

Supplementary and Late Arriving Documents

Updated 06-20-2025

Late Arriving/Updated ILYM Documents

Minute from Ministry and Advancement (added 6/18)

Nominating Committee Report, updated 6/18/2025 (added 6/18 & 6/20 with new format)

Treasurers' Report, updated as of 6/16/2025 (added 6/18)

REEC Minute 1, version 2 (added 6/20)

Supplementary

RSWS Letter of Introduction – Nathan Kleban (added 6/1)

Quaker House (Fayetteville NC) Annual Reporter (added 6/1)

Milwaukee Meeting

History (added 6/18)

Memorial Minute for Alicia Holmes (added 6/18)

State of Society Report (added 6/18)

AFSC Epistle (added 6/18)

AFSC Minute of Introduction – Zoe Jannuzi (added 6/18)

FWCC Midwest Region Event Flyer (added 6/18)

Ministry and Advancement Minute

Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends believes there is that of the Light of God in every person. We affirm and celebrate our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and non-binary members and attenders. Any person who is led to faithfully love whom they love and express in integrity who they are, including through their gender expression, is ministering to the world and showing who God is. When members and attenders do this, their faithfulness blesses us all.

Illinois Yearly Meeting will continue to support all our members and attenders as they live lives of faith and integrity—including respecting, affirming, and celebrating their uniqueness, supporting them in the choice to come out, caring for them as they live and form relationships (including marriages under the care of our meetings), and caring for them in the face of any test or rebuke they are subjected to by the world and society. As with other health care choices, we support the decisions our members and attenders make regarding gender-affirming care.

ILYM Nominating Committee Report to Annual Sessions 2024 (06/18/2025)

Officers

Presiding Clerk: Kevin Brubaker (clerks 2024, 2025; assists 2026)
Assistant Clerk: Julia Pantoga (assists 2025; clerks 2026, 2027; assists 2028)
(Handbook p 15: “The appointments of the Assistant Clerk and the Presiding Clerk are reviewed annually by the Nominating Committee in consultation with the Clerk's Committee.”)

Recording Clerk: Peter Lasersohn (records 2024, 2025; assists 2026)
Assistant Recording Clerk: Marie White (assists 2025; records 2026, 2027; assists 2028)
Reading Clerk: Bruce Kanarek (2027) (3 year term, renewable as appropriate)

Co-Treasurers: Ted Kuhn (2027), **Dawn Crimson (2028)**

Stewards (3-5): Grayce Mesner (2026), Beth Carpenter (2027), Chip Rorem (2027), **Chris Goode (2028)**

(At least 2 from Clear Creek MM, consult with that meeting)

Among Friends Editor: Ted Kuhn (2027)

Records Librarian: Brent Eckert

2025 Epistle Committee: (min 3): Marcia Neslon

Standing Committees / clerks:

Children’s Religious Education (5-10) Clerk: Dale Gardner

2025: Anna Watson

2026: Bobbi Trist

2027: Dale Gardner, Coco Colin

2028: **Quinn Parks, Katherine Young**

Ex officio: Chos Howard-Mckinney

We would like a young person (under 40ish) join this ad hoc committee

Kent addition from Spring CC 2025 advance docs: **Ad Hoc Committee on Discerning the Future ILYM**

“In the interim, we ask Nominating Committee to identify one or two young adult Friends to join our committee and to present their names at this year’s annual sessions.

Development (3+) Clerk: **Frank Young**

2025: Frank Young

2026: Alex Lippitt

2027: Cathy Garra, Peter Poshepny

2028: **Frank Young** (& a new person?)

Environmental Concerns (at least 6) Clerk: Noel Pavlovic

2025: Sarah Pavlovic

2026: David Wixom, Nancy Halliday

2027: Noel Pavlovic, Chris Goode, Fariba Murray, Barbara Simpson Fuhrmann

2028: Charlotte Raasch (773-251-1820 Lake Forest

Finance Clerk: Val Lester

2027: Val Lester, Judy Jager

Ex Officio: Treasurers, Clerk, and MP&E Clerk

2028: **Cynthia Harris, Frank Young**

Handbook Clerk: Pam Kuhn

2027: Pam Kuhn, Sue Styer

2028: Julia Pantoga

Maintenance, Planning, & Envisioning (6-8 plus stewards) Clerk: Chris Goode

2025: Christina Schultz, Trevor Brandt, Margie Haworth-Davis

2026: Dianne Dennis, Carol Bartles, Marie White, Noel Pavlovic

2027: Chris Goode, Dennis McQueen

2028: Mark Robinson

Ministry & Advancement Clerk: Janice Domanik

2025: Sarah Pavlovic, Virginia Schelbert, Steve Tamari

2026: Janice Domanik, Erin Taylor

2027: Bridget Rorem, David Wixom

2028: **Steve Tamari, Sarah Pavolic, Virginia Schelbert**

Ex Officio: Field Secretaries

Peace Resources (6-12) Clerk: Mark McGinnis

2025: Jan Mullen, Dave Moorman

2026: Sarz Maxwell, Barry Feldman

2027: Mark McGinnis, Mark Masi

2028: Janet Fair

Personnel (4 plus reps from finance & committees that supervise employees)

Clerk: Colleen Reardon

2026: Kate Gunnell, Sharon Haworth, Colleen Reardon

Ex-officio: Mike Dennis – 2027 (Youth Oversight), Val Lester – 2027 (Finance), Dale Gardner – 2027 (Children’s RE), Dawn Crimson – 2026 (Publications and Technology), Chris Goode – 2027 (M&P), Janice Dominik – 2027 (M&A)

