy Davenport from North Pacific Yearly Meeting, and Mark Davenport of Northwest Yearly Meeting.
- Minute 4** Reading Clerk Caryn Kuhn read an excerpt of an epistle from the Jr. Young Friends of InterMountain Yearly Meeting.
- Minute 5** 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. Additionally, the clerk informed Friends of other practices of ILYM business sessions.
- Minute 6** The Presiding Clerk is being assisted by a Clerk's Committee comprised of David Shiner, Wil Brant, Peter Lasersohn, Gwen Weaver, and Sarah Pavlovic.
- Minute 7** The Epistle Committee for this year's sessions will consist of Caryn Kuhn, Reading Clerk, and Brad Laird. An additional request for other members will be presented at the next business session.
- Minute 8** 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.
- Minute 9** Margie Haworth Davis brought up a concern from Nominating Committee. It has come to Nominating Committee's attention that the Yearly Meeting minuted that two of the Stewards be from Clear Creek Monthly Meeting. This is a small Monthly Meeting and the demands of having two Stewards can be very draining for the Meeting. Nominating recommends that the Yearly Meeting minute that only one Steward needs to be from Clear Creek Monthly Meeting.
- After processing the proposal and the responsibilities of the Stewards, the recommendation was revised to continue to require two Stewards to be from Clear Creek Monthly Meeting until Fall Continuing Committee and to expand the total number of Stewards from three to three to five. Approved.
- Minute 10** Margie Haworth Davis gave the first reading of the Nominating Committee report which will be updated with additional nominees and submitted for approval later in the week. Current additions to the submitted report are Beth Burbank for Ministry and Advancement, 2017, and expanding David Rutschman's term on Personnel until 2015.

Minute 11 Nominating Committee requested approval for the appointment of Judy Erickson to the position of co-treasurer. Approved.

Minute 12 Illinois Yearly Meeting authorizes Valerie Lester to continue to exercise all powers listed in the resolutions with First State Bank in McNabb, Illinois, including signing checks on behalf of Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends until July 15, 2014. Approved.

Minute 13 The following minute was presented: "Illinois Yearly Meeting authorizes Richard Ashdown, Steward, Judith Erickson, 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 14 The following minute was presented: "Illinois Yearly Meeting authorizes Richard Ashdown, Steward, Judith Erickson, 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 Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends effective Wednesday, June 18, 2014." Approved.

Minute 15 Peter Lasersohn reported on the activities of the Faith and Practice Committee which included writing, revising, and discussing with monthly meetings the new sections of *Faith and Practice*.

Minute 16 Members of the Faith and Practice Committee read the first part of "The Light Within and its Religious Implications," for approval for a three year provisional period. Approved.

Minute 17 Peter Lasersohn, on the behalf of the Faith and Practice Committee, reported on their investigation of current and historic practices among yearly meetings regarding reports of "exercises."

ILYM will continue to write exercises in addition to epistles. Exercises serve a purpose of making a record of things said in worship and things that exercised us that would be beneficial to be recorded, primarily for those in the Yearly Meeting. These things may or may not occur in business sessions and would not generally appear in the minutes.

Judy Wolicki and Bridget Rorem will serve on the Exercises Committee. Approved.

Minute 18 Session ended with waiting worship.

MINUTES OF THE SECOND SESSION, Thursday, Sixth Month 19, 2014

Minute 19 The second session opened with waiting worship.

Minute 20 The Clerk recognized the following visitors from outside ILYM: Michael Birkel of Clear Creek Meeting of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, and welcomed first time attenders from ILYM meetings and worship groups: Carl Sherrod, attender of Evanston Meeting, and Jessica Easter of Lake Forest Meeting.

Minute 21 Reading Clerk Caryn Kuhn read the epistle from Switzerland Yearly Meeting.

Minute 22 Ted Kuhn presented the Treasurer's Report on behalf of himself and Co-Treasurer Val Lester. An updated financial report was distributed. The Yearly Meeting has received more individual contributions than expected. Expenses are as budgeted with committee budgets being under spent. Even though the Yearly Meeting approved a budget last year with a deficit of \$5000, the current expectation of the treasurers is that the deficit will be less than budgeted. Report accepted.

