

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

2010 Sessions will be held from 6/16/09 to 6/20/10
on Quaker Lane near McNabb, Illinois
at the Yearly Meetinghouse

YEARLY MEETING OFFICERS 2009 - 2010

Presiding Clerk: David Finke	Asst. Presiding Clerk: Tom Paxson	Recording Clerk: Pam Kuhn
Asst. Rec. Clerk Peter Lasersohn	Co-Treasurer: Roger Laughlin	Reading Clerk Nora Vera-Godwin
Co-Treasurer: Dawn Amos	Field Secretary: Paul Buckley	Admin. Coordinator: Sharon Haworth
Youth Coordinator: Javaughn Fernanders	Steward: Richard Ashdown	Steward: Carol Bartles
Steward: Tim Narkiewicz	Teen Co-Clerk: Rosalie Albright	Teen Co-Clerk: Mason George
Teen Rec. Clerk: Sara Raffensperger	Meetinghouse Phone 815-882-2214	ILYM web site www.ilym.org

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING 2009 NUMERICAL STRENGTH CHART

B-N	Blue River Quarterly				Metropolitan Chicago				WI Osh**	TOTALS								
	CC	Co	St.L	Sol SR ¹ U-C	DG*	Du	Ev	57*			LF	NS	OaP	RV	SB	UFV		
<u>Members & Attenders Statistics</u>																		
Average Attendance:																		
6	10	19	43	12	7	28	33	6	65	20	35	15	18	5	21	10	5	358
2	2	2	12	5	3	5	2	1	8	3	5	5	2	0	5	1	0	63
<u>Membership Statistics</u>																		
6	26	12	66	5	5	33	45	12	73	19	66	20	16	10	27	11	3	455
2	3	0	5	6	2	9	6	4	21	3	6	3	0	0	12	2	0	84
11	39	35	57	6	2	64	54	2	30	104	69	9	0	2	11	8	2	505
0	1	0	3	0	0	9	3	0	34	11	0	4	0	0	5	1	1	72
19	69	47	131	17	9	115	108	18	158	137	141	36	16	12	55	22	6	1116
17	65	47	123	11	7	97	99	14	103	123	135	29	16	12	38	19	5	960
2	4	0	8	6	2	18	9	4	55	14	6	7	0	0	17	3	1	156
<u>NEW MEMBERS</u>																		
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
0	1	1	1	1	0	2	2	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	16
0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
0	1	1	1	2	0	2	3	0	4	2	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	20
<u>LOSSES</u>																		
0	2	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	10
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
1	2	0	0	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	3	1	1	2	1	0	0	16

¹Note: SR is Spoon River Quaker Meeting, formerly Peoria-Galesburg Meeting.

SUMMARY

Blue River Quarterly	407
Metro Chicago	703
Wisconsin	6
TOTAL	1116

*Note: These meetings are affiliated with Western Yearly Meeting (Friends United Meeting) as well as YM.

**Note: Oshkosh meeting has dual affiliation with Northern Yearly Meeting (Friends General Conference).

Please note: We do not report half-membership for dually affiliated meetings. The totals represent the entire membership of Illinois Yearly Meeting.

ADDITIONS AND LOSSES BY NAME AND MEETING

ADDITIONS

BY BIRTH/ADOPTION:

Jason Jacob Mendel (Downers Grove) 6/08

BY REQUEST:

Andrew Bartles (Clear Creek) 8/08
 Stephen Halenda (Columbia) 5/09
 Steven Munier (Downers Grove) 6/08
 Jan Mullen (Downers Grove) 12/08
 Madelyn George (Evanston) 7/08
 Laura Krughoff (Evanston) 10/08
 Nicole Barker (Evanston) 10/08
 Beth Kelly (57th Street) 9/08
 Rob MacGruder (Lake Forest) 11/08

Adria Blount (St. Louis) 11/08
 Tab Gladney (South Bend) 11/08
 Mary Beth Digann (South Bend) 1/09
 Tom Casteel (South Bend) 2/09
 Tom Hensold (Southern IL) 12/08
 Peter Rohloff (Urbana-Champaign) 6/08
 Charles Cowger (Urbana-Champaign) 6/08

BY TRANSFER:

To: Southern Illinois: Maurine Pyle, from Lake Forest, 4/09
 To: 57th Street: Bruce Chenoweth, from Chicago Monthly Meeting, 7/08

LOSSES

BY DEATH:

Kristine Simon (Clear Creek) 3/09
 James Bumgarner (Clear Creek) 4/09
 Jason Jacob Mendel (Downers Grove) 8/08
 Robert Lillibridge (Lake Forest) 12/08
 Ogden Hannaford (Northside) 8/08
 Lyle Lathrop (Rock Valley) 6/08
 Doris Peters (Rock Valley) 2/09
 Verna Neidigh (South Bend) 2/09
 Joan Hicks-Cosmos (Urbana-Champaign) 10/08

BY RELEASE OR WITHDRAWAL:

Diana Malon (Downers Grove) 9/08
 Nick Pyle (Lake Forest) 1/09
 Lyle D. Lybarger (Oak Park) 7/08

BY TRANSFER:

From Bloomington-Normal: Joanna Mitchell to Athens, OH, 12/08
 From Southern Illinois: Lisa Zee to Santa Cruz, CA
 From Lake Forest: Maurine Pyle to Southern Illinois, 4/09

REGISTRATION REPORT FOR ILYM 2009

TOTAL REGISTRATION: 194

REGISTRATION BY QUARTER:

Blue River	51 Adults 15 Young Friends	Total: 66
Chicago North	50 Adults 9 Young Friends	Total: 59
Chicago South	38 Adults 14 Young Friends	Total: 52
Other	16 Adults 1 Young Friends	<u>Total: 17</u>
		194

Housing: 81 camped, 32 stayed in cabins, 10 stayed in the High School "bunkhouse", and 71 used motels or local housing.

ILYM 2009 Schedule

Theme: Simplicity

WEDNESDAY:

1:00-6 pm Registration desk open
2:00-3:30 Opening Session: Worship & Bus. Mtg.
3:30-6:00 Free time for committees & socializing
5:30-6:00 Singing on front porch
Early supper for children, kitchen volunteers
Dinner
6:00-7:00 Movie Night for Kids
7:30-9:00 Panel of ILYM Friends on Simplicity: Alice & Bill Howenstine, Jim & Ginger Kenney
7:30-8:45 New attendees meeting (meet at reg. table)
9:00 Registration desk open
8:45-9:15 Snacks
9:00-9:45

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY:

6:30-7 am Early Meeting for Worship
6:45-7:45 Breakfast
7:30 New Attenders Mtg. on Sat. (Reg. table)
8:00-9:00 Meeting for Worship
(Memorials are read at Saturday MFW)
9:00-noon Meeting for Business / Children's Program
10:30-11:30 Registration desk open
12:00-1:00 Lunch
1:30-3:45 Craft tent/Recreation
1:30-2:15 Worship Sharing Groups
2:30-3:45 Workshops
3:45-6:00 Free time for committees & socializing
5:30-6:00 Singing on front porch
Early supper for children, kitchen volunteers
Dinner
6:00-7:00

THURSDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING:

3:45-5:45 Registration desk open
7:30-8:45 Address by Hollister Knowlton (Quaker Earthcare Witness)
7:30-9:00 Campfire & Hayrack Ride
9:00-9:45 Snacks

FRIDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING:

3:45 Women's Theology Group Meeting for Worship, Business and Discussion
3:45-5:45 Registration Desk open
8:45-9:15 Registration Desk open
7:30-10 Dancing on front lawn
9:00-9:45 Snack served outside during dancing

SATURDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING:

4:00 Area Planning Groups meet
4:30-5:30 Variety Show
4:30-5:45 Registration Desk open
7:30-9:00 Young Friends Service Project
7:30-8:45 Address by Joanna Hoyt
8:45-9:15 Registration Desk open
9:00-9:45 Snacks

SUNDAY

6:30-7:30 Early Meeting for Worship
7:30-8:30 Breakfast
9:15-9:45 Registration desk open
10:00-11:00 Plummer Lecture by Janice Domanik
11:30-12:30 Meeting for Worship
12:30-1:30 Lunch
1:30 Cleanup and Farewells

Illinois Yearly Meeting

135th Annual Sessions
Sixth Month 17–21, 2009
near McNabb, Illinois

MINUTES OF THE FIRST SESSION, Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Minute 1 We opened the 135th annual sessions of Illinois Yearly Meeting in silent worship.

Minute 2 The clerk remarked on the joy and gratitude Friends experience in our gathering for worship and business, referring to a passage from Thomas Clarkson's *Portraiture of Quakerism*.

Minute 3 Traveling minutes were read for Hollister Knowlton from Chestnut Hill Monthly Meeting of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Jean-Marie Prestwidge Barch and Michael Gibson from Friends General Conference, and William Alsup from Mountain View Friends Meeting of Intermountain Yearly Meeting. We also welcomed Ginger and Jim Kenney from Friends Committee on National Legislation, as well as first-time attenders from within Illinois Yearly Meeting.

Minute 4 Excerpts were read of epistles from Britain Yearly Meeting, Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association, and Northwest Yearly Meeting.

Minute 5 The clerk announced the membership of the Clerk's Committee as Dawn Amos, David Finke, Margaret Katranides, Pam Kuhn, and Peter Lasersohn.

Minute 6 Minutes 1–5 were read and approved.

Minute 7 Dawn Amos reported for the Publications Committee (see p. 36). The committee has met its usual charge of publishing our annual minute book, *Among Friends* magazine and Plummer lectures, as well as maintaining the meeting web site. The committee seeks advice from Friends on ways to take advantage of recent developments in electronic communications, and on what functions are still best served by ink-and-paper publications. In ensuing comments, Friends expressed the continued importance of hard-copy materials, but also noted the value of web sites in helping newcomers find our meetings.

Minute 8 Peter Lasersohn reported for the Faith and Practice Committee. The committee has been working on writing the Illinois Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice book. They have been concentrating on two sections this year. One of the sections on which the Committee has been working is a section called "Organization and Structure of Meetings" (see p. 55). At today's session, the committee read the following sections: "Community of Friends" and portions of "The Monthly Meeting." Friends are urged to send comments and feedback to the committee. (It is most useful to have it in writing.)

Minute 9 Minutes 7–8 were read and approved.

Minute 10 Paul Buckley presented the Field Secretary's report (see p. 30). Paul has visited 17 meetings and worship groups over the past year, and conducted several

workshops and a retreat. He notes that many meeting places are hard to find, and urges meetings to get better signs. Friends expressed their gratitude to Paul for all his work over the year.

Minute 11 Following announcements, Minute 10 was read and approved.

MINUTES OF THE SECOND SESSION, Thursday, June 18, 2009

Minute 12 The session opened in worship.

Minute 13 We welcomed Joanna Hoyt from Portland (Maine) Monthly Meeting and Jackie Speicher from Right Sharing of World Resources, as well as first-time attenders from within Illinois Yearly Meeting.

Minute 14 Excerpts were read of epistles from Friends Committee on National Legislation, Southeastern Yearly Meeting, and the junior high group of New England Yearly Meeting.

Minute 15 Roy Treadway reported for the Environmental Concerns Committee (see p. 26). The committee has been working with the planners of new buildings to incorporate “green” building features. They have also worked to increase the use of environmentally friendly products in yearly meeting facilities, and recommend the appointment of a recycling coordinator at our annual sessions. The committee is developing a map of the trees on the yearly meeting grounds, and is considering the possibility of installing an environmentally friendly roof over the kitchen. The committee has also advocated for sustainable practices in the wider society.

Minute 16 Elizabeth Mertic reported for the Nominating Committee (see p. 112). Several amendments were made to the nominations reported in the Advance Documents. Friends appoint Nora Vera-Godwin, Wil Brant and Jeannie Marvin to the Epistle Committee; and Sarah Raffensperger, Jan Mullen and Patricia McMillen to the Exercises Committee.

Minute 17 David Finke reported for the Naming Committee. They propose Sarah Pavlovic as clerk of the Nominating Committee, and nominate Michael Dennis and Mira Tanna for three-year terms. Friends approve.

Minute 18 Minutes 12–17 were read and approved.

Minute 19 Peter Lasersohn reported for the Faith and Practice Committee. A full report is included in the minute book (see p. 27). The committee received with regret the resignation of its longtime member Bob Wixom, and the committee approved the following minute. “Faith and Practice Committee deeply appreciates Bob Wixom’s long service on this committee, his willingness to travel the furthest, and his openness to the leadings of the Spirit in our work. We remember his attention to detail and the good humor he brought to our work. We will feel his absence keenly and we wish him the best.”

The Faith and Practice committee reminds Friends that the text of all approved sections and circulating drafts are available on the ILYM web site, and urges monthly meetings to add links to this material on their own web sites. The committee needs input from a broad segment of the yearly meeting in the process of developing our own Faith and Practice book.

The Committee brought forward the section on “Friends’ Manner of Decision-Making” for approval for an indefinite period (see p. 47). The committee read this section to the body. The meeting brought forward minor changes which were approved. The committee is asked to add a sentence or two concerning the clerk’s impartiality. Friends approve the section with the understanding that some additional editorial changes may be made.

The meeting thanked the committee for their care and work on this section.

Minute 20 Minute 19 was read and approved.

Minute 21 Noting that Bob Wixom is absent from our sessions this year, and that health concerns may prevent his attendance in the future, Friends spoke from the silence expressing their gratitude for his contributions to the yearly meeting community. Bob has brought a joyful attitude to all that he has done here, whether sharing his photographs, leading the annual Quaker Family Float Trips, interacting with young people, or sharing his knowledge of the natural world. Friends note his profound boldness in always speaking the truth as he sees it, tempered by ease and flexibility in taking feedback from others. Bob served as clerk of the yearly meeting; his work on the Environmental Concerns and Faith and Practice Committees has been extensive. We were reminded that Bob served as a conscientious objector in World War II, was imprisoned for draft resistance, and suffered significant financial and other consequences due to his resulting felony conviction.

Minute 22 Chip Rorem reported for the Site Envisioning and Development Committee (see p. 38). Approximately \$81,000 has been raised towards the proposed new buildings, including about \$59,000 this year. The Clear Creek challenge has been met, including \$20,000 in donations from individuals and \$20,000 in matching funds from Clear Creek Meeting. Clear Creek has also pledged \$50,000, for a total of \$90,000. Construction documents have been completed for the first dormitory and Clear Creek meeting space, and design documents have been prepared for the kitchen and dining hall. Construction bids for the first dormitory have been received, ranging from \$650,000 to \$1,000,000; costs are currently estimated at \$850,000. A business study has been conducted to assess the viability of a for-profit retreat center, and has led the committee to believe that such a retreat center will not pay for itself. The committee is concerned that fundraising has fallen short: the original goal was \$2.1 million. The committee feels that all funds need to be raised for each building before its construction begins.

The committee informs us that the six-acre lot to the immediate west of the meetinghouse, including the house and several outbuildings, is available for sale. Several Friends have toured the house; it has also been professionally inspected and is in generally good condition. The asking price is \$150,000; the property has been appraised at \$147,000. Clear Creek Meeting has placed earnest money to secure the right of first refusal. The Site Envisioning and Development Committee recommends that Illinois Yearly Meeting acquire the property.

Minute 23 Minutes and messages were read from Clear Creek Meeting, the Maintenance and Planning Committee, the Stewards, the Environmental Concerns Committee and Fifty-Seventh Street Meeting, all expressing support for purchase of property, as well as a message from the Finance Committee outlining issues to be resolved before any purchase. Clear Creek Meeting is willing to redirect its earlier

contribution of \$50,000 for new buildings toward the purchase of this property, as well as any funds it contributed to match donations by individuals who accept this redirection. Fifty-Seventh Street Meeting offers an intermediate-term interest-free loan of \$10,000–\$25,000.

Minute 24 Kent Busse gave a brief presentation on the National Religious Campaign Against Torture, and directed Friends toward information on the Campaign's activities.

MINUTES OF THE THIRD SESSION, Friday, June 19, 2009

Minute 25 The session opened in worship.

Minute 26 Excerpts were read of epistles from the Quaker Volunteer Service Consultation, New York Yearly Meeting, Australia Yearly Meeting, and from the Young Friends Camp in Australia.

Minute 27 Minutes 20–26 were read and approved.

Minute 28 Pam Kuhn reported for the Finance Committee. The committee proposes a revision to the description of the Finance Committee in the Handbook (see p. 28), which Friends approve.

Minute 29 Cathy Garra reported for the Finance Committee (see p. 28). The yearly meeting has received good financial support from monthly meetings, and good assistance from yearly meeting committees in developing the yearly meeting budget.

The committee has prepared an estimate of the funds needed to acquire the property to the west of the meetinghouse: the purchase price is assumed to be \$147,000. Approximately \$10,000 in improvements are needed. Annual operating costs are estimated at \$3000. Deferred maintenance costs are estimated to average \$15,000 annually, for a total of \$18,000 in annual costs. The total needed to proceed is estimated at \$175,000. Assuming a redirection of Clear Creek Meeting's \$50,000 contribution and of \$30,000 in individual pledges and matching funds from Clear Creek, recent pledges of \$2000, Property Improvement Funds of \$7000, and special gifts funds of \$8000, we have approximately \$97,000 in funds available, leaving \$78,000 to be raised before proceeding. A substantial portion of this could be borrowed from existing funds, if we were assured of our ability to raise the money to pay it back. If the purchase proceeds, the committee proposes an increase of 20% (\$40) in the recommended donation from monthly meetings, to \$240 per resident adult member, to cover the increased maintenance costs.

Minute 30 Dawn Amos presented the Treasurer's Report (see pp. 20-22). Net cash assets total \$128,536.17, including unrestricted, designated, and restricted funds. Net income this year has totaled \$13,084.98. Expenses have closely matched our budget.

Minute 31 Roger Laughlin presented the budget proposal, totaling \$101,000 in income and expenses. The budget includes a smaller transfer to the Deferred Maintenance Fund, and increased contributions to outside organizations (see pp. 24-25).

Minute 32 Minutes 27–31 were read and approved.

Minute 33 Peter Albright and Javaughn Fernanders reported for the Youth Oversight Committee (see p. 39). A gathering was held Labor Day Weekend, including a teen clerking workshop and other activities. The Quake that Rocked the Midwest was held in Evanston during Martin Luther King Day weekend. Proceeds from T-shirt sales were used to support Young Friends' travel to FGC Gathering and the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage. Mason George is the new teen co-clerk, and Sarah Rafensperger the recording clerk. The teens have made improvements to the bunkhouse, including insulation and interior paneling. A Quake is proposed for Downers Grove in November and the Quake that Rocked the Midwest is planned again for Evanston. New procedures have been developed for Young Friends returning to ILYM activities after having been asked to leave, including query responses.

Rose Dennis reported that the teen group is donating money to Project Lakota in place of taking a trip this year. The Young Friends have offered a challenge to the adults, to match donations up to a total of \$1000. Friends may also support them through T-shirt, tote bag and bath salt sales.

Minute 34 Patricia McMillen reported for the Peace Resources Committee (see p. 31). The committee has been exploring the idea that Illinois Yearly Meeting publicly and annually recognize individuals or organizations who have made significant contributions to the understanding and furthering of peace in our world, and requests that the yearly meeting appoint a committee to further season this idea and move it toward reality. In ensuing discussion, some Friends expressed discomfort with the idea of systematically recognizing individual accomplishment in this way. Not finding unity, Friends laid the proposal aside for further seasoning.

Minute 35 Minutes 32–35 were read and approved.

Minute 36 Peter Lasersohn reported for the Faith and Practice Committee concerning changes to the section on “Friends’ Manner of Decision-Making”. The meeting approves the change concerning the clerk’s impartiality. The committee will be bringing the “Organization and Structure of Meetings” section to monthly meetings in the coming year. It asks monthly meetings to consider it and to submit comments to the committee. Peter read one subsection on monthly meetings to the body.

Minute 37 Minute 36 was read and approved.

Minute 38 David Wixom presented a concern from Blue River Quarterly Meeting, regarding conditions at the Correctional Center in Tamms, Illinois. Friends unite in adopting the following minute:

Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, in keeping with Friends’ abiding concern for the humane treatment of prisoners since the earliest days of the Religious Society of Friends, supports efforts to limit the use of solitary confinement in prisons throughout Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, and Wisconsin, including, particularly, Tamms Correctional Center, the “supermax” prison in Tamms, IL. It also supports efforts to establish clear criteria and procedural safeguards for transfer of prisoners to and from that prison.

Tamms Supermax prison opened a decade ago as a one- to two-year behavior modification program for violent or disruptive inmates from other Illinois prisons. However, no clear criteria or procedural safeguards were set

for which inmates may be transferred to Tamms or when and how they might be returned to the general prison population.

Today, the prison holds about 250 men in near-total and indefinite isolation. A third of these inmates have been at Tamms for more than a decade and many are mentally ill. They are held in solitary confinement and allowed no communal activity, no phone calls, and no contact visits.

Such solitary confinement is considered a form of torture by international human rights groups, as well as a violation of the Geneva Conventions on the humane treatment of prisoners. Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have singled out Tamms and have called on the Illinois Department of Corrections to make immediate changes.

Gov. Pat Quinn and his new corrections director, Michael Randle, now say they will investigate Tamms. And, over the past two years, state Rep. Julie Hamos has proposed legislation to establish limits on solitary confinement and clear guidelines for sentencing to Tamms.

Illinois Yearly Meeting supports Rep. Hamos' efforts and urges Gov. Quinn and Corrections Director Randle to move forward on reforming Tamms Correctional Center.

The clerk will send a letter to Gov. Quinn including a copy of this minute and a request that the governor report back to Illinois Yearly Meeting with respect to his efforts to investigate Tamms Correctional Center, to humanize the conditions there, and to establish clear criteria and procedural safeguards for transfer of prisoners to and from that prison.

Minute 39 The clerk read a report from the ad hoc committee to explore the advisability of establishing a personnel committee (see p. 35). The committee recommends the establishment of a formal personnel committee including an independent clerk and members as well as representatives from the Finance Committee and each of the oversight committees for the individual staff members. Friends unite with this recommendation and ask the Nominating Committee to bring forward names of three individuals to serve staggered terms as independent members of the Personnel Committee at the next session of the Continuing Committee. The Finance and staff oversight committees are also requested to bring forward the names of their representatives at that time. The work of the ad hoc committee now being complete, it is laid down.

Minute 40 Minutes 37–39 were read and approved.

Minute 41 Dottie Churchwell made a brief presentation on Camp Woodbrooke, a Friends camp in Wisconsin. The camp has a close relation with Northern Yearly Meeting and would like further to develop its relation with Illinois Yearly Meeting. Friends are encouraged to consider this camp as an opportunity for their children.

Minute 42 Chip Rorem announced that challenge grants of \$5000 and \$10,000 have been offered for contributions made before the end of our sessions this year, toward the acquisition of the property to the west of the meetinghouse.

Minute 43 Minutes 40–42 were read and approved.

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH SESSION, Saturday, June 20, 2009

Minute 44 The session opened in silent worship.

Minute 45 We welcomed first-time attenders to Illinois Yearly Meeting.

Minute 46 Friends approve the budget as presented earlier by Roger Laughlin.

Minute 47 The clerk read a report from the Peace Tax Fund Committee (see p. 33). In order to transfer the signature authority for this fund to the new clerk of the committee, the bank in which the Peace Tax Fund is deposited has requested a new form requiring a signature from the secretary of the Illinois Yearly Meeting corporation. The committee has consulted with Fred R. Dettmer, an attorney, war tax resister, and member of New York Yearly Meeting, regarding the liability this might create for the yearly meeting. In Fred's view, Illinois Yearly Meeting's intimate connection with and control over the fund is undeniable, even without this signature; at the same time, ILYM's liability is likely to be very limited. The committee therefore recommends that ILYM complete and submit the Corporate Resolutions form to Shore Bank without delay, enabling the committee to resume management of the fund. Friends unite with this recommendation and direct the officers of the Illinois Yearly Meeting corporation to complete and sign the form.

The committee also reports that the records of the Peace Tax Fund have been lost in an automobile burglary. The committee will contact past depositors to try to reconstruct its records.

Minute 48 Paul Buckley reported for the ad hoc committee appointed to gather information on Friends' views regarding the date of our yearly meeting. The committee conducted a survey to determine the relative availability of Friends in June and July. The committee received over 100 responses but found that an equal number of Friends were unable to meet in June as in July; among those who could meet in either month, more expressed a preference for June. Friends approve retaining on an ongoing basis our recent schedule of meeting from the third Wednesday in June through the following Sunday.

Minute 49 Minutes 44–48 were read and approved.

Minute 50 David Finke reported that our usual date for the fall 2009 meeting of the Continuing Committee conflicts with the Friends General Conference Central Committee meeting. In discussion it became clear that alternative dates also had conflicts; the decision was left in the hands of the incoming clerk.

Minute 51 Chip Rorem announced for the Site Envisioning and Development Committee that during the last 12 hours, sufficient funds have been raised to proceed with the purchase of the property to the west of the meetinghouse.

Minute 52 Cathy Garra reported for the Finance Committee more specifically that gifts and pledges have been received during our sessions from 32 families, including \$13,967 in gifts already received and pledges of \$73,355, for a total of \$87,322. This exceeds the stated minimum needed to proceed with the purchase, with a small additional cushion.

If the purchase proceeds, the committee recommends the appointment of an ad hoc committee to "get to know" the new property, including members of Clear Creek

Meeting, the Maintenance and Planning Committee, the Site Envisioning and Development Committee and the Stewards.

Minute 53 In free and full discussion, Friends unite in approving purchase of the property for a price not exceeding \$147,000.

Minute 54 Elizabeth Mertic reported several amendments to the Nominating Committee Report (see p. 112). Friends approve the nominations as reported and appoint the Friends listed to the positions for which they were nominated.

Minute 55 Friends approve the appointment of an ad hoc committee as recommended by the Finance Committee, with the addition of representation from the Environmental Concerns Committee, and asks the relevant committees to appoint their representatives. The representative from the Site Envisioning and Development Committee is instructed to convene the first meeting of the ad hoc committee.

Minute 56 Friends approve increasing the recommended annual contribution from monthly meetings to Illinois Yearly Meeting to \$240 per adult resident member.

Minute 57 Minutes 49–56 were read and approved.

Minute 58 Elke Narkiewicz reported for the Religious Education Committee (see p. 37). A workshop with Michael Gibson, FGC Religious Education Coordinator, will be held October 9–10 in Urbana.

Minute 59 Nora Vera-Godwin reported as ILYM representative to the American Friends Service Committee corporation. For details on AFSC activities over the past year, see the attached report (p. 40). AFSC is experiencing a significant downturn in donations, and expects to have to reduce its size and programs correspondingly.

Minute 60 Charley Earp reported as ILYM representative to Friends General Conference Central Committee (see p. 42).

Minute 61 David Shiner reported for the Ministry and Advancement Committee (see p. 29). The ad hoc Discernment of Gifts Committee has not completed its work; the Ministry and Advancement Committee therefore requests its extension for an additional year. Friends approve. Northside Meeting has experienced notable success in the relaunch of its web site. A workshop on improving the web presence of Friends Meetings entitled “Signage for the 21st Century” is tentatively scheduled for October 24; it is hoped that all meetings in ILYM will send representatives.

Minute 62 Friends continue our endorsement of Carolyn Treadway and Beth Burbank’s work as pastoral counselors.

Minute 63 Minutes 57–62 were read and approved.

Minute 64 Wil Rutt reported as ILYM representative to Friends Committee on National Legislation (see p. 41). FCNL activities played a major role in the elimination of funding of a proposed new nuclear bomb and a one-year ban on the export of cluster bombs, and in the passage by the Senate of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. FCNL has now distributed more than one million “War is not the Answer” signs and bumper stickers.

Minute 65 Dawn Amos reported as ILYM representative to Friends World Committee for Consultation (see p. 44). This organization nurtures the spiritual community of Friends worldwide in all its diversity. Budget shortfalls are severe and staff have been laid off; Friends are urged to support this organization.

Minute 66 Alice Howenstine reported as ILYM representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness. QEW continues to educate on a variety of environmental issues. Support is particularly requested in petitioning the president on climate justice issues in preparation for the upcoming Copenhagen conference on climate change.

Minute 67 A suggestion was raised that the ILYM representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness be made an ex officio member of the Environmental Concerns Committee, and that the representatives to Friends Committee on National Legislation and the American Friends Service Committee be made ex officio members of the Peace Resources Committee. Friends urge the Environmental Concerns and Peace Resources Committees to consider this possibility; we will take it up again in the Continuing Committee.

Minute 68 Minutes 63–67 were read and approved.

The Fifth Session, First Day Morning

Minute 69 The session opened in silent worship.

Minute 70 The clerk reported the recent and sudden death of Tom Mullen of Richmond, Indiana, and asked that his family be held in the Light.

Minute 71 We heard outgoing epistles from the Fireflies, 6–8 year olds, 9–11 year olds, Middle School Friends, High School Friends and Adult Young Friends (see pp. 17-19).

Minute 72 We heard and approved the adults' outgoing epistle (see p. 16).

Minute 73 We heard and approved the exercises (see p. 15).

Minute 74 Minutes 69–73 were read and approved.

Minute 75 Friends expressed their deep gratitude for the skillful and loving service of Tom Paxson during his term as clerk of Illinois Yearly Meeting. We appreciate his gift of plain speaking, his leadership through our transition issues, and his timely and passionate response in advocating for death penalty concerns. He has exemplified quiet confidence and good humor in the face of our provocations.

Minute 76 Minute 75 was read and approved.

Minute 77 Friends express their gratitude for Peter Lasersohn's work as recording clerk.

Minute 78 We then concluded the 135th annual sessions of Illinois Yearly Meeting.

EXERCISES

Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends (ILYM) met for Annual Sessions this year from June 17 to June 21. We had 110 for dinner on Wednesday night, our numbers growing steadily to our full registration of roughly 200, including nine Adult Young Friends. Despite intermittent thunderstorms and wind, our pleasure in seeing others from far-flung corners of our Yearly Meeting area, the presence of interesting speakers and visitors, and a well-focused, well-timed program on the theme of “Simplicity” warmed our collective hearts and gave us renewed strength and growth in our common faith and practice.

Highlights of our Meeting for Business included endorsement of a resolution requesting reforms of the “Supermax” prison at Tamms, Illinois, whose use of solitary confinement and lack of criteria for release back into a general prison population violate Geneva Conventions on the humane treatment of prisoners; and authorization of the Yearly Meeting’s purchase of six acres, including a house and several out-buildings, immediately west of the historic Meetinghouse at McNabb, Illinois.

Program highlights included presentations by two long-married Quaker couples, sharing insights on our theme; Hollister Knowlton from Quaker Earthcare Witness; Jackie Speicher from Right Sharing of World Resources; Joanna Hoyt from Portland, Maine Monthly Meeting; and Lake Forest Friend Janice Domanik, giving our traditional Sunday morning Plummer Lecture. Adult Friends also enjoyed daily worship-sharing and chose among an average of nine afternoon workshops per day; children worked on art projects, nature learning and play activities with others of similar age.

We regretted the absence of our longtime member, Bob Wixom (Columbia, MO Monthly Meeting), due to health considerations; but welcomed our newest Young Friend, Hannah Maria Laird, who nestled in the arms of too many to count.

Our energetic High School Friends (numbering ten at Annual Sessions) designed and sold t-shirts, tote bags, and bath salts to raise money for Project Lakota. By challenging adult Friends to match what they earned, they raised over \$1000 for Project Lakota’s fine work. Other highlights of the High School program included: a multi-generational activity, Meeting for Worship with Attention to Art; a clowning workshop; putting up the tipi; and “pudding shenanigans,” an activity which substituted for the traditional out trip, generating savings which will help send several ILYM youth to FGC in Blacksburg, VA later this month.

And on one or two clear evenings, we were blessed with hundreds of fireflies, flashing in magical random patterns in the small natural prairie we planted several years ago on a newly-acquired acre of land just west of our historic Meeting House. We are, surely, deeply blessed by one another, and by God.

- Respectfully submitted by Patricia McMillen, Jan Mullen
and Sarah Raffensperger

RATES FOR USE OF ILYM FACILITIES

Facilities are available April 15—October 15

Site fee for ILYM groups:	\$ 25
Site fee for non-ILYM groups:	\$ 50
Fee per person, per night:	\$ 5
Maximum fee per ILYM group:	\$500
Gas and electric startup fee, and dumpster fee (at cost, according to size) if necessary.	

EPISTLES

2009 Epistle of Illinois Yearly Meeting

To Friends Everywhere,

We send our greetings of hope and peace from the 135th annual session of Illinois Yearly meeting near McNabb, Illinois. In the context of economic difficulty, ecological degradation and international unrest, we gathered together guided by the testimony of simplicity to reflect upon the challenges that our experiences have brought forth, including our feelings of being overburdened with a perceived need to respond to everything. Through the testimony of simplicity we sought out the courage to respond to the challenges that surround us and to identify how to efficiently use our personal energy to address those challenges that speak to us individually. While many of our monthly meetings, in addition to the world around us, are experiencing various types of anxious transitions, we are comforted with the realization that Spirit-led engagement in such transitional moments can provide opportunities for spiritual growth and a deepening of our Quaker witness to the world.

Through worship, panel discussions, workshops, worship sharing, speaker presentations and fellowship, we explored the difficulty of living out the testimony of simplicity. Hollister Knowlton, clerk of Quaker Earthcare Witness of North America, addressed us with a message of simple, faithful environmentalism and urged us to reconsider our relationship to the Earth including practicing discernment on all our actions and purchases as they profoundly affect the health and survival of the earth and all its inhabitants. Joanna Hoyt, member of Portland, Maine, Friends Meeting who engages in sustainable agriculture/forestry and presence/listening/practical help to neighbors and guests at St. Francis Farm, presented “Being Freed Into and Through Simplicity” in which she shared her testimony of what led her to live a simple life. She identified fears that challenge her and others in living simply and presented the antidote to fearful living to be faithful living, which requires the constant practice of making Spirit-led choices. She shared how she came to the realization that there is no security in what we can build up by ourselves and that all are safe because we are in God’s hands or none are safe at all. Through her presentation and presence at annual session we were challenged to identify that which is essential to our connection with the Divine and how that connection helps us find our own leadings and responses to our own fears.

