

Minutes of the Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

142nd Annual Sessions

Sixth Month 22-26, 2016, Illinois Yearly Meeting Meetinghouse near McNabb, Illinois

MINUTES OF THE FIRST SESSION, Wednesday, Sixth Month 22, 2016

Minute 1 The 2016 Illinois Yearly Meeting (ILYM) Annual Sessions opened with waiting worship.

Minute 2 Presiding Clerk David Shiner welcomed everyone present to the Annual Sessions.

Minute 3 Reading Clerk Chris Jocius read an excerpt from the epistles from North Pacific Yearly Meeting and London Yearly Meeting.

Minute 4 The clerk informed Friends about Advance Documents and other documents available for review.

Minute 5 The Presiding Clerk is being assisted by a Clerk's Committee comprised of Wil Brant, Janice Domanik, Tom Fairbank, Cathy Garra, and Gwen Weaver.

Minute 6 The Epistle Committee for this year's sessions will consist of Reading Clerk Chris Jocius, Bruce Kanarek, and Brittany Koresh.

Minute 7 The clerk presented a description of the Exercises Committee and asked Friends to consider serving on this Committee. Friends so interested should speak with to him.

Minute 8 The clerk discussed the harassment policy observed by ILYM.

Minute 9 The clerk made several announcements concerning absent and departing Friends.

Minute 10 For Ministry and Advancement Committee, Cathy Garra explained the role of the Committee of Care and encouraged Friends to bring any issues to members of the committee as necessary. Members of the committee can be identified by a smiley face on their name tags.

Minute 11 Beth Carpenter presented the Nominating Committee Report. The Committee asks for approval of Janice Domanik as Assistant Treasurer. Report accepted and appointment approved.

Minute 12 Illinois Yearly Meeting authorizes Richard Ashdown, Steward, Judith Erickson, Treasurer, Janice Domanik, Assistant Treasurer, William Brant, Administrative Coordinator, and Grayce Mesner, Steward, to have access to our safe deposit box at First State Bank in McNabb, Illinois. Approved.

Minute 13 Illinois Yearly Meeting authorizes Richard Ashdown, Steward, Judith Erickson, Treasurer, Janice Domanik, Assistant Treasurer, and Grayce Mesner, Steward, to exercise all powers listed in the resolution 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 22, 2016. Approved.

Minute 14 Peter Lasersohn presented the report of the Faith and Practice Committee. The Faith and Practice Committee has met six times since the 2015 sessions of Illinois Yearly Meeting, devoting attention primarily to four texts:

1. “Meeting for Worship”: This section was approved in 2013 for a 3-year provisional period, which is now expiring. The committee revised the text in response to comments received over the last three years, and now proposes adoption of the revised version for an indefinite period.
2. “Worship Groups and Preparative Meetings”: This section was adopted in 2011 for a 5-year provisional period, also now expiring. The committee made some relatively minor revisions to this text, and proposed that the revised version be adopted for an indefinite period.
3. “Recognizing Spiritual Gifts and Leadings”: The committee initially planned to submit a version of this text for provisional adoption last year, but withdrew its proposal when it became clear that more work on the text was needed. After drafts and consultations through the year, a new version is proposed for adoption for a two-year provisional period.
4. “The Yearly Meeting”: The committee has been working on this text for close to three years, and proposes adoption for a two-year provisional period.

In addition to these texts, work has begun on a section dealing with *Friends and the State* and one on *Pastoral Care* as well as a glossary. A few more sections are in the planning stages; the committee is aiming for 2018 as the date for a complete version of the entire book. For this reason new texts are being submitted to be approved provisionally for just a two-year period, rather than a three-year or five-year period as with previous texts. Report accepted.

Members of the Faith and Practice Committee read “The Yearly Meeting”, which is being submitted for two-year provisional approval. The Committee received and will consider commentary helpful to further refinement of some specific passages and some general issues.

Minute 15 Southern Illinois Quaker Meeting requested further dialogue with the Faith and Practice Committee concerning the section on “Spiritual Gifts and Leadings” prior to that section being brought to the Yearly Meeting for provisional approval. The Faith & Practice Committee agreed to consider this request.

Minute 16 Meeting closed with expectant silence.