Minute 23 Joan Pine reported for the Ministry and Advancement Committee. After surveying monthly meetings to inquire when their members and attenders would prefer to attend annual session, the responses that the committee received indicated that there is no clear leading to change the time of the annual sessions. Along with the Field Secretary and the Clerk of ILYM, four members of the committee attended the three-day White Privilege Conference held in Madison, Wisconsin, in late March.

Minute 24 Thirty-five years ago, Carolyn Treadway became the first pastoral counselor to be endorsed by ILYM. In December 2013, Carolyn informed the committee that she had closed her pastoral counseling practice, concluding a professional career of 59 years. She asked the committee to convey to the annual sessions her deep gratitude for all the years of endorsements which allowed her to become a pastoral counselor and to do the pastoral work which was so precious to her. The committee recommends laying down Carolyn's continuing endorsement. Approved.

Minute 25 Beth Burbank's endorsement by Yearly Meeting as a pastoral counselor, hospital chaplain, and supervisor of ministry students in the clinical setting has continued for 30 years. Although she had been planning retirement this year, an invitation to do supervisory work this summer has prompted her request that ILYM acknowledge her continuing endorsement for a final year. Accepted.

Minute 26 The Ministry and Advancement Committee reports that the Elkhart Worship Group has been taken under the care of South Bend Meeting and welcomes them to ILYM. Accepted.

Minute 27 The Ministry and Advancement Committee recommends the reappointment of Judy Wolicki as Field Secretary for a second 3 year term. Approved.

Minute 28 Field Secretary Judy Wolicki presented her annual report. She has visited every monthly meeting within ILYM at least once, and has visited many of them multiple times. Meetings continue to identify their strengths and to seek growth in numbers and depth of connection with the Spirit that, in turn, connects the individuals to one another and to the outside communities they seek to serve. Judy is continuing to seek ways to connect Friends and Meetings to one another and is exploring the possibilities of enhancing communications between members of meetings through writing letters to each other. Specific programs and events attended or led are in the submitted report. Report accepted.

Minute 29 Sue Styer reported for the Handbook Committee. The committee is in a time of transition and was unable to meet this year, so there are no handbook changes to present for Yearly Meeting for approval. Issues and clarifications for the handbook should be sent to Sue Styer. Report accepted.

Minute 30 Members of the Faith and Practice Committee read the second part of "The Light Within and its Religious Implications," (from the "Diversity of Belief" section to the end), for approval for a three year provisional period. Concerns were raised regarding how this section reflects the spiritual experiences and understandings of those in the Yearly Meeting who identify as Christian. There was no

unity for approval of the second part of “The Light Within and its Religious Implications”(from the “Diversity of Belief” section to the end). Study and dialog on the issue in our monthly meetings and with the Faith and Practice Committee is encouraged.

Minute 31 Chip Rorem reported for the Stewards. The Stewards are actively involved in the work of ILYM committees on which they serve *ex-officio*. Upcoming projects include improvements to the north campground bathhouse and, pending funding, an accessible grade-level bedroom and bathroom addition to Clear Creek House. The Stewards support the emerging interest in a campus caretaker, and eagerly look forward to expanding the group of Stewards. Report accepted.

Minute 32 Judy Jager and David Finke presented a joint Finance and Development Committees report. Cost of yearly meeting operations has gone up substantially in the past few years. In the past, the Yearly Meeting has risen to the occasion for funding needs when the mission is clear and spirit is moving. A new need has risen. As the operating budget has increased, there has been a shift in balance from what comes from worship groups and meetings. ILYM is deeply grateful for the steady commitment of its component groups to make the Yearly Meeting possible. Meeting contributions still provide the bulk of unrestricted income. ILYM is not just a week in June, but a year round operation, including three staff people and ongoing programs. An annual fund is being launched to respond to the growing needs of this growing Yearly Meeting. There will be opportunities for individuals and families, as well as, monthly meetings to provide donations. Online donation processes will be developed. An annual appeal letter will be sent out later this year. The goal for this year is \$20,000. Former presiding clerks have already been sent appeal letters. The first \$3,000 has already been raised with pledges for continued annual giving.