In preparing for annual session, one issue of hope and anxious transition was to be the funding for construction of much needed buildings for the meeting grounds. However within weeks of the start of annual session an unexpected way opened. A property adjacent to the meeting grounds was offered up for sale. The purchase of this property would provide a possible immediate response to the need for one of the additional buildings as well as double the size of the meeting grounds, potentially allowing for a better layout of new buildings and additional opportunities for other projects. At the business session that the purchase was proposed, funds that had been raised for the new buildings project that could be applied to the purchase would only cover about 55% of the costs needed for acquiring the new property. Encouraged by various challenge gifts, we obtained funds for the remaining portion of purchase costs before the beginning of the next day’s business session. We finished our annual session with refreshed energy toward our vision of the new buildings project and our spiritual growth as a yearly meeting.

A message we would like to share with you is this: Let us be mindful of simplicity as it allows us to refocus our efforts from just doing in response to what we see in the world around us to allowing us to refresh the spiritual foundation and leading of our actions. Let us become self-conscious of tendencies to substitute action in the world for divine relationship in our hearts and minds. Let us remember that our faithful responses to the circumstances around us should be based on a simple thought from Friends' practice: from turning inward comes forth outward action. And finally, let us be aware that the difficult aspect of this simple spiritual practice is not the listening to and receiving of inward guidance but in our setting things aside except for that guidance.

Yours in the Light,
Illinois Yearly Meeting

Adult Young Friends Epistle 2009:

“To Friends Everywhere”

By the AYFers of ILYM

Jesus is pretty
Here is our epistle-ditty
Our meeting in June 2009
Was more than fine
Our theme this year was simplicity
We gathered in felicity
We found the divine
In rain and sunshine
New members and old alike
Came to gather in the Light
We are the swirl of I(L)YM
Mixing together every age of Friends
Workshops and hiking both abounded
Although by storms we were surrounded
In Meeting for Business we all support
Friend William's journey; thus we show rapport
We've served your meals and hosted your shows
And done things that nobody else ever knows
We engaged in high adventure
(Though one of us nearly lost a denture)
We crafted with kids and we kidded with crafts
Our love for each other is like a raft
We climbed up canyons and dove through waterfalls
Seeing frogs, flowers, toads, snakes, and deer all
And as ILYM draws to an end
We look forward to when we'll next see Friends:
Indiana Dunes at the end of the summer
So our parting now is not such a bummer.

High School Friends Epistle

Once upon a time, six small Quakers: Quirky Quinn, Delectable Delia, Ludicrous Liz, Splendiferous Sara, Moose-Head Mason, Ravishing Rose, and one ginormous Jonathan the Quaker, gathered for a redundant rule meeting on Fourth Day. Suddenly an ominous wind blew in a menacing storm. But luckily, Ravishing Rose brought (dun dun DUNNN) **THE POWER FAN**, which drowned out the storm.

The next chilly morning brought a snooze-able but productive meeting, which led to the appointment of new co-clerk Moose-Head Mason and recording clerk Splendiferous Sara. A shining chariot from the kingdom of FedEx arrived later that day with the long awaited treasures. The magical suits of armor contained within were sold for seventeen measly ducats for Project Lakota. Around the campfire, Rosalie, the magical fairy, fluttered in, gracing them with her glittery presence. That night, Princess Splendiferous Sara, from the town of Quinndalin, experienced story time about a bodacious dragon.

On Sixth Day, many minutes of their lives were dedicated to deciding our Quaking adventures. The next scheduled escapade for the day was when Moose-Head Mason taught them to bring out their inner clown. This enchanted day took a spectacular turn towards Worship for Art. Following this silent expression of creativity, Emily the Unicorn, along with Jenny the Jubilant Kitty and Andrew the Dragon frolicked into the grassy knoll. All of a sudden, a monsoon rumbled into the magical lands. It threatened to cancel the ball, but fortunately the festivities were moved into the castle. A jolly good time and watermelon was had by all.

Seventh Day arose with paper-making led by Sorceress Diane Dennis. Early afternoon, they gathered their capital F Friends for the pinnacle of their week: PUD-DING SHENANIGANS! (It was so much fricken fun!) <All freak out>. The fairy godfather, Famous Amos, hosed away the pudding grime. They all galloped their sparkling selves to the grand hall for a variety of entertainment. Later, hours were spent slaved over dishes to show their appreciation for Godly Zach's pristine cuisine. After a long night of CELEBRAAATION, the Friends all came together for a feast of pizza and nachos with lurking AYF vultures waiting to consume our royal feast.

At the break of dawn, the fiery ball shattered the darkness and illuminated the world in an ocean of light.

And then all the little Quakers, one ginormous Quaker and their magical Friends lived happily ever after.

Middle School Young Friends Epistle

We enjoyed many fun activities based around the testimony of simplicity. We started on Wednesday by reading and discussing passages about simplicity from *Faith & Practice*. Then we watched the movie *Nim's Island* and found similarities as to what we had been reading in *Faith & Practice*. Next we worked with Hollister Knowlton on our ecological footprint. We compared the fair share of bioproductive land and the world average against the average footprints of several countries. We discovered our country's footprint is the second largest in the world and noticed, to our dismay, our food footprint alone was already above the fair share.

Meredith said, and we quote, "A lengthy epistle is a waste of paper," so we decided to wrap it up here.

In simplicity, - Murphy, Claire, Gabe, and Helen (With help from Meredith!)

Epistle from the Young Friends aged 9-11

Epistle from the 9-11 year old group at our Yearly Quaker Gathering.

The participants in our group are: Laure, Margaux, Jesse, Marlana and Jackson.

Everything we did was fun. We made dream catchers out of sticks and yarn and we used natural materials, such as mulberries, dandelions, hackberries and dirt to paint pictures.

We also went on a nature walk and looked at trees and prairie plants. After we did all of this we passed out snacks to the other groups.

Before class started, we sang songs with the smaller kids. We visited the Junior High group and, together, we found out that Americans take 5 times their fair share for their ecological footprint.

We hope we learned something about simplicity.

Epistle from the Young Friends aged 6-8

This is the Epistle from the six- to eight-year-olds class at the Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends, on June 22, 2009.

We are meeting on the prairie in Illinois in the United States of America. We had rain, lightning, thunder, and wind. There was a tornado sighting.

We are talking about care of the earth. We found bugs and plants. We learned their names and what they do for us. We found a Crane Fly. We saw fireflies. Some of us caught them and put them in our bug boxes.

We learned about reducing, reusing, and recycling. We learned about pollution – and that the trees help us. Later in the week it was sunny and warm.

Epistle from the Young Friends aged 3-5

We had fun.

We worked and cleaned the bathroom.

We played Jack and the Beanstalk.

We know about recycling, too.

- Love, from the Fireflies

**Illinois Yearly Meeting - Monthly Meeting
Contributions**

July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Building Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>
Bloomington-Normal	854.00	300.00	1,154.00
Clear Creek	5,200.00	70,000.00	75,200.00
Columbia	3,200.00		3,200.00
Downers Grove	5,000.00		5,000.00
Duneland	1,600.00		1,600.00
Evanston	13,400.00	500.00	13,900.00
57th Street	1,800.00		1,800.00
Lake Forest	13,800.00	6,600.00	20,400.00
Milwaukee	2,400.00		2,400.00
Northside	933.00		933.00
Oak Park	3,400.00	1,000.00	4,400.00
Oshkosh	100.00		100.00
Rock Valley	1,200.00		1,200.00
Rolla	200.00	300.00	500.00
South Bend	4,800.00		4,800.00
Southern Illinois	996.00		996.00
Spoon River	1,000.00		1,000.00
St. Louis	12,918.75		12,918.75
Upper Fox Valley	1,500.00		1,500.00
Urbana-Champaign	6,600.00		6,600.00
Total	\$80,901.75	\$78,700.00	\$159,601.75

TRAVEL POLICY

Friends are not to be hindered from traveling on ILYM business as official representatives or committee members due to lack of funds. However, in view of the limited amount of funds available in the budget for this purpose, the Travel Fund should be used according to the following guidelines:

1. Requests for travel funds should be made well in advance to the Treasurer.
2. The amount to be advanced or reimbursed is based on the current IRS business rate per automobile mile (50.5 cents per mile in 2008) or reasonable commercial fares. Friends are encouraged to be prudent.
3. Conference registration fees may be reimbursed.
4. Any ordinary expenses for food or lodging may be reimbursed.
5. Questions of travel reimbursement for committee business should be cleared through that committee in advance of the travel and reported to the Treasurer.
6. Friends World Committee for Consultation Triennial travel will be handled from its own fund.

Illinois Yearly Meeting
Statement of Financial Position/Balance Sheet
June 30, 2009

	To Date	Opening Balance
	6/30/2009	7/1/2008
Assets		
Cash		
Checking Account	68,440.54	53,000.15
Certificates of Deposit	28,697.82	27,867.32
Friends Meetinghouse Fund	10,000.00	10,000.00
Money Market Fund	35,165.81	42,966.97
Total Cash	142,304.17	133,834.44
Undeposited funds		116.27
Total Assets	142,304.17	133,950.71
 Liabilities		
Accounts Payable		18,499.52
Loans from Individuals	1,000.00	
Total Liabilities	1,000.00	18,499.52
 Net Assets		
Unrestricted Undesignated	34,681.54	40,261.82
Unrestricted Designated	77,084.01	53,070.29
Restricted	29,538.62	22,119.08
Total Net Assets	141,304.17	115,451.19
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	142,304.17	133,950.71

Note: Because it is difficult to appraise, the value of the McNabb site (land and buildings) is omitted from the Assets section of this report. An additional tract including six acres with a house and outbuildings was purchased June 2009.

NET ASSETS BY FUND

For the period 7/1/2008 - 6/30/2009

	UNRESTRICTED by Donors or Business Meeting	DESIGNATED by ILYM Business Meeting				RESTRICTED by Donors		Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
	Not Designated	Special Gifts	Payroll Reserves	FWCC WorldMtgs	Deferred Maint.	Property Improvement	Matched Bldg Fund	
Beginning Balance	40,261.82	15,870.29	36,000.00	1,200.00	-	22,119.08	-	115,451.19
Net Assets 6/30/2008								
Income								
Contributions-IND	6,200.00	3,300.00				51,895.33		61,395.33
Contributions-MTG	80,901.75					7,480.00		88,381.75
"Mills" property ctrbs-IND						74,347.00	18,780.00	93,127.00
"Mills" property ctrbs-MTG						70,000.00	1,220.00	71,220.00
AM 09 Income	13,040.25							13,040.25
Other Registrations	4,748.12							4,748.12
Interest	1,923.22					667.10		2,590.32
Other	2,783.42					969.30		3,752.72
Total Income	109,596.76	3,300.00	-	-	-	205,358.73	20,000.00	338,255.49
Expenses								
Operating								
Salaries & Payroll	(38,222.84)							(38,222.84)
Travel (Staff)	(3,485.68)							(3,485.68)
Travel (IYM Reps)	(5,012.54)							(5,012.54)
AM 09 Expenses	(11,585.15)							(11,585.15)
Other Programs	(4,282.60)							(4,282.60)
Insurance	(3,417.00)							(3,417.00)
Office	(442.54)					(647.70)		(1,090.24)
Committees (Detail 1)	(11,505.08)							(11,505.08)
Facilities (Detail 2)	(5,833.61)							(5,833.61)
Support to Others (Detail 3)	(7,190.00)							(7,190.00)
Building Projects					(3,486.28)			(3,486.28)
"Mills" property expenses						(120,527.50)	(20,000.00)	(140,527.50)
Legal/Professional						(76,763.99)		(76,763.99)
Total Expenses	(90,977.04)	-	-	-	(3,486.28)	(197,939.19)	(20,000.00)	(312,402.51)
Net income (loss)								
before transfers	18,619.72	3,300.00	-	-	(3,486.28)	7,419.54	-	25,852.98
Transfers								
For Special Gifts (#2)	(2,000.00)	2,000.00						-
For FWCC World Mtgs (#4)	(1,200.00)			1,200.00				-
For Deferred Maint (#5)	(21,000.00)				21,000.00			-
Total Transfers	(24,200.00)	2,000.00	-	1,200.00	21,000.00	-	-	-
Ending Balance								
Net assets	34,681.54	21,170.29	36,000.00	2,400.00	17,513.72	29,538.62	-	141,304.17

<u>Column</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Oversight</u>
1 Unrestricted	Our general operating fund, where we organize our annual budget.	Finance
2 Special Gifts	A reserve fund to receive larger unrestricted contributions, used for special projects.	Finance
3 Payroll Reserves	A reserve fund that would be used to pay staff only in a fiscal emergency.	Finance
4 FWCC World Mtgs.	A reserve fund to provide travel assistance to IL YMI's reps to FWCC triennials and world gatherings.	Finance
5 Deferred Maintenance	Used to save for and pay for irregular site maintenance projects.	M&P
6 Property Improvement	Restricted by donors to be used for new building projects, including "Mills" property purchase.	SE&D
7 Matched Bldg Fund	Restricted donations toward "bricks and mortar" for a building; a matching \$20,000 was contributed by Clear Creek Monthly Meeting. Used to purchase "Mills" property.	SE&D and Clear Creek
Note:		
	Total funds raised by June 30 for "Mills" property purchase and improvements:	164,347.00
	Total funds spent by June 30 for "Mills" property purchase:	(140,527.50)
	Remaining "Mills" funds carried forward in Property Improvement Fund	23,819.50

Illinois Yearly Meeting Operating Budget 2009-2010

	2009-2010 Budget	2008-2009 Actual	2008-2009 Budget
Income			
Contributions from Meetings	78,500	80,902	76,800
Contributions from Individuals	4,600	6,200	6,500
Gatherings & Retreats	16,100	17,788	
Fundraisers	0	2,783	
Interest	1,800	1,923	2,000
Total Income	101,000	109,597	85,300
Expenses			
Operating			
Salaries & Payroll	(39,300)	(38,223)	(37,000)
Travel (Staff)	(4,500)	(3,486)	(4,500)
Travel (IYM Reps)	(5,000)	(5,013)	(3,500)
Insurance	(3,500)	(3,417)	(3,800)
Office	(900)	(443)	(1,200)
Gatherings & Retreats	(15,300)	(15,868)	
Committees (Detail 1)	(9,700)	(11,505)	(9,700)
Site* (Detail 2)	(12,100)	(16,834)	(17,000)
Support to Others (Detail 3)	(9,200)	(7,190)	(7,400)
Transfer for FWCC World Mtgs	(1,500)	(1,200)	(1,200)
Total Expenses	(101,000)	(103,177)	(85,300)
Budget Surplus (Deficit)	0	6,420	0

* Site line item includes *Facilities* expenses and transfers to *Deferred Maintenance*

Notes on changes in "actuals" since the report at annual sessions June 17-21, 2009:

- 1) A \$221.32 overall net deficit was anticipated at mid-June. For the final report there is an overall operating net income surplus of \$6,420.
- 2) Committee spending above budget is *Youth Oversight* activity offset by *Fundraisers* income.

<p>RECOMMENDED ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION</p> <p>PER ADULT RESIDENT MEMBER</p> <p>IS NOW <u>\$240.</u></p>

IYM 2009-2010 Operating Budget - Expense Line Item Details

	09-10 Budget	08-09 Actual	08-09 Budget
(1) Committees			
Ad hoc	(100)	(118)	(100)
Environmental Concerns	(200)	(141)	(200)
Faith & Practice	(200)	0	(200)
Finance	(50)	(27)	(50)
Handbook	(100)	(153)	(100)
Maintenance & Planning	(100)	(37)	(100)
Ministry & Advancement	(250)	(104)	(50)
Nominating	(50)	(17)	(50)
Peace Resources	(1,100)	(261)	(1,300)
Peace Tax Fund	0	0	0
Publications	(4,500)	(4,612)	(4,500)
QVSTWC	(50)	0	(50)
Religious Education	(500)	(125)	(500)
Youth Oversight (excess offset by additional YO income)	(2,500)	(5,908)	(2,500)
Total	(9,700)	(11,505)	(9,700)
(2) Site			
<u>Annual Facilities Expenses (Oversight: Stew ards)</u>			
Annual services (inspections, w interizing)	(1,100)	(985)	(1,900)
Mow ing & tree trimming	(2,700)	(2,660)	(2,400)
Utilities	(1,600)	(1,986)	(700)
Repairs	(700)	(203)	(1,000)
	(6,100)	(5,834)	(6,000)
<u>Deferred Maintenance (Oversight: M&P)</u>			
Transfer to Deferred Maintenance Fund	(6,000)	(11,000)	(11,000)
Total	(12,100)	(16,834)	(17,000)
(3) Support to Others			
<u>Pastoral Aid</u>			
Ken lves Fund (Oversight: QVSTWC)	(500)	(90)	(300)
ILYM Adult Young Friends	0	(600)	(600)
Sufferings (Oversight: M&A)	0	0	0
<u>Quaker organizations to w hich ILYM assigns representatives</u>			
Friends General Conference (FGC)	(3,200)	(3,200)	(3,200)
1-time FGC Campaign "Spiritual Fire"	(500)	0	0
Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)	(1,200)	(600)	(600)
American Friends Service Cmte. (AFSC)	(400)	(400)	(400)
Friends Cmte. on Natl Legisl. Educ. Fund (FCNL)	(400)	(400)	(400)
Friend Peace Teams (FPT)	(300)	(200)	(200)
Assoc. Cmte./Friends on Indian Affairs (ACFIA)	(250)	(250)	(250)
Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW)	(250)	(150)	(150)
Friends for Lesbian & Gay Concerns (FLGBTQC)	(50)	(50)	(50)
<u>Regional Quaker Educational Institutions</u>			
Chicago Friends School (CFS)	(300)	0	0
Scattergood School	(200)	(200)	(200)
Earlham College	(200)	(200)	(200)
1-time Earlham Campaign "Purpose and Passion"	(500)	0	0
Earlham School of Religion (ESR)	(100)	(100)	(100)
Olney Friends School	(100)	(100)	(100)
Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR)	(300)	(300)	(300)
Project Lakota	(200)	(200)	(200)
Friends Journal	(200)	0	0
Pro-NICA	0	(100)	(100)
Quaker United Nations Office (QUONO)	(50)	(50)	(50)
Total	(9,200)	(7,190)	(7,400)

ANNUAL REPORTS

Yearly Meeting Committees

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS (See Minute 15)

The Environmental Concerns Committee (ECC) met three times since the 2008 Annual Sessions at the yearly meeting site – in October with Continuing Committee, in April, and in May with the Memorial Day Work Weekend. During those times, we worked on the yearly meeting grounds, cutting up a walnut tree, transplanting nine oak, dogwood, and maple trees, cleaning trash piles, removing unwanted plants around the youth building and cabins, trimming grass around small trees, chipping tree limbs for mulch, removing downed limbs from an ice storm, and in general beautifying the property.

At the 2008 Annual Sessions, we led a nature walk with 23 persons at the Putnam County Nature Preserve early Saturday to see trees, flowers, undergrowth, insects, animals, and birds. We marveled at the complexity and beauty of nature.

We supported plans for sustainable features of the proposed buildings at ILYM. We were pleased with many features of the proposed buildings and agreed that some combination of geothermal heating and cooling, solar hot water, photovoltaics, and wind should be included in the buildings, and all should be oriented east-west to take full advantage of solar energy.

We continued to work on making recommendations for the use of green products at yearly meeting and are writing recommendations in the Site-Preparation log. We will educate others in using green products, as, for instance, simple signs in the bathrooms on use of non-toxic toilet cleansers and non-anti-bacterial soaps and provide small, push-spray bottles in which non-anti-bacterial soap can be refilled. Avoiding perfumed and toxic materials and water in small bottles will also be encouraged. We will try to find multi-purpose products in order to reduce the number of different cleaning products used.

We are developing a map of the trees, including the memorial trees on the ILYM campus, from a hand-drawn map and then electronically on a map. We are reviewing and revising that map, which will include the names of persons for which the trees are a memorial. Noel Pavlovic has labeled many of our trees with copper tags hung on branches giving the common and scientific names and with the person's name if the tree is a memorial tree, but not marked. We also are compiling a short description of each person memorialized by a tree.

Just prior to the annual sessions, the ECC wrote a detailed letter to the yearly meeting enthusiastically supporting the purchase of the new property to the west and outlining the many ways we felt it could be used in an ecological and sustainable way, serving to educate the yearly meeting and surrounding community.

The Environmental Concerns Committee is developing and seasoning several projects and concerns which we may bring to ILYM in the future. These include the following.

- ◆ A recycling coordinator at the annual sessions. Alice Howenstine will develop a description.
- ◆ A composting bin at the annual sessions. We had a trial of this bin this year.
- ◆ Take our message about earthcare and climate change, including climate change legislation, to monthly meetings, raising issues about what local meetings are doing, and developing queries.

- ◆ Develop the use of the yearly meeting campus for local gardening, such as community gardens and education on agriculture.
- ◆ Develop a proposal for a green roof over the current kitchen to beautify the south of the meetinghouse, provide a natural roof, and cool the kitchen.

We will hold our 2009 Fall retreat during the weekend of September 11-13 at the ILYM campus to explore these issues, concerns, and projects. We invite others to join us.

- Roy C. Treadway, Clerk

FAITH AND PRACTICE (See Minute 19)

The Faith and Practice Committee has met five times since our last yearly meeting. Most of our attention during this time has been devoted to two tasks: revising the section “Friends Manner of Decision-Making”, whose 5-year provisional period expires this year, and continuing work on a new section dealing with meeting structure and organization.

The decision-making section was revised in response to comments received over the last five years, then distributed at Continuing Committee and on the ILYM website, and revised again in response to comments on the new version. Because this section has already been through a trial period of five years, we now propose that it be adopted for an indefinite period.

The meeting structure and organization section is anticipated to consist of an introduction, and subsections on monthly meetings; on preparative meetings, recognized meetings and worship groups; on quarterly meetings and related regional gatherings; on the yearly meeting; and on wider Friends organizations. The introduction and section on monthly meetings now exist in complete drafts, which we are bringing to yearly meeting this year for an initial presentation and request for comments. In keeping with past practice, our plan is to hold workshops with local meetings to discuss this section over the coming year, revise these passages in response to comments received, and bring a version to yearly meeting in 2010 with a request for approval for a 5-year provisional period.

The committee received with regret the resignation of its longtime member Bob Wixom, and approved the following minute:

Faith and Practice Committee deeply appreciates Bob Wixom's long service on this committee, his willingness to travel the furthest, and his openness to the leadings of the Spirit in our work. We remember his attention to detail and the good humor he brought to our work. We will feel his absence keenly and we wish him the best.

The Faith and Practice Committee would like to remind Friends that the text of all approved sections and circulating drafts is available on the ILYM website. We encourage monthly meetings to place links to this material on their own websites, publicize its availability to their members and attenders, and discuss it in their meetings. Only if a broad segment of the yearly meeting community — including Friends who may be involved in their local meetings but uninvolved in the yearly meeting — become engaged in the process of developing our own Faith and Practice, will the final result truly reflect the leadings, circumstances, and understanding of the whole community. The process of communally working through the issues underlying our

faith and our practice is at least as important as the final product. This process has the potential for a strongly unifying effect, and for building a sense of ownership and commitment to our principles and practices, in a way which reliance on another meeting's Faith and Practice can never do.

- Peter Lasersohn, Clerk

FINANCE (See Minute 29)

“In the end, a budget is more than simply numbers on a page. It is a measure of how well we are living our obligations to ourselves and one another. It is a test of our commitment to making America what it was always meant to be—a place where all things are possible for all people.”

-President Obama, February 26, 2009

As quoted in *FCNL Washington Newsletter*, March/April 2009

The first two sentences of the above quote are a close guide for how the ILYM Finance Committee discerns our work. We understand that the numbers are only representations of how we, as a society, are living our commitments.

We continue to live up to our responsibilities as outlined in our Handbook.

- We are blessed with two very responsible treasurers who handled the record-keeping of our money as well as accepting our contributions from meetings and individuals, paying our obligations, interpreting our practices. The committee provided support and guidance to them as they created the draft budget for approval at the yearly meeting business meeting.
- We oversaw the Review Committee process. This is the committee which approves expenditures that are not covered in the budget when a decision needs to be made quickly. We also reviewed who would serve on this committee. We propose that next year Dawn Amos will serve as a co-treasurer, Sandy Huntley will serve from the Finance Committee and David Finke will serve as clerk of ILYM.
- We solicited input from members about changes to our support to other organizations.
- We continued to make the budgeting process for committees and others with financial oversight simpler. To this purpose we approved a number of documents (all on our website) this year. This includes the Budgeting Manual and several work sheets.
- We reviewed our practices regarding our financial obligations to our employees to see if they meet our legal and moral obligations.
- We continued to make the issue of finances as transparent as possible and to follow best accounting practices.
- We reviewed and rewrote the description of the Finance Committee in the Handbook for presentation at yearly meeting.

- Sandra Huntley, Clerk

FINANCE DESCRIPTION FOR HANDBOOK (See Minute 28)

The Finance Committee is responsible for caring for the fiscal health of the yearly meeting. The committee consists of a clerk and generally six other members serving staggered three year terms. The Co-Treasurers also serve ex-officio. The committee usually meets four times each year including a meeting during the annual sessions.

The committee duties include the following:

- ◆ Gives regular reports to the yearly meeting, usually at annual sessions and Continuing Committee. The Committee endeavors to report in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) as developed by the General Accounting Standards Board.
- ◆ Develops proposed operating budget for the Fiscal Year which begins July 1. Works with committees and individuals to gather information.
- ◆ Provides guidance and support for the Co-Treasurers. Cares for their work reviewing the books and/or arranging for periodic informal audits if needed.
- ◆ Approves financial institutions generally consistent with Friends' testimonies where the yearly meeting savings are kept. At this time all gifts of stock are sold upon receipt as authorized by the yearly meeting.
- ◆ Recommends financial policies and practices and makes them available to Friends once they are approved by the yearly meeting.
- ◆ Reviews the actions of the Review Committee and appoints member to serve on this committee.
- ◆ Seasons donations to other Quaker organizations.
- ◆ Reviews long-term future capital and non-capital expenses and sets up designated or restricted funds.
- ◆ Maintains communication with committee clerks concerning finances.
- ◆ Reviews and updates the Budget Manual.
- ◆ Composes a reminder letter to monthly meetings about financial support for the yearly meeting.

MINISTRY AND ADVANCEMENT (See Minute 61)

During the past year, the Ministry and Advancement Committee has tried to support the 20 or so monthly meetings and worship groups that comprise ILYM. We have visited almost every meeting and worship group at least once during the year, in most cases more often than that. At our Retreats, we have shared the joys and sorrows of those meetings as well as any concerns that we have about them.

Our work has been aided greatly by the work of our Field Secretary, Paul Buckley, who is under the care of M&A. Paul visited almost all of our monthly meetings and worship groups during the past year, and has offered guidance and observations that should prove helpful to them and to us. Last year at this time, he asked M&A to monitor and evaluate his work during the first year of his projected three-year term of service before we mutually decided whether he should continue after this year. Our evaluation was favorable in all respects, and we are pleased that he will continue to serve as the ILYM Field Secretary for at least the next two years.

Our longtime pastoral counselors, Beth Burbank and Carolyn Wilbur Treadway, have once again requested that their endorsements be continued for the coming year and have offered supporting documents for that purpose. M&A continues to regard ILYM's endorsements of them as ongoing. We ask that ILYM members hold them in the Light as they carry out their Spirit-led work.

Three years ago, M&A took on oversight of the ad hoc Discernment of Gifts Committee. This committee has assisted the yearly meeting in various ways, including hosting winter retreats on various topics each year. This year's retreat was on non-violent communication, a topic close to the hearts of Friends. Last year the

yearly meeting minuted the expectation that the ad hoc committee would be laid down at this year's annual sessions (Minute 65). We are all grateful for the work of the committee, and we hope to carry it on through other means.

A subcommittee on Outreach and Advancement has been considering and discussing various ways to promote the presence of our monthly meetings, including improved signage and assistance with the development, maintenance, and upkeep of websites. Concerning the latter, we plan to sponsor a workshop with the tentative title, "The Meeting Website: Signage for the 21st Century," during the coming year. One member of the subcommittee has developed a set of queries for State of Society Reports which is currently in the process of being seasoned by the full committee and should be ready to pass along to monthly meetings in the near future. We are also working on initiating an M&A presence on the ILYM website, which we expect to include an archive of useful resources for our member meetings and worship groups.

Ministry and Advancement is a small committee with great aspirations. We hope to be of service to the yearly meeting, and we welcome all suggestions about how we can do this in a more comprehensive, helpful, and Spirit-led way.

- David Shiner, Clerk

Field Secretary Report (See Minute 10)

I have to start by thanking you for the opportunity you have given me. It has been a wonderful year – I've had fat times and lean times, marathon trips with multiple visits and short ones to sit with a single meeting. I have re-discovered the joys of staying with Friends in their homes and how to deal with the Megabus to Chicago. In my first year as your field secretary, I had hoped to visit each meeting and managed to attend seventeen – sometimes just visiting, sometimes doing a presentation, sometimes conducting a workshop or facilitating a retreat. I've had an interesting year. It's good to be back among Friends that I have known for so long.

I was warned that long reports with detailed descriptions of each activity are worse than useless. Eyes glaze over when they are presented and minds wander as they are read. I was advised to pick one experience that stood out and concentrate on that. For me, that event has been arriving at meeting on a Sunday morning.

It's been over a decade since I attended most of the meetings and my visits have given me a renewed sense of what it's like to come for the first time. For me, the first impression has often been that we are remarkably adept at hiding.

Finding a meeting place on a Sunday morning is frequently a challenge – even with computer-generated, turn-by-turn instructions. Meeting signs are easy to miss and, in many cases, unreadable unless you stop directly in front of them. Some of our meeting places are entirely hidden from the road. The message is not, "Here we are! Come join us!"

A second impression comes when entering the front door. While some of our spaces are warm and welcoming – well-lit and uncluttered – this is not uniformly the case. Greeters are not always present to welcome the visitor and give simple directions – especially necessary when he or she arrives late and is most likely to need some help finding the way.

Many first-time attenders will know little or nothing of our form of worship. Some meetings hand out a short description of what to expect – some don't. Generally, these pamphlets are uninviting, black-and-white masses of text – only some of which is helpful. Often the description is littered with jargon – phrases like "meeting

for worship with a concern for business” and “First Day” instead of “business meeting” and “Sunday.” These may be meaningful to us, but can be a barrier to a newcomer.

At the close of meeting, visitors are frequently asked to introduce themselves and invited to say what brought them to meeting. We feel we are being welcoming, but if no one else says his or her name, the visitor may only feel exposed. Numerous acronym-filled announcements will follow, reinforcing the sense that we are insiders and they are outsiders.

Finally, the meeting will end, and while the visitor may be mobbed, it is more likely that he or she will be left alone. In one meeting, I was told “We don’t want to put any pressure on visitors.” Designating one or two people to give a friendly greeting and offer to answer any questions is not excessive pressure. Having someone who is prepared with simple answers to questions is also helpful. Most newcomers aren’t looking for an explanation of the full complexity of Quaker beliefs and practices or long and nuanced responses. It takes thought and practice to give an answer that is understandable, accurate, and satisfies the questioner.

We are a loving and generous people, and we want to make others feel welcome in our communities. It requires careful attention to understand the needs of our visitors – especially those who are unlike us – and conscientious planning to meet those needs, but the rewards are worth the effort.

My travels this year have given me a brief opportunity to see with new eyes – one that I fear is too quickly fading. Again, thank you for the chance to work with you. Being among you has been a joy. I am looking forward to continuing to serve you in the coming year.

PEACE RESOURCES (See Minute 34)

Dear Friends,

When looking back over the year for PRC it is tempting to fall back on the tried and true: We had difficult times, but we also made some headway. All of which is true. But the boilerplate treatment gives short shrift to speaking truth to our experience, with its nuances and complexities.

We had many accomplishments. And we certainly had our difficulties. Most significantly, we found it difficult to meet in person, generate and maintain energy. At times we also found ourselves in conflict, struggling to work peacefully through it. As Peace Resource Committee we feel it is important to acknowledge this. Nevertheless, our accomplishments were not insignificant; it is with these that we would like to begin:

At the beginning of this year, PRC – with a great deal of help from Breeze Richardson – launched a blog, titled “How Do You See Peace?” (<http://peaceresources.wordpress.com/>), in which committee members share their thoughts, discuss committee initiatives, and share their personal and public explorations of what it means to work for peace. Others are invited to respond. In the five months since this project began, there have been fifteen posts, more than fifty comments and nearly 1,200 visits to the site. Topics have included the death penalty, prison reform, volunteerism, military service, consumerism, and efforts of the national peace movement – to name a few. While participation of PRC members has not reached the extent that had been hoped (perhaps due to time restrictions, perhaps due to those of us on the committee who are still not in sync with the technology), efforts continue.

In one of the yearly meeting's first experiences with live blogging, Breeze Richardson reported regularly using "How Do You See Peace?" during her attendance at "Heeding God's Call: A Gathering on Peace" – which took place January 13-17, 2009, in Philadelphia, PA. Breeze joined peacemakers from 23 traditions to formally represent ILYM at this national gathering called by the Historic Peace Churches.

Using this new technology has been exciting and challenging. As we move forward with the blog, concerns have risen regarding anonymous responses. PRC believes it is critical that there be transparency and honesty in discourse and, to the extent possible with this medium, that Quaker values be reflected.

Working to create spaces where dialogue and a fostering of peace can occur, PRC, working with others within ILYM, provided the facilitator and topic — Non-violent Communication (NVC) — for the Winter Retreat in February. The majority of participants expressed appreciation and gratitude for being introduced to NVC, a way of thinking and being that they said will help them address conflict in their families, Meetings and beyond. A few Friends, while agreeing that they learned and benefited from the workshop, nonetheless thought the Nonviolent Communication Workshop lacked spiritual grounding they anticipated from the Winter Retreat.

PRC continued to support Friends' testimony against capital punishment by asking the Clerk of ILYM, Tom Paxson, to write letters to Illinois' elected leaders supporting legislation to abolish the death penalty in Illinois and to their counterparts in Missouri, opposing the scheduled May 20, 2009, execution of Dennis Skillicorn. PRC has made these available on ILYM's web site along with other materials that enable Friends to voice their opposition to capital punishment in Illinois, Indiana, Missouri and Wisconsin.

PRC continues to make available the Peace Testimony Workshop (PTW), first created in 2006. Sessions from the PTW took place during all three workshop times at ILYM 2008, raising interest in many participants to bring PTW to their home communities. PRC is currently exploring this with several Meetings and continues to be more than happy to facilitate the workshop, which provides Meetings and Friends an opportunity to reconnect with and explore anew the Peace Testimony.

Finally, PRC has begun seasoning a leading that ILYM should publicly recognize individuals or organizations that have made significant contributions to the understanding and furthering of peace in our world. We envision that this recognition would be made annually during yearly meeting sessions. It is further the sense of PRC that such recognition also would serve as outreach for Friends. Recognized individuals or groups might be Friends, or not. PRC desires input from others who share a sense of this leading and asks that yearly meeting create a structure to further season this idea and move it toward reality.

