

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

2013 Sessions will be held from June 19 to 23
at the Illinois Yearly Meetinghouse
14365 N. 350th Ave., McNabb, Illinois 61335
815-882-2214, www.ilym.org

YEARLY MEETING OFFICERS AND OTHERS WITH SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES 2012 - 2013

Presiding Clerk: Janice Domanik	Recording Clerk: David Shiner	Asst. Recording Clerk Wil Brant
Reading Clerk Caryn Wixom	Co-Treasurer Dawn Amos	Co-Treasurer: Valerie Lester
Admin. Coordinator: Sharon Haworth	Field Secretary: Judy Wolicki	Youth Coordinator: Rose Dennis
Steward: Richard Ashdown	Steward: Carol Bartles	Steward: Roy Treadway

AYF Clerks: Madelyn George & Adrian Nelson
HS YF Clerks: Claire Gunnell-Goode & Gabriel Meyer-Lee
HS YF Recording Clerk: Mason Astill

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING 2012

NUMERICAL STRENGTH CHART

Blue River Quarterly		Metropolitan Chicago										WI						
B-N	CC	Co	St.L	Sol	SR ¹	U-C	DG*	Du	Ev	57*	LF	NS	OaP	RV	SB	UFV	Osh**	TOTALS
<u>Members & Attenders Statistics</u>																		
Average Attendance:																		
7	10	19	45	12	6	25	31	7	60	19	29	22	15	6	19	10	5	347
2	1	1	8	4	3	5	4	1	10	6	3	4	1	1	7	0	1	62
<u>Membership Statistics</u>																		
8	27	10	46	6	7	34	52	13	62	17	66	23	12	8	25	12	3	431
3	0	0	3	0	3	9	11	3	16	5	4	4	0	0	15	1	0	77
4	38	33	69	6	2	60	48	2	41	37	70	13	2	2	13	13	2	455
0	0	0	2	0	0	7	4	0	31	0	0	4	0	0	5	0	0	53
15	65	43	120	12	12	110	115	18	150	59	140	44	14	10	58	26	5	1016
12	65	43	115	12	9	94	100	15	103	54	136	36	14	10	38	25	5	886
3	0	0	5	0	3	16	15	3	47	5	4	8	0	0	20	1	0	130
NEW MEMBERS																		
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	5
1	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	1	0	2	4	0	0	0	0	2	0	15
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	5	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	12
1	0	0	0	0	3	1	6	1	1	7	4	2	1	0	3	2	0	32
LOSSES																		
0	2	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	13
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
0	0	2	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	8
0	2	3	3	0	0	1	3	0	4	5	3	0	1	2	0	0	0	27

¹Note: SR is Spoon River Quaker Meeting. Numbers from 2011.

*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.

SUMMARY

Blue River Quarterly	377
Metro Chicago	634
Wisconsin	5
TOTAL	1016

ADDITIONS AND LOSSES BY NAME AND MEETING

ADDITIONS

BY BIRTH/ADOPTION:

To: Downers Grove:
 Joseph P. Davison 3/11
 Jadzia E. Mengel 2/11
 To: South Bend:
 Zachary Hungerman 12/11
 McKenna Morrissey 2/11
 Christina Morrissey 2/11

BY REQUEST:

To: Bloomington-Normal: Fariba Murray 11/11
 To: Downers Grove: Dawn McMillin 10/11
 To: Duneland: Kelly Credit 6/11
 To: 57th Street:
 Cindy Vocat 10/11
 Angie Thinnis 10/11
 To: Lake Forest:
 Jessica Easter 6/11
 April Jervis, Marc Mar-Yohana
 & Constance Mar-Yohana 1/12

To: Upper Fox Valley:
 Vicki Schultheis 6/12
 Dick Schultheis 6/12
 To: Urbana-Champaign: Maggie Wachter 9/11

BY TRANSFER:

To: Downers Grove:
 Laurie Rippe, from Hanover 5/11
 Ed Smith, from South Bend 8/11
 Jean Smith, from South Bend 8/11
 To: Evanston:
 Mike Conover, from 57th Street 9/11
 To: 57th Street:
 Owen, Joy, Tiegan, Riona & Niall
 Duncan, from Abington, PA 11/11
 To: Northside:
 Richard Wark, from Durham NC 9/11
 Janice Thomson, from Belgium &
 Luxembourg Friends 4/12
 To: Oak Park:
 Ann Chase, from Orono, ME 4/12

LOSSES

BY DEATH:

Gloria McMurray (Clear Creek) 7/11
 John David Wilson (Clear Creek) 6/11
 John Schuder (Columbia) 4/12
 Anne Jones (Downers Grove) 10/11
 Joseph Davison (Downers Grove) 9/11
 Fred Anrod (Evanston) 6/11
 K. Royal Buscombe (Evanston) 10/11
 Sue Tursman (Evanston) 9/11
 Mary Kasch (Lake Forest) 5/12
 Pat L. Patterson (Lake Forest) 3/12
 Brit Lathrop (Rock Valley) 10/11
 Dick Puckett (Rock Valley) 4/12
 Anthony Penico (St. Louis/Rolla) 11/11

BY RELEASE OR WITHDRAWAL:

From: Evanston: Joyce Schladweiler 6/11
 From: 57th Street: Janet Marcus 9/11
 From: Lake Forest: Michael Terrien 10/11

BY TRANSFER:

From: Columbia: Dale Gardner to
 Urbana-Champaign 10/11
 From: Columbia: Pat Wixom to
 W. Knoxville, TN 2/12
 From: Downers Grove:
 Susanna Roberts Davison
 to London Grove, PA 1/12
 From: 57th Street:
 Mike Conover, to Evanston 9/11
 From: Oak Park:
 Rosalind Larsen, to Fort Collins, CO 11/11
 From: St. Louis: Tom and Judi Paxson
 to Kendal MM, PA 12/11
 From: Urbana-Champaign:
 Dorothy Day to Gwynedd, PA 1/12

RATES FOR USE OF ILYM FACILITIES

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.	

ILYM 2012 Schedule

Theme: *Compassion (in the Face of Difficult Things)*

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 kitchen volunteers
 6:00-7:00 Dinner
 7:30-9:00 Movie Night for Kids
 7:30-8:45 Address by Peggy Senger Parsons
 9:00 New attenders meeting (meet at reg. table)
 8:45-9:15 Registration desk open
 9:00-9:45 Snacks

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 kitchen volunteers
 6:00-7:00 Dinner

THURSDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING:

4:15-5:45 Registration desk open
 7:30-8:45 Address by Niyonu Spann
 7:30-9:00 Campfire & Hayrack Ride
 9:00-9:45 Snacks
FRIDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING:
 4:15-5:45 Registration Desk open
 8:45-9:15 Registration Desk open
 7:30-10:00 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 Shan Cretin
 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
 9:00-9:30 Reading of Epistles
 9:00-9:30 Registration desk open
 9:30 Group Photo (front porch)
 10:00-11:00 Plummer Lecture by Mark Mattaini
 11:30-12:30 Meeting for Worship
 12:30-1:30 Lunch
 1:30 Cleanup and Farewells

Minutes of the Illinois Yearly Meeting (ILYM)
138th Annual Sessions
Sixth Month 20-24, 2012, Clear Creek Meeting House near McNabb, Illinois

MINUTES OF THE FIRST SESSION, Wednesday, Sixth Month 20, 2012

Minute 1 The ILYM annual sessions opened with waiting worship.

Minute 2 Presiding Clerk Janice Domanik welcomed everyone to the annual sessions.

Minute 3 The Clerk recognized two visitors from outside of ILYM: Peggy Senger Parsons from Freedom Friends Church in Oregon, and Vanessa Julye who is visiting on behalf of Friends General Conference (FGC).

Minute 4 The Presiding Clerk is assisted by a Clerk's Committee. Members of the committee who are present at these sessions are David Finke, Peter Lasersohn, Elizabeth Mertic, David Shiner, and Gwen Weaver. Concerns about issues involving clerking may be addressed to the Clerk or any member of the committee. Other members of the Clerk's Committee, including former ILYM clerks Susanna Davison and Tom Paxson, are unable to be present.

Minute 5 Reading Clerk Monica Tetzlaff read an excerpt of an epistle from Monteverde Friends Meeting in Costa Rica.

Minute 6 The Epistle Committee for this year's sessions will consist of Chris Jocius, Monica Tetzlaff, and Angie Thinnies. Volunteers were solicited for the Exercises Committee.

Minute 7 Joan Pine, Clerk of Ministry and Advancement Committee (M&A), spoke on behalf of the Committee of Care. M&A members are available to be sought out if anyone has concerns for which they would like assistance. Joan announced the times of orientation sessions for newcomers, which will take place tonight and Saturday morning.

Minute 8 The Presiding Clerk informed those present about the red notebooks that are located near the front door. Those notebooks contain minutes of the business sessions (updated daily), memorial minutes, state of society reports, and committee and representative reports that did not arrive in time to be included in the advance documents packet.

Minute 9 David Rutschman reported for Nominating Committee, mentioning recommended nominations that were not included in the advance documents. The Nominating Committee's slate of recommendations will be updated over the next few days and presented for final consideration on Saturday.

Minute 10 Nominating Committee requested approval for several appointments so that they may take effect immediately. For new members of Ministry and Advancement, serving until 2015: Ted Ehnle, Brad Laird, Adrian Nelson, Gwen Weaver, and Pam Wolfe. Approved. For Assistant Recording Clerk: Wil Brant. Approved.

Minute 11 Peter Lasersohn reported for Naming Committee (himself and Kate Gunnell), which recommends the following for service on Nominating Committee:

Elizabeth Mertic for a 1-year term; Margie Haworth Davis, Thomas Fairbank, and Erin Taylor for 2-year terms. Approved.

Minute 12 Janice Domanik and Peter Lasersohn reported for Faith and Practice Committee (see p. 27).

Minute 13 The 5-year provisional period for the section on Marriage is now expiring. Members of Faith and Practice Committee read the text of the revised section, for which they requested approval for an indefinite period. Approved. (See p. 46)

Minute 14 Members of Faith and Practice Committee read the proposed section on Quarterly Meetings that was initially presented in draft form last year. The committee requested approval for that section and for the accompanying sample membership form for a 5-year provisional period. Approved. (See p. 56)

Minute 15 A new section on Meeting for Worship, which was not read aloud but which was included in the advance documents, is being presented for comment this year. Faith and Practice Committee will revise it during the coming year in preparation for presentation for approval for a 5-year provisional period next year. (See p. 63)

Minute 16 Mark Amos, one of ILYM's four representatives to the FWCC World Conference of Friends in Kenya in April, shared one of the many meaningful spiritual moments he experienced during that gathering.

Minute 17 Carol Bartles reported on behalf of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). AFSC has initiated a new liaison program in order to link more effectively with yearly and monthly meetings. A number of copies of a new booklet, which explains how Friends Testimonies underlie how AFSC does its work, have been brought to the annual sessions to be taken back to monthly meetings for distribution. The AFSC General Secretary, Shan Cretin, will arrive tomorrow and will be a featured speaker later this week.

Minute 18 The first session closed with waiting worship.

MINUTES OF THE SECOND SESSION, Thursday, Sixth Month 21, 2012

Minute 19 The second session opened with waiting worship.

Minute 20 Monica Tetzlaff read an excerpt of the epistle from the Sixth (2012) World Conference of Friends in Kenya. She also read an excerpt from the Kabarak Call for Peace and Ecojustice, which was approved at the World Conference.

Minute 21 The Clerk welcomed the following members and attenders of ILYM meetings who are attending annual sessions for the first time: Debra Allwardt, Barbara Harroun, and Rebekah Buchanan from Macomb Worship Group, and Derek Ashdown from Clear Creek.

Minute 22 The Clerk again asked for volunteers for the Exercises Committee.

Minute 23 Chip Rorem reported for Site Envisioning Committee (see p. 39).

Minute 24 Diane Dennis reported for Maintenance and Planning Committee (see p. 30).

Minute 25 Chris Goode explained in detail the accessibility proposal recommended by Maintenance and Planning Committee in its report.

Minute 26 Roy Treadway reported on behalf of the Stewards (see p. 41). The Stewards endorse the proposals presented by Site Envisioning Committee.

Minute 27 The Clerk asked for consideration of the proposal that the following actions be undertaken and completed during the coming year: (1) deconstruction of the long shed and recycling/reuse of the materials; (2) removal of the brush pile from the south side of the west property; and (3) removal of the deteriorating shed attachment to the Dairy Barn. Approved.

Minute 28 The Clerk asked for consideration of the proposal to construct an accessible entry onto the west side of Clear Creek House. Approved.

Minute 29 The Meeting expressed its deep gratitude to Clear Creek Meeting for renovating the kitchen in Clear Creek House. Approved.

Minute 30 The Clerk asked for consideration of the request for staining the cabins, as proposed in the Maintenance and Planning report. Approved.

Minute 31 The Clerk asked for consideration of the request to install handrails in cabins, as proposed in the Maintenance and Planning report. Approved.

Minute 32 The Clerk recommended that we ask appropriate committees to determine the functionality of the handrails currently in the cabins prior to deciding on plans for future installation. Approved.

Minute 33 The Clerk asked for consideration of the recommendation that a number of projects, as presented in the Site Envisioning report, be seasoned in a collaborative effort of the Site Envisioning, Maintenance & Planning, and Environmental Concerns committees and the Stewards during the coming year and brought for action at the 2013 annual sessions. The Clerk will convene the first meeting of this group. Approved.

Minute 34 The Clerk asked those present to consider the formation of a working group to develop oversight processes for the use of the site for programs, retreats, and other activities. This group will consist of representatives from the Stewards, from Site Envisioning, Maintenance and Planning, Finance, Ministry and Advancement, Peace Resources, and Environmental Concerns committees, and from Adult Young Friends, High School Friends, and Clear Creek Meeting. Approved.

Minute 35 Noel Pavlovic reported for Environmental Concerns Committee (see p. 26). Report accepted.

Minute 36 Roy Treadway reported for Quaker Earthcare Witness (see p. 45). This fall's QEW Annual Gathering will be on the subject "Biodiversity and Food: The Challenge to the Planet." Report accepted.

Minute 37 Dawn Amos gave the Treasurer's Report (see p. 20). Report accepted.

Minute 38 Adrian Nelson, one of ILYM's four representatives to the FWCC World Conference of Friends in Kenya in April, reflected on her experiences at the Conference.

Minute 39 The second session closed with waiting worship.

MINUTES OF THE THIRD SESSION, Friday, Sixth Month 22, 2012

Minute 40 The third session opened with waiting worship.

Minute 41 Monica Tetzlaff read another excerpt of the epistle from the Sixth (2012) World Conference of Friends in Kenya.

Minute 42 The Clerk welcomed Breeze Richardson and Deb Smith, who are attending annual sessions for the first time. She also welcomed two visitors from outside of ILYM, Patricia Morrison from Intermountain Yearly Meeting and Jim Cason from the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL).

Minute 43 The Clerk announced that Mark Amos, Steve Tamari, and Caryn Wixom have agreed to serve as the Exercises Committee.

Minute 44 David Wixom gave the report from Youth Oversight Committee (see p. 43). He recounted highlights from the past year and offered a preview of events for the coming year. Report accepted.

Minute 45 Due to the resignation of Javaughn Fernanders as Youth Coordinator effective at the end of these annual sessions, Youth Oversight requested permission to recruit and hire a Youth Coordinator to start on July 1, 2012 or as soon thereafter as feasible. Approved.

Minute 46 The meeting expressed its appreciation to High School Friends for their service during and after dinner on Thursday night. They undertook their chores willingly and, despite extremely difficult conditions, they did so with grace, humor, and joy.

Minute 47 Dawn Rubbert gave the report from the Administrative Coordinator Oversight Committee (ACOC) (See p. 28). The Committee noted that we currently have no process for seeking and hiring replacements for any hired ILYM staffers between annual sessions. They proposed that their committee, in consultation with the ILYM Clerks, be charged with bringing recommendations on this matter to Fall Continuing Committee, which would be empowered to act on recommendations. The Clerk recommended augmenting ACOC with representatives from the Ministry and Advancement and Youth Oversight committees for the purpose of bringing recommendations to Fall Continuing Committee, which will then be empowered to act on them. She further recommended that the Clerk of the Yearly Meeting be charged with ensuring that Personnel Committee get on with its charge to create consistent and legal policies for our paid staff. Both of the Clerk's recommendations were approved.

Minute 48 Joan Pine reported for Ministry and Advancement Committee (see p. 32). Report accepted.

Minute 49 Judy Wolicki reported in her capacity as Field Secretary (see p. 34). She expressed her joy in carrying out this ministry and her hope that she can assist us in becoming more fully connected to each other and in tapping into each others' strengths.

Minute 50 Co-Treasurer Dawn Amos introduced the proposed budget for the 2013 fiscal year (see p. 22). Income for the current (2012) fiscal year is anticipated to be about \$3000 less than projected last year, principally due to a decrease in monthly meeting support. This decrease is likely to become greater for the coming year. On the other side of the ledger, the operating needs of ILYM have increased significantly since the purchase of additional property in 2009. The effect of these combined factors is that it is necessary to make cuts in expenses, which Finance Committee is recommending take place through decreases in support to others. Those decreases are recommended for donations to all organizations except for those of which ILYM is a member, namely Friends General Conference (FGC) and Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), and two other organizations to which ILYM currently donates only a small sum. Finance Committee recommends leaving most other basic expenses in the operating fund at about the same level as this year, except that an addition of approximately \$1500 is proposed for the purpose of giving cost-of-living increases to ILYM staffers. Dawn then explained anticipated releases during fiscal 2013 from funds other than the operating fund, those being the special gifts, deferred maintenance, and property improvement funds. The proposed budget will be considered for approval at tomorrow's session.

Minute 51 Judy Jager, Clerk of the Finance Committee, spoke on behalf of the committee on a number of matters (see p. 27). Development work on behalf of the Yearly Meeting is becoming increasingly urgent. Dawn Amos will be stepping down as Co-Treasurer at the end of the coming year. The committee thanks Clear Creek Monthly Meeting for the renovation of the kitchen in Clear Creek House and the Stewards for their service during the past year. Finally, the committee is proposing a conflict of interest policy, which will be considered at tomorrow's session.

Minute 52 Breeze Richardson reported for Peace Resources Committee (see p. 37). Report accepted.

Minute 53 Elizabeth Mertic reported for the Handbook Committee. The committee is proposing a number of changes to the Handbook which will be considered for approval at tomorrow's session.

Minute 54 Breeze Richardson spoke on behalf of the representatives to the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), who proposed that the following statement be approved and that the Clerk be charged with sending it to Illinois senators and representatives:

We believe in peaceful solutions to problems. It has been shown that resources addressed to peaceful prevention of conflict, and rapid peaceful response to emerging conflicts is far more cost effective than military expenditure. Research based on the Carnegie Commission on Preventing Deadly Conflict has suggested that it is 60 times more cost effective. We urge you to use all the resources available to you to preserve the military spending reduction which is now scheduled to take effect January 1.

Meeting approved, with the caveat that the Clerk also send the statement to senators and representatives from Indiana, Missouri, and Wisconsin.

Minute 55 Rose Dennis, one of ILYM's four representatives to the FWCC World Conference of Friends in Kenya in April, spoke about how her experiences at the

Conference changed her life. She also asked that Friends consider giving donations to the causes on behalf of Kenyans that she has taken on as the result of her experiences.

Minute 56 The third session closed with waiting worship.

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH SESSION, Saturday, Sixth Month 23, 2012

Minute 57 The fourth session opened with waiting worship.

Minute 58 Monica Tetzlaff read another excerpt of the epistle from the Sixth (2012) World Conference of Friends in Kenya.

Minute 59 The Clerk welcomed Justin Leverett from Southern Illinois Quaker Meeting, who is attending annual sessions for the first time and will soon be serving in Atlanta with Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS).

Minute 60 Judy Erickson reported for the Publications and Distribution Committee (see p. 38). The 2011 Minute Book and the past year's issues of *Among Friends* have been completed both online and on paper. The publication of Plummer Lectures has continued during the year. The committee asks that all ILYM committees add the following three elements to anything they publish: author and committee name, date of publication (month/year), and "Illinois Yearly Meeting." Wil Brant has discerned that he can no longer continue to act as both editor of *Among Friends* and website coordinator. Marcia Nelson will serve as editor of *Among Friends* for the coming year.

Minute 61 The Clerk asked for consideration of the following minute regarding installation of electrical outlets in the cabins as proposed in the Maintenance and Planning report:

ILYM Friends regard the question of installation of electrical outlets in the cabins as a complex issue. We recognize the vital importance of supporting and ministering to Friends with medical needs. We also affirm the spiritual significance of our interaction with the natural environment embodied by our grounds, an interaction which can be compromised by the introduction of additional technology. Therefore, Friends approve the installation of electrical outlets in the cabins with the understanding that they will be used exclusively on an as-needed basis.

As approval was not forthcoming, this matter will be laid over until next year.

Minute 62 The Clerk asked for consideration of the overall vision for the site as presented by Site Envisioning committee. Approved.

Minute 63 The Clerk asked for consideration of the proposal to charge Site Envisioning Committee with adding investigation of bathhouse renovation to its other duties over the course of the coming year. Approved.

Minute 64 David Rutschman presented the Nominating Committee report for the second time, with several additional names brought forward. Approved. (See p. 112)

Minute 65 Dawn Amos presented the budget for the second time. The Finance Committee recommends one change to the previous proposal: that the \$1000 pro-

posed for Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS) in Atlanta be split between QVS Atlanta and QVS Chicago. Approved.

Minute 66 Judy Jager presented the conflict of interest policy that has been proposed by Finance Committee (see p. 29). The policy is intended to protect the interests of ILYM when it is contemplating entering into a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interest of a participating member of the Yearly Meeting or result in a possible excess benefit transaction. Approved.

Minute 67 Charley Earp, ILYM representative to the Central Committee of Friends General Conference, described a number of recent FGC programs and initiatives (see report, p. 43) .

Minute 68 Elizabeth Mertic reported for Handbook Committee, which proposed the following changes to the handbook (additions in *italics*):

a) Section One, number 4, Minute Book: “is published annually and includes the minutes of the Annual Sessions, *committee reports*, and related documents, all of the Monthly Meetings' States of Society Reports, the report of membership tabulation, a list of Illinois Yearly Meeting *Monthly* Meetings, and the appointments to Illinois Yearly Meeting committees.”

b) Section One, number 5, “*Among Friends*”: “the editor is chosen by the Publications Committee”, “other features include a Clerk's column, letters to the Editor, and poetry and graphic art *as well as short, reflective articles, at the editor's discretion.*”

c) Section Two, number 6, Officers: omit second sentence in first paragraph.

Clerks:

Presiding Clerk: “Presiding Clerk prepares the agenda for the Annual Sessions and the meetings of Continuing Committee, with the help of the Clerk's Committee, *in order that the body may be informed well in advance.*”

Recording Clerk: add *Receives documents in advance of the sessions as preparation for recording the minutes.*

Reading Clerk: omit “our own epistle from the previous year”

Stewards: omit reference to Finance Committee as this has not been done to date.

Treasurer: change Co-treasurers to Treasurer. Replace “The co-treasurers divide up the duties” with *The position is currently held by two people. The division of duties is at the discretion of the Finance Committee.*

d) Section Two, number 7, Paid Staff:

Administrative Coordinator: *The Administrative Coordinator works at the direction of and with the support of the Administrative Coordinator Oversight Committee.*

Youth Coordinator: Replace “Computer literate and preferably familiar. . .” with: *Has competency with email, computer social networks and web resources.*

Add: Familiar with and willing to enforce Sexual Abuse Policy

Omit: “Become familiar with Policy Manual”

e) Section Two, number 8, Individuals with Specific Responsibilities:

Clerk of an ILYM Committee: Omit “Reporting annually to the yearly meeting at annual sessions either with a short written report about activities or reporting orally if there are things that need to be brought before the body. (Though it is desirable to have the clerk make the report, another representative on the committee can make it in the clerk’s absence.)” Replace with *Arranging for a report in writing to the yearly meeting at annual sessions.*

f) Section Two, number 9, Standing Committees and ad hoc Committees:

Maintenance and Planning Committee: Omit “staggered two year terms are preferred”.

Ministry and Advancement Committee: The new description for the Field Secretary was approved at the March 2012 Continuing Committee; it will replace the previous wording in the Handbook, with the following addition to paragraph one: *It is the responsibility of the Ministry and Advancement Committee to recommend a new hire for Field Secretary position to the ILYM which will then act on this recommendation.*

Publications and Distribution Committee: The Publications and Distribution Committee consists of a clerk and other members who are involved in the production of these documents and the following *ex-officio* members: the Presiding and Recording Clerks, the editor of *Among Friends*, and the Web servant. *The committee is empowered to edit for stylistic consistency.*

Replace the second paragraph with the following:

The Committee cares for and explores the use of electronic communications. ILYM owns the /ilym.org/ web address (current expiration August 2016), which as of 2012 was hosted at web services provider HostMonster.com under an account that renews automatically on Dawn Amos’s credit card. This is one example of subscription services that might merit ILYM having its own credit card managed by a Treasurer.

Approved, with the understanding that the Handbook Committee will consider alternatives for the word “hire” in the sentence concerning Ministry and Advancement Committee’s engagement of a new Field Secretary.

Minute 69 Debra Penna-Fredericks, ILYM representative to Friends Peace Teams, reported on behalf of FPT, which will soon be celebrating its 20th anniversary. She noted that the organization’s operating budget has not been able to keep up with the scope of their work and that its deficit has continued to grow, and asked that ILYM minute its encouragement for monthly meetings to consider making donations to Friend Peace Teams if possible. Approved.

Minute 70 We crafted and considered the following minute:

Friends are encouraged to help monthly meetings become aware that a number of worthy Quaker organizations need financial support. Since the Yearly Meeting is unable to support them as fully as we would like, additional support is encouraged at both the individual and the monthly meeting levels.

Approved.

Minute 71 The Clerk proposed the following minute:

Illinois Yearly Meeting expresses its appreciation to Javaughn Fernanders for her dedicated service to our high-school age Friends over the past five years. We have observed their increased confidence and enthusiasm for their shared experiences under Javaughn's guidance, and we wish her well in all her future endeavors.

Approved.

Minute 72 Dawn Rubbert, one of ILYM's four representatives to the FWCC World Conference of Friends in Kenya in April, described one of her experiences at the Conference and profusely thanked ILYM for giving her the opportunity to attend.

Minute 73 Elizabeth Mertic gave the report from the Ad Hoc Committee to Study Volunteer Concerns. The committee has not met during the past year. Its term has now expired, and so has hers. Dawn Amos volunteered to clerk a continuation of the ad hoc committee. The Clerk asked the meeting to approve continuation of the committee, with Dawn acting as clerk and soliciting members for the committee, in addition to continuing member Bridget Rorem, and David Finke, as she sees fit. Approved.

Minute 74 The Clerk announced Continuing Committee dates and venues for the coming year: October 27, 2012, at Clear Creek; March 2, 2013, at 57th Street.

Minute 75 The fourth session closed with waiting worship.

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SESSION, Sunday, Sixth Month 24, 2012

Minute 76 The fifth session, which was graced by the presence of young Friends, began with waiting worship.

Minute 77 We heard outgoing reports and epistles from the 3-5 year olds, 6-8 year olds, 9-12 year olds, Middle School Friends, High School Friends, and Adult Young Friends. (See p. 16)

Minute 78 The Epistle Committee read the epistle to be sent from Illinois Yearly Meeting to other yearly meetings. Friends approved with gratitude. (See p. 15)

Minute 79 The Exercises Committee read the exercises, a description of the annual sessions, which will be sent to *Friends Journal*. Friends approved. (See p. 14)

Minute 80 The 138th annual sessions closed with grateful waiting worship, as we looked forward to hearing Mark Mattaini's Plummer Lecture and to gathering again in McNabb on Sixth Month 19-23, 2013.

EXERCISES

Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends (ILYM) met for their annual sessions June 20-24, 2012 at the historic McNabb Meeting House. Providing a framework and a context for our workshops, worship sharing, and evening programming was this year's theme: "Compassion (in the Face of Difficult Things)". Many of our sessions were also enhanced by the reports and thoughts of the four delegates we sent in April to the Sixth World Conference of Friends in Kenya.

Wednesday evening, Peggy Senger Parsons – visitor from Freedom Friends Church, trauma healer, and Quaker author – presented her own Illinois family as a metaphor for the necessity of acknowledging and accepting our own "odd cousins" from other Quaker traditions and branches, and the wisdom of using our responses to them as an inroad to examining our own "oddness." Especially poignant was her exploration of true compassion being grace coming from a place of knowing that grace was needed.

On Thursday evening, Niyonu Spann addressed our theme of compassion through personal narrative, exposition, and song, leading the group through a personal example of compassion through conflict and leading the group through a three-part round of praise and asking for help.

The traditional Friday night dancing boasted a bustling crowd of participants, and the lawn was packed with children for the early circle dancers and more mature hoofers as the dances grew more challenging and the young were lured away by fresh watermelon.

If anyone ever thought Quakers—young and older—were shy, Saturday afternoon's annual variety show proved them wrong. Running from 4:30pm to the dinner hour, the audience was treated to performances by wee ones and not-so-wee ones. There were solo musical performances, sing-a-longs (including energetic renditions of "This Little Light of Mine" and "De Colores", and the sweetest rendition of "My Favorite Things" ever heard); gymnastics and dance; a dramatic re-enactment of a Clear Creek meeting for worship, a puppet show featuring a cast of finely crafted characters, super heroes, evil villains, and an alien abduction; a sprinkling of shameless jokes; a demonstration of making funny faces; and a host of other joyful expressions of the spirit to share talents.

Shan Cretin, General Secretary of the American Friends Service Committee delivered a talk on Quakers and "compassionate accompaniment" among Israelis and Palestinians in which she wove her personal history with the history of Quakers in the region and with the Testimonies of Equality, Community, Integrity, and Peace. Despite the decades of disappointment, she is optimistic about the future and that Quakers will continue to support a non-violent resolution of the conflict.

The annual Plummer Lecture was delivered by Mark Mattaini of 57th Street Monthly Meeting in Chicago.

The young Friends had an active session filled with music and movement. Their activities included making puppets, playing musical hugs, and writing plays. They learned how to have compassion for one another in a way that will foster love in our community throughout the year.

In addition to the invited speakers, we were joined by visitors including Alicia Lucasi, a Bolivian Friend, who led (with Barbara Stanford) a workshop on Bolivian Quakers; Jim Cason of the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) who

led a workshop on FCNL's Quaker Witness in Washington, DC; and Patricia Morrison, a singer-songwriter and Friend from Denver, who led a workshop titled "Inner Fire, Outer Light: Creativity for Compassion."

The business meetings addressed a host of issues. Work on *Faith and Practice* continues apace and the major elements of the Site Envisioning Committee's plan for the entire campus were approved.

- Submitted by Caryn Wixom, Mark Amos, and Steve Tamari

EPISTLES

2012 Illinois Yearly Meeting Epistle

Dear Friends Everywhere:

We came together for the 138th Annual Session at the beautiful, historic (1874) meetinghouse in the wide-open space of the prairie. We watched blue sky and sunsets, shaded by the green of maples, oaks and locusts, and surrounded by emerald green fields of corn stretching to the horizon. We were blessed by the opportunity to slow down, to sing on the porch and dance on the lawn, to stand in awe of the stars and the crescent moon, to just be with one another.

We have paused during these sessions to consider the theme of Compassion (in the Face of Difficult Things). We held in our hearts the inspiration of those who participated in the World Conference of Friends in Kenya in 2012; we are blessed by the witness shared by those Friends who attended, and for whom, to quote one Friend, it was a life-changing event.

We acknowledge and celebrate that all types of Friends are family, different branches on the Quaker tree. Peggy Senger Parsons, Quaker minister of Freedom Friends Church in Oregon, challenged us to consider the story of the Good Samaritan, viewing the Samaritan not as an outsider, but rather as the "weird cousin" of the more traditional religious folk of the story—it was the weird cousin who practiced compassion. We accept that to some, we are the weird cousin, while to us others seem to be that odd relative. But essentially, we are all family—and while we rejoice and struggle with our diversity, we also strive to practice compassion.

Niyonu Spann of Chester Monthly Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, taught us that we can choose to remain engaged when in conflict; as she explained, if the cell phone call is dropped, we can either choose to reconnect, or we can choose not to reconnect. As practitioners of compassion, we must make the call.

Shan Cretin of American Friends Service Committee asked, "How would we react with compassion in a difficult conflict that is not our own?" She spoke of Friends', and her own, efforts in Israel-Palestine, teaching that sometimes we are led to years or even decades of "compassionate accompaniment" with the struggling parties, with the understanding that "peace is the way, not the outcome."

Who are we as Friends? What are we called to do, individually and as a body? Friends were asked to consider our commitment to the Peace Testimony. Are we led to give more to Quaker organizations promoting peace? Where do we fit into the larger body of Friends throughout the world? We wrestle with these questions and more fundamentally with where to focus our energies and resources—how to find the balance between ministering inwardly and outwardly, to our Monthly and Yearly Meetings and to the wider world.

Friends of all ages listened to and learned from one another in workshops and free time. Middle School Friends made us aware of the physical obstructions Palestinians face when moving about the West Bank by establishing a mock checkpoint for everyone to go through before getting in the lunch line.

Alicia Lucasi, sponsored by the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund, visited Illinois Yearly Meeting. She answered questions about Bolivian culture and education at her workshop and in conversation with Friends.

We began a process of Site Envisioning in 2001, to discern the best ways to make use of the Yearly Meeting site. What began as a dream is becoming a reality, as we embark on the creation of a multi-year plan of development and improvement.

How can we welcome people into our midst? How are we compassionate, even with our “weird cousins”? Can we make our Monthly Meetings and the Yearly Meeting space accessible to all, to those with physical or mental challenges, to those who follow differing religious or spiritual paths, to those new to the peculiarities of Friends? How do we support one another, in Illinois Yearly Meeting, in the wider world of Friends, and beyond?

As Jacob wrestled with the angel, so do we wrestle with these questions and many more, knowing all the while that the struggle itself is a blessing.

In the Light and with compassion,
Illinois Yearly Meeting

Illinois Yearly Meeting Adult Young Friends’ Epistle

We have had an incredibly joy and Spirit-filled Meeting for Worship with attention to business. Our concerns have been finding an organic structure and following our leadings to continue to build our AYF community. We recognize that this spiritual community is important to us, are taking ownership of it, and are committed to its growth.