2028:

Publications & Technology (3-5 plus ex officio) Clerk: Dawn Crimson

2026: Dawn Crimson, **Lilith Swygert (Tech)**

2027: Nathan Lasersohn

Ex-officio: Wil Brant (AC), Ted Kuhn (Among Friends Editor)

2028:

Racial Equity and Education (min 6, 3-year staggered)

Clerk: Daniel Lakemacher

2025: Beth Burbank, Steven David Flowers

2026: Allison Boyaris, Daniel Lakemacher

2027: Janice Domanik, Karen Lindner

2028: **Beth Burbank, Janet Fair**

Youth Oversight Clerk: Mike Dennis

2026: Charles Howard-McKinny, Brad Laird

2027: Mike Dennis, Allison Boyaris, Daniel Lakemacher

2028: **Rose Johnson, Erica Cheng**

Appointments to Wider Quaker & Other Organizations:

AFSC (4 for 3 years)

2026: Mike Dennis, Nora VeraGodwin

2027: Frank Young, Beth Burbank

2029: **(We won't need more till 2029)**

FCNL

2025: Fariba Murray

2026: Garnet Fay, David Wixom, Dale Gardner

2027: Kevin Brubaker

2028: Fariba Murray

FGC Central Committee (4 for 3 years)

2025: Janice Domanik

2026:

2028: Lilith Swygert

FLGBTQC

2026: Jad Tamari

Friends Peace Teams (serve on Coordinating Council)

2026: Andrea Kintree

Friends School Liaisons:

Olney (number/terms per Nominating Committee)

2025: Grayce Mesner

2028: Grayce will serve if we cannot find another to serve.

Scattergood (welcome input, number/terms per NomCom)

2025: Alex Lippitt

2028: Alex Lippit

Chicago Friends School (1 for 3 years)

2025: Sallyann Garner

2028: Mary Ellen Isaacs

FWCC (4 for 3 years)

2026: David Shiner, Pam Kuhn, Bobbi Trist

2028(?): Julia Pantoga

QEW (not more than 2; serve on Steering Committee)

2026: Sarah Pavlovic

2028: **Chip Rorem**

Mentioned, not specified in Handbook:

Right Sharing of World Resources

Quaker United Nations Office

[NRCAT, CARPR]

Thank you for all the work that has gone into the Nominating Committee work over the last couple of years with lean resources.

I have been impressed at how many of the people who were asked to consider a position in one of our communities or offices took seriously discernment, taking time to see how the Spirit is moving them. So, know that even those who discerned that now is not the time, thank you all for taking the process of discernment seriously. It really matters.

We have made some progress in having some persons join committees who are new to that role, even some of whom have undyed hair that is not grey or white. We honor our elders with grey or no hair, people who still find spirit filled service as a call and who are lovingly nurturing those new to our committee work. Know that if, well, let me say instead, when you discern that it is time to care for our yearly meeting by serving on a committee that you will be gently guided. Most find that it is a joy to work with other Friends from your own and from other meetings, and this joyful work deepens our spiritual paths in ways that sometimes are unexpected.

We encourage monthly meetings and worship groups to put on their announcements and agendas to invite members and attenders to engage yearly meeting in a number of ways including by considering a committee engagement.

Our nominating committee has gained strength this year by having Margie Haworth-Davis as our new clerk, Brandon Harrington, Alex Lippitt, and me.

Income Statement (Profit and Loss)

Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

For the year ended June 30, 2025 *As of June 16, 2025*

	1 GENERAL OPERATING	2 UNRESTRICTED RESERVES	5 FWCC WORLD MTGS	6 MAINT. RESERVE	8 PROPERTY IMPR.	TOTAL
Income						
Support from Meetings	78,593.50	-	-	-	-	78,593.50
Support from Individuals	34,159.17	20,000.00	-	-	500.00	54,659.17
Interest & Investment Income	7,398.56	-	-	-	724.57	8,123.13
Other Income	286.00	-	-	-	-	286.00
Gatherings-Retreats						
Annual Sessions Income						
AS Registrations	22,851.00	-	-	-	-	22,851.00
Gifts-Sessions	4,025.00	-	-	-	-	4,025.00
Total Annual Sessions Income	26,876.00	-	-	-	-	26,876.00
Total Gatherings-Retreats	26,876.00	-	-	-	-	26,876.00
Total Income	147,313.23	20,000.00	-	-	1,224.57	168,537.80
Gross Income	147,313.23	20,000.00	-	-	1,224.57	168,537.80
Operating Expenses						
1 Personnel & Office						
1A Employee Direct-Indirect Expenses	58,651.74	-	-	-	-	58,651.74
1B Staff Travel	4,082.48	-	-	-	-	4,082.48
1C Office Expenses	1,137.77	-	-	-	-	1,137.77
Total 1 Personnel & Office	63,871.99	-	-	-	-	63,871.99
2 YM Travel Support						
2A ILYM Reps Travel	5,188.83	-	468.64	-	-	5,657.47
ILYM Committee Travel	469.25	-	-	-	-	469.25
Total 2 YM Travel Support	5,658.08	-	468.64	-	-	6,126.72
3 Site & Property Expenses						
Annual services-Property Taxes	1,893.87	-	-	-	-	1,893.87
Mowing, Tree Trimming	3,960.00	-	-	10,700.00	-	14,660.00
Repairs & Maintenance	873.38	-	-	6,785.00	-	7,658.38
Urgent Maintenance	-	-	-	(12,476.55)	-	(12,476.55)
Site Insurance Expense	25,000.00	-	-	22,182.00	-	47,182.00
Caretaker Expenses	625.00	-	-	-	-	625.00
Appliances-Equipment	-	-	-	8,765.00	-	8,765.00
Utilities	2,682.29	-	-	-	-	2,682.29
Total 3 Site & Property Expenses	35,034.54	-	-	35,955.45	-	70,989.99
4 Gatherings-Retreats Expenses						