MINUTES OF THE SECOND SESSION, Thursday, Sixth Month 23, 2016

Minute 17 The second session opened with waiting worship.

Minute 18 The Clerk welcomed the following visitors: Thomas Weber from Scattergood School, Christine Ashley from Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), and Brad Ogilvie of William Penn House; and the following first-time attenders from ILYM meetings: Virginia Schelbert from Evanston and Alex Lippitt from Oak Park.

Minute 19 Wil Brant reported for the Ad Hoc Records Retention Committee, introducing the Records Retention and Preservation policy document and including a recommendation from the Committee that

it be laid down, having completed its assigned task. Report accepted; recommendations and laying down of the Committee approved.

Minute 20 Ted Kuhn presented the Treasurer's report. Expenses are in line with budget. Report accepted.

Minute 21 The Yearly Meeting approved changing the registered agent with the State of Illinois from Edward Kuhn to Judith Erickson.

Minute 22 Ted Kuhn presented the report of the Finance Committee. The Committee has worked on codifying proper procedures and documenting committee operations. Focus on increasing Annual Sessions costs has led to increasing Annual Sessions fees, with a fee reduction policy available where needed, as part of responsible management. Important support comes from both monthly meetings and individuals. The committee pursues ongoing projects in light of financial realities. Report accepted.

Minute 23 Ted Kuhn explained details of the draft budget being submitted. Proposed new positions are not included in this draft of the budget.

Minute 24 Frank Young presented the report of the Development Committee. Individual contributions, largely related to the annual appeal letter, have already exceeded the amount anticipated by the 2015 Annual Sessions. Fundraising for the two projects of improving facilities on the yearly meeting campus (campground bathhouse renovations and adding accessible bedrooms and bathrooms to Clear Creek House) in accordance with Minute 64 from the 2015 Annual Sessions has been deferred pending further clarification of the details of those projects which involve both volunteer and contracted work. In view of these coming needs, the committee has asked Nominating Committee to increase the size of the Development Committee. Development and Finance Committees recognize the need for coordination among the Treasurer and clerks to maintain donor privacy and to create guidelines for implementing the policy statement regarding access to and use of contribution and donor information. Such guidelines must be reviewed by the Finance Committee and Development Committee as well as the officers of the yearly meeting. Report accepted.

Minute 25 Reading Clerk Chris Jocius read an excerpt from the epistle from Uganda Yearly Meeting of Friends Churches.

Minute 26 Monica Tetzlaff reported for Religious Education Committee. She emphasized the importance of nurturing the spiritual life of children and their parents. This year during Annual Sessions, the FUN (Friends Under Nineteen) program has been renamed Children's Sessions. It has been coordinated by Joy Duncan, with input provided from Program Planning Committee, Peace Resources Committee, and Environmental Concerns Committee. Religious Education Committee has submitted a job description for a Children's Religious Education Coordinator Position, believing that this Coordinator position is the best way to insure that children's and parents' spiritual needs are met at Annual Sessions and other ILYM events, and that this will lead to vitality and growth in ILYM. If approved at Annual Sessions, the position would begin on October 1. Report accepted.

Minute 27 The Religious Education Committee asked to be renamed Children's Religious Education Committee. Approved.

Minute 28 Sarah Pavlovic presented the report of the Ad Hoc Property Use Committee. The Committee has brought forth a job description, as processed through spring Continuing Committee, for a caretaker of the ILYM campus. Finance Committee has taken charge of discerning the pricing of the use of Clear Creek House as it currently stands. Further work among other committees is ongoing. Report accepted.

Minute 29 After the disposition of its primary tasks, the Ad Hoc Property Use Committee feels its work as a separate committee has come to an end and recommends the laying down of the committee. Approved.

Minute 30 Brad Laird read the report of the Personnel Committee, which brings three concerns: **(a)** In light of a request for a part-time caretaker (for the yearly meeting campus) and a 1/4th time Children's Religious Education Coordinator, the Personnel Committee requests that, if either of these or any other positions are approved, the committee they are under appoint an ex-officio member to Personnel Committee, submit a working job description for the manual, and complete an annual evaluation per the personnel manual. **(b)** Because the State of Illinois distinction between employees and contractors is stricter than the federal standard, the Personnel Committee plans to revise the personnel manual to reflect this change and either collect the necessary documentation or request that positions be changed to part-time employees. **(c)** The Personnel Committee requests an increase of staff wages to \$20/hr and allow the community to contribute directly towards funding this increase. Report accepted.