Illinois Yearly Meeting High School Group Epistle

Sometime in the not so distant future...

Everyone on floor. Old Marguerite sitting in rocking chair, Jonathan enters.

Old Jonathan: Marguerite, my old friend. How have you been?

Old Marguerite: My back hurts.

OJ: You remember those good ol’ days when we did those things at ILYM?

OM: What did we do again? My memory is starting to fail.

OJ: My knees are killing me. My back is killing me.

OM: Hey, remember the Meeting for Joy?

All 2: Oh pudding shenanigans!

Group starts playing around.

OJ: In our day we didn’t have fancy schmancy swimming pools, we had pudding.

OM: We knew how to do business meeting in the extreme conditions of being covered in pudding.

OJ: And we were efficient!

Reminiscent pause.

OJ: In my day, we didn’t have dishwashers... because they broke. And when the water was turned off, we used our tears and the sweat off our backs.

Group scrubs dishes.

OM: And in my day, we were paid in popsicles!

OJ: And then there was that time Vanessa Julye talked to us about discrimination and those really old AYF-ers spoke to us about their aging program.

OM: They're probably dead by now! They passed on their ancient wisdom about discrimination and surviving university life. And then remember when we went dancing.

OJ: And then those disgraceful young ladies were wearing the latest styles but were showing their ankles!

OM: Yes they were wearing those, uh, newfangled things... those hoopskirts!
Girls come out in hoopskirts and flash ankles.

OJ: But they did keep up with most of the steps.

OM: And the other times they tripped!
Girls trip.

OJ: I remember that variety show when we sang "500 Miles" by The Proclaimers!
Group marches in place.

OM: I wish I could walk 500 miles...

OJ: Heck, I wish I could walk 1 mile. By the time I take ten steps, my knees give out.

OM: I remember when we could walk all the way to the graveyard at night.

OJ: I didn't even need a cane.

OM: I remember you singing all the time in that deep voice.

OJ: Well back in my day, you didn't need to blast an iPod over the speakers, you just sang out!
Group sings "We didn't start the fire".

OJ: Back in the day we didn't need no video games when we could keep active with "When the big wind blows."

OM: The big wind blows for anybody who feels old.
Group stays seated while looking around.

OJ: I would get up, but I don't have the energy.

OM: Remember that crazy awesome youth coordinator we had?

OJ: Yes. What was her name? Lava? Guava? Java. Yes, Javaughn.

OM: She can finally rest in peace.

OJ: I wish I could get some sleep.

OM: And remember writing that epistle?

OJ: What epistle? I can't remember..... it was too long ago.

OM: Yes just last year. We are so much older now, and more mature.

OJ: Now that I'm an AYFer, I don't know where my life has gone. Sure is hard being 19.

OM: Sure is.

Illinois Yearly Meeting Junior High Epistle

Friends everywhere, we are the Junior High group at the 2012 Illinois Yearly Meeting.

This year we are talking about compassion in difficult times. On Thursday Sandra Tamari came in and spoke to us about the two feet of compassion. The right foot was charity; it represented giving immediate care, like working at a soup kitchen or helping those in need. The left foot was justice; it represented asking why there were

needs to be met. We learned that if we just used one foot, we walked in circles, but with both feet together we could move forward.

We also learned about a difficult time in Palestine. We learned that for over 60 years Israel has occupied Palestine and has been making life difficult for the Palestinians. There are over 600 checkpoints in Palestine that are controlled by the Israeli government. Everyone who wants to get through the checkpoint has to present an ID. It can take a long time to get past, and many people are turned away. Israeli and American citizens have a much easier time getting through than the Palestinians, who sometimes have to wait for hours.

We also learned about Quakers in Bolivia, and Quaker scholarships for Bolivian students. We also watched a slideshow about a student residence, so the kids don't have to walk 3-8 hours to school.

On Friday, Dawn Rubbert came to talk to us about her trip to Kenya. We watched a slideshow, and talked about her experiences. Barbara Stanford talked to us about Jonah and the Whale, and we discussed how God showed compassion for the citizens of Nineveh.

On Saturday, we decided to build our own checkpoint. We created IDs consisting of a name, religion, nationality, age, job, and reason for crossing. We set up a checkpoint in front of the Meeting House, and roped off two sections, one for Israeli and American citizens, and one for any other people.

At the end of the week, we understood more about compassion. We now know that there are two parts of compassion, and both are necessary for understanding and showing compassion.

Illinois Yearly Meeting 9-12 Year-Olds' Epistle

Greetings from the Illinois Yearly Meeting Young Friends 9-12 group.

Our program centered on the theme of *Compassion (In the Face of Difficult Things)*. On our first day we learned that compassion means empathy or understanding the feelings of another person. We discussed how bullying can include teasing and behavior that might not be physically violent but ignores the feelings of another person. We listened to stories and discussed what feelings the characters were feeling. Then we started making hand puppets by sticking a cardboard cone into a styrofoam egghead, wrapping it in newspaper strips and paste, and smishing on the features. We let the puppet heads dry overnight.

On day two we listened to more stories, including one about hiding from Nazis that provoked much discussion about bullying. We learned that bullying not only hurts the victim but also hurts the bully and the bystanders. We painted our puppet faces and finished their costumes.

On our last day we listened to more stories. We discussed how brave it was for six-year-old Ruby Bridges to walk through the angry mob of white people every day for months to enter the school she was integrating, and also how super compassionate she was to pray each day for God to forgive the mob for its cruelty and ignorance. We learned that compassionate super-heroes feel empathy for the bully and for the bystanders who do nothing to stop the bullying. We discussed ways that bystanders can refuse to go along with the cruelty of a bully. We learned that to be compassionate takes courage. We finished the clothes of our puppets and made a puppet play for the variety show. We also drafted this epistle.

Books read include *Let's Go Swimming with Mr. Sillypants*, *My Man Blue*, *The Ant Bully*, *Weslandia*, *Hiding from the Nazis*, *Something Beautiful*, *The Story of Ruby Bridges*, and *Let's Go Camping with Mr. Sillypants*.

- We are Lucas, Quinn, Stella, Kiva, Kaleigh, Eloise, Liam G, Liam B, and Nathan. Adults are Sean, Margaret, Genevieve, and Meredith.

Illinois Yearly Meeting 6-8 Year-Olds' Epistle

Dear Quakers all over the world,

We are the six to eight year olds who attended the 2012 Annual Sessions of the Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends. We want you to know how we spent our mornings these 4 days in June.

We learned about a Quaker named John Woolman who lived so long ago that he had to walk or ride a horse everywhere he went. Even though he lived at a time when slavery existed, and even many Quakers owned slaves, he believed that people owning people was wrong, and refused to write a Bill of Sale when his employer asked him to do so.

Mostly we just had lots and lots of fun with each other. The weather was cool except for one day, so we had perfect weather to run around a lot. We played regular tag, freeze tag, and blob tag many times. We walked to the swing set at least once every day. We also drew pictures on large sheets of paper, and successfully shared one single box of crayons all three days of class.

There were 6 or 7 of us for the first two days, and then 5 more joined us on Saturday -- just in time to write our own play for the Variety Show! This was the highlight of our week together. Our play had a Regular Boy, a butterfly, a fairy, a dragon, a kitten, and a tiger.

We had so much fun that we didn't want to leave, and can't wait to come back next year!

Illinois Yearly Meeting 3-5 Year-Olds' Epistle

We like coming here.

We like school here.

We like the bonfire.

We like dancing.

We like playing lion.

See you next year.

- From: Lorelei, Collin, Iggy, Catie, Niall, Jack, Zara, Gwen, Gaby, Hannah, Sophie, and Janet

Illinois Yearly Meeting
Statement of Financial Position/Balance Sheet
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2012

	To Date	Opening
	6/30/2012	Balance
		7/1/2011
Assets		
Cash		
Checking Account	66,758.08	59,859.19
Certificates of Deposit	0.00	16,221.88
Friends Meetinghouse Fund	10,000.00	10,000.00
Money Market Fund	73,316.72	65,070.95
Total Cash	<u>150,074.80</u>	<u>151,152.02</u>
Undeposited funds	9,603.12	312.34
Total Assets	<u><u>159,677.92</u></u>	<u><u>151,464.36</u></u>
 Liabilities		
Loans from Individuals	1,000.00	1,000.00
Accounts Payable	6,702.34	3,570.21
Total Liabilities	<u>7,702.34</u>	<u>4,570.21</u>
 Net Assets		
Unrestricted Undesignated	25,648.81	27,464.86
Unrestricted Designated	79,945.37	90,049.39
Restricted	46,381.40	29,379.90
Total Net Assets	<u>151,975.58</u>	<u>146,894.15</u>
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	<u><u>159,677.92</u></u>	<u><u>151,464.36</u></u>

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.

**Illinois Yearly Meeting
Statement of Fund Activity
For the period 7/1/2011 - 6/30/2012**

	Balance 6/30/11					Balance 6/30/12
ASSETS						
UNRESTRICTED		Income	Expenses	Budgeted Transfers	Other Transfers	
1. General Operating	27,464.86	110,982.28	(99,298.33)	(13,500.00)		25,648.81
DESIGNATED						
2. Special Gifts	22,725.54	19,747.32	(15,662.64)			26,810.22
3. Payroll Reserves	36,000.00	0.00	0.00			36,000.00
4. FWCC World Meetings	4,188.00	1,950.00	(8,138.00)	2,000.00		0.00
5. Deferred Maintenance	27,135.85	26,668.53	(48,169.23)	11,500.00		17,135.15
RESTRICTED						
6. Property Improvement	29,379.90	17,001.50	0.00			46,381.40
TOTAL ASSETS	146,894.15	176,349.63	(171,268.20)	0.00	0.00	151,975.58
LIABILITIES						
Loans from Individuals	1,000.00					1,000.00
Accounts Payable	3,570.21					6,702.34
TOTAL CASH	151,464.36					159,677.92

- | Fund | Name | Oversight Committee |
|------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | General Operating | Finance |
| | Our general operating fund, where we organize our annual budget. | |
| 2 | Special Gifts | Finance |
| | A reserve fund to receive larger unrestricted contributions, used for special projects. | |
| 3 | Payroll Reserves | Finance |
| | A reserve fund that would be used for payroll only during unexpected financial circumstances. | |
| 4 | FWCC World Meetings | Finance |
| | A reserve fund to provide travel assistance to ILYM's reps to FWCC world gatherings. | |
| 5 | Deferred Maintenance | Maintenance & Planning |
| | Used to save for and pay for irregular site maintenance, repair & upgrade projects. | |
| 6 | Property Improvement | Site Envisioning with Development |
| | Restricted by donors to be used for new building projects. | |

**Illinois Yearly Meeting
Operating Budget 2012-2013**

	12-13 Anticipated	11-12 Actual	11-12 Budget
Income			
Contributions from Meetings	89,000	89,212	92,000
Contributions from Individuals	5,000	5,108	4,000
Gatherings & Retreats	14,000	15,179	14,000
Fundraisers	300	495	0
Interest	1,000	988	1,300
Total Income	109,300	110,982	111,300
Expenses			
Operating			
Personnel (Payroll, Staff Travel, Office) ¹	(46,400)	(43,213)	(45,000)
YM Travel Support ²	(6,000)	(6,212)	(7,000)
Gatherings & Retreats	(13,000)	(16,759)	(13,000)
Site (Facilities & Deferred Maint) ³	(26,200)	(28,042)	(24,500)
Committees ⁴	(10,500)	(7,273)	(10,500)
Support to Others ⁵	(7,200)	(11,300)	(11,300)
Total Expenses	(109,300)	(112,798)	(111,300)
Budget Surplus (Deficit)	0	(1,816)	0

Expense Line Item Details

(1) Personnel			
Salaries & Payroll	(40,900)	(39,670)	(39,500)
Staff Travel	(4,500)	(2,593)	(4,500)
Office	(1,000)	(950)	(1,000)
Total	(46,400)	(43,213)	(45,000)
(2) YM Travel Support			
ILYM Committee Travel	(2,500)	(2,407)	(2,500)
ILYM Reps Travel	(2,500)	(1,806)	(2,500)
Transfer to <i>FWCC World Meetings</i> Travel	(1,000)	(2,000)	(2,000)
Total	(6,000)	(6,212)	(7,000)
(3) Site			
<u>Annual Facilities Expenses (Oversight: Stewards)</u>			
Insurance	(5,600)	(5,602)	(4,900)
Repairs	(1,200)	(799)	(1,200)
Landscaping	(4,000)	(5,525)	(3,300)
Annual services (inspections, winterizing)	(1,500)	(1,481)	(1,500)
Utilities	(2,400)	(3,135)	(2,100)
Facilities Total	(14,700)	(16,542)	(13,000)
<u>Deferred Maintenance (Oversight: M&P)</u>			
Transfer to <i>Deferred Maintenance</i> Fund	(11,500)	(11,500)	(11,500)
Total	(26,200)	(28,042)	(24,500)

IYM 2012-2013 Operating Budget - Expense Line Item Details

	12-13 Anticipated	11-12 Actual	11-12 Budget
(4) Committees			
Ad hoc	(50)	0	(50)
Development	(200)	0	(200)
Environmental Concerns	(200)	0	(200)
Faith & Practice	(150)	(96)	(150)
Finance	(200)	(85)	(100)
Handbook	(50)	0	(50)
Maintenance & Planning	(200)	(67)	(200)
Ministry & Advancement	(500)	(59)	(400)
Nominating	(300)	(128)	(400)
Peace Resources	(300)	0	(350)
Peace Tax Fund	(50)	0	(50)
Personnel	(200)	0	(300)
Publications	(5,000)	(4,398)	(4,800)
Religious Education	(400)	213	(450)
Site Envisioning	(200)	(81)	(300)
Youth Oversight	(2,500)	(2,572)	(2,500)
Total	(10,500)	(7,273)	(10,500)
(5) Support to Others			
<u>Pastoral Aid</u>			
Ken Ives Fund (QVS)	0	0	0
Sufferings (Oversight: M&A)	0	0	0
<u>Quaker organizations to which ILYM assigns representatives</u>			
Friends General Conference (FGC)	(4,000)	(4,000)	(4,000)
Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)	(2,500)	(2,000)	(2,000)
World Conference of Friends Travel Fund (1-time)		(2,000)	(2,000)
American Friends Service Cmte. (AFSC)	(50)	(400)	(400)
Friends Cmte. on Natl Legisl. Edu. Fund (FCNL)	(50)	(400)	(400)
Friends Peace Teams (FPT)	(50)	(300)	(300)
Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW)	(50)	(250)	(250)
Friends for Lesbian & Gay Concerns (FLGBTQC)	(50)	(50)	(50)
<u>Regional Quaker educational institutions</u>			
Chicago Friends School (CFS)	(50)	(300)	(300)
Scattergood School	(50)	(200)	(200)
Earlham College	(50)	(200)	(200)
Earlham School of Religion (ESR)	(50)	(100)	(100)
Olney Friends School	(50)	(100)	(100)
Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR)	(50)	(300)	(300)
Project Lakota	(50)	(200)	(200)
Quake Magazine (1-time FY12)		(250)	(250)
Friends Journal	(50)	(200)	(200)
Quaker United Nations Office (QUONO)	(50)	(50)	(50)
Total	(7,200)	(11,300)	(11,300)

**Illinois Yearly Meeting, Fiscal Year 2013
Anticipated Releases from Other Funds (Approximate)**

Special Gifts	Starting Balance 7/1	27,800	
Reserve for remaining property triangle			5,000 - 7,000
Ministry & Advancement new projects			4,700
QVS Atlanta			500
QVS Chicago			500
Office equipment			800

6/30/13 Ending Balance Estimate (Rounded)	\$12,000 - \$14,000
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Deferred Maintenance	Starting Balance 7/1	17,100	
Workers Comp Insurance portion			1,200
Replaced water heater 6/19/12 (approx)			1,000
Kitchen drainage repair 6/21/12 (approx)			3,000
Stain the cabins using ILYM labor			1,300

Budgeted transfer from Operating	11,500
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6/30/13 Ending Balance Estimate (after budgeted transfers)	\$22,000
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Property Improvement	Starting Balance 7/1	46,400	
Removal of long shed, dairy shed, debris			5,000
Accessibility ramp & entrance renovation for Clear Creek House			18,000
Landscape & planting per Site Plan under ECC oversight			400
Handrails for cabins			1,600

6/30/13 Ending Balance Estimate (rounded)	\$21,000
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REGISTRATION REPORT FOR ILYM 2012			
TOTAL REGISTRATION: 209			
REGISTRATION BY QUARTER:			
Blue River	52 Adults		
	26 Young Friends	Total: 78	
Chicago North	40 Adults		
	5 Young Friends	Total: 45	
Chicago South	50 Adults		
	18 Young Friends	Total: 68	
Other	14 Adults		
	4 Young Friends	Total: 18	
		209	
Housing: 88 camped, 35 stayed in cabins, 9 stayed in Clear Creek House, 14 stayed in the High School "bunkhouse", and 63 used motels or local housing.			

**Illinois Yearly Meeting - Monthly Meeting Contributions
July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012**

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Property</u>	<u>World Conference</u>	<u>Total</u>
Blue River Quarterly			250	250
Bloomington-Normal	1,388			1,388
Clear Creek	4,320			4,320
Columbia	2,900			2,900
Downers Grove	6,960			6,960
Duneland	1,920			1,920
Evanston	15,840			15,840
57th Street	2,000		1,000	3,000
Lake Forest	16,500			16,500
Milwaukee	600			600
Northside	584			584
Oak Park	2,880		50	2,930
Oshkosh	100			100
Rock Valley				0
Rolla	200			200
South Bend	6,000			6,000
Southern Illinois	1,440			1,440
Spoon River	1,080			1,080
St. Louis	15,840			15,840
Upper Fox Valley	500		250	750
Urbana-Champaign	8,160			8,160
Total	\$89,212	\$0	\$1,550	\$90,762

Treasurer's Narrative for FY12 Financials -June 30, 2012

Monthly Meeting contributions fell short of budgeted projections by \$2,788, and ILYM received word that an additional \$2,000 reduction should be expected next year. The FY13 budgeted income was revised downward accordingly. In order to meet the requirements for long term maintenance of the McNabb property, the FY13 budget reduces "Support to Others".

Individuals contributed an additional \$400 for the Sixth World Conference of Friends travel fund, beyond the \$1,888 contributed during the 2011 annual sessions. Meetings contributed \$1,550. With these contributions and 5 years of budgeted amounts, Illinois Yearly Meeting provided a total of \$10,150 of travel support for its four delegates, and an additional \$4,888 of travel support to the FWCC World Office for other delegates.

RECOMMENDED ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION
PER ADULT RESIDENT MEMBER
IS \$240.

ANNUAL REPORTS YEARLY MEETING COMMITTEES

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR OVERSIGHT (See Minute 47)

Dear Friends,

It has been years since we perceived a need to report to you in writing. First let me assure you that all is going well and our current Administrative Coordinator is satisfied with her work, compensation, and the support she is given officially and unofficially. If you have not recently thanked Sharon Haworth for her diligent and excellent work, please take a second to do so when you see her.

We have become aware of a reality that deserves attention. We are looking at this from the ACOC vantage but resolution may have broader applications. Currently, if an Administrative Coordinator should decide to leave the position there is no mechanism, no process, in place to attend to seeking and hiring a replacement until the next annual sessions. If a vacancy should occur no one is empowered to set up a search committee, or to approve a recommendation.

If we can establish a process and empower persons to activate and carry it out it would serve well for all of ILYM. Such a policy would be useful if any in the employ of the YM should resign. Being able to respond swiftly might even allow us to have some cross-over time for the out-going staffer to nurture the incoming staffer.

We ask F/friends to set in motion during these yearly sessions the identification of a committee to bring recommendations to Fall Continuing Committee. Additionally we request that the Fall Continuing Committee be empowered to act on the recommendations.

Currently serving on the ACOC are; myself, Dawn Rubbert, Margaret Katranides, Mark Amos and the ILYM clerk and assistant clerk. Perhaps the recommendation committee could include me, Margaret and Mark with the addition of one or two others. We leave those details for wider consideration.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

- Dawn Rubbert

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS (See Minute 35)

The ECC met at the ILYM campus on May 12. In attendance were Bill Howenstine, Lori Paton, Bill Paton, Nancy Halliday, Mark McGinnis, Neil Mesner, Dick Ashdown, Chris Goode, Roy Treadway, Noel and Sarah Pavlovic, and a local youth named Dalton. We accomplished three tasks. We cut up and burned the fallen tree debris from the campground. Secondly, we began the removal of the pallet and trees from the massive pile south and west of the Clear Creek House. We removed a quarter of the pallets and cut down numerous trees. We discovered a black cherry that we are going to save as a wildlife tree. We weeded the green roof and planted seeds of fame flower, wild onion, a native cyperus, and partridge pea. The sedum is growing the best of the plants, but we did find a few violets and several clumps of chives.

During the Memorial Day weekend, we cut grass around the cabins, removed undesired tree seedlings, removed hazardous branches from the campground, cared for the green roof, stabilized the barn loft door, removed the hanging metal roof from the milk shed adjacent to the barn and conducted other tasks as needed. Attending were Nathan Pavlovic, Noel Pavlovic, Adrian Fisher, John Hackman, Bill and Alice Howenstine, Mike Bohne, Chris Goode, and Nancy Halliday.

At ILYM we will conduct a nature hike on Saturday morning, reinstall the nature trails, and present a discussion about the native roses planted at the entrances to the Meeting House drive. Carolyn and Roy Treadway will present a workshop on Transition Towns, "Transition Introduced and Revisited," on Saturday afternoon.

Our plans for the following year are to:

1. Investigate and implement control strategies for the tansy and poison hemlock that are prevalent around the barn and giant brush pile.
2. Prepare and write a detailed and exhaustive plan for possible prairie plantings, pathways, hedgerows, and gardens addressing the tradeoffs among management options, relative costs, and justification for recommendations. This work will involve collaboration with Maintenance and Planning and with Clear Creek Meeting.
3. Plant a tree where the Norway spruce grew in memory of Bob Wixom.

- Noel Pavlovic.

FAITH AND PRACTICE (See Minute 12)

The Faith and Practice Committee has met six times since our last yearly meeting, and conducted workshops with Fifty-seventh Street, Oshkosh, and Lake Forest Meetings. Our work has been difficult this year as the committee is significantly reduced in size and two of our members have faced very serious personal or family health issues. However, we have continued to compose new text and make revisions to existing text, and would now like to present several sections to the yearly meeting.

The section on marriage was approved for a 5-year provisional period in 2007, which expires this year. We have revised the text, and attached it to this report, indicating insertions and deletions with underscores and strikeouts, respectively. We now submit it to the meeting with a request that it be approved for an indefinite period.

The section on quarterly meetings and the sample membership form were both presented to the yearly meeting last year for comments. We have revised both these texts in response to suggestions received and attached the revised versions to this report. We now submit them to the meeting with a request that they be approved for a 5-year provisional period, to expire at the 2017 sessions of Illinois Yearly Meeting.

This year, we began work on a section on meeting for worship. An initial draft is now complete and attached to this report. We ask Friends to read it carefully and convey any suggestions to the committee. Our plan is to revise it over the coming year and submit a new version to the yearly meeting in 2013 with a request for 5-year provisional approval.

- Peter Lasersohn

FINANCE (See Minute 51)

Finance Committee met face-to-face three times this past year and also held two teleconference meetings. Three of our members had participated in the two day-long sessions convened by the Site Envisioning Committee, the results of which were a major focus in our own meetings. As the Yearly Meeting proceeds toward a unified plan for the McNabb campus, the work of the Finance Committee is changing a great deal.

We note that it is easier to identify the costs of creating change than to identify the costs of maintaining new and improved facilities. Our expenditures of the last few years reflect a lot spent on adding new items and not so much spent on mainte-

nance. We need to learn to use the CAMP report as a working tool and develop a practice of estimating recurring and periodic maintenance costs of proposed big improvements, in addition to their installation costs. To this end, Finance Committee looks forward with enthusiasm to a joint meeting set for Friday afternoon here at these sessions. We anticipate that our committee, Maintenance and Planning Committee, the Stewards and the Site Envisioning Committee will commit to a date to sit down and begin to understand and digest the CAMP document.

In addition to better and more long-range budgeting of costs, we find the Yearly Meeting also needs to examine our present pattern of finding the funds for the routine operation and maintenance of the Yearly Meeting property. Is it reasonable to assume in the future that care for all we now have can continue to be borne by the monthly meeting assessments? Or might we routinely need to seek additional gifts from individuals and meetings? This would have major development implications. With either model, we will need to be effective in providing reserves for routine and emergency maintenance.

In this regard, at our October 1 meeting we approved the following minute and brought it to Fall Continuing Committee. We bring it as well to these sessions for consideration and discussion.

MINUTE: We note there is a task of the Yearly Meeting that is not being done, which impacts our Committee work. The work of our Finance Committee is to manage the finances of the Meeting and develop budgets. It is hard to do this without insight of pledges and individual gifts, or supplemental Monthly Meeting gifts. And, we note we have begun to depend on a gift stream (which includes some very significant donations) that have become constant over time – but which may, or may not, continue. We urge the Yearly meeting to find a better way to nurture and educate our donors and potential donors so that we can better budget and then manage the budget – and to also ensure there is a communications link to Finance Committee with fiscal information that will impact our budgeting processes. As Ministry & Advancement and Site Envisioning plan, and grow their plans, we feel an increased urgency to have the role of development more closely managed. This is a piece that seems to be falling between the cracks. For example, donors assume the Treasurer knows about their pledges, but the Treasurer does not have this information – they do not have historical pledge information – so they can correspond gifts to pledges, if appropriate.

From 2006 to today the Yearly Meeting has completely changed its financial procedures. From a simple “cookie jar” method where we spent only what we had in the bank, we moved to modern accounting that complies with GAAP, or Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. In that time we moved from one to two persons serving as Treasurers. Of course our records are computerized. Budgeting now involves our working with meetings and committees quite closely, and all year. We now have a Review Committee to help when committees may need to exceed a budgeted amount. This past year one of the Treasurers assumed responsibility for payroll, including payroll reporting. These are just some of the reasons that we are looking carefully at how to lessen the burden on our Co-Treasurers. Certain work is being distributed to Finance Committee members, but we will this year convene an ad hoc sub-committee to look at the Treasurers’ jobs in a broader context and come back with ways to quite significantly reduce the Treasurers’ work.

The Yearly Meeting Bylaws were approved in 2007. At that time we had been advised that best practices for tax-exempt organizations require a section be added to the Bylaws describing a conflict of interest policy. To accomplish this, Finance Committee brings for action the proposed addition to the Bylaws attached to this report.

As of these sessions Roy Treadway will serve as a liaison from the Stewards to Finance Committee. We were sad to lose our member Pam Kuhn, who moved to Ohio early in the year, and we still miss former Treasurer Roger Laughlin. Finally, Finance Committee expresses much appreciation to the Stewards for again addressing property emergencies, such as the felled utility pole in the campground and the plumbing issues for weekend gatherings. And we want to say thank you to Clear Creek Meeting for taking on the work and the expense of the fine new Clear Creek House kitchen.

- Respectfully submitted, Judy Jager, Clerk

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY (See Minute 66)

Article I

Purpose

The purpose of this conflict of interest policy is to protect the interests of Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Yearly Meeting) when it is contemplating entering into a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interest of a Participating Member of the Yearly Meeting or might result in a possible excess benefit transaction. This policy is intended to supplement but not replace any applicable state and federal laws governing conflict of interest applicable to nonprofit and charitable organizations.

Article II

Definitions

1. **Interested Person:**

Any Officer or Participating Member of the Yearly Meeting, including any employee, who has a direct or indirect financial interest, as defined below, is an Interested Person.

2. **Financial Interest:**

A person has a Financial Interest if the person has, directly or indirectly, through business, investment or family:

- a. An ownership or investment interest in any entity with which the Yearly Meeting has a transaction or arrangement;
- b. A compensation arrangement with any entity or individual with which the Yearly Meeting has a transaction or arrangement; or
- c. A proposed ownership or investment interest in, or compensation arrangement with, any entity or individual with which the Yearly Meeting is negotiating a transaction or arrangement. Compensation includes direct and indirect remuneration as well as gifts or favors that are not insubstantial.

A Financial Interest is not necessarily a conflict of interest. Pursuant to Article III of this policy, a person who has a Financial Interest may have a conflict of interest only if the Yearly Meeting decides that a conflict of interest exists.

Article III
Procedures

1. In connection with any actual or possible conflict of interest, an Interested Person must disclose the existence of the Financial Interest and be given the opportunity to disclose all material facts to the Officers of the Yearly Meeting.
2. The remaining Participating Members shall decide if a conflict of interest exists.
3. After disclosure of the Financial Interest and all material facts relating thereto, and after any discussion with the Interested Person, the Interested Person shall refrain from any decision-making on such matter. Moreover, the Interested Person shall retire from the room in which the Participating Members are meeting and shall not participate in the final deliberation or decision regarding the matter under consideration. The minutes of the meeting shall reflect that the disclosure was made and the abstention from the making of the decision.

Signature

Date

MAINTENANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE (See Minute 24)

Major Projects: Major big projects we were able to accomplish with the deferred maintenance fund include:

<u>Project:</u>	<u>Cost:</u>
1. Paint 2 sides of Meetinghouse	\$15,000
2. Remove plumbing and top for cistern	\$350
3. Restore and paint 3 Meetinghouse windows	\$1100
4. Repair low places in septic field	\$200
5. Concrete entrances to bathhouse	\$500
6. Replace Campground electrical service due to storm damage	\$1700

In addition, Clear Creek Meeting has donated \$10,079 to pay for updating the Clear Creek House Kitchen, including replacing the range and microwave, repairing the walls, updating the cabinet hardware, counters and floors.

During the past year our annual facilities expenses were \$13,188, including:

- \$5602 on Insurance
- \$572 on Major Repairs
- \$3675 on mowing and tree trimming
- \$1386 on other annual services (inspections, winterizing)
- \$1953 on Utilities

In addition, \$11,500 was transferred from Operating Costs Fund to Deferred Maintenance Fund for use of M&P.

Work Weekend Accomplishments: During the 2012 Memorial Day Work Weekend, we were joined by Environmental Concerns Committee and the High School Friends for a total of about 30 people on Saturday and 15 on Sunday. This year we were able to:

- Junior yearly meeting house: Insulated 4 walls; put up wood siding on 2 walls with material purchased in prior years; painted 1 room; nailed up the window; moved extra bunks to the long shed garage; cleaned 2 rugs with rented carpet cleaner.
- Cabins: steps were cleaned and lichens removed.

- Yearly Meeting House: steps power-washed, 2 dining room lights replaced and kitchen cleaned.
- Clear Creek House: storage shelves put up in basement stairway.
- Outbuildings: hay door nailed shut and loose metal roofing removed from dairy milk processing room.
- Grounds: pruning and weeding throughout the property (see ECC report for more).

Funds: At the end of the current year we have the following balances in these I YLM funds: \$37,632 in Property Improvement Fund; \$19,000 in Deferred Maintenance Fund and in the Special Gifts Fund ILYM has \$12 to \$14,000.

Work Weekends in the Coming Year: During the coming year we would like to propose that there be two work weekends – one in the fall and one in the spring, timed to coincide with the ECC work days. This should help reduce the food preparation and cost, as well as help teens get there. The more we get done in work weekends the lower our deferred maintenance and operating expenses will be. While we get a lot accomplished, we really need more help.

Deferred Maintenance Proposals for the Coming Year: In terms of other projects from deferred maintenance for the coming year, Maintenance and Planning and the Stewards recommend the following projects:

1. **CAMP report cabin maintenance if we do the work ourselves at an estimated cost of \$1246.** Staining the cabins was recommended in the 2012 Spring CAMP report and will be the focus of the fall work weekend. Note that if we were to pay a contractor for this task it would cost \$8300.
2. **Removing unwanted buildings and debris from property at an estimated cost of \$5000.** Dancing Rabbit would deconstruct the long metal building, recycle the unused materials and deconstruct the dairy milk processing room of the dairy building and complete the removal of debris and trees in the pile of debris southwest of the Clear Creek House.

We propose that ILYM volunteers and members of the M&P Committee work together in re-staining the 6 cabins on the campground. We can save \$7000 by staining the cabins ourselves. This savings alone would pay for the removal of the unwanted buildings and debris from our property.

Property Improvement Proposals for the Coming Year: Maintenance and Planning has also reviewed the proposed site plan from Site Envisioning's Accessibility Ad Hoc Committee and is recommending 3 proposals to address aspects of accessibility throughout the property:

1. installation of hand rails to cabins at a cost of \$1570;
2. two electrical outlets in each cabin to allow CPAP and other medical equipment at a cost \$2550 (proposal is based on a bid from Bogner Electrical); and
3. installation of a ramp and railing at Clear Creek House to allow for handicap access at a cost of \$17,870.

Funds for these proposals would come out of the property improvement fund.

Maintenance and Planning has asked Chris Goode (from Accessibility Ad Hoc Committee) to present the plan and, after discussion, move that it be approved by annual session.