Minute 33 Judy Jager reported for the Finance Committee. The committee has a liaison to the Personnel Committee and has recommended that the Personnel Manual be reviewed soon by an attorney for compliance with labor laws. A continuing concern is the need for a hiring check list and spelling out who is assigned paperwork and record keeping responsibilities. The committee is working on including realistic figures for the reserve funds for maintaining the ILYM campus. Using the CAMP plus additional input, the committee expects to reach agreement as to the amount it wants to see in reserves for long-term care of the site. The Finance Committee is working very closely with the Development Committee and has minuted requests for earmarking of contributions, how bequests will be handled, and under what conditions gifts may be refused. Report accepted.

Minute 34 Judy Jager gave the first presentation of the budget for fiscal year 2015. Two possible budgets were presented, one maintaining the previous year’s amount of individual contributions and one with increased amount of individual contributions. The one maintaining the previous year’s amount of individual contributions decreases the amount given to Quaker organizations.

Minute 35 David Finke reported for the Development Committee. The committee is in its second full year. The committee seeks to discover the Quakerly passions which Friends bring to ILYM, the interests they would like to see advanced as we all look together for increased funding. The committee wants to present not only the needs and opportunities of the Yearly Meeting, but also the various ways that Friends can undergird the work now and in the future. The concern for property must be balanced with our concern and commitment to undergird the general operating fund for carrying out the many tasks on which ILYM has agreed. This past spring the committee held an all-day workshop with Michael Wajda of the FGC fundraising staff and gained insights into distinctively Quaker ways of approaching money and fundraising.

Minute 36 The Development Committee is seeking ways to develop a more extensive database of members and attenders of monthly meetings so to be able to send out information regarding the Yearly Meeting, including an annual appeal letter. Monthly meetings are being asked to look at their practices of collecting contact information and to allow the Yearly Meeting to use this information for the above stated purposes. Approved.

Minute 37 Jessica Easter will join Caryn Kuhn and Brad Laird on the Epistle Committee.

Minute 38 Session ended with waiting worship.

MINUTES OF THE THIRD SESSION, Friday, Sixth Month 20, 2014

Minute 39 The third session opened with waiting worship.

Minute 40 The Assistant Clerk, David Shiner, who will be clerking this session, recognized the following visitor from outside ILYM: Paulette Meir from Cincinnati Monthly Meeting.

Minute 41 Reading Clerk Caryn Kuhn read the epistle from German Yearly Meeting.

Minute 42 Carl Sherrod and Catherine Young will join Judy Wolicki and Bridget Rorem on the Exercises Committee.

Minute 43 Chris Goode reported for the Site Envisioning Committee. The bathroom renovation in the meetinghouse has been completed. Pending projects include a campground bathhouse renovation and an accessible Bedroom/Bathroom addition at Clear Creek House. The committee feels strongly that the barn building is an asset that will serve us in some way in the future and needs to be maintained until the nature of that service can be ascertained and developed. The committee has developed a list of guidelines for the quiet campground, which is included in the submitted report. The committee feels that some type of record storage system should be developed for Yearly Meeting documents. The committee feels that the Yearly Meeting should work toward having a caretaker in the near future and has included recommendations for the position in the submitted report. Report Accepted.

Minute 44 Noel Pavlovic reported for the Environmental Concerns Committee. Among other work done on the ILYM campus this year, the committee successfully prepared and planted the new grass walkway from the Clear Creek House to the meetinghouse. This upcoming year, the committee proposes to inventory the chemicals/oil still stored in the far end of the barn. The committee feels that these substances are potentially a liability but that they should proceed cautiously so to understand what the legal issues are concerning their proper disposal. The committee's report concerning electricity in the cabins is included in its submitted report. Report Accepted.

Minute 45 The Yearly Meeting expresses its gratitude for the work Roy Treadway has done for the Environmental Concerns Committee and the Yearly Meeting. Approved.