Income Statement (Profit and Loss)

	1 GENERAL OPERATING	2 UNRESTRICTED RESERVES	5 FWCC WORLD MTGS	6 MAINT. RESERVE	8 PROPERTY IMPR.	TOTAL
4A Annual Sessions Expenses						
AS Admin Coordination	6,613.17	-	-	-	-	6,613.17
Transaction Fees on Registrations	531.81	-	-	-	-	531.81
Total 4A Annual Sessions Expense	7,144.98	-	-	-	-	7,144.98
Total 4 Gatherings-Retreats Expenses	7,144.98	-	-	-	-	7,144.98
5 Committee Expenses						
Committees-General	51.32	-	-	-	-	51.32
Development Committee	518.82	-	-	-	-	518.82
Publications & Distribution Committee	1,580.48	-	-	-	-	1,580.48
YO Committee	530.29	-	-	-	-	530.29
Total 5 Committee Expenses	2,680.91	-	-	-	-	2,680.91
6 Support to Others	15,000.00	-	531.36	-	-	15,531.36
Total Operating Expenses	129,390.50	-	1,000.00	35,955.45	-	166,345.95
Operating Income	17,922.73	20,000.00	(1,000.00)	(35,955.45)	1,224.57	2,191.85
Transfers						
Transfers - Budgeted						
Transfers - FWCC World Mtgs	(1,000.00)	-	1,000.00	-	-	-
Transfers - Maint Reserve	(15,850.00)	-	-	15,850.00	-	-
Total Transfers - Budgeted	(16,850.00)	-	1,000.00	15,850.00	-	-
Total Transfers	(16,850.00)	-	1,000.00	15,850.00	-	-
Net Income	1,072.73	20,000.00	-	(20,105.45)	1,224.57	2,191.85

Balance Sheet

Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

As of June 16, 2025

JUN 16, 2025 JUN 30, 2024

Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Checking Account	43,170.80	114,247.28
Friends Fiduciary-Temp. Restricted Property Impr. ILYM3	38,033.82	38,033.82
Friends Fiduciary-Unrestricted Designated ILYM5	578,870.79	558,415.55
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	660,075.41	710,696.65

Current Assets

Accounts Receivable	39,594.48	689.55
Total Current Assets	39,594.48	689.55

Total Assets

699,669.89 711,386.20

Liabilities and Equity

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	336.94	14,208.44
Payroll Taxes	(36.66)	-
Total Current Liabilities	300.28	14,208.44

Total Liabilities

300.28 14,208.44

Equity

Current Year Earnings	2,191.85	324,161.66
Net Assets	-	(324,161.66)

Unrestricted Undesignated

1 General Operating	60,000.00	60,000.00
Total Unrestricted Undesignated	60,000.00	60,000.00

Unrestricted Designated

2 Unrestricted Reserves	433,771.27	433,771.27
3 Campus Accessibility	1,300.00	1,300.00
4 Payroll Reserve	37,800.00	37,800.00
5 FWCC World Mtgs.	1,000.00	1,000.00
6 Maint. Reserve	118,568.22	118,568.22
Total Unrestricted Designated	592,439.49	592,439.49

Temporarily Restricted

REEC Minute 1 - Divestment

To Illinois State Treasurer Frerichs,

We write to you as the Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). As Quakers, we are guided by the belief that there is that of God, or the Light, in everyone. This concept forms the foundation of our values, especially those of peace and equality. Although we do not seek to impose the religious foundation of our beliefs on others, Quakers have long advocated against war and violence and for economic, social, and political equality. It is in this tradition of advocacy and conscientious objection to our participation in war that we urge you to amend Section 7 of the Illinois Investment Policy Statement to include the following: "Illinois commits to divest from companies and countries that consistently, knowingly, and directly enable or facilitate genocide, apartheid, or other war crimes and crimes against humanity."

One urgent need that this investment policy statement addresses is to make clear that Illinois must divest from Israel Bonds. Multiple [international](#)¹, [Palestinian](#)², and [Israeli](#)³ human rights organizations have concluded that Israel's treatment of the Palestinians meets the legal definition of apartheid, and the International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued an [opinion on July 19, 2024](#)⁴ that Israel's continued occupation of the Palestinian Territories is unlawful. Additionally, the ICJ issued provisional measures against Israel to halt its military offensive in Gaza due to the [Court's May 2024 opinion](#)⁵ that it is plausible that Israel is committing a genocide against the Palestinians. It is unconscionable to us that despite these well-documented and ongoing violations of human rights and international law, you recently [renewed \\$15 million in Israel Bonds](#)⁶ and [purchased an additional \\$10 million in Israel Bonds](#)⁷, bringing Illinois's total holdings to \$95 million as of May 1, 2025.