MINISTRY AND ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE (See Minute 48)

Ministry & Advancement committee has a number of accomplishments to report, and some challenges to share with Friends. Accomplishments include:

- Selection and orientation of our new Field Secretary, Judy Wolicki, who was approved by Continuing Committee in November. Judy immediately began getting acquainted and starting to build ongoing relationships with our various meetings. Judy's gifts in pastoral care are amazing to witness, amazing to receive. She hears what you haven't said and invites you to talk about it. She's been doing double duty this year, working as our Field Secretary while also finishing a very intensive internship in pastoral care. We look forward to enjoying lots more of Judy's spiritual gifts once the internship is completed in August. The Field Secretary's report in the Advance Documents provides her own perspective on her work.
- A Fall retreat at Clear Creek House for M&A members with Brent Bill, a Quaker author and pastor who directs "Center for Congregations" in Indiana. Brent focused our attention on how meetings can be more welcoming to visitors and newcomers. As an example, he asked us to share what helps us to feel comfortable when visiting an unfamiliar place. The list was published in the winter issue of *Among Friends*.
- Approval of a travel policy for adjunct visitors as well as for M&A members. It includes informing M&A in advance of a visit and reporting briefly via email afterwards.
- Appointment of 2 adjunct members (David Finke and Maurine Pyle) to visit some of our geographically dispersed meetings: St. Louis, Big Muddy Worship Group, Columbia, Rolla, and Urbana-Champaign. In addition, ILYM Clerk Janice Domanik visited Oshkosh on our behalf, and Cherie DuPuis and Mike Ruberton volunteered to visit Rolla with David Finke. Our heartfelt thanks go to all these traveling ministers.
- Appointment of a committee-at-large (Beth Schobernd, Mariellen Gilpin, Christina Schulz, and Steve Tamari) to provide spiritual support and nurture for a new worship group in Macomb. (While Spoon River Friends are the parent meeting, they lack the energy for this work.) Macomb is a very organized worship group that is making admirable efforts at outreach. Beth and Judy Wolicki plan to offer them a version of Quakerism 101.
- Publication and distribution of Janet Means Underhill's *Book of Hope and Comfort*. Janet created both the text and the drawings that grace several pages. Paul Buckley did the beautiful layout, and David Finke saw it through the printing process. Carolyn Treadway reviewed it for *Western Friend*, *Friends Journal*, *Quaker Life*, and *The Friend*. We thank these Friends for sharing their gifts with us so generously. Copies of Janet's book were distributed first at Spring Continuing Committee as a gift from M&A, and additional copies were sent to monthly meetings. The remaining copies from that first printing are available at the Bookstore, while they last. Be sure to ask Janet to autograph your copy. Share it widely, Friends! Our thanks to Finance Committee for already approving a second printing, which M&A had not anticipated would be needed before the new fiscal year. Copies from this second printing will be offered at \$1.50 each to cover production costs.

- A professional-quality workshop on conflict resolution in meetings, presented March 24 by Fernando and Priscila Freire. Bridget and Chip Rorem kindly hosted this event in their living room in Kankakee, enabling us to offer it without charge. We were limited to 15 Friends and had to turn away almost as many. (A word to the wise: Most of the lucky ones signed up the same day the email arrived.) Participants were enthusiastic and urged that a workshop on conflict resolution be offered every year. We are grateful to Fernando and Priscila for sharing their knowledge and wisdom, and to Bridget and Chip for their gracious hosting, which included a delicious lunch for all.

Fernando recommended two excellent resources: the FGC booklet, *The Wounded Meeting*, which our own Janet Means Underhill helped write; and *Never Call Them Jerks: Healthy Responses to Difficult Behavior*, which discusses how churches can deal with difficult people. Marcia Nelson has several copies of each of these resources at the Bookstore, and we have reviews available for more information.

- Outreach work furthered by individual members of M&A.
 - * Wil Brant traveled to Elkhart, Indiana, for the inaugural meeting of a potential worship group sponsored by South Bend Friends.
 - * Joan Pine served on the core committee for Evanston Friends' Quaker Quest series, the first ever conducted in our yearly meeting region. Meetings are encouraged to explore this option for outreach by contacting the program coordinator for Friends General Conference's Advancement and Outreach Committee, Elaine Crauderueff (elainec@fgcquaker.org). She can discuss your situation and explain what resources, including financial assistance, are available. Even where Quaker Quest seems too great an undertaking, meetings and worship groups can grow stronger when members share their spiritual journeys in a similar way.
 - * Mariellen Gilpin helped edit an issue of *What Canst Thou Say?* (for Quakers who have mystical experiences) on the topic of Shame. Friends have called this issue "daring and powerful." They have shared it with therapists and advocated making it available in local practices. It appears on the WCTS web site, and a few print copies are available today.
- Minute: Illinois Yearly Meeting's Ministry and Advancement Committee continues to endorse Carolyn Treadway as pastoral counselor and Beth Burbank as pastoral counselor and pastoral educator. This endorsement is ongoing.

Now, here are the challenges that M&A members see before us:

- We are aware of many needs among ILYM meetings: Friends who have difficulty communicating Quaker values and practices to newcomers; small struggling meetings that need more spiritual messages in worship and more spiritual seeking together; meetings in conflict; meetings whose elders are aging and ill; and those who are dealing with grief and loss.
- In this past year, M&A lost a third of its committee. Beth Burbank, Jeannie Marvin, and Dave Moorman all resigned due to various personal challenges that have been consuming their energy. We miss these dear Friends, whose ideas and wisdom all have helped to advance our work, and we thank them for their many years of devoted service to ILYM.

- These losses have underscored the fact that serving on M&A involves a clear commitment of time and energy. Our committee meets twice a year as well as during annual session. In addition to responsible roles in our home meetings, we are charged with ministering to other meetings and worship groups. The proven best way to minister to any meeting is to build a relationship with it. Relationships grow out of shared experiences over time, so we ask each M&A member to travel to one or two other meetings a few times a year. This ministry is rewarding; it's both a privilege and a joy. However, even with adjunct visitors and an energetic field secretary, there are too few of us to minister effectively to 20 meetings and worship groups.
- We fell short of presenting the number of regional workshops anticipated in last year's Vision Statement, despite the enthusiasm of our clerk, Mariellen Gilpin. She has done monumental work: visiting more meetings than any of us, maintaining contact with our adjunct visitors, serving on the field secretary's support committee, communicating frequently by email and conference calls, and either presiding or recording minutes at each M&A meeting. This pace finally caught up with her, and she found it necessary to step aside as clerk in early May. She now is concentrating on preparing for a workshop that she and Roxy plan to offer in several downstate locations in the coming year: "Forgiving Our Intimate Wounds." We are deeply grateful for all the time and energy Mariellen has contributed, and we are glad that she plans to complete her term. Joan Pine is serving as interim clerk of M&A through annual session.
- M&A has begun to question whether its traditional structure is still best suited to address effectively the challenges we have described. Are there better ways to offer ministry that will nourish us as well as the yearly meeting? What more can we do to encourage both spiritual deepening and outreach? Should M&A members do less visitation and offer more regional workshops? Should we separate the two functions into subcommittees (or even separate committees) so that members can concentrate on one or the other? How well is the model of adjunct visitation working? How can we get better geographic representation on M&A? Would more use of electronic tools conserve time and resources or slide us into secular modes of decision making? Where is the Divine leading us?

As Ministry and Advancement Committee continues to seek God's guidance, please include these challenges in your prayers. And if your prayers inspire you to offer any suggestions, please share them with any member of M&A.

FIELD SECRETARY'S REPORT (See Minute 49)

It has been a busy and eventful seven months since my hiring was approved. It has truly been seven months of learning and getting to know more about ILYM, the wonderful, spiritual property in McNabb, and the diverse and committed members of the Meetings that make up the Yearly Meeting. I have been welcomed by meetings and members; and I have been invited to visit again.

My primary work of this past seven months has been to visit and listen. I have asked Meeting members what they see as their Meetings' needs, and I have asked them to help me to find ways to serve their Meetings as ILYM field secretary. As I continue this work, I hope that programs and resources I develop will bring individuals of different Meetings together.

I know that, as Meetings and as individual Friends, we have many challenges. We deal with questions and concerns around conflict, lack of participation, lack of vocal ministry, sometimes a sense of divide between young Friends and older Friends, the illness and loss of many of our Elders, and a sense of disconnection between our lives as Friends and our Meetings and our faith in our Quaker tradition. Yet comments and questions I have heard in my visiting and travels reflect strong Meetings and positive and committed Friends.

What I have heard and experienced with Friends reflects a strong desire to find ways back to a traditional core, to being part of the community that is so evident when Friends are able to set aside the busy-ness of our lives and come together to worship and to play. During a program at the Oak Park Meeting in November a new attendee said, “The Quaker tradition is one that is particularly attractive and needed at this time.” Since that time, I have heard that comment repeated by others.

I think the comment reflects that Quaker openness and work in areas of non-violence, peace and justice, commitment to education, and commitment to sustainability, to name just a few, are ideas that are attractive and mightily needed in our world. How do we tap into those strengths of our Quaker tradition that are attractive to others in order to energize ourselves and make ourselves and our Meetings stronger? How can we grow in connection and community? I don’t know the answer. As field secretary, I look forward to helping to strengthen the meetings and community that is ILYM.

Programs

I have talked to Meetings and Friends about programs that might be of use to them, and have spent time planning a number of programs for presentation to Meetings. One such program has a working title of *The Journey of the Seeker*, and would include a short discussion of historical Quaker seekers, as well as time for participants to share something about their own seeking journeys. It is my hope that this program would help members within or across meetings to get to know one another better, thus building community. This program could work well as a morning or afternoon retreat-type opportunity.

Another program I am working on with DGM and 57th Street Meeting is based on a spiritual genogram model that has been successfully used by churches to forge individual connections and build community. We have been discussing the possibilities for using this spiritual genogram model as a vehicle for discussion of the different spiritual/religious tradition backgrounds of our members and how that diversity impacts what we separately may expect from worship and from the Meeting. The program would include an introduction to Spiritual Genograms, and would offer participants an opportunity to remember, trace and learn the spiritual history of their Meeting, identify and name those who have been the spiritual leaders of their Meeting as well as those who have had a spiritual impact on them individually. The goal of the program is to help Friends move to better understanding of one another’s points of view (particularly those that come from our pasts), and help forge stronger and closer connections between us.

A third program I am working on would offer some conflict resolution possibilities. I hope to find others who would be willing to work on this program, which would be shaped around identifying and discussing systematic approaches to the kinds of challenging situations Meetings have faced in the past or may face in the future. The idea for this program began with a suggestion from DGM’s M&W com-

mittee. At the Conflict Resolution Workshop in Kankakee facilitated by Fernando and Priscilla Freire, I recognized the broader possibilities for such a program during a conversation I had with a member of Northside meeting about how that Meeting had addressed an issue with an attendee who had mental health needs. The program includes hypothetical situations and a flowchart-type process for finding compassionate and effective responses when meetings are faced with challenging requests for help.

In the next year, I plan to continue the work begun by Paul Buckley to "nurture the nurturers," including a program to build to be offered to those nurturers who attended the original programs.

I have other programs and ideas for programs in my tool-kit, including one on Clearness Committees that offers participants an opportunity to explore using this historical process as a decision-making tool.

I look forward to learning more about Meetings' needs and developing programs that would be of help to them.

Travel and Visits

During the past seven months, I have concentrated on traveling and visiting meetings that would give me opportunities to meet and talk to the greatest number of Friends and Meetings that was possible. I think I have been fairly successful this year by attending many gatherings as well as individual meetings. I look forward to being able to visit many more individual meetings in the coming year.

In November, 2011, I visited St. Louis Meeting and Oak Park Meeting. I also attended the Site Envisioning Committee meeting in McNabb, where I met members of UFV, Clear Creek, Carbondale, Lake Forest, Evanston and Duneland. In December, I also had the privilege of attending Duneland's intergenerational worship and holiday meal.

I have visited Downers Grove Meeting often, and in January I attended one of their Saturday afternoon sessions on the testimony of Peace and Non-Violence. I also met with DGM's Ministry & Worship Committee to learn how I might serve them and to offer program possibilities and resources. In January I also attended the Site Envisioning Committee meeting in Normal, where I met members of Bloomington-Normal Meeting, as well as others I had not yet met from Clear Creek, and Evanston. In February, I visited Evanston for the MCGM Meeting, where I offered my services as a resource to a new committee charged with planning programs for MCGM's Chicago Friends Gathering concept. I look forward to working with CFG next year.

In February I also attended the WYM Youth Council presentation at DG's meetinghouse. It was good to hear about and see the enthusiasm for service that the young people expressed, and to meet the members of Indiana meetings, as well as members from other ILYM meetings. In February, my own 57th Street Meeting invited me to make a proposal for a program to be offered there. I visited Oak Park Meeting a second time in February, and was heartened by the number of new attendees that continue there.

In early March, I reported on my first five months as FS at Continuing Committee in Lake Forest. This meeting provided me another opportunity to meet members I had not met before, and to get to know better those I had already met. The same day, a Friendly 8s dinner in Elmwood Park gave me an opportunity to observe the deep and diverse political, socioeconomic, and personal views of Friends, young and old. It was a delight! In March, I also attended the conflict resolution workshop of-

ferred by Fernando and Priscilla Freire, held at the Rorem's home in Kankakee. There were many attendees I had not yet met, and once again I had an opportunity to spend time with individual Friends, learning about meetings' needs and identifying programs and resources that might be helpful to Meetings.

In April I visited the Bloomington-Normal Meeting. A program for them is in the works, and I hope to visit them again soon. I also attended Duneland Meeting in April, and participated in a program on the FWCC gathering in Kenya. I participated in the Women's Weekend in McNabb at the end of April. The condensed version of a clearness committee process in which I participated at WW triggered my preparation of the program on Clearness Committees that I have presented to colleagues at Lutheran General Hospital, and that I hope to present for Friends in the near future.

In May, I met with 57th Street's M&C committee to begin work on a program to be offered this fall. I also attended Blue River Quarterly meeting in Springfield in May. This gave me the opportunity to meet more Friends from southern ILYM meetings. I also was able to be part of Work Weekend at the end of May, where I had an opportunity to spend time with many of the young Friends who came to work on the Bunkhouse, and generously spent time helping in the dining room and kitchen, cleaning, preparing food, whipping cream, and running the dishwasher. Their ability to have fun in the midst of working hard was contagious!

As I write this for the publication deadline of June 1st, I am hoping to visit the Urbana meeting this weekend, and am looking forward to annual sessions, from site prep to the final meeting. I particularly look forward to spending time with new and old F/friends. I know this will be a time of listening and learning about Meetings; I hope it will be a time when Friends and Meetings can get to know me better, and help me to find ways to serve you.

- Respectfully submitted, Judy Wolicki, Field Secretary

PEACE RESOURCES (See Minute 52)

Dear ILYM Friends and Monthly Meeting Clerks,

Please consider the invitation below to be our written report for June 2012 Annual Sessions.

- Submitted by Breeze Richardson, Peace Resources Committee (clerk).

The Peace Resources Committee (PRC) of Illinois Yearly Meeting would like to visit. Our aim is to attend each Meeting and worship group to worship with Friends, and to hear how we might help as you seek to deepen your peacefulness - as individuals and as a community - among Friends and out in the world. We also hope to collect input regarding the ways in which we can support Friends to have a positive impact in all our communities.

It is our hope that you will contact PRC clerk Breeze Richardson (breeze.richardson@sbcglobal.net) to suggest a date(s) which might be well suited for visitors. While we don't need a formal program to be arranged, we would like to enjoy fellowship with Friends before or after Meeting for Worship, and share with you a bit more about the current programs and initiatives of the PRC.

These include:

- PRC is discussing what level of programming we'd like to propose for 2012-2013 as the beginning steps towards a more permanent "Peace House on the Prairie" at

the McNabb campus, including the idea of partnering with other Quaker organizations to assist with presenting workshop facilitators and speakers. What might you be interested in attending?

- “How Do You See Peace?” is the committee’s experimental blog which has enjoyed nearly 10,500 views since its launch. The blog has over 70 posts and over 150 comments added by Friends from throughout the Yearly Meeting and beyond. There are many resources now archived as part of this project. What else might you find meaningful in this space?
- The Ecumenical Call for Just Peace issued by the World Council of Churches has been recommended for study by individual Friends and monthly Meetings. PRC would like to remain supportive of this call; how might we aid your Meeting’s efforts?
- The Peace Testimony Workshop was created in 2006 for use by Monthly Meetings or other groupings of Friends to deepen corporate and individual understandings of Friends’ historic Peace Testimony and contemporary expressions of it. This workshop is available free-of-charge to any gathering of ILYM, and is recommended as an all-day workshop (approx. 7 hours including a midday meal) or a weekend event beginning on Friday evening. To schedule a workshop contact the Peace Resource Committee.
- Lastly, we are excited to be launching our Quaker Peacemakers Archive Project to compile and preserve an oral history of Friends whose contributions to peace building should be treasured for a long time to come. As people tell their stories in their own words, the recordings will capture and preserve unique and inspired favors that enrich our Yearly Meeting. Starting with inaugural tapings during the 2012 Annual Sessions, we are refining the interview format and evaluating possible archive destinations. To suggest someone in the Yearly Meeting be included, please submit their name to Dawn Rubbert (dawn@aglifpt.org) for further PRC action.

PUBLICATIONS AND DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE REPORT

(See Minute 60)

The 2012 Minutebook and *Among Friends* (Summer 2011 and Winter 2012) have been completed both online and on paper. The 2011 Plummer Lecture has been added to the other online Plummer Lectures, but has not yet been published on paper. Paper publication of the 2010 Plummer Lecture was delayed due to a technical change in the printer’s operation, but is now done and available at the June 2012 sessions. There are also additional copies of some fine vintage Plummer Lectures available during these sessions.

We found clearness to make a request of all ILYM committees that publish new brochures or other publications. Please add the following three simple text elements meant to help the reader better understand the context of our publications and to provide consistency and accountability. These three elements are: Author and committee name, date of publication (month/year), and “Illinois Yearly Meeting.” Wil Brant has decided he can no longer continue to act as both editor of *Among Friends* and website coordinator. Marcia Nelson, also on our Committee, has agreed to edit *Among Friends* for the next year. We are very grateful to Wil for his excellent service as editor, and to Marcia for stepping up to the plate.

We want to keep providing an adequate supply of our paper publications to each ILYM Meeting. We will soon contact someone from each Meeting to provide this information. Please know that anytime your needs change, just let us know and we will be glad to adjust the number we send you.

- Judy Erickson, Clerk

SITE ENVISIONING COMMITTEE (See Minute 23)

The committee first met, following the 2011 Annual Sessions, on September 10, 2011, at the Rorem house in Kankakee. We reviewed a matrix of information assembled from the reports submitted by standing committees and monthly meetings. We also reviewed the master plan map prepared using the same data and a draft of the history of the site development from the first visioning retreat to the present. This history was refined and published in the winter edition of *Among Friends*.

We met next in McNabb on November 19, 2011, with Friends representing standing committees and our Field Secretary Judy Wolicki to craft a refinement to the master plan and forward our collective vision for the site and related activities on the McNabb campus.

We reviewed the information refined following the September meeting and took counsel from Friends attending. Afterward, we refined the plan further.

Our next meeting was held in Bloomington on January 21, 2012. It was a meeting to which all members and attenders of the Yearly Meeting were invited to offer input and provide criticism to the work that preceded this meeting. We met with over twenty Friends to review our evolving progress. After a presentation of the updated master plan and an open commentary session, we broke into smaller groups to discuss specific issues. We reconvened and shared our observations.

When we adjourned, Friends carried packets of information containing the master plan and related reports back to their monthly meetings. Additional packets of the information were mailed to those meetings that had no representation at this session. The history, master plan, and reports along with the printed observations were posted on the committee portion of the ILYM website. These postings remain on the website for Friends to study.

We brought our work to Spring Continuing Committee for a preliminary presentation and seasoning. Some elements were suggested as priorities. We now present our findings to the 2012 Annual Sessions. Copies of the site plan are posted on the walls of the meetinghouse for review. The supporting narrative, giving a verbal tour of the envisioned site is also posted on the website.

We seek the following actions from the floor: First, we seek the approval from the annual session of the overall site plan vision. We realize that the plan is a live and evolving tool. We realize that it will improve with time and become more detailed. We seek approval to the concept as presented to allow us to move forward with the further development of the vision. Next, we seek approval to complete several projects before the next annual sessions:

Projects 1, 2 and 3 have been bundled into one project for cost purposes. The Dancing Rabbit Eco-Cooperative has been approached to do the work. The Maintenance and Planning Committee cost estimate for these three projects is a “not to exceed” amount of \$5,000.00.

1. Deconstruction of the long shed and recycling/reuse of the materials. The west portion of the shed that has a concrete floor and electrical service will remain as a storage shed and workshop.
2. Removal of the brush pile from the south side of the west property.
3. Removal of the deteriorating shed attachment to the Dairy Barn.
4. Construction of an accessible entry onto the west side of Clear Creek House.

The work will also include doorway and threshold modifications as needed, and sets the stage for a new accessible bedroom/bathroom addition/renovation at the garage. Maintenance and Planning Committee estimates the cost for this project at a cost not to exceed \$18,000.00

Next, we seek approval of several projects to be studied during the next year and brought for action at the 2013 annual sessions:

5. Investigate the approach and scope of the border plantings and hedgerow development as shown on the master plan and as described by the Environmental Concerns Committee. Costs will be attached to the project and presented to the 2013 Annual Sessions.
6. Investigate the approach and scope of the pathways as shown on the master plan, and as described by the Environmental Concerns Committee. Costs will be attached to the project and presented to the 2013 Annual Sessions.
7. Design and pricing of a bedroom/ bathroom addition to Clear Creek House.

This addition may be a reuse of the existing garage or new construction. The bedrooms and bathrooms will be designed to be accessible to the standards of the 2010 Americans with Disabilities Act. This will increase the number of bathrooms available to overnight guests at Clear Creek House. They also may be used by campers in the new quiet camping space nearby. An initial estimate of this work is \$80,000 to \$120,000. This project will be a collaboration between the Maintenance and Planning Committee and the Site Envisioning Committee.

8. Design and pricing of a conversion of the east tool shed and/or west mechanical closet into bathrooms. The configuration of these bathrooms will be made as compliant to ADA accessibility standards as possible.

This project will be a collaboration between the Maintenance and Planning Committee and the Site Envisioning Committee.

9. Investigation of methods for providing an affordable, ground level dining space for use at annual sessions in the near term rather than a new year-round building. Investigating the viability of a large tent, or screened pavilion over a concrete slab, investigating the need for air-conditioning, mobile kitchen, keeping our existing kitchen, or reusing our existing equipment in a new permanent kitchen.

This project will be a collaboration between the Maintenance and Planning Committee and the Site Envisioning Committee.

Next, we urge the annual session to convene a working group to consist of representatives from Site Envisioning, Maintenance and Planning, Finance, Ministry and Advancement, Peace Resources, Environmental Concerns, Adult Young Friends, High School Friends, and Clear Creek Meeting to develop oversight processes for the use of the site for programs, retreats, and other activities.

In addition, we look forward to participating in efforts to further the use of the Capital Asset Management Plan (CAMP).

Respectfully submitted for the Site Envisioning Committee,
- Chip Rorem, Clerk

STEWARDS (See Minute 26)

Given the welcome expanded property and opportunities for ILYM, the Stewards have had a busy year managing the property of ILYM. With Roy Treadway starting as a Steward in January (2012), the duties of Stewards have been shifting, with Dick Ashdown serving as the Steward liaison on the Site Envisioning Committee, Carol Bartles on the Maintenance and Planning Committee, and Roy Treadway on the Environmental Concerns Committee. Roy Treadway will also serve as contact with the Finance Committee. We find this division of responsibilities to be very productive and effective in managing our role in ILYM.

This year, as Stewards, we have been involved in managing the contracts for ILYM for painting two sides of the meetinghouse, renovating the Clear Creek House kitchen, installing concrete ramps to the bathhouse, replacing the “wind damaged” electrical service to the campground, removing a tree east of the Meetinghouse which blew down in a windstorm and another tree which was dangerously diseased, and repairing a drain from the Meetinghouse kitchen. These tasks have been completed. We are working closely with the Maintenance and Planning Committee in making the Clear Creek House accessible and in removing unwanted buildings and debris from the property.

We see a need to have a clear statement of the differences and similarities of a Property Improvement project and a Deferred Maintenance project. This information may be available, but we do not know where to find it.

Currently, we ask Sharon Haworth to maintain a list of the contractors and vendors with which we are working or have worked in the past. We need to establish a system to update and maintain our list of contractors and vendors so it is more universally accessible. One solution might be to put this information on the ILYM website.

Some monthly meetings, most yearly-meeting committees, and Clear Creek Friends are using Clear Creek House. While a few issues have arisen, for the most part the facility is serving the spiritual and physical needs of ILYM and Clear Creek Friends.

While ILYM has a well-developed and thorough *Guidelines for the use of Clear Creek House of Illinois Yearly Meeting*, currently the yearly meeting does not have a clearly stated **policy** for using **all** the ILYM facilities. We see a value in assigning a committee to work with Sharon Haworth in developing a policy for the use of the property. This task could be assigned to a current ILYM committee, or ILYM could establish a new committee to oversee the use of the ILYM property during the year. This committee would work with Sharon to outline the current uses of the facilities as well as look into current and potential issues and solutions to these issues. This approach will keep open the wide range of possibilities as well as help ILYM look into and establish future policies for use of the facilities, particularly as we consider use of the property from groups outside the yearly meeting.

An annual report on the ways, dates, number of groups, and purposes the Clear Creek House is being used during the year might help members of ILYM better understand the valuable resource ILYM has in its campus and the means by which ILYM can better be an example in the world at large as well as serve the spiritual needs of Friends.

YOUTH OVERSIGHT (See Minute 44)

ILYM's current Youth Coordinator, Javaughn Fernanders, has given Youth Oversight notice of her intent to step down as Youth Coordinator effective 6/24/12. Youth Oversight requests permission from annual session to recruit and hire a new Youth Coordinator to start on 7/1/12 or as soon thereafter as feasible in order to continue planning for the fall service project (work weekend at McNabb) and Veterans' Day Quake (in St. Louis).

The part time Youth Coordinator is responsible for providing programs and coordinating activities for Quaker High School Friends (HSF), including a) leading retreats, b) helping them to find/participate in new experiences related to spiritual development, service, and leadership, and c) recognize the need for and refer to appropriate pastoral or professional care. The Youth Coordinator also helps support things like a Tremor for Junior High School Friends (JHSF) to help prepare them for entering the HSF meeting, looks for opportunities to collaborate with youth programs from other yearly meetings (e.g., Quakes, FGC, Quaker Youth Pilgrimage) and acts as a liaison with the Adult Young Friends (AYF) to help HSF transition to that age group upon graduation. A proposed announcement and detailed job description giving qualifications, responsibilities, current hours and budget is attached or available from the incoming clerk of Youth Oversight, Kate Gunnell <Kate.Gunnell@AHSS.org>.

The announcement would be given at ILYM annual session and sent out via the distribution list as well as to the youth coordinators of other yearly meetings. As noted in the announcement, interested applicants would send a) a letter summarizing their interest and qualifications relative to the job description and providing their social security and driver's license number (required for a background check), b) a resume documenting their training & experience, and c) three letters of reference (at least one of whom can talk about their work with teenagers and one who can talk about their involvement with Quakers). Letters of reference will be sent directly to Kate Gunnell. All applicants will receive a background check and the review of applications will begin July 1 and continue until the position is filled.

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION (See Minute 54)

Some of us met with Senators Dick Durbin and Mark Kirk's staff both in Washington last November and in Chicago this spring. Our main emphasis was to promote more funding for peaceful prevention of conflict and less funding for the military. We were well received in each instance and encouraged to continue expressing our concerns.

Last summer, Congress and the White House enacted a budget deal that provided half of all budget cuts over the next ten years would come from military spending. Now, though, there is a move in Congress to shift these cuts from the military to Health Care Reform initiatives. FCNL staff is requesting that Meetings consider communicating their concern over this matter. We are requesting that ILYM approve a Minute and that individual Meetings consider the same.

Proposed Minute to be sent to Illinois Senators and Representatives:

We believe in peaceful solutions to problems. It has been shown that resources addressed to peaceful prevention of conflict, and rapid peaceful response to emerging conflicts is far more cost effective than military expenditure. Some have calculated that it is 60 times more cost effective. We urge you to use all the resources available to you to preserve the military spending reduction which is now scheduled to take effect Jan 1.

The Oak Park Monthly Meeting hosted a workshop in March led by David Culp, a senior staff member of FCNL. Ten persons received training in the various methods of witness to Congress.

We did a survey of Meetings this spring regarding whether they participate in monthly letter writing to their legislators. Only two Meetings out of 20 responded and of those only one Meeting was participating in the letter writing project.

Our team is sponsoring workshops at this yearly meeting on Thursday and Friday. Jim Cason of the Washington FCNL staff will be leading.

Speaking Truth to Power is a long Quaker tradition.

- Prayerfully submitted, Kevin Brubaker, Brad Ogilive, Tom Simpson, Wil Rutt

FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE (See Minute 67)

Dear Friends,

FGC is a voluntary ministry organization of 14 yearly meetings and regional associations, and 10 directly affiliated monthly meetings in Canada and the United States. Annually we conduct our collective business in a Central Committee that has gathered in Maryland for many years. This year, we learned that the Church of the Brethren had decided to close the conference center we were using, and so we are moving to a similar facility in the area, but for some of us, this is the only place we've known for this meeting, and in light of the loss of jobs that this reflects, it is another sign of our world's troubles.

I've been one of ILYM's FGC Central Committee representatives since 2007, which is startling to me. It doesn't seem that far back. However, I remember participating in Central Committee for one year before the big economic crisis of 2008, because we were talking about how well our fund-raising efforts were going. Things change, don't they? FGC weathered the financial crisis, though not without careful attention to our budgets and operating practices. That ongoing vigilance is a constant challenge for us today and we are extremely grateful for all the contributions of Friends and friends of Friends who make our ministry possible.

FGC is organized into three program committees for Growing, Deepening, and Transforming that carry out multiple ministries in the areas of outreach, meeting enrichment, and witness. Our administrative work is carried out by another range of committees that handle budget, personnel and creating conferences, such as our beloved Annual Gathering which meets this year in Rhode Island. Next year's gathering will be held in Greeley, Colorado, to bring us closer to the newest full partner, Inter-Mountain Yearly Meeting. FGC is committed to serving meetings and uniting us spiritually across the distances of North America and beyond to the wider Quaker world.

FGC brings ILYM closer to other yearly meetings not only through the Gathering but also through consultations on matters such as eldership, youth and racism. I

understand that some in ILYM attended the Gathering for Friends of Color in Chicago this past year, as well as the consultation on eldership and intervisitation. FGC is supporting again for 2013 an FGC cohort to the annual White Privilege Conference, which everyone is welcome to attend. Friends who have been to WPC speak of its powerful effect on their lives.

Friends who wish to develop a robust First Day School program are invited to take Faith and Play training this November. A recent piece of news is that Michael Gibson, the FGC staffperson who worked directly on creating Faith and Play, has resigned from FGC and his talents will be greatly missed.

QuakerBooks of FGC continues to publish for us, such as the upcoming *Letters to a Fellow Seeker: A Short Introduction to the Quaker Way* by Steve Chase. Another interesting new title is *John Woolman's Path to the Peaceable Kingdom: A Quaker in the British Empire* by Geoffrey Plank.

The Quaker Quest program continues to move into the lives of many meetings, such as our own Evanston Friends Meeting. QQ equips meetings in creating a public outreach that offers a very authentic experience of our community and practice. Not just evangelism, QQ uses our strengths in diversity and personal stories to bring our witness to others.

My own work at Central Committee has been largely through the Christian and Interfaith Relations Committee (CIRC). CIRC functions as the "ecumenical officer" of FGC in its relationships with other Protestant groups, Catholic and Orthodox churches, and non-Christian groups. Did you know that our former General Secretary, Bruce Birchard, once attended a private gathering of religious leaders to meet with the Pope? True story! Though I personally cannot take any credit for that opportunity, one well-connected member of CIRC can.

FGC is our ministry, an extension of our Yearly and Monthly meetings. Please consider how you might become involved or contribute to its work.

- Charley Earp

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

Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns met at the 2012 FGC Gathering in Grinnell, Iowa, and again for Midwinter Gathering near Milwaukee, Wisconsin. During the most recent gathering, those present approved sending an epistle to the World Conference of Friends held in Kenya in April of 2012. This decision was reached with recognition of the complex cultural, religious and political realities that contribute to the oppression of LGBT people. Friends expressed concerns for the safety of those from the FLGTBQ community who were to attend the Conference.

Another item of business was consideration of archiving FLGBTQC materials. Some early papers had already been deposited at the Friends Historical Library at Swarthmore College, where complete public access to archived materials is available. Friends recognized the value in preserving our institutional records for ourselves and for future scholars yet expressed considerable concern regarding privacy of those whose names would be included in these archived materials and who could be "outed" by virtue of having their names listed in these documents. While many within our country and, in some cases in the world at large, are more accepting of LGBT people than in previous times in history, individuals both within the Society of

Friends and others, engage in discriminatory behaviors causing harm to those of the LGBT community. After much deliberation, the decision was made to place all of our officially published materials in hard copy in the Friends Archive at Swarthmore without restriction.

The 2013 Midwinter Gathering will be held near Philadelphia February 15th-18th.
- Colleen Reardon

QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS (See Minute 36)

Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) Steering Committee has had a busy year. Anne Mitchell, in her second year as General Secretary, steered us towards refocusing our QEW priorities. The priorities for QEW grew out of our statement of VISION AND WITNESS: "... WE WORK to integrate into the beliefs and practices of the Religious Society of Friends the Truth that God's Creation is to be respected, protected, and held in reverence in its own right, and the Truth that human aspirations for peace and justice depend upon restoring the earth's ecological integrity. ... WE PROMOTE these truths by being patterns and examples, by communicating our message, and by providing spiritual and material support to those engaged in the compelling task of transforming our relationship to the earth."

In 2011, QEW's Annual Gathering met at the Cenacle in Chicago October 20-23, focusing on "Food and Biodiversity." Our three speakers were: Marcia Cleveland – FCNL's Legislative Representative for the Environment; Laurel M. Ross – Urban Conservation Director, Environment, Culture and Conservation, The Field Museum; and Molly Anderson – Partridge Chair in Food and Sustainable Agriculture Systems, College of the Atlantic.

Individuals on the Steering Committee have also taken part in national and international political issues, including The Keystone XL Pipeline and the Occupy Wall Street Movement. A few members of QEW protested the pipeline and got arrested both in Ottawa, Canada, as well as in Washington, D.C.

During the Spring of 2012, QEW has been involved in several national and international environmental issues.

- * In January, 2012, QEW approved a Statement on the Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery, which many European countries, the United States, and Canada adopted to extinguish all rights of indigenous peoples. QEW encourages Friends' Monthly Meetings and Churches, and Yearly Meetings, to renounce the Doctrine.
- * Several members of QEW helped draft materials on earthcare and attended the World Conference of the Friends World Committee for Consultation in Kenya.
- * In March, 2012, QEW urged the United Nations "to create the water 'Future We Want' which must include respect for water as a human right, public trust and commons."
- * QEW has been involved with FCNL in addressing the role of economic growth on climate change, overuse of the world resources, and economic disparities.
- * QEW representatives to the United Nations have kept members aware of events and challenges of the Rio+20 environmental summit in Rio De Janeiro in June 2012, focusing on an undefined "Green Economy."
- * QEW is reconsidering how its website can best serve as a source of environmental information for the public and the needs for communication by QEW.