Minute 46 The Environmental Concerns Committee recommends prohibiting the use of electrical cords from any building to tents because of safety issues. Approved, with three Friends standing aside.

Minute 47 The Environmental Concerns Committee recommends using renewable energy sources for the Clear Creek House and garage/addition, in so far as fiscally responsible, and will provide assistance for ILYM to do so. Approved.

Minute 48 Members of the Faith and Practice Committee read the section on “Testimonies,” for approval for a three year provisional period. Moving forward on this section will be on the agenda of tomorrow’s session.

Minute 49 Meredith George reported for the Maintenance and Planning Committee. Work weekends were held on 9/7/13 and 5/17/14. About 20 people attended each. The committee is in the process of two deferred maintenance projects: refinishing the meetinghouse front porch and steps, and installing a donated hood above the stove and oven.

Minute 50 The date for the 2015 Annual Sessions will be June 24-28. The movement of the date will be reviewed for 2016 Annual Sessions.

Minute 51 The following minute replaces Minute 13 approved at the first session on June 18: “Illinois Yearly Meeting authorizes Richard Ashdown, Steward, Judith Erickson, Co-Treasurer, Edward Kuhn, Co-Treasurer, William Brant, Administrative Coordinator, and Grayce Mesner, member, to have access to our safe deposit box at First State Bank in McNabb, Illinois.” Approved.

Minute 52 Janice Domanik read the Administrative Coordinator Oversight Committee Report. Last fall the ACOC performed its duty as a search committee to find a new staffer for ILYM. Wil Brant began his work as Administrative Coordinator at the rise of Fall Continuing Committee, on October 19, 2013. The transition seems to have been a smooth one. Report accepted.

Minute 53 Christina Schulz reported for the Religious Education Committee. The committee is asking to be positioned as an advocate for religious education throughout ILYM. Doing so will move this committee beyond a deliverable-service role toward one of community and culture building. A list of emerging priorities and collective priorities are in the submitted report. Report accepted.

Minute 54 Christina Schulz reported for Blue River Quarterly Meeting. Christina read the following minute from Blue River Quarterly Meeting: “A concern was raised about the persecution of gay people in Uganda. We have news of specific individuals who have gone into hiding to avoid mob justice, and who have had their bank accounts frozen, preventing travel out of the country. Contributions are solicited through a crowdsourcing website, GoFundMe.com. In the absence of detailed information about the people who posted this solicitation of funds, and noting that our own treasury is quite limited, a decision on this matter was deferred. Additional research having been conducted online since our consideration of the Ugandan issue. [BRQ] Friends authorize the donation of \$500 to the Gender Equity and Health Organization — Uganda. The clerk is directed to forward this issue to Illinois Yearly Meeting.” Further information is available in the submitted report and at friendsnewundergroundrailroad.org. Report accepted.

Minute 55 Kent Busse reported for the Peace Resources Committee. Kent presented Minute 24 from the 2013 Fall Continuing Committee regarding ILYM becoming a participating member of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT). Participating members make a modest financial contribution. For this year, this contribution will come out of the committee’s existing committee budget. Participating members also designate a delegate who joins a monthly conference

call and disseminates information. Appointment of the delegate will be handled by the Nominating Committee. Kent will serve in the delegate position until an appointment is made. Participating membership in NRCAT approved. Report accepted.

Minute 56 Cathy Garra reported for Naming Committee. Caryn Kuhn has been recommended for Nominating Committee. Approved.

Minute 57 Session ended with waiting worship.

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH SESSION, Saturday, Sixth Month 21, 2014

Minute 58 The fourth session opened with waiting worship.

Minute 59 Reading Clerk Caryn Kuhn read the epistle from Iowa Conservative Jr. Yearly Meeting.

Minute 60 Sean West reported for the Publications and Distribution Committee. A subscription to phplist.hosted, a mass email service, has been purchased and has been in use for a few months now with a new format. Plummer Lectures from 2011, 2012, and 2013 are being worked on. The Spring 2014 *Among Friends* has been posted online and distributed in print. Marcia Nelson has resigned as editor of *Among Friends*. The committee thanks her for her work. The committee is looking for a new editor. The position may be split into different tasks. The committee is looking toward moving to a new format. Due to not having an editor, there will most likely not be a Fall 2014 edition of *Among Friends*. Report accepted.