Nevertheless, the members of PRC also recognize that it needs the active involvement of its members to enrich the committee's experience and further its work. Over the past year, PRC had its struggles. We found it difficult to generate energy and sustain focus. We realize this problem is not particular to PRC. Many are busy with family, jobs, Meetings and the many causes to which we are committed.

Perhaps because of the difficulty generating energy, there was the sense at times that as a committee we were not doing enough. And at times, longer-term PRC members harkened back to when PRC felt "more productive" and seemingly more in tune with each other. The committee continues to work on addressing these concerns as

we move into a new year aiming to meet more regularly, improve communication, and discuss our feelings of conflict.

Electronic communication (email) has been one source of conflict for us. Given its nature, we found ourselves at times reacting quickly, and sometimes angrily, unable to step back from the escalation. It was a painful yet valuable experience, awakening in us the need to instill Quaker process, holding each other in the Light, as we attempt to communicate intimately from afar.

Perhaps most importantly, the experience brought home the awareness that we are not immune from conflict even as we seek the means to address it. The same can be said of Quakers overall. We are human beings. Conflict – inner and outer – is part of the human condition. We on PRC have discussed this very thing and have come to understand and appreciate this insight. It is, in fact, this understanding that has guided and shaped much of our work. We understand that peace is not an end result, but an ongoing process, and hope to continue to share this with the yearly meeting community. We further understand that a fundamental part of the process is not to avoid conflict, nor is it wishing the conflict would simply go. It is doing the best we can to engage with the conflict and work through it. Nor should we be too hard on ourselves when we stumble. When we stumble, we learn to walk.

May peace be with us.

- Chuck Hutchcraft, Clerk

PEACE TAX FUND (See Minute 47)

Illinois Yearly Meeting created the ILYM Friends Peace Tax Fund (PTF, or “the Fund”) in 1989 to accommodate Friends whose conscience will not allow them to fund military action and preparation through income taxes demanded from them by the US government. Since then, each Friend has been invited to withhold that portion of his or her taxes estimated to finance the US military effort (usually estimated at 30-50%), and deposit that money into the Peace Tax Fund. In this way, he or she shows willingness to pay their fair share of taxes, but only for life-affirming purposes. The Fund currently resides in two accounts at Shore Bank, a widely-respected socially-conscious lender. Each year the interest earned is donated to 2 or more charitable organizations whose missions agree with Quaker values. The principal is kept on hand for several years in case the IRS takes legal action to collect what it considers to be its money. If and when it becomes clear that the IRS has given up on that particular deposit, it can be donated as the interest was.

The IRS views this practice as illegal. A person who practices this witness is called a “war tax resister”. The bank accounts were set up 20 years ago by 3 founding members of the Peace Tax Fund Oversight Committee, under the name “IYM Friends Peace Tax Fund”. The fact that none of the set-up documents mentioned ILYM’s address, officers, etc., was seen by some as possibly providing ILYM with some protection against legal reprisals against the Fund.

Over the years, signature authority over these two accounts passed from each year’s committee officers to the next generation. The clerkship last changed in July 2006. It took us a year to start the process of transferring signature authority to the new clerk. Due to post-9/11 increased security, Shore Bank required an additional document this time, requiring the signature of the secretary of an Illinois corporation (presumably ILYM). Fearing that the document, titled “Corporate Resolutions”, would explicitly create a more provable connection between ILYM and the Fund, the

PTF clerk felt uncomfortable asking the ILYM officers to submit this document. The clerk then set out to find out if submitting it could raise/increase ILYM's liabilities with respect to the Fund to an unacceptable level.

After a delay of two years, the clerk has secured the advice of a qualified professional. Fred R. Dettmer is a member of New York Yearly Meeting, Purchase Quarterly Meeting, and Purchase Monthly Meeting. He has been a war tax resister for some 20 years and has had assets and wages seized by the IRS. He is an attorney and has represented in court at least two local parties in their witness as war tax resisters. I had a very illuminating conversation with him, and learned the following:

1. ILYM's intimate connection with and control over the PTF is clear and undeniable, even without submitting any Corporate Resolutions to that effect. ILYM oversees the PTF committee, which oversees the PTF. If the IRS initiated action against the Fund, the first thing their lawyer would do is contact ILYM and ask "Are you the owner/operator/manager of this fund?". If that happened, would we deny it? I don't think so.
2. When trying to collect taxes from a war tax resister, the IRS always first goes directly to that person. This happens often, and *very occasionally* the person even goes to jail for a short time. But to Fred's knowledge, the government has *never* gone after any peace tax fund, and chances are slim that it ever will. It *could possibly* happen, but it's "almost inconceivable". For one thing, bringing charges against a well-established and respected institution like the Quakers would bring much criticism from the public.
3. The Guidelines by which the PTF operates clearly direct it to release to the IRS the deposit of any depositor at the government's request. As long as ILYM complies with this and other reasonable requests from the government, it should have little to fear.
4. Even were the IRS to initiate action against ILYM related to the Fund, our liability would be limited to the amount of the taxpayer's original deposit. We already have this money—it is sitting in the fund. Any interest and penalties would be the responsibility of the depositor. And we needn't worry much about the cost of an attorney. We could likely find a sympathetic lawyer who would jump at the chance to represent us in court for free (Fred even said he might be interested).
5. Fred reminded me that war tax resistance, as an act of civil disobedience, is an action that ILYM supports. This is true whether the fund exists or not. Establishing the fund 20 years ago was a way for ILYM to demonstrate its support. If that puts us at some risk, so be it. And according to Fred, "The legal risk is virtually nil".

In light of this, this PTF committee asks ILYM to complete and submit the Corporate Resolutions form to Shore Bank without further delay, thus enabling the committee to resume the management of the fund.

The committee has 3 more items to report:

1. Soon after 2008 yearly meeting, all 20 years of documentation and records pertaining to the PTF were taken from the clerk's apparently open-doored vehicle. The clerk apologizes for the absentmindedness, and for not taking prompt action to protect the accounts from potential thieves. Once signature authority is transferred, the committee will promptly take appropriate precautions.

2. The committee will also promptly contact past depositors to the fund and investigate past bank records to reconstruct as much of the history of the fund as is necessary to resume normal management of the fund.
3. Assuming that ILYM signs and submits the Corporate Resolutions soon, the fund should be operating normally by the October Continuing Committee. The clerk will make a progress report at that time. The Fund will make its next annual contributions of interest money during the coming year and will make its next routine annual report at the 2010 ILYM Annual Sessions.

- John Knox, Clerk

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE EXPLORATORY AD HOC COMMITTEE
(See Minute 39)

In the fall of 2008 the ad hoc committee surveyed 10 people (2 staff and 8 other committee chairs/members) involved in hiring or working with ILYM's 3 paid staff. In several cases it was clear that we had inconsistent personnel issues and/or that people did not know what was expected. But there was also a general consensus that it was important to set some clear expectation regarding basic personnel issues. The ad hoc committee recommends:

1. ILYM should solicit references, conduct background checks and solicit input from committee members, home meetings and others before hiring staff.
2. The respective governing committees should each establish a clear job description for each position that spells out qualifications, roles, responsibilities, oversight, salary ranges, and evaluation expectations.
3. The respective governing committees should each have at least an annual dialogue on staff performance relative to the job description and basic behavior (e.g., reliability, timeliness), other gifts/contributions, and staff satisfaction/frustration with the job; a written summary highlighting key issues and goals for the coming year should be filed in committee and personnel records.
4. ILYM should establish a policy on termination/discharge (warnings, corrective action, severance terms, grievance procedures).
5. Respective committees should be required to explicitly comment on staff changes, evaluation and needs in their annual reports to ILYM presiding clerks and these should be kept in personnel records.
6. ILYM should establish a general compensation goal of paying a wage that is comparable to others in the area and other yearly meetings and a policy for getting raises.
7. ILYM should provide a workman's compensation policy and insurance. (We have recently added this as it is a legal requirement by the state of Illinois).
8. ILYM should look into allowing staff to buy health insurance through Friends Mutual Health Group policy (via Kathy Reilly at Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, 215-241-7205 or kathyr@pym.org)

Given that all three positions are part time, there were also some things that the committee did NOT think were necessary. These include: retirement/pension benefits, life insurance, disability insurance. There was also some confusion about unemployment benefits. It would be useful to have a policy to clarify for staff that while ILYM is self-insured (as are most churches), our employees are still (at the discretion of the state), eligible for unemployment benefits. It was not clear whether we were required to have an equal opportunity policy.

Current policy on travel expenses and sexual/unlawful harassment were generally considered clear and should be kept. But ILYM should consider making them more publicly accessible via website as all were not familiar with them. Other policies it was suggested we might need or want include ones on equal opportunity, conflict of interest, guidelines for travel on ILYM business. We should also document policy on liability while driving your own car for ILYM activities. But we really want to keep these policies pretty basic, not get into too much detail, and make it clear to whom they apply (e.g., staff, officers, members, attenders). The ad hoc committee recommends the following additional steps:

9. Create a formal personnel committee having an independent clerk/members as well as representatives from each of the respective committees over staff, and Finance Committee.
10. Check with Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, Western Yearly Meeting, Northern Yearly Meeting, (and possibly Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Baltimore Yearly Meeting, New England Yearly Meeting) which have part-time staff to review their policies and job descriptions.
11. Post this information on the website to make it more readily available to all (vs. a separate personnel manual).

- Dawn Amos, Judy Jager, Valerie Lester & Michael Dennis

PUBLICATIONS (See Minute 7)

This year, the Publications committee has felt the earth moving. We live in an age where the concept of “publishing” is like a shape-shifting space alien. Is it about paper? Is it about computers? Is it about mobile devices? Who does publishing? How does publishing achieve outreach? How does publishing create community? What additional purposes does publishing serve? How should publishing best be managed to serve these purposes?

The committee will be looking at these issues over the coming year, reporting as led to Continuing Committee and possibly via *Among Friends* and our web site. If we have changes to suggest, they will be presented to the yearly meeting for decisions. We will gladly receive and process comments Friends may have on these issues.

Our traditional tasks included printing the 2008 Minute Book, the Fall 2008 issue of *Among Friends*, the 2007 Plummer Lecture of Margaret Katranides, and the 2008 Plummer Lecture of Elizabeth Mertic, while also making these documents available electronically.

This was *Among Friends* editor Cindy Reynolds’ last issue, as she and her husband have moved to Arizona. Cindy served wonderfully in this editorial capacity for many years; at the fall 2008 Continuing Committee, it was recorded: “Speaking from the silence, Friends expressed their appreciation for Cindy Reynolds’ consistent, creative, reliable, and faithful service to the yearly meeting in editing *Among Friends*. This work has helped bind Friends together in faith and spirit, though we are many miles apart, and has served as a great tool for outreach.”

There was considerable difficulty finding a new editor, which prompted several of the questions above. Should the magazine continue as a paper publication? Should it become an electronic newsletter? Both? Friends on the IYM-L email list were polled about their ability to receive formatted email messages such as electronic newsletters; out of over 200 subscribers, there were two or three that still need plain text messages. Friends who don’t use computers or who have older technology

should not be abandoned, yet new possibilities for electronic interconnection are constantly arising.

In addition to the considerable discernment needed regarding these topics, we have also noticed that collaboration on the **ilym.org** web site is still proceeding, if sometimes slowly. Members from two ILYM committees (Peace Resources and Site Envisioning & Development) have blazed the trail by uploading numerous documents and resources related to their committee work; our Administrative Coordinator Sharon Haworth has uploaded whole collections of documents such as the yearly meeting planning log books, Continuing Committee minutes, photos, calendar entries, and more. The screens for accomplishing these tasks will be unfamiliar at first, but after a few exercises, Friends have found the collaboration interface to be reasonably usable.

We would like to stress that many of the cool features of the web, including blogs, discussion forums, image galleries, document storage, collections of resource links, and calendars are all available directly on **ilym.org** – *without advertisements*. It is also a simple matter for the webservant to create private storage areas for access by specific individuals or committee members. The possibilities for collaboration and offering our witness to the world are endless. Centralizing these activities on our own website would broadcast, to visitors and seekers, all facets of Illinois Yearly Meeting's function and purpose.

As we did last year, Publications committee asks for Friends to get involved with building Illinois Yearly Meeting's electronic presence. Contact Dawn Amos to hear about small-group teleconferencing right from your home computer, where we can step through the **ilym.org** website together and show you the ropes. Also, Friends handy with a scanner and OCR software are invited to help publish older Plummer lectures on our website.

- Dawn Amos, Clerk

QUAKER VOLUNTEER SERVICE, TRAINING & WITNESS (QVSTWC)

We continue as custodians of the Kenneth Ives fund for scholarship help related to Quaker volunteer service. We made one allocation this year, and welcome additional applications (refer to the website for application form).

Two years ago we found ourselves pondering our role and relevance in circumstances that have evolved since our beginning a decade and a half ago. We posed a series of queries (2007 Minute Book, pp 52-3) which we had hoped Illinois Yearly Meeting would answer to give guidance to us, and clarity as to what it wants for itself and for the world through us. We have had no responses though we believe the underlying issues remain. Perhaps there are other ways in which we can find yearly meeting direction for our committee's mission (which is presently blank in the Handbook, pending greater clarification).

We note two strikingly encouraging developments in our area of concern in the Yearly Meeting:

1. 57th Street Meeting has, in recent years, been concerned with promoting volunteer service under Quaker auspices. A planning committee worked diligently, consulting with others around the country, and brought a proposal, with which the Monthly Meeting united. As described more fully on their website (links to which are found both from 57th Street and also ILYM's Peace Resources Committee), their Meeting will host a project in which volunteers will

commit to a year's work in community service. A stipend and room-and-board will be provided for 2 volunteers by the Meeting, which is thereby also foregoing rent from their available rooms in the highly-desirable Hyde Park neighborhood. At least as significant, though, as this generous underwriting is that the Meeting intends to provide spiritual nurture within the residential setting and also from the Meeting as a worshipping community, for reflection and support. Guidance will be provided by the initial planning group which has now expanded to include Friends from at least 4 other Meetings, and those with religious-based service experience beyond Quakerism.

One of our members was pleased to have participated in a recent meeting where the Quaker Volunteer Service's recruitment plans were being actively pursued, and reported to us that the vision was quite commensurate with what we have been advocating and hoping to promote since our inception. Aspects of being grounded in waiting worship, having an avowedly Quaker character, and accepting accountability have been close to our heart, and we rejoice to see this vision taking root in our very midst.

2. In February a nationwide consultation was hosted at Pendle Hill, underwritten by the young adult programs of both FGC and Pendle Hill. They examined both possibilities for and realities of Quaker Volunteer Service.

David Finke, from our committee, and Mark Mattaini, from 57th Street, were both in attendance, and brought back very encouraging reports. Greg Woods, serving as workcamp director for William Penn House, was also an active participant among the 36 Friends present. We earnestly call your attention to their Epistle, and the findings of that consultation: <http://fgcquaker.org/epistle-quaker-volunteer-service-consultation>.

A planning core of 4 younger Friends who skillfully guided the time together has agreed to remain as a central body for promotion and communication for these emerging projects across the country — of which they were aware. The entire consultation was, and continues to be, held in deep, humble, expectant prayer by those who were called to be Elders. This included two who had earlier inspired ILYM Friends with their modeling of the Eldering concept, at the FGC Gathering 2 years ago, followed by ILYM's own Winter Retreat on the subject.

We were thrilled to see re-emerging something of a structure that was hoped for, but never quite realized, following the conference in 1997 on Quaker volunteer service held in Burlington, New Jersey, initiated by Illinois Yearly Meeting and implemented by our committee. David was able to be a living link with that past (he had clerked "QVSWN" — the somewhat abortive national network on which a number of us had served.) Materials and stories from the earlier experience were welcomed at this recent Consultation. We particularly value that Mary Lord — who had promoted the Quaker Volunteer Service vision among us during several visits to ILYM — nominated David to attend. We were glad we could provide some scholarship help to David.

While we continue to do our best to be faithful to the impulses which lead to our establishment (going back to when we were concerned about relations between

Quakers and the AFSC), we want to continue to be of service to you. The way forward for us is not clear, although we intend to continue to explore organic links with the new structures that are emerging. The desire for Quakers to act in faith in expressing compassionate love for and in a suffering world is a sound foundation, under Divine Guidance. Please help us know our part in that. We welcome your constructive input.

We were saddened last year by the news that the AFSC has withdrawn financial support for the Joint Service Project of AFSC and Intermountain Yearly Meeting, one of the few volunteer service opportunities supported by AFSC. The Joint Service Project sponsored volunteer workcamps for many years that were faithfully attended by Illinois Yearly Meeting members, especially those held on the Pine Ridge Lakota reservation in South Dakota. The supervisor of these workcamps, Mike Gray, was an early co-sponsor of Illinois Yearly Meeting's 1997 conference on volunteer service. The workcamps held on the Pine Ridge reservation were also the occasion for the origin of Project Lakota, which was initiated by Illinois Yearly Meeting Members.

- Julia Pantoga

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (See Minute 58)

Religious Education Committee has continued to focus on encouraging Friends by providing resources and opportunities to learn about Quakerism and Christianity.

Religious Education Committee members have continued to serve—for the second year—as liaisons. While this role is loosely defined, liaisons are available to monthly meetings and worship groups in a supportive role. Some liaisons have led programs for their monthly meetings and have met with Friends to assist them with whatever needs they have had. If Friends are unsure who is serving as their liaison, please contact Elke Narkiewicz, Religious Education Committee clerk (309-734-7759 or enarkiewicz@yahoo.com).

In August many Friends from ILYM attended FGC's Religious Educators Institute (REI), an event which takes place only once every 4 years. It was an enriching and inspiring time for everyone who attended. Friends who were there certainly enjoyed networking with Friends from afar and learned new ways to approach religious education.

The new Yahoo! Group "Reconnections" has been loaded up with many resources and materials for Friends to use in their religious education programs and curricula. There are links and files for Friends to use, and these address the needs of Friends of all ages. Friends can sign up by looking up "yahoo groups" on the internet and searching for "iymreconnections" (all one word with no punctuation). This yahoo group is intended as a way for ILYM Friends to share information and ideas, as well as to ask for help. It is an opportunity to work together more closely as a yearly meeting and to avoid reinventing the wheel with our religious education programs.

On October 9-10 RE Committee will host a Godly Play/ Faith & Play workshop with Michael Gibson, FGC Religious Education Coordinator. This workshop will introduce this Montessori-inspired approach to teaching scripture and Friends' faith & practice. The workshop will take place at Urbana-Champaign Meetinghouse. Mark your calendars for this exciting opportunity!

- Elke Narkiewicz, Clerk

SITE ENVISIONING AND DEVELOPMENT (See Minute 22)

This is the second year of this combined committee; previously, Site Envisioning and Development were separate committees. We have accomplished much and have much to accomplish. A list of our accomplishments follows.

- ◆ We have raised \$81,712.51 in the service of our dream to build three new buildings on our McNabb site. We started the year with \$22,119.08 in the Property Improvement Fund. This year we raised \$59,593.43.
- ◆ The Clear Creek Challenge has been met. Clear Creek has committed to matching funds for \$20,000.00. We now have \$40,000.00 toward the bricks-and-mortar portion of the project. This \$40,000.00 joins a \$50,000.00 Clear Creek pledge bringing the total to \$90,000.00 to be released at the beginning of construction of the first building.
- ◆ We have prepared construction documents for the building of the first dormitory/meeting space. This design incorporates space for Clear Creek to gather, sleeping rooms, and many bathrooms, all in a simple and sustainable shell. A second dormitory/meeting space may be built using these documents. It has been considered, however, that building and using the first dorm may offer us an opportunity to learn and improve our design prior to building the second.
- ◆ We have completed design documents for the proposed kitchen/dining hall building.
- ◆ We have compensated our architect, Chris Goode, and his team of engineers \$73,442.35 for the design and construction documents. Other soft costs bring the total up to \$77,041.07. This will leave \$4,671.44 in the fund for unrestricted use.
- ◆ We have received bids on the first dorm. The bids came in at a low of \$650,000.00 and a high of \$1,000,000.00. We anticipate the final cost to be approximately \$850,000.00
- ◆ We have performed a retreat center business study to address the viability of a “for profit” retreat center.
- ◆ We continue to work with the Maintenance and Planning Committee on integrating the new buildings into their Capital Assets Management Plan.

A list of challenges remains.

- ◆ Our fundraising efforts have fallen seriously short of our goal. This may be partially due to the economic downturn that began in the Fall of 2008. Our original goal was to raise \$2,100,000.00. We must admit that this was and is ambitious for a group as small as ours. We first reached out to key donors with the hope of raising 33-50% of our need. We’ve raised less than 12% of that goal. Consequently, secondary funding has not begun.
- ◆ Our budget has increased. The preliminary dorm budget was \$600,000.00 for the first dorm and it came in at \$850,000.00.
- ◆ The dining hall is not yet bid. We fell short of our soft-cost giving. The consequence is that we had sufficient funds to pay for the construction documents for the dorm, but not the kitchen/dining hall. Thus, no firm bids have been received for the kitchen/dining hall.
- ◆ Further study is required on the cost of maintaining the new buildings.
- ◆ The retreat center business study has led us to believe that the “for profit” option will not pay for itself. Furthermore, it seems that we need to raise all the funds for

whatever we choose to build prior to start of construction. Financing any portion of the project proposes an unmanageable burden on the annual budget.

- ◆ We seem to be stalled until giving resumes.

We look for way to open. A list follows of the next steps that could be taken by the committee.

- ◆ Prepare a report on the cost of operating the new buildings.
- ◆ Prepare documents for the second round of fundraising.
- ◆ Continue to reach out to key donors.

We will pursue further architectural and engineering work (including cost and energy study) as funds come in to pay for soft costs.

We look forward to the discernment of the annual session.

- Chip Rorem, Clerk

YOUTH OVERSIGHT (See Minute 33)

Eight ILYM teens gathered Labor Day weekend at McNabb ILYM Meeting house for fellowship and fun. We had a Teen clerking workshop lead by Monica Tetzlaff attended by all present on Saturday. We went to Menno Haven for a high ropes course and participants were challenged to take the leap of faith and high ropes zip line. Mike Dennis and I treated the Tipi polls to preserve them for future use. Teens enjoyed fellowship and fun including helping prepare and clean up after meals.

The Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, 7 ILYM teens, 7 Teens from Northern Yearly Meeting and 3 teens from Scattergood Friends School attended the Quake That Rocks the Midwest at Evanston Meeting House January 16 through 19. The Quake cooking was local organic foods from Wisconsin prepared by Dave (Youth Coordinator from NYM) and Donna with teens helping with preparation, cooking and clean up for each meal. The weekend events included an AFSC workshop on Saturday and out trip to Chicago on Sunday afternoon after attending Meeting for Worship with Evanston Friends.

Youth Oversight and ILYM teens raised money with Peace T-shirt sales last summer; we were able to provide financial support for three ILYM teens with some of the money raised from that sale. We helped two ILYM teens attend FGC Gathering last summer and one ILYM teen attend Quaker Youth Pilgrimage in Europe. We are providing scholarships for two ILYM teens attending FGC gathering this summer.

During Memorial Day work weekend High school teens worked on insulating and attaching wood boards to walls of “the holy room” as the teens call it in the bunk house. The 12 teens went rock climbing on Sunday at Upper Limits in Bloomington and enjoyed lunch at the Dennis home. Many teens made the 40 to 60 foot climb up the inside of the climbing silos and a fun day was enjoyed by all present. Youth Oversight treated the group to ice cream in Normal on the way back to McNabb. High school teens decided to donate some money to Project Lakota in place of an expensive out trip this summer. We challenge you to help Teens by purchasing a T-shirt or bag and/ or making your own donation to Project Lakota.

Mason George was nominated as New High School teen co-clerk and Sarah Raffensperger was selected as recording clerk.

Quakes for this coming year were selected to be Veterans Day weekend at Downers Grove meeting house, Quake that Rocks the Midwest Martin Luther King weekend at Evanston Meeting house, Memorial Day work weekend at McNabb and ILYM also at McNabb.

- Peter Albright, Clerk

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE (See Minute 59)

Dear ILYM Friends,

As a representative of ILYM on the AFSC Corporation, I would like to share with you some of AFSC's accomplishments this last year:

- ◆ In January of 2009, AFSC collected 10,000 signatories and delivered the **Road-map for Peace**, our principles to guide a new foreign policy, to the Obama transition team. For the first time in recent years, we have more access to the President and hope to engage in a productive conversation about resetting the U.S. approach to foreign affairs.
- ◆ AFSC engaged the Iranian people and President in a dialog with U.S. religious leaders and fostered dialog between our Congress and Iraqi Parliamentarians.
- ◆ A community theater project in Pittsburg opened the way for Christian, Muslim and Jewish Israelis to find common ground among their differences.
- ◆ Our staff has counseled young people on the truth about military recruitment. We have put together **It's my life!**, a guide to alternatives to military service. It has been distributed to hundreds of schools, libraries and guidance counselors.
- ◆ AFSC staff has helped families stay afloat and communities to build a fair and sustainable economy in this country and around the world. For example, in Cleveland and Akron, Ohio, we have led campaigns to ask sheriffs to stop home foreclosures. In Zimbabwe, AFSC helps those displaced by violence build new homes, restore their livelihoods and speak up for their rights and in Postville, Iowa, and around the US, AFSC in partnership with immigrant communities tries to protect the rights of all workers and keep families together when immigration enforcement agents raid their homes and places of work.

As you can imagine, AFSC is experiencing the direct impact of the global financial crisis. We have seen significant declines in donations from our supporters and our reserves have seriously eroded. We are committed to building a sustainable organization that will be leaner –perhaps half its current size. As a result some programs will be laid down and staff will be laid off in the coming year. Though these are hard times, we believe hope abounds and AFSC will not only survive but thrive to do the work the world needs us to do. Thank you for your continuing support for the work of the American Friends Service Committee.

- Nora Vera-Godwin, AFSC Corporation member

ASSOCIATED COMMITTEE OF FRIENDS ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

In October of 2008 an ACFIA Meeting was held in Plainfield, Indiana, at which time business was concluded under the old executive committee. The last 3 Centers previously under the umbrella of ACFIA are now partnering with individual yearly meetings. In this partnering the yearly meetings assist the Centers in vision, labor,

finances, property management, and encouragement. This new energy is helping to rejuvenate the Centers' work and vision. Hominy is now with Great Plains YM & FUM. As stated in the Hominy Friends website (www.hominyfriends.org) Carol Revard is the first Osage to ever serve as clerk of the Great Plains Yearly Meeting. I have not received any information as to the future of Wyandotte and Council House.

Friends are urged to continue laboring with the MOWA Choctaw Center as it partners with NCYM, FUM, the Kickapoo Friends Center as it partners with Mid America YM, EFC, and Mesquakie Friends Center under the care of Iowa YM. The continued support of ALL yearly meetings to the Centers is critical to allow them to continue to function under their new leadership. Financial support for Choctaw and Mesquakie should be sent to their respective yearly meetings. Financial support for Kickapoo should be sent to the Kickapoo Friends Center.

Any funds that ACFIA receives at P.O. Box 2326, Richmond, IN 47375-2326, that are not designated to a particular Center, will be equally divided among them. ACFIA will continue its not for profit status to handle any matters that may arise.

- Grayce Mesner

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION (See Minute 64)

Several members attended the National Gathering in November, and worked with the leadership in promoting the concerns to our yearly meeting members.

This has been a momentous year. Access to key government officials has increased significantly. At the same time donations to FCNL and to FCNL Education Fund have been decreased prompting the need to make deep cuts in headquarters staff.

Despite this, FCNL led the coalition lobbying strategy that resulted in Congress eliminating all funding for the proposed new nuclear bomb. For the second year Congress approved the FCNL-initiated proposal to ban the U.S. government from establishing permanent bases in Iraq

There was also another ban of cluster bomb exports, creation of a civilian response corps, and a victory for Native American Health Care in the Senate. Finally more than one million signs and bumper stickers have been distributed in the past six years.

Go to www.fcnl.org to learn more.

- Wilmer M. Rutt, FCNL Representative

FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE (See Minute 60)

Since October of 2007, I have represented ILYM on the Central Committee of Friends General Conference. I had very little idea what was involved, but was eager to serve. What I have learned in my several months of service is that we should be proud and excited to be part of a community such as Friends General Conference. I knew that FGC created the Annual Gathering, which many of us attend, but as many have heard before, FGC is more than the Gathering.

Central Committee serves FGC similarly to how our yearly meeting serves our local meetings. At Central Committee, representatives from every yearly meeting affiliated with FGC meet together to consider and conduct business on behalf of all Friends General Conference. While many of you may have known that such business was being done, it was practically a revelation to me.

During my term, I have participated in business that is aimed at enriching and deepening the ministry of Quakers. Central Committee, through its program and administrative committees, works to minister in areas such as sustaining healthy yearly & local meetings, addressing racism, outreach, ecumenical and interfaith relations, publications, religious education, traveling ministries, and yes, Annual Gathering. Like most Quaker business, a lot of it is done voluntarily. FGC has a full-time paid staff as well. Like any organization, Central Committee also has to expend much energy on financial matters, which is challenging, especially in our present economic situation.

I know that many in ILYM have used some of the resources of FGC in their work and if you haven't, please check out www.fgcquaker.org to find some of the wonderful resources that are available there.

Let me focus on a few highlights of FGC's recent work.

1. *Fit For Freedom: Not for Friendship* by Donna McDaniel and Vanessa Julye was published this year after years of hard work by the authors. This book details the history of black and white race relations within the Society of Friends. Our own Janice Domanik was directly involved in the work of the Committee for Ministry on Racism, which supported this publication.
2. Quaker Quest: British Quakers created a model of outreach and public ministry that introduces new people to our Quaker community in a format that is rich and inviting. It is currently being launched in a few parts of the country. Many of us feel that this new model of Quaker "evangelism" is very promising, as it gets our message out without being either preachy or passive.
3. Traveling Ministries Program: For 10 years, FGC has supported a program of enabling Friends with a leading to minister beyond their local meeting. Every meeting can request someone from TMP to visit and share their gifts and ministry. I encourage every meeting to consider how this treasure of ministry might benefit their meeting.
4. Christian and Interfaith Relations: I will confess that I have a bias about this committee, as I have been serving on it directly during my term. CIRC acts as the ecumenical and interfaith arm of Friends General Conference. Some of you may not know that FGC has been a member of the World Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches since very early in the history of those organizations. Serving with this committee has opened my eyes to a global scale of ministry that I barely imagined existed. Our own Tom Paxson has been with CIRC for a long time and I can attest to his many gifts in this ministry.
5. Annual Gathering: I have attended Gathering only twice, but each time was a wonderful experience. The only reason I do not attend each year has to do with limited vacation time, not the cost of going. That said, the cost of going is a significant concern and FGC does have a robust scholarship and work-grant program to assist us in attending. Did you ever fantasize what it would be like to live in a world where everyone was a Quaker? Well, just like Yearly Meeting, but on a much larger scale, Annual Gathering creates a temporary "Quaker World" for a week.

I hope that my great joy and delight at serving ILYM on FGC has come through in this report. I am very happy to serve you and very willing to share more with anyone who may have questions. Peace!

- Charley Earp

FRIENDS FOR LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND QUEER CONCERNS (FLGBTQC)

Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns met at the FGC Gathering in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, and again for Midwinter Gathering near Portland, Oregon. The location of the 2009 FGC Gathering in Blacksburg, Virginia, presents both opportunities and challenges. Virginia is one of many states who have passed constitutional amendments that bar legal recognition of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and queer families. This raises fears about our families being allowed to make medical decisions for family members, recognition of adoptions, civil unions, and marriages. FGC staff has worked hard to address the concerns in light of Virginia's discriminatory laws by providing legal advice and working with local hospitals.

During Midwinter Gathering an epistle was written and sent to yearly meetings. A copy of the epistle is available at the Illinois Yearly Meeting sessions; Friends are encouraged to read it and consider ways in which they might give witness to the Testimony of Equality and work to bring about equal protection and equal rights for all people including those of the LGBTQ community consistent with the Testimony of Equality. An excerpt from the epistle is included in this report as follows:

We acknowledge and appreciate the many times FGC and our Meetings have stood for us and with us by approving minutes of support and acknowledging and celebrating our unions and families. We still have work to do. We are now led to invite you to explore ways you, our Meetings and faith communities can walk with us in witnessing to the World what we know experientially; that God's love is indivisible and is not withheld from anyone or any couple seeking to live faithfully in holy union. Our silence and the silence of supportive faith communities make it easier for those claiming to speak with the authority of faith to insert their religious doctrine into the laws that govern our lives, as witnessed recently with the passing of Proposition 8 in California.

Today we are called to:

- ◆ Invite FGC and our Meetings to join us in bringing Quakers together to help us all understand what is meant by "that which God joins together." Many meetings struggle with the issues marriage raises. What are the differences between marriage as a civil institution and as a "God anointed" union? How can Friends help in the struggle for full marriage equality for same sex couples?
- ◆ Invite FGC to join with FLGBTQC to consider together how and when to bear witness to our experience as a faith community concerning queer marriage and civil rights in part because many sites (such as Virginia) will give us Opportunities to witness to the power of God's love in our lives and in our families.
- ◆ Invite FGC to convene a Gathering or small conference whose theme would be "Whosoever God has joined together" that would address issues of marriage, family and relationships of all orientations and gender. We would suggest that Friends from all "sides" of the marriage question be invited to participate.
- ◆ Invite our Meetings to provide support committees for LGBTQ members and their families when Meetings are discerning whether they can or cannot take their marriages under the Meeting's care or when those

Friends are made vulnerable because of faith-based witness around civil and constitutional rights in the wider community.

- ◆ Invite Meetings to participate fully in civil discussions and legislative activism to help speak Truth of our experience of God's Love for all. Our work can minister to others as we share our own ongoing process as models for other faith communities. We see this as an Opportunity for our Meetings to speak publicly to our deeply rooted experience that God calls us to lives of Love and that Love takes many forms.
- ◆ We ask FGC, Monthly Meetings and Yearly Meetings to raise up the issues of equality and the ways in which our LGBTQ families are most in danger when they travel or seek help, whatever those meetings' views on LGBTQ marriage.

We want to affirm to you all the power of the witness that our straight allies bring to our own lives and in the wider community. We do not experience this issue as simply a matter of marriage rights, but as a need to affirm and recognize that it is the richness of diversity that has strengthened and nurtured this country and our faith communities through the ages. Friends have long witnessed to a Testimony of Equality and we ask Friends to join with us in asking our government for equal protection and equal rights for all people.