We believe that our public funds should be invested in life-promoting ventures that will benefit the people of Illinois without harming others around the world. This is why we must ensure that our public investments are governed by a policy that prevents investment in companies and countries that consistently, knowingly, and directly enable or facilitate genocide, apartheid, or other war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Signed on behalf of the Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Clerk



May 2025

To our Friends of Illinois Yearly Meeting,

Please welcome Nathan Kleban as he visits your yearly meeting sessions. We are excited that he will have opportunities to hear your concerns and leadings while sharing in worship, holding your meeting in the Light and leading interest groups. He is grateful to be in faith and community with you.

As the Program Associate with Right Sharing of World Resources, Nathan cultivates relationships with Friends and invites connection with volunteers and partners in this country and across the world. Nathan also visits Friends to offer messages and workshops on right sharing and "Power of Enough". He is passionate about deepening and supporting Quakers' spirit-led connections to share the abundance of God's love working for equity through partnerships with our human family throughout the world. Nathan is also very fond of the Alternatives to Violence Project. His home Meeting is Iowa City Monthly Meeting, Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative).

We at RSWR seek to strengthen our connection to Friends meetings and churches around the country through intervisitation. We hope to open opportunities for understanding how each of us can work with Spirit to create equity and inclusion in the world. We send you greetings, hold you in our prayers, and trust that God will bless your time together in loving community.

With Love and Light,
Elizabeth Gates

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth Gates".

Clerk, Right Sharing of World Resources Board
Lancaster Monthly Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting



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2025 Annual Report

Quaker House's core mission is to work towards the day when there are no more wars, and so no need for a military. Until that day, Quaker House works to lessen the harm done to individuals, families, communities, and our nation by the military-industrial complex. We respond to requests for assistance made to the GI Rights Hotline, we provide free and confidential counseling to people coping with the emotional damage from their experiences, and we bring the challenges and concerns of the military personnel to a broader community that is often far removed from the day-to-day experience.

Like so many other organizations and individuals, Quaker House watched the developments of the past year with increasing concern. The results of the 2024 election cycle on the local, state, and national levels have created new concerns seemingly every day. We are working along with many allied organizations to rise to these new concerns and to attempt to predict the coming needs of those we serve.

We have restarted the *Holding The Line* series of online posts about the ongoing challenges faced by military participants and expanded it to include discussions about the likely effects of the new leadership of the Defense Department and related agencies. All the posts can be found on the Quaker House website at <https://quakerhouse.org/blog-2/>. These posts also get sent by email and social media to those who have subscribed, and we welcome additions to our contact lists. We are also stepping up the frequency of the *On The Homefront* newsletter from twice or three times a year to bi-monthly. These efforts are important, but costly, and we are seeking ways to limit the additional expenses.

The Quaker House Board continues to be active and strong. The members of the board are drawn from appointments by several yearly meetings and monthly meetings across a wide area, and each member brings valuable insights. In the past year they have led an effort to consider what new opportunities could be started to expand our outreach and mission. One notable success was our first-time book fundraiser last summer. Donors were given the opportunity to receive a copy of *Tell It Slant* , a new biography of former Executive Director Chuck Fager. In the first six months of this project, we mailed out 135 books and we continue to receive new requests. We are looking for new publications for future efforts.

Decades of careful stewardship of the donations received by Quaker House has placed us in a strong financial condition. We have been able to effect important repairs to the building at 223 Hillside Avenue to assure that it will be able to serve us for years to come. These have included installation of foundation reinforcements to take the literal load off of the 100-year-old pilings under Quaker House as well as repairs to the side porch that presented a hazard to the children who now worship weekly with Fayetteville Friends Meeting.

Executive Director Wayne Finegar continues his travels, both physically and electronically, to share the work of Quaker House and help strengthen the work of all who seek peace. In April 2025 he will visit with South Central Yearly Meeting for the first time and is looking forward to returning to many of the yearly meetings he has been with in the past. Board member Curt Torell and Wayne are going to be presenting an online session to members of Northern Yearly Meeting about draft registration and ways for young people considering conscientious objection to respond to the requirements of registration now and in the future.

Our work with the GI Rights Hotline continues as well. All of the counselors who work with the Hotline have experienced a rise in callers simply asking to verify that the contact points are correct, and that the Hotline is completely independent of the military. None of us know what this means for sure, but it seems to suggest the same sense of foreboding being felt by so many outside the military of what is coming next. These callers may be planning how they may react in the future and creating lists of potential contacts. In anticipation of this, Quaker House is working with several groups to create materials (both electronic and printed) that can give guidance to members of the military faced with orders that they consider illegal. We are also assisting the Military Law Task Force of the National Lawyers Guild in identifying civilian attorneys and resources to provide counsel if needed for participants who refuse those unlawful orders.

Many people across the nation, and the world, are being affected by the attempts to radically change how the United States operates. The military as an institution, and the individuals who participate either directly or through their families, are very much being affected as well. Quaker House continues to address the needs of those individuals and families. The support of so many people, both Friends and friends, across the country makes it possible for us to continue that work.

A Short History of Milwaukee Friends Meeting

While there are reports of Quakers in Milwaukee during the 1930's, as far as we can document, the Milwaukee Worship Group first met on August 12, 1941 in the basement of the First Baptist Church which formerly stood on East Odgen Avenue in Milwaukee. Elizabeth Thiermann is the founder of the Meeting. In the later 30's, Elizabeth's son Stephen attended Haverford College (Pennsylvania) which placed him squarely in the realm of Quakers. Elizabeth's concern over the approaching war in Europe may have led her to desire a place where men with pacifist ideals could establish themselves as conscientious objectors. During the first year of the life of the Worship Group, preparative status was established under the care of Evanston Friends Meeting (Illinois) and five Milwaukee attenders became members of the Religious Society of Friends through membership in the Evanston Meeting.