Minute 61 The Ad-hoc Property Use Committee has been continued for another year to respond to the request of the standing committees. Approved.

Minute 62 Margie Haworth-Davis presented Nominating Committee recommendations concerning ILYM officers and committee members. Margie provided additional names to the submitted report. The nominations with revisions were approved.

Minute 63 Peter Lasersohn reported for the Faith and Practice Committee. Revisions to the second part of “The Light Within and its Religious Implications” (from the “Diversity of Belief” section to the end) were presented. The section as revised was approved for a three year provisional period.

Revisions to the section on “Testimonies,” were presented. Changes regard some feedback provided at the last session are being taken under discernment. A subsection on “Stewardship and Care for the Earth” will be brought to the 2015 annual sessions. The section as revised was approved for a three year provisional period.

The presiding clerk informed Friends to read and to ask their meetings read the new sections on “Accident, Illness, Death, and the Care of the Bereaved” and on “Recognizing Spiritual Gifts and Leadings” which will be presented at 2015 annual sessions for provisional approval. The clerk also reminded Friends that the section on Monthly Meetings will come up for indefinite approval at the 2015 annual sessions. Comments about this section should be given to the Faith and Practice Committee.

Minute 64 Judy Jager gave the second presentation of the proposed budget for fiscal year 2015. Approved.

Minute 65 Illinois Yearly Meeting authorizes Janice Domanik, Clerk, Edward Kuhn, Co-Treasurer, and John Knox to exercise all powers listed in the resolutions of Urban Partnership Bank in Chicago, Illinois, including setting up accounts and signing checks on behalf of Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, effective June 21, 2014. Approved.

Minute 66 Chris Goode reported for the Youth Oversight Committee. The High School Friends have had several Quakes and one Tremor. St Louis hosted the November Quake, Evanston the Quake that Rocked the Midwest, and Urbana-Champaign the recent Memorial Day Quake with Tremor, which included three middle schoolers. The committee members have really worked hard and long in ensuring that our teens have a safe and nurturing environment, fun-filled and deepening of the spirit. A matter of ongoing concern has been how do we as Friends address issues of safety with our teens (and all children under our care). The committee really needs specific direction from the Yearly Meeting regarding detail and management of policy regarding working with teens. The committee also need the guidance of the larger body regarding the "Guidelines for Friendly Adults, for Teens, and for Parents." Report Accepted.

Minute 67 The 2014 Fall Continuing Committee will be on Saturday, October 25 at Clear Creek Meeting.

Minute 68 Charlotte Wood-Harrington of Northside Meeting read a letter that the Meeting sent to a leader in Friends Church Kenya regarding the church's stance on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer concerns. The concerns expressed in the letter are to be addressed by the Peace Resources Committee which is to report on its progress at the 2014 Fall Continuing Committee. The Peace Resources Committee is asked to bring forth recommendations for action by the yearly meeting. The clerk asked monthly meetings to read and consider the letter. Approved.

Minute 69 The session ended with waiting worship.

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SESSION, Sunday, Sixth Month 22, 2014

Minute 70 The fifth session opened with waiting worship.

Minute 71 Friends heard outgoing epistles from the 3-5 year olds, 6-8 year olds, 9-10 year olds, 11-13 year olds, high schoolers, and Adult Young Friends.

Minute 72 On behalf of the Epistle Committee, Caryn Kuhn read this year's ILYM epistle, which will be sent to other yearly meetings. Approved.

Minute 73 The members of the Exercises Committee read this year's Exercises. Accepted.

Minute 74 The outgoing Presiding Clerk presented thoughts on the yearly meeting.

Minute 75 ILYM expresses deep gratitude to Janice Dominik for her dedicated, inspirational, and spirit-led service as our Presiding Clerk for the past three years.

Minute 76 The 140th annual sessions of Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends closed with grateful waiting worship. Next year's gathering will be at the Meetinghouse near McNabb on Sixth Month 24-28, 2015.