- Colleen Reardon

FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION (See Minute 65)

The mission of Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas is *"To facilitate loving understanding of diversities among Friends while we discover together, with God's help, our common spiritual ground; and to facilitate full expression of our Friends' testimonies in the world. In bringing Friends together face-to-face and heart-to-heart across traditions and national borders, FWCC Section of the Americas seeks to promote exchanges that advance spiritual renewal and vitality within the Religious Society of Friends."*

It is sometimes easy to forget that there are several branches of Friends, each with different worship styles, leadings for service, and sources of authority (scripture, Inward Teacher, Christ, early Friends' lives and writings). Indeed, our "FGC branch" of Friends is in the minority among worldwide Quakers. FWCC is unique in its mission of bringing together Friends from all the branches, that we may teach and learn from each other about our unique relationships with the Divine.

These f/Friendships are nurtured through regional, national and global gatherings, as well as networking to support remote Friends and Friends' Meetings with literature, nearby contacts, and help with membership recording.

The primary gathering for FWCC SoA is the spring annual meeting, which was held in March in Canby, Oregon, in a region where a wide variety of Friends live and worship. Almost 200 Friends met for worship, discernment, and fellowship (with proceedings in English and Spanish) over the course of the four days of the annual meeting. Each morning begins with a worship service in the manner of Friends. Given the diversity of the meetings and churches represented at the gathering, it was fully appropriate that one of those services was programmed, one unprogrammed, and the third semi-programmed. All of the services set the tone for the worshipful series of meetings and other events that took place during our time together.

We were challenged in our worship-sharing sessions to consider whether the diversity of Friends is capable of uniting on a shared vision, surely a serious concern for FWCC given its mission “to express our common heritage and our Quaker message to the world.” The theme, “*There is still a vision for the appointed time,*” from Habakkuk 2:3 was directly taken up in a splendid keynote address by Jan Wood of Northwest Yearly Meeting. She presented an outline of what the Religious Society of Friends will need to do in order to play its part in achieving unity of vision without sacrificing diversity, including ways of healing longstanding pains from the differences that have emerged among Friends over the course of history. In her view, FWCC is very well positioned to take the lead in this process.

This year’s business sessions were ably clerked by the new clerk of the Section of the Americas, Ray Treadway, a member of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative), longtime FWCC stalwart, and brother of Illinois Yearly Meeting’s Roy Treadway. The main item of business, as usual, was management of the section’s dwindling finances, which is of particular concern in the current economic climate. Several Friends observed that this situation represents an opportunity for us to be more faithful in discerning the work that FWCC is called to do in order to fulfill its ministry. Consistent with this focus was the decision of the assembled body to reduce the number of standing committees from 14 to 6, with the remaining work either to be handled in other ways or to be laid down as a direct concern of FWCC.

This year’s gathering was an opportunity for the members of FWCC’s Central Executive Committee to meet, which gave us Americans the chance to meet committed Friends from all over the world. Their presence was especially appreciated given the disappointingly low number of Latin American Friends who were able to attend this year’s annual meeting due to visa restrictions. Next year’s meeting will be held in Baltimore, with the hope that further planning can make a proposed meeting in Honduras a reality for 2011. The importance of these difficulties in keeping Latin American Friends vitally connected with the work of FWCC cannot be overstated.

Despite theological differences, lack of finances, and other challenges, FWCC remains committed to the vital task of bringing Quakers together to do God’s work. Meetings such as the one at Canby Grove remind all who are present that the impediments to this work are less onerous than we are inclined to believe and that the potential rewards, both to the Religious Society of Friends and the world at large, are very great. Please visit <http://fwccamericas.org> to learn more.

- David Shiner and Dawn Amos

OLNEY FRIENDS SCHOOL

Olney Friends School is having Regional Gatherings all across the country to get alumni together and enable them to learn more of what is happening at the school. So far this school year they have taken place in Boston, New York City, Whittier, California, Washington D.C., and Greensboro, North Carolina. Still to come are Orlando, Florida, and Titusville, New Jersey.

As I reported in the last *Among Friends*, Olney is presently having “A Time to Build” campaign. The dorm improvements (new windows and furniture) are complete and the new building (activity center/gym) planning is proceeding well. Construction documents were due to be completed in March 2009. Despite the economic slowdown they hope to be able to keep moving forward to the timely successful completion of the building project. They are hoping that the economic slowdown will

present an opportunity to construct the building for a lower cost than originally estimated as materials costs decline and as contractors eager for business bid more competitively.

On February 5, 2009, Olney again hosted "Focus on the Nation" events on climate change and the environment. Besides the main speaker, Ian Cheney, the group heard from students who participated in the Green Cup Challenge. Olney's Environmental Science class has been looking closely at appliance use, showering times and computer power, plotting this against the last 3 years' usage. The data was then shared with the community and will be part of a hands-on discussion of what students and the community can do to lower energy consumption. During this day they also heard from the architects working on the plans for the new certified activity center/gym.

Olney values students' contributions to their community and their achievements in the arts, academics and sports. They encourage prospective students to ask about the new 4-year, merit-based scholarship. This is granted as a \$1,000 scholarship each year that the student attends Olney. Contact admissions@olneyfriends.org if you have questions.

The latest news bulletin I received from the school was that the Olney Friends Boarding School and the Ohio Yearly Meetinghouse Historic District have been approved for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. The Main Building has been in continuous use since 1876. Bricks for the Main were made of clay dug from a nearby hillside. The Stillwater yearly meetinghouse was built in 1877. The Plummer Farm, east of Barnesville, along Ohio 147, is included for the listing. Dating back about 200 years, the Plummer farmhouse once was a stop on the Old Clay Pike, being used primarily by drovers who drove herds of cattle, sheep and hogs on foot to Eastern markets before the arrival of the railroad. Needless to say, the students and teachers are very proud of this honor.

To access more information about Olney Friends School, visit their website, www.olneyfriends.org.

- Grayce Mesner

SCATTERGOOD SCHOOL REPORT

I have served as ILYM's representative to Scattergood Friends School for the last 4 years. It has been a great joy to be so involved with the school again and to serve on the Scattergood School Committee. If anyone is interested in serving as the representative to Scattergood, please contact the ILYM Nominating Committee.

Scattergood is currently undergoing a change in leadership. This announcement was made last month:

14 May 2009

Dear Friends,

It is with heavy hearts that we have received and accepted the resignation of Jan Luchini, the Head of Scattergood Friends School, effective June 30, 2009. Jan has served the school faithfully for 23 years, the last five being as the Head of School. She has led the school to financial stability and established an incredible professional staff who will be left to bring to fruition Jan's goals of sustainability and continued academic achievement. We wish the best for Jan in her future endeavors and professional pursuits, knowing

that whatever she chooses to do she will again give of herself tirelessly, intelligently, and with a deep commitment.

The School Committee is beginning the search for a new Head of School for the 2010-2011 school year and has several leads for an interim post which we are investigating.

*For the Committee,
Debbie Galusha, clerk*

- Sharon Haworth
ILYM Representative to Scattergood School

OTHER DOCUMENTS FROM BUSINESS SESSIONS

FAITH AND PRACTICE SECTION ON FRIENDS' MANNER OF DECISION-MAKING (as approved) (See Minute 19)

So Friends are not to meet like a company of people about town or parish business, ...but to wait upon the Lord, and feeling his power and spirit to lead them...that whatsoever they may do, they may do it to the praise and glory of God, and in unity in the faith, and in the spirit, and in fellowship in the order of the gospel.
George Fox

When Friends gather to do business, the process is the same for committees and meetings of all levels. We gather together to listen for how God would have us move forward. The decisions made during the Quaker meeting for worship with a concern for business are the sense of the meeting of those in attendance. Minuted decisions remain until such time as the body is moved to change them.

A Quaker Meeting for Business

As many Friends as are able gather together to make the decisions that affect the meeting community. We begin by centering down in waiting worship, which continues into the items of business. If the business is difficult, or if the group feels keenly its need to be brought together in the Spirit, this silence may go on for a long time.

The clerk of the meeting introduces the items of business, one at a time. Some are small matters, while others are large; some appear mundane, while others deal directly with matters of faithful commitment. Each piece of business, regardless of its nature, is raised into the waiting, seeking silence.

Participants, when they feel led to speak to the issue under consideration, seek recognition from the clerk, and address the clerk or the meeting at large. All try to listen deeply to each speaker, trying to hear the guidance of God: the still, small voice which may find expression through any one of us, or (more often) find partial expression in several Friends' contributions. The clerk keeps a slow, reflective pace and an atmosphere hospitable to many different perspectives. Sometimes quite opposite views are expressed; elements from such diverse perspectives may reappear later, in unexpected combinations.

Slowly, or sometimes quickly, an agreement emerges: Friends find unity in a particular course of action which seems right for the meeting. Often, this course of action differs significantly from any idea present when the issue was introduced. The clerk or others try to put this agreement into words, as they recognize its emergence. Before the item of business is done, the clerk or recording clerk will voice this “sense of the meeting” very explicitly, to check her or his understanding with the meeting; the minute recording the decision is composed on the spot and read back “in the face of the meeting.” The actual decision takes place when this clearly formulated understanding is accepted by the assembled group. No vote is ever taken.

When the decision has been formulated to the meeting’s satisfaction, the group settles into more silence before the next item of business — which is introduced, and handled, in the same way.

Understanding the Process

When I try to think of decisions made in business meetings that were more important than the process by which they were made, I am unable to. The gifts generated by that process seem endless.
Barry Morley, 1993

Friends’ approach to decision-making differs fundamentally from the decision-making processes in the world around us, whether in government, business, academia, volunteer organizations, or other religious groups. Our decisions are not based on the desires of the majority. Neither do they rest on compromises that seek to placate groups or individuals by granting some of their wishes. The sense of the meeting sought by Friends is that course of action recognized by the group as a leading for the group as a whole; often, this is understood in terms of finding the will of God for the meeting. While we prefer our decisions to be unanimous, unanimity is not the goal of this process, and it is no guarantee.

In the Society of Friends, decisions about matters of business are the responsibility of the entire meeting. Our decisions are not made by an administrator or a council of representatives. Any of us may have some divine guidance on any matter; without each Friend’s care the meeting community risks missing the full picture of what it is being called by God to do.

Meeting for business is based on deep, open, prayerful listening. We listen for guidance directly, and we also listen carefully and prayerfully to each other, expecting to find guidance from the same deep source in one another’s words. This is the same waiting and listening, the same openness to the leadings of the Spirit, that characterize our meetings for worship. In doing business, we wait together to be led as a body, just as we wait in meeting for worship for a leading to speak in ministry.

The spiritual growth of the meeting and of its people is the most important outcome of any piece of business. As a consequence, even routine business needs to be conducted in the Light. The processes that are used for small things will be the ones that come naturally when a more demanding issue arises. Our love and respect for each other, and our faith that deep springs of guidance and inspiration are always available, empower us to trust that a faithful path forward can be found. Meeting for busi-

ness, like meeting for worship, can lead to the experience of a “gathered” meeting, which can be profoundly transformative both for the group and for the individuals involved.

Working Together Toward a Sense of the Meeting

Some Advices on Participation in Meeting for Business

- Hold the meeting prayerfully in the Light; hold each speaker and the clerks in the Light.
- Pay attention to the process, as well as to the issues. Quaker practice in meeting for business is best learned by first-hand observation and participation.
- Seek the good of the meeting as a whole, the will of God, the mind of Christ; be prepared to let go your personal preferences, individual comfort, and ego.
- Stay centered, or return if you find you have strayed.
- Give your full attention to the person speaking, and to the Spirit within. This kind of attention is incompatible with formulating your own responses while someone else is speaking.
- Allow others to complete what they are saying, and then allow some silence for reflection before you begin to speak.
- Consider before you speak if your message will bring the group closer to a sense of the meeting or if you are only repeating what another Friend has already said.
- Seek the clerk’s recognition before speaking; address the clerk or the meeting as a whole, not individual Friends.
- Speak in the hope of serving the meeting’s search for Truth. Your personal opinion, or your feelings on an issue, are relevant only insofar as they help in that search.
- Share the part of the Truth that is given you. The meeting needs the Light as given to each person, in order to find the path that is right for it.
- Speak to the item of business being discussed. Stay close to the essentials that can help the meeting reach a decision. Stop when you are done, so others can hold your statement, and the business at hand, in the Light.
- In some larger meetings, it is a helpful custom for each person to speak only once to an item of business; in smaller meetings, especially when part of the work is gathering information, this is not always either practical or helpful.
- Let your speech be plain, simple, and clear. Debate and appeal to emotion are both out of place in meeting for business. This is more than a matter of group style: such simplicity supports an attitude of seeking, of listening for divine guidance.
- When there is tension in the room take time to consider that we are members of a gathered community committed to loving fellowship and unity in the divine.
- Support the clerks in prayer as they formulate the minute.
- After a matter is concluded, return to silence and center again in preparation for the next item of business.

The Roles of the Clerks in Meeting for Business

A major responsibility of the clerk is to discern when the meeting has reached a sense of the will of God on each item of business. The clerk (and recording clerk if there is one) articulate this sense as an explicit minute for the meeting's consideration. The roles of clerk and recording clerk are at most superficially analogous to those of the chair and secretary of a secular organization, and clerks with such experience will find that it does not always serve them well. Those clerking a Quaker meeting need to learn this job: by talking with other clerks and watching them at meetings for business, by attending to supportive feedback from their own meeting, and by reading or attending workshops.

Good clerking requires both significant spiritual preparation and practical organization. A meeting calendar, with dates when certain actions must be initiated in order to produce the outcomes the meeting expects, is invaluable. Preparing an agenda is important: identifying what items of business are to come before the meeting, choosing an order. It is prudent to make sure that committee clerks or others presenting business are prepared. The clerk should be aware of the history of past decisions related to present items of business. Preparing the agenda also involves considering beforehand which items of business could wait until a future meeting for business, if a decision proves unexpectedly complex or difficult, or if the Spirit moves in unforeseen ways. The agenda is never considered more than tentative; actual consideration of business should be left to the guidance of the Spirit. Reading a query at the beginning of meeting is often used to help settle Friends in readiness for business.

The clerk would do well to take time before the meeting to become centered and open to divine leadings.

The clerk's task is to help the meeting community hear and recognize the will of God for that community. This task should come before the clerk's personal preferences, or even deep convictions; the meeting's trust that the clerk is seeking to assist that corporate discernment should not be abused. Quaker clerks stay out of the discussion and avoid contributing their own perspectives to the business at hand. On rare occasions when the call to speak seems imperative, or when the clerk feels unable to remain impartial on an issue before the meeting, she or he may step down temporarily and make clear that she or he is speaking, for the moment, not as clerk but as an individual member of the meeting, then go back to impartial clerking. If the clerk steps down for more than a short time, someone else should be appointed to serve temporarily in her or his place. The clerks try to encourage an open, seeking atmosphere in which divergent perspectives can be voiced.

Discussions should be kept focused on the current item of business; a meandering discussion with little focus will not generally come to closure. The clerk may have to intervene to help Friends focus, interrupting digressions or personal sharing which is not relevant to the issue at hand. A secure trust that the clerk is not trying to influence the meeting's deliberations may make these interventions easier.

Moments may arise when worshipful spirit is lost. The clerk or others who recognize this may ask for silence and a return to waiting worship.

Composing and reading back the sense of the meeting immediately after it is reached is very helpful, especially with difficult decisions. “Minuting in the face of the meeting,” as this practice is called, has been the standard since minutes were written long-hand in record books; the practice is frequently used today and has been found to be helpful. Clerks need not feel embarrassed by the time it takes to compose a minute, or to let the meeting reflect on it. They may ask for quiet while they write, reminding the meeting that this is an opportunity to return to the center. Clerks may also ask to be held in the Light while attempting to capture the sense of the meeting, especially on a difficult issue. Reading back the minute provides a helpful check on everyone’s understanding of the decision. Friends are generally clearer about the decision, and more ready to implement it, when the meeting has paused to see and feel and savor the unity that has been reached.

Minute-keeping is a skill requiring a good deal of thought and care. The following advices may be a useful guide:

- Record decisions, not discussion. It is not necessary, and not usually helpful, to record all opinions expressed in the meeting. Some explanation of the discussion which led to a decision is occasionally useful for understanding the decision itself, but should generally be kept to the minimum necessary to serve this purpose.
- Include all relevant information and word minutes carefully so that they will be comprehensible and clear to Friends who are not present at the meeting and to those referring to the minute in the future.
- Make explicit whether a decision was made. If the meeting seems inclined toward a decision, but not quite ready to undertake it, avoid writing a minute which could almost, but not quite, be interpreted as implying that the decision was made.
- Avoid mentioning specific individuals except as necessary to the business of the meeting, for example in making individual responsibilities clear, or in recording individuals, at their request, as standing aside from a decision.
- Minor editing of minutes after the meeting to correct grammatical errors or improve clarity and style is generally considered acceptable, but any changes affecting the substance of the minutes must be approved in the business meeting.
- Minutes must be archived, not just distributed to meeting participants. It is the responsibility of the recording clerk to see that a copy of the minutes is stored in a permanent file or minute book.

Process for Items of Business

Meeting affairs are sometimes delegated to committees or to individual Friends. At other times, a concern comes to the meeting for business from a committee or from an individual. Considerable preparation may be necessary to present the matter clearly; this preparation should be done beforehand. This may involve finding out the facts, doing the calculations, thinking things through, giving the matter careful and prayerful consideration.

Consider before coming to the meeting for business whether you are (or your committee is) providing information, or requesting seasoning, or recommending a decision. If your business requires a decision from the meeting, make your presentation clearly and completely, then step back. The clerk of the meeting calls for consideration of the matter. The meeting may need some time to come to the clarity that you

have already reached — and then may find itself led in a different direction. Trying to control the decision is an impediment to corporate discernment.

The meeting should take the time to be clear about the responsibilities of its committees, especially what it expects them to decide at the committee level. Trust the work of meeting committees; the meeting should not expect, during meeting for business, to go over every fact and every consideration behind a recommendation.

It is helpful to understand that the consideration of an item of business comes in two parts: The first part is to understand the recommendation of the committee or individual, when questions are asked and answered. The second part is to discern the way forward for the meeting.

In response to a committee's report the meeting minutes an action. Possibilities include acknowledging receipt of the report, minuting a decision whether to enact recommendations from the report, holding the matter over for further discernment either by the committee or by the meeting as a whole, or taking other action as the meeting is led.

Challenges

Question: What if I do not presently see that service in a thing, that the rest of my brethren agree in; in this case, what is my duty and theirs?

Answer: It is thy duty to wait upon God in silence and patience, out of all fleshly consultations; and as thou abidest in the *simplicity of the TRUTH*, thou wilt receive an understanding with the rest of thy brethren, about the thing doubted. And it is their duty, whilst thou behavest thyself in meekness and humility, to bear with thee, and carry themselves tenderly and lovingly towards thee...

William Penn, 1681

The primary goal of the meeting's decision process is to come into unity in God. The meeting and those participating in a meeting for business are urged not to allow the issues before it to eclipse this fundamental goal. Thus the meeting should cultivate an openness to receive a truth that may be missing from the perspectives most frequently expressed, to be open to alternatives to preconceived ideas. The clerk should see to it that this process is not rushed; returning to silent worship can often help a meeting's ability truly to listen to the variety of perspectives within it.

Sometimes, even in good Quaker process, a meeting may not find unity to move forward on an item of business. This does not automatically mean that the process is not working. It may take some time, but Friends can continue with patience, discernment, and faith that the way will open, perhaps not as we expect at first. If a united sense of the meeting cannot be found, the issue is left for further seasoning. The old policy remains unchanged, or the new business not acted upon; the subject is set aside until another meeting for business to allow for more prayer, reflection, and discernment. The ultimate solution, and the group that takes the time to come to unity about it, are generally both the better for waiting.

Trying to hurry an item of business, either because the meeting has tired of it, or because the meeting for business is held in a strictly limited time period, often causes problems, and should be avoided. A meeting may search for a long time before it finds the course of action right for it. Other times, it is there early in the process, but it is long before the meeting is able to recognize its rightness. Friends' really creative or radical insights have often taken a very long time to reach full meeting support.

Occasionally, an agreement reached by the meeting reflects something quite other than the will of God. Friends may happen to agree for different, conflicting, reasons; when all are eager to act, everyone can have what they want by ignoring these differences. Major differences may become evident at a later step, however, making united action very difficult. Other times, unanimity is reached because people have dropped out of the process, feeling unheard or unheeded. A unanimous decision, in cases like this, is unlikely to reflect any deep leading for the meeting, and is often better laid aside for a time.

Sometimes a sense of the meeting is seen to emerge, though a Friend present remains unclear that the course of action in question represents a faithful response by the meeting to the divine guidance it has received. When a Friend is not united in the emerging sense of the meeting, it may be because of personal factors or circumstances that intrude on her or his prayerful consideration of the issue; it may be because he or she discerns that the course of action toward which the meeting appears to be heading is not sufficiently faithful to the leadings of the Spirit; or it may be because he or she is simply unable to discern God's will on this particular matter.

A Friend who is not drawn into the unity of the emerging sense of the meeting may ask to "stand aside" so as not to impede the meeting's work. However, a Friend who has a clear leading, or "stop," that a proposed action is not appropriate should clearly communicate this concern. It is a responsibility to do so even if it is uncomfortable for the individual or for the meeting. Typically a meeting will not proceed if even a single individual is not in unity. This is not to say that an individual Friend has the prerogative to block a decision. But the meeting should be extremely cautious in accepting a course of action where one or more Friends present have expressed contrary leadings. It should weigh heavily whether moving ahead with the matter at hand is not less important than the loving fellowship of the meeting. When a Friend objects and stands in the way, there is a mutual obligation for the meeting and the individual to do further discernment. Our practice should reflect faithfulness to the expectation that Divine guidance will lead the meeting into unity when all humbly submit themselves to Divine will.

The unity we seek depends on the willingness of us all to seek the truth in each other's utterances; on our being open to persuasion; and in the last resort on a willingness to recognise and accept the sense of the meeting as recorded in the minute, knowing that our dissenting views have been heard and considered. We do not vote in our meetings, because we believe that this would emphasise the divisions between differing views and inhibit the process of seeking to know the will of God. We must recognise, however, that a minority view may well continue to exist. When we unite with a minute offered by our clerk, we express, not a sudden agreement of

everyone present with the prevailing view, but rather a confidence in our tried and tested way of seeking to recognise God's will. We act as a community whose members love and trust each other. We should be reluctant to prevent the acceptance of a minute which the general body of Friends present feels to be right.
Britain Yearly Meeting, 1994

The faith of Friends is that there is a right order, a right way forward, that can be discerned by opening ourselves to God's leading for the Meeting. If we act on that faith, no matter how difficult the decision facing us might be, we will wait for the truth to become visible. Anything is possible when we wait in worship.
Marty Walton, 1997

Sources for Quotes

p. 1, "Friends are not to meet...": George Fox; Epistle CCCXIII, *A Collection of Many Select and Christian Epistles*, vol. II, pp. 66–73; Marcus Gould and Isaac Hopper, 1831; p. 70.

p. 2, "When I try to think...": Barry Morley; *Beyond Consensus: Salvaging the Sense of the Meeting*; Pendle Hill, 1993; p. 23.

p. 6, "*Question*: What if I do not presently see...": William Penn; "A Brief Examination and State of Liberty Spiritual," *The Political Writings of William Penn*, pp. 272–288, ed. by Andrew R. Murphy; Liberty Fund, 2002; p. 282.

p. 7, "The unity we seek depends on the willingness of us all...": [no author]; *Quaker Faith and Practice*, 3rd ed.; The Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain, 2005, sec. 3.06.

p. 8, "The faith of Friends is that there is a right order...": Marty Walton; *The Meeting Experience: Practicing Quakerism in Community*; Argenta, 1997; p. 29.

FAITH AND PRACTICE SECTION ON ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE OF MEETINGS (to be brought forward in 2010) (See Minute 8)

Communities of Friends

The Quaker way of life is one of community: Friends gather together for worship, for service, to support each other spiritually and in other ways, and to reach collective decisions on the issues which arise in community life. For Friends, religion is not just a matter of individual experience, but something we enter into together, acting as a body in our worship, our witness, and our business; holding each other in mutual care, love and attention.

This is not to discount the experience of those Friends who live at too great a distance from their meetings to participate regularly, nor to deny that each of us must come individually to a sense of what is right and true and essential in spiritual matters. But time and experience have proven the value of a close, responsive community in fostering individual spiritual growth, in testing and tempering individual leadings and individual understanding, and in supporting individuals as they are called to act or to

suffer for religious principle. Worship in a gathered community is valuably different from private devotion, and a coordinated group can accomplish far more in service and advocacy than individuals acting alone.

Effective functioning as a community requires some organizational structure, and Friends have developed a variety of modes of organization, at both the local and the regional levels.

The local (or “particular”) meeting may be organized as a *worship group*, *recognized meeting*, *preparative meeting*, or *monthly meeting*. (The differences among these will be explained in what follows.) Whatever its organizational pattern, the local meeting is where Friends usually find their primary spiritual home. The local meeting is where Friends gather most often for worship, where they have the most regular contact with one another, where they can most easily provide individual care and support for one another. Indeed, some Friends find that their entire involvement in the Religious Society of Friends is with their local meeting.

There is a strong tradition of local autonomy in Illinois Yearly Meeting, and local meetings order their own affairs as they feel led. But Friends community is not purely local, any more than spiritual life is purely individual. No local meeting is a denomination unto itself; we are gathered into larger, regional bodies and into the worldwide Religious Society of Friends just as we are gathered locally: for worship, mutual care, fellowship, and above all for service to God and to humankind. Larger gatherings provide support for local meetings, and make coordination possible across meetings; they allow the pursuit of larger-scale projects than local meetings could accomplish on their own; they broaden the spiritual perspectives both of meetings and of individuals; and they provide an important unifying influence among Friends.

Regional meetings may be organized in various ways and for regions of various sizes. In some cases a monthly meeting may function as a small regional body, with more than one local meeting in its care (see ---- below). Several monthly meetings may be organized into a *quarterly meeting*, or may hold other kinds of regional gatherings. *Yearly meetings* comprehend a still wider area; Illinois Yearly Meeting includes local meetings throughout Illinois and neighboring areas of several other states. Various “umbrella” organizations promote communication and cooperation among yearly meetings, and represent the Religious Society of Friends at the national and international levels.

The purpose and organization of these various kinds of local meetings, regional meetings and organizations will be described in turn.

The Monthly Meeting

The *monthly meeting* is the primary level of business meeting in the Religious Society of Friends, conducting the business of a single local meeting, or in some cases, of a small number of meetings across a limited region. By extension, the body of Friends whose business is conducted in such a meeting is also known as a monthly meeting. Membership in the Religious Society of Friends is through and in a monthly meeting, which may admit new members and make other membership decisions.

2009 DIRECTORY OF MONTHLY MEETINGS AND WORSHIP GROUPS IN ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL MONTHLY MEETING

11am in homes
 Clerk: Larry Stout
 lawrence.stout@comcast.net
 Business: varies

CLEAR CREEK MONTHLY MEETING

14365 N 350th Ave., McNabb IL 61335
 11am 815-882-2214
<http://clearcreek.quaker.org>
 Mail to: Clear Creek Friends, P.O. Box 202
 McNabb, IL 61335
 Clerk: Rachel Mershon
 ray@ivnet.com
 Business: 3rd First Day, 9:45 am

COLUMBIA MONTHLY MEETING

6408 Locust Grove Dr. East, Columbia MO 65202
 10:00am 573-474-1827
<http://quakers.missouri.org>
 Clerk: Pat Wixom
 p4wixom@yahoo.com
 Business: 2nd First Day, noon, except August

DOWNERS GROVE FRIENDS MEETING

5710 Lomond Ave, Downers Grove IL 60516
 10:30am 630-968-3861
<http://www.gamma9davis.homestead.com/meeting.html>
 Clerk: Ruth Marquez
 ruth.marquez@comcast.net
 Business: 2nd First Day, 9am

DUNELAND FRIENDS MEETING

Youth Services Bureau, 253 W. Lincolnway,
 Valparaiso IN 46385 10am
 Clerk: Noel Pavlovic
 npavlo130@comcast.net
 Business: 3rd First Day, 11:30 am

EVANSTON FRIENDS MEETING

1010 Greenleaf Street, Evanston IL 60202
 10am 847-864-8511
<http://evanston.quaker.org>
 Mail to: Meeting address above
 Clerk: Phyllis Reynolds
 phymac4@comcast.net
 Business: 3rd First Day, 11:30 am

57th ST. MEETING OF FRIENDS

5615 S. Woodlawn, Chicago IL 60637
 10:30am 773-288-3066
<http://www.57thstreetmeeting.org>
 Mail to: Clerk, at meeting address above
 Clerk: Owen Duncan
 jmsomd@sbcglobal.net
 Business: 3rd First Day, 1:00pm

LAKE FOREST FRIENDS MEETING

101 West Elm Road (West Old Elm and
 Ridge Rds), Lake Forest IL 60045
 10:30am First Day 847-234-8410
 8:00 am Thursday
<http://lakeforest.il.quaker.org>
 Mail to: PO Box 95, Lake Forest IL 60045
 Clerk: Elizabeth Merric
 emerric@sbcglobal.net
 Business: 1st First Day, 9am

NORTHSIDE FRIENDS MEETING

4427 N. Clark, Chicago IL 60640
 Worship: 10:00am First Days &
 7pm Wednesdays (in homes)
 Mail to: P.O. Box 408429, Chicago IL 60640
<http://www.quaker.org/northside> 773-784-2155
 Clerk: Andrew Harrington
 aharrin@luc.edu
 Business: 1st First Day at 12:30pm

OAK PARK MONTHLY MEETING

Oak Park Art League, 720 Chicago Ave., Oak
 Park 10am 708-445-8201
<http://oprfr.com/oprmmf>
 Mail to: Clerk, P.O. Box 3245, Oak Park, IL
 60303-3245
 Clerk: Wil Rutt
 willrutt@sbcglobal.net
 Business: 2nd First Day 11:30am

OSHKOSH MONTHLY MEETING

419 Boyd St., Oshkosh WI 54901
 4:00 pm 920-232-1460
 Mail to: PO Box 403, Oshkosh WI 54903
 Clerk: Tom Barlow
 maryrolloff@yahoo.com
 Business: 2nd First Day 5:00 pm

ROCK VALLEY FRIENDS MEETING

Just Goods Community Room, 201 Seventh St.,
 Rockford 11am
 Clerk: Ann Eckert
 Business: varies

ST. LOUIS RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

1001 Park, St. Louis MO 63104 10:00am
<http://www.stlouisfriends.org> 314-588-1122
 Mail to: 1001 Park, St. Louis MO 63104
 Co-Clerks: David Bates
 dbates7915@aol.com
 Anna Sappington-Sandidge
 Business: 2nd First Day, 11:15 am

FRIENDS MEETING OF ROLLA

(Preparative—under the care of St. Louis
 Mtg.)
 Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Rolla
 house, 608 East 11th Street, Rolla, MO
 June - August: 10:30am,
 School Year: 1:00 pm
<http://www.friendsmeetingofrolla.org/>
 Clerk: Chris Jocius
 jociusc@mst.edu
 Business: 3rd First Day after worship

SOUTH BEND FRIENDS MEETING

Charles Martin Youth Center
 914 Lincolnway West, South Bend, IN
 10:30 am 574-255-5781
<http://southbend.quaker.org>
 Clerk: Elaine Meyer-Lee
 meyerlee@saintmarys.edu
 Business: 2nd First Day, 11:30 am

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS QUAKER MEETING

Mail to: Interfaith Center, 913 S. Illinois Ave.,
 Carbondale IL 62901 10am
<http://www.siquaker.org/>
 Meeting Contact: Dawn Amos
 dawn@amoshome.com
 Clerk: Mark Amos
 mark@amoses.net
 Business: 4th First Days, 11:00 a.m.

SPOON RIVER QUAKER MEETING

(formerly Peoria-Galesburg)
 504 N. 2nd St., Monmouth, IL 61462
 10 am 309-734-7759
 Contact: Elke Narkiewicz
 enarkiewicz@yahoo.com
 Business: Second First Days at 11:30 am

UPPER FOX VALLEY QUAKER MEETING

Crystal Lake Montessori School, 3013 Country
 Club Rd. (between Crystal Lake and Woodstock)
 10 am
 Clerk: John Hackman
 johnhackman@att.net
 Business: 1st First Day, noonish

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN FRIENDS MEETING

1904 E. Main St., Urbana, IL 61802
 10:30 am 217-328-5853
<http://www.quaker.org/urbana>
 Mail to: 1904 E. Main Street, Urbana, IL 61802
 Clerk: Sandy Bales
 sbales@illinois.edu
 Business: 3rd First Day, 12:15 pm

SPRINGFIELD WORSHIP GROUP

(under the care of Urbana-Champaign Mtg.)
 First Day worship, 10:30am in homes
 Contact: Peggy Boyer Long
 peggyboy@aol.com

Functions of monthly meetings

Each monthly meeting organizes, maintains and oversees one or more regular meetings for worship. This includes the practical work of arranging the time and location of meetings, publicizing their existence, and seeing that Friends and visitors are warmly welcomed. Beyond these practical matters, the monthly meeting works to promote the spiritual vitality of its meetings for worship, encouraging worship and ministry in which the presence of God is deeply felt, and which tenderly addresses the spiritual needs of meeting participants, individually and as a community.

The monthly meeting also works to develop the meeting community and care for its members outside of meeting for worship. Often, the meeting has meals together after worship, or holds other events which cultivate a sense of intimacy and fellowship among meeting participants. It educates meeting children and adults in the principles of Friends, and supports them in their spiritual development. It conducts marriages, funerals and memorial meetings. The meeting should see to it that Friends in difficult or trying circumstances receive the support they need, whether in the form of practical assistance, counsel, or simple companionship and acknowledgment.

Monthly meetings also witness publicly as led by God, and interpret the Quaker message to the wider community. Much of this witness may take the form of advocacy for peace, justice, and equality; or of direct service and relief to those in need.

All these functions require resources and organization, and the monthly meeting therefore also serves an administrative purpose. It receives, maintains and disburses funds. In many cases it may own and maintain a meetinghouse, burial ground, or other property. It must keep accurate records of its business proceedings, membership, and finances.

Positions and committees of the monthly meeting

In fulfilling these functions, meetings usually find that certain responsibilities are best delegated to particular individuals or groups. The extent of this delegation will vary with the size, activity, and needs of the meeting. Normally, all monthly meetings will have reason to appoint someone to the position of *clerk*, and a different person as *treasurer*. A very small meeting might make no other appointments than these, working together as a committee of the whole in cases where other meetings might delegate. But a very large meeting may have an elaborate system of committees and individual positions, into whose care the practical work of the meeting has been placed, and in which business is prepared before presentation to the monthly meeting itself.