Minute 31 Phyllis Reynolds reported for the representatives to the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Corporation.

Minute 32 Nancy Wallace and Nancy Duncan reported for Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC).

Minute 33 Meeting closed with expectant silence.

MINUTES OF THE THIRD SESSION, Friday, Sixth Month 24, 2016

Minute 34 The third session opened with waiting worship.

Minute 35 The Clerk welcomed the following first-time attenders from an ILYM meetings: Thomas McDonald (with his family) from Lake Forest.

Minute 36 Reading Clerk Chris Jocius read an excerpt from the epistle from Friends World Committee for Consultation (Europe and Middle East Section).

Minute 37 The clerk named the following to the Exercises Committee for this year's Annual Sessions: Alex Lippitt, Amal Tamari, and Erin Taylor.

Minute 38 Chris Jocius reported for Ministry and Advancement Committee. Regarding the size of the committee and the size of the yearly meeting, the committee is re-envisioning its opportunities and possibilities for promoting the growth of meetings and of individuals. The committee is in consonance with and supportive of the function and the work of the Field Secretary. On a practical note, the committee submitted its draft *Policy on Sexual Misconduct and Harassment* to Spring Continuing

Committee. Brad Laird read a letter that South Bend Friends had written to Quakers in Burundi. Report accepted.

Minute 39 Judy Wolicki presented her Field Secretary's report. She has traveled widely throughout the yearly meeting encouraging Friends to develop their gifts of encouragement, leadership, and mentoring. She has tried to listen and respond to the needs of which she becomes aware, including facilitating discussions and worship sharing, offering care, encouragement and resources in person and by telephone to individuals and meetings. She encouraged us to contact absent Friends and small meetings. Report accepted.

Minute 40 Peter Lasersohn reported that the Faith and Practice Committee is withdrawing the section "Recognizing Spiritual Gifts and Leadings" to allow further seasoning in accordance with Minute 15. He then read changes to the section "The Yearly Meeting" for which 2-year approval is requested. Sections "Meeting for Worship" and "Worship Groups and Preparative Meetings" are submitted for indefinite approval. Adoptions approved for the periods specified.

Minute 41 The review committee for requests for additional expenditures will be Cathy Garra, Ted Kuhn, and Ashley Miller-Berry. On behalf of the Finance Committee, Ted Kuhn and Frank Young distributed and explained information about budget impacts of proposed position and wage changes. Friends who would like to give input into this process are invited to attend the Finance Committee meeting at 4:00 pm today (Friday).

Minute 42 Chip Rorem presented the Stewards report dealing with grounds maintenance of the yearly meeting campus, particularly noting the search for a contractor now that our long-time contractor Paul Ebener has taken other full-time employment. The Stewards continue to work with Finance Committee to establish what it takes to sustain the McNabb campus. Report accepted.

Minute 43 The Clerk referred to the Maintenance and Planning Committee report which enumerated long lists of tasks accomplished and tasks to be done. Report accepted.

Minute 44 Chris Goode presented the Site Envisioning Committee report. As noted in other reports, the committee is joining the search for a new contractor on the approved but pending projects of campground bath house renovation and accessible bathroom/bedroom addition to Clear Creek House. The committee continues to pursue the Campus Plan of a few years ago, identifying the most economical and sustainable approaches to remaining projects. The committee encouraged monthly meetings to make use of the campus, spreading out activities through the year and maximizing its usefulness. The committee has continued to work with the Property Use Committee on establishing a formal caretaker arrangement for the campus. Report accepted.

Minute 45 Janice Domanik reported for Friends General Conference (FGC), which has been focusing on the most utilized programs it offers, thus fostering and nourishing collaboration among yearly and monthly meetings, growing and strengthening the Religious Society of Friends, and fostering more inclusive community. Report accepted.