On October 13th, 1942, Elizabeth Thiermann purchased a home at 3934 Harcourt Place, Shorewood, which became the place of worship until the early 50's and the first home of the AFSC Material Aids Program "Sewing Circle" which was active for more than 50 years until 1993.

Much of the history of Milwaukee Friends is related significantly to the history of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). From the beginning in 1941, the then Chicago regional office of AFSC made itself know to Milwaukee Friends. A staff person's visit to Elizabeth Thiermann can be safely assumed to have opened the possibilities in working with the new regional as well as the national office (which had begun in 1917). It can be assumed that AFSC staff were interested in extending the regional office programs beyond Chicago. In the mid 50's funds were donated to establish an area AFSC Committee in Milwaukee. A young Quaker couple were hired to coordinate the work of this committee. Draft counseling, work camps, peace education and cooperation with local peace organizations were elements of the program. It is believed that from 1950 until the 1980's, Milwaukee Meeting was represented on the AFSC Chicago Regional Office Executive Committee. Since 1972, Milwaukee has held an annual AFSC Gift Shop during the Christmas shopping season to raise funds for AFSC. When the Meetinghouse was unavailable due to construction for the annual gift shop in 2000, an amount similar to that raised the prior year was donated anyway.

The AFSC Material Aids "Sewing Circle" drew Milwaukee Friends and volunteers from the wider community together weekly or bi-weekly for the sorting of used clothing and household linens collected from a range of sources. Space for these materials was secured in various churches. The group gathered for cleaning, sewing, patching, and shipment of items to the AFSC warehouse in Philadelphia. A large number of women were recruited to participate in many ways such as knitting infant wear in their homes. In later year, the "Quaker Quilters" were absorbed into this effort, and their colorful quilts were not only shipped to the Material Aids project, but also sold in the annual AFSC gift shop. Records kept by organizer and friend of Milwaukee Meeting, Winnie Woodmansee, from 1944 to 1993, document approximately 75 tons of shipments made for distribution to persons in need everywhere at home and abroad.

In 1950, the Milwaukee Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends was recognized with membership in both Illinois Yearly Meeting(IYM), part of Friends General Conference, and Western Yearly Meeting, part of Friends United Meeting. This dual membership followed Evanston's hopes of advancing the unity of Friends General Conference, the umbrella for unprogrammed (silent) and theologically diverse meetings; and Friends United Meeting, the umbrella for the programmed, pastoral meetings with a diverse but largely Christocentric approach.

Eventually, Milwaukee laid down its membership in Western Yearly Meeting since size, energy and interest determined that coming together with other Meetings and Worship Groups in the Midwest region on a yearly basis (through Illinois Yearly Meeting) was demanding enough in itself. Milwaukee Friends were active in IYM and also in its' Fox Valley Quarterly Meeting, which brought together nearby meetings four times per year. After the 1960 dissolution of this Quarterly Meeting, Milwaukee become active in the North Half-Yearly Meeting of IYM, which largely included Friends in northern Wisconsin and Minnesota. Milwaukee Friends were later active in forming Northern Yearly Meeting in 1975, and Milwaukee has maintained dual affiliation with both Illinois Yearly and Northern Yearly Meetings since that time.

A constant theme running through the States of Society over many years was the earnest longing for a permanent place for the Meeting, a "home of our own." Between the early 50's and 1984, the Meeting met in seven different public buildings, including Y's and churches. Attendance varied considerable over the years, but at its peak, there were as many as 40 attenders. The 1991 recorded history mentions attendance at Meeting for Worship at approximately 70. Now in 2001, the closing circle after worship on many Sundays often includes 100 adults and children. The expansion of the Meetinghouse in 2001 has doubled the space for Worship and First Day School activities, enabled full accessibility of the building, and carries with it a commitment to expanded community use.

In 1974, it came to Meeting's attention that a woman in her 90's, Anita Koenen, was seeking the commitment of a capable and reliable entity to enter a life estate arrangement for the possession of her property along the Milwaukee River after her death. This would require the paying of her property taxes and maintaining and conserving in perpetuity the almost 4 acres of urban woodland as a public nature preserve honoring the memory of her father, Jacob. In 1976, Meeting became clear to proceed and made this agreement, and Anita died in her own home, as was her intent, on October 5th, 1979. In 1984, the original Meetinghouse was completed and dedicated.

There have been quiet periods as well as periods of active involvement in Friends' witness for peace and justice. Considerable effort was invested in the Civil Rights movement, work to which we have returned in the last decade with membership in MICAH (Milwaukee Inner-City Congregations Allied for Hope) and the Interfaith Conference, both grass roots efforts formed to address needs in the City of Milwaukee. Meeting's association with Interfaith spans more than 20 years. Meeting's first public witness was in 1961 in affirming the tricentennial of the Friends Testimony for peace and against war. During the Vietnam years, one member coordinated the civilly disobedient transmission of funds collected throughout IYM to Canadian Friends for medical aid to war-torn South and North Vietnam. An outstanding commitment of more than 10 years has been the Peacemaker's Camp, which annually provides a week-long gathering for young children to learn conflict resolution skills and appreciation of a multi-cultural community. A continuing commitment to feed those in need drives our monthly provision of a meal at Casa Maria Hospitality House and donations to food pantries in the area, most recently the Gaenslen School Food Pantry, a joint project of the Meeting and the school.