Just as organizational structure varies from meeting to meeting, it may also vary across time within a single meeting. The size, energy, and concerns of a meeting community may change over the course of its history, and Friends sometimes find that a pattern of organization which formerly served them well becomes instead an impediment to effective work. The kinds of committees and individual positions which a meeting sets up are a matter for careful discernment, and meetings do well to reconsider their structure from time to time. When major changes are made, community members may need to alter their habits and expectations: A meeting which has recently established a system of committees after a long period without them must

guard against redoing committee work in its monthly meeting for business. A meeting which has recently laid down major committees must find new ways of making sure that vital work gets done.

Not all meetings, then, will always use all the committees and positions listed here. But they have all proven to be useful in the right circumstances, and some of them have deep roots in Quaker tradition:

Clerk. The position of clerk is motivated by two unusual features of Friends business process: We do not vote, and decisions may be made which do not reflect proposals whose wording is prepared in advance of the meeting. These features present a challenge: How can we be sure when a decision has actually been made, and precisely what has been decided? To prevent confusion over such questions, meetings appoint an individual, the clerk, whose charge is to discern when the meeting has reached a decision in its business sessions, and articulate this decision back to the meeting for its approval.

The clerk also prepares a tentative agenda before the meeting, recognizes speakers during the meeting, and is responsible for seeing that the decisions of the meeting are carried out afterwards. The clerk signs letters and other documents on behalf of the meeting as it directs. In many meetings the clerk is assigned additional responsibilities outside the meeting for business, such as dealing with incoming correspondence, or making announcements at the end of meeting for worship. In meetings which do not appoint a separate recorder or recording clerk, these functions also fall to the clerk.

The position of clerk bears some resemblance to that of a meeting president, and in some meetings may be known as the *presiding clerk*, as distinct from the *recording clerk*. But in principle, our meetings are presided over by the Divine Spirit, by which we wait to be guided in our business meetings no less than in our meetings for worship. The position of clerk in a Friends meeting also differs in important ways from that of president in some other organizations. In many institutions, the president has extensive executive decision-making power, and is expected to take the lead in developing new initiatives and new programs. But the position of clerk is first and foremost a business-meeting function, and requires a degree of impartiality which is easily undermined, in appearance or reality, if the clerk makes major meeting decisions or strenuously promotes specific choices on the issues which come before the meeting. Of course the clerk may make such administrative decisions as are necessary to carry out the instructions of the meeting. But the clerk is not so much the pilot on whom Friends rely to steer the ship, as the mirror into which they look to see what decisions they have reached; accurately reflecting the sense of the meeting is the first principle of good “clerking.”

Some meetings also appoint an *assistant clerk*, who aids the clerk in formulating a clear and accurate expression of meeting decisions, substitutes for the clerk when the clerk is absent, and assists in other ways as the meeting directs.

For more on the functions of the clerk, see “On the role of the clerks in meeting for business”, pp. FMDM 3-4.

Recording clerk. Originally, it was the responsibility of the clerk to record the minutes of the monthly meeting, and especially in smaller meetings this may still be the case. But most meetings have found it useful to appoint a separate *recording clerk*, so that the clerk may devote full attention to discerning the sense of the meeting on the questions which come before it.

The recording clerk is responsible for writing out the minutes as they are approved, and in most meetings shares responsibility with the clerk for composing the actual wording of the minutes. After the meeting, the recording clerk prepares an official copy of the minutes to be stored in a permanent file or minute book, and typically also prepares copies for distribution to meeting participants.

Treasurer. The treasurer receives, invests, and disburses the funds of the meeting in accordance with its instructions, and regularly reports to the meeting on its receipts, expenditures, balance, and general financial state. Individual donors are normally not identified in such reports, and the treasurer should treat their identities as a confidential matter. The treasurer provides donors with receipts for their donations as required for tax purposes.

Recorder. The recorder (not to be confused with the recording clerk) is responsible for maintaining the membership records of the meeting. These should include an up-to-date list of current and former members, giving the name and last known address of each, the date when membership was initiated, whether it was initiated by birth or adoption, transfer from another meeting, or request, and for former members giving the date when membership was terminated, and whether it was terminated by death, transfer to another meeting, or release from membership. Many meetings also keep additional information provided by members: dates and locations of births, marriages and deaths; names of parents, spouses and children; or other information which the meeting may find useful and which members are willing to share. The recorder should also keep a record of marriages held under the care of the meeting, including dates, and a copy or transcript of the marriage certificate.

It is strongly advised that all records be kept in hard copy on acid-free paper. A computer database of members may also be useful, but does not eliminate the need for hard-copy records because computer media and file formats become obsolete.

The recorder should bear in mind that the approval of the monthly business meeting is required for all membership transfers, all initiations of membership by request, and all releases from membership, including releases of Friends who have been inactive for many years and with whom the meeting has lost touch; it is not the prerogative of the recorder to purge the membership book of inactive Friends, or to decide who should no longer be considered a member.

The recorder should provide the care and counsel committee (or its equivalent) with an up-to-date membership list, at least annually.

In most meetings, the recorder or another Friend also periodically publishes a meeting directory, giving such contact information as active members and attenders of the meeting are willing to share. This directory should not be confused with the formal membership list of the meeting.

Archivist. Many meetings appoint an archivist, who is responsible for maintaining the meeting's records, including a complete set of minutes, older membership records and financial documents, deeds and other property-related documents, newsletters, and other materials felt to be of permanent interest. It is useful to keep copies of such documents on hand for meeting use, but it is strongly recommended that the original copies of legal documents be kept in a safe-deposit box, and that the original copies of most other kinds of materials be deposited on loan in an external, publicly accessible repository. The archivist is responsible for seeing that materials are deposited in a timely manner. Many meetings in Illinois Yearly Meeting archive their records at the Illinois Historical Survey, a department of the University of Illinois Library in Urbana-Champaign.

Religious Education committee. This committee, also sometimes known as the First Day School committee or by other names, coordinates the meeting's efforts to educate the meeting's children in the principles and values of Friends. In small and growing meetings, this may be the first committee formed, because of the need to nurture the children of the meeting. In some meetings, this committee also coordinates religious education for adults; but more commonly, this is handled by a separate committee, or by a self-organizing study group.

The committee is responsible for finding appropriate teachers, and for supporting and overseeing their work. In most meetings, teachers are chosen from among the members and attenders of the meeting. Care should be taken not to leave the job of teaching exclusively to parents. In any case, teachers should be well known to the meeting, or carefully interviewed and investigated to ensure the safety of the children, and the appropriateness of the teacher's instructional style.

The committee bears final responsibility for the curriculum. Some useful resources are the ILYM Religious Education committee, QuakerBooks of FGC, and the FGC Religious Education committee. The practical work of developing the curriculum and assembling instructional materials may be performed by the committee, the teachers, or both in consultation. Whatever the arrangement, parents should be carefully consulted.

Care and counsel committee. This committee coordinates the meeting's care over its members and other active participants in the meeting community, working to make sure that they are adequately supported in times of trial or decision, and addressing cases of conflict or disaffection in the meeting. In many meetings it is also given specific responsibilities in the meeting's handling of membership, marriage, and funerals and memorial services. Such a committee is recommended even for relatively small meetings.

The committee continues, in some sense, the responsibilities formerly assigned to meeting "overseers," and may be known in some meetings as the Oversight Committee, the Pastoral Care Committee, or by other names. Continued use of the term *overseers* is not recommended, because of the potential for offensive connotations from historical uses of this term associated with slavery. Frequently, this committee is combined with the worship and ministry committee to form a single committee known as Ministry and Counsel, or something similar.

The care and counsel committee should make regular contact with all members of the meeting, whether local or distant, and inquire after their spiritual and practical needs, and their relation with the meeting. It should keep alert to new situations as they arise, offering its help to Friends experiencing difficulty, and inquiring after those Friends who have recently dropped their involvement in the meeting. When cases of conflict arise in the meeting, it may arrange for mediation. When appropriate, the committee may refer Friends to organizations in the wider community which provide practical or material assistance, counseling, or other services; it is strongly urged that the committee keep itself informed about the availability of such services, and keep an up-to-date directory with contact information. Strict confidentiality must be maintained both in the committee's own contacts, and in its referrals to outside organizations. For more on care for the meeting community, see [our yet-to-be-written section on pastoral care], pp. xx-xx.

In many meetings, requests for membership or marriage under the care of the meeting are referred to this committee, as are requests for a funeral or memorial meetings. See "Applying for Membership," pp. xx-xx; "Marriage Procedure," pp. xx-xx; [and our yet-to-be written section on funerals and memorial services], pp. xx-xx.

Proposals to drop a Friend from membership, or to alter the membership policy of the meeting, are also normally considered in this committee before presentation to the monthly meeting.

Worship and ministry committee. This committee works to foster the spiritual life of the meeting, including especially the meeting for worship; promoting its vitality, depth, and fidelity to the life of the Spirit. This function is a continuation, to some extent, of responsibilities which in an earlier era belonged to the "preparative meeting of ministers and elders," and the committee may still in some meetings be known as the Elders Committee, or by other names. In many meetings, it is combined with the care and counsel committee to form a single committee known as Ministry and Counsel, or something similar.

The worship and ministry committee may include Friends of any age or experience with a concern for the spiritual life of the community and its meetings for worship; but ideally will include several experienced and knowledgeable Friends, some Friends who speak frequently in meeting, and some Friends who speak less frequently.

The committee meets regularly to consider the spiritual state of the meeting, and the quality and conduct of its meetings for worship, including those for business. The queries on pp. xx-xx may help guide the committee in its consideration of these matters.

Members of the worship and ministry committee pay special attention to those Friends who have recently begun to speak more frequently in meeting, offering them counsel and guidance, and encouraging whatever in their ministry appears a free and faithful expression of the Light Within. In many meetings, this committee also provides support and advice to the clerk.

The worship and ministry committee is also responsible for dealing with disruptions in meeting for worship, and with participants who make a habit of inappropriate min-

istry. A light touch is strongly urged in approaching such cases. It should be carefully considered whether the meeting might be damaged more by the bitterness and ill feeling which may result if a participant feels silenced than it would by forbearance. Nor should ministry be considered inappropriate simply because it is disturbing or upsetting to the meeting. But when inappropriate speech or other behavior interferes with the meeting's ability to hold meaningful meetings for worship, it is appropriate to take steps to correct the situation. On rare occasions, members of the committee must act individually to deal with disruptions as they arise; but it is strongly recommended that responses be developed by the committee as a whole whenever possible.

The worship and ministry committee may also work to promote the spiritual life of the meeting outside its regular meeting for worship, for example by arranging for retreats, workshops, or other events, by formulating queries for the meeting's consideration, or by making spiritually beneficial literature or other materials available to the meeting.

Nominating committee. On an annual basis, this committee proposes Friends to fill the positions and committees of the meeting, checking to make sure they are willing and available for service before submitting names to the monthly meeting for final approval.

Selecting Friends for service is a matter for careful discernment. While it is useful to ask meeting members and attenders which positions they feel most drawn to, care should be taken to consider who is best suited to a position, and not base decisions on the mere fact that someone has volunteered. Young people and those new to the meeting should be considered, not only "old hands." The committee is cautioned against rotating Friends through important positions of the meeting out of a sense that everyone deserves a "turn." At the same time, it should recognize opportunities for nurturing the growth of individuals in their ability to serve the meeting through participation in committee work.

The nominating committee normally does not name its own members. This may be done by an *ad hoc* naming committee or through some other process developed by the monthly meeting. Members of the nominating committee should be knowledgeable about the responsibilities of the positions and committees of the meeting, and familiar with a wide range of participants in the meeting community.

Finance committee. This committee exercises a special care over the financial state of the meeting, working with the treasurer to ensure that the meeting remains in good financial condition. In most meetings, the finance committee proposes the meeting's annual budget (which must then be approved by the monthly meeting before adoption). In some meetings, the committee also considers requests for unbudgeted expenses. It is recommended that the committee audit the treasurer's books at least annually. The finance committee may also issue fundraising appeals; or this may be handled by a separate fundraising committee.

Peace and social concerns committee. This committee, which may also be known as the Peace and Service Committee or by other names, coordinates the meeting's efforts to promote the peaceful resolution of conflicts, to establish justice and compassion in the wider society, and to provide service or relief to those in need. This work

may include petitioning the state; organizing events to educate and inform the public or the meeting on relevant issues; direct provision of food, shelter, or other necessities; or other work as the committee feels led and circumstances suggest.

Advancement and outreach committee. This committee (or, in some meetings, an advancement committee and a separate outreach committee) serves to advance the life of the meeting and the principles of Friends. It works to build the meeting community, both by fostering a sense of connection among meeting participants, and by promoting awareness of the meeting and of Friends in general among the wider public. The committee may arrange workshops, retreats, lectures, and social events, promoting these inside and outside the meeting as appropriate. Most meetings prefer a low-key approach to outreach, believing that the example of meeting service to the community will be more convincing to seekers than direct proselytization. But it is doubtful whether the Quaker movement would have survived, if it had not been energetically promoted by early Friends; and even the example of community service will not be convincing to seekers who have no opportunity to hear of it. At the very least, the meeting must make sure it can be easily found by those who may already be looking for a Friends meeting.

Property committee. This committee, which may also be known as the House and Grounds Committee, Maintenance and Planning Committee or by other names, coordinates the maintenance of the meetinghouse and land, if any. In many meetings it also develops plans for future construction. If the meetinghouse is made available to outside groups, or if part of it is rented as an apartment, guesthouse, or for other purposes, this committee may also serve as the meeting contact with the guests or tenants, and administer any rental agreements; or this may be handled by a separate meetinghouse use committee or rental committee.

Other positions and committees. A monthly meeting may establish such other positions and committees as seem useful and appropriate.

Responsibilities of monthly meetings to other meetings

Every monthly meeting is responsible to conduct its affairs in the manner of Friends, seek the Spirit's guidance in its worship and business, uphold Friends testimonies, and exercise loving care over its members. Beyond this, monthly meetings fulfill a particular role in the organizational structure of the Religious Society of Friends, and therefore bear specific responsibilities both to the larger meetings of which they form a part, such as the yearly and quarterly meetings, and to any smaller meetings under their care.

Responsibilities to the yearly meeting, and to the quarterly or general meeting.

Monthly meetings in Illinois Yearly Meeting are responsible to participate in the life and work of the yearly meeting. To the extent possible, Friends from each monthly meeting should attend the yearly meeting's business sessions, and serve as called on yearly meeting committees. Each monthly meeting appoints a representative to the yearly meeting Continuing Committee. Monthly meetings are also expected to help in the planning of yearly meeting gatherings, and in the practical work of putting on such gatherings. Monthly meetings may also expect from time to time to host meetings of the Continuing Committee.

Monthly meetings are also responsible to contribute to the financial support of the yearly meeting. The amount to be contributed is determined by the monthly meeting; however, Illinois Yearly Meeting does recommend specific amounts, proportional to the number of “resident adult members” in the monthly meeting. “Resident” members are those who live close enough to the meeting to attend on a regular basis; the monthly meeting must judge how close this is. Some meetings contribute based only on the number of resident adult members who are active participants in the meeting.

Each monthly meeting sends two annual reports to the yearly meeting. The first is a statistical report, giving information such as a list of those individuals who have initiated, terminated or transferred membership during the preceding year; the total number of members, divided into adult members and Young Friends, resident and non-resident; average attendance during the year; names of the meeting clerk, treasurer, recorder, and representative to the Continuing Committee; or other information as the yearly meeting requests. The second report is a “State of Society” report, describing the spiritual state of the meeting. This may be similar or identical to the State of Society report read at the quarterly or general meeting; for more information on this report, see the next section.

A monthly meeting which forms part of a quarterly meeting, or of a general meeting which shares some of the functions of a quarterly meeting, bears similar responsibilities to the quarterly or general meeting as it does to the yearly meeting. Friends from each monthly meeting in the quarterly or general meeting should attend its business sessions, and serve as called on its committees. Monthly meetings plan and host the quarterly or general meeting gatherings. Monthly meetings are also responsible to support the quarterly or general meeting financially, according to practices established by the quarterly or general meeting; and to send a State of Society report and such other reports as the quarterly or general meeting requests.

State of Society reports. At least annually, each monthly meeting prepares a report on the spiritual state of Friends society in the meeting community. This report is read aloud in the quarterly or general meeting (if the monthly meeting forms part of such a meeting), with an opportunity for the gathered Friends to respond to it from silence. In addition, the report is sent to the yearly meeting for publication in the annual minutebook.

Historically, quarterly and yearly meetings expected each constituent monthly meeting to report by minuting responses to a series of queries about its spiritual and practical condition. The traditional queries covered a variety of areas, including factual information about the regularity with which meetings were held, and the establishment or discontinuance of meetings; the lives and conduct of meeting members and the degree to which they upheld Friends testimonies; and the meeting’s conformity to accepted Friends practice in its meetings for business and worship. Over time, the queries came to be regarded not as definite questions to which specific answers were expected, but as guides to the kinds of topics to be discussed in a free-form report. The following queries are offered for those meetings which may wish to return to the practice of composing reports in whole or in part as a series of query responses, or as a guide to the kinds of topics to be discussed in a free-form report, as the meeting feels led. If a free-form report is given, it is usually formulated by a committee or individual appointed by the meeting, with the final text being approved by the

monthly meeting as a whole. If the report is given as a series of query responses, it is recommended that these not be formulated by a committee, but that the entire meeting be given an opportunity to respond to each query out of the silence, with the clerk discerning the sense of the meeting from the responses and distilling it into a minute. Queries 5, 7, and 8 are adapted from queries in the 1879 and 1892 disciplines of Illinois Yearly Meeting.

1. What is the quality of worship in recent meetings? Do Friends feel drawn into living silence? Do they meet in the hope and expectation of a transformative encounter with the Divine Spirit?
2. Does the meeting feel “gathered” in its worship, seeking and responding to God as a community? Are meetings more than simultaneous individual meditation?
3. Is the right balance between silence and speaking maintained? Do Friends speak when moved to do so? When spoken ministry is offered, is it under a clear sense of Divine leading?
4. Do Friends feel the opportunity to grow spiritually? Does the meeting community provide both the challenge and the sense of security needed for real spiritual progress?
5. Do Friends maintain love and fellowship towards one another? When differences arise, are endeavors used speedily to end them?
6. What is the witness of the meeting? Is it obvious to others who are not Quakers?
7. Are the necessities of the poor within our neighborhoods, and the circumstances of those who appear likely to need aid, inspected and relieved?
8. Do Friends bear testimony against oppression, oaths, war, and gambling, and in favor of simplicity and integrity?
9. What is the general level of vitality in the meeting? Are Friends encouraged or discouraged about the state of the meeting?
10. What major events have occurred in the meeting since its last report, particularly as these affect the spiritual life of the meeting community?
11. If the monthly meeting has any preparative meetings, recognized meetings or worship groups under its care, how do they fare?

Responsibilities of the monthly meeting to meetings under its care. In some cases, a monthly meeting may function as a regional body of Friends, with more than one local meeting under its care. This was, in fact, the original conception: a monthly meeting consisted of several local meetings, each normally organized as a preparative meeting. Friends from the various preparative meetings composing a monthly meeting gathered once a month to finalize business for all of them.

This mode of organization is still used in some parts of the world, and is available in principle in Illinois Yearly Meeting. But it has become more common for monthly meetings to consist of a single local meeting; or sometimes, of one local meeting which, by reasons of size or history, is often informally identified with the monthly meeting itself, together with one or more smaller meetings organized as worship groups, recognized meetings, or preparative meetings, and held “under the care” of the monthly meeting. It should be emphasized that in the latter case, the monthly meeting is still in some sense a regional body, consisting of all the meetings involved. It is this regional body under whose care the meetings are held; and the local

meeting with which the monthly meeting is informally identified is under its care no less than the others.

A monthly meeting has the responsibility to nurture and support all the meetings in its care, to promote their spiritual life and practical growth, and to care for their participants in times of need or trial. The monthly meeting must also deal promptly with any business brought to it by a meeting under its care. It must keep itself informed as to the time and location of all the meetings in its care, and as to their general condition and level of vitality.

To help fulfill these responsibilities, it is recommended that the monthly meeting appoint one or more Friends to visit regularly with each worship group, recognized meeting or preparative meeting under its care, according to a schedule to be worked out with the meeting being visited.

Originally, final decisions on all business concerning the local meetings composing a monthly meeting were made by the monthly meeting. Such a system may still occasionally be appropriate, for example in the case of a recognized meeting organized directly by the monthly meeting and held nearby. But bringing all business to the monthly meeting for finalization is impractical if the meetings are geographically distant from one another, as is often the case in Illinois Yearly Meeting; and experience has proven the value of local autonomy in meeting decision-making. In general, therefore, local meetings conduct their own affairs as they feel led.

However, decisions regarding the initiation, termination, or transfer of membership are the special province of the monthly meeting, as is the decision to hold a marriage under the care of the meeting, and the conduct of the wedding itself. Preparative meetings, recognized meetings and worship groups bring such business to their monthly meeting, and may also bring other business as seems appropriate. Major events such as funerals or memorial services may be difficult for a small meeting to conduct on its own; the monthly meeting should stand ready to assist the meetings under its care with these or other large projects.

Setting up, laying down, and reaffiliation of monthly meetings

Setting up a monthly meeting. When a group has met regularly for divine worship in the manner of Friends and is in agreement with Friends principles, the desire for a monthly meeting, with its additional responsibilities, expectations, and joys, may arise. To begin the process of establishing a monthly meeting, the group makes a request to the appropriate monthly or quarterly meeting or to the Continuing Committee of Illinois Yearly Meeting. The following guidelines may be used to determine which of these is the most appropriate body to receive the request:

1. If the group requesting the establishment of a monthly meeting is a part of (or held under the care of) an existing monthly meeting, it normally makes its initial request to this monthly meeting.
2. If the group is not part of an existing monthly meeting, the request is normally made to the surrounding quarterly meeting, if there is one.
3. If the group is not part of an existing monthly meeting and there is no appropriate quarterly meeting, the request is normally made to the Continuing Committee of Illinois Yearly Meeting.

If the request is directed to a monthly or quarterly meeting, that meeting appoints a clearness committee to visit with the group making the request. If the request was made to the Continuing Committee, it may appoint a clearness committee directly, or may ask the yearly meeting Ministry and Advancement Committee to appoint a committee.

The clearness committee and the group making the request together review the functions and responsibilities of a monthly meeting, and explore the group's readiness to undertake this step. The following queries may be helpful in this process:

- Is your meeting of sufficient strength that it is likely to survive for the foreseeable future?
- Are you prepared to exercise appropriate pastoral care for your members, to nurture their spiritual growth and to support them in times of trial?
- How familiar are the participants in your meeting with Friends business practices, and with the principles and testimonies of Friends more generally?
- Do you have enough business to require a regular business meeting?
- Are you of sufficient size and organization to hold major events such as weddings, funerals, and memorial meetings?
- Are your participants willing to contribute financially to your meeting?
- Do you have members prepared to take on the responsibility of serving as meeting clerk, and as meeting treasurer?
- Are you prepared to maintain and preserve records of your business proceedings, membership, and finances? Where will the records be kept?
- Will members of your meeting participate in sessions of the yearly meeting and quarterly or general meeting (if any), and be willing to serve on their committees, as they are able? Are you able to send these meetings regular reports on the state of your meeting, and to provide them with appropriate financial support?

The clearness committee reports to the body which appointed it, which in turn minutes its recommendation whether to establish the monthly meeting. If the recommendation is positive, and made by a monthly meeting, and the proposed new monthly meeting is to be part of a quarterly meeting, the recommendation is then forwarded to the quarterly meeting, and if the quarterly meeting concurs, to the yearly meeting. Otherwise, a positive recommendation is forwarded directly to the yearly meeting. The monthly meeting is established when the yearly meeting minutes its concurrence with the recommendation.

On establishing a new monthly meeting, the yearly meeting (typically through its Ministry and Advancement Committee) appoints a committee of welcome to visit the new meeting and provide assistance or advice as needed at its opening business session.

Establishing a new monthly meeting does not confer membership on its participants. After establishment, the meeting may receive new members and transfers of membership in the usual way; see "Membership," pp. xx–xx.

Laying down a monthly meeting. "Laying down" a monthly meeting means formally discontinuing its meeting for business as a monthly meeting. Depending on the circumstances, the meeting for worship may be discontinued at the same time and the

meeting community effectively disbanded; or the meeting may continue in some other form, such as a worship group, recognized meeting or preparative meeting under the care of another monthly meeting.

It is appropriate to lay down a monthly meeting when it is unable, over an extended period, to fulfill the functions and meet the responsibilities normally expected of a monthly meeting. Typically, this happens because the meeting has grown too weak in numbers, but may occasionally happen for other reasons as well.

The decision to lay down a meeting may be difficult: Friends may feel a strong attachment for the meeting, and wish for its revival, even when the prospects are very dim. But if a plain and honest assessment of the meeting's condition makes clear that it cannot function as a monthly meeting, it should not be continued simply for sentimental reasons. Particularly if the meeting is completely inactive, neglecting to properly lay it down may result in obscurity as to the ownership of its property, difficulties for Friends desiring to transfer their memberships or record their children as members, and other problems.

Normally, a monthly meeting is laid down by minute of its quarterly meeting, or if there no appropriate quarterly meeting, by the yearly meeting. A monthly meeting may also lay itself down. However, the involvement of the quarterly or yearly meeting is helpful in arranging for transfers of membership after the monthly meeting has been laid down; in working out what form, if any, the meeting will take afterwards; in assisting the meeting in the disposal of its property and archiving of its records; and in the various other details which come with the discontinuation of a meeting. In most cases, therefore, it is advisable for a monthly meeting which desires to be laid down to make a request to the quarterly or yearly meeting, rather than laying itself down directly and in isolation. The quarterly or general meeting (if any) and yearly meeting should in any case be promptly notified whenever a monthly meeting is laid down.

The minute laying down a monthly meeting should make clear whether its meeting for worship, and any preparative meetings, recognized meetings or worship groups under its care are also laid down; and if not, note any arrangements that have been made for their continuation.

The body which lays down the meeting normally appoints a committee to assist with the necessary arrangements. This committee meets with the participants of the laid down meeting and renders whatever assistance seems called for. The committee assists with or carries out transfer for the meeting's members, usually to the nearest appropriate meeting, but possibly to other meetings if individual members express a preference. Members who cannot be contacted may also be transferred or the committee may recommend their release from membership to the quarterly or yearly meeting. In no case should membership be left in a discontinued meeting. The committee should see that the meeting's records are archived in a manner and location which keeps them accessible to the yearly meeting.

If the meeting desires to continue as a worship group, recognized meeting or preparative meeting under the care of another meeting, the committee should assist it in identifying a suitable meeting, approaching it with the request, and working out the practical details of the new relationship between the two meetings. Similar arrange-

ments should be made for the continuation of any worship groups, recognized meetings or preparative meetings which had been under the care of the meeting to be laid down.

If the laid down meeting will continue in some form, it may continue to maintain a treasury and hold property, though it should carefully consider whether it is advisable to do so. If the meeting is being merged into another monthly meeting, it may be appropriate to transfer some or all property to that meeting.

If the laid down meeting will not continue in any form, arrangements must be made to dispose of its treasury and other property. These may be transferred to the quarterly or yearly meeting; or to some other Friends or charitable organization. In no case should meeting property be divided among its members. Burial grounds are generally best placed into the care of a cemetery association.

Reaffiliation of a monthly meeting. An existing monthly meeting may request affiliation with Illinois Yearly Meeting. If the meeting is in the area of a quarterly meeting forming part of Illinois Yearly Meeting, the initial request is normally directed to the quarterly meeting; otherwise, it is directed to the Continuing Committee of Illinois Yearly Meeting. Whichever body receives the request normally appoints a committee to visit the meeting making the request and explore with them their reasons for desiring reaffiliation; or if the Continuing Committee receives the request, it may ask the Ministry and Advancement Committee to appoint a committee. The committee reports to the body which appointed it, which then makes a recommendation to the yearly meeting. Affiliation is established by minute of the yearly meeting.

A monthly meeting may affiliate both with Illinois Yearly Meeting and another yearly meeting. However, Friends should consider carefully the problems which may arise from dual affiliation. Dual affiliation requires substantial time and effort beyond what is involved in single affiliation, and many dually affiliated meetings find that they are unable to fully participate in either yearly meeting. In addition, yearly meetings may have conflicting expectations for how monthly meetings operate and how they relate to other levels of organization. Still, some meetings have found that dual affiliation is useful and rewarding.

A monthly meeting which withdraws from Illinois Yearly Meeting to affiliate with another yearly meeting or comparable Friends organization is not considered to be laid down; it retains its members and records as its affiliation changes.

An existing monthly meeting in Illinois Yearly Meeting may join a quarterly or general meeting with that meeting's approval. A monthly meeting may withdraw from a quarterly or general meeting at its own initiative, without withdrawing from Illinois Yearly Meeting.

MINUTES SUPPORTING PURCHASE OF MILLS PROPERTY

STEWARDS' MINUTE

The Stewards of Illinois Yearly Meeting support the purchase of the six acres and homestead next to the yearly meeting property.

We know our work will increase with this added property.

We will support and participate as directed in the full evaluation and management of the entire facilities once the purchase has been made.

- Tim Narkiewicz, Richard Ashdown, Carol Bartles

MAINTENANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTE

The Maintenance and Planning Committee of Illinois Yearly Meeting supports the purchase of the six acres and homestead, commonly known as "the Mills property," next to the yearly meeting property.

We know our responsibilities will increase with this added property but recognize the positive impact this purchase will have on the overall facilities.

It seems logical to us that another yearly meeting committee together with Clear Creek Friends would determine how the yearly meeting and Clear Creek will use the facility. This assessment will help shape the management and maintenance of the facilities.

We will support and participate in the full evaluation and management of the entire facilities. The management will be done in cooperation with all appropriate yearly meeting committees and Clear Creek Friends.

If directed by yearly meeting, we will assess how to manage the entire property during the following year. To do this we will have a Capital Assets Management Plan prepared for all the property, use the inspection report on the house and Tim Narkiewicz's evaluation of the outbuildings. We will do an accessibility study.

We will return and report to the yearly meeting 2010 Annual Session with a plan, budget and strategy of how to manage the newly purchased property as part of a plan to manage the entire facilities.

Any concerns requiring immediate attention such as safety issues, pressing maintenance issues or Clear Creek's use of the property should be addressed during the coming year.

- Neil Mesner, clerk

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE MINUTE

Dear Friends of Illinois Yearly Meeting:

At the request of the Site Envisioning and Development Committee (SE&DC), members of the Environmental Concerns Committee (ECC) were asked by email, mail, and phone whether they supported the purchase, as proposed by the SE&DC, of the property to the west of the meetinghouse grounds. All 13 of the members of ECC responding indicated strong support for the purchase!

We believe it will enhance the life and opportunities of the yearly meeting by providing a place where Clear Creek Friends and other groups can meet throughout the year with some on-site bedrooms that could be used to help with housing at yearly meeting and for small retreats. The long barn might be able to provide a facility for indoor recreation or some other purpose.

We also believe this property will help ILYM follow its vision for our grounds and buildings. *“We seek to model ways to live in close harmony with the environment, showing respect and care for the earth and biosphere, our matrix of life. ... Through both their design and use, our new buildings will serve as living witness to our Quaker values and testimonies.”* The ECC has already considered possible environmental uses of the grounds, such as nut and fruit trees, community gardens, sustainable and local agriculture projects, and community environmental education. A path with many natural features could link the new property with the meetinghouse grounds. We welcome the additional land that will allow us to build all our new buildings oriented east-west so that the buildings can take full advantage of solar energy.

We envision the house being made more sustainable with complete insulation, energy-efficient windows, geothermal heating and cooling, solar hot water, and small wind-power, along with its current wood-fired, forced air furnace with a wood feed from the outside. The wood furnace would allow the yearly meeting to make efficient use of all the dead and unused wood we have on our grounds, instead of leaving it in piles or burning it in open fires. Installing all these environmental features could model for Friends and others what can be done to an older house to make it sustainable and have a low carbon footprint. We also support re-using an existing older home, with solid old-growth lumber, instead of using new materials, as being environmentally sound.

Purchase of this property will give Illinois Yearly Meeting time to consider carefully what new buildings we want to build and to make use of the careful thought and planning that has gone into designing the new dormitories and kitchen-dining hall. It will not lessen our need for a new kitchen-dining hall, but will allow us to rethink how we want to use all our buildings, whether current, newly acquired, or newly built. It might allow the dining hall to be the first new structure to be constructed, getting us out of the basement and into God’s light and air sooner. In fact, we might be able to reuse part or all of an existing building from the new property. The new property will certainly give us many new opportunities, as well as additional costs and maintenance. We hope Illinois Yearly Meeting will move forward on the purchase of the property to the west of the meetinghouse. It is an opportunity that we cannot afford not to take.

- Roy C. Treadway, Clerk

CLEAR CREEK MONTHLY MEETING MINUTE

For the past several years, Clear Creek Friends have participated, watched and prayed as Illinois Yearly Meeting has envisioned a year-round retreat center on the ILYM grounds. We have given of our time, our talents, our sweat, our spiritual support, as well as our individual and corporate financial resources, to help make that vision a reality. Clear Creek Friends are enthusiastic about the opportunities for worship, education and witness that such a center would offer. We are also aware that it may take several years to make the dream of three new buildings a reality. God seems to have given us an opportunity to consider which might allow us to move forward more quickly. Clear Creek has worshipped over this opportunity in our May 17, 2009, meeting for business and in a called meeting for business on June 7, 2009.

Clear Creek Friends whole-heartedly support the purchase of the 6 acre property located adjacent to and just west of the ILYM meetinghouse and grounds, including a

five-bedroom house and several other structures. Purchase of this property offers multiple opportunities for Illinois Yearly Meeting. The additional land provides ample space for future buildings, while the house can serve the need for heated and cooled lodging, yearly meeting committee meeting space, monthly meeting retreats, Women's Weekend, as well as winter worship and First Day School space for Clear Creek. Purchase of this property and existing buildings, at \$147,000, would provide an economical and ecologically sound answer to the yearly meeting's immediate needs while we continue to raise funds for new buildings.

Clear Creek is willing to put its \$50,000 "bricks and mortar" pledge toward the purchase of the property. For those Clear Creek Challenge donors who would like to redirect their gifts toward this purchase, our meeting also is willing to redirect that portion of the matching funds.