Minute 46 Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) field secretary Christine Ashley spoke on behalf of the FCNL. A \$15 million capital campaign continues through 2017. Youth engagement is a high priority. Christine explained other advocacies of FCNL including climate change, immigration,

sentencing reform, etc. There is a boom effect in progress, consisting of increasing lobbying efforts nationally. FCNL works hard to ensure that its positions and activities are aligned with Friends. To that end, FCNL is seeking input from monthly meetings and other Friends organizations on its lobbying priorities for the next Congress.

Minute 47 The Clerk referred to the report from the FCNL representatives as contained in the Advance Documents.

Minute 48 Sean West reported for Publications and Distribution Committee on the status of print publications, with the Plummer Lecture backlog almost caught up. Because the yearly meeting is currently using an obsolete version of Drupal for its website, there is discussion whether to upgrade that software or to switch to using WordPress, as some constituent meetings have done. Report accepted.

Minute 49 Meeting closed with expectant silence.

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH SESSION, Saturday, Sixth Month 25, 2016

Minute 50 The fourth session opened with waiting worship.

Minute 51 Reading Clerk Chris Jocius read the 2014 epistle from the German Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.

Minute 52 The Clerk welcomed the following attender from outside ILYM: Pam Richards from Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. The Clerk welcomed first time attenders from ILYM meetings: Karen Carney, Helenmary Sheridan, and Tadd Adcox from Evanston, and Jason and Michelle Stacy from St. Louis.

Minute 53 Jan Mullen reported for Peace Resources Committee, which has been coordinating efforts throughout yearly meeting and supporting peace activities within constituent meetings around issues of discrimination or inclusion of sexual minorities, police accountability, activism to eliminate the use of torture and solitary confinement, and prison reform. The committee asks every constituent meeting in ILYM to designate a contact person for these collaborations. The committee includes a Peace Tax Fund Oversight Subcommittee. The committee is also working to pass on to the next generation the ideals of our Peace Testimony through collaboration with the Children's Religious Education Committee and efforts such as a proactive conscientious objection counseling program. The committee regularly uses online communications and internet presence in carrying out its mission. Report accepted.

Minute 54 Beth Carpenter updated the report of the Nominating Committee, identifying additions to the distributed list. Report accepted; slate approved.

Minute 55 Ted Kuhn made the second presentation from the Finance Committee, assisted by other members of that Committee. Others who are not on the committee were asked to supplement that report. Monica Tetzlaff reported that Children's Religious Education Committee has modified its request for a Children's Religious Education Coordinator to make it a one-time test period, February-June 2017, at a cost of approximately \$5,000. Chip Rorem updated the discussion of the caretaker position by identifying the job more specifically and directing attention to the search for the person or entity best

suitable to the assignment. There is still a need for balancing between the extent of the assignment and the funds available. Frank Young reported the emergence of excellent suggestions and movement in the right direction involving creative alternatives for addressing program aspirations and their funding.

Following discussion of these matters, the Presiding Clerk proposed the following minute:

Yearly Meeting approves the amended version of the 2016-17 budget that has been brought forward by the Finance Committee. The use of the \$5,000 in the Personnel Contingency line item will be decided at Continuing Committee in October. If it is determined that a temporary Children's Religious Education Coordinator can be engaged for any portion of the 2016-17 year for \$5,000 or less, that will be approved. If not, or if not all of the \$5,000 in this line item needs to be budgeted for the Children's Religious Education Coordinator, the next priority will be whatever monetary needs concerning the Caretaker position and function for 2016-17 are proposed by the Stewards and the Site Envisioning Committee at that time. Any remaining funds will be used to provide pay increases to all ILYM employees for the balance of the 2016-17 year (November 1, 2016 until June 30, 2017). We give Continuing Committee authority to authorize use of funds from the Maintenance Reserve Fund for handling Caretaker-related expenses for 2016-17 if any available funds from the Personnel Contingency line item are insufficient. The Review Committee, under the care of Finance Committee, may be asked to consider proposed additions to the Personnel Contingency line item.

The minute was approved.

Minute 56 Bruce Kanarek advanced a proposal that Finance Committee convene an ad hoc committee for the purpose of pursuing creative options regarding the tasks that a caretaker would perform on the ILYM campus. The committee would include one representative from each of Stewards, Site Envisioning, Maintenance and Planning, Finance, and Children's Religious Education Committees. The proposal will be held over until Sunday morning.