In this our 52nd year, we remember and appreciate all those who came before us, who in faith chose to make this Meeting their spiritual community and through their choices created the opportunity for us to come together. May our own choices lay a strong foundation for future Friends to gather in worship, learning, work and song, in this place we call Milwaukee Friends Meeting.

Bill Brown and Elizabeth Evans, Historians
August 2001

Memorial Minute for Alicia Holmes - Milwaukee Friends Meeting

Our dear friend Alicia Evelyn Holmes passed away March 2, 2024. On September 21, 2024 Milwaukee Meeting held a memorial Meeting for Worship, celebrating her life. Using Zoom friends and family both near and far were able to join together and remember the amazing life Alicia lived.

Alicia was born on September 9, 1943 to Nathan Edgar Holmes and Evelyn Clark. Her parents Nathan and Evelyn were married August 30, 1941 in Hannibal, Missouri. Alicia grew up in Moline Illinois, and attended college in Normal Illinois. She taught school in Waukegan and Chicago. She lived and worked as an accountant in Frankfurt Germany, before settling in Milwaukee. On the 12th of November 1995 she became a recorded member of Milwaukee Meeting.

She deeply loved her children Robley (Robin) and Cameron, and was very proud of them. For the past several years she lived with Cameron, and he helped support her, as chronic illnesses left her essentially homebound. Cameron noted during the memorial MfW that in addition to sharing a household he was also her personal IT support person. Alicia was an avid reader, she loved poetry – it was suggested that a good way to honor her memory would be to memorize a poem. She had an amazing green thumb and enjoyed filling her yard with native plants. She loved folk music – and had an amazing voice.

Alicia had been very involved with Milwaukee Meeting for years. She worked in First Day School, and Peacemaker's Camp. She was always ready with her guitar and a song. She enjoyed singing with Nightingales and was involved with Illinois Yearly Meeting. For many years she would seek donations of bread from local bakeries for the Teen Café. Alicia also volunteered her time at check-out for the Teen Café of the International Gift Shop. She was determined that everyone should learn how to count out change without the use of technology! Alicia was extremely generous, opening her home to a Friend in need. Alicia contemplated the duality of light & dark. She described the "sacred dark", where we are born, where seeds sprout, and maintained that darkness was neither bad or negative.

Her ready smile, laugh and gentle spirit will be missed.

Milwaukee Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends State of Society 2025

2024 was a year marked by a historic election, the impacts of which have reverberated through our community. The political attitudes of Milwaukee Friends are not uniform, and we continue laboring to hold a circle that welcomes all who seek worship among Friends. Many have shared their grief and alarm over government actions understood as contradictory to Quaker tenets of peace, integrity, justice, and care for Planet Earth. Milwaukee Friends have sought the stillness of silent worship to navigate these complexities, and since November, our meeting has been enriched by the increased presence of newcomers and Friends returning after long absences.

Following the success of the 2023 International Gift Shop, several Friends felt strongly led to uphold this unique Milwaukee Quaker tradition. In Mid-December, our meetinghouse was again filled with a vibrant commotion of craft vendors, neighbors, musicians, and teenagers serving soup and bread with intent focus, creating a scene of generosity and welcome to all in the broader community. Our efforts allow us to provide financial support to AFSC and FCNL.

Our children and youth program is vital and growing. With support from parents and caring program leaders, youth are in discernment about how to accommodate simultaneous needs for spaces in which teens are empowered to explore Quakerism among peers, and the continued flourishing of treasured multi-age spaces. Young adults, too, have found affinity in monthly gatherings at the meetinghouse. A mix of younger adults, both longtime friends deeply familiar with Quaker practice, and those newer to Friends, enjoy rich exploration about Quaker history, practice, and engagement in the modern world.

Three joyful weddings were held. Martin Ventura and Genevieve Beck-Roe were married in June under the care of the meeting. In July, Carmen Petri and Rebecca Nead were married under the care of the meeting. Dani Schurhammer and Nolan Smith were married in the manner of Friends in September, following a clearness process.

Not diminishing joyful turnings, our community has experienced bruising losses in the deaths of treasured Friends. Alicia Holmes died in March of 2024. Alicia was always ready with her guitar and a song. She was involved in First Day School, Peacemaker's Camp and Nightingales. Recently her time with Meeting was limited, as chronic illnesses forced her to be homebound. Nino Ridgway died in September of 2024. Nino loved the Koenen Preserve, and generously shared her curiosity, expertise, worldly assets, and labor to the benefit of our meeting, its people, and our precious land. In December of 2024 we unexpectedly lost Amy Fritz, who loved music, paired deep thoughtfulness with wry humor, and whose energetic efforts assured the success of our International Gift

Shop. In March of 2025 we lost Sky Shultz, a restless philosopher of big issues, lover of the absurd, and tireless advocate for peace. Many among us carry lasting grief for the passing of each of these dear Friends.

Finally, we note the vital and growing work in community of all our committees. Their varied work is beyond the scope of this brief document to name.

2025 NYM ANNUAL CENSUS REPORT

Co-Clerks: Jill LeStarge and Chris McLaughlin

Email: clerk@milwaukeequakers.org

<https://www.milwaukeequakers.org/>

How many WGs/PMs are under your care? 1

Kenosha-Racine Worship Group will be reported by them directly

CENSUS REPORT

Please estimate the breakdown of age groups, if possible.