Clear Creek has been given the first right of refusal by the landowner, and has made a \$1000 deposit on the property to hold it for Illinois Yearly Meeting's consideration. The owner would like to close the sale June 29, 2009, giving us only a short time in which to make a decision. We acknowledge that our decision to make the deposit does not obligate ILYM to make the purchase.

We ask yearly meeting's prayerful consideration of this opportunity.

57th STREET MEETING MINUTES

MINUTE 1

57th Street Meeting of Friends supports Illinois Yearly Meetings' purchase of the house and six acres to the west of the Illinois Yearly Meeting property near McNabb, Illinois (the Mills farm). We are excited about expanding the historic site of Illinois Yearly Meeting and providing Clear Creek Monthly Meeting with a winter meeting-house.

MINUTE 2:

57th Street Meeting offers Illinois Yearly Meeting an intermediate term interest-free loan to be in the range of \$10,000 to \$25,000 to make possible the purchase of the Mills farm lying to the west of the yearly meeting property. It is expected that the yearly meeting will receive financial support from entities including other monthly meetings. The amount of the 57th Street Meeting loan is intended to be determined within the specified limits to result in fair apportionment of the current \$147,000 goal among the participating entities by the end of the yearly meeting 2009 sessions.

MEMORIALS

WALTER CARL BAUER

Walter Carl Bauer (9/25/1925 - 2/2/2008), a member of St. Louis Monthly Meeting for 55 years, a renowned surgical pathologist, a talented sculptor and musician, and an enthusiastic runner, died at 82 years of age after a brief illness. Walter Bauer's wife, Marica, and his four children, Deborah, Janet, Lois, and Paul, were for many years beloved members of the Meeting community.

Born to parents who had emigrated from Germany following the First World War, Walter grew up in Ohio and majored in Chemistry at Ohio State University; he earned his M.D. at Washington University's School of Medicine in St. Louis in 1954. He then joined the staff, becoming head of the Surgical Pathology Department at Barnes-Jewish hospital in 1973, a position which he held until 1987, but continued to educate medical students and residents at St. Louis University until shortly before his death. He became internationally famous for his leadership of a study of baby teeth conducted from 1958 until 1970 that demonstrated the absorption of strontium 90, a radioactive isotope contaminating the environment as a result of nuclear weapons tests in the atmosphere. The courage of Walter Bauer and his colleagues in conducting this study in the face of strident arguments for the necessity of such tests for our national security has been widely noted.

Walter served as clerk of St. Louis Monthly Meeting from Ninth Month 1972 to Ninth Month 1974. As with all his endeavors, he thought carefully about the role he had accepted. At the first meeting for business that he clerked, he turned over to the Meeting's Ministry and Oversight Committee, as it was then known, the responsibility for the weekly meetings for worship, including closing them. The Meeting's newsletter explained that "Walter Bauer, Clerk, feels the traditional role of clerk is to be responsible for the more mechanical business of the meeting"; the clerk is neither the minister nor the pastor to the meeting. The following Spring he began in the Fifth Month to eliminate pre-formulated agendas and chose not to call on committees in the meetings for business to give reports; instead any items needing the attention of the Meeting were to be brought forth out of the silence, unbidden (but not unrecognized) by the clerk. The "quiet and patient, but exacting manner" that impressed his medical students, to quote from a eulogy prepared for the memorial service, was manifest in the Meeting as well.

It was during this same period that Walter was an active member of the Meeting's "Cairo committee" that supported Mary and Jerry Nurenberg's work in Cairo, Illinois, which ran through 1978. Walter Bauer served as clerk of Ministry and Counsel for the Meeting's 1978-'79 year. Fond memories persist of Walter's introducing rock climbing and rappelling to many in the Meeting during a retreat at Little Grassy, a camp near Carbondale, Illinois.

Walter Bauer's participation in the life of the Meeting tapered off after he became devoted to running, but he maintained friendships that had been formed in the Meeting community. Because he conducted Saturday morning "gross case conferences" at Barnes Hospital, he took to running Sunday mornings. Over the years he ran some 17 marathons. His other avocations included both music and sculpture. On one memorable occasion he gave a concert for his many friends in the St. Louis area, treating his audience to a variety of Lieder and other songs. His devotion to sculpture

led to his opening a studio and crafting metal sculptures and many large wooden sculptures that manifested both his aesthetic vision and his customary attention to detail.

He was a man of spiritual depth, keen intellect, aesthetic sensitivity, warmth, curiosity, humor, and great versatility. His memory is treasured by those who knew him.

JAMES BUMGARNER

James McNabb Bumgarner was born in Putnam County, Illinois, September 13, 1919, to Joshua Bumgarner and Ethel McNabb. At 89 years of age, Jim passed April 3, 2009, at his home in Port St. Lucie, Florida, with family at his side.

Jim enjoyed a diverse career. Trained as an attorney, Jim served in the U.S. Air Force and retired at the rank of colonel with 32 years of service. After retiring from the military, he served as a circuit court judge for 12 years, retiring in 1989, then was recalled twice to the 10th Judicial Circuit bench, in 1991 and 1995.

Jim and Helen Welker were married over 40 years with two daughters: Barbara Malany of Springfield, Illinois, and Sally Booth of Florida. After Helen's death, Jim married Elizabeth Miller in the Illinois Yearly Meeting house. Jim and Elizabeth were married over 25 years and became active, loving members of Clear Creek Friends.

Jim attended Meeting when he returned to the area for visits over the years. After Jim retired to Illinois, he attended Clear Creek Meeting, his childhood faith community. Jim considered his time at Clear Creek an opportunity to season and review ideas, opinions and knowledge. He was known for his sharp wit and lively participation in the Clear Creek discussion groups. He was quick to offer a challenge and readily respected each person's contribution. Jim's strongly held political views and open heart helped make each Clear Creek member more open, loving and accepting of our differences as well as our similarities.

Clear Creek Friends will miss this Friend. He has given us his heart and we will hold him in our hearts with love and joy, for he gave us an opportunity to worship with him and to be in community with him.

Jim had two stepsons: Tadd Miller and Brian Miller. Jim is survived by 10 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

OGDEN HANNAFORD

Ogden Hannaford, founding member of Northside Friends Meeting, died August 24 at Kendall-at-Oberlin in Ohio. He was 91 years old.

A pacifist throughout his life, Ogden was deeply respected for his integrity, and is fondly remembered by Friends as a man of strong belief, yet even tempered—expressing himself truthfully and directly, but striving never to antagonize others. He had a twinkling eye and a dry, ironic wit.

Ogden was devoted to his family. He married Mary Reed McDougal in 1953. Their son, Blake, was born in 1955 and daughter, Katharine Wylly, in 1957. He was also deeply invested in his profession as an architect. He spoke with precision and detail about everything that touched him. Ogden was loving, extremely attentive and patient. When he listened to you he was at once completely present, and fully compassionate.

Ogden Hannaford was born in St Paul, Minnesota, on March 30, 1917, to Foster Hannaford and Alice Steele Habersham. The family moved to Winnetka, Illinois, during the Great Depression of the 1930's. During his high school years, Ogden joined the Experiment in International Living, staying with families in France, Germany and Norway. That program, founded after World War I to foster international understanding, proved life-transforming for Ogden. During this experience abroad, Ogden said his pacifist convictions were confirmed. And it was through this program that he first met Quakers among the other young participants.

After Ogden graduated from Yale University in 1939, he attended the Illinois Institute of Technology studying architecture under Mies van der Rohe. These studies were interrupted by the Second World War. When the draft was instated in 1940, Ogden registered before the Draft Board as a conscientious objector to war. The government ordered him to a Civilian Public Service camp in Merom, Indiana, one that was financed and administered by the American Friends Service Committee.

In his own words, Ogden related: "Over-eager to get started I went to Merom a month early to help set up the camp, never dreaming that my 18-month assignment would turn out to be four and a half years. For much of that time I managed to think of myself as a volunteer while others thought of themselves as slave labor." In the end, said Ogden, "It was a kind of graduate program in pacifism."

The men at Merom worked in farm-erosion control projects. Ogden again encountered Quakers, who comprised many of the 110 men in the camp. He was a natural leader, and naturally concerned. When a neighboring farmer complained that he was unable to keep up with his principal cash crop with his three sons away at war and one preparing to go, Ogden organized his peers into a task force to weed the farmer's melon field when they finished regular duties. Ogden and the C.O.'s from Merom were later transferred to a CPS camp in Trenton, North Dakota, where they built residence houses on irrigation plots. His fellow CPS camp inmates describe him as someone who was exceedingly capable and competent and who worked well with the authorities. He was remembered for being actively involved in the religious life of the camp, regularly attending religious services and joining the choir.

Ogden completed his studies and graduated from IIT in 1947. Afterward, he returned to Europe, this time to coordinate the AFSC work camps in war-torn countries. Based in Paris, he represented the AFSC as a delegate to a work camp conference in the fall of 1947. Ogden was called upon to set up the Liaison Office for 20 work camp organizations in a dozen countries from Finland to Italy. When the AFSC decided to move from an emphasis on direct relief to setting up work camps in post-war Germany in 1948, Ogden surveyed the American Zone in Germany for that purpose.

Returning to the U.S., he soon was working in the offices of Mies van der Rohe, helping to build what is now a structure world-famous for its timeless design—860-880 Lake Shore Drive Apartments, modernist residential high rise buildings on Chicago's lakefront.

Ogden practiced architecture with a partner, then independently until 1960 when he became a professor at IIT, where he taught architecture until 1968. As a student and disciple of Mies van der Rohe, he absorbed his mentor's view of the world, teaching it to a generation of IIT students. The simplicity of the "less is more" philosophy was the aesthetic as to how he approached the world. It was also typical of how he engaged people. These architectural principles were incorporated into a fac-

ulty housing project he designed and built with other Friends on the edge of the Earlham campus, in Richmond, Indiana.

Ogden was an active attender, first at Evanston Meeting, and then 57th Street Meeting of Friends. At Evanston he was a part of the Young Adults who met for monthly potluck suppers and picnics and bird walks in the forest preserves. In a co-interview with Ogden and Mary for Northside Friends' 20th anniversary, Mary commented that Ogden "was not a joiner." Ogden agreed, noting that though he had been "a resister in WWII...I didn't want to hide behind titles." Mary pushed him to become a member of the Society of Friends, thinking in particular of their children, and that "it would be easier for them to be protestors as Quakers." Ogden and Mary formally joined the Society of Friends at 57th Street Meeting in 1961.

In the mid 1960's a number of Friends began meeting in homes on the North side of Chicago. It was during the build-up of the Vietnam War. Draft resisters were attracted to the worship group. The first formal meeting was in Ogden's home on December 11, 1966. He and Mary were among the founding members of Northside Friends Meeting, formed under Illinois Yearly Meeting in 1970.

Ogden had a tremendous reputation within the AFSC, serving on its directing and auxiliary support committees in various capacities over 27 years. He was on the Chicago Regional Executive Committee from 1950-1972. Under his leadership as Clerk in the late 1960's, he was centrally supportive of moving AFSC from traditional religious pacifist approaches to war, to working with draft resisters of all kinds. It was during this period, the AFSC set up 30 neighborhood draft counseling centers. Mary Hannaford was one of those counselors. Ogden also took a leave of absence from IIT to serve as the Executive Secretary of the regional AFSC office for about a year.

Ogden opened his home to Northside Meeting warm-heartedly and with great generosity over many years. Meeting worshipped in his home at least once a month. Remembered as a place of simplicity and light, filled with plants and silence, Friends spent many first-day mornings warmed at the hearth of his wood-burning stove, just as the warmth of his spirit touched our hearts. Ogden and Mary also opened the cabin at their farm in Sugar Grove, Illinois, for many Meeting retreats. Friends recall Ogden's messages as simple and deep. He was well versed in the Bible and would quote a verse and talk about it in a way that could reach people, even those who felt adverse to Scripture.

Ogden was clerk of Northside meeting in 1970 and '71, in 1976 and again in 1986. He served on all of the various committees of the Meeting over time, always eager to help in any way. His steady and faithful presence grounded the Meeting. He was a Quaker Elder in the most loving and best sense of the word. One Friend recalls that when he was new to Quakers, he responded to a person's message in Meeting with a counter proposal. Ogden gently approached him after Meeting and explained that this was not what we were doing here, eldering him in a very nice way. During a meeting of finance committee, which Ogden steadfastly managed for many years, another member witnessed the process of a disagreement on a proposal that was discussed with earnestness and directness, but no ego nor rancor—a style that radiated from Ogden and set the tone of the exchange. Witnessing that moment, he says he learned what it meant to be a Friend. Ogden, principled yet even of disposition, dealt well with any conflicts that arose in Meeting.

In the mid 1970's, young Quaker pastors in Western Yearly Meeting organized the Fellowship of Friends in the middle of the infamous Chicago housing project, Cabrini Green. Ogden kept in touch with the Fellowship, stepping in to offer support in times of struggle. When its meeting room needed renovation, Ogden led that initiative, offering his architectural services pro bono. He challenged Northside Friends to offer financial support, encouraging financial support to the project from Friends throughout the area.

Ogden embodied the Quaker testimonies to Integrity, Simplicity, Equality and Peace in his life, in his work and in his relationships. A man of action, he let his life speak about those things he believed. He was out there doing the Truth. He was generous with his support and wisdom with others. When Friends explored reenergizing Quaker volunteer service among Friends in the 1990's, Ogden reviewed and shared his experience with them. He gave that effort the spiritual centering that it needed. He also offered a note of caution: "We cannot turn back the clock to better times. Nor can we put new wine into old skins. Because the Holy Spirit is always seeking new vessels to contain it, just as the life force is always producing new organisms to sustain itself."

Northside Friends Meeting would on occasion have members share their spiritual journeys. When asked to do so, Ogden resisted and famously responded: "I am living my spiritual journey."

After Ogden retired to Kendal-at-Oberlin he kept in contact with Northside Meeting. He never transferred his membership, considering himself a sojourner. And he was a cherished one. During his later years, Ogden developed Parkinson's Disease. He died on August 24, 2008.

HENRY ARTHUR KOCH

February 16, 1928 - December 3, 2008

Hank Koch peacefully passed away December 3, 2008, in the loving arms of his wife Lyle, at his home in Columbia, Missouri. He and Lyle were staunch pillars of Columbia Monthly Meeting since they moved to Columbia in 1969, adding to the life of the Meeting in many aspects, including serving as co-clerks for at least 2 years. He served on Ministry & Counsel, Religious Education and other committees of Columbia Monthly Meeting. Hank and Lyle also participated in Blue River Quarterly, Illinois Yearly Meeting and Friends General Conference annual meetings.

Hank was born in Denver, Colorado, to Helen and Henry August Koch. His father died when he was about 10. Two years later he spent a year in Helena, California, with his grandmother and an uncle who sparked his life-long interest in photography. Then he moved to Miami, Florida, to live with his mother and stepfather, William Warren. He studied engineering at Colorado School of Mines in Golden, Colorado, and worked as a miner and a surveyor. He served in the military in Alaska. Returning to Miami, he became a professional photographer and met his future wife, Lyle Reed, who had gone there to work in advertising. They were married in California, Missouri, her home town.

In 1963 they moved to a farm in central Missouri, where he made a photographic documentary of rural life in Missouri. This earned him a grant from the Missouri State Historical Society. He did other photographic documentaries, including life in Mississippi river towns. He completed his A.B. degree at the University of Missouri

in 1973, worked at the University as a photographer and for many years was resident artist at Stephens College. He and Lyle were active in organizing and teaching at the Free School, designed to give children a broader education than available in the public schools. He was also an engineer at Columbia City Water plant, retiring in 1993.

His wise and gentle soul touched many people through his photography, teaching, and his compassionate insight into the human condition. His presence and connection to all things seen and unseen centered and anchored the Columbia Friends Meeting. He was always in tune with his Maker. To be around him was to experience serenity.

He and Lyle spent most of his remaining years wintering in Miami, where they attended Miami Friends Meeting and visited friends and family. They divided the summers between Columbia and trips to the West Coast to see other friends and family. He built a sturdy sailboat with an auxiliary motor, which they enjoyed both in Missouri and on the Florida coast. His interests also included reading, writing, gardening, cooking, music, and visual arts. He is survived by his wife Lyle Koch, his sister Helen Ross, sons Arthur and Reed Koch, and grandchildren Vladimir Parrales, and Mason and Healey Koch.

A Memorial Meeting for Hank was held December 7, 2008, by the Columbia Friends Monthly Meeting. His sons and other family were in town for their annual family gathering, and because the Meeting House was closed down for repairs at the time, it had to be held in a rented room at a nearby motel. The large room was filled to full capacity with all his many friends.

ROBERT LILLIBRIDGE

Robert Lillibridge was born on September 25, 1914, in Grand Rapids, Michigan, to Roy Lillibridge and Elma McCollough. Bob attended Milwaukee State Teachers College briefly, and later earned a BS degree in Forestry from University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, in 1939. He went on to get a Masters degree in Landscape Architecture and City Planning.

At the start of WWII he recognized his strong sense of being opposed to violence as a solution to conflict and he registered as a conscientious objector. He served his Civilian Public Service time at Patuxent Wildlife Refuge, near Washington, DC. During that period he met Helen Steel who lived with her parents in Washington. The family would invite CO's to spend a weekend in their large house and get a taste of the capitol scene. Bob became a member of the Florida Avenue Meeting (now the Friends Meeting of Washington) because the testimony of peace spoke to his condition. In 1947 he and Helen were married under the care of that body.

They settled in Evanston where Bob worked for the Chicago Plan Commission, then for the City of Chicago as a city planner. Their son, Edward (Ted) was born in 1949. The Lillibridge family moved to Park Forest, where he and Helen helped to found the South Suburban Meeting (later called Thorn Creek). In 1960 they moved to Western Springs where they joined Downers Grove Friends Meeting. They transferred their membership to Lake Forest Monthly Meeting in April 2000 after attending for many years. One of Bob's interests was gardening; each spring there would be a Sunday when Bob would arrive with flats of leek seedlings which he shared with all of us who wanted them.

Bob's health declined in recent years. Both he and Helen came infrequently to First Day Worship. When he did attend he usually had an announcement of a speaker sponsored by the North Suburban Peace Initiative, the American Friends Service Committee, or other likeminded organization with which he felt affinity. He frequently shared messages in meeting for worship that encouraged us to live our faith. He wanted to keep us on our toes.

Bob died peacefully at home on December 8, 2008, with Helen and Ted by his side.

DORIS PETERS

Doris Elizabeth Holly Peters was born Feb. 14, 1919, in Des Moines, Iowa, to Benjamin and Edith (Noyes) Holly. She came from a long line of Quakers. Her grandmother Ida Iden Holly influenced her a great deal and it was Ida who first introduced Doris to Quakerism. Ida had grown up in a Quaker family near Battle Creek, Michigan. The Iden ancestors were Quakers in England and came to America in 1682 on a ship called *The Welcome* and settled in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, near Philadelphia. Another passenger on that ship was William Penn.

Doris's mother, Edith Noyes Holly, was a Congregationalist from the East, born in Lynn, Massachusetts, near Boston. She attended the "Boston School of Oratory" (now Emerson College) and became a dramatic artist. She wrote plays and performed drama at church and in the community. She died young in 1936 when Doris was just 16 years old.

Doris's aunt, Ruth Noyes, was also an artist who worked in a photography studio in Boston. Most of the portraits of Doris as a child were taken by her aunt Ruth.

Doris's father, Ben Holly, was a lawyer who would have rather become a writer. His father, Charles Holly, was also a lawyer and for a time they practiced law together in Des Moines as "Holly & Holly."

Doris's artistic talent was encouraged by her family and by the age of four she knew that she was going to be an artist. Portrait painting became her specialty and her love. She attended Grinnell College and while a student there she entered one of her paintings in the Iowa State Fair and won first place which included a scholarship to study art at Pratt Institute in New York City. At about this same time a young man from Dresden, Germany, came to Des Moines to work for a landscaping company. His name was Hans Peters and he had spent several months prior to this at the Scattergood Refugee Hostel in West Branch, Iowa. (Scattergood Friends School had been transformed by the American Friends Service Committee into a hostel for refugees fleeing Nazi Germany.) At a social event put on by Des Moines Quakers Doris and Hans met. They soon fell in love and were married on April 4, 1942.

Soon their son John was born and in 1946 another son, Wallace, was born. Soon after this time they became members of the Des Moines Friends Meeting. Certainly Hans's experiences with the American Friends Service Committee and Doris's grandmother's influence were factors in this decision. Interestingly, also at about the same time Doris's sister Barbara and Barbara's husband, Bruce Neal, became Quakers, even though neither sister knew of the other's intentions.

In 1951 the family moved to Rockford, Illinois, and soon daughter Ann was born. There was no Friends Meeting in Rockford, so they started one along with five

other Quakers: Bill and Adah Manby, Harvey and Dorothy Smith, and Gertrude Hodgson. In 1956 son Stephan was born and the family was complete.

Doris was very active in the community. She helped found or was active in many organizations, including Rock Valley Friends Meeting, Central Terrace Housing Cooperative, Rockford Head Start, Central Avenue Daycare, Camaraderie Arts, Rockford Food Co-op (which later became Honey Pot Buying Club), Friends House and Friends House Neighborhood Center for Creativity and Nonviolence, Walden Gathering of Friends, Sinnissippi Alliance for the Environment (SAFE), The Affinity Group, Rockford Peace and Justice Action Committee, Rockford Urban Ministries (RUM) and its predecessor Shepherd of the Street. She worked for open occupancy in housing when the idea of people of different races living side by side was still very unpopular. She helped organize a project of interracial home visiting in order to diminish racial prejudice. She was the campaign manager for a school board candidate and a city council candidate. She could often be found at a peace vigil, or organizing a neighborhood event, or teaching art to people, young and old. Art was for her often a way to bring people of diverse backgrounds together and to help them learn about one another. The motto of Camaraderie Arts was "through the arts, we come together."

Doris was active in Quaker endeavors, both locally and regionally. She was a regular participant in Illinois Yearly Meeting from 1951 until her health no longer allowed her to attend. She gave the ILYM Plummer Lecture in 1968, was editor of *Among Friends* twice, and served on numerous committees. She was a mainstay of Rock Valley Friends Meeting and served the Meeting in many capacities from its founding until shortly before her death.

Doris remained active and independent until about three years before her death. At that time her daughter Ann began caring for her in Ann's family's home. About five months before her death Doris moved to a nursing home. On Feb. 14, 2009, family and friends were able to celebrate her 90th birthday with her at the nursing home. She died peacefully on Friday evening, Feb. 20, 2009, in Rockford with her daughter Ann at her side.

According to her wishes Doris's body was donated to science for the Biology Department of Northern Illinois University.

Doris lived a long and full life. It is impossible to describe all aspects of her life and all her endeavors in this brief memorial. Her life touched many, many others and she will be long remembered for many reasons and in many ways.

ZELDA H. SELLMAN

1927-2009

Zelda Hedden Sellman, a long-time member of Peoria-Galesburg Monthly Meeting, was born on May 19, 1927, to Clyde Hedden and Iva Taylor in Farmington, Illinois. She was reared in Farmington, lived for 46 years in Germantown Hills, and moved to Athens in 2005. After moving to Athens, she attended the Athens United Methodist Church. She died in Athens on February 5, 2009.

Zelda was a graduate of Farmington High School. She received her B.A., as well as her Master's degree in art and creative writing, from Bradley University. She married A. Wayne Sellman on March 16, 1956, in Peoria, Illinois.

Zelda taught every age group from infants and preschoolers to college students. She published poetry and children's stories. She had deep concerns for peace and the environment. During the 1960s she created a series of mixed-media paintings in response to the Vietnam War. One of these paintings was acquired by the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation in London, England.

KRISTINE L. SIMON

Kris Simon joined Clear Creek meeting in June, 2004, after attending for several years. The first time one of our longtime members asked her where she lived, her answer was, "I'm homeless, everything I own is in the van." As we got to know her better, we learned that she was married to Simon Simon, a Presbyterian minister, for about 40 years. When he died, she was displaced from her church-owned home and, giving away most of her possessions, went to live with an ailing aunt in Ottawa, Illinois.

She had an inquisitive, searching mind and asked many questions that led the rest of us to thinking and doing research. Another member lived in the same part of Central Illinois where Simon and Kris lived and he and Kris had many "Do you remember when..." recollections of happenings in that area. He knew what she had gone through living as a pastor's wife, in a fish bowl. They had shared thoughts on conservative Presbyterian theology. What he would miss most, besides her beautiful (light blue) honest eyes was the fact that "she could hug and you knew she cared." And you knew she needed that hug of affirmation in return.

Kris loved to travel and she certainly lived life to the fullest. When she visited her six children, going to Iowa, Indiana, Missouri, New York and to Vandalia, Illinois, she would check the Friends Directory first, to see what Quaker Meeting was nearby. When she and Simon were married he promised to give her six children and take her to Norway, where she had relatives. They had the 6 children, but they never made it to Norway. She was able to make the trip while a member of Clear Creek and we heard all about it, plus hearing about visits in the states from her Norwegian relatives.

Kris was indeed a courageous woman who "out-Quakered" most of us by stepping out in faith, joining our Quaker meeting, and living in the moment. Her faith was a palpable reality in her life and to "look in her eyes was to see her soul." She was a ray of sunshine in our meeting. We at Clear Creek are very glad that she chose to join us on her spiritual journey.

Kris died on March 18, 2009, at the age of 72, after a bout of pneumonia and other physical problems. As Kris requested, her children invited Clear Creek to lead the memorial service in the manner of Friends at the funeral home. Friends and family felt the love and joy as we gathered to remember our dear Friend.

STATES OF SOCIETY

CLEAR CREEK

Clear Creek enjoyed the respite year during which no major renovation or construction disrupted our prairie space. But as we settled into the Clear Creek room in the newly situated Junior Yearly Meetinghouse for the winter of 2007/2008, it became obvious to us that space would not be suitable for our needs. It was too difficult to heat and too distant from restroom facilities. We relied on the generosity of the Nelson family for the use of their home. In the spring of 2008, we seriously discussed erecting a small year-round meetinghouse on the cemetery property, but determined doing so would take us away from the Yearly Meeting grounds with which we have a spiritual tie, and would also hamper the Yearly Meeting's pursuit of new buildings. We reaffirmed our support for the Yearly Meeting building project and decided to pledge \$50,000 toward "bricks and mortar" costs for the new buildings, and also to offer \$20,000 in matching funds for donations from individuals for construction costs. This Clear Creek Challenge was announced at the 2008 annual sessions and met by April 2009. In addition to lending our financial support, we worked closely with architect Chris Goode, the Site Envisioning and Development Committee, and Maintenance and Planning to develop plans for the new buildings that would meet our needs as a monthly meeting while also being flexible enough to meet the needs of ILYM and other groups that might use the space. We met several times to review the plans and are pleased with the results.

During the winter of 2008/2009 we continued to meet in the Clear Creek room as the weather allowed and in the Nelson home on first Sundays. The power outage in December 2008 caused the plumbing to freeze and burst in both the Meetinghouse and the Nelson home, leaving us refugees once again. We were grateful for the hospitality of Dick Ashdown in whose home we met until the Meetinghouse plumbing was repaired. Our activity focuses on worship each Sunday, with discussion hour prior to worship most weeks. We continue hosting our First Sunday gatherings where we provide First Day School, fellowship and potluck for Central Illinois meetings.

We enjoyed our annual retreat in May, led by Maurine Pyle and Mariellen Gilpin. Our theme was "Holding Thee in the Light." Maurine and Mariellen helped us to consider what we mean by that phrase and how we pray. In October, we hosted Continuing Committee. We are always happy to share the ILYM grounds with others. On January 31, we sponsored a retreat in Normal, inviting Friends from Bloomington/Normal, Spoon River, Decatur and Springfield. Paul Buckley, ILYM Field Secretary, was our facilitator using the theme, "Daily Life/Sunday Worship – What is the Connection?" Since then we have had some wonderful meetings for worship where there has been much welcome sharing as well as connected silence.

Like most meetings, we have had our share of joys and sorrows in the past year. In May, we celebrated with the Bartles family as Andrew graduated from Beloit College. Several of us attended the open house in Andrew's honor at the Bartles home in Grand Detour. Andrew requested membership last spring, and was happily approved during the summer. He is now a student in Barcelona, Spain where he attends the local meeting.

Kris Simon, 72, of Ottawa, passed away March 18 at her home after a bout of pneumonia and other physical problems. After a life of being married to Simon Simon, a Presbyterian minister who died in 1998, and raising 6 children, she made

the decision to become a Quaker. She was a ray of sunshine in our meeting, worshipping with us between her many travels and living life to the fullest. Clear Creek Friends led the memorial service in the manner of Friends at the Ottawa Funeral Home.

James McNabb Bumgarner, 89, passed away on April 3 at his home in Port St. Lucie, Florida, his family at his side. He enjoyed a diverse career, having served in the U.S. Air Force and retiring at the rank of colonel with 32 years of service. He was also a circuit court judge for 12 years, retiring in 1989. He was recalled twice to the 10th Judicial Circuit bench, in 1991 and 1995. He was a member of many veteran, law, and community organizations. He was a lively member of our discussion groups and always joined us for Meeting for Worship when he was home in Illinois. A memorial service for Jim was held at the ILYM Meetinghouse at McNabb on May 16, 2009.

COLUMBIA

Columbia Friends Meeting is gathering, worshipping, and seeking God in covenant community back in our own Meetinghouse after a thorough cleaning and mold remediation. While the work was being done we spent six weeks out of the building, which was in some ways disruptive and frustrating. But good things came of it as well. We learned to be flexible, and a few Friends opened their homes to everyone for silent worship and social gatherings. We worked together to get the Meetinghouse ready for the work, then afterwards to get it back in order. The experience drew us closer together, and our Meetinghouse is cleaner with new carpeting and a new vanity in the bathroom.

We have had contact with many Friends whom others in the Yearly Meeting area might like to know about. Greg Woods is now coordinator of outreach at William Penn House in Washington, D.C., and is shown in *Friends Journal* (Feb. 2009, p.27). David Westling has been traveling in South America and writes us from the coast of Ecuador. Sabina Wangia, a long-time Friend and attender at our Meeting, visited us in May and has kept us in touch with her Friends Children's Development Initiative in Kenya. Lily Tinker Fortel is very active with the PeaceWorks community in Columbia and recently went to Iran on a People to People visit. She is available to talk about Iran and her visit.

Closer to home, we have had good reports on our monthly rotating of clerks and assistant clerks for Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business. This has given many Friends who are hesitant to take on a year of responsibility a chance to try out clerking. Another change has been the formation of a Meeting for Learning Committee, which organizes our educational meetings. Quakerism 101 has occupied much of our learning time in the last several months. One of our regular educational meetings is the monthly Bible Study.

In addition to the business meetings and meetings for learning, we have monthly Saturday cleanups and Friday Fun Nights. We often share a meal and either talk or play games, but some get-togethers are enhanced by individuals' talents, such as the time when a Friend taught ballroom dancing, and another time when a Friend entertained with her musical band. The Ice Cream Social in the summer was also a big hit. Some special events and activities include: participation in the community's Sustainability Fair, as well as the Interfaith Thanksgiving celebration; donation to the new Medzou Clinic initiated by University medical students; an informative report and

demonstration of Faith and Play for children by our First Day School Committee Convener who had attended an FGC Religious Education workshop; and the focus on Spirituality and Art in the June issue of our monthly newsletter. Columbia Friends Meeting extends its work by budgeting 16 annual contributions to Quaker organizations, and 18 to other groups, plus ad hoc donations for special concerns. A discussion hosted by the Spiritual Life and Nurture Committee after a Saturday cleanup focused on supporting one another in caring for our Meetinghouse, and addressed how our physical space enhances our spiritual life. Community vigils against militarism are ongoing, but what is special about them to us is that one of our Friends, John Schuder, helped initiate these vigils 26 years ago and continues to participate in them.

The Columbia Friends Meeting has maintained its numbers, and has received several visitors, a few of whom have become regular attenders. We were saddened by the loss of a faithful Friend, Hank Koch, who died in December of last year. The last year has presented challenges and losses for the Columbia Friends Meeting, but we have worked together in dealing with them. We strive to support one another in strengthening a shared sense of community, in carrying out Quaker testimonies, and in deepening our spirituality.

DOWNERS GROVE

During this past year, Downers Grove Friends Meeting has experienced our share of joys and sorrows. Yet we continue to be a vibrant meeting and a refuge for many seekers in the DuPage area.

Our most exciting news is the progress of our new meetinghouse. Although later than anticipated, we are pleased that all of the paper work has been completed and we look forward to the next few months when the construction will begin.

Complimenting Pam and Bruce Wolfe's diligent work with the county and township, Bob Spryszak clerked the New Meetinghouse Committee's careful review of architectural plans to cut out unneeded luxuries. Todd Barnett and Joel Berman, our architects, and Adolf Munoz, our builder, worked to keep us within our approved construction budget. Chris Goode, Jack Ostergaard, Andrea Anderson, Joe Davison and Karl Zerfoss of the new meetinghouse committee contributed much time and effort to seeing that our vision becomes a reality.

While pleased about the development of our new meetinghouse, we were saddened by the loss of a member and two attenders. Christine Bruder left this life at the age of 95. Her wisdom, humor and kindness will be remembered by all who knew her. We also marked the passage of Joe Matt from this world at a service that many Friends attended. Friends fondly remembered times spent with Joe and appreciated his many talents. David Buchner's many skills, interests and environmental concerns were celebrated in his memorial service in July.

There was also new life brought into our community. Marc and Laura Mengel along with their son David welcomed Jason Jacob Mengel, who was born on June 19, much earlier than anticipated. Sadly, Jason passed away on August 11.

Earlier, we sent our best wishes to Tim and Andrea Wolfe Bretl on the birth of their daughter Catherine. Additional joys included the marriage of Milton Dixon and Rebecca Epstein on August 16 under the care of the meeting. Milton grew up as a member of DGFM.

Downers Grove Friends wished several members well as they left the state. In July, Betty Clegg left to live in Tennessee with her daughter and family. Betty was a

long-time member of the meeting. In 1964 Betty Clegg's husband, John, converted a three-car garage into our meeting room for worship, which we use to this day. We will fondly remember her for the "Betty Clegg rule" for meeting for worship: "If a message bothers you, it is probably one you should be listening to!"

Besides Betty, Friends were sorry to see the departure of Brad Ogilvie, who moved to Washington D.C., and Ladd McClurg who relocated to Provo, Utah. The Meeting recognizes what these two men have contributed to our community. Both were active in DGFM for over a decade. Brad, who remains a member of this meeting, now works for a Quaker organization called the William Penn House and is still involved with the Mosaic Initiative, an HIV/AIDS prevention group that he founded. Ladd, who was raised in the Mormon tradition, is thankful for his time with DGFM and plans to continue his spiritual journey in his home state. Diana Malon decided to continue her journey in the Catholic tradition. Her music ministry and inspired messages in worship are missed.