- * QEW and Pendle Hill cosponsored a Young Adult Friends Conference, called “Continuing Rev_1_tion” on “Ministry, Earthcare, and Social Action” at Pendle Hill, June 15-20.
- * QEW is hosting the Earthcare Center at the Friends General Conference Gathering, July 1-7, Kingston, Rhode Island, with guest speakers on a variety of current earthcare issues, displays, informal discussions, and videos.

From June 27-30, 2012, the Steering Committee meeting of QEW was held at the Friends Meetinghouse in Cambridge, Massachusetts, prior to Friends General Conference Gathering in Kingston, Rhode Island, in July 2012. While QEW has held its Steering Committee meeting near the FGC Gathering in the past, we also want to attract Friends from all branches of Quakers by meeting in various locations.

The 2012 QEW Annual Gathering will be held October 4-7, 2012, at the Cenacle on Fullerton Ave., Chicago, with the continuing theme of “Biodiversity and Food” and a celebration of QEW’s 25th anniversary.

- Roy Treadway and John Hackman

OTHER DOCUMENTS FROM BUSINESS SESSION

CLEAR CREEK’S INTENTIONAL USE OF MEMORIAL FUNDS AND INVITATION

After much thought and conversation with the members of Clear Creek and donors of three of our Memorial funds, we have decided to use the funds as follows:

- * The Clancy Wilson Memorial Fund will be used to supply Clear Creek House with furniture for the patio and porch.
- * The Jim Bumgarner Memorial Fund will be used to endow a landscaping project with the advice and help of the Environmental concerns Committee.
- * The Nelson Family Memorial Fund will be used to purchase new signs for various buildings or campus sites. Any ideas about locations and proposed designs can be offered at Clear Creek’s Illinois Yearly Meeting Group Share.

Clear Creek is extending an invitation to any members of Illinois Yearly Meeting who would like to participate in a group effort to share creative ideas to accomplish these activities.

May we share and enjoy each other’s creative ideas, keeping in mind our commitment to consensus, which teaches us that our clear and loving relationship with each other is more important than our material decisions.

- Jeannie B. Marvin, Clerk, Clear Creek Meeting

FAITH AND PRACTICE APPROVED SECTION ON MARRIAGE

(See Minute 13)

Marriage

Marriage being an ordinance affecting all the relations of life, it is affectionately advised that, before any purpose to enter therein, they do humbly ask the counsel of the Lord: and if they have a clear evidence of Divine approval, that they acquaint their parents or guardians with their intentions, and give due heed to their deliberate advice, so that they may be preserved from the dangerous bias of uncertain affection and from the bitter fruit of improper marriages.

- Rules of Discipline and Advices of Illinois Yearly Meeting, editions of 1878 and 1892

Marriage, as understood by Friends, is a relation involving two individuals, God, and the religious community that witnesses, recognizes and supports it.

For the individuals joined in marriage, it is a religious calling; it is a commitment of their subsequent lives to serve one another equally and with earnestly sought divine assistance to be loving and faithful marriage partners as long as they both shall live. The couple, in effect, calls on God to bless and support their union. But more than this, Quaker procedure requires that they have sought divine guidance for the marriage. Marriage is then a covenant among God and the two persons who marry one another: God's participation sanctifies the union.

The love of one another to which God calls us is neither a feeling nor a static relationship that one either has or doesn't have; like life, like self, it is always a journey, a work in progress. Marriage involves a mutual commitment to share your lives, following together a path of love requiring growth, integrity, and mutual respect. The religious dimension of marriage is found not only in the understanding that God sanctions the union and strengthens it when we humbly seek together unity in God, but also in the recognition that marriage is a special opportunity for the practice of that love to which we are more generally called.

A marriage also has a social and public dimension, since it represents a way of living in community; marriage under the care of the meeting establishes a new relationship between the individuals marrying one another and the meeting community that recognizes and cares for it. The wedding is at once the occasion for the couple to enter into matrimony and the meeting's act of witness and loving support of this covenant. There are two important implications that flow from this: First, the meeting needs to be involved in a timely way in the discernment process that leads to the meeting's taking the marriage under its care, and this in turn to the procedures that Friends have established for this process. Second, the responsibilities of the married couple to the meeting and the meeting to the couple do not end with the completion of the wedding.

The meeting, working through a clearness process, explores with the couple proposing marriage whether to allow the marriage to proceed under its care. Originally, such clearness processes were intended to ascertain whether there were any impediments to the marriage, for example other marriage commitments that would be incompatible with the proposed marriage, and any impediments to the meeting's taking the marriage under its care, for instance failure to accept Friends' discipline. In 1682 the Uppeside of Bucks Monthly Meeting (England) did not allow a marriage under its care because the young man involved refused to appear before the women's meeting for business, contrary to the order of Friends then established. These two aspects of clearness still remain: whether there are any impediments that would preclude a proper marriage and whether there are any impediments to the meeting's taking the proposed marriage under its care. A third function served by the clearness process is to discern whether the two individuals wishing to marry understand that the relationship into which they would be entering has a religious dimension. In modern times, clearness committees have also come to assist the couple to examine whether they have reservations they have inadequately acknowledged or examined, or whether there are problem areas that they, as a couple, have not carefully considered together.

The wedding itself, conducted under the supervision of a designated committee of the meeting, is a meeting for worship called for the purpose of marriage. In the unprogrammed tradition of Friends, to which Illinois Yearly Meeting belongs, there

is no minister whose office is to marry the two persons entering matrimony. Instead, the two with all those gathered for the occasion settle into silent, waiting worship. When the two are moved by the Spirit, they rise and taking one another by the hand proclaim their commitment to one another “in the presence of God and before these our friends,” as the traditional language has it. They sign a certificate that relates the taking of their vows and worship continues, with those present offering such messages suitable to the occasion as are given to them. At the conclusion of the meeting, all those present are invited to sign the certificate in witness thereto.

There are two aspects to the meeting’s role in the marriage after the clearness process: oversight and assistance in the planning of the wedding itself, and care of the marriage following the wedding. Meetings continue to bear responsibility to support the marriages under their care and the individuals who married. Thus it is expected that the meeting know well at least one of the two who have applied for marriage, and typically that at least one be a member of the Religious Society of Friends, if not of the meeting itself. (State law may require this for the Quaker wedding to have legal status.)

Same Sex Marriage

Illinois Yearly Meeting is aware that there is great diversity in the relationships that people develop with one another. The worth of these relationships must not be judged on the basis of conventionality but rather to the degree that the relationship contributes to the growth of love in those affected.

Minutes of Illinois Yearly Meeting, 1974

Many Friends meetings, including a number in Illinois Yearly Meeting, have taken marriages of same sex couples under their care. For all marriages the procedure is the same and the same care should be extended for the couple.

Marriage Procedure

The process for marriage under the care of the meeting starts with a letter from the couple, signed by both, to the meeting stating the intention of marriage and asking to be married under the care of the meeting. The letter may include a tentative date; couples are cautioned that Friends process typically takes several months.

The clerk reads the letter of request to the monthly meeting for business, which may then either appoint a clearness committee directly or refer this request to the meeting’s care and counsel or analogous committee to appoint a clearness committee. Whichever body appoints the clearness committee should carefully consider the particular circumstances and characteristics of the couple in choosing members of the committee.

The clearness process may take several meetings and may need to begin with an explanation of the process, as it may be unfamiliar or intimidating to some. The clearness committee meets with the couple and helps them explore the issues of a life together. It also has the responsibility of seeing if there are impediments to proceeding with the marriage. Since the vows come out of Friends principles and the couple’s understanding of what they are agreeing to in marrying, it is appropriate for the content of the vows to be considered with the clearness committee. (The next section has suggestions on questions and issues to consider in the clearness process. The section afterward has examples of vows.)

When the clearness committee is ready it reports back to the monthly meeting or to the care and counsel committee which makes its recommendation to the monthly meeting. If the monthly meeting then approves the marriage under its care, it appoints an arrangements committee, which is charged with working with the couple to see that the wedding is conducted consistently with Friends principles and to help with the many details. At this point the date can be finalized and the arrangements can be made for the wedding.

The meeting needs to be aware that they may work with couples where one of the individuals may not be a member of the meeting or even a Friend. Sometimes the wedding is to occur far from the home meeting or it may include multiple monthly meetings. Care should be taken in coordinating the various responsibilities among those involved. Situations like this may make the process take longer and require that the meeting prayerfully discern how to assist the couple.

The wedding celebration should reflect Friends testimonies of simplicity, community, integrity, and equality. In light of this, the arrangements committee reviews the couple's wording of the vows and the certificate. When there are other traditions to be incorporated (for instance if only one of the couple is a Friend), the arrangements committee needs to be flexible and sensitive both to Friends principles and to others' cultural and religious experiences.

The arrangements committee helps the couple with plans for the ceremony and celebration. It assists the couple in arranging for preparation of the certificate using archival quality materials, making sure that there are pens with acid free indelible ink for use in signing it, supervising the signing of the certificate and making sure that it gets back to the couple after the wedding. The arrangements committee should assist the couple in handling legal issues related to the wedding. Legal requirements may vary by state; the committee is advised to check with local county officials. The couple and the arrangements committee should make sure someone is designated to read the certificate, to close the meeting, and to sign and submit any legal documents. A minute from the meeting designating a Friend or Friends to sign and submit legal documents is advisable.

The wedding itself is a meeting for worship. While members of the Meeting (who should be welcome) will know what to expect, invited guests may not, so care should be taken to let them know what is going to happen.

Right after the wedding there are often some refreshments for those at the wedding. Many meetings have a potluck dinner. Some may also have a smaller reception at a separate location.

The arrangements committee should report back to the Monthly Meeting that the wedding was successfully accomplished and see that a copy or transcript of the certificate has been placed in the Meeting's records. After the wedding, the meeting has a responsibility to care for the marriage, continuing to hold the couple in the Light.

Possible queries for the clearness for marriage process:

The queries provided below may be used to assist Friends who are seeking marriage under the care of the Meeting as they prayerfully consider their decision. Their purpose is to encourage communication between the couple on topics relevant to aspects of their relationship. Couples are not expected to provide the committee with private details of their relationship, but it is hoped that this process will ensure that the couple has considered such issues together prior to their marriage. Developing

effective communication is important because not all challenges in a marriage can be anticipated.

The questions below are meant to serve as examples only — the couple and the committee discern what questions to consider in their sessions together. Queries not discussed with the committee may be provided to the couple for their consideration.

Marriage Queries

Have you sought divine guidance in your decision to marry?

How will you make marriage a sacred and lifelong relationship?

Have you discussed with each other your religious beliefs and the role they will have in your life together? How do you expect your faith to inform your decision-making as a couple? Have you discussed the religious upbringing of any children you may have?

How do you nurture your relationship? How will you uphold and strengthen the relationship with the passage of time?

How do you communicate with each other? What are sources of potential conflicts between you? When conflicts arise, how do you handle them?

Have you discussed how you will make decisions as a couple?

Have you discussed what each of you will bring to the relationship, including practical issues in the maintenance of a household?

Have you discussed your expectations of sexuality in marriage?

Have you discussed whether you want to have children? How large a family do you envision? How soon do you anticipate having children? What are your expectations about how you will raise, discipline, and educate your children?

Have you discussed whether either or both of you will change your names and have you discussed what last name any children will have?

If either of you has children have you considered the impact of this marriage on them?

Have you discussed how you will balance the needs of your marriage with your friendships and responsibilities outside the home (for example, work, volunteer activities, education)?

Have you discussed how your finances will be managed? Do you have similar expectations about income, saving, spending and borrowing?

If there may be situations in which this marriage will not be legally recognized, have you discussed how to protect each other's legal rights?

How will you support each other through times of trial, unexpected life changes, or unfulfilled hopes and dreams? Are you willing to listen together for spiritual guidance when you face a problem without a clear answer and/or ask for a clearness committee?

Are you willing to postpone personal fulfillment if your spouse is not ready for what that might entail?

What do you expect your relationship with the meeting to be in your life as a couple?

How could the meeting support your marriage in the years to come?

Do either of you have emotional or other commitments to a third person which would interfere with this marriage?

Have you examined your own patterns of behavior in previous relationships, and considered how they might need to change as you enter this marriage?

Has any legal divorce been finalized?

What are the views of your families regarding the marriage?

Have you discussed how you intend to keep close relations with family who may live far away (especially in cases of illness or old age)?

Do you have an understanding of the cultural, religious, and language background of your partner?

Have you discussed any issues from your lives to this point that might affect your marriage?

Have you discussed practices to sustain your marriage?

Possible wording for vows and certificate:

With the help of the arrangements committee the couple should agree on the text of the vows and the certificate. Below are general principles that need to be included and two examples of each: one traditional and historical and another more contemporary. Either of these may be modified or the couple may compose their own text.

In keeping with Friends' testimony of equality both parties in a marriage make the same promises. The vows are not elaborate. They should state clearly that the two individuals are marrying each other, and promise to be loving and faithful to each other as long as they both shall live. The vows acknowledge the religious or spiritual dimension of the marriage and the importance of the gathered community.

Historical (From *Book of Discipline of the Religious Society of Friends*, adopted by Illinois Yearly Meeting, 1927):

“In the presence of God and before these our friends, I, _____, take thee, _____, to be my wife (husband), promising, with Divine assistance, to be unto thee a loving and faithful husband (wife) as long as we both shall live.”

Or:

“In the presence of God and these our Friends, I, _____, commit myself to you, _____, in marriage, promising with Divine assistance to be a loving and faithful partner (husband, wife) to you as long as we both shall live.”

Suggestions for the certificate:

The certificate must include the names of the individuals being married, date and location of the wedding, meeting under whose care it is occurring, the substance of the vows, and space for signatures of the couple and of those attending. This is an important record of the marriage, not just a keepsake.

Historical (From *Rules of Discipline and Advices of Illinois Yearly Meeting 1878*):

Whereas, _____ (man's name), of _____ (town), in the county of _____, and State of _____, son of _____ and _____, his wife, of _____, in the county of _____, in the State of _____, and _____ (woman's name), daughter of _____ and _____, his wife, of _____, in the county of

_____, and State of _____, having informed _____ Meeting of the Society of Friends, that they intend marriage with each other, and no obstruction appearing, (consent of parents or guardians being given, if the parties are minors,) their proposal of marriage was allowed by said meeting.

This is to certify, that in the accomplishment of their marriage, this _____ day of _____ month, in the year _____, the said _____ (man's name) and _____ (woman's name) appeared at (here state the meeting place or residence where the marriage is accomplished), and in the presence of a committee of said meeting and other witnesses, the said _____ (man's name) took the said _____ (woman's name) by the hand and declared that he took her to be his wife, promising to be to her a faithful and affectionate husband until death should separate them; and she the said _____ did in like manner declare that she took him the said _____ to be her husband, promising to be to him a faithful and affectionate wife until death should separate them, they did then and there sign their names to this certificate, she in accordance with custom assuming the family name of her husband.

(Man's name) _____.

(Woman's name) _____.

And we having been present at the solemnization of the said marriage, have subscribed our names as witnesses thereto.

Or:

Having felt the call to marry each other, _____ and _____, whose parents are _____ and _____ of _____ and _____ and _____ of _____, sought and received the approval of _____ Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends to marry under the care of that meeting. To accomplish that end a meeting for worship was held on the _____ day of _____ month, _____ at _____. During that meeting _____ rose and said that (insert wording of vow here). _____ then said that (insert wording of vow here).

_____ and _____ signed here witnessing their promises to each other:

and we, being present, signed as witnesses:

Care of Marriages

Strong marriage relationships contribute to the strength and spiritual growth of the meeting community. At the same time, "marriage is recognized to be not an easy bond, but a high calling." Friends are aware that care for a marriage, therefore, goes beyond the clearness process and the wedding to include an ongoing relationship with the couple. Indeed, the meeting is enriched by all marriages in the community and benefits by providing care and attention to each marriage whether or not the wedding was conducted under the care of the meeting.

Married Friends have testified to the value of their participation together in the life of the Meeting, of the opportunities provided by a supportive community to deepen their spiritual fellowship and love. In keeping with Friends' understanding of marriage, it is helpful for a meeting to be careful to treat each partner in a marriage as a valued individual and to honor their union.

The meeting also bears responsibility to care for marriages in which only one of the couple is an active participant in the Meeting. The Meeting should welcome both as equal partners in the marriage and provide care and support as the opportunity arises.

There is no formula for proper care of marriages, nor any tradition of formal mechanisms for doing so. Meetings are encouraged to be mindful of the importance of marriages, children, and families to the meeting community and to seek ways to support them, as it seeks ways to support and nurture all the individuals within the meeting.

Meetings need to be aware that there are a variety of life changes that may create stress in marriages. Eventually most couples will encounter serious illness or disability of one of the couple, a child, or parents; employment transitions; changing financial circumstances; aging; and death in the family. Couples may also face stresses from religious differences, changing perception of gender identity or sexual orientation, change of calling, or service commitments, among others.

Care of a marriage may be in the form of regular interaction with the couple by designated members of the meeting (a marriage care committee). This committee may be the regular care and counsel or pastoral care committee of the meeting, the couple's marriage clearness or arrangements committee, a specially designated committee, or a group of couples providing mutual support. A marriage care committee could meet regularly with the couple, taking care to be supportive, not intrusive. They could celebrate the growth of the marriage relationship with the couple and nurture the couple's spiritual life. These celebrations would be an acknowledgement of the many small events that contribute to a strong relationship. The connection between the marriage care committee and the couple would provide an opportunity within the meeting community for the couple to obtain pastoral assistance about any problem before it became overwhelming.

Another aspect of this relationship is that it would provide contacts within the meeting community who are knowledgeable about life changes that affect a marriage. Members of a care committee could assist the couple during the various stages of a marriage. Some on the committee may be parents and will be able to share with them about the effects of children on a marriage. If none on the care committee has experience with a particular life change, the committee may be able to assist the couple in connecting with meeting members who are knowledgeable or appropriate counselors.

Providing religious education, child care, and fellowship opportunities for children of all ages is an important part of support for couples with children. In addition, meetings can support couples by having books in meeting libraries about marriage, encouraging participation in marriage enrichment workshops, sharing meals in small groups, and maintaining a relationship with couples so they feel comfortable to seek assistance. Called meetings for worship at the request of a couple to celebrate their marriage on an important anniversary are one way that they and the meeting can lift up and support an enduring marriage.

Today married couples often move away from the monthly meeting that had the care for their marriage. This means that they are not close to those that have helped them with determining clearness about marrying. The meeting's responsibility for the marriage does not end when the couple moves away. If there is a meeting close to their new residence, the meeting normally writes a letter of introduction to that meeting. This letter could include a request to take the marriage under its care if the cou-

ple so wishes. If there is not a meeting close to the couple, then the marriage care committee that has worked with them could maintain long distance support for the couple.

Meetings will also need to take on the care for marriages of couples that join the meeting or begin attending. This can become a part of welcoming the couple into participation in the meeting community.

Separation and Divorce

Clearness committees for divorce could serve the same purposes as clearness committees for marriage. If couples in love may be blind to their incompatibilities, couples in trouble may be blind to latent possibilities in their relationship ...

Bob Blood, 1972

In today's society many marriages result in separation or divorce. These situations present challenges to Quaker meetings as they seek to show care and support for the couple and their children.

If there is a conflict within a marriage, the couple is encouraged to seek assistance early, long before differences become irreconcilable. This may take the form of a request to meet with the marriage care committee, the establishment of a clearness committee, or counseling. Meetings are advised to recognize their role as providing spiritual support. If there is a need for professional counseling, this assistance should be sought outside the meeting. Care and counsel committees are encouraged to maintain a list of qualified counselors outside the meeting who understand Quaker values, as a reference for couples who may desire confidential professional help.

It is important that the meeting be open to both sides when there is conflict in a relationship and ensure that both partners feel welcome at meeting for worship. Members of the meeting and especially the care and counsel or marriage care committee should make every effort to keep lines of communication open between the parties and to avoid blaming the individuals. The meeting's role is to support the couple as they grow in God's love, but not to determine whether the marriage will be terminated.

When there are children involved, the Meeting should take care to ensure that they are welcome and feel the loving support of the Meeting. Be aware that children may feel bewildered, blame themselves for the difficulties their parents are experiencing, or feel caught in the middle. If a child asks for a clearness committee, this should be provided. If the child attends First Day School, the teacher is encouraged to listen to the child's concerns. If it seems advisable, the teacher may recommend counseling for the child to the parents or seek assistance from the care and counsel committee in supporting the child.

If following a period of separation, and seeking spiritual support from the meeting and professional counseling, the couple recognizes that the most loving response is a divorce, the couple may want to meet with a clearness committee to consider how the meeting can support them during the divorce proceedings and after the divorce is final. This could include practical support such as assistance with housing, jobs, and childcare, emotional support as the individuals deal with the transition, and spiritual support. If desired, the couple may request a called meeting for worship during which they each rise and ask God's support in releasing each other from their marriage commitment.

Queries on divorce (adapted from New England Yearly Meeting's pamphlet "Living with Oneself and Others")

For the Meeting:

Does the meeting have open discussions about marriage and divorce in which all can share their views?

Does the care and counsel committee actively and sensitively reach out to persons or couples who may be troubled?

If a couple so desires, can the care and counsel committee provide a list of professional counselors who understand Friends' views?

Does the care and counsel committee know divorce mediators or lawyers who will seek to avoid adversarial positions and assist the couple in finding the least detrimental and most economical means to legally end a marriage, if that is their decision?

Can the meeting as a community, reach out in love to all persons involved, accepting the couple's decision without being judgmental, helping them to grow past their animosities, and providing practical assistance (such as locating new housing, childcare arrangements, etc.)?

If the meeting finds itself too emotionally involved to help, will it consider calling on another monthly meeting, quarterly, or yearly meeting for resource persons?

For the couple:

Do you seek to keep God's love as a vital force in your life to help you deal with the changes that come with divorce?

Do you avoid hurting your former spouse in your relationships with others, either in or out of the meeting?

For couples with children:

As individuals, are you committed to the reality that you are both still parents of your children and must continue to find creative ways of living this responsibility?

Are you mindful of your children's pain and suffering? Can you avoid both shutting your children out of your own pain and leaning on them too much?

Are you mindful of the needs of your children for a continuing loving relationship with each parent?

Are you mindful of the special love between children and grandparents or extended family and do you endeavor to further strengthen these ties?

For relatives:

If you have a warm relationship with an in-law can you preserve it with patience and creativity during and after the separation without exerting undue pressure on anyone involved?

Do you give loving support and encouragement, and avoid giving unwelcome advice?

Are you mindful of the needs of each member of the couple?

Sources for quotes:

"Marriage being an ordinance affecting all the relations of life..." *Rules of Discipline and Advices of Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends* (1878) p. 53; (1892) p. 53.

“Illinois Yearly Meeting is aware that there is great diversity...”: Illinois Yearly Meeting (1974) *The Minutes and Accompanying Documents*, Saturday Morning minute #9, p. 3.

Traditional wording of marriage vows: from *Book of Discipline of the Religious Society of Friends*, adopted by Illinois Yearly Meeting, 1927, p. 102.

Non-traditional wording for vows: modified from Southeast Yearly Meeting, *Faith and Practice* (2005), p. 6.

Traditional wording for certificate: from *Rules of Discipline and Advices of Illinois Yearly Meeting* (1878), pp. 57-58.

“Marriage is recognized to be not an easy bond...”: Comfort, William Wistar (1941) *Just Among Friends: The Quaker Way of Life*, New York: The Macmillan Co., p. 49.

“Clearness committees for divorce could serve the same purposes...”: Blood, Bob, (1972) ‘Divorce in Friends Meeting’, *Friends Journal*, November 1, 1972, pp. 574–575.

Queries on separation and divorce: adapted from New England Yearly Meeting Care and counsel Committee (2001) *Living with Oneself and Others*, 4th ed., ch. 8 (unpaginated).

FAITH AND PRACTICE APPROVED SECTION ON QUARTERLY MEETINGS (See Minute 14)

Quarterly Meetings

The Quarterly Meeting is designed to bring together for inspiration and counsel a larger group and to consider more varied interests than any single meeting embraces. Its most helpful function should be to aid and encourage the Monthly Meetings composing it to greater interest and service, and to give its members an increasing vision of the truth. It should be diligent in seeking opportunities to gather together groups which may be organized into meetings and should always be ready to help Monthly Meetings whenever they ask for advice or assistance.

- 1927 *Uniform Discipline of Friends General Conference*, p. 111

A *quarterly meeting* is a regional body of Friends, comprising more than one monthly meeting and forming part of a larger yearly meeting. By tradition, quarterly meetings hold their business sessions four times each year, but it has been found useful in some cases to maintain a less frequent schedule, particularly if the quarterly meeting covers a wide geographic area or includes few meetings of sufficient size regularly to host its sessions.

Quarterly meetings serve several purposes. First, it is in the quarterly meeting that monthly meetings report in detail the recent condition of their meeting communities, with an opportunity for the gathered Friends to respond, offer advice or assistance if needed, and take inspiration or new ideas when presented. At least once each year, representatives of each monthly meeting in the quarterly read aloud their monthly meeting’s State of Society report in the quarterly meeting’s business session. Time should be left after each meeting’s report for Friends to speak as they feel led in response. For information on the composition of these reports, see ‘State of Society reports’, pp. xx–xx.

Because the quarterly meeting is the venue in which monthly meetings present these reports, and the body which regularly considers them with members of the monthly meeting present and participating, the quarterly meeting serves as an important source of support, guidance, and assistance to local meetings, including those experiencing difficulty. Meetings which find themselves in need of assistance are urged to bring such matters to their quarterly meetings. Help is also available from the Illinois Yearly Meeting Ministry and Advancement Committee, and from the Illinois Yearly Meeting Field Secretary.

Quarterly meetings serve as the appropriate bodies to decide issues which affect Friends on a region-wide basis, and to coordinate the efforts of local meetings when such coordination is called for. Projects which are too large or too general for a single monthly meeting to take on may more naturally be assumed by the quarterly meeting. In petitioning the state or addressing issues of public concern, the voice of the quarterly meeting will usually bear more weight than that of a monthly meeting.

Quarterly meetings serve to bring together Friends from different local meetings and promote a broader sense of community among Friends. Quarterly meetings may hold retreats, workshops, or social events, either in conjunction with their business sessions or separately, to build up connections among their local meetings. Meetings with few children may especially find that quarterly meetings and other regional gatherings provide a valuable opportunity for young Friends to find companionship and a sense of Quaker community.

Quarterly meetings serve as a valuable forum for the preliminary consideration of business to be brought before the yearly meeting. Monthly meetings with proposals to put before the yearly meeting are urged to bring such matters first to their quarterly meeting (if there is one), unless the next session of the yearly meeting falls before the next session of the quarterly meeting, and the matter is too urgent to delay. The quarterly meeting may also bring business to the yearly meeting which originated in the quarterly meeting itself, rather than any of its monthly meetings.

Finally, quarterly meetings have specific responsibilities in the setting up and laying down of meetings. In particular, a quarterly meeting may set up or lay down a preparative meeting on the advice of the monthly meeting of which the preparative meeting is to be a part; see 'Preparative Meetings', pp. xx-xx. In addition, proposals to set up or lay down a monthly meeting are normally approved by the quarterly meeting (if any) of which the monthly meeting is a part, before forwarding to the yearly meeting for final approval; see 'Setting up, laying down, and reaffiliation of monthly meetings', pp. xx-xx. A quarterly meeting may add an existing monthly meeting which is part of Illinois Yearly Meeting at the request of the monthly meeting.

Each quarterly meeting appoints a clerk, who also serves as representative to the Continuing Committee of Illinois Yearly Meeting. Quarterly meetings may appoint a treasurer, recording clerk, and such other committees and offices as seem useful. Quarterly meetings must keep accurate records of their business and finances, and archive them properly; see 'Archivist', pp. xx-xx.

Decisions of the quarterly meeting are made by the Friends gathered in the quarterly meeting business sessions, and do not require the approval or ratification of the monthly meetings which compose the quarterly meeting, though such approval may be sought in cases where the quarterly meeting deems it helpful to do so. Quarterly

2012 DIRECTORY OF MONTHLY MEETINGS AND WORSHIP GROUPS IN ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL MONTHLY MEETING

11am In homes
<http://bnquakers.wordpress.com/>
Mail to Clerk: Bob Broad, 306 W. Virginia
Ave., Normal, IL 61761 309-454-5463
bobbroad60@gmail.com
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 Monthly Meeting,
P.O. Box 202, McNabb, IL 61335
Clerk: Jeannie Marvin 815-433-4678
riverstone4@mchsi.com
Business: 3rd First Day, 9:45 a.m.

COLUMBIA FRIENDS MEETING

6408 Locust Grove Dr. East, Columbia MO
10:00am 573-474-1827
<http://quakersmissouri.org>
Mail to: Clerk Sandy Matsuda, 6408 Locust
Grove Dr. East, Columbia
MO 65203 573-441-8781
matsudas@health.missouri.edu
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.dgquakers.org>
Mail to: Clerk, at meeting address above.
Co-Clerks: Sue Styer 630-232-8921
sstyer@imsa.edu
Pam Wolfe 630-852-5812
pam-wolfe@sbcglobal.net
Business: 2nd First Day, 9am

DUNELAND FRIENDS MEETING

Youth Services Bureau, 253 W. Lincolnway,
Valparaiso IN 46385 10am
<http://duneland.ilym.org/>
Clerk: Sandy Huntley 219-929-4262
huntleysg304@aol.com
Mail to: c/o Marlou Carlson, 817 George St.,
Valparaiso, IN 46385
Business: 3rd First Day, 11:30 am

EVANSTON MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

10am
1010 Greenleaf Street, Evanston IL 60202
<http://evanston.quaker.org> 847-864-8511
Mail to: Meeting address above
Clerk: Karen Carney 773-271-3770
carney.ke@gmail.com
Business: 3rd First Day, 11:30am

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
meeting@57thstreetmeeting.org
Business: 3rd First Day, 12:45pm

LAKE FOREST FRIENDS MEETING

101 West Old 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: Cathy Garra 847-864-3218
garra1@ameritech.net
Business: 1st First Day, 9am

NORTHSIDE FRIENDS MEETING

4427 N. Clark, Chicago IL 60640
10:00am 773-980-6734
Mail to: P.O. Box 408429, Chicago IL
60640 <http://www.quaker.org/northside>
Clerk: Charlotte Wood-Harrington
c.wood.harrington@gmail.com
773-363-9806
Business: 1st First Day at 12:30 pm

OAK PARK FRIENDS MEETING

Oak Park Art League, 720 Chicago Ave.,
Oak Park, IL 60303 10am
www.oakparkfriends.org 708-445-8201
Mail to: Clerk, P.O. Box 3245, Oak Park, IL
60303-3245
Clerk: Helen Dickinson 708-452-0605
helen.rose@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: Thomas Barlow, 419 Boyd St.,
 Oshkosh WI 54901
 Clerk: Tom Barlow 920-233-5804
 maryrolloff@yahoo.com
 Business: 2nd First Day 5:00 pm

ROCK VALLEY FRIENDS MEETING

201 Seventh St., Rockford, IL
 Worship: 11am (first First Day of month
 only)
 Mail to Clerk: Ann Eckert, 310 Hill St.,
 Rockford IL 61107 815-964-7416
 Business: as needed

ST. LOUIS RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

1001 Park, St. Louis MO 63104
 10:00am 314-588-1122
<http://www.stlouisfriends.org>
 Mail to: 1001 Park, St. Louis MO 63104
 Clerk: Kurt Thoroughman 314-725-6941
 thoroughman@wustl.edu
 Business: 2nd First Day, 11:00 am

FRIENDS MEETING OF ROLLA

(Preparative—under the care of St.
 Louis Mtg.)
 603 East 10th Street, Rolla, MO
 10:30 am
<http://www.friendsmeetingofrolla.org/>
 Mail to Clerk: Chris Jocius, 29 Irene
 Lane, Rolla, MO 65401
 jociusc@mst.edu 573-426-4848
 Business: 3rd First Day after worship

SOUTH BEND FRIENDS MEETING

Charles Martin Youth Center
 802 Lincolnway West, South Bend, IN
 10:30 a.m. 574-232-8258
<http://southbend.quaker.org>
 Mail to Clerk at meeting address above.
 Clerk: Elaine Meyer-Lee 574-284-4059
 meyerlee@saintmarys.edu
 Business: 2nd First Day, 12:00 noon

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS QUAKER MTG.

Mail to: Interfaith Center, 913 S. Illinois Ave.,
 Carbondale IL 62901 10am
<http://www.siquaker.org/>
 Clerk: Michael Batinski 618-549-0682
 batinski@siu.edu
 Clerk: Wm. "Doc" Stodden 319-321-5243
 wstodden@gmail.com
 Business: 4th First Days, 11:00 a.m.

SPOON RIVER QUAKER MEETING

In homes 10 am
 Mail to Contact: Jackie Urban, 1062 E. 2nd
 Ave., Monmouth, IL 61462
 jackieu@monm.edu 309-734-5848
 Business: Second First Days at 11:30 am

MACOMB WORSHIP GROUP

(Under the care of Spoon River)
 Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of
 Macomb, 300 Wigwam Hollow Rd.
 Macomb, IL 61445 5 pm
www.macombquakers.org
 Mail to: Erin Taylor & Sean West,
 609 E. Piper St., Macomb, IL 61455
 erin.n.taylor@gmail.com 309-313-3330

UPPER FOX VALLEY QUAKER MTG.

Crystal Lake Montessori School, 3013 Country
 Club Rd. (between Crystal Lake & Woodstock)
 10 a.m. Mail to: Howenstines, 4614 Pioneer
 Rd., McHenry, IL 60051 815-385-8512
 Clerk: Mark McGinnis 847-697-1512
 clerk.UFVQM@yahoo.com
 Business: 1st First Day, 11am

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN FRIENDS MTG.

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: Dale Gardner 217-714-8987
 wanderingprofessor@yahoo.com
 Business: 3rd First Day, 12:15 pm

SPRINGFIELD WORSHIP GROUP

(under the care of Urbana Champaign Mtg.)
 First Day worship, 10:30am in homes
 Mail to Contact: Peg Kruger,
 28 Marion Lane, Springfield IL 62704
 217-416-1305 skyhy28@sbcglobal.net

meetings must respect the local autonomy of their constituent meetings, and may not override their decisions or direct their affairs in purely internal matters.