Minute 57 Carol Bartles reported an activity of Friends Meeting House Fund of Friends General Conference (FGC), namely, a national survey about the effectiveness of the fund, which now contains over \$400,000. The survey information (260 responses out of 780 participants in the survey pool) has provided valuable information about meetinghouses across the country and has given a better understanding of their needs, limitations and goals. Summary results are online with a toolbox of web resources for meetings seeking to renovate, repair, or purchase a meetinghouse.

Minute 58 Noel Pavlovic presented the Environmental Concerns Committee report. The committee noted the accidental mowing down of most of last year's osage orange tree seedlings on the west side of the campus. There has now been coordination with the mower, and many of the seedlings will be salvaged. Looking forward, the committee will consult with the Maintenance and Planning Committee and Site Envisioning Committee about future plans for the campus landscape. Noel has prepared workshops for the current Annual Sessions dealing with minimizing carbon footprint, reducing fossil fuel use, divestment from coal and oil, and providing sustainable energy. Report accepted.

Minute 59 Kate Gunnell reported for Youth Oversight Committee. The primary activities have been teen Quakes in various locations. The committee has communicated at Quakes and by phone. Progress has been manifest by the growth in individual teens, by the strong bonds created, and by the tasks this committee is assigned. Report accepted.

Minute 60 David Wixom and Nancy Halliday reported for Quaker Earthcare Witness. This national organization promotes faithful stewardship over the earth, and cooperates with other organizations having compatible programs.

Minute 61 Meeting closed with expectant silence.

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SESSION, Sunday, Sixth Month 26, 2016

Minute 62 The fourth session opened with waiting worship.

Minute 63 Bruce Kanarek read the following recommendation, revised from Minute 56:

An ad hoc committee will be convened by a member of Finance Committee for the purposes of (1) refining the most recent iteration of caretaker responsibilities and (2) researching creative ways to accomplish those duties. Membership will consist of representation from these committees: Site Envisioning, Maintenance and Planning, Children's Religious Education, Finance, and Stewards. This ad hoc committee will consult with the Clear Creek Meeting and Environmental Concerns Committee. This ad hoc committee will report its findings to the Continuing Committee. If viable solutions are found to accomplish the caretaker duties, they will be approved by Continuing Committee or during the Annual Sessions 2017. The committee will be laid down if viable solutions are not found.

Approved.

Minute 64 Chip Rorem on behalf of the Finance Committee presented the following minute:

Continuing Committee is authorized to approve expenditures of funds in the Special Gifts Fund, the Maintenance Reserve Fund, and the Property Improvement Fund for partial funding of the previously approved improvements to the bathhouse in the campground (2015 annual sessions, Minute 64). Such funds should be used to supplement contributions made specifically for this project or for projects in general. Requests for such authorization would be made by the Stewards, the Maintenance and Planning Committee, and the Finance Committee as appropriate.

Approved.

Minute 65 Fall Continuing Committee will be hosted by Clear Creek Meeting and be held at the ILYM Meetinghouse near McNabb on Saturday, October 22, 2016.

Minute 66 Friends heard epistles from the 15 month-7 year olds, 3-5th graders, 6-8th graders, high schoolers, and Adult Young Friends.

Minute 67 On behalf of the Epistle Committee (Bruce Kanarek, Brittany Koresh, and Chris Jocius), Brittany Koresh read this year's ILYM epistle, which will be sent to other yearly meetings. Approved.

Minute 68 The Exercises Committee (Erin Taylor, Amal Tamari, and Alex Lippitt) read this year's Exercises. Accepted.

Minute 69 Illinois Yearly Meeting thanks outgoing members of committees for their service to the yearly meeting, and expresses special appreciation for the steady hand of David Shiner as Presiding Clerk for the past two years. Approved.

Minute 70 ILYM expresses appreciation to Joy Duncan and all those who worked with her for enfolded the Children's Annual Sessions so successfully into the life and spirit of Illinois Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions this year. Approved.

Minute 71 The 142nd 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 ILYM Meetinghouse near McNabb on June 21-25, 2017.