To offset these losses, two new members joined us this past year. They are Steven Munier and Tom Fairbank. DGFM is pleased to have both of them join our Meeting. Several faithful attenders continue to bless our worship and the meeting community with their regular presence. Some seem close to clearness for membership.

This year, our spiritual growth was aided by a spring workshop centered around "Story Theology." Sarah Sainsbury led this exercise, focused on our spiritual journeys through telling our stories. Several Friends commented that the story telling helped them see a part of their life from a new perspective, and that people were able to know each other quite a bit better. Furthermore, DGFM is enriched by our adult religious education classes, our bible study and our newest venture, a Pendle Hill pamphlet study group. These regular gatherings help participants grow in their faith and are a wonderful addition to our Meeting.

DGFM is also continuing to witness for peace and social and environmental concerns. We did this by having both Michael McConnell of AFSC and Tim Barner of FCNL speak at DGFM. The community was invited. Both men had large and very attentive audiences as they emphasized that there is hope for ending the Iraq war and stressed alternatives to violence for solving global issues.

Closer to home, Susan Estell recounted for us the preservation of the Blodgett house, an important station on the Underground Railroad. A related theme was the friendship of the Blodgetts with a local Potawatomi Indian chief, whose warning of an attack saved their lives during the Blackhawk War.

Our monthly simple meal raises funds and awareness about the People's Resource Center, an organization that helps low-income families in DuPage County, using our donations to combat hunger.

In terms of outreach, many members helped with this year's booth at Downers Grove's annual Heritage Fest. Friends organized, staffed, created, donated, and moved things in order to make this event occur. It was a wonderful way to make the community aware of our presence while earning a bit to help pay for the new meetinghouse.

DGFM continues to actively participate in the Metropolitan Chicago General Meeting, Western Yearly Meeting and Illinois Yearly Meeting. Last November, we hosted two dozen Friends from MCGM at their fall gathering. This spring, DGFM had a large showing at Western Yearly Meeting's consultation, "Seeking Our Com-

mon Ground,” held at Plainfield, Indiana. Also in the spring, several from DGFMM attended ILYM’s retreat on eldering; others enjoyed their time at ILYM in June, especially the chance to meet other Quakers from Illinois, Indiana and Missouri during relatively cool weather. Later in the summer some of us returned to Plainfield, Indiana, to celebrate Western Yearly Meeting’s 150th anniversary.

As Downers Grove Friends Meeting looks forward to the end of 2008 and the start of 2009, we continue on our journey knowing that we have the Light within us that resides within everyone on this earth. We trust that this Light will lead us to peace in times of uncertainty and will give us strength to overcome our struggles.

DUNELAND

Meeting for Worship has often been one of silent worship except for the enjoyable quiet play of pre-school Friends Faith Badgley, Ethan Cobb, and Daniel Freire. Though silent, the stillness within each of us has helped us find the presence of God. This period of quietness has resulted in discerning a need to socialize outside of meeting for worship. Sensing a need to have a time to talk to each other about what is happening in our lives inside and outside of Meeting, we agreed to hold a Fellowship Sunday on the fourth First Day of the month. We have enjoyed conversation and sharing after meeting for worship, with a simple meal to tide us over in sustenance.

For more than ten years we have talked about finding a way to provide service to the local community and have struggled to come up with something that fits our situation. Because of the geographic spread of our members and attenders, the complexity of our lives, and the high cost of transportation, this has been difficult. Roxy Jacobs made us aware of the “hot list” at Christian Community Action’s Spring Valley Center, which provides housing for homeless families. The “hot list” is the list of items for which they have an immediate need at any given time. With Roxy as our most regular delivery contact, we have helped Spring Valley with periodic donations of juice, diapers, cleaning supplies and other urgently needed items. The visits by the former Illinois Yearly Meeting (ILYM) field secretary, Maurine Pyle, and the new field secretary, Paul Buckley, helped us define our desires for outreach in the community and growth within the Meeting.

Sensing that newer members and attenders desired a mechanism for learning more about Quakerism and going deeper into spiritual issues, we commenced discussions concerning some form of adult education. After considering various options, we decided to start some form of “Quakerism 101” in the winter of 2009. We sense this will be meaningful for the seasoned Friends as well.

Numerous Friends attended a talk by Marcus Borg in Evanston in the spring and Roxy Jacobs and Marlou Carlson attended another event by Marcus Borg later in the year. Roxy traveled to the Middle East with Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan and their wives to tour historic Christian locations in Israel and Palestine. In August, she shared with the Meeting photographs and stories from her time relating to Christian history.

Our young Friend, Emily Pavlovic, made a spiritual leap of faith in participating in the 2008 Quaker Youth Pilgrimage to Great Britain and Ireland. The group of 25 Young Friends from the U.S., Canada, Mexico, England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Germany traveled in the 1652 country of George Fox, and learned about conflict and reconciliation in Northern Ireland. As Emily said in a report in *Among*

Friends, “The amazing sense of community with other Quaker Youth was what made this journey something that I will cherish forever and never forget.”

The passing of Alton Earnhart this year was a time to reflect on the early years of Duneland Friends Meeting. Alton, formerly of 57th Street Meeting, attended Duneland Friends in the early years of its formation, but had not worshiped with Friends for many years. Attending the memorial service allowed many of us to reconnect with Alton’s son and daughter, Ryan and Ruth.

If divine leadings are a motivation for a Spirit-led Quaker life, then leadings have been a dominant focus of the Spirit this year. And it has been these leadings that have not only increased our attendance but also reinvigorated the spiritual life of the meeting. As one new attendee stated, “I feel love here.”

EVANSTON

Spiritual Life

Spiritual life is clearly at the center of Evanston Friends Meeting, with attendance of 60 or more at weekly Meetings for Worship. The Meeting has visitors each week, a number of whom have become quite regular attenders. Even attenders have commented on a strong perception of the Spirit in Meeting for Worship. The practice of asking for prayer requests near the end of Meeting nurtures individuals who are able to share their concerns for loved ones while also enabling us all to appreciate the challenges some are facing. Collectively holding in the Light those who are ill or in transition has been an important part of our ministry. The Meeting held a Fall retreat “Grounded in the Spirit” which generated energy to head into the year as well as identifying some shared convictions: that we can grow in the Spirit better together than alone; a willingness to be guided by the Spirit; a desire to get to know one another more deeply; and a concern for the outer world.

A Sunday evening Meeting for Worship was initiated by a member and draws a small, but continuing number of seekers. Twice a month on Saturdays, the Friends Gathering in Jesus Christ meets at the Meeting House, attracting Friends from the metropolitan area and north into Wisconsin. The annual Silent Retreat, held in Williams Point, Wisconsin, each year on a weekend in late October, continues to provide grounding for many in the Meeting. Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business has been enriched by the presence of a person designated by Ministry & Counsel to pray throughout the Meeting.

Membership

New members in 2008 were Kathie and Clem Biddle, Madelyn George, Phyllis Reynolds, and Laura Krughoff. New associate members were Duncan Reilly and Nicole Barker. We celebrated the wedding of Ken Laughlin and Deb Cronkrite in June. A memorial service was held for longtime attender Phyllis Van Leer.

Midway through the year, we lost the active participation of some devoted members when Jim Strait and Yonny Levy departed for a year in Geneva and the Holloway family decided to spend most of the year in Santa Fe.

Learning

A themed approach to Meeting for Learning (formerly Second Hour) has resonated with members and attenders. Through the first half of the year, the theme was the Peace Testimony with sessions on such topics as Peacemaking between Palestinians and Israelis, Conflict Resolution, A.J. Muste, and classes for prisoners. In the fall,

under the umbrella of “Nourishing Our Roots”, we explored the value of retreats, group spiritual direction, inspirational poetry and music, and songs of conviction. We have strived for a balance between bringing in outside speakers to inform us about issues and drawing on our own members’ experience and expertise in sharing their insights through worship sharing or personal presentation. Some of the most popular sessions are the fourth Sunday spiritual journeys. Most this year have featured two or three people focused on a common theme, exploring the way in which living in an interfaith household, for example, has shaped their spiritual journeys. Other sessions addressed creativity, relationships and personal spiritual practice. Worship Sharing Meetings on early spiritual experiences, simplicity and gratitude provided opportunities to know each other better as well as to reflect deeply on a topic.

A highlight of the year was a fall workshop on “The Joy of Simplicity and Stewardship,” held with the support of Metropolitan Chicago General Meeting. It featured a presentation by Roland Kreager, General Secretary of Right Sharing for World Resources. Other Friends and community friends were invited, and a number joined in the workshop.

Challenges

Two committees faced significant challenges this year. The committee working to develop and implement new landscaping for our side yard came to a point in its deliberations where clearness could not be found. Rather than strive to create it through compromise or prolonged conversation, the Meeting decided to “rest” the committee and its issues until after the first of the new year, making room for the Spirit to work and for the project to again become joyful, enthusiastic work for those involved.

The Religious Education Committee struggled with a loss of leadership and direction, with the resignation of some Committee members. Illinois Yearly Meeting Religious Education Committee minutes were helpful in pointing up the commonality of this concern among Friends. A joint meeting of Ministry & Counsel and Religious Education agreed that religious education is the responsibility of the Meeting as a whole, and not just the parents. The concept of a unified curriculum for First Day School was approved, with three emphases: Understanding Quaker Beliefs and History, Peace and Social Action, and Biblical Study. The Religious Education Committee found new vigor in the fall with new leadership and the participation of two adult young Friends as teachers.

Outreach and Service

Concern for the wider world is an integral part of the Meeting. The Meeting supported Sara Gmitter in her trip to Burundi as part of the Friends Peace Teams/African Great Lakes Initiative work camps, and Sara gave a presentation to the Meeting on her experience. Another Friend Barbara Williamson is on a mission to work for some months at Koinonia. Our Friends of Latin America continue to support the higher education of a student in Guatemala.

Our Peace, Social Concerns, and Earthcare Committee has a strong membership and attendance, with individuals taking leadership for various causes. The Meeting as a whole held a potluck for Sudan in the spring and monthly simple lunches to benefit Right Sharing of World Resources. Concern for the environment is being addressed through promotion of low-energy fluorescent lights and awareness of one’s carbon footprint. A Meeting for Learning session on the awareness of racism and White

privilege stimulated interest that will be pursued in 2009. Many participated in the Night Ministry dinner for Homeless Youth at nearby Lake Street Church. In another project with Lake Street Church, money was raised to purchase solar cookers for Darfur .

Fellowship

The social time after Meeting for Worship is something many look forward to each week. The Friendly Dinners did not get established in the fall, but other fellowship opportunities continue, such as the pancake breakfast first Sunday, the potluck luncheon second Sunday, and simple lunch fourth Sunday. Third Sunday, there is a celebration of those having birthdays that month with cake for all. Movies are shown at the Meetinghouse on two Friday evenings each month. Second hours on fifth Sundays have been designated as a fellowship time led by the Friendship and Hospitality Committee.

A young adult group has been growing in strength, holding activities outside Meeting and forming a community within the larger Meeting community. The Meeting is planning for intervisitation with Northside Friends. We also frequently welcome visitors from Meetings throughout the Midwest and indeed throughout the country. Some of our members, in turn, have made a point of visiting with these other Meetings.

“We know the power of God’s Spirit at work in the lives of people within the community of our meeting.... We also know that we are engaged in a life-long growth into faith, and experience a continuing irruption of grace into our lives which demands and sustains a commitment to a life of discipleship. We recognise this power at work in people of all ages, races and creeds: a transforming power which can issue in lives of joy, humility, and service.”

London Yearly Meeting, 1986

FIFTY-SEVENTH STREET

Our meeting takes deep comfort in our hour of silent worship. It has been enriched by a variety of people presenting vocal ministry. We have become aware of the challenge of needing to encourage edifying ministry and anticipatory silence as well as focusing on the dynamics of inappropriate ministry. At times we also need to recall the worship aspect of meetings for worship with a concern for business.

The meeting has been a place that has provided opportunities for the spiritual growth of its attenders according to the path of their spiritual journey. We have an ongoing monthly spiritual formation program, and held a retreat that explored differences in individual spiritual practices. Friends Gathered in Jesus Christ has been holding weekly midweek worship. Our “1st First Day” programs have been appreciated by all who attend, and our intergenerational pancake breakfast and First Day school are joyful.

We engage in the continual challenge of seeking to understand concerns, not just responding to troublesome actions. While we have not partaken in formal training programs for our leadership, we have worked on one-on-one training of new leadership by our seasoned leaders.

Our Quaker witness to the wider community has primarily been through the programs and activities overseen by the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. Some

members are involved in interfaith dialogs hosted by the neighborhood interfaith council and the committee saw to the acquisition and installation of a “torture is wrong” banner now hanging above the front door of our meetinghouse.

We have been engaging in an initial reflection, which will continue well into next year, toward deepening our understanding of what it is to be a monthly meeting that is dually affiliated with Illinois Yearly Meeting and Western Yearly Meeting, especially in relation to the testimonies of equality and integrity. We have been led to explore what we mean when we say “all are welcome” to our meeting for worship and find we are interested in being more equally involved in both yearly meetings.

LAKE FOREST

We feel the Presence in our midst and are working hard, both individually and corporately, to nurture our relationships with one another and with the Spirit that has led us to the community of Friends that is Lake Forest Friends Meeting.

Meeting for Worship continues to be the sustaining heart of the Meeting, both on First Day and at the Midweek Morning Meeting for worship, which is followed by breakfast. Some adults find preparation for worship in our First Day pre-meeting discussion. Our custom of one of us offering a monthly Query as worship begins helps us to center into expectant Silence and often stimulates vocal ministry. We welcome the messages that are offered, and hunger for more.

We continued the process we began last year as a Listening Project on Finances, mindful that all our work is work of the Spirit. We formed a committee to use the results of the project to discern how we might transform our budget into a numerical reflection of our values. The committee labored faithfully, and as a result of its work, the Meeting approved a statement of LFFM Values and Organization that will guide our budget processes and a reorganization of our committees, effective May, 2009. The five values determining our committee structure are Stewardship of the Meeting, Maintaining the LFFM Building and Property, Support for membership in the Wider Quaker Community, Witness, and Nurture of Lake Forest Friends. Our hope is that, under this new committee structure, more Friends will be involved in the work of the Meeting, lightening the work for some, and increasing the involvement of others. We want our processes to be more open, better understood by all, and more obviously related to our spiritual commitments and responsibilities as Friends, so that our work is more clearly faith made visible.

The Listening Project began as an effort to address the lack of clarity many of us felt about our financial decision-making. It ended as much more, having become an opportunity to speak and listen to one another about difficult issues, on topics where there was not always agreement, and to persist, after the manner of Friends, to arrive at decisions and a way to go forward together. Our community is stronger, and we proceed on our new way with a broadened sense of purpose, and a hint of unQuakerly pride that we were able, together, to find our way through complex, perplexing, and sometimes emotional, discussions.

We experienced some changes in membership. We welcomed Rob MacGruder into membership. We accepted Maurine Pyle’s decision to leave the Meeting after 29 years and held a worship sharing to better come to terms with her decision. Nick Pyle’s request for withdrawal of membership was accepted.

We mourned the loss of Bob Lillibridge, longtime Friend and cherished member of LFFM for eight years, who passed away at home at the age of 94. His widow

Helen has moved into a retirement community. We held in the Light those among us who suffered the loss of family members.

Our First Day school reminds us that loss is accompanied by renewal. Our Religious Education Committee has been creative in developing activities for the three age levels attending our First Day school. Our young students presented a play about Lucretia Mott, and a Christmas pageant, and took a turn preparing one of the monthly meals provided by the Meeting for guests at a local shelter. When our pre-schoolers share their lessons with us at the rise of Meeting, their delight is contagious, and the rest of us feel younger, too.

We continue to cherish the meetinghouse and grounds that physically embrace our corporate life. We are pleased that the acoustical panels installed this year are aesthetically attractive, and, as we hoped, improved the ability of all to hear our spoken words.

We participated in numerous activities in support of Quaker testimonies on peace and justice. Members participated in an informational vigil opposing the war in Iraq in front of the Lake Forest City Hall. Members also led six Friday evening Forums, including presentations on pursuing the Peace Testimony in India and the Middle East.

In sum, the state of our Meeting is good, and we keep before us the challenge of letting our lives speak, not only as individuals of faith, but as a community of Friends.

- Gwen Weaver

NORTHSIDE

As spring is a time of warming and longer days, so Northside Friends Meeting seems to be entering a spring season of rising Spirit and Life. This past year we have received many new companions on our journey, finding ourselves richly blessed. We are moving forward with confidence that our meeting has come a long way from the harder times of a few years ago. Some have described this time as a new sunrise dawning.

A high point last spring was the spontaneous organizing of a Kenyan fund-raiser. As we learned of the troubles in Kenya, Spirit rose in us and we surpassed our own expectations in planning an event. We prepared Kenyan dishes, invited Patrick Nugent to share with us, and raised donations. The opportunity to focus beyond our little circle gave us life and hope for what we could do going forward. This confidence made all the difference as newer folks began to arrive.

Worship continues as the central practice of our meeting. We often worship in complete silence for the hour, but recently both older and newer voices have been led to vocal ministry. Worship is our communion, the place we center and embrace the Light.

As Friends considered this report at our business meeting in April, one Friend raised the historic query, "How does the Truth prosper among us?" Are we about more than being a social club? What about the Divine, vertical dimension of Spirit? We acknowledge that we are diverse in our understandings of Truth and Spirit. In matters of belief, we have in our midst Christians, Buddhists, Pagans, nontheists, and others. Each of us is intentional and serious on our individual path. We also encourage and challenge each other to deeper spiritual maturity. From our life together, a unity arises that is rich, though difficult to name or describe.

Good fellowship was shared at a retreat in Michigan last fall. A newer friend came forward and volunteered to form an Ad Hoc Social Committee to promote similar opportunities for fellowship. Successful events have included a ballet outing, Scrabble nights, and a social concerns letter-writing meeting.

Our public presence has been improved with the launch of www.NorthsideFriends.org. It is modern and appealing. Our webwright, Peter McMahan, has done great work on it for us, and an ad hoc committee cares for its content, under the care of Ministry and Counsel. Nearly all who find us today do so through the internet, so it seemed right to create something new to replace our former page. Please do visit us virtually!

Our business meetings are more settled this year, and many of our newer Friends are actively involved in the business of meeting. There is good energy; decisions and actions seem to come easier. Two clearness committees for membership are ongoing. Financially our meeting has stayed in the black this year, though we note with concern many Friends are experiencing financial difficulties. We have worked together to care for members going through tough times.

Caring for our youngest Friends is essential to our meeting's vitality and future. Our First Day program meets at least once a month. In order to help the meeting respond to the needs of families, the ad hoc First Day children's committee has rotated attendance at business meeting. We ended the employment of our child-care worker this past autumn, after some concerns were raised, and are still seeking a replacement. We remain committed to being a meeting that is welcoming to families with young children, and carrying out that commitment more completely.

After several years' hiatus, we have re-organized a committee to carry forward the Peace Testimony. This newly formed ad hoc Committee for Peace and Justice is drawing a lot of energy and enthusiasm.

We continue holding Second Hour after meeting for worship for topical discussion, and Meeting for Healing once a month. This has been a fruitful place to air concerns of the meeting, discuss faith and practice, and build community. We continue being a meeting with much soul-searching and quiet times.

Our new Friends present us opportunities for sharing what it means to be Quakers and Friends in this place. A discussion group has met twice a month since January to read and share our responses to Howard Brinton's *Friends for 350 Years*. Many rich leadings come from both newer and older Friends through these sessions.

We are excited by the many activities happening among Quakers around Chicago. We have become involved in a few ways with the new Chicago Friends School project, which looks to begin classes in 2010. Quaker Quest seems an amazing possibility. We watch eagerly the Quaker Volunteer Service program beginning at 57th Street Meeting.

Friends from other meetings continue to visit with us, which is always a joy. We feel ourselves part of a larger community but sometimes wonder how to make that more manifest in our actual activities. We affirm our connection to Metropolitan Chicago General Meeting, Illinois Yearly Meeting, and Friends General Conference. Several of us serve these bodies.

New to the entire world is Liam Richard Murphy, born to Friend Susan Doxtator and Christian Murphy on October 28, 2008. Two clearness for membership committees are ongoing, and recently passed from the world is a Friend very important to the

beginning of our meeting, Ogden Hannaford, who died on August 24, 2008, in Kendall-at-Oberlin in Ohio.

OAK PARK

Attendance at First Day Meeting for Worship has been stable at around 20 adults this year. We have been blessed by many powerful messages shared during Meeting. In the absence of stable participation by children, we have been focusing more attention on attracting more young families to our meeting. In November we experimented with a special intergenerational programmed meeting with music and a group art project; it was well-received. We have no new members this year, and some former regulars have not been attending. However, we have welcomed several new regular attenders.

Tom Dix's illness has led some to meet with Tom, his mother Marti Matthews and their extended family member M.P. McKenzie for worship and prayer, sometimes in hospital rooms and sometimes at Marti's home. We join with many others who steadfastly hold Tom and his family in the Light.

The Peace and Justice committee seasoned several projects for us. Some projects led to service, but there have also been challenges. Last June we collaborated with the Oak Park Art League to sponsor a Peace Tower (with collected paintings on the theme of "peace") at Oak Park's A Day in Our Village, winning a prize for most original, interactive exhibit. In October we enjoyed our first family canoe trip on the Chicago River. We have taken on creation and ongoing stewardship of an herbaceous garden at Cook County Forest Preserve's Trailside Museum in River Forest, and will again sponsor a table at A Day in Our Village this year, offering materials and instruction for making origami cranes.

Tom Dix initiated an Adult Religious Education series focusing on understanding and relating to the words and thoughts of early Quakers. Additionally, under Helen Dickinson's leadership, a group of six worshipers formed a Spiritual Support Group in a member's home during the winter - spring.

We have continued to support Public Action to Deliver Shelter (PADS) with evening meals on 5th Fridays; the Oak Park River Forest Area Food Pantry, with volunteer staffing; and other programs of the local Community of Congregations. Patricia McMillen and Wil Rutt led workshops at ILYM on abolition of the death penalty and on health care reform.

OSHKOSH

"Apply your heart to instruction and your ears to words of knowledge."
- Proverbs 23:12

Friends: As we gather for our annual meeting we are reminded that listening to the Light is the way to guide us to truth.

We've had no requests for membership this past year. We have had one marriage under the care of the meeting. There has been sporadic visitation of children but we have no children in membership. We have had First Day school on some occasions when children have been present. We presented a 5-month class on Wednesday evenings on Quakerism 101 with members and attenders.

The meeting has received monthly reports on the oversight of our community loan fund. We continue our prison visitations to Oshkosh Correctional Institution. We have dropped the visitation at RedGranite Prison.

We have had no deaths among our membership this past year. We have had visitation with members of the Winnebago Worship Group and Lake Forest Friends. We have continued to have visits from Janet Means Underhill who is our representative from ILYM. No one from our meeting attended ILYM this past year. Three of our members attended Northern Yearly Meeting sessions. We continue to support Friends programs through AFSC, CCCO, and ProNica. On the local level we have supported the local food pantry with donations of food as well as a monetary donation of \$100. We continue to support both yearly meetings. The monthly meeting continues peace vigils on a monthly basis in Oshkosh and with peace coalition Friends in Appleton. As always, we urge all members and attenders to stand up for our peace testimony.

ROCK VALLEY

This year we decided to meet at the Community Room of JustGoods Fair Trade Store every First Day for consistency. (Previously we were meeting in a home once a month.) We felt it was important to meet in the same place every First Day so that visitors and new attenders could find the Meeting easily. We continue to find our new meeting place to be a positive change. It is a comfortable and welcoming space with attractive decor. The building is home to several organizations made up of people who share many of our values. A wind generator has even been installed on the roof. We have had several new people attend Meeting during the past year. One has become a regular attender and a very wonderful addition to our Meeting community.

We lost a founding member and mainstay of our Meeting this year. On Feb. 20 Doris Peters passed away at the age of 90. A Quaker memorial service was held on March 14 at JustGoods Community Room. There were about 60 people (family, Friends, and friends) in attendance to celebrate her life. There have also been deaths of close family members of our Meeting members and attenders that have brought us sadness this year. And serious illness has been an issue for some of us.

Long-time member Brit Lathrop brought the Earth Charter to our attention this year. We studied and discussed it over many months and decided to endorse it. We continue to have regular religious education sessions every First Day, mostly led by another long-time member, Adah Manby. This is a valuable time to share and learn together.

The small size of the Meeting continues to have both positive and negative aspects. It is easy for us to know each other intimately and to share deeply. On the negative side if even just a couple of regular attenders are absent meeting must often be cancelled.

ROLLA PREPARATIVE MEETING

During the past year we have been meeting in the parlor of the First United Methodist Church on First Days at 1:30 PM. We have had potluck on the last First Day of each month at the home of Friend George McPherson at noon, before moving to the church for worship. Our average attendance during the past year has been very nearly four. Tony Penico has had a stroke so he and his wife Eva have been unable to attend all year. Alex Primm has moved to Mountain View, Missouri, and is trying to get a Meeting started there. For the past academic year we were blessed by the attendance of a young Quaker couple, Steven Bhardwaj and his wife AyJy (EYE-gee). Steven was completing work on a degree in Civil Engineering at Missouri Uni-

versity of Science and Technology and AyJy was getting experience with local doctors as part of her work toward a degree in Medicine. They have moved on to the New York City area; Steven to his dream job and AyJy to continue her medical study. We have provided Quaker literature to two seekers who have independently attended our Meeting several times.

Friend Pauline E. (Beth) Simpson was married, and is now Mrs. Winston Parkinson. The wedding took place on a very wintry day at another church she attends. The weather was so bad that only two of us made it to the church to witness the ceremony.

Potluck lunches have contributed a great deal to our fellowship in the Spirit. The pleasant mutuality of setting the table, eating good food, and washing dishes has been accompanied by friendly conversation, sometimes serious, that helped greatly to improve our individual understanding, and our appreciation of each other. Sometimes we were joined by people who attended Meeting rarely, and even non-attenders; for example Mr. Winston Parkinson; and on one occasion an Obama canvasser knocked on the door and agreed to join us at the table.

Our First Day School comes after Meeting each Sunday and consists of taking turns at reading paragraphs of Quaker literature, chosen by our Clerk for its spiritual and thought-provoking content; the kind of literature that triggers impromptu group discussions of the ideas presented. This year we have studied the book *Practicing Peace*, by Catherine Whitmire, the Quaker Home Service booklet *Nourishing the Spiritual Life*, by Paul Lacey, and lately various writings about a very influential early Friend, Anthony Benezet.

An announcement of our activities for the coming Sunday has appeared in most Friday editions of the Rolla Daily News, along with other church announcements. To promote cohesion within our group, we have been issuing a “Newscard” to our members and attenders about once a month. And we have been refreshed by the helpful visits of Margaret Katranides and Michael Ruberton of St. Louis Meeting.

Though our numbers are small these days, we continue as a Quaker presence in Rolla. When Steven and AyJy came to town, we were here for them.

ST. LOUIS

As it seems we have reported many times before, things are changing at St. Louis Friends Meeting. In the midst of this transformation—some of it positive, some of it troubling, some of it simply change—the meeting is working to find balance and a deepening sense of Spirit.

There is an increased sense of “expectant waiting” in our meetings for worship, with deep and prayerful silence. The overall quantity of vocal ministry has lessened, but what is shared is sincere and meaningful. We have been experimenting with having our First Day school Friends join us for the last 15 minutes of meeting for worship rather than for the first 15 minutes. An advantage is that children can experience a meeting already gathered. We feel the process has helped us examine the spiritual needs of both adults and children.

Our struggle with long, difficult meetings for worship with a concern for business has borne very welcome fruit. Friends feel there is a “world of difference” between our hours-long marathon meetings of years past and the well ordered, worshipful, yet blessedly brief meetings for business we now attend. Keeping the meetings to a reasonable length has both enabled and encouraged attendance for more Friends.

On the other hand, our attempt to restructure the way in which we do the meeting's work is an ongoing and sometimes difficult process. Our intention was to increase participation in the work of the meeting and to decrease Quaker burnout by opening up the committee structure. The hope was that this would facilitate broader and more varied opportunities for Friends, while still supporting the life of the meeting. However, two years into the process, we find there is confusion, a sense that important work is not happening, and a concern that we may not truly be nurturing or drawing upon Friends' talents. We continue to seek equilibrium in carrying out this important work.

We have a sense that many of our regular members and attenders are coming to meeting less often; we are not clear about what has caused this shift. While it is concerning, it may simply be part of the ebb and flow that every meeting experiences.

Our First Day school continues to be strong. Our students recently wrote and performed their own puppet show about stewardship of the earth. We rejoice to see our young Friends growing in the Spirit. Perhaps one of the best indicators of the state of our society came when one of our youngest Friends was asked, "What is it like for you to be in meeting for worship?" She replied, "It feels peaceful and kind." That is a fine testimony indeed.

SOUTH BEND

The South Bend Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends has grown spiritually as a group. This year, members continued efforts to bring our small group into community which has been especially helpful and welcomed by the writer of this report. Clear examples of our work with spiritual community have been in the formation of groups like, Quakerism 101, and *The Beautiful Soul of John Woolman* Book Study Group. Members continued work on clearness committees. Finally, informal Quaker baby showers have turned into welcomings of all infants and toddlers including foster children. Like many groups our meeting often tangles with issues from time to time. However this writer feels strongly that this year, Love and spiritual development surrounded us.

Sadly, some members accepted jobs in other communities, and others passed away. We held memorial services for Bill Reyburn and attended a service for Marty Neidigh. Additionally, the entire Slaughter family moved to New York. Ministry & Council did take the opportunity to update advices and procedures regarding Memorial Services and contacting family of the deceased during such difficult times.

Our hearts were lifted as we welcomed new members this year which included two junior members (Mateo Castille, and Isis Gladney). The three new adult members include Tom Castille, Tab Gladney, and Mary Beth Digann. With great joy, we welcomed the birth of Harmony Pizer, and Hanna Maria Laird.

Ministry & Council ended (for now) the year-long discernment on giving Mutual Aid. South Bend Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends not only revised our Mutual Aid Procedure to include members and attenders, but also established an Urgent Social Justice fund that will be used for requests for assistance from outside the Meeting and for programs and projects that address social justice issues. Ministry & Council and Finance & Long Range Planning collaborated in the final stages to develop our new guidelines.

Our meeting continues to experiment with our worship space at the Charles Martin Youth Center and will do so until the summer ends. The meeting is charged

with not only noticing our immediate comfort levels in this new space, but also noticing how the Spirit of God affects our group worship in this new space. Our fellowship and second hour activities have become more vibrant, which may be due to work of our Fellowship, Study & Outreach committee. The members of that committee have gone to great lengths in teaching our meeting how to embrace visitors.

Children's Religious Education has been exciting and generally well-attended. Children have studied Quaker History, World Religions and the Story of Christ. We have implemented fifth Sunday intergenerational First Day School so children have a chance to develop relationships with older Friends and so all Friends understand how and what children are learning. I mentioned the study groups above, coordinated by Fellowship, Study and Outreach, and would like to add that two members attended the Racial Healing retreat "Weaving Sacred Wholeness", held at Penn Center in South Carolina this Spring. At this time we continue to seek guidance from the Spirit of God as to how to move forward and provide a nurturing environment for all (F)riends.

- Javaughn Fernanders

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

Southern Illinois Friends enjoyed a wider commitment to its "life of the meeting" this year, with attendees at pot lucks and business numbering 9 to 14 adults, which is approximately our all time peak. We gather together every couple of months in Friends' homes for a pot luck which usually has a topic that deepens the spiritual life or sense of community in the meeting. Some Friends have participated in a weekly discussion group reading from Woolman's journal. We accepted two members this year, Tom Hensold and Maurine Pyle, but we said goodbye to Lisa Zee (who has moved to California) and our membership remains at 5 resident adults.

Our children's group has also remained steady with 5 kids: Victor, Corey, Elias, Marlena and Delia, with visits from the "old kids" Noah, Justin, Nate and Adam.

We continue to question the long term suitability of our meeting space, but are making do with our beloved Interfaith Center for the time being. We labored over the question of taking out liability insurance, which was a deepening exercise for us and, having agreed to proceed, we felt the peace of following a call to responsibility. We have also been recognizing our call to support our local Peace Coalition and Good Samaritan House shelter.

We still struggle with doing meaningful outreach, and will soon be discussing whether to change our official name from *Southern Illinois Society of Friends*. A visit from ILYM Field Secretary Paul Buckley inspired further thoughts on the topic of outreach. This spring we organized a visit and talk by Getry Agizah of African Great Lakes Initiative, Kenya. It was an opportunity for us to connect with local groups and make Friends' presence and witness known.

Finally, one of the issues that took us into deep seeking was the prospect of supporting Maurine Pyle's traveling ministry. Maurine's gifts were welcomed by all in our meeting during the past few years, and though we are all new to the role of supporting a traveling minister, we united with joy to walk this path with Maurine. We pray for God's guidance along the way.

- Dawn Amos

SPOON RIVER (Formerly Peoria-Galesburg)

Spoon River Quaker Meeting has had a strong year. We have had 7 dedicated adults and 3 children each week. In the past month another couple and their 2 year old daughter have joined us. We are delighted to have them as a part of our community.

We continue to meet on second First Days for business and third First Days for a potluck lunch and program. In the past year we used Marcia Holliday's book, *Exploring Quakerism* for monthly worship sharing. Our intent was for all of us to grow inwardly and also to help new Friends grow in understanding of Friends' faith and practice. Since the new year began we have been watching movies we've checked out from Quaker Earthcare Witness' video library as springboards for discussion.

We have weekly First Day School for our young Friends—age 6, 5, 4, and 2. We are really invested in our youth. We are learning the stories of the Old and New Testament, as well as Quaker topics. Our children especially enjoy the stories of the Old Testament and the themes of good vs. evil. Whether or not we place emphasis on these themes, they really appeal to the children! Their favorite lesson of the past year was a re-enactment of the story of the Ten Plagues, from the book of Exodus.

Like any Meeting, we have both joys and sorrows to share. A new baby—Tobias Nass-Helfer was born this year to proud parents Jennifer Nass & Jason Helfer. He is a cheerful smiling cherub and we are enjoying getting to know him. We also said a fond farewell to Zelda Sellman—a longtime member of Peoria-Galesburg Meeting. She died February 5, 2009, in Athens, IL.