Setting up and laying down quarterly meetings

To set up a new quarterly meeting, approval must first be secured from each of the monthly meetings which are to become a part of it. Any monthly meetings which already form part of a quarterly meeting should present the plan for establishing the new quarterly meeting to the existing quarterly meeting and seek its views on the matter. Monthly meetings are advised against belonging to more than one quarterly meeting simultaneously, so joining a new quarterly meeting will normally mean leaving the old one. After the approval of all monthly meetings has been obtained and the issue considered in any existing quarterly meetings, the proposal is forwarded either to Illinois Yearly Meeting, or to the Continuing Committee. Whichever group receives the request appoints a clearness committee, or may request the Ministry and Advancement Committee to appoint a clearness committee. The clearness committee visits with the local meetings which are to be part of the proposed quarterly meeting to explore their readiness for this step. The following queries may be helpful in this process:

- What do you see as the spiritual and practical benefits of establishing a new quarterly meeting?
- What kinds of support can you provide as a quarterly meeting to the yearly meeting and to your monthly meetings? What kinds of support do you expect to receive from the yearly and monthly meetings?
- How strong is the commitment of each of the monthly meetings involved?
- Will you have a treasury? How will funds be raised? What will they be used for? How will the treasury be administered?
- How often will you meet and where? Have you considered potential scheduling conflicts?
- How will your gatherings be planned?
- Will your sessions include worship, business, workshops, retreats, fellowship, and community building? How will you decide on the relative balance?
- Do you have any qualms, fears, or reservations about establishing a quarterly meeting?

The committee may also meet with Friends outside the proposed quarterly meeting, to gauge the impact the establishment of the new meeting might have on existing quarterly meetings, and on the yearly meeting as a whole. The committee reports to Illinois Yearly Meeting; the new quarterly meeting is established when the yearly meeting minutes its approval in its annual business sessions. After minuting establishment, the yearly meeting (typically through its Ministry and Advancement Committee) appoints a committee of welcome to attend the opening session of the new quarterly and provide assistance or advice as it begins to conduct business.

If a quarterly meeting is unable, over an extended period, to fulfill the functions and meet the responsibilities normally expected of a quarterly meeting, it is appropriate to lay it down. Normally, this is accomplished by minute of the yearly meeting, though in principle a quarterly meeting may also lay itself down. In either case, it is strongly urged that the approval of all functioning monthly meetings which form part of the quarterly meeting be obtained before the quarterly meeting is officially laid

down. If the quarterly meeting lays itself down, it should inform the yearly meeting promptly of this decision.

Whichever body lays down the quarterly meeting appoints a committee to assist with the arrangements, or may ask the yearly meeting's Ministry and Advancement Committee to appoint such a committee. This committee should see to it that provision is made for the archiving of the meeting's records in a manner and location which keeps them accessible to Illinois Yearly Meeting. Deposit in the University of Illinois Library is recommended for this purpose. If the quarterly meeting has a treasury or other property, the committee should see that these are disposed of in an appropriate fashion, such as transferring them to the yearly meeting, dividing them among the monthly meetings, or donating them to some other Friends or charitable organization. The advice of Friends who were involved in the quarterly meeting should be a major consideration in deciding how to dispose of property.

Monthly meetings which do not belong to a quarterly meeting

Originally, Illinois Yearly Meeting was organized so that all monthly meetings belonged to a quarterly meeting. The quarterly meetings formed a systematic intervening level between the monthly meetings and the yearly meeting: business, communications and finances passed between the monthly meetings and the yearly meeting through the quarterly meetings, which also played an important role in such matters as nominating the clerk of the yearly meeting and appointing the equivalent of the Continuing Committee.

For historical reasons, Illinois Yearly Meeting now includes a number of monthly meetings which are not part of a quarterly meeting. Such meetings may find that some of the functions of a quarterly meeting are well-served by other regional gatherings. However, business which is strictly internal to Illinois Yearly Meeting is not generally considered at such gatherings.

Specifically, regional gatherings which are not quarterly meetings of Illinois Yearly Meeting may not set up or lay down a preparative meeting as part of Illinois Yearly Meeting. Nor does Illinois Yearly Meeting require that the approval of such gatherings be secured before a monthly meeting or quarterly meeting is set up or laid down as part of Illinois Yearly Meeting. Proposals for setting up or laying down meetings which are part of Illinois Yearly Meeting but not part of a quarterly meeting are directed to the Continuing Committee or to the yearly meeting; see 'Setting up, laying down and reaffiliation of monthly meetings', pp. xx-xx; 'Preparative meetings', pp. xx-xx; and 'Setting up and laying down quarterly meetings', pp. xx-xx.

FAITH AND PRACTICE APPROVED APPENDIX (See Minute 14)

Appendix A: Sample Membership Record

The following form may be used for keeping the membership records of a monthly meeting. This form is intended only as a sample; meetings should feel free to alter it or design their own forms, according to their needs.

Some meetings may not recognize all the categories of membership mentioned on the form, such as birthright membership and associate membership.

Some information included on the form, such as data about members' families, may be useful but not strictly necessary for meetings to record. Meetings are urged to consider carefully what information to gather, and how much of this information they will regard as optional.

Meetings may receive requests for information in their records, from individuals researching their family histories or for other reasons. Clear policies should be adopted about when such information may be shared. These policies should be made clear to new members as they provide their data for the records.

Membership Record

Record number: _____ Record closed

Name: _____

Previous name(s): _____

Contact Information

Address: _____

Telephone number(s): _____

E-mail address(es): _____

Admission Data

Date of Admission: _____ by birth or adoption

by application

by transfer from _____

Membership Type: full

associate, expires on _____

Termination Data

Date of Termination: _____ by death

by release

by transfer to _____

Remarks:

Personal and Family Data

Birthdate: _____ Place of birth: _____

Is/was a member?

Father's Name: _____

Birthdate: _____ Location: _____

Mother's Name: _____

Birthdate: _____ Location: _____

Marriage or Civil Union 1 to: _____
Date: _____ Location: _____

Marriage or Civil Union 2 to: _____
Date: _____ Location: _____

Marriage or Civil Union 3 to: _____
Date: _____ Location: _____

Child/Stepchild 1: _____
Birthdate: _____ Location: _____

Child/Stepchild 2: _____
Birthdate: _____ Location: _____

Child/Stepchild 3: _____
Birthdate: _____ Location: _____

Child/Stepchild 4: _____
Birthdate: _____ Location: _____

Child/Stepchild 5: _____
Birthdate: _____ Location: _____

FAITH AND PRACTICE DRAFT SECTION (See Minute 15)

Meeting for Worship

Draft, June 2012

Introduction

Friends in Illinois Yearly Meeting engage in “waiting worship,” in which we gather silently to seek God’s help and guidance in ministering to the spiritual needs of the meeting community. Meeting for worship begins when the first worshiper enters the room. As Friends enter the meeting room, they seek to quiet their minds, leaving behind the concerns and activities of their daily life, focus inward and enter a period of expectant waiting. After a substantial period of silence anyone present who feels led by the Divine Spirit to speak may rise and do so. Speakers choose their words spontaneously as led rather than composing a message in advance of coming to meeting for worship. This vocal ministry is typically followed by a period of silence to deepen the worship and allow those present to take in what has been said. When enough time has passed another Friend may feel led to speak. Sometimes the entire meeting may pass in outward silence. The meeting ends with the shaking of hands.

Preparing for meeting for worship

Preparation for the next week’s meeting for worship begins with the closing of meeting the week before. Friends seek God during the week by engaging in personal reflection, prayer or meditation, journaling, and reading the Bible or other spiritual

literature. Friends who engage in such spiritual practices throughout the week may more readily enter worship prepared in mind and spirit. Taking time from the busyness of life to experience even brief moments of awareness of God's presence sows the seed for deeper spiritual engagement. Meetings are encouraged to provide opportunities for Friends to share the spiritual dimensions of their lives, by organizing retreats, workshops, spiritual formation groups, or other gatherings.

While engaging in spiritual practices throughout the week prepares one to enter more readily and deeply into worship, so too do the practices one engages in immediately prior to coming to meeting for worship. Allowing sufficient time to travel to the meeting place helps one arrive in a calm and unhurried state of mind. Parents may want to help their children prepare for the experience of worship or educational programs at meeting. Friends may hold the meeting in prayer, read the Bible or other spiritual literature, or simply quiet their minds and turn inward. Reading the newspaper, attending to media, or dealing with the stresses of secular life immediately before meeting for worship may distract one from spiritual matters and interfere with the capacity to perceive accurately the promptings of God's Spirit.

Beginning meeting

Except in small meetings held in homes, worship begins once the first person enters the meeting space. As more Friends enter they do so silently, joining the worship. This practice allows others to enter already experiencing a sense of the living silence. After the meeting has gathered in worship, a query or short passage may be read aloud by a designated individual.

Centering

As the meeting gathers into worship, we strive to release the events of the week and the stirrings of our minds, moving into an inward silence where we unite with Friends in communal worship.

For some Friends the process of "centering," of spontaneously emptying the mind, is difficult. Some have engaged in various practices to still their minds so that the Divine Presence can be felt, heard and obeyed. The practices that work for one may not work for another; however, the practices that are described here have been found to be helpful in centering at the beginning of worship. Positioning the body in a restful yet alert position is a starting point. Many Friends sit with their feet on the floor with hands in their lap. Some Friends keep their eyes open; others close them. Few people can achieve inward silence immediately but find instead that they must release impediments gradually. Some pray; some hold each person in the room in the Light; some engage in self-examination; some contemplate mental images and others may silently repeat a passage or mantra. Through these means, one loses the complexity of thought, focuses inwardly and enters a period of expectant waiting. The particular technique is less important than is the creation of a condition of being fully present. Even a few Friends who are centered can enable others to more readily reach that state of consciousness as they remember that they are already in the presence of God. Those at a meeting for worship generally experience a deepening of the quality of the silence as the meeting settles.

In some meetings for worship, distractions are prevalent and individual Friends or the community as a whole may need to work to re-center on the movements of the Spirit. Distractions may take the form of outward disturbances or of unsettling

thoughts or feelings. When dealing with distractions, it is helpful to turn back to a place of expectant waiting rather than trying to suppress the distracting thoughts.

Communal Worship

As the worship deepens those present open themselves as a faith community to the Spirit of God. We seek a direct relationship with God, to understand what God is calling us to do. We still our minds to open this understanding as freely as possible from the obscuring effects of our own rationalizations, emotions and ego. The analytic mind gives way to an awareness of the workings of the Spirit. It is within this corporate experience that a sense of unity with those worshipping and with the Spirit is felt.

The discernment is a communal, collective process. Active participation in this communal discernment is not compatible with focusing one's mind on other activities such as reading and journaling. All in attendance have a responsibility for the quality of worship. We do not appoint clergy to conduct the worship or deliver a sermon. We humbly listen together for how God leads us in worship.

Vocal ministry

Any worshipper present in meeting may experience the influence of the Holy Spirit or Spirit of God leading them to speak. It is important when feeling led in this way to discern whether the call to speak is authentic. A rightly led message advances the spiritual life of the community and of its individual members. The speaker serves as an instrument through which the Spirit ministers; the message pulls others into the stream of the Living Waters; deepening the worship.

There is no mechanical procedure or inviolable rule for determining when to speak, but the following advices can be helpful:

- What one speaks in meeting for worship arises out of one's own experience. When speaking of spiritual matters, share based on what you know at first hand.
- Avoid self-involvement and a focus on your own personal or emotional needs. Speak as ministry to the meeting rather than as therapy to yourself.
- Ministry is of a religious or spiritual nature. While a religious life has political and intellectual consequences that may give rise to vocal ministry, messages are best delivered in a manner that emphasizes their spiritual grounding. Friends are cautioned against messages that only promote a political agenda, rally people to a cause or present an intellectual system of theology.
- Messages may continue a thread from ministry delivered earlier in a meeting. However, it is usually best to avoid responding directly to a previous message. Give other speakers the benefit of the doubt that they are speaking from a leading. If their contribution seems wrong to you, consider what there might be of value in it, rather than correcting or debating.
- An individual may discern an authentic message that is solely for himself or herself rather than for the assembled body. The individual should rest in the knowledge that such messages are an invaluable part of the worship experience even though not verbally shared.
- Friends often experience a call to speak as something that may be resisted but cannot be held back. A Friend who feels impelled to speak should do so.
- Often Friends don't have a well formed message as they begin to speak but rather have a few words or phrases that may shift in focus as the ministry is being

shared. This results from speaking spontaneously as led rather than crafting a message in advance. Friends are encouraged to speak even if the message is not fully composed.

- Friends are tenderly advised to speak loudly and clearly enough to be understood. Except in very small meetings it is normal to rise when speaking in order to be heard.
- A period of silence traditionally follows vocal ministry. Others who wish to speak are urged to wait until the meeting has had time to absorb the previous message back into the silence.
- When many Friends offer vocal ministry with little silence between them, a Friend may rise and remain silent as a way of enabling the meeting to re-experience waiting worship.
- A person does not generally speak more than once in a given meeting for worship.
- Messages are best stated simply and briefly.
- Some Friends engage in vocal ministry with some frequency; others find that they are seldom called to speak. Both those who engage in vocal ministry and those that do not are equally called to active participation in the meeting. The absence or presence of vocal ministry is not in itself a reflection of the quality of worship. Many meetings are marked by a deep stillness yet there is no vocal ministry. Those who provide silent ministry help the meeting to reach or maintain a state of focused, attentive waiting on the presence of God.

The gathered meeting

When the presence of the Spirit is deeply experienced during a particular meeting for worship, the meeting is sometimes called a “gathered” or “covered” meeting. In a gathered meeting, one experiences a strong sense of being united with others and with God. The meeting may be silent, or Friends may deliver messages that parallel one’s own stream of thought or speak to a similar concern or question. Some Friends describe the experience of a gathered meeting as being immersed in the Living Stream. When leaving a gathered meeting, Friends often feel a deep sense of grounding and connection with God.

Closing meeting

Ideally, the meeting ends when the gathered Friends collectively feel a sense of conclusion and release. While in present day practice, the time of a meeting for worship is often scheduled for an hour in length, there may be times when there is a sense that worship needs to continue longer. The clerk of the meeting or a designated member of the worship and ministry or other similar committee is given responsibility for discerning when the meeting is free to conclude and signals this by offering to shake hands with a nearby person. Others present then shake hands with those around them unless it is strongly felt that the meeting needs to continue.

There are several different practices that may follow the end of meeting for worship. In some meetings there is a time to express joys and sorrows; in others a time to make prayer requests. In larger meetings, a member of the worship and ministry or some similar committee will introduce himself or herself so that Friends who have concerns or questions may share them after the rise of meeting. Some meetings ask all those present to introduce themselves; others ask that newcomers or those who have been absent for a period of time introduce themselves to the body. As a final

practice, most meetings allow time for announcements. These may be given by the individual most involved in the activity or event to be shared. In other cases, announcements may be provided to the clerk or other designated individual to read. Following announcements there is often a time for social exchange and a time to get to know newcomers.

Logistics

In many meetings, Friends gather for worship once a week. A number of meetings also hold mid-week worship.

Some meetings hold worship in their own meetinghouses. Other meetings hold worship in a rented space. Still others hold worship in their homes. The location should be carefully selected to avoid distractions which may make it hard to center. Regardless of the space in which meeting for worship occurs, the general layout of the room is similar. Chairs or benches are generally arranged so that people are facing one another.

Someone may be designated to greet people as they arrive. Many meetings have pamphlets available for newcomers that briefly describe the form of Quaker worship. In some meetings, those arriving late enter the meeting room as soon as they arrive; in other meetings, there is a designated space where latecomers gather and begin to center. This practice serves to minimize disruptions to the deepening silence. Then, at a designated time, often fifteen minutes into worship, they enter the meeting room. Even if this is not the practice of a particular meeting, latecomers should refrain from entering the meeting room while someone is offering vocal ministry.

Children may attend the entire meeting for worship. More often, children attend either the first fifteen minutes of meeting or the last fifteen minutes. Such decisions are made with consideration of the experience that the meeting seeks the children to have. As children mature, they are encouraged to participate in the entire meeting for worship.

Dealing with problems in meeting for worship

There are times when the behavior of a particular individual interferes with the quality of worship. Sometimes a Friend may engage in frequent vocal ministry, the content, length or tone of which is of concern. At other times, a worshiper who is experiencing mental illness may attend meeting and cause disruptions. To address such situations, the worship and ministry or other similar committee should consider how to proceed. In making a determination as to how to respond to this person's behavior, consideration is given to the degree to which it affects the quality of worship. The committee should also consider whether the disruption to worship is an individual occurrence or a continuing concern.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS REQUEST FOR SUPPORT

Dear Friends,

We would like to invite you to join us in supporting Justin Leverett, both spiritually and financially, as he embarks on a year of Quaker service. Our small meeting has pledged a minimum of \$500 support and we are asking others in the Quaker community to join us in providing support as Justin spends the next year working through Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS) in Atlanta, Georgia. He is committed to raising a total of \$4,000 to support this work.

The program he will be working through is described at this website: <http://www.quakervoluntaryservice.org/> This is the inaugural year of QVS in Atlanta and each participant is asked to help in raising funds. The participants will live together in a spiritual community and each will be placed with a volunteer organization which, in the words of QVS, “offer[s] direct support to marginalized individuals and communities, and that strive[s] to transform unjust systems.”

Let us tell you a little about Justin. He has been a part of our meeting since he was eight years old and in third grade. His father, Tom Leverett, and stepmother, Jen Dunn, are both members of the Meeting and were married in the care of the Meeting. Justin participated in First Day School education throughout his childhood and his teenage years. He is a compassionate, intelligent, committed young man who approaches what he undertakes with humor and creativity. He is just the sort of person who will help QVS grow.

Justin’s college career was marked by many achievements, including spending a semester in France, being inducted into Phi Beta Kappa and living in a cooperative dormitory where he served as the Food Board Manager, a position that involved assuring that residents had quality meals and a healthy and safe food preparation and dining area. He majored in journalism and French, and served on the staff of the student newspaper, maintained blogs and served as a DJ and reporter for the student-run radio station. Throughout his college career, he shouldered the greater part of college expenses through scholarships, working and loans. During college, he continued to visit and participate in Meeting activities when returning home on break. He attended meeting for worship, “Life of the Meeting” events, which combined fellowship with discussion and discernment activities, and he participated in our meetings for worship with a concern for business.

Since returning to Carbondale following his college graduation, Justin has significantly increased his participation in and service to the Meeting, regularly helping with child care, participating in worship, discussion and business. The Meeting enthusiastically accepted him as recording clerk this year. Justin has become an important voice in SIQM.

Justin applied to QVS after a clearness process through the Meeting. We are confident that he has much to offer through the QVS program and that this opportunity will contribute both to his own spiritual growth, the growth of others who will join him in the community created through QVS and to the work of the agency with which he is placed.

Donations may be made to QVS at the following address:

Quaker Voluntary Service, 668 Elbert St. SW, Atlanta, GA 30310

Your donation should indicate that it is part of the fundraising effort for Justin Leverett. Currently QVS has a matching grant, and donations of \$250 or more will be matched dollar for dollar up to a total match of \$10,000. QVS states that it “is an incorporated nonprofit and it is filing [its] 501(c)3 paperwork. This means that donations can be considered tax-exempt now, assuming [it is] granted tax exempt status before November 2013.” They state, “[w]e are confident this will be the case. If you have any questions, please contact [QVS].”

Please join us in holding Justin in the Light as he undertakes this year of Quaker service, and, if you can, please help support this important program for which Justin is volunteering.

In the Light, Michael Batinski and Doc Stodden, Co-Clerks

MEMORIALS

FRED ANROD

Fred Anrod, 81, passed away on June 17, 2011, after a long illness. He was born July 19, 1929, and lived in Evanston. He is remembered by longtime Evanston Friends as a quiet man who kept to himself. Fred came to Evanston Meeting first as a very young man with his father, Carl Anrod, who was active in Meeting and a member of Trustees. His public obituary reads, "During his long illness Fred never lost his sense of humor, his joy of laughter and love for life. He will always be loved and remembered for his dedication to family and his truly warm and sincere attitude towards everyone he met. We will never forget his gentle smile." Our thoughts and prayers are with the Anrod family – Fred's wife Anna, and his children Barbara, Stephen and Susan—as they grieve his loss.

LORRAINE BARTNIK

Lorraine was born Lorraine Helen Dettling on April 30th, 1928. She was her mother's first child. She went to a Catholic boarding school and later wanted to be a nun, so she became a novice. Later on she changed her mind and wanted to have a family. She married Edward Frank Bartnik and they had 4 children, all girls. They lived in Chicago in a close-knit neighborhood of Austin. Lorraine later started working as a teacher's aide at Austin high school.

Lorraine was interested in learning about all types of religions. The human body, medicine, and disease were also big interests, for she later on became a Licensed Practical Nurse. Lively conversations and discussions really energized her. Lorraine enjoyed reading the classics and listening to classical music. Books were her passion; she had so many, they were almost crowding her out of house and home. Lorraine's last job was driving a school bus for elementary students. She was active in swimming, biking, walking, and a little weight lifting well into her 70s.

After her daughter, Marlene, died in 1998, she realized she wanted a more God-centered life, so after learning about the Quakers, she became a member of Downers Grove Friends Meeting. Her favorite Quaker book was *Listening to the Light* by Jim Pym.

Lorraine died Saturday morning the 30th of January, 2010.

KATHERINE ROYAL BUSCOMBE

Katherine Royal Kee was born on 8 June, 1919, in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Her ancestry was Irish through her father Albert Edward Kee and Pennsylvania Dutch through her mother, who before her marriage was Lena Madeleine Culp. After Royal came four other children Fred, Ken, Gord and Shirley.

As a child and throughout her life Royal loved the circus and animals, in general. She was a good student and early learnt that an education would enable her to realize her abilities. She met William Frederick Minnett Buscombe while studying at the University of Toronto's Victoria College. It was something of a family joke that Bill chose his dates from the honor roll. Their first date was over an ice cream (15 cents) at a hotel. Bill, born in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, was an only child of older parents. Both he and Royal joined the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) before marrying in the Quaker Meeting House in Toronto in 1942.

Their first four children, twins Dawn & Eve, Peter, and Andrew were born in Canada. Royal had been a graduate student at Bryn Mawr where she was awarded her Masters Degree in Classics.

Royal's family grew through the course of their moves from Saskatchewan to Princeton, New Jersey, to Southern California, where Martin was born, and on to Australia where Bill took up a position as an astronomer outside of Canberra in the Australian Capital Territory at the Commonwealth Observatory, which later became Mount Stromlo Observatory affiliated with the Australian National University. Lucy, Katherine (Kat), and Timothy were born in Canberra where Royal pursued her involvement with Quakers and the Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association (PPSEAWA), a peace and friendship-based organization which seeks to empower women through education.

Royal and Bill traveled worldwide, often relating their trips with astronomy conferences or PPSEAWA. Royal's children had a lot of exposure to people of other cultures as well as many educational opportunities. Bill Buscombe inherited Persian rugs among other artifacts, and his wife added many other beautiful and valuable items of art and culture to their homes. Royal's South Pacific artifacts are now in the Field Museum collection in Chicago. Royal supported many charities, including American Indian schools, international women's organizations, and the peace movement worldwide.

Royal and Bill moved to Evanston, Illinois, in 1968, along with Martin, Lucy, Kathy and Timothy. By Royal's choice they purchased the heritage landmark house which stands at 1231 Asbury Avenue. The family joined Evanston Friends Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. Royal continued her involvement with the Pan Pacific South East Asia Women's Association, co-founding the Chicago Chapter. She volunteered at the Field Museum and later at the Mitchell Museum, and became involved in support of international students she and Bill met through Northwestern University, often hosting them in their home between school terms.

Deep within Royal was that evangelism of the early Quakers and of the former Baptist of the late 17th century, William Britten, who wrote a tract called "Silent worship: A Wonder to the World; yet practised by the Apostles and owned by the People scornfully called Quakers." Royal was also interested in the nature of the Meeting for Worship. She wrote in 1966 in *The Australian Friend*, "Meeting for Worship should not be a negative exercise in putting away the attractions of the world nor should it be an occasion for reading or for exercising our intellects. It should be a focusing of mind, heart, soul and senses on that great Spirit which lies behind and within all creatures and is continually drawing us to Itself."

Upon joining Evanston Meeting, Royal began to attend Illinois Yearly Meeting, of which Evanston Friends Meeting was a new member. In 1974 she was invited to give the Jonathan Plummer Lecture at Illinois Yearly Meeting. In her lecture "A Little Lower than the Angels" Royal addressed human mortality, striving and reconciliation with deep feeling and religious conviction. She explained how she was drawn to the ancient world of the Middle East, saying, "...Through all this, I have been deeply religious. I don't know why, not in a churchy sense, though I was brought up in traditional Protestant Christianity, but in the sense of feeling an inner orientation toward something I cannot touch or hear or see, but somehow know exists behind and beyond all that I can experience through the senses and the imagination. Yet I am sufficiently intellectual to want to understand my religious feelings as well as experience

them. The great paradox of trying to know the unknowable, explain the inexplicable, and communicate the unspeakable is what theology and philosophy are really all about, I suppose.”

In her 60's, Royal delivered the Rachel Cadbury Lecture at Friends General Conference in State College, Pennsylvania, called “Growing.” She seemed even more fascinated with the words and means with which “the leadings of the Spirit” manifest themselves and direct us: She reflected on dreams, looked at new translations of the gospels, and analyzed celebration and “reality,” wisdom and intuition.

Bill Buscombe died in 2003. At the age of 89, Royal sold the house and moved to Three Crowns Park, a retirement community in north Evanston. She selected a two bedroom corner apartment which afforded great neighborhood views and allowed her to often host her visiting family members. She always enjoyed looking out the window at the passing parade, the grade school across the street, and the beautiful scenery.

Royal played a significant a role in the lives of those fortunate enough to have known her. She made a positive impact on all she met, most recently in the caring community of Three Crowns Park. She so concealed her poor health towards the end that she managed to sleep in her own bed until the night before her heart gave out at Evanston Hospital early Friday morning, 21 October 2011 as she sped heaven - bound.

Royal brought joy, generosity, insight, courage, acceptance, humor, love and belief in the goodness of others to life. By embracing these qualities in our lives, she will live forever. Royal is survived by seven of her eight children, eleven grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. A memorial service will be held in 2012.

JOSEPH WALTER DAVISON

Joseph Walter Davison was born 11/28/1942 in Boonville, Missouri. The son of the late Joseph A. and Clara Davison, he was the eldest of four brothers who traveled the world with their parents during his father's military career. Joe graduated from Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, Area Senior High School. His widow, Susanna Roberts Davison, was a classmate. He earned an NROTC scholarship to the University of Missouri and in January, 1966, Joe was commissioned into the Navy.

Joe and Susanna were married under the care of Gwynedd Friends Meeting, at the Pennsylvania country home of Sue's parents, Norman and Janet Roberts. They lived in Portsmouth, Virginia, and occasionally attended Virginia Beach Meeting, where Joe found the ministry of Louise Wilson meaningful. After fulfilling his naval service obligation, Joe resigned his commission to study computer science and engineering. He earned a PhD at Johns Hopkins University, somewhat delayed by his active involvement in parenting the children born during those years. In 1976 the Davisons and their two young sons moved from Baltimore to DuPage County, Illinois. Joe was employed by Bell Telephone Laboratories and its successor organization, Lucent Technologies, until his retirement in 2001. From 1982-85, he served as Bell Labs Visiting Professor of Computer Science at Jackson State University, an historically black college in Jackson, Mississippi. On his return, he was named Distinguished Member of Technical Staff at Lucent.

Joe and Sue taught their sons the biblical injunction, “As for my house, we will serve the Lord.” When Josh and Jesse were old enough for First Day School, Sue transferred her membership from Gwynedd Meeting (PhYM) and Joe joined Down-

ers Grove Friends Meeting (ILYM and WYM). In addition to helping re-establish the meeting's links with Western Yearly Meeting, Joe undertook several leadership positions among Downers Grove Friends and on the School Committee of Scattergood School. He also tutored with People's Resource Center, where he made a lasting friendship with an Afghani family who had overcome great obstacles to settle in Aurora. In 2009 Joe and Sue moved to Patches, the rural home where they had been married in 1970. Their anticipated years of retirement together were cut short by the discovery of Joe's pancreatic cancer late in 2010. In the spring they moved to Kendal at Longwood where Joe died 9/27/11, with Sue and younger son Jesse at his side. Elder son Joshua, his wife Antonia and six-month-old Joseph Peter, elder grandson Aidan and his mother Tammy were also nearby. Joe's sense, expressed to many visitors who came from January through September, was that he was at peace and very grateful for his rich blessings of family, friends, career and volunteer service. Joe is survived also by his mother and brother James, of Salem, Illinois; and brothers John of Spotsylvania, Virginia, and Jerry, of Seattle. When asked about growing up with Joe as his big brother, Jerry Davison noted Joe's sense of humor, and their shared appreciation of the ironic, pun-filled world of Walt Kelly's Pogo and other comic page creatures from the Okefenokee Swamp. A Friend agreed that Joe was "just a 'possum on the outside, but a mighty deep thinker within."

ANNE JONES

Anne K. Jones of Lombard, Illinois, passed away on October 11, 2011, 6 months after a recurrence of cancer. Anne Matheny Kay was born in Rome, Georgia, on February 11, 1939, to William and Eloise Kay. In December, 1960, she married Tom Jones, whom she met while attending the University of Chicago. They moved to Glen Ellyn, Illinois, and raised four children: Cathy, Tom, Bill, and Nate.

In the late 1960s, Anne began teaching guitar. She and Tom started the Jones Family Music School, where for over 40 years she taught guitar, autoharp and dulcimer to people from the Chicago area. She also volunteered to provide music school programs, taught guitar for many of the local park districts, and various adult education programs. Anne also performed with husband Tom and daughter Cathy as the Jones Family String Band, bringing folk music to many local schools, libraries, and community events. In 1989, Tom and Anne moved to Tom's family home (previously owned by Louis and Mary Ruth Jones) in Lombard, Illinois, where they continued to share their love of folk music with people in the communities around them.

In addition to her music, Anne was an avid quilter and loved to sew. She met weekly with the Downers Grove Friends Meeting sewing group and enjoyed teaching others about quilting while she learned from others about knotting and crocheting. Anne was always collecting scraps of material to make quilts, many of which she gave to friends and family. Her handicraft can be seen in the "Peaceable Kingdom" quilts hanging at DGFm.

MARY COURTEOL KASCH

Mary Courteol Kasch grew up in Lake Forest Friends Meeting in the 1960's, with her parents, Paul and Bernice Courteol, and sister Ouida Courteol Parker. She went to college at the University of Illinois and Tufts University's School of Occupational Therapy. For 43 years she worked as an occupational therapist, specializing in

hand rehabilitation. Her professional work advanced hand therapy and she was deeply involved in maintaining professional associations and programs for the certification of hand therapists. Her work resulted in improving the quality of life for patients around the world.

Mary married John Kasch, and their family has grown to daughter Liz and son David, and their spouses, and two grandchildren. The Kaschs lived in the Sacramento, California, area.

Mary was a passionate singer with a variety of choral groups, including the choir at St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Sacramento. She was also known for her creative sewing and machine embroidery pieces.

Mary lived her faith in a life of determination, inspiration, humility, grace and love, seasoned with a sense of humor. She died, among family and friends, at the age of 65 in May, 2012. Her son David and fiancée Sarah were married in the manner of Friends in her hospital room the day before she died.

BRITOMAR LATHROP

Britomar J. Lathrop was born February 17, 1921, in New York City to Ray and Helen (Slimovitz) Johnson. Brit grew up in southern California and her family was homeless for several years during the Depression. She wrote about her and her family's experiences of being "on the road" during this time in her book *Britomar's Road Diaries*. Brit was able to eventually enter City College of Los Angeles despite having missed much of high school and ultimately graduated from the University of California at Berkeley with a Ph.D. in psychology. She taught psychology at Rockford College and Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts. Brit worked for many years at Singer Mental Health Center in Rockford, Illinois, before opening her own private practice and retiring at age 85.

Her father's unstable character and self-proclaimed status as a "preacher of the gospel" had a great impact on Brit's life and religion, as did her mother's Jewish faith. As an adult, Brit attended the Unitarian church for a time. Then in the 1960s she and her husband, Lyle, began attending Rock Valley Friends Meeting in Rockford and became members in the early 1970s. Brit was very active in the Meeting and served as treasurer for many years. When Brit and Lyle were less physically able in their later years the Meeting sometimes met in their home.

Brit was involved with many community organizations over the years, including Camaraderie Arts, Contact (crisis phone line), Rockford Writers' Guild, Word Weavers, Woman Space, and Severson Dells Nature Center. She continued to be active in the Meeting as much as her health permitted until the end of her life. Brit died Oct. 4, 2011, at age 90 in Rockford after a long illness. A memorial service was held Oct. 9 at Wesley Willows, where she lived the last several years. Her ashes were interred next to her husband's in Udina Cemetery, near Elgin, Illinois. She is survived by her daughter, Zena (Neil Johnson) Handlon of Chicago; step-children, Judy (Roderick) Groves of Albuquerque, New Mexico, Tom (Johanna Beyers) Lathrop of Toronto, Canada, and Janet (Charles) Fischer of Atlanta, Georgia.; granddaughter, Adina Teibloom; and many step-grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Her husband, Lyle, preceded her in death on June 6, 2008, at age 95.

GLORIA MCMURRAY

Gloria Johnston McMurray was born August 20, 1926, and was reared in Virginia, Minnesota. After graduating from the University of Minnesota School of Pharmacy, marrying James McMurray, raising 5 children, and moving across America with her husband who was a superintendent for American Bridge Division of U.S. Steel, they moved to Granville, Illinois, in 1968.

After taking part in many Clear Creek activities, Gloria joined our Meeting in December, 1995. She was a very active member for five years before moving to Montana where her husband wanted to go to die. She was a promoter of Quakerism and worked on projects to help the needy. When living in other communities, she belonged to various churches, but appreciated others' religions and felt that what was most important was the power of prayer and a close, personal relationship with the Lord, no matter how you got to Him.

She passed away in Bozeman, Montana, on July 25, 2011.

PAT L. PATTERSON

Born on September 24, 1927, Patricia Lynn Louchheim was raised in Philadelphia. She attended Friends Select, followed by Germantown Friends (class of 1945). Following high school, Pat attended the University of California at Los Angeles. She majored in Economics (rare for women at that time) and graduated in 1949. Subsequently Pat moved to Chicago where she worked as a sales representative.