Number of Adults Attending Worship/ Active on a Meeting Committee/ Financial Supporter

Age 18-35 years: 50

Age 36-65 years: 50

Age 66 years+: 60

TOTAL adults 160

Number of Children

Under age 2: 0

Preschool (ages 2-5): 5

Grades 1 thru 5: 9

Grades 6-8: 7

High School: 5

TOTAL children: 26

First Day School and/or Teen Friends program? Yes: X None _____



Quaker action for a just world

1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102
afsc.org

*If not now, tell me when
We may never see this moment or place in time again
If not now, if not now, tell me when
I see sorrow and trouble in this land
Although there will be struggle, we'll make the change we can
If not now, if not now, tell me when*

— Carrie Newcomer, 2019
Quaker singer-songwriter

Dear Friends Everywhere,

Greetings from the American Friends Service Committee. In these devastating times, there are an uncountable number of threats to human rights, the fundamental principles that undergird democracy, and the well-being of our communities. AFSC is ready for this moment. Based on our century of experience as a Quaker organization, we are equipped to act boldly and take risks. We have built an agile organization that is able to respond to immediate needs, build power in communities, and resist until justice and love prevail. We also recognize individual Friends and Quaker congregations who are independently exercising their testimonies to create a better, peaceful, and more just world. Thank you for your witness and courage.

This epistle briefly describes our annual Corporation meeting and offers a few highlights about our programs and campaigns. Far short of being comprehensive of AFSC's current work, this epistle seeks to build awareness among Quakers about AFSC's current presence in the world. It also calls upon Friends to act in partnership with us to meet urgent community needs, challenge injustice, and build peace.

AFSC Annual Meeting of the Corporation

The theme for this year's annual meeting of the AFSC Corporation is *Healing Through Justice: Our Collective Journey*. Despite what politicians might say to divide us, policing and prisons do not keep communities safe. Neither does militarism. But today, we see a host of new policies that seek to expand on those oppressive systems. Mass detention and deportation of immigrants are modeled after other policies that criminalize Black and Brown communities. Threats in the international arena, including in Palestine, Sudan, Myanmar, and Ukraine, also undermine the pursuit of peace and justice.

As Friends, we are led to act in solidarity with communities facing violence and oppression. Our theme for this year's Corporation Meeting spotlights AFSC's Healing Justice programs, which adopt a long-

term abolitionist vision as they work to reduce our society's reliance on incarceration and policing. It also responds to calls for justice and healing among immigrant communities and in regions of the world that have been devastated by recent and ongoing wars.

Defending migrant rights

AFSC believes that *everyone* deserves a chance to build a good life, regardless of where they were born or when or how they migrated. When people make the difficult choice to leave their homes, they are seeking safety, opportunities, and a chance to contribute to a new country. They should be welcomed with respect and dignity. The U.S. has the resources to ensure humane, comprehensive support for newcomers. However, the Trump administration is threatening immigrant safety by calling for mass deportations, the dismantling of longstanding rights, and policies that dehumanize immigrants.

As a Quaker organization, we affirm the divine worth of every person, and we refuse to accept these unjust policies. We will not sit back and watch as communities and families are torn apart and fundamental rights are eroded. AFSC is working to address the economic and political drivers of migration, reflecting our commitment to systemic change. One way we do this work is by amplifying the voices of people who have been most impacted by unjust immigration policies. AFSC's TRACES project aims to highlight those untold stories, providing a platform for migrants to share their powerful experiences. AFSC conducted storytelling sessions in New Jersey, Jordan, El Salvador, Mexico, and Guatemala, where we helped immigrants reclaim their individual power over their own stories.

We also support migrants, refugees, and internally displaced people at each stage of their journey. To ensure that migrant communities are safe and protected, we offer legal services, training, human rights monitoring, and humanitarian relief. And we support immigrant-led organizing and advocacy.

We are asking Friends to familiarize themselves with our [six principles of a welcoming, dignified, and just approach to immigration](#). These include: (1) valuing immigrant leadership, (2) welcoming people with dignity, (3) offering paths to citizenship, (4) protecting the right to seek asylum, (5) ensuring that everyone can meet their basic needs, regardless of immigration status, and (6) helping people live safely wherever they are. We call upon Friends to affirm these six principles through their public witness by taking action. We know that when we take action together, grounded in love, we can make a difference. Learn more at afsc.org/6pillars.

AFSC has resources to equip individuals and communities with the tools they need to make effective change, which can be found at <https://afsc.org/migration>. These resources intend to support Friends and others when they talk with family and friends, write letters to the editor, comment on local media websites, meet with editorial boards, and host community conversations. A list of [five tips](#) on how to advocate for migration justice can also be found on our website: afsc.org/migration-messaging.

Additionally, we are offering yard signs with the message “QUAKERS WELCOME IMMIGRANTS WITH DIGNITY” to meetings and churches that are ready to stand in public witness with migrant communities. Order a sign for your meeting or church at afsc.org/migration-justice-yard-signs.

Peace and Justice in Palestine

AFSC has had a historic presence in Palestine, dating back to 1948, when the United Nations commissioned AFSC to lead humanitarian work in Gaza after 750,000 Palestinians were forcibly displaced from their homes. Since then, our programs have provided humanitarian aid, agricultural development, kindergartens, midwife training, and trauma healing to Palestinians for over seven decades. In Israel, we support civil society organizations working to counter militarism, build awareness among the Israeli public about injustices, and advocate for the right of return for Palestinian refugees. We also have staff working in East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Jordan who deliver humanitarian aid and advocate for Palestinian self-determination and freedom.