SPRINGFIELD WORSHIP GROUP

The life of the Spirit in our Worship Group continues to grow.

About a year ago, we began monthly Queries. This is handled more in the way of Worship Sharing. We also have instituted a Joys and Concerns session before rise from Silence. In these ways, we have learned more about ourselves and one another and have gained confidence in speaking from the leading of the Spirit. We are concerned that we have little, if any, vocal ministry during Silence. But we believe the Queries and the Joys and Concerns sessions are giving us more confidence and a stronger sense of "permission" to speak.

We have a wide divergence of approaches to our faith, but a strong group connection. We hold meeting in our homes, with up to a dozen in attendance. We wish to note that the demographics haven't changed for a number of years. Our group is made up of adults who no longer have small children, and we remain ambivalent about holding First Day School, as we have in past years.

We build internal community by sending out a weekly "Friendly Update" e-mail, by holding occasional potlucks in connection with worship, and by going out to lunch occasionally after meeting. Several of us travel together to Winter Retreat or to Yearly Meeting.

We participate in the worship and business of our parent Urbana-Champaign Meeting to the extent that we can. In the past year, Urbana-Champaign guided a weekend session for us on Forgiveness. We are planning another workshop with the Meeting in the fall.

Our community service includes preparing and serving a monthly meal at a homeless shelter, which we have done for the past decade, and participating twice a year in local Interfaith programs.

We conduct some outreach for new members. We run a regular contact calendar listing in the local weekly newspaper and we are listed in wider Quaker resources, including *Friends Journal*. We maintain a library of Quaker materials for our group and for seekers.

UPPER FOX VALLEY

We have honored the memorials in two families which will not be a part of the ILYM memorial recognitions as they were neither members nor attenders. Joni Bohne's father, George Fialo, left his mortal life in late March, exclusively for his entry into the spirit world. Joni and her husband Mike are regular attenders. John Hackman's maternal aunt, Matilda Freed, departed this life in late April. We share this in the beginning of our report rather than at the end because their deaths inspire us to rise up to life in a new way. Also we report that we have been blessed by a number of visiting seekers. Some of them continue to attend and volunteer and we hope they will soon feel comfortable being listed as members of our meeting.

Our weekly study/discussion group runs from nine a.m. to nine thirty, followed by music and folk singing from the *Rise Up Singing* songbook and *Worship in Song: A Friends Hymnal*. Meeting for worship begins at ten a.m. followed by a food fellowship.

In the study/discussion period, we continue to read from the Quaker Quest booklets. We recently completed reading together *Quakers and Simplicity* and now have begun reading *Quakers and Jesus*. Between the booklets we spent two sessions studying *Quakers and the New Story; Essays on Science and Spirituality* by Mary Coelho. At the end of this study she had written a four-page section entitled "Simplicity". Our discussions are very enjoyable and stimulating.

The use of the word "God" has often been questioned in our group. One enlightening discovery that we recently made was the first essay entitled, "Seeking Meaning in Creation," written by Don Smith which appeared in the book, *Quaker Bible Reader*. Some of us remember the avid interest Don, then fourteen, had in reading from an open Bible on the coffee table in one of our homes where he had attended Worship with his father. Much later he went on to lead Bible studies at annual Gatherings. He is now an astrophysicist and a physics professor at Guilford College in North Carolina. He is just as much at home in testing scientific theories as he is in reading and discerning mythical truths about the Hebrew God in the Bible. We are very pleased that this Quaker intellect had his early Quaker nurturing within our meeting.

We as a meeting continue to appreciate and are challenged by programs that are organized by ILYM. Two of us attended the Nonviolent Communication Workshop Winter Retreat at Menno Haven. Also a representative from our group attended the Listening Circle presented in May at the MCGM gathering held in Evanston. A method was taught using a very non-sentimental version of loving in a simple-to-use format. It is that love that we feel for all F/friends that are a part of ILYM.

We cherish the visits of the former and present Ministry and Advancement representatives throughout the year. We also enjoyed and appreciated the over-night visit and helpful guidance of Paul Buckley in early April.

Many of our meeting participate in the Environmental Concerns Committee of ILYM and in the Quaker Earthcare Witness group. We find it both rewarding and enjoyable. Our concern for the global warming that is taking place in our world

prompts us to examine the size of our own carbon and environmental footprints on a regular basis.

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

The spiritual state of our Meeting, and maybe of any Meeting, is hard to put into words. The state is generally positive. One long-time member said she thought of the word “becoming,” and that seems like as good a description as any.

Our membership changes at a steady pace, due mostly to ours being a university town. The overall mix of ages and families and number of attenders remains relatively constant.

This year, we took the Springfield Worship Group under our care. (They have submitted their own report.) They join us in Urbana when they can, and one of our members has visited with them and conducted a workshop, on forgiveness. We are strengthened by their participation and feel good about having a spiritual community that others want to take part in.

Our meetings for worship are more silent than some others. Our monthly queries usually spark some vocal ministry, but many other meetings for worship are silent. ILYM Field Secretary Maurine Pyle gave a workshop on vocal ministry, which had a beneficial but short-lived impact.

In other settings, we speak more. Our Thursday night meetings typically have lively and valuable discussions. These Thursday nights, an opportunity for adults to learn more about Quaker values and practices, currently have the theme “Energized by Early Friends.” Other themes have been “Seeking and Finding the Light” and “Forgiving: It’s a Process.”

Our religious education efforts directed at children are a source of both joy and concern. We have a healthy number of younger children who enjoy First Day School and other child- and family-oriented activities we have organized: a week-long summer day camp, a camp-out on the meetinghouse grounds, trick-or-treating for UNICEF, and family worship. Many adults make these events possible and also feel enriched by the experience. On the concerns side: Our Religious Education convener has to work hard to recruit adults to lead First Day School classes, and we have not maintained the critical mass of young teens needed to support a teen program.

Ministry and Oversight formed committees of care to address a serious conflict between members. We sought input from the ILYM Field Secretary and ILYM Ministry and Advancement members, and have worked extensively with both parties to find a way through. The work continues, but the largest issues have been resolved. The practice of looking for that of God in everyone has been very helpful.

We are involved in the local community in various ways. Once a month, we make sandwiches for a local charity that feeds the homeless. We recently held a pancake supper and silent auction to raise money for our emergency fund, which is available to needy members of the community. We host an acupuncture clinic to relieve stress for veterans, current members of the armed forces, and their immediate support networks. We have collected clothing and books for migrant workers and their families. We have also worked with other local organizations on projects of mutual interest, such as helping to pay for a billboard about the true cost of war.

Many of the activities mentioned above build community. In addition, we have a monthly potluck after meeting for worship, and we have revived our Quaker Eights dinner parties.

MINUTES OF THE CONTINUING COMMITTEE
of Illinois Yearly Meeting
Clear Creek Meetinghouse, Tenth Month 18, 2008

1. The meeting opened in worship, with thirty-six Friends in attendance.
2. The clerk reviewed a tentative agenda.
3. Dawn Amos presented the Treasurer's Report. Net assets total \$114,123.24, including \$26,081.41 in the Property Improvement Fund.
4. Neil Mesner reported for the Maintenance and Planning Committee. The committee has put new doors on the bunkhouse, made repairs after removing the "raccoon dormitory," trimmed trees, and planted new trees. A new water heater is needed. An ongoing issue is which parts of the yearly meeting budget are for Maintenance and Planning expenses. Suzanne Siverling had been engaged to provide a maintenance schedule, but before this was completed it was decided that it would be more beneficial to acquire a more comprehensive Capital Asset Management Plan, so Suzanne's services have been suspended. The committee is in the process of obtaining bids to provide the Capital Asset Management Plan. It is hoped that the part of this plan dealing with physical maintenance will be finished before winter weather sets in.
5. Minutes 1-4 were read and approved.
6. Chip Rorem introduced the report of the Site Envisioning and Development Committee. Documents related to the committee's work are on-line at the ILYM website for Friends to review.
7. Continuing the Site Envisioning and Development Committee's report, Chris Goode then presented plans for the new buildings. Some adjustments have been made to site placement of the buildings. The dining hall has been moved slightly to the east, and the first dormitory, containing the Clear Creek winter meeting space, has been "flipped" east-west. Several possible positions of the second dormitory are under consideration. Major features of the dining hall and both dormitories were reviewed, including aspects of the design which keep energy consumption down and maintenance costs low. Cost estimates range from \$549,974 to \$604,974 for Dormitory 1, \$491,974 to \$546,974 for Dormitory 2, and \$531,097 to \$575,097 for the Dining Hall, or a total of \$1,570,000 to \$1,724,000, with much of the variation dependent on the choice between propane and geothermal heating. These figures do not include expenses such as furniture, kitchen equipment, architect's fees and wind or solar electrical and heating equipment.
8. Roy Treadway presented his concerns over two reports prepared for the committee, regarding HVAC and geothermal systems, and solar/wind energy in the new buildings. Roy feels the reports are based on very conservative assumptions, and that the case for geothermal, wind, and/or solar energy is much more compelling than the reports indicate.

9. Bob Bartles then presented the committee's draft business plan, which proposes fundraising of \$2.1 million dollars for construction, including fees not included in the cost estimates just reported by Chris Goode, and \$210,000 as a reserve to support operations and maintenance. \$242,643 has already been raised in donations and pledges. There is some possibility of Clear Creek Meeting obtaining a loan of up to \$350,000 which could be put toward construction and repaid with pledged donations over subsequent years.
10. Chip Rorem concluded the SE&D Committee's report by requesting approval to proceed with work toward obtaining bids for construction. This will require the following steps:

One

- Finalize the various conservation, geothermal, solar and wind systems,
- Finalize the layout of the kitchen in the dining hall,
- Begin and complete the construction documents for the buildings,
- Issue the completed documents for bid,
- Receive and review bids;
- *Two*
- Proceed with the second round of fund raising;
- *Three*
- Develop the retreat center business plan and integrate the capital asset management plan into the business plan;
- *Four*
- Finalize acquisition of the parcel of land to the southeast of the south parcel,
- Begin investigation of land to the west of the south parcel.

Chris Goode projects architectural costs of \$35,000–\$40,000, engineering costs of \$20,000–\$25,000, and bidding costs of \$3000–\$5000 for the steps summarized under *One*, above.

Following a discussion in which several Friends stressed the importance of communicating the value we see in this project to the yearly meeting community at large, Friends approve proceeding with these steps.

Friends expressed their appreciation for the committee's work, and especially for the contributions of architects Chris Goode and Chip Rorem.

11. Minutes 5–10 were read and approved.
12. The clerk agreed to write a letter to monthly meetings regarding the new building projects. Monthly meeting representatives are also urged to convey to their meetings the information that members of the SE&D Committee are available and willing to travel to local meetings to present information about the projects.
13. Sandy Huntley reported for the Finance Committee. Friends are reminded that the Finance Committee formulates a budget based on the requests of yearly meeting committees; it does not pass judgment on how committees spend budgeted funds. If committees require unbudgeted expenses, proposals should be made to the Review Committee, which consists of the clerk and treasurer of the yearly meeting and a designated representative of the Finance Committee.

14. Roy Treadway reported for the Environmental Concerns Committee. A fallen walnut tree on the meetinghouse grounds has been cut up, and the wood stored. Several new trees have been planted. This weekend, the committee has been cleaning up trash and weeds from the grounds. The committee plans to develop a map identifying the various trees on ILYM property, especially memorial trees, with information about the memorialized individuals. The committee is developing recommendations for selection of cleaning products. It also consults with the SE&D Committee on sustainability issues connected with the new buildings and landscaping.
15. Minutes 11–14 were read and approved.
16. Janice Domanik reported for the Faith and Practice Committee. The committee has been working on text regarding meeting structure and organization; it plans to bring the portion concerned with monthly meetings for an initial presentation at yearly meeting this summer. The committee is also revising the section “Friends’ Manner of Decision-Making”; this will also be submitted at yearly meeting this summer with a request for indefinite approval. Copies of approved sections will be distributed to monthly meetings, posted on the ILYM website, and made available to individuals in bound folders. Members of the committee are available to conduct workshops to discuss texts at local meetings.
17. Pam Kuhn reported for the Handbook Committee. The committee proposes a change to the description of the Naming Committee, to reflect a change made at yearly meeting last summer. Friends approve.
18. Elizabeth Mertic reported for the Nominating Committee. They propose Kelly Maynard for the Peace Resources Committee, and Mark Amos for the FWCC Section of the Americas (for a 3 year term). Friends approve these nominations with gratitude. The committee seeks the assistance of Friends in filling remaining openings. Bob Bartles has discontinued his service on the Finance Committee. Neil Mesner consents to serving as clerk of Maintenance and Planning Committee; the appointment of a co-convenor would be welcome.
19. The clerk read a written report from the Peace Resources Committee. The committee reminds local meetings that the PRC welcomes opportunities to conduct a Peace Testimony workshop. The PRC also offers to develop the program for the Winter Retreat, as a workshop on non-violent communication. A trained NVC trainer has been identified to conduct the workshop; the estimated cost of the workshop would be \$32 per person, assuming attendance of 40 people. This figure does not include other retreat expenses such as food and lodging.
20. David Finke and Dawn Amos reported for the Publications Committee. The 2008 Minute Book has been published. The next issue of *Among Friends* will be the last for editor Cindy Reynolds; the Nominating Committee is seeking a new editor. Friends interested in helping with editing the ILYM website should contact Dawn Amos. Speaking from the silence, Friends expressed their appreciation for Cindy Reynolds’ consistent, creative, reliable, and faithful service to the yearly meeting in editing *Among Friends*. This work has helped bind Friends together in faith and spirit, though we are many miles apart, and has served as a great tool for outreach. Friends also thanked the Publications Committee and

Sharon Haworth for their work in producing the Minutebook, and noted with pleasure that this year's Minutebook includes the minutes of the Continuing Committee.

21. Minutes 15–20 were read and approved.
22. Tim Narkiewicz reported on behalf of Elke Narkiewicz for the Religious Education Committee. The committee has begun using the *Yahoo!* group “YMREconnections” as a way of sharing ideas and materials pertaining to religious education. The committee plans to ask Michael Gibson, FGC Religious Education Committee Coordinator to lead a training workshop on Godly Play/Faith & Play. The committee has also been asked to provide training in working with youth groups and anticipates being able to set up such a training session, once they know how many Friends are interested and what they would like to have as a focus. Friends should contact Elke Narkiewicz as soon as possible at enarkiewicz@yahoo.com if they are interested in either workshop. During the ILYM summer sessions the committee plans to hold a “share session” with Friends about successful programs, activities, workshops, lessons, etc. It will be an opportunity for Friends to share what is working in our meetings and communities with religious education.
23. Paul Buckley presented the Field Secretary's report. He has visited Duneland and Urbana-Champaign Meetings. He recently read yearly meeting and Continuing Committee minutes and *Among Friends* for the last 10 years, to bring himself up-to-date on what has happened across ILYM. Paul welcomes invitations to visit and work with local meetings.
24. Elizabeth Mertic raised a concern that events for ILYM teens be better publicized, especially to newcomers to our meetings. Friends offered several suggestions, including more systematic announcing of such events at local meetings, and regular dissemination of information by the Youth Oversight Committee over the ILYM email list.
25. Brad Laird reported for the Chicago South Planning Group. The theme for our 2009 sessions will be Simplicity. A Plummer lecturer is still being sought. A panel discussion on simplicity is planned for Wednesday evening. The Thursday speaker is Hollister Knowlton of Quaker Earthcare Witness; the Friday speaker is Joanna Hoyt, a young adult Friend who lives in an intentional community affiliated with the Catholic Worker House movement. Dave Moorman and Sue Davison are coordinating workshops; Patty McMillen worship sharing; and Bob Cordova before-dinner singing. Most food coordinating positions have been filled, but a dishwashing coordinator is still needed; please contact Sue Styer or Patricia McMillan to volunteer.
26. Sharon Haworth reported briefly for the Blue River Quarterly Meeting Planning Group. Most positions have been filled, but so far, no overall site coordinator has been found.
27. Pam Kuhn reported for the Chicago North Planning Group. The F.U.N. Theme will be “Building.” About 20 volunteers are needed for children's programming.
28. Minutes 21–27 were read and approved.

29. Friends provisionally accepted an offer to hold the spring meeting of the Continuing Committee, scheduled for March 7, at Urbana-Champaign Meeting.
30. The clerk reported a concern brought by Maurine Pyle, regarding racism among Friends. Friends who share this concern are urged to contact Maurine. It was noted that Quaker Books of FGC is publishing a book on this topic, *Fit for Freedom, not for Friendship*.
31. David Finke reported that Friends Peace Teams is in need of support; Friends are urged to contribute.
32. The clerk reminds Friends that committees should send copies of their minutes to the clerk and to the administrative coordinator to keep on file.
33. Minutes 28–32 were read and approved.
34. The meeting closed in silent worship.

MINUTES OF THE CONTINUING COMMITTEE
of Illinois Yearly Meeting
Urbana-Champaign Meetinghouse, Third Month 7, 2009

1. The meeting opened in worship, with 30 Friends in attendance.
2. The clerk reviewed a tentative agenda.
3. Dawn Amos gave the Treasurer's Report. Net assets are \$136,039.28. The meeting has received an interest-free loan of \$1000 from an individual. Excess money has been moved from our general operating budget into the Special Gifts and Deferred Maintenance Funds.
4. Pam Kuhn and Sandy Huntley reported for the Finance Committee. The committee has prepared a manual to help ILYM committees in formulating budget requests. Copies will be distributed to committee clerks and posted on the ILYM website at www.ilym.org/finance. Budget worksheets are also available on the website to aid in committee budgeting.
5. It was announced that Dawn Rubbert has been appointed as the representative from St. Louis Monthly Meeting to the Continuing Committee.
6. Neil Mesner reported for the Maintenance and Planning Committee. The committee has selected Sam Marts as the firm to work with in developing the Capital Assets Management Plan; final negotiations for hiring Sam Marts are in progress. An ice storm this winter damaged several trees and ruined a small water heater, which is being replaced. Work is planned to finish the south room of the bunkhouse and close up holes in the walls. A number of other maintenance tasks have been identified and plans made for repairs.
7. Minutes 1–6 were read and approved.
8. Chip Rorem reported for the Site Envisioning and Development Committee. Fundraising has been adversely affected by the recent economic downturn. Enough funds have been raised to proceed with construction documents for the

first dormitory and solicit bids for this building, but not enough to have the architectural and engineering firm produce construction drawings for the kitchen and complete its other work, or to begin actual construction on the first building. Current funds total \$104,623.32, much of which is restricted by donors to actual “bricks and mortar.” The business plan is still being revised, to reflect the option of a “for profit” retreat center and incorporate information from the upcoming Capital Asset Management Plan. Land acquisition is still in progress.

9. Chris Goode, building architect, continued the Site Envisioning and Development Report. Four contractors have issued bids for constructing the first dormitory. Bids were substantially higher than expected, and range from \$650,000 to \$1,007,000, with three of the four clustering near \$1,000,000. Features of the building which contributed to these high costs were reviewed. One major cost is the fire protection system, which Chris had believed was required by code. On further investigation it was determined that this system could be omitted if each bedroom were provided with its own exit door. Separate bids ranging from \$23,962 to \$45,480 were obtained for a solar hot water system; these costs might be substantially reduced through grants and state rebates. Adding solar hot water would benefit by changing the pitch of a portion of the roof.
10. Bob Bartles continued the Site Envisioning and Development Report. In addition to the \$104,623.32 on hand, the yearly meeting has approximately \$156,000 in pledges toward building costs, for a total of approximately \$260,000. Included in the pledges are \$15,000 for “green” construction and \$15,000 as a 50% matching grant. Potential major donors are being identified and approached. The committee welcomes the participation of more Friends in the fundraising effort.
11. It was reported that the Clear Creek Challenge has raised \$19,180 to date. The donation period will be extended until \$20,000 has been raised.
12. Friends authorize the Site Envisioning and Development Committee to continue their fundraising efforts. The committee may proceed with the steps already approved at Fall Continuing Committee as finances permit.
13. Bob Bartles agreed to arrange a workshop at our 2009 yearly meeting on structuring personal finances in support of faithful giving.
14. Minutes 7–13 were read and approved.
15. The clerk nominated David Finke and Sue Davison to the Naming Committee; Friends approve. The clerk will also serve ex officio.
16. The clerk announced that copies of the World Council of Churches Executive Committee statement on the Gaza war are available for Friends to pick up. The statement may also be obtained at the WCC website. The clerk also called notice to the “Abolish the Death Penalty Lobby Day,” including a rally and lobbying, to be held in Springfield, Illinois, 3/12/2009. The meeting then adjourned for lunch.
17. Friends reconvened in silent worship.

18. Elizabeth Mertic reported for the Nominating Committee. They recommend that Pam Kuhn be appointed as Assistant Recording Clerk, effective immediately with the intention that she serve as Recording Clerk at the conclusion of the ILYM 2009 sessions. They also recommend Nora Vera Godwin be appointed as Reading Clerk, effective immediately. Friends approve these appointments. Five Friends have been approached to serve as Editor of *Among Friends*; all five have declined. Friends are urged to consider who might be suitable for this position, and communicate their ideas to the Nominating Committee.
19. Dawn Rubbert reported for the Peace Resources Committee. The committee has created a blog devoted to peace issues. The Non-Violent Communication Workshop at the Winter Retreat was reported generally a success. In feedback from participants, however, some concerns were expressed whether the retreat was appropriately spiritual and specifically Quaker in its approach, and whether Camp Menno Haven was sufficiently accessible to Friends throughout the ILYM region. The committee is considering making a recommendation that Illinois Yearly Meeting establish an annual Peace Prize, to recognize groups or individuals engaging in peace work, and requests guidance from Continuing Committee on how to proceed. In ensuing discussion, a variety of views were expressed, including some enthusiasm, but also reservations on the part of some Friends about the idea of a “prize,” especially if a monetary award is involved. Friends are encouraged to communicate their views on this matter to the Peace Resources Committee as it continues developing its proposal.
20. Paul Buckley presented the Field Secretary’s report. He has visited both quarters and 14 particular meetings since beginning his position. Paul reports a concern that many meetings present obstacles to meaningful attendance by newcomers: inadequate signage for identifying meeting places, poor explanation of meeting for worship, practices which put visitors on the spot, stand-offish attitudes to newcomers. Paul has packets on the Quaker Quest outreach program which Friends may pick up.
21. Minutes 14–20 were read and approved.
22. Chris Goode reported for the Chicago South Planning Group. Food planning is progressing appropriately; coordinator positions have been filled.
23. Pam Kuhn reported for Chicago North. Friends Under Nineteen (F.U.N.) coordinator positions have been filled, but many volunteers are needed. Ideas are requested for a youth service project. The question was raised whether to continue movie night, or replace it with some other activity such as a game night.
24. Sharon Haworth reported for Blue River Quarterly Meeting that Mira Tanna will be overall site coordinator; a Sunday cleanup coordinator is still needed.
25. Roy Treadway reported for the Environmental Concerns Committee. The committee held a retreat at the yearly meetinghouse, during which a walnut tree was cut up, oaks and dogwoods were planted, and the site was cleaned up. The committee has made specific recommendations regarding the planned new buildings, and plans several activities, including a review of cleaning products used at ILYM, development of a map identifying memorial and other trees on the

meetinghouse grounds, marking of trees on site, and development of a nature walk through the grounds.

26. Peter Lasersohn reported for the Faith and Practice Committee. The committee is working on the section called “Friends Manner of Decision-Making” which will expire this summer. They are also continuing to work on the meeting organization and structure section which they hope to submit for a 5-year provisional period in 2010. The sections “Concerning this Book of Faith and Practice” and “Membership” approved for an indefinite period last summer are being distributed today. Meetings should replace the old versions in their Faith and Practice binders. They are also distributing the draft of “Friends manner of Decision-Making” with proposed changes indicated. These will be presented for action concerning indefinite approval this summer. The committee also is handing out drafts on “Communities of Friends” and “The Monthly Meeting.” The committee asks meetings to communicate ideas on these drafts to the Faith and Practice Committee. The committee continues to seek discernment on further additions as well as quotations and queries to be added. It is important that if this is to be a Faith and Practice of the yearly meeting, it needs to reflect the leadings and understanding of all ILYM Friends and not just an isolated committee.
27. Dawn Amos reported for the Publications Committee. They remind committees that the meeting website contains space where committees may post materials. Dawn is happy to assist committee contacts with the process.
28. Dawn Rubbert announced that the Peace Resources Committee will be holding a one-day planning retreat at 57th Street Meetinghouse on 3/14/2009, and a regular committee meeting 4/18/2009, at a location to be determined.
29. Elke Narkiewicz reported for the Religious Education Committee. Several Friends attended FGC’s Religious Educators Institute. The Yahoo! group RE-connections has been loaded up with resources and materials for Friends to use in their religious education programs and curricula. The committee is planning a “Godly Play / Faith and Play” workshop with Michael Gibson, FGC Religious Education Coordinator, anticipated for Fall 2009.
30. Peter Albright presented the Youth Coordinator’s Report on behalf of Javaughn Fernanders. She reports a record number of youth attenders at yearly meeting last year; however, some rule-breaking was reported just as final packing was underway, which prevented appropriate application of our usual process for dealing with rule-breaking. A new process has been developed to allow a response to late-reported rule-breaking. An extra Quake was held in the fall, as well as a workshop on clerking.
31. Peter then reported for the Youth Oversight Committee. A successful gathering and workshop was held Labor Day weekend. The Quake that Rocked the Midwest was held at Evanston Meetinghouse over the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day weekend. Money was raised last summer through T-shirt sales; this money was used to support teen attendance at FGC Gathering and the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage. A Quake is planned for Memorial Day Work Weekend.

32. Minutes 21–31 were read and approved.
33. The clerk read a report from the ad hoc exploratory committee regarding a personnel committee. The committee recommends that a formal personnel committee be established, and also makes eight specific additional recommendations on personnel matters. (See the report on page 35 of this minutebook.) Friends minute their appreciation of the work of this committee, and leave the recommendations to be considered by the yearly meeting body at our annual sessions.
34. Sharon Haworth reported for the ad hoc records management committee. They have completed a survey of ILYM committees, officers and staff to determine what records are being kept and how they are being kept. A very light response has been obtained. Records may be forwarded for archiving if deemed appropriate by the meeting. Confidentiality issues will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.
35. The yearly meeting is due to consider this summer whether to move to a June date for our annual sessions on an ongoing basis. Especially since Friends for whom a June date is problematic may not be able to be present when this decision is made, it is important that this item of business be well prepared beforehand. The clerk proposes the establishment of an ad hoc committee to make the appropriate preparations and investigations. Friends approve the establishment of such a committee and appoint Elke Narkiewicz (convener), Carol Zimmerman, Paul Buckley, Bridget Rorem and Sue Tursman to serve.
36. Friends express their gratitude to Urbana-Champaign Friends for their hospitality in hosting this meeting, including especially food and the arrangement of housing. Friends expressed appreciation for how the Urbana-Champaign Meeting-house demonstrates the value of a well-planned building.
37. Minutes 32–36 were read and approved.
38. The meeting closed in silent worship.

ILYM COMMITTEES

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Clerk: Dawn Rubbert,
Margaret Katranides
Elizabeth Mertic,

Ex-Officio: Presiding & Assistant Clerks

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE: Clerk: Roy Treadway

2010 Alice Howenstine
2010 Bill Howenstine
2010 Roy Treadway
2011 Adrian Fisher
2011 Nancy Halliday
2012 Peggy Boyer Long
2012 Chris Goode
2012 John Hackman
2012 Meg Nelson
2012 Noel Pavlovic
2012 Sarah Pavlovic

FAITH & PRACTICE COMMITTEE Clerk: Peter Lasersohn

Janice Domanik
Peter Lasersohn
Colleen Reardon
Jason Stacy
Larry Stout

FINANCE COMMITTEE Clerk: Judy Jager

2010 Cathy Garra
2010 Sandy Huntley
2010 Bruce Kanarek
2010 Pam Kuhn
2012 Margie Haworth
2012 Judy Jager
2012 Nancee Miller
2012 Ashlee Miller-Berry

REVIEW COMMITTEE

Dawn Amos
David Finke
Sandy Huntley

HANDBOOK COMMITTEE: Clerk: _____

2010 Patricia McMillen
2011 Pam Kuhn

MAINTENANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE: Clerks: Neil Mesner & Maurine Pyle

2010 Robin Johnson
2010 Neil Mesner,
2011 John Hackman
2011 Chuck Howenstine
2012 Diane Clark Dennis
2012 Bill Howenstine
2012 Maurine Pyle
Ex-Officio: Stewards

MINISTRY AND ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE Clerk: Mariellen Gilpin

2010 Nancy Duncan
2010 Margaret Katranides
2010 Janet Means Underhill
2010 David Shiner
2011 Mariellen Gilpin
2011 Mark Mattaini
2011 Angie Reeks
2012 Beth Burbank
2012 Genevieve Wimp-McCann
2012 Beth Schobernd

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON DISCERNMENT OF GIFTS

(Under the care of Ministry and Advancement Committee)

Sophie de la Mar
Janice Domanik
Brad Laird

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Clerk: Sarah Pavlovic

2010 Sue Styer
2010 Judy Erickson
2011 Brad Ogilve
2011 Sarah Pavlovic
2012 Michael Dennis
2012 Mira Tanna
Ex-Officio: Presiding Clerk

PEACE RESOURCES COMMITTEE Clerk: Chuck Hutchcraft

2010 Phyllis Reynolds
2010 Breeze Richardson
2010 Chuc Smith
2011 Patricia McMillen
2011 Bridget Rorem
2011 Dawn Rubbert
2012 Kent Busse
2012 Michael Batinski
2012 Chuck Hutchcraft
2012 Mark McGinnis

PEACE TAX FUND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE Clerk: John Knox

2010 Chris Jocius
2012 John Knox

PUBLICATIONS AND DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE: Clerk: Dawn Amos

2010 Dawn Amos
2010 Judy Erickson
2011 Marcia Nelson

Ex-Officio: Presiding & Recording Clerks, *Among Friends* editor, Webservant

QUAKER VOLUNTEER SERVICE, TRAINING AND WITNESS COMMITTEE:

Clerk: _____
2010 Judy Jager
2010 Julia Pantoga
2010 Carol K. Zimmerman
2012 Marti Matthews

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Clerk: Elke Narkiewicz

2010 Elke Narkiewicz
2010 Marie White
2011 Sophie de la Mar
2011 Michelle Stacy
2011 Katherine Wengel Young

SITE ENVISIONING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE Clerk: Chip Rorem

2010 Richard Ashdown
2010 Bob Bartles
2010 Carol Bartles
2010 Sallyann Garner
2010 Bill Howenstine
2010 Jeannie Marvin
2010 Dennis McQueen
2010 Bobbi Trist
2012 Chip Rorem

YOUTH OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE: Clerk: Peter Albright

2010 Peter Albright
2010 Mark Amos
2010 Ellen Baranowski
2010 Ashlee Miller-Berry
2010 Sarah Pavlovic
2011 Michael Dennis
2011 Diane Clark Dennis
2012 David Wixom
Ex-Officio: Teen clerks, Youth Coordinator

APPOINTMENTS TO WIDER QUAKER ORGANIZATIONS

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE CORPORATION

2010 Todd Kuzma
2011 Robert Godsey

ASSOCIATED COMMITTEE OF FRIENDS ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

2010 Grayce Mesner

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION

2010 Debra Penna-Fredericks
2011 Wil Rutt
2012 Kevin Brubaker

FRIENDS FOR LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER & QUEER CONC.

2010 Colleen Reardon

FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

2010 Charley Earp
2010 Stephen Domanik
2010 Gaelan McQueen

FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS

2010 Julia Pantoga

FRIENDS SECONDARY SCHOOL LIAISONS

2010 Olney: Grayce Mesner
2010 Scattergood: Sharon Haworth

FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION

2010 David Shiner

2011 Mark Amos

2011 Jeanette Baker

QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS

2012 Alice Howenstine

YEARLY MEETING SESSION COMMITTEES

2009 CLERK'S COMMITTEE

Dawn Amos, David Finke, Margaret Katranides, Pam Kuhn, and Peter Lasersohn

2009 EPISTLE COMMITTEE:

Nora Vera-Godwin, Wil Brant and Jeannie Marvin

2009 EXERCISES COMMITTEE:

Sarah Raffensperger, Jan Mullen and Patricia McMillen

2010 YEARLY MEETING RESPONSIBILITIES:

Friends Under Nineteen & Recreation: Chicago South

Food and Adult Program: Blue River Quarterly

Site Preparation/Housekeeping/Cleanup: Chicago North

QUARTERLY/GENERAL MEETING CLERKS:

Blue River Quarterly: David Wixom

Metropolitan Chicago General: Martha Turner

OTHER YEARLY MEETING OFFICERS

AMONG FRIENDS EDITOR:

Wil Brant

RECORDS LIBRARIAN:

Brent Eckert

WEBSERVANT:

Dawn Amos

CONTINUING COMMITTEE

Appointed Representatives to Continuing Committee from each Monthly Meeting and Worship Group:

BINr	*Larry Stout
ClCr	Grayce Mesner
Colm	Nancy Finke
DwG	Chris Goode
Dunl	*Noel Pavlovic
Evan	Sue Tursman
57th	Carol Zimmerman
LkFo	Janice Domanik
NSde	Ted Ehnle
OakP	Helen Dickinson
Oshk	Tom Barlow
RkVa	Ann & Brent Eckert
Rola	Chris Jocius
StLo	David Wixom Dawn Rubbert
SBen	Brad Laird
SoIl	Dawn Amos
SpRv	*Elke Narkiewicz
SpWG	*Peggy Boyer Long
UFV	Peter Albright
UrCh	Sharon Haworth

*Clerk or Contact name and address; representative not appointed.

Other members of Continuing Committee:

Any Friend who is part of Illinois Yearly Meeting

A representative of High School Young Friends and the Adult Young Friends

The Presiding Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Recording Clerk, Assistant Recording Clerk, Stewards, Treasurers, Field Secretary, Youth Coordinator and the Administrative Coordinator

The clerks of all Illinois Yearly Meeting standing and ad hoc committees

The Clerks of Blue River Quarterly and Metropolitan Chicago General Meeting

ILYM Planning Group Coordinators

The Continuing Committee, a subset of the Yearly Meeting, generally meets once each fall and once each spring to prayerfully consider and review the activities of Illinois Yearly Meeting between sessions. The committee speaks officially for the meeting during the year within the established practices, procedures, and statements of faith of the Yearly Meeting. The Presiding Clerk presides over the committee and the Recording Clerk takes minutes.