In 1953 Pat married Hank Foreman, and they adopted two baby boys: Jeffrey in 1960 and Billy in 1965. When he was 14, Billy was diagnosed with cancer of the brain, and he died in 1984 at age 19. In 1985 Pat established the Billy Foreman Fund, a donor-advised fund of the California Community Foundation concentrating on improvements for children and families at UCLA's medical facilities. Pat chaired this Fund until her death. In 1972 Pat and Hank divorced, and in 1975 she married Dick Patterson, an actor who starred in several Broadway shows. Prior to his death in 1999, Pat was a personal manager to character actors over age 65. Throughout her life, she also was involved in PATCO, her entertainment-related business. Her production, "Billy: A Teenage Apostle of Courage," won an educational festival award in the late 1980's. She also served on the Boards of the Encore Media Group and Encore Music which produce shows and music CDs.

Pat worshiped with Quakers all over the country. She attended Lake Forest Meeting for a number of years before officially joining in 1959. Her son Jeff was LFFM's first birthright member. After their family moved to Beverly Hills, California, in 1963, Pat founded the Westwood Friends Meeting and clerked it for many years. In the early 1970's, Pat wrote a pamphlet called "A New Friends Gathering: An Outline of Stepping Stones toward Becoming a Friends Meeting." This was published by Friends General Conference in 1975, with a revised edition in 1986. She also authored another pamphlet, "Westwood Friends Meeting, 1963-1988." When Westwood Meeting was laid down, Pat requested that her membership be transferred back to Lake Forest. Over the years, she returned to LFFM several times, expressing delight in her visits.

In 2010 Pat became extremely ill with encephalitis. Upon recovering from this near-death experience, she decided to make a number of legacy gifts. Included were very generous building improvement donations to both Lake Forest Meeting and to Santa Monica Meeting, with whom she worshiped in California.

Pat succumbed to bone cancer on March 8, 2012. In addition to her son, Jeffrey Foreman, Pat is survived by her brother, Sandy Louchheim, and two stepdaughters, Marlene Patterson and Laura Schoneman.

ANTHONY J. PENICO

Anthony Joseph Penico passed away on Saturday, November 19, 2011, in Rolla, Missouri, at the age of 88.

Tony had lived with his family in Rolla since 1966 when he began teaching in the math department of Missouri University of Science and Technology (then known as University of Missouri at Rolla). Over the years, he received many letters of appreciation from his former students as well as some of his colleagues at the university. He retired from the university in 1986.

Tony was born in Philadelphia on June 11, 1923. His parents were the children of Italian immigrants who came to America in the mid-1800s. He grew up in a predominantly lower-class Italian area of South Philadelphia. After graduating from high school, he won scholarships to the University of Pennsylvania where he earned a B. A. in physics in 1946 and a Ph. D. in mathematics in 1950. He was talented in track-and-field, especially for his victories in hammer throwing at the national track and field competitions during his college years.

In 1948, he married Eva Yaremko. They had two children, David and Stephen. Upon receiving his doctorate, Tony and Eva moved to Boston where he taught math at Tufts University. In the mid-1950s the family moved to northern California where he worked on research at the Sylvania Corporation and at the Stanford Research Institute. Among various research areas he worked in were radiowave transmission in the ionosphere as well as in the quarternions in math.

In 1972 Tony joined with 3 others in Rolla to found the Rolla Preparative Friends Meeting under the care of St. Louis Friends Meeting. Until a few years ago, Tony served as treasurer. A favorite meeting activity that he promoted and presented was the annual celebration of William Penn's birthday. His presence in meeting and in meeting discussions is missed by all who knew him.

Tony and Eva, using their various foreign language skills, enjoyed traveling to Europe several times. Tony was an ardent St. Louis Cardinals baseball fan.

He is survived by: Eva, his wife of 63 years; his son Steve and daughter-in-law Paige and his granddaughter Ella of St. Louis; his brother Ed Penico and sister-in-law Sharon Gottlieb of Knoxville, Tennessee; and his niece Karen Webb of Utah. He is preceded in death by his son David.

RICHARD PUCKETT

Richard L. Puckett was born July 21, 1930, in Sterling, Illinois, to LaDoit and Mary (Loran) Puckett. Dick was raised in the Catholic faith and graduated from Community Catholic High School in Sterling in 1949. He was an artist and attended the Art Institute of Chicago for formal training. Dick was drafted and served in the U.S. Army in Germany during the Korean War and afterward returned to his art studies. He was employed for many years as an occupational therapist at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago. Dick loved living in Chicago and enjoyed the arts scene and classical music, especially. He enjoyed hosting and entertaining family and friends who visited him in "the big city."

In the early 1980s he moved to Rockford, Illinois, and soon became involved with the Quakers through the Camaraderie Arts program and later Friends House Neighborhood Center. He continued his career in art therapy by teaching art to neighborhood children in the after-school and summer programs. He eventually became a member of Rock Valley Friends Meeting and lived in an upstairs apartment at Friends House on Avon Street for many years.

In addition to teaching and sharing art, Dick also supervised people who performed court-ordered community service at Friends House. For several years in the late 1990s Dick was clerk of Rock Valley Friends Meeting. Emphysema kept Dick from being very active in his later years but he continued to paint and in June, 2011, he was able to realize a long-time wish by having his artwork shown at the gallery at JustGoods Fair Trade Store in Rockford.

Dick died at age 81 on April 4, 2012, at his home in Rockford. A graveside service was held on April 14 at the family plot in Calvary Cemetery in Sterling where Dick's ashes were interred. He is survived by his brother, Joseph (Sarah) Puckett of Rockford; sister-in-law, Elizabeth Puckett of Sterling; and many nieces and nephews. His parents and brothers, John and Robert Puckett preceded him in death.

JOHN CLAUDE SCHUDER

John was a great influence on the Quaker group in Columbia, starting with his arrival here in 1960. The group was very active, with the peace testimony receiving much thought and action. John was also active in the national pacifist group, Fellowship of Reconciliation ("FOR"), and helped found a Columbia FOR chapter (now named Mid-Missouri FOR). In the early 1960s, it was active in striving to end racial segregation in Columbia. Under John's active leadership, Columbia Friends and Columbia FOR provided draft and Conscientious Objector counseling to hundreds of young men during the Viet Nam War, helping most of them to be assigned to alternative service rather than combat.

John coordinated a weekly "Peace in Viet Nam" vigil in front of the University of Missouri Memorial Union from 1967-73. He joined the Anti-War Moratorium Committee and worked for decades in organizing peace activities in the community. John helped to organize the Peace Studies Program at the University of Missouri. He gave many talks before student, civic and church groups about the immorality of war and wrote more than 80 Letters to the Editor in Columbia and St. Louis. He was a quiet leader, following his Inner Teacher with humility.

In 1983, after the U.S. military involvement in Lebanon, the local FOR under John's coordination began a weekly peace vigil in front of the Post Office in downtown Columbia as a visible means to protest war and promote peace, and this continues to the present every Saturday morning. John was present at practically every vigil until about a year ago, when his health interfered.

Starting in 1961, John, his wife Retha, and the local FOR published a multiple-signature ad on the anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima in one or both of the local newspapers. These ads deplored the use of nuclear weapons and asked that they never be used again.

John took a lead role with FOR in opposing executions. He led a vigil in 1965 outside the state penitentiary in Jefferson City, protesting an execution there. When the state resumed executions in 1989, John, with the FOR and many Columbia

Friends, vigiled in protest in Jefferson City and also in front of the Boone County Courthouse each time an execution was set.

He was among those who helped change Missouri law so that Quakers could act in lieu of clergy and oversee legal marriages. This has paved the way for many marriages under the care of the Meeting.

John was born in Olney, Illinois, and received his professional education at the University of Illinois and Purdue University, from which he obtained a Ph.D. degree in Electrical Engineering in 1954. Those days of his university education were times of mandatory draft registration and war. John despised war on both moral and ethical grounds. He found a sympathetic community in Quakers, both in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, and in West Lafayette, Indiana, and joined the Religious Society of Friends some time prior to moving to Pennsylvania where he joined the Byberry Meeting. This was at considerable commuting distance from his work place, but enabled him and his family to live in a racially-integrated community in accord with his Quaker principles.

After various teaching and other jobs, John accepted a position in 1957 in surgical research at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. In 1960 he joined the faculty of the University of Missouri School of Medicine where he continued research on the application of electrical engineering to problems of medicine, including powering artificial internal organs with conductive power. His work on defibrillators led to international recognition.

John married Retha Elizabeth Sumner on July 24, 1946. The couple had three children: Linda Brown, now living in Fulton, Missouri, with her husband, Ray; Charles Wayne Schuder, living in Oakland, California; and Jonna Elizabeth Schuder, who resides in Portland, Oregon. His children survive him as do his grandchildren (Christopher (wife Claudia) and Jonathan (wife Robin) Brown; Eleanor and Taylor Bailey; and Joachim, Sam, and Ben Schuder) and great-grandchildren (Byron Brown, Christopher's son; and Lucy and Maggie Brown, Jonathan's daughters). Also surviving is his wife, Retha, who unfortunately developed Alzheimer's disease several years ago. John visited her daily in the nursing home—they were an adoring, loving couple. About fifteen years ago John suffered a heart attack, followed by another about a year ago. These resulted in congestive heart failure in recent months. His entire family was with him to celebrate his and Retha's fiftieth wedding anniversary.

In this poetic expression by our member Sylvia Spotts, we express the united Sense of the Meeting:

Thank you, John.

“Keep on Keeping on” —

Yes, that was John.

His entire life, I think.

Faithful, persistent. Being there.

Doing what he needed to do.

Simply, modestly, beautifully.

Keep on keeping on.

Thank you.

Thank you, John.

SUE TURSMAN

Sue Tursman, 53, passed peacefully September 9, 2011, after a brief illness, in Chicago, Illinois. She was born April 21, 1958, the third child of Elizabeth and Stanley Tursman in Lombard, Illinois. She is survived by her mother, her brothers, Doug and Bruce, and sister, Anne. She graduated with a BS degree in Ecology from the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point. She worked in computers and then began to work in geographical information systems for Cook County and moved to Chicago in 2000. She loved nature and birdwatching and painting. She was politically active. She liked to travel, visiting Paris, London and Hawai'i.

Sue became a member of the Evanston Friends Meeting in December, 2006. As a member and previously as an attender, Sue was an active and cherished member of Evanston Monthly Meeting of Friends, Friends Gathering In Jesus Christ, a worship group that meets monthly in Evanston, and of Illinois Yearly Meeting. Sue instigated a mid-week and an evening meeting for worship group at Evanston Friends Meeting. She was gifted spiritually in more ways than she ever recognized. She was often led to read portions of scripture that resonated deeply with others. Her verbal ministry reflected a deep knowledge that seemed to be more than her ego knew she knew. Often she was moved to tears as she spoke and these were felt to be a sign of Love's presence. She provided hospitality in all senses, from a welcoming pot of coffee, to greeting visitors, to confidently running the dishwasher. At Evanston Meeting she served on the Ministry and Counsel and Library committees. She led a project to recatalogue the Evanston Friends Meeting Library and put the catalogue on line. She led the organization of the silent retreat for several years and represented EFM on the Illinois Yearly Meeting Continuing Committee and participated. She enriched our community and will be sorely missed.

ALICE UYTTEBROUCK

(Presented at the Memorial Service on June 12, 2010)

Alice Uyttebrouck was born on May 11, 1932, in Massachusetts, the second child of Lura and Charles Teeter. Named for her great grandmother Alice Bird Teeter, Alice spent carefree summers in Bailey Island, Maine, with her Teeter grandparents, her parents, and her brother Karl. The family moved to a farm in Lexington, Massachusetts, where Karl and Alice were the only children until Alice was eight. Over the next seven years, five more Teeter children were born. Alice accepted the responsibility for raising her siblings from the tender age of twelve.

Alice graduated from Lexington High School and attended Antioch College in the late 1940s. At Antioch, several of her work periods were spent with Quakers in Philadelphia. A seminal event for Alice was a summer-long bike trip through Europe with friends from Antioch and elsewhere.

Alice returned to the family, now living in La Grange, Illinois, and worked in the field of biology at Argonne National Laboratory, where her father was Head of Classification. She once again took considerable responsibility for her younger siblings, while her mother completed an advanced degree at the University of Chicago. Alice was the one who introduced her brothers and sisters to the joys of folk song and international dancing.

In the mid 1950s, Alice met and married Roger Uyttebrouck, the son of first-generation Americans from Belgium. Alice and Roger's marriage was the first

one held at Downers Grove Friends Meeting. They adopted three children, Roger, Paul, and Holli, and raised them in Downers Grove. Alice was an active member of DGFm and attended Illinois Yearly Meeting annual meetings on a regular basis.

Alice's love of music, both popular and folk, was a constant source of support and a means of expression. She shared that love with her family and friends, while later adding the mandolin to her musical achievements. Alice died on April 23, 2010.

JOHN DAVID WILSON

John David Wilson was born in McNabb, Illinois, August 16, 1921, to Ralph and Verna Stansell Wilson who were both members of Clear Creek Monthly Meeting, thereby making John a birthright Quaker. He passed away June 17, 2011, having requested to be driven by the Meetinghouse earlier in the day. He retained his Clear Creek membership for nearly 90 years. However, after his marriage to Dorothy Otto in Henry, Illinois, on Jan. 8, 1950, he attended the Henry Methodist church. He had served on the Friends Cemetery Board since 1968, taking the place of his uncle, Arthur Wilson.

He served on the boards of many farm-related organizations in the Marshall-Putnam Counties, including being assistant superintendent of the swine department at the Marshall-Putnam Fair. He was a retired farmer, raising Jersey cattle and cross-bred hogs. The first shovel of soil for the Putnam County Soil Survey was taken on the Wilson farm. The Wilson family was named a Marshall-Putnam County Conservation Farm Family and had the honor of receiving the Governor's Award as an Illinois Conservation Farm Family in 1987. The Wilson farm is an Illinois Centennial Farm.

John received pioneer certificates from the Putnam County Historical Society in 1990 for ancestors Amos Wilson, Isaac Stansell, and Joel Given, who migrated to Putnam County in the early 1800s. He had a keen interest in Quaker families' genealogy and Putnam County history.

John is survived by his wife, Dorothy, two daughters, Christine (Mark) Golden of Chillicothe, Illinois, Mary Ellen (Ed) Hart of Charleston, South Carolina, and son, Stephen John (Kim) Wilson of McNabb, Illinois, and 3 grandchildren. It was Steve's family who donated the heavy-duty swing set that is located on the west side of the Meetinghouse.

He is also survived by one sister, Laura May (Glenn) Janssen of Arlington, Iowa, and one brother, Charles (Bonnie) Wilson of Ocala, Florida. His brother, Clarence, known to most of us as Clance, preceded him in death.

STATES OF SOCIETY

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

We describe the spirit of our Meeting as “alive and well.” Most of our meetings offer a rich silent worship highlighted by one or two instances of vocal ministry. We feel strongly connected with one another through worship and fellowship, and we support and challenge one another in our journeys as Quakers, family members, community members, and citizens.

Members and attenders of our meeting have participated in a rich array of Quaker and Quaker-related meetings, conferences, and activities during the last year. Attendance by various of our members/attenders at Blue River Quarterly, Illinois Yearly Meeting, and Friends General Conference have enriched us individually and as a Meeting. Two members also participated in the “Eyes Wide Open” (AFSC-sponsored) exhibit and a film and talk by conscientious objector Camilo Mejia at Bradley University in Peoria on March 3, 2012. We have also appreciated opportunities to worship with Friends in St. Louis, Clear Creek, and Evanston Meetings. We feel cheered and enriched this year by the addition to our meeting of a new member who had attended for several years and by the presence of two new attenders from the Peoria area. We have also been blessed with visits from Friends hailing from Meetings near and far.

As many Friends will already be aware, a family in our Meeting was confronted in August, 2011, with a serious illness. Members of this family have struggled steadfastly to recover and maintain their physical and spiritual health. The Meeting, meanwhile, has worked (alongside many non-Quaker friends of this family) to support the affected family in a variety of ways: preparing and delivering meals, doing yard work, visiting, and providing transportation to medical and other appointments. In addition to these logistical sorts of aid, we have endeavored to hold this family in the Light, and in this way they are spiritually present at every Meeting for Worship. We feel that this effort of support has energized and strengthened connections among members and attenders in the Meeting.

About a year ago, our Meeting made a commitment to support the Unity Center in Normal, Illinois. The Unity Center provides an after-school program for youth in a lower-income area of our hometown. Various members and attenders in our Meeting have pitched in this year at Unity Center by providing tutoring, leading activities, packing monthly food boxes for Unity families, and donating useful items such as a small telephone system.

For a time in the past year, we had a range of First Day School participants, up to six young Friends at a time, from age 1 to 16. In recent months, FDS attendance has been less consistent, and members and attenders are currently working out plans to accommodate young Friends and their grownups.

Several women from Bloomington, Clear Creek, and Champaign Meetings have been meeting monthly, when possible, for a meal. These Quaker women look forward to gathering and visiting during these visits, which we call “Meeting for Eating.”

In June, 2011, two members of our Meeting visited Palestine and Israel with a group organized by several professors emeritus from Earlham College. These Meeting members were stunned to learn about the brutal violations of human rights and international law to which the Palestinian people are subjected daily in the West

Bank and the Gaza Strip by invading Israeli settlers, Israeli military forces, and the Israeli government. These Meeting members were also greatly heartened by the steadfast non-violent activism currently being carried out by Palestinians—and many Israelis and Jewish-Americans—to end the occupation and restore basic human rights to the Palestinians. These two traveling members have shared their experiences and concerns with our Meeting and with the wider Bloomington-Normal community in various forums. Some members feel that this issue will prove to be a significant and ongoing concern for our Meeting in the Quaker tradition of promoting peace and justice, condemning brutality, and countering violence.

CLEAR CREEK

It is not a secret that Clear Creek has a natural affinity for the buildings on the Illinois Yearly Meeting site. We enjoy grabbing screwdrivers, paintbrushes, brooms and cloths to spend several blissful hours repairing or cleaning wood cupboards, floors and banisters. This year we moved awkward mattresses and beds up tight stairs with improbable odds of reaching targeted bedrooms. We painted the inside of cupboards, hung pamphlet shelves, borrowed help from Kyle Wilson (Clance Wilson's grandnephew) to haul a giant bookcase into the library. As usual, Dick Ashdown's red truck was invaluable in moving the mattresses, box springs and bookcase from Beth Schobernd's house to Clear Creek House. We also rolled a heavy safe that has been stored in the library closet slowly out over flattened boxes onto Dick's truck. On the same day, we picked up a beautiful oak table donated by Dick and hauled it from his house into the library.

Our focus on Clear Creek House repairs and furnishing dominated our thoughts and activities this year. We volunteered time, effort and thought to create a more comfortable and cozy environment that complements the completed renovation. At some point, we began to feel that our care for the building had nudged away time spent on our spiritual program. With this in mind, we decided to turn our attention away from building activities for a while to regain our sense of identity as a lively spiritual community.

Our year was warmed by the gentle influence and activities of our Young Friends and Adult Young Friends.

Claire and Laure Goode reminded us how much fun we had in the fall when we crushed and squeezed apples through an old fashion cider press. They asked to repeat this fun event this past fall. It was a wonderful example of how our Young Friends influenced the spirit of our community.

When Carol Bartles returned from her visit to Andrew Bartles, in Lebanon, she gave an account of his volunteer work at an orphanage founded by the French and his attendance at a very old Quaker meeting associated with a Friends school. The members there have asked him to represent their Meeting at the World Gathering in Africa next year. His courage in engaging with an international community reminds us to remain open to new experiences.

Spring was just peeking around the corner when we received news of the birth of Rose Dennis's baby boy, Milo James Johnson. We were thrilled when after a short rest she and Milo visited our Meeting. We could barely take our eyes off his peaceful face. A baby shower was held in his honor, and on that day Margie Haworth-Davis and her baby Sam Davis also visited our Meeting. It was as if we had a double blessing.

Zoe Rei began publishing *The Quake* which is a magazine for Adult Young Friends. It is her hope to provide this space for expression to all Adult Young Friends within all the Quaker branches. We are excited to witness this creative union with the Adult Young Friends and look forward to reading what they have to say.

Sara Raffensperger is going through the long transition between her last busy year of high school and the prospect of leaving this coming fall for college. She is looking forward to assisting Scott Greenler with a Friends General Conference Gathering Extreme Frisbee workshop this coming summer. Her gentle humor is always a welcome presence in our midst.

Kiva Schobernd's delight in speaking with honest expression and her appreciation for celebrating life lightens our hearts. We especially enjoyed hearing of her dancing in the rain with her fellow Girl Scouts while they sold cookies.

Zara Schobernd is our youngest Friend. She moves with a gentle manner and kindness toward animals that reminds us that quiet actions can speak effectively. These Young Friends have been a blessing to our hearts as their presence, whether near or far away, infuses our gathering with quiet joy and hope for the future life of our Meeting.

COLUMBIA FRIENDS MEETING

Once more we have used Ministry & Advancement's Queries to guide this reflection, and once more our response to #4, "Does Joy prevail among you?" resonated with a positive answer. Joy infuses our times together, beginning with Worship, which many said has achieved a richer depth this past year. "We are quieter, more centered." This has extended to the worshipful times when we attend to business, in which a large number feel invested and attend faithfully. "We are asked to 'walk cheerfully' and we are getting practice."

Many earnestly noted how much we experience the Presence of Love among us, how it undergirds our work and fellowship and care for one another: "Love is palpable in our silence." It enables us to listen both to the Seed within—the Inward Light—and also to each other in ways which are liberating.

The Love we feel and share has been welcomed by visitors, newcomers: In retrospect we see it is a central part of our outreach, with Grace making things happen beyond what we intend or plan. We've been entrusted with a Light that we do not want "hidden under a bushel." This led to our forming a new standing committee on Outreach, which among other things is using FGC materials, and also finding new ways to become visible in the larger community.

Participation in Columbia's wider events (Earth Day, Sustainability Fair, PrideFest, our weekly antimilitarism Vigil, CROP Walk) has led to conversations which thankfully have borne fruit, through quiet but persistent witness. Sometimes we learn of those attracted by our lives of simplicity and integrity. We seem to have a ministry of Listening.

Some of our members are facing increasing physical challenges and infirmities to which we try to minister (including rides, errands, food, medical accompaniment, friendly calls and visits.) Two members moved into skilled nursing care: We keep up contact with them, bringing them to worship when possible. The plague of cancer has struck home with some of us this year. However, we've found that our increasing ability to make our needs known, and the responses elicited, form deeper relation-

ships and strengthen the Meeting: We have “lots of opportunities to care in times of need.”

We gratefully report a greater involvement of a number of younger attenders in the life of the Meeting. They are attending more frequently and more regularly, and they are solid folks who are staying to offer valuable service among us. God be praised! And we hosted a reunion of women who attended many years ago, some of whom said “We should do this more often,” welcoming our renewal of contact.

Religious education has two dimensions: Our First Day School committee prepares programs for children who occasionally arrive with their parents, relatives, or visitors. And our “Meeting for Learning” committee schedules not only regular “Friendly Bible Study” sessions, but also a balance of speakers from both within and outside the Meeting. The latter have helped us learn more about the community’s needs, spoken of the creative ways they have addressed those needs, and given us opportunities to lend support. We note that as adults, we never want to stop learning about our Quaker heritage, and value the curricula that have been shared with us.

Being part of the larger bodies of Quakerism benefitted us greatly this year. Beloved Friends have generously shared time and skills with us from ILYM. Chip Rorem led a “charrette” envisioning different ways of seeing/using our property. Maurine Pyle brought fun, community-building exercises and new curriculum possibilities. She, and traveling elders Mariellen Gilpin and Helene Pollock, each offered Opportunities for private visitation from which we continue to benefit.

There are several ways in which our Meeting has given pastoral care and found a deepening of trust as a result. We continue to use Clearness Committees, and our Spiritual Friends group moved into its 2nd year. The Meeting’s times together include fun and sociability, especially when we hold our Fourth Friday Fun Nights, which include potlucks, games, cookouts, and ice-cream making. We would like to resume the hikes and birdwatching and float trips that Bob Wixom loved to organize.

Our finances seem stable. Stewardship has a broad base of support. We established a new standing committee on Finance, which has developed explicit criteria for how we give to outside groups, Quaker and otherwise.

Although our nominating committee (“Gifts & Leadings”) has difficult work in filling all the responsibilities from our small numbers, they report that the positive responses show how much Meeting means to us, with cheerful willingness to take up our tasks: “It has to do with Love.”

In this self-assessment exercise, a Friend reminded us of the purpose of reporting on the State of Society: that we might get others’ guidance and advice on our various ministries, that we may help “the Meeting to express the Divine Will.” Please join us in that disciplined work.

DOWNERS GROVE

We have been blessed to spend the past year in our new building. It is remarkable to see how well its simplicity serves our needs for looking inward in worship, and for education and fellowship. The landscaping, so visible from all the wonderful windows, helps connect us with the changing seasons and creation. In the past few months we finally completed all the details required for county approval of our work on the building and property. Many Friends contributed their resources and immense effort to bring us to this point. A Friend spoke for many of us when she wrote, “As I sit in the new meeting house and enjoy the light, I marvel that the building exists and

is actually fully permitted by the County. This required that many people stay the long course under often adverse conditions. The project has been a test of commitment, co-operation, and peaceful resolution of conflict at DGFM. The Light had to have been at work with us to have come through as well as we have.”

As we settled into our building we had a busy and productive year. Our First Day Meetings for Worship provided a sacred space, a holy silence for people to experience God. Various small groups, including Adult Religious Education, Bible study, sewing group, and recent discussions of Quaker testimonies, are one of our strengths, providing ways that Friends can share their concerns, values, experiences and spiritual pathways. One Friend especially appreciated our Aging and Saging (sometimes lovingly called “Aging and Sagging”) group for the “fellowship, spiritual nurturing, emotional support, edification and inspiration” that it provides, “served up with plenty of good humor and wit.”

Sharing joys and concerns at the close of our meeting for worship is a valued expression of our care for one another. One Friend noted, “the Light has been working strongly as Friends in need, from expectant or new mothers to the dying, have been lovingly tended and their condition a matter of concern for the entire community.” With sadness we note the deaths this year of Anne Jones and Joe Davison, two long-time DG Friends each of whose life was a treasured gift to many in our meeting.

DG Friends continue to be involved in AFSC, as well as area peace and justice activities, and to contribute to local charities. We hosted a conversation with Shan Cretin, the new AFSC Executive Director. We supported young Friends who are participating in QVS and undertaking a Pilgrimage. Our Peace, Environment and Social Concerns Committee works to help us find ways to translate our beliefs into actions.

We place a high value on helping each Friend find and nurture the Light within and see evidence of this occurring among many in our fellowship. As such we strive to be a place where everyone feels safe, where diversity is welcomed and celebrated. Challenges associated with this include, as one Friend noted, being “able to tolerate hearing diverse messages and still develop our own, unique spirituality.” In recent months our low tolerance for dogma and its implications have become clearer. For example one Friend asked, how can we best “communicate our diversity to new attendees who may wish to become members of our meeting because they think they are in a meeting where everyone believes the same thing.”

Does being a safe and welcoming place for spiritual seekers sometimes mean we are hesitant to share with newcomers what is distinctive about our Quaker tradition? One Friend noted, “Sometimes we’re so careful not to appear to be ‘pushing,’ we come off as being non-communicative. We don’t want to sit with a visitor and say, ‘There’s this great thing and that great thing’ because we recognize the validity in many paths and don’t want to appear to be trying to ‘convert’ someone.” Does our interest in diverse spiritual paths mean that we fail to encourage deeper study of our Quaker tradition (Quaker lite)? A Friend noted, “It is rare to find someone who has read Barclay (*Apology for the True Christian Divinity*), Penn (*No Cross, No Crown*), or even Fox (the *Journal*).”

Caring for our Young Friends, encouraging their spiritual growth and equipping them with an understanding of our Quaker tradition is also a challenge for us. One Friend noted, “If our community relies on parents to provide Religious Education, it will not work. We really need to foster more of a culture of care for our YFs, involv-

ing all members and attenders in this essential component of our meeting and of our faith.”

These are some of the central things about DGFM that we celebrate, and the challenges that we recognize, as we reflect on 2011, the year we received county permission to dwell in this beautiful new space as we continue to seek to follow the Light.

DUNELAND

Duneland Friends Meeting remained a small but vital meeting in 2011. In addition to holding Meeting for Worship at the Family and Youth Services Bureau in Valparaiso each Sunday, we also continued our practices of a monthly potluck at someone’s home, Bible study about twice a month, occasional adult education forums after meeting for worship, and participation in the work of Illinois Yearly Meeting through committee membership and attendance at annual sessions. We continued to have nine adults who were willing to take turns planning First Day School lessons each week. We have delighted in watching our two most regularly attending children grow to be accomplished readers and inquirers in our First Day School activities. Another indication of our continuing support of Young Friends was our decision this year to give financial support through our meeting’s Young Friends Enrichment Fund for a young attender to continue her college-level studies in Chicago.

With great joy, we welcomed new member Kelly Credit into membership in June. In addition, our meeting has been enriched by the faithful presence of new attender Julie Ernstein.

The year 2011 saw a number of special events in our meeting. In March, the home of Pat Lucas and Sandy Huntley was the site for a Day of Spiritual Sustenance sponsored by Illinois Yearly Meeting’s Ministry and Advancement Committee. Three members of our meeting attended along with other Friends to contemplate our roles as ministers, elders, and overseers in our Meetings. Associated with that event was a workshop for Duneland Friends by Helene Pollock on “The Seed of God Within”. In October, Roxy Jacobs and Fernando Freire led a retreat for the Meeting in which we considered “How then should we live?” We reflected on these questions: What epistles has the Spirit of God written on each of our hearts? and What epistle are we writing to our community? In December Friends met for fellowship at the home of Noel and Sarah Pavlovic to welcome Nathan Pavlovic home from a year and a half in Africa, to bid farewell to Emily Pavlovic who was heading for an Earlham College semester in New Zealand, and to join in thankful worship in the midst of a busy holiday season.

During 2011 several Friends raised the desire to be relieved of Meeting work that they had done for many years. We found that we had let the same people hold particular meeting positions for long stretches of time, and that we didn’t have in place the structure to easily shift responsibilities to others. Thus began a process of searching. We spent several sessions threshing together questions about the work of the meeting, about what roles and structures we needed, and about the gifts of our members and attenders.

Queries we used in our discernment included the following:

- What do you need, want, or expect from your meeting community?
- What does your meeting community need or expect from you?

One of these sessions found us taking stock of our individual expressions of our faith. One Friend regularly writes letters to the editor, keeps us informed about local issues and urges us to join her in contributing to the work of Pro-Nica (Nicaragua) and other worthy organizations. Another Friend tries to be a peaceful presence at a local school. Working for justice for all living beings is the passion of another. Caring for elderly family members and friends is where another Friend finds a calling. One Friend has found new energy in ministry to Friends in Illinois Yearly Meeting through leading workshops and membership on the Ministry and Advancement committee. Still another Friend finds her expression of faith to be in social work and the formation of new social workers through her teaching.

At the close of 2011 the redistribution of meeting positions was still a work in progress – but work that was being done with care and mindfulness. We found that we were also led to larger questions regarding the purpose and place of our meeting in the community, our willingness to be available to seekers, and how we are (or can be) a Quaker presence in our community.

EVANSTON

For Evanston Meeting, 2011 was a year of great spiritual growth, uncommon sharing of life experience, and some deeply felt losses for the community.

We made significant changes in the care of our young people. The Meeting has long encouraged school-age children to worship with their families during the first 20 minutes of Meeting for Worship. Now children who arrive after the upstairs doors close can participate in a downstairs meeting for worship before their First Day School program.

Our Religious Education committee has made changes in our First Day School program, adopting the Godly Play and Faith and Play curricula and restructuring Sunday morning building use to create a “quiet zone” in the childcare area to help create the tranquility needed for these and for downstairs worship. Three intergenerational Meetings for Learning throughout the year encouraged the meeting’s young people to participate in activities with the adults and helped the various age groups to get to know one another better. The meeting also created a new standing committee, the Young Friends Stewardship Committee, to foster meeting participation by Friends of junior-high and high-school age. In January of 2011, Evanston Friends also hosted a high school Quake and a young adult Tsunami.

Early in 2011, after considerable seasoning, our meeting decided to host Quaker Quest early in 2012. True to its purpose, the planning for QQ proved to be “both a process and an experience.” Preparations for the Meeting’s first Quest involved a period of sustained reflection by the participants and planners on four themes: Quakers and God, Quakers and the Spiritual Path, Quaker Faith in Action, and Quakers and Peace Making. The months of preparation and discussions leading up to the public Quaker Quest sessions themselves resulted in an honest sharing of the inner lives and beliefs of the presenters and a deeper knowledge of the community by all involved. As part of the “in-reach” component of the QQ process, there was a series of well-received Meetings for Learning on silent worship, Friends’ testimonies, and the wider world of Quakerism.

Other Meetings for Learning also enriched our meeting community. Panel discussions on clearness committees and on couples’ strategies for addressing conflict were thought-provoking and well-received. Several Friends performed narratives of

the lives of historical Friends George Fox (Matthew Lavoie), Elias Hicks (Paul Buckley), and Elizabeth Fry (Jeanette Baker). Rabbi Brant Rosen from Evanston's Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation spoke on his peace work on the occasion of his presentation with our annual peace award. Friend Janet Owen reported on her trip to the Middle East. Our music committee initiated quarterly musical events and a well-attended Christmas carol-singing in the meeting house.

The spiritual and intellectual life of the Meeting is reflected in several on-going groups: a number of spiritual nurture groups, two book discussion groups, and a group focused on Nonviolent Communication.

A number of successful hospitality events enlivened our social life, including a 75th anniversary celebration in the meeting house accompanied by a slide show and commemorative booklet, and meeting potluck meals on Thanksgiving and Christmas, each hosted by a meeting member in their home.

With the guidance of several Friends knowledgeable about the needs of homeless people, the meeting undertook a series of service projects to feed homeless youth in Chicago. For several years prior to 2011, EFM had an ad hoc partnership with the Night Ministry and commitment to serving the homeless. In early 2011, this partnership was formalized in Friends with the Homeless. Fifteen or twenty Friends and attenders participated by shopping, cooking/baking, preparing sandwiches, and/or serving dinner on the streets alongside the Night Ministry's hospitality bus, at a Night Ministry shelter, or at a Night Ministry-supported group. At least another 20 Friends, including young Friends, participated in one or more of the FwH projects, whether contributing financial support, baking cookies or preparing sack meals.

In September, many Friends participated in a local Walk-and-Talk event designed both to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks and to encourage dialogue among Evanston community residents and others to promote respect and prevent violence. Our member Joey Rodger became a chaplain with the Evanston police department. She has also helped found the Peaceable Cities initiative in Evanston and presented this project in a Meeting for Learning.

The year saw several significant changes in our membership and attendance. One Friend transferred here from another meeting (Mike Conover from 57th Street, Chicago), and another (Joyce Schladweiler) withdrew her membership. Longtime attender Rex Nyquist became a member. Our meeting clerk, Karen Carney, married Jeff Carpenter under the care of the meeting in July.

Our dear member Joel Erkenwick became seriously ill during the spring, and we were greatly relieved to see him heal, and we now miss his presence with his relocation to St. Louis. Hymn-singing prior to meeting for worship flourished wonderfully while a frequent pianist, member David Summerhays, was available; singing continues following his return to Montreal.

The meeting was touched many times this year by the deaths of members and of others in our community. Carrie Morrison, who visited us from her home meeting in Oregon while she received medical treatment, died in February and was one of the Friends remembered in a memorial meeting during the year. Sheila Cassella, a once-active member and former EFM vision keeper, died suddenly in March. Fred Anrod, a member who had not attended for many years, died in June. In September, a beloved active member, Sue Tursman, died after a painful but short illness, which came as a deeply felt shock to many in our community. In October, Royal Buscombe, a longtime member and an Evanston Friend known to many outside our meeting for

her Plummer Lecture among other accomplishments, died unexpectedly, and her memorial meeting for worship is scheduled for June, 2012. Other Friends active in meeting lost family members or friends. Perhaps partly as a result of these many losses, a Meeting for Learning for All Saints Day in which Friends brought photos of departed loved ones prompted discussions that revealed a perhaps unusual depth of feeling.

Recently our community has welcomed two new babies: Oliver Alexander, and Charlotte Susan Nimke. We welcomed back from the east coast our dear member George Ronczy, and from Costa Rica our friend Sara Gmitter after the completion of her studies at the United Nations University for Peace.

The Communications committee moved the email list to a new server and created new guidelines for participation. The Library committee finished reorganizing the library's collection.

In the EFM Handbook, we added new language describing the formation and functions of welcoming committees and clarification of the position of Assistant Clerk.

We live in gratitude for growth, for deep sharing, and for walking together in the Light.

57TH STREET

Through unprogrammed waiting worship, attenders of 57th Street Meeting seek to be Spirit-led as we attempt to be gathered in worship, to conduct the business of the Meeting, and to live the Quaker testimonies. The Spirit is often felt in our worship, sometimes deeply. At the same time, we are aware that at times the Spirit seems distant and the Meeting is not as gathered as we believe it could be. Vocal ministry at these times increasingly calls us back to depth of worship. A central priority for the Meeting is to advance further toward gathering and listening to the Spirit as consistently as is possible.

The exercise of previous years appears to bear fruit in the free flow of discussion that characterizes our conduct of business and our social fellowshipping. Encouraged by sensitive direction and understanding, there appears to be a renewed spiritual depth in our meeting for worship with concern for business, and we hope that this is fulfilling real needs. We are viewing the future through an ongoing visioning process, and feel that we have been coming together as a community. The important and less quantifiable spiritual qualities move forward along with the more practical concerns such as our consideration of the accessibility of our building. We feel directed by discernment and judgment rather than by temporal goals. While more of us are convinced Friends than birthright Friends, we do sense that there is a developing core of seasoned Elders, more so than we have previously enjoyed. Without elevating specific individuals to special attention, we deeply appreciate each other's presence and contributions to the body of 57th Street Meeting.

Young Friends are deeply involved in the life of our Meeting. They are welcome and active participants in fellowship and other Meeting activities. A growing series of special programs, including inter-generational activities, seeks to support and nurture our children's spiritual life and sense of community in the Meeting and in the larger world. First Day School, using the Godly Play approach, is nurturing a spiritual sense for the young people we have in attendance. We support family involvement and attendance by providing loving and reliable childcare during Meeting for Worship,

Meeting for Worship with Concern for Business, and other activities including retreats and committee meetings as needed.

In the way the children of the Meeting sing “This Little Light of Mine,” respond to the Godly Play and Faith & Play stories, and enthusiastically shake Friends’ hands at the close of meeting, one sees that they share in the presence of God. We believe that our children already have a deep understanding of the presence of God that is expressed in different ways than adults usually do. This enriches our meeting community immensely.

Our cadre of young Friends continues to grow in number and in involvement with the Meeting. Adult involvement in the program continues to grow as well, enriching not only the First Day School program but also the larger Meeting as members’ unique gifts are welcomed and nourished, visions are shared and threads of the Meeting are braided together.

The First Day School program, based on the Godly Play and Faith & Play curriculum, introduces young Friends to our common heritage, offering biblical stories, Quaker stories, and stories of faith from church history, and, with its quiet pace and “wondering” questions, nurtures an early experience of stillness, silent worship and vocal ministry. Seasonal and intergenerational activities explore our connections with our immediate community and with the wider world.

Children join the adults near the end of Meeting for Worship to share in silent worship, and participate in fellowship—introductions, sharing of joys and concerns, announcements, and sharing of meals—afterward.

The Meeting at present has few young adults in regular attendance. We welcome students who visit and encourage their involvement in fellowship, special programs, adult programs, and committee work as they are led. Young adults within the Meeting participate through fellowship activities, service to the Meeting including involvement in child care and committee work, and adult programs and Meeting for Worship and Business as they are led.

The Meeting, in the spirit of the testimony of Equality, values the presence, spirit, and voice of all participants, including our very youngest.

We have over the past year reworked our adult education programming. First, for the past several years we have offered a four-session Quakerism 101 program. While this worked well for us, we were not able to offer it more often, so in some cases interested seekers needed to wait many months for the program. We are now offering a three-hour single introduction to Quakerism program on a quarterly basis. In addition, we are experimenting with weekly programming before First Day worship. Two weeks of the month this programming focuses on Quaker heritage, and two, more broadly on spiritual heritage. These programs include attention from multiple perspectives on the life and teachings of Jesus, our Biblical heritage, and Quaker history and biographies. A more active program is offered on fifth First Days. We are still exploring ways to bring additional emphasis to sharing spiritual experiences, the core of Quaker spirituality, into our adult religious education programming through experiments being done within the Religious Education Committee. Adults are also encouraged to participate in the Godly Play and Faith & Play programming being done with the children. We are finding that our flexible experimentation with different ways to meet the needs of the Meeting community is keeping our religious education fresh, and drawing us closer to unity in the Spirit.

Mindful of our presence in a larger community that can well be served by daily living of the testimonies, we seek opportunities to be supportive of community efforts such as interfaith dialogues and community discussions of current neighborhood issues. In addition to the meeting's programs so far described, we attempt to bring reverent and spiritual encouragement to the positive activities we see in the world around us through the light that shines in our personal willingness to serve others. As we do this, we hope our practices and worship feel welcoming and open to all who do attend with us regardless of who they are.

LAKE FOREST

Lake Forest Friends Meeting continues to be a vibrant and thriving spiritual community. This State of Society summarizes the Meeting's response to the Divine Spirit as a body.

Meeting for Worship maintains a balance between silent waiting worship and vocal ministry. The query delivered on the first First Day of each month tends to provide a focus for increased vocal ministry. Waiting Worship continues to be the core of the weekly meetings for worship and gathers us together as a community. As deep as the worship is, there is still opportunity for us to go deeper.

Attendance at Meeting for Worship has been fairly steady over the last year, with a small increase from a few years ago. As in the recent past, most weeks there are 25 to 30 members and attenders at worship. Although several of our members have moved out of the area for employment or to attend colleges, they are still a part of our spiritual community. The meeting has had several new attenders over the past few years that attend meeting regularly. Unlike in previous years, attendance has remained steady through the summer. The strength of the meeting is evident in and strengthened by the four adults who have requested membership in the last year. Nevertheless, the meeting should discern whether we need to become more visible to the outside world, and to do more to welcome and integrate new attenders into the Meeting.

Although the number of children in the meeting is small compared to years past, our First Day School program is vibrant and active. The younger Friends have explored Quakerism through discussion, intergenerational crafts, and even performed an original play. Older Friends are pleased to see the growth of the next generation and enjoy their after worship sharing of their activities.

Although the Holy Spirit can be present anywhere, the Meetinghouse is a spiritual sanctuary, greatly appreciated by many Friends. To ensure that the Meetinghouse continues to provide this function in future years, much energy was put into maintaining the building. Thanks to the work and generosity of many committees, members, and attenders, the meeting was able to replace all the windows, while maintaining the resources for future needs.

The values-based organization of the committees helps to make plain the corporate discernment of the Meeting. The Meeting continues to value its connections to the Yearly Meeting, Friends General Conference, Friends schools, and other Quaker organizations. The Meeting both supports and is strengthened by the activities of other Quaker meetings. The members and attenders of the meeting are also nurtured by the internal actions of the meeting. Through Bible study, pre-meeting discussion, a newcomer's group, and other activities, the meeting provides for the spiritual growth of Friends. The meeting, through the work of several committees, continues

to explore how they can best support the spiritual community and its members, including caring for one another in times of difficulty.

In the last year, the meeting has become more active in witness, putting Quaker values and testimonies into action in the outside world. The Peace Committee, which had been quiet in past years, sponsored several forums and has an ongoing non-violent communication group, while also increasing donations to other organizations. The Social Justice Committee continues to focus on the PADS homeless shelter, as many of the Meeting's members and attenders have helped to cook or serve dinner. The Environmental Committee has demonstrated our value of stewardship of the Earth by working to restore the meeting grounds to control invasive buckthorn and planning to restore the meeting grounds to its natural plant communities.

The meeting must continue to maintain the appropriate balance between spiritual discernment and outward actions. Expectant worship, careful discernment of the will of God, and witness of testimonies to the outside world are central to the experience of the meeting, and will continue to challenge the Meeting as it moves toward the future.

NORTHSIDE

One seasoned Friend summed up our year with: "We had an ordinary year; We had worship; We supported each other; We continued to live by the testimonies."

Our "ordinary" year included: Celebrating Per Stinchcombe and Lilly Dagdigian's marriage under the care of our Meeting on the afternoon of June 12th at Evanston Friends' Meetinghouse; celebrating the births of Eamonn Murphy, Aviv Burbank Biron, and Amelia Grace Lucasik at a community baby shower with gifts of books written by Youme Nguyen Ly; celebrating the transfer of membership of Richard Wark from Durham Friends Meeting and Janice Thomson from Belgium-Luxembourg Monthly Meeting; enjoying the return to Chicago of Member Nancy Filson.

We celebrated together in other ways: we held our annual summer picnic at nearby Horner Park; we joined other Chicagoland Friends at the MCGM Corn Roast; we held our Fall Retreat at the Clear Creek House with programming by Daniel Hall and Francesca Bourgault; we had our winter Holiday Party and Caroling; we bought a table together at the Chicago Friends School 2nd Annual Auction Benefit.

Some Friends moved away: Two young families moved closer to their extended families: Youme, Hai and Song Nguyen Ly moved to Florida; and Kevin, Eden, Eli and Violet Mattison moved to Ohio. Two Friends moved for employment: Alethea Tschetterwood moved to Amesbury, Massachusetts; and Pam Moseley moved to Hong Kong. Our newly married Per Stinchcombe and Lilly Dagdigian moved to Berkeley, California, to pursue graduate study. One Friend, Janet Harrington-Kuller, moved to The Breakers at Edgewater Beach.

While we were saddened by our losses, we are joined by many new Attenders. Many find us through our visible presence on the web. We are sent people who need us either for a meeting, a lifetime, or to challenge us. We continue to grow spiritually. For the maintenance of our Web Quaker Presence, we thank Beth Burbank, our WebMistress, and Peter McMahan.

Our Meetings for Worship with a Concern for Business have been guided by the Spirit. Yet not all business Meetings have been easy! When we encounter "rougher" topics, we have been able to center and let the Spirit guide us. We are able to engage

in conflict more honestly and more humbly. In this too we support and trust each other.

We acknowledge what one Friend described as a shift in our collective story: we are more sure of who we are as a Meeting. Our testimony is our maintenance of the Meeting; we continue to meet and offer worship. We put our energy in our worship and the Spirit continues to support us in our endeavors. One Friend described this shift by quoting Gamaliel: "If it's a fad, it will pass away. If it's from God it will stick around."

The Life of the Spirit is alive in Northside Meeting. During Worship we are mostly silent, but there is a strong Presence in our midst. We have a consistent attendance level, yet not all attend consistently. We are less concerned with trying to pre-plan and fill all openings on our committees; if there is a leading, way will open. As one Friend stated: "One of the great things about Northside is that we don't know where we're going, but when we need to get there we can." Another Friend stated: "The Meeting has good 'potential energy'. When things need to happen our Meeting is there with energy, commitment and resources."

The Spirit led us to: hold a simple meal for the people of Haiti; write to Governor Quinn asking for the abolishment of the death penalty; support the Chicago Spring-April 7th /Occupy Chicago by organizing and having worship in Butler Field before the marchers arrived; hold the Chicago Friends School in the Light, and give it our support.

Friends have been led to work in the Wider Quaker World: we sent traveling minutes with Charley Earp to Quaker Theological Discussion Group, and Brian Blackmore to American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature Conference; Kevin Brubaker represents ILYM to FCNL; Friends have represented Northside at ILYM, FGC and NEYM; Mark Robinson, Sophie de la Mar, and Faith V. Gately are on the Chicago Friends School Board of Directors.

Another focus of our Meeting has been inward. Our lives have been changed by major life upheavals: births, deaths, divorce, separation and illness. We have lost family members; lost jobs; experienced stress at work; provided support and care to our aging parents and young children; felt the anxiety and separation of both leaving our parents, and having our children leave us. We have used Meeting as a respite.

We have supported each other through: Ministry and Counsel providing support committees; Charley Earp organizing Midweek Meeting, on the beach in summer and at Friends homes during the year; standing and responding lovingly to a first-time attendee's angry and disruptive words; M & C meeting and lovingly planning for future contingencies; instituting the 9:30-10:00 am preparation of our Meeting Space for Worship; supporting and learning from Erin Sanders gender transition through testimony and a second hour presentation; Ted Ehnle writing Spanish translations for: "Welcome to Northside," and "Meeting for Business Etiquette"; Tom Stabnicki shepherding our open and affirming Minute, currently posted on our website under the "About Us/Who We Are" section and immediately following; as well as the hundreds of thousands "little" thoughtful gestures, gifts, and kind words that are freely shared.

We have supported our children: Alethea Tschetterwood and Pam Mosely loved, cared and taught our children during Meeting for Worship for a number of years. Both moved in August, 2011, leaving an opening. We changed the direction and structure of our program. Viv Woodland, Beth Burbank and Marie White rotate First

Days while we are in the process of hiring a child care provider. On the fourth First Day of the month, Sophie de la Mar and Marie White facilitate “Faith and Play” with our older children.

We continue to struggle with finances and the role of the finance committee. While we wish for “deeper pockets”, we always seem to get the money when we need it. We make our rent and pay our bills. This year we were helped by a successful “matching contribution” challenge. Our finances do fluctuate, yet we wish to support ILYM; as a meeting we established our contribution to ILYM to be 15% of the prior year’s income.

Northside is an Urban Meeting. We are a diverse group. The Spirit is experienced differently by each of us, whether we identify as Christian, Buddhist, Jewish, Wiccan, Non-Theist, or We are a community; we worship, support each other, and continue to live by the testimonies.

Sixth Month Fifth Day 2011, Minute #3:

Northside Friends Meeting is a Quaker Meeting affiliated with the Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends and Friends General Conference.

We unite with the central Friends belief that all people have the power to become children of the Light, that there is that of God in every person.

We hold that in Quaker worship we can come to know that Light within ourselves.

We stand by Friends testimonies of Integrity, Simplicity, Equality, and Peace. We honor Quaker process.

We gather for silent worship on First Day (Sunday) mornings at 10:00am at the Japanese American Service Committee, 4427 North Clark Street in Chicago. Our meeting space is handicap accessible.

Northside Friends is a diverse community. All are welcome among us. Families of all sorts, single parents, youth and elders, people of all races and orientations may participate in our worship. As diverse as we are demographically, we are as diverse theologically as well. Friends come from a wide variety of faith traditions and histories. Instead of finding our diversity troubling, it is for us a cause for spiritual celebration and intellectual challenge; there is no impediment here to genuine worship, spiritual seeking and finding.

Since the earliest days of Northside, we have enjoyed a gay/lesbian presence. In the 1980s we supported our members through the AIDS crisis, in 1989 we celebrated our first lesbian marriage, and Friends of our Meeting with our support have twice organized the annual North American Mid-Winter Gathering of Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns. In every way, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer, and questioning people are welcome in our community.

OAK PARK

This year we have been cautious about taking on new work to avoid overextending our time and energy. Some of our more active members in past years have been pulled in other directions, either figuratively or literally. More recent attenders are becoming more comfortable and beginning to become more active. New nudges from the Spirit meant for our entire community have not been clearly sensed.

Vocal ministry has been given nearly every week, and has felt deeply Spirit-led. Both silent worship and vocal ministry have refreshed and inspired us.

Our Ministry & Care Committee carries on faithfully. They have set up several Clearness Committees this year, and in many ways support the needs of our spiritual community.

Our Peace & Justice Committee is rather small and has not created a specific focus this year. However, they work hard to support individual concerns and to fulfill requests from business meetings. They often bring a list of action items to business meetings, which are usually appreciated and well accepted.

The Children's Religious Education Committee, working without a clerk, lovingly ministers to the needs of children and parents who attend. They continue to employ Amanda who develops and provides the curriculum each First Day when children attend. Her presence assures us that children will learn good Quaker values as they engage in age-appropriate activities. The Committee seasons the curriculum and communication decisions, and fills in when Amanda is away.

Our Adult Religious Education program is without a coordinator this year. However, there is a scheduler who finds appropriate time slots for programs that individuals want to give. We've had a wide variety of programs, and have been able to use unscheduled time slots for worship sharing on timely topics. We have started to explore Quaker Testimonies, which we hope will appeal to both newer and more experienced folks.

In late April we were told we could no longer rent our space at the Art League. We started to discern criteria and places to contact, then learned that we do not have to move out after all. It was good to be able to put our sense of urgency to rest.

OSHKOSH

Oshkosh Elders' Report

A report should emphasize the good and the progress made while utilizing the missteps to teach so that others can learn from them. This was a troubling report because it all seemed to have been said before. Our meeting is small and very diverse – that is its great weakness and great strength. We each have our bundles and, as we grow older, are learning to concentrate on those most important to us. Of course, that leaves more left undone and it is hard to forgive ourselves for that. However, learning to forgive ourselves for not being super-people is part of our spiritual advancement. Forgiving ourselves and others is hard. It is an ongoing task to understand what GOD demands of us. We often confuse what we want with what GOD wants. God asks only that we try and never give up. WE ask that we succeed – and sometimes don't.

This report is a celebration of life and meeting challenges. Our meeting has been struggling with life lessons on many different levels – the teenage challenge, the challenge of elderly relatives, the challenge of changing roles in our lives and marriages as we age, and the challenge of trying to nurture friends when our lives feel too full to bear and we feel too tired to continue, to name just a few. We have done well, for the most part. It is easy to get wrapped up in our causes and to run over individual opinions in our quest to “get something done” in our current society. We have tried to not bring this secular group psychology into our Meeting, but to bring the Society of Friends' spirituality out into our world. We have kept in mind the fact that our religion begins with the individual and have put work into respecting individual opinions and lifestyles. We have worked at being forbearing with our families, understanding with our friends, hopefully helpful to those in need, and have striven mightily to make sure the necessary tasks are covered by someone. No, we have not been perfect

– we have snapped and been less diligent in formalities than we or others might have liked. However, we have tried to make amends when possible without outside urging. That is a triumph in itself – recognizing the need to repair “wrongs” that are personal. It is easier to recognize the impersonal wrongs like slavery and killing but harder to recognize/appreciate the care a friend gives when he or she intrudes in your life. Seeing the need to repair damage without going into endless self-castigation is a skill/gift most of us need to continually work at, but we have done better this year.

It has been harder to meet our obligations, because so many of us have been pre-occupied by personal or familial problems, finances, lack of time, and the sense of urgency that many new societal issues have caused. However, our meeting has understood and stepped up to make those struggling with these issues comfortable and not to place them under more stress, while trying to come up with workable solutions for the problems. We have gotten better at showing understanding and patience. We have also gotten better at not making those who can’t contribute as we would like feel guilty for that. We have gotten better at making people feel good about themselves and their meeting. Our spiritual progress has always been the focus of this meeting and we will continue to focus on our struggle to balance our world as GOD would have it (after we figure out what that is).

Oshkosh Clerk’s Report

Faith and doubt in the religious sense are both about openness.

I believe, “help thou my unbelief.” – Mark 9:24

We have had no requests for membership this past year. A variety of new attenders have attended worship with us. We’ve had three children visit our meeting for worship. We do not offer First Day School. Three members currently worship with us and two of our members are out of the city. We have three regular attenders. We have supported two yearly meetings financially and through participation. Our membership has, through participation in the community social justice group Esther, been part of the success in starting up a warming shelter for the homeless in Oshkosh. We continue to meet with Winnebago Worship Group approximately 4-6 times a year for worship and potlucks. We ended our Wednesday evening classes in January. Instead we have replaced this with communal reading of Quaker lectures before the meeting for worship. We continue to protest the war publically with both the Unitarians in Appleton and Oshkosh Friends at the courthouse in Oshkosh. We urge all Friends to stand up for our peace testimony. We continue our prison visitation at Oshkosh Correctional. There are about 10 prisoners that gather with us on a monthly basis and love to sing the George Fox song.

ROCK VALLEY

Rock Valley Friends Meeting perseveres as a small meeting that has great meaning to those involved with it.

A couple of years ago we decided to meet for worship once a month on the first First Day of the month. It had become difficult for all to attend meeting every First Day and with such a small group when even just one or two are absent it makes a big difference. The new schedule seems to work well for us. We make an effort to attend meeting on the first First Day and some of us attend other religious services or attend to other business on other First Days. When we meet we have religious education at 10:00, worship at 11:00, followed by a delicious potluck and fellowship time.

Adah Manby continues to lead our religious education sessions which usually consist of reading and discussion. Often we read and discuss articles from *Friends Journal*. In January we used our religious education hour to share Quakerism with a group of middle schoolers and their teachers from the local Unitarian church and then they worshipped with us afterward. This was part of a series of Sunday School sessions for them to learn about other religions and churches.

Business is attended to as needed. The Meeting approves a budget every year and treasurer's reports are presented periodically. Our focus is on worship and fellowship.

We continue to meet in the Community Room at JustGoods Fair Trade Store in Rockford. The space suits us well as it is comfortable, economical, and handicapped-accessible. Other tenants of the building include like-minded organizations, such as, Rockford Urban Ministries and Rockford Peace and Justice, as well as the fair trade store.

We have gained a couple of new attenders in the last couple of years, but sadly we also lost two long-time members during the past year. Brit Lathrop passed away at age 90 last fall and Dick Puckett passed away at age 81 in the spring. A memorial service for Brit was held at Wesley Willows Retirement Center (where she had lived) with a large group of Friends and friends in attendance. Brit's family requested a memorial service in the Quaker manner with participation of a rabbi. Dick's family held a graveside service, officiated by a Catholic priest, at the family's cemetery plot in Sterling. Three members of the Meeting were able to attend. Both were active in the Meeting until the end and they are missed greatly.

ROLLA

In our thoughts and prayers, we felt guided to what we have to say here. This State of the Society covers the time from May of 2011 to May of 2012.

We are a small, strong group. We have had young members and attendees move on to the Peace Corps, graduate from the university in engineering, and graduate from high school. We said goodbye to Kylie Bush in December. In January he left for two years to Zambia with the Peace Corps. Samantha Markus graduated with a masters degree in May and will be working in St. Louis with a small all-women engineering group that focuses on the environment. While she was with us, she was involved in adult Religious Education and potluck.

We are a Quaker presence here in Rolla for people who have needed that presence. Ross Reed and Amanda Erwin are residents of Salem, and attend every other meeting. They teach at Drury College, Ross in philosophy, Amanda in Spanish. Ross is connected with Friends in Pennsylvania. We've had Friends visit from as far away as Michigan and California.

We are fresh in our early love and a stubborn presence. Along with our meeting for worship, our adult religious education has been uplifting and reassuring. Our main reading this past year is John Punshon's "Encounter with Silence". We've all been surprised and inspired by his words, partly because his experience of a silent meeting is similar to our own experience. Our visitors who have participated in this adult RE have been moved, as well. It has really been a magnet for us all.

We had a group of Lutheran high school students going through their confirmation class in Cuba, Missouri, visit us and join us in reading the chapter, "An Hour to Fill," from Punshon's book. It so well explained what they had just observed in our

period of silent worship, that we recommend it to other meetings that have church youth groups as visitors.

Friends' Meeting of Rolla is a Preparative Meeting under the care of St. Louis Monthly Meeting. We appreciate the help and support of Friends that have visited from St. Louis Meeting. We have also enjoyed the fellowship of visitors from Columbia Meeting.

During the past year, we lost a founding member of our meeting, Tony Penico. The meeting participated in his Memorial service that included a period conducted in the manner of Friends.

We need to give more focus to business, communicating what is going on, keeping all involved in the business aspects of this meeting.

Our pot lucks have been a good source for fellowship, and good food too!

We felt our prayers have been answered as we, together, considered the State of our Society.

SOUTH BEND

In the past year we have been blessed to have a growing and rambunctious community of children under the meeting's care. This includes the births of Anika Henning, Zachary Hungerman, the adoptions of Mckenna Morrissey, Christina Morrissey, and the legal guardianship of Darnisha Thomas. Through the work of those on the Children's Religious Education Committee, we provide First Day education for three groups of children: very young Friends under age three, young Friends who had advanced to preschool, and older children. Like many meetings, we have a concern that our children may grow distant from meeting as they become adolescents; fortunately the adolescent members of our meeting have stayed active in ILYM and FGC events.

During the past year we have seen an increase in our regular First Day worship attendance. In addition to our new children, we have welcomed new adult attenders. The meeting also assisted in the celebration of marriage of regular attender Jason Shenk and his wife Nicole; and took under its care the marriage of Mary Beth Digann and Fred Herczeg. We also have enjoyed many visitors in recent months, some of them Quakers from other communities, and some with no experience with Friends. We currently have two requests for clearness committees to consider membership. Along with these joyous events, our meeting faced a large number of health concerns during the year. Attender George Carter passed away.

We continue to meet in a designated room in the Charles Martin Center; the meeting seems to be accepting of this location and there was little discussion in the past year of serious changes in our meeting space. Instead, the meeting continued to focus on a strong worship time and several ancillary activities as instruments for serving God and our community. These activities included our annual one-day retreat in September, the continued monthly "service panel" meetings where two Friends describe their ministry in the community and its relationship to their Quaker journey, the establishment of a monthly worship-sharing group, a visit to the local Islamic center, intervisitation with the Quaker meeting in Cass County, and hosting a Friends World Committee for Consultation "Salt and Light" discussion of recent Quaker ministry in Iran.

We are grateful for the fruits born from these activities, from our increased attendance at worship, and for the lively atmosphere created by our children. However, for

the first time ever the meeting failed to receive donations commensurate with expenses. Our deficit was not driven by an increase in expenses but rather by a decline in donations. This has prompted discussions among Friends of whether and how our meeting can promote an appropriate atmosphere of stewardship, and whether this deficit can be best addressed by limiting expenses (including changing our calculation of donations to ILYM), relying on greater donations, or both. We also considered what role we should play regarding the dissolution of Indiana Yearly Meeting (with whom we are not affiliated). As we continue to face these issues in the coming year, we have faith that the peace of the Lord, which transcends all understanding, will sustain us and our work.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

Our life is love, peace, and tenderness, and bearing with each other and forgiving one another, and not laying accusations one against another, but praying for each other and helping each other up with a tender hand. —Isaac Pennington, 1667

The Southern Illinois Quaker Meeting framed our discussion for the State of the Society report with two traditional queries: How does joy prevail? How does Truth fair among you? Our gathered responses made clear how in this past year our collective wisdom developed as we stood in solidarity in difficult places, and how both joys and sorrows led to our deeper connection as a meeting family.

Among our many joys was helping two attenders plan a Quaker wedding, an action of love that embraced both of them and their families. We also celebrated coclerk William “Doc” Stodden’s completion of his doctoral degree, the acceptance of Mallery Allen’s doctoral prospectus, and Jill Adams’s retirement from the university. Our monthly Life of the Meeting potlucks in members’ homes provided a relaxed venue for strengthening our community.

Another joy was Justin Leverett’s selection for a Quaker Voluntary Service project this coming year in Atlanta, Georgia. He will serve as a communications specialist for an immigration agency and will have an opportunity to speak French and Spanish as part of his daily work. Justin represents our fourth traveling minister sent forth from SIQM in the past ten years. Our ministry fund is a model for providing support for those who are following leadings of the Spirit. Maurine Pyle is the other current traveling minister in our meeting.

As we expressed gratitude for new attenders who have enriched us with their variety of religious experience, we also said farewells. Two attenders left to seek another spiritual home, and the Leverett family moved to Lubbock, Texas. The Leveretts have been sustaining members of our small community for many years and will be deeply missed, both in meeting and First Day School.

The “Truth prevailed among us” in issues both public and personal. A carefully seasoned response to the proposed closure of the Tamms Supermax Prison located in our region brought us all to a tender place where we listened deeply to one another and matured in our ability to consider contrasting views in the community at large. During the year we faced multiple mental health incidents which called us to respond to people and situations with compassion and directness of action. We held several “called meetings for healing” to help ground our work in prayer, encouraged listening for the most appropriate ways to cope with trauma, and offered clearness committees, a weekly mental health support group, respite care in homes, and mentorship on

an individual basis. We also continued to support, both financially and spiritually, our meeting place, the Gaia House Interfaith Center, as it struggles to remain open.

Our meeting's story this past year has held many emotional ups and downs, reflecting our human condition. The love that we have shown for one another is the glue that holds us together as a Quaker community.

SPRINGFIELD WORSHIP GROUP

The Springfield Worship Group experienced a year of change, which prompted us to explore our role as a worship community. Our dear Friend Nancy Filson moved to Chicago. While we were excited for her to return to a city, and Meeting, that she enjoyed, we knew that we would feel her absence. The Worship Group took a Quaker field trip to see Nancy in October, and we enjoyed the fall weather at the Morton Arboretum. Nancy's new home met with our approval, and she was able to visit with us in May. We had several new attendees this year, including Elizabeth and Paul Valek, who moved from Jacksonville and have shown an interest in becoming more involved in our group. Several members are struggling with health issues, and aging parents, as well as providing support to family members. We share our joys and concerns with the group each week, and hold each other in the Light.

We have revisited our work on Final Wishes, and realize that it is a work in progress. We will continue to update our personal information, so that we are prepared, should the need arise.

Our study of the materials from the ILYM website, *Exploring Quakerism*, has been very beneficial. Ray Long reads the selections aloud, and discussion follows. These discussions have helped us to define ourselves individually, and as a Worship Group and spiritual community. We will continue to use those materials, and other suggested readings, to deepen our understanding of Quaker history, and how we define our spiritual purpose as a worship group.

We remain small, with six to ten attendees most weeks. We provide dinner at a local homeless shelter once a month, and this activity continues to be enjoyed by both the providers and recipients. Business is followed by potluck once a month, and our readings occur once a month, with Query in the months with five Sundays. We continue under the care of Urbana-Champaign Friends Meeting, and wish to remain a Worship Group at this time. We continue to host meeting in our homes, a month at each residence. Although we do not have a Meeting House, we meet with joy in our hearts, and a sense of camaraderie that sustains us.

ST. LOUIS

The past year for the St. Louis Friends Meeting brought some welcome consistency, and an energizing opportunity to apply our Testimonies of Equality, Peace and Community.

The Meeting was asked to respond to queries for preparation of this Report. Comments about the quality of worship tended to be positive, with some concern expressed about occasional lack of depth in spoken ministry and personal or political content of the messages. The general sense of the Meeting for Business continues to be favorable, particularly on the change to segueing quickly to business from Worship.

In January Ministry and Caring initiated the Claremont Dialogues to help strengthen worship and spiritual growth. Five groups were organized to serve our

sprawling geography; some have completed the six-week term, others are still meeting, and the response from the participants has been positive.

We are heartened by the strength of the Rolla Preparative Meeting which is in our care.

There is some concern shared by many about the need to strengthen and support our committees. While key committees have been functioning well, others need to be more fully staffed, some will need clerks, and we also need to support and nurture the current clerks.

The Meeting's spirit was most uplifted by our decision to begin working with homeless people in our downtown neighborhood through the City of St. Louis Winter Outreach program. Friends volunteered to provide meals or act as evening and overnight hosts, and others contributed supplies or financial support. Although the warm winter allowed only three opportunities for action, the Friends involved reported that the first effort was successful and gratifying. This activity is the fruit we had been seeking from our decision to move to the inner city in hope of being able to act as good stewards in mission to the community.

On invitation from FGC, the Meeting gathered a group of over twenty Young Friends and adults to participate in an intergenerational workshop led by Judy Hale Reed. The meeting house was filled with the work of spirit-building and, in one exercise, several hundred feet of yarn. In November, Young Friends from around Illinois Yearly Meeting held a Youth Quake at the meeting house that provided a fun learning experience. We were energized by these events and will continue our effort to include young Friends in our Meeting's activities.

First Day School continued to be strong and provided a variety of activities, including studying the peace testimony, looking at work from a Quaker perspective, a basic bible study, and a poetry workshop. Our Young Friends continue to be eager learners, and we would like to create more opportunities for teenage Friends.

The Meeting house continues to be the host venue for the Friends Peace Teams office. We are grateful to member Chuc Smith for his service as the Team's staff person and to John Kintree who will succeed Chuc shortly.

We were blessed by the birth of two "young Friends". Two members became active in the wider Quaker community: Caryn Wixom began an "artist in residence" internship at Pendle Hill, and Dawn Rubbert recently went on a pilgrimage to Kenya as a representative to the FWCC World Gathering of Friends.

In October the Meeting welcomed John Calvi, who presented his healing workshop on "Finding the Joy in Pain" to over twenty participants. As with his previous workshops sponsored by the Meeting, those who attended found his unique talents deeply beneficial.

There are some lingering concerns that are being held in the Light. Our financial condition and stewardship of the Meeting House continue to be cautious and sometimes overwhelming concerns. We are grateful that we have been able to manage our mortgage and overall financial picture.

In summary, St. Louis Friends have been energetic and active in the past year and are seeking the Light to continue to find ways to grow and serve.

UPPER FOX VALLEY

The Meeting continues to capture the Spirit of Inclusivism. One of our members, Adrian Nelson, represented Illinois Yearly Meeting at the World Gathering of

Friends in Kenya, and presented a moving report to the Metropolitan Chicago General Meeting. Another member presented an Earth Day sermon/lecture at the Elgin Unitarian-Universalist Church; and we were complimented by a visit from youth members of a local Presbyterian Church. The latter was a big event for our little meeting, as the visitors outnumbered the members and attenders. We returned the compliment by having some of our members visit their church for a discussion of Bread for the World. Our biggest event, however, was sponsorship of the annual "Old-Fashioned Pot Luck Picnic and Corn Roast" for Metropolitan Chicago Friends. This year's was the largest ever, with one hundred-ten attenders, including for the first time, The First Evangelical Friends Church of Blue Island. Our Meeting continues to reach out to Evangelical Friends for fellowship and mutual sharing in the Spirit.

Our weekly reading/discussion time preceding Meeting for Worship continues to focus on past Plummer lectures of Illinois Yearly Meeting, and group singing enlivens many of our gatherings.

We "break bread together" weekly with a pot-luck luncheon after Meetings for Worship, and monthly at our "Social Nights" at a Friend's home. These "Socials" are times for dinner, fellowship, singing, and sometimes a movie. Responding to the evident interest in knitting and other hand crafts, a group of our Quaker women have started a monthly craft get-together.

Our small Meeting continues to be significantly involved in the activities of the larger bodies of the Society of Friends (including Illinois Yearly Meeting), and their work for peace, social justice, and care of the Earth.

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

The life of the Spirit generally fares well in Urbana-Champaign Friends Meeting. Worship is rich with silence and contemplation. Many are message-filled. Many other times tender only the reassuring warmth of the quiet.

Our membership strives to find useful and proper paths for ministry and service. For service, we provide sandwiches to the soup kitchen once a month. Meeting and membership supports prison work and reforms with a variety of different projects. Other local projects are supported as needs arise. We support an emergency fund to support small crisis needs within our broader community. A recent fundraiser for the emergency fund succeeded beyond expectations. Proceeds also supported a sponsored orphan abroad.

For ministry, we orchestrate support and clearness committees when requested. With organized visitation, we reach out to help our sick and stricken. Singing before worship has embraced an enthusiastic fellowship. Community time after worship stretches long after rise of worship. Meeting events have been still fewer this past year, but have included events for traveling FCNL, FWCC and ILYM Friends. Holiday gatherings remain popular. In a very welcome way, many committee meetings have become times to break bread as well as for business. We have sponsored two Memorials for passing members of our community, when we celebrated their lives with joy. Meeting encourages travel to greater Quaker gatherings and some have attended Quarterly and Yearly meetings and FGC Gathering. New attenders, members and visitors have been warmly welcomed. Two new members have joined or started the process of joining.

We continue to be blessed with a general lack of internal conflict, with very smoothly flowing business meetings and cooperative collaboration in our projects. We have been troubled by the theft/destruction of our air-conditioner, and the aesthetic damage to the Meeting House due to inappropriate construction, but we have moved forward with repairs and replacement without controversy. When friction has arisen between members, conflict has not spread and has been settled.

Religious education has struggled this year. We and the children lost a beloved caregiver. Parents struggled to take up the slack. A key family with kids also moved away, and the RE committee only slowly recovered. Nevertheless, we continue to have a robust children's meeting with several younger children attending most days and religious education proceeding on first and third Sundays. Vacation Friends School was an intergenerational success and planning goes forward for this summer too. There has also been no recent program for the teens. Adult religious education has been very modest with no regular weekly program and only an occasional workshop.

The financial health of the Meeting remains satisfactory, though we have started to worry about how few actually contribute to us. The grounds continue to develop with tended vegetable and flower gardens and the planting of new trees. The library grows and gets occasional use. We welcome the use of our building by a small church on Sunday evenings and a separate Buddhist meditation group on Mondays, with at least one other faith group considering our space as well. The Springfield Worship Group continues under our care.

With thought toward our lower energies this past year, meeting committees are rebuilding and reorganizing. We look forward to a coming burst of enthusiasm.

Minutes of the Illinois Yearly Meeting Continuing Committee
11/5/2011
at St Louis Religious Society of Friends Meetinghouse

Complete committee reports are available on the ILYM website.

Attending: Dawn Amos, Diane Dennis, Mike Dennis, Janice Domanik (Presiding Clerk), Judy Erickson, David Finke, Nancy Finke, Mariellen Gilpin, Chris Goode, Sharon Haworth, Judy Jager, Margaret Katranides, Peter Lasersohn, Grayce Mesner, Neil Mesner, Noel Pavlovic, Sarah Pavlovic, Maurine Pyle, Bridget Rorem, Chip Rorem, Dawn Rubbert, Mike Ruberton, David Shiner (Recording Clerk), David Wixom, Judy Wolicki.

Minute 1 The Continuing Committee session began with opening worship.

Minute 2 The Clerk made the following requests of Monthly Meetings: (1) Meetings are asked to send replies to the Queries from the ad hoc committee on Quaker Voluntary Service to Elizabeth Mertic; (2) Clerks are encouraged to communicate with each other about matters about which they have mutual concerns. She also asked committee clerks to submit reports to Sharon Haworth by the date that is stipulated when such reports are requested, and to include designation of action items in those reports.

Minute 3 Mariellen Gilpin reported for the Ministry and Advancement Committee. The committee recommended the appointment of Judy Wolicki as ILYM Field Secretary from today through the 2014 annual session. Approved. Judy has met with the three most recent ILYM Field Secretaries in order to learn their sense of the scope of the work and to receive their support, which is ongoing.

Minute 4 Continuing Committee minuted its deep appreciation for Paul Buckley's service as ILYM Field Secretary, 2008-2011. Quakerism in ILYM has gained immensely from his passion—and his vision—for educating about Quakerism and nurturing our spiritual nurturers. His innovations in the way we serve our meetings (particularly through the regional Days of Spiritual Sustenance), and his gifts for coordination and eldership have helped to light our way, both as a Committee for Ministry and Advancement, and as a group of ILYM Friends seeking to grow Quakerism in our region. He has blessed us with his service, and we in our turn bless whatever it is Spirit leads him to do next. Approved.

Minute 5 With respect to a new worship group in Macomb, the committee recommended appointment of a committee-at-large, made up of Ministry and Advancement committee members Beth Schobernd and Mariellen Gilpin, with Steve Tamari from St. Louis Meeting and Christina Schulz from Bloomington-Normal Meeting, chosen by Macomb Friends, in order that Ministry and Advancement Committee might nurture and support this new worship group as it follows the process in ILYM's Faith and Practice. Support for the worship group, which is under the care of Spoon River Monthly Meeting, will include an Inquirers Weekend and encouraging people to join them in worship. Approved. Members of ILYM are encouraged to worship with Macomb Friends.

Minute 6 Ministry and Advancement is working with Adult Young Friends. The committee has also been in contact with Blue Island Evangelical Friends and is ac-

tively looking to make contact with other Friends and Friends groups who are not currently part of ILYM. Due to the small numbers on the committee, M&A has appointed several seasoned Friends to serve as adjunct members who will visit ILYM meetings. M&A has also decided on the responsibilities of committee members for the work of M&A, adopted a travel policy for M&A members, and participated in a retreat with Brent Bill at which a number of possible future M&A initiatives were worshipfully discussed.

Minute 7 Dawn Amos presented the Treasurer's Report. Continuing Committee was asked to approve the FY11 year-end financials that appear in the 2011 minute book. Those financials show a .7% (\$796) deficit for the fiscal year, as unanticipated extra site expenses were almost entirely offset by underspending by ILYM committees. Approved.

Minute 8 The Treasurer presented three additional reports. The first of those reports crosses the 2011 and 2012 fiscal years. The meetinghouse kitchen flood cost ILYM only \$978 out of pocket, which was less than the \$1,000 deductible, on a repair costing approximately \$38,000. The painting of 1/2 of the meetinghouse, plus some repairs, came in less than 10% over budget. The other two reports displayed the state of ILYM's finances for FY12 to date. The report was accepted with thanks to the Treasurers.

Minute 9 Sarah Pavlovic reported for the Nominating Committee. The committee submitted the following names for consideration by Continuing Committee:

- For Steward, to complete the term left vacant by the resignation of Tim Narkiewicz, Roy Treadway for a term beginning January 1, 2012 and ending in 2015. Approved.
- For ILYM Committees:
 - Maintenance and Planning: Mason George, effective upon approval for a term ending 2014;
 - Personnel: David Rutschman, effective upon approval for a term ending 2014. Approved.
 - For Representative to the AFSC Corporation: Bridget Rorem, effective upon approval for a term ending 2014. Approved.

Nominating Committee also reported that Finance Committee has appointed Sandy Huntley as their representative to the Personnel Committee.

Minute 10 In the absence of Assistant Recording Clerk Pam Kuhn due to her recent move out of Illinois, Nominating Committee is seeking someone with experience as Recording Clerk to act as David Shiner's mentor and back-up if necessary during his first year as ILYM Recording Clerk. Nominating Committee is also continuing to seek individuals to serve on the Faith and Practice Committee, an additional Friend to serve as an "at-large" member of the Personnel Committee, and individuals to serve as ILYM representatives to FGC's Central Committee and to Scattergood Friends School. Friends are invited to give suggestions concerning these positions to any member of Nominating Committee. Meeting minuted appreciation to Sarah for her continuing service as Clerk of the Nominating Committee.

Minute 11 Peter Lasersohn reported for the Faith and Practice Committee. F&P has been working on a new section of text on meeting for worship, which they hope to have ready for initial presentation to the yearly meeting at the 2012 annual session. Several proposed amendments to drafts of text that was approved last summer have been crafted. Over the coming year F&P plans to revise the section on marriage with the intention of submitting the revised version to the yearly meeting in June 2012 with a request for approval for an indefinite period, as the 5-year provisional approval of the existing text expires at that time. Friends and meetings are urged to read the current text carefully and to send any suggestions for additions or revisions to Peter or any of the other committee members.

Minute 12 The F&P Committee has profoundly missed the presence and contributions of member Larry Stout, whose health and well-being are their constant prayer. The support to the committee of Larry's spouse, Susan Burt, is also sadly missed.

Minute 13 Following a period of worship during which many Friends shared stories about and concern for Larry Stout, Continuing Committee minuted the following: "Illinois Yearly Meeting is deeply grateful for the longtime service of beloved Friend Larry Stout. Larry has rendered invaluable service to the Yearly Meeting in many ways, particularly on the Faith & Practice Committee of which he is the sole remaining charter member. He has always provided steadiness at the helm, both in formal leadership roles and informal quiet guidance. Many individual ILYM members have benefitted greatly from Larry's kindness and compassion. With a mixture of joy and sadness, we celebrate all Larry has done for us and all he has meant to us."

Minute 14 Neil Mesner reported for the Maintenance and Planning Committee. M&P met at Clear Creek House last month to review recent developments and future needs of the ILYM buildings and grounds. They have painted the east and south sides of the Meetinghouse and made a number of repairs. The committee reported on a number of other matters pertaining to the upkeep and renovation of various parts of the property.

Minute 15 Judy Jager reported for the Finance Committee. The committee is working on a number of issues, including oversight for the travel budget, preparation of a conflict of interest policy, and planning workshops on record-keeping.

Minute 16 Finance Committee presented the following minute to Continuing Committee: "We note there is a task of the Yearly Meeting that is not being done, which impacts our Committee work. The work of our Finance Committee is to manage the finances of the Meeting and develop budgets. It is hard to do this without insight on pledges and individual gifts, or supplemental Monthly Meeting gifts. And, we note we have begun to depend on a gift stream (which includes some very significant donations) that have become constant over time – but which may, or may not, continue. We urge the Yearly meeting to find a better way to nurture and educate our donors and potential donors so that we can better budget and then manage the budget – and to also ensure there is a communications link to Finance Committee with fiscal information that will impact our budgeting processes. As Ministry & Advancement and Site Envisioning plan and grow their plans we feel an increased urgency to have the role of development more closely managed. This is a piece that seems to be falling between the cracks. For example, donors assume the Treasurer knows about their

pledges, but the Treasurer does not have this information – they do not have historical pledge information – so they can correspond gifts to pledges, if appropriate.” In response to this minute, the Clerk of ILYM asked the clerks of Finance Committee, Site Envisioning Committee, and Maintenance and Planning Committee to study and define issues concerning the focus and tasks of a Development Committee, to confer with each other and perhaps others, and to review and if appropriate revise the current Development Committee description in advance of the March meeting of Continuing Committee. Approved.

Minute 17 Chip Rorem reported for the Site Envisioning Committee. In September the committee reviewed input from standing committees and monthly meetings. They also reviewed a master plan map of the property, which they presented during this Continuing Committee session. They reviewed a draft of the chronology of site development from the first visioning retreat to the present, prepared by Maurine Pyle, which has been refined and will be published in the winter edition of *Among Friends*. The committee will meet at Clear Creek House with representatives of the ILYM standing committees later this month to review the master plan, to be followed by an open meeting for all interested Friends on January 21. They subsequently expect to amend the plan in preparation for presentation in draft form at the March 2012 session of Continuing Committee.

Minute 18 Dawn Rubbert reported for the Peace Resources Committee. The committee has begun to discern where each PRC member might lend their efforts across five project areas: The Peace Testimony Workshop; the “How Do You See Peace?” blog project; a fledgling Quaker Peacemakers audio archive project; Peace House on the Prairie visioning; and continued work on the Ecumenical Call for Just Peace as called for by the World Council of Churches. PRC is planning a retreat at Clear Creek House in early 2012 and is investigating several initiatives on matters of peace that would serve the Yearly Meeting.

Minute 19 Noel Pavlovic reported for the Environmental Concerns Committee. The committee gathered at Clear Creek House in September to work on the ILYM grounds. The committee is planning a nature walk during the 2012 annual session to show off the new wildlife and beautification plantings.

Minute 20 David Wixom reported for the Youth Oversight Committee, announcing four upcoming Quakes. The first of those Quakes will take place at St. Louis next weekend, the second probably in Evanston during Martin Luther King Junior weekend in January, the third at Clear Creek on Memorial Day weekend, and the fourth at the same location during the ILYM gathering in June.

Minute 21 David Finke called attention to Minutes 79-80 from the 2011 annual session regarding ILYM’s request to the American Friends Service Committee to urge TIAA/CREF to divest in companies which make weapons and equipment that are used against Palestinians. The new General Secretary of AFSC, Shan Cretin, has acknowledged the request, expressed appreciation for ILYM’s concern and communication, and stated that the AFSC Board has agreed to take the requested action.

Minute 22 Several Friends have expressed concern about the lack of socially responsible controls on the part of Friends Fiduciary Fund concerning the issue of weapons and equipment used against Palestinians. The Yearly Meeting does not

have funds in this foundation, nor did any monthly meeting representative indicate that their meeting has funds there.

Minute 23 The Clerk asked for advice concerning our need to hear from ILYM's representatives to Quaker organizations. We want to hear about the issues with which those organizations are dealing and give them input on what we believe they should be doing. We might be well advised to allot time for this by cutting time for reports at meetings of ILYM. This can be achieved if fuller reports are distributed in a timely manner and if Friends read them prior to the meeting. Friends discussed these matters in an informal and generally favorable manner.

Minute 24 Reports were given concerning preparations for the 2012 Annual Session. Concerning Program planning, Bridget Rorem announced that the theme will be "Compassion" and that Mark Mattaini will give the Plummer Lecture. Noel and Sarah Pavlovic will meet with members of Chicago South meetings to plan Food. Janice Domanik reported that Ted Kuhn, who was not present at Continuing Committee, is working on FUN. Beth Schobernd announced that all but one of the site coordinator slots has been filled and exhorted everyone to come for site preparation and for cleanup, and to sign up for chores at the annual session.

Minute 25 The next meeting of Continuing Committee will take place at Lake Forest Friends Meeting on March 3, 2012.

Minute 26 The meeting minuted the following expression of appreciation to St. Louis Meeting for hosting Continuing Committee: "We are deeply grateful to St. Louis Friends Meeting for hosting today's gathering. Their hospitality, as always, has been far beyond the call of duty. We are especially grateful to Dawn Rubbert, who organized everything perfectly, even matters about which she learned only at the last minute. The food, lodgings, and Meetinghouse preparation were sublime. As long as St. Louis Friends continue to set the gold standard for hospitality, they can expect to continue to be asked to host gatherings of ILYM and its committees."

Minute 27 The Continuing Committee session concluded with closing worship.

Janice Domanik
Clerk

David Shiner
Recording Clerk

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 (51 cents per mile in 2011) 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.

Minutes of the Illinois Yearly Meeting Continuing Committee

3/3/2012

at Lake Forest Friends Meeting Meetinghouse

Complete committee reports are available on the ILYM website.

Attending: Carol Bartles, Wil Brant, Janice Domanik (Presiding Clerk), Judy Erickson, David Finke, Nancy Finke, Fernando Freire, Cathy Garra, Meredith George, Chris Goode, Sharon Haworth, Bill Howenstine, Judy Jager, Ted Kuhn, Brad Laird, Ginny Laughlin, Roger Laughlin, Val Lester, Mark McGinnis, Elizabeth Mertic, Grayce Mesner, Neil Mesner, Noel Pavlovic, Sarah Pavlovic, Chip Rorem, Dawn Rubbert, David Shiner (Recording Clerk), Monica Tetzlaff (Reading Clerk), Bobbi Trist, Janet Means Underhill, Nancy Wallace, Judy Wolicki.

Minute 1 The Continuing Committee session began with opening worship.

Minute 2 The Clerk made reference to a letter in which FWCC thanked ILYM for its contribution to the Travel Fund for the World Gathering next month. The letter is available for Friends to peruse if they wish to do so.

Minute 3 Noel Pavlovic reported for the Environmental Concerns Committee. The ECC retreat will take place on May 11-12. The committee continues to work on landscaping plans for the ILYM site.

Minute 4 Reading Clerk Monica Tetzlaff read the report that Peter Lasersohn prepared on behalf of the Faith and Practice Committee. The committee has been working on a new section on meeting for worship in preparation for making an initial presentation to the yearly meeting next summer. They have also revised the section on marriage, which will be submitted to the yearly meeting with a request for approval for an indefinite period, as the 5-year provisional approval of the existing text expires in summer of 2012. Suggestions for additions or revisions to this section should be sent to Peter Lasersohn or any of the other committee members. The committee continues to miss the presence and contributions of their longtime colleague Larry Stout, and prays for his health and well-being.

Minute 5 Chris Goode and Chip Rorem reported for the Site Envisioning Committee, explaining the current draft of a comprehensive plan for the ILYM site which was prepared on the basis of the input they have received to date. They presented the plan for further seasoning so that they can update their report for the yearly meeting at annual sessions in June. The current plan includes a number of details that are designed to knit the entire ILYM campus into an integrated whole. Following a series of questions of clarification, the Clerk asked Friends to speak to their sense of priorities for development of the site. In response to this request, the following items were each mentioned by at least one Friend: renovation of the high school bunkhouse, accessibility to the main floor of Clear Creek House, renovation of the bath house on the campground, electricity (but no light bulbs) in the cabins, a community garden, a caretaker, level walking paths, accessible bathrooms, handicap-accessible overnight accommodations, addition of a dining hall, and demolition of buildings and removal of debris that are not part of the site plan. One Friend encouraged those present to think of "first" priorities as different from "most important" priorities, those which might take longer to reach fruition. Another asked us to consider which of the items on our wish list could be regarded as low priorities rather than high ones, especially

in light of the additional costs of maintaining the expanded campus. A third reminded us of ILYM's debt to and concern for Clear Creek Friends, and a fourth responded with gratitude to the Yearly Meeting on behalf of Clear Creek Friends. Many Friends who responded to the query thanked the committee for its work.

Minute 6 Carol Bartles read the report prepared by Roy Treadway on behalf of the Stewards. The Stewards recommend demolition of most of the long metal shed and the milk processing room in the dairy barn as well as removal of debris from the area south of Clear Creek House. The cost of hiring Dancing Rabbit, the Missouri group that deconstructed the old dormitory and prepared the lumber for use in the cabins, to undertake and complete this work, plus the costs for disposing of extraneous materials, should not exceed a total of \$5000, with recycled aluminum expected to net approximately \$1600 of income. The Stewards request that Continuing Committee approve these measures so that they may be completed this spring, in part because the price is relatively low and the involvement of Dancing Rabbit later in the year cannot be guaranteed. In response to this request, the Clerk read a passage from the ILYM Handbook concerning the responsibilities permitted to Continuing Committee. On the basis of that passage, her opinion is that, if Continuing Committee is to go ahead with approving the Stewards' request at this meeting, it should be explicitly minuted as a one-time decision that does not fall within with the Handbook guidelines. She further counseled that all ILYM committees be directed to be as specific and foresighted as possible in future reports to the ILYM annual sessions with respect to matters upon which they might want to empower Continuing Committee to act. The Clerk subsequently determined that those present are not in unity with this part of the Stewards' request, although only on the basis of Quaker process and not with respect to the substance of their proposal, and that the proposal should be further seasoned in conjunction with the work of the Site Envisioning and Maintenance and Planning Committees in preparation for presentation during the annual sessions. This was approved with one Friend standing aside. One Friend raised a concern about safety issues related to the proposals that do fall under the purview of the Stewards. The Stewards' ability to act in cases of emergency was affirmed by those present.

Minute 7 (Stewards report, continued) The last section of the Stewards report consisted of a recommendation that Continuing Committee request additional planning measures in preparation for annual sessions. Specifically, they would like bids to be collected for installing electricity in some of the cabins and for appropriate committees to develop a plan for converting the Clear Creek House garage into an accessible dwelling suitable for overnight guests and making Clear Creek House handicap-accessible. Approved.

Minute 8 (Stewards report, continued) Continuing Committee charges the Maintenance and Planning committee, in consultation with the Site Envisioning and Finance Committees, to bring forth concrete proposals based on Minutes 6 and 7 that will allow the yearly meeting to season and act on them at the annual sessions in June of 2012. Approved.

Minute 9 Fernando Freire delivered the report prepared by Mariellen Gilpin on behalf of Ministry and Advancement. M & A asked that Continuing Committee approve the new job description for the Field Secretary so that the Handbook Committee can revise the appropriate section of the Handbook before the annual sessions.

Approved, with explicit understanding that a few minor corrections will be made to the job description.

Minute 10 (M & A report, continued) Copies of Janet Means Underhill's "Book of Hope and Comfort," which was recently published by M & A, were distributed free of charge to today's attendees. Fernando will be presenting M & A's first regional workshop of the current year, on conflict in meetings and difficult people in meetings, at the Rorems' home in Kankakee on the afternoon of March 24. M & A has too few members to minister effectively to the yearly meeting using the current model. While the committee's innovation this year of appointing adjunct members of M & A to help with meeting visitation has made a promising beginning, it is not clear whether this is a long-term solution. M & A will be discerning at its spring meeting whether the committee might minister more effectively to the yearly meeting in a different way than it has in the past. Suggestions on how this might be done are welcomed and may be shared with any M & A member.

Minute 11 Field Secretary Judy Wolicki reported on the meetings she has visited and the events she has attended during her first four months in the position. Her work to date has primarily involved listening to members of ILYM Meetings in order to discover how she can best serve those meetings. She finds much about which to be positive concerning the state of ILYM Meetings. Judy expects to develop programs and resources that will bring Friends from different meetings together. She also plans to continue the work begun by Paul Buckley, her predecessor as Field Secretary, to "nurture the nurturers."

Minute 12 Val Lester presented the Treasurer's Report prepared by her and Dawn Amos (attached). Total cash has decreased by about \$26,000 since the end of the 2011 fiscal year, with the General Operating and Deferred Maintenance funds showing the largest decreases. That overall pattern is typical for this time of year, based on paying for the ongoing work of the Yearly Meeting.

Minute 13 Judy Jager reported for Finance Committee. Much of the committee's recent work has involved examining ways to approach the financial aspects of proposals about the future of the ILYM campus from Site Envisioning and other active committees. The Finance Committee offered a number of observations and recommendations concerning how the yearly meeting might move forward in our current complex situation, particularly noting that the proposed scenarios for the future of the site will almost certainly involve fundraising initiatives beyond those currently in effect. The committee also noted that the vastly increased demands of the site entail that we will need to be effective in putting together appropriate budgets and providing reserves for both routine and emergency maintenance.

Minute 14 Judy Erickson reported for Publications Committee. Paper and online versions of the 2011 Minute Book and the 2012 Winter *Among Friends* have been published and distributed. The two most recent Plummer Lectures are available online but not yet on paper. Judy asked that meetings call absent members and attendees and offer to send them copies of *Among Friends*.

Minute 15 The Clerk read the report from Naming Committee, which was prepared by Peter Lasersohn. David Rutchman of 57th Street Meeting is recommended as clerk of Nominating Committee. Approved.

Minute 16 Dawn Rubbert presented the report prepared by Breeze Richardson on behalf of Peace Resources Committee. The committee gathered at the ILYM campus in mid-February to share visions for the future of the site. They are discussing what level of programming they'd like to propose for 2012-2013, and are looking into the idea of partnering with other Quaker organizations to assist with presenting workshop facilitators and speakers. They are also continuing to develop their Quaker Peacemakers Archive Project, which will be more formally debuted at 2012 Annual Sessions.

Minute 17 Dawn Rubbert presented the Administrative Coordinator Oversight Committee Report. The committee recommended that Continuing Committee consider approving a policy that the Administrative Coordinator, on behalf of ILYM, may respond affirmatively to requests to send links to photo galleries of Friends' events for any photo gallery or its link that is posted on a monthly meeting website accessible to all. Approved.

Minute 18 The Clerk commended the report on Quaker Earthcare Witness prepared by ILYM QEW representatives Roy Treadway and John Hackman. She strongly recommended that Friends read that report on the ILYM website, stating that it is an excellent example of what is expected from ILYM representatives in their reporting function.

Minute 19 The Reading Clerk read the report on Program for the upcoming annual sessions, prepared by Bridget Rorem. The theme is "Compassion (in the Face of Difficult Things)." The event will include three speakers from outside the yearly meeting. They will be Quaker pastor Peggy Senger Parsons, former Dean of Pendle Hill Niyonu Spann, and AFSC General Secretary Shan Cretin. The Plummer Lecture will be delivered by Mark Mattaini of 57th Street Meeting.

Minute 20 Noel Pavlovic reported that some Food coordinators have been named and others are being solicited.

Minute 21 The Clerk presented the Site Prep report prepared by Beth Schobernd and Erin Taylor. Things are coming along well. Help with site prep is strongly encouraged. It's fun, it's free, and you get to eat great food.

Minute 22 Ted Kuhn presented the F.U.N. report. Things are coming along well, but volunteers are still needed to help with various projects. Interested Friends should contact Ted about helping with the younger set.

Minute 23 Bill Howenstine asked that Continuing Committee minute its appreciation to LFFM, both for its hospitality today and for the care of its land in removing the buckthorn on the meetinghouse grounds. Approved.

Minute 24 The Clerk asked if Continuing Committee would charge her with writing a letter of introduction on behalf of ILYM for Claire Gunnell Goode, who will be participating in the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage to Europe this summer. Approved.

Minute 25 The Continuing Committee session concluded with closing worship.

Janice Domanik
Clerk

David Shiner
Recording Clerk

ILYM COMMITTEES

- AD HOC COMMITTEE TO STUDY VOLUNTEER CONCERNS** Clerk: Dawn Amos
Dawn Amos
David Finke
Bridget Rorem
- ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE** Clerk: Dawn Rubbert
2013 Mark Amos
2014 Margaret Katranides
2015 Dawn Rubbert
Ex-Officio: Presiding & Assistant Clerks
- ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE:** Clerk: Noel Pavlovic
2013 Alice Howenstine
2013 Bill Howenstine
2013 Mark McGinnis
2013 Roy Treadway
2014 Adrian Fisher
2014 Nancy Halliday
2014 Don Moorman
2015 Chris Goode
2015 John Hackman
2015 Noel Pavlovic
2015 Sarah Pavlovic
- FAITH & PRACTICE COMMITTEE** Clerk: Peter Lasersohn
Janice Domanik
Peter Lasersohn
Colleen Reardon
David Shiner
Larry Stout

FINANCE COMMITTEE Clerk: Judy Jager

2013 Cathy Garra
2013 Bruce Kanarek,
2013 Ted Kuhn
2015 Andrew Harrington
2015 Judy Jager
2015 Ashlee Miller

REVIEW COMMITTEE

Janice Domanik
Judy Jager
Ashlee Miller

HANDBOOK COMMITTEE: Clerk: Elizabeth Mertic

2013 Elizabeth Mertic
2014 David Finke
2015 Sue Styer

MAINTENANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE: Co-Clerks: Diane Clark-Dennis & Neil Mesner

2013 Neil Mesner
2013 Jason Dennis
2014 John Hackman
2014 Chuck Howenstine
2014 Kevin Sues
2015 Diane Clark-Dennis
2015 Mike Dennis
2015 Meredith George
Ex-Officio: Stewards

MINISTRY AND ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE Clerk: Joan Pine

- 2013 Joan Pine
- 2014 Wil Brant
- 2014 Fernando Freire
- 2014 Mariellen Gilpin
- 2014 Bridget Rorem
- 2015 Ted Ehmlé
- 2015 Brad Laird
- 2015 Adrian Nelson
- 2015 Gwen Weaver
- 2015 Pam Wolfe

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Clerk: David Rutschman

- 2013 Ruth Marquez
 - 2013 Elizabeth Mertic
 - 2013 David Rutschman
 - 2014 Tom Fairbank
 - 2014 Margie Haworth-Davis
 - 2014 Erin Taylor
- Ex-Officio:* Presiding Clerk

PEACE RESOURCES COMMITTEE Clerk: Breeze Richardson

- 2013 Phyllis Reynolds
- 2013 Breeze Richardson
- 2013 Dawn Rubbert
- 2015 Michael Batinski
- 2015 Kent Busse
- 2015 Mark McGinnis

PEACE TAX FUND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE Clerk: John Knox

- 2015 John Knox

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE Clerk: Mike Dennis

2013 Mike Dennis
2014 David Rutschman
2015 Judy Erickson

Ex-Officio:

Dawn Rubbert
Fernando Freire

PUBLICATIONS AND DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE: Clerk: Judy Erickson

2013 Dawn Amos
2013 Judy Erickson
2013 Rick Robey
2014 Sean West
2015 Wil Brant
2015 David Finke
Ex-Officio: Presiding & Recording Clerks, *Among Friends* editor

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Clerk: _____

2013 Jeannie Marvin
2013 Christina Schulz
2013 Marie White
2014 Erin Taylor

SITE ENVISIONING COMMITTEE Clerk: Chip Rorem

2013 Chip Rorem
2014 Dick Ashdown
2014 Chris Goode
2014 Angie Reeks
2015 Bill Howenstine
2015 Janet Means Underhill

YOUTH OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE: Clerk: Kate Gunnell

2013 Peter Albright
2013 Fay Anderson
2013 Mark Amos
2013 Kate Gunnell
2013 Chris Morrissey
2014 Fariba Murray
2015 Warwick Daw
2015 Rose Dennis
2015 Sara Raffensperger
Ex-Officio: Youth Coordinator & Teen clerks

APPOINTMENTS TO WIDER QUAKER ORGANIZATIONS

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE CORPORATION

2013 Carol Bartles
2014 Bridget Rorem
2015 David Rutschman

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION

2013 Tom Simpson
2014 Wil Rutt
2015 Kevin Brubaker

FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

2013 Charley Earp
2013 Gaelan McQueen

FRIENDS FOR LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER & QUEER CONCERNS

2013 Colleen Reardon

FRIENDS SECONDARY SCHOOL LIAISONS

2013 Olney: Grayce Mesner

FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION

2013 David Shiner

QUAKER EARTH-CARE WITNESS

2013 Roy Treadway

INDIVIDUALS WITH SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

AMONG FRIENDS EDITOR:

Marcia Nelson

RECORDS LIBRARIAN:

Brent Eckert

WEB CONTACT (CLERK OF PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE):

Judy Erickson

YEARLY MEETING SESSION COMMITTEES

2012 CLERK'S COMMITTEE:

David Finke, Peter Lasersohn, Elizabeth Mertic, David Shiner, Gwen Weaver, Tom Paxson, and Susanna Davison

2012 EPISTLE COMMITTEE: Chris Jocius, Angie Thines, and Monica Tetzlaff

2012 EXERCISES COMMITTEE: Caryn Wixom, Mark Amos, and Steve Tamari

2013 YEARLY MEETING RESPONSIBILITIES:

Friends Under Nineteen & Recreation: Chicago South

Food and Adult Program: Blue River Quarterly

Site Preparation/Housekeeping/Cleanup: Chicago North

QUARTERLY GENERAL CLERKS:

Blue River Quarterly: David Wixom

Chicagoland Friends/MCGM: Pam Wolfe

CONTINUING COMMITTEE

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

BlNr	Fariba Murray
ClCr	Grayce Mesner
Colm	Nancy Finke
DwG	Chris Goode
Dunl	Sarah Pavlovic
Evan	Meredith George
57th	Chip & Bridget Rorem
LkFo	David Shiner
MWG	Erin Taylor
NSde	*Charlotte Wood-Harrington
OakP	Judy Erickson
Oshk	*Tom Barlow
RkVa	Ann & Brent Eckert
Rolla	Chris Jocius
StLo	*Kurt Thoroughman
SBend	Brad Laird
SoIl	Dawn Amos
SpRv	*Jackie Urban
SpWG	*Peg Kruger
UFV	Peter Albright
UrCh	Sharon Haworth

*Clerk or Contact information; representative not appointed.