Since October 2023, tens of thousands of Palestinians have been killed and many more injured by Israel’s ongoing attacks on Gaza. People are dying of starvation and disease. Most hospitals are shuttered, and 90% of homes and buildings are uninhabitable. Nearly all of Gaza's more than 2 million people have been displaced, including AFSC staff. Since March 2, Israel has blocked all aid from entering Gaza, and people urgently need food, water, medicine, and other essentials.

AFSC's emergency relief efforts has helped to alleviate suffering in the short term and reduce inequality and oppression in the long term. Despite facing grave personal losses themselves, AFSC staff in Gaza have provided lifesaving assistance to hundreds of thousands of displaced Palestinians, including hot meals, food parcels, and fresh vegetables. We have also distributed hygiene kits with soap, toothbrushes, women's hygiene products, and other critical supplies, and offered recreational activities for children and counseling to help people process the impact of the violence. Friends can see the challenges our aid workers face on a daily basis and the courageous action they are taking to save lives in AFSC’s short documentary titled “[Lifelines](https://afsc.org/lifelines).” Watch the film at afsc.org/lifelines. To find more resources to help you take action and speak out against the genocide, visit afsc.org/crisis-gaza.

Quaker testimonies teach that injustices must be eliminated for peace to prevail. In 2022, AFSC joined the international human rights community—including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch—in amplifying calls to end the Israeli apartheid system, which for decades has been oppressing, suffocating, and humiliating Palestinians. Today, AFSC is calling upon Quaker meetings and churches to join our interfaith coalition of over 500 congregations known as the [Apartheid-Free communities](https://afsc.org/apartheid-free-communities).

Over 40 Quaker Apartheid-Free communities have joined our coalition. In just the past year alone, the number of Quaker meetings and churches that have joined has more than doubled! Quaker

communities in the coalition are demonstrating their commitment to the Apartheid-Free movement in various ways, including (but certainly not limited to) outreach to other faith communities, hosting education programs for Friends about apartheid in Palestine, moving their assets and money to divest from supporting Israel's military occupation, and demanding that elected officials address apartheid in their policy decisions and public speaking appearances. Today, we ask that other meetings and churches accept our invitation and, when led to do so, sign the Apartheid-Free pledge and take action against racism, militarism, and denial of human rights in Palestine and beyond. Learn more at apartheid-free.org.

And more . . .

There are so many more ways to take action with AFSC.

Our [Emerging Leaders for Liberation](#) program, now in its fourth year, equips young adult Friends and other young adults with the skills they need to effectively enact social change. We encourage more young adult Friends to consider applying for this program so they, too, can receive mentorship from our staff.

Anyone can learn from the esteemed social change leaders on our staff by joining our [Third Tuesdays: Protect, Resist, and Rebuild](#) webinars, hosted every third Tuesday of the month at 8 p.m. EST / 7 p.m. CST / 5 p.m. PST. Join us for [Meeting for Worship with Attention to Peace](#) every Thursday at 5:30 p.m. ET / 3:30 p.m. CT / 2:30 p.m. PT.

We encourage Friends to sign up for our weekly newsletter "Weekend Reading" and our monthly "Acting in Faith" newsletter, specifically tailored for Friends, for the latest updates about AFSC's work and how you can get involved. More information can also be found at afsc.org/friends-engage.

There are so many ways for Friends to partner with AFSC towards creating a more just, sustainable, and peaceful world. Our staff will be visiting over 20 Yearly Meetings this year and over 80 events at Quaker meetings, churches, schools, and retirement communities. You can submit a request for a speaker to attend your meeting here: afsc.org/host-event.

From AFSC to all Friends worldwide, we send peace, prayers for resilience, and our solidarity. In the words of the Quaker refugee rights activist Jim Corbett: "Asking not 'what can I do?' but 'what can we do?' we open the way for each individual offering to be incorporated into a cathedral of love and service that our life as people builds for the Kingdom in human history." Striving forth together, we will build the beloved community that this wounded world needs now.



Traveling Minute for Zoe Jannuzi

June 5, 2025

Dear Friends at Illinois Yearly Meeting,

Loving greetings from the Quaker Engagement Team at the American Friends Service Committee.

We commend to your friendly care Zoe Jannuzi, AFSC's Palestine Activism Program Coordinator. She will be traveling from Philadelphia to the Illinois Yearly Meeting Annual Session from June 18-22, 2025.

In her role, Zoe activates people across the United States to further their visions for a world free of apartheid and occupation. She leads training sessions on AFSC's weekly Action Hours, helping people strengthen their advocacy for peace and justice in Palestine. Zoe graduated from Swarthmore College in 2022 and worked as the Program Assistant for Middle East Policy with the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) before joining AFSC. At ILYM, Zoe will be leading a workshop on "Living the 'Quaker Vision for Peace'" to explore how Friends are called to live into the peace testimony.

We hold Zoe in our prayers as she travels to ILYM to be in fellowship with Friends and share about her work at AFSC. May her travels and faithful presence be a blessing to you as it is to us at AFSC.

On behalf of the Quaker Engagement Team at AFSC,

Brian Blackmore

Director of Quaker Engagement



Midwest Youth & Young Adult Worker Gathering

August 8–10, 2025 | Quaker Hill, Richmond, IN

Are you working with Quaker youth or young adults—or feeling a strong leading to do so? Mark your calendar for a special regional gathering of youth and young adult workers.

We'll come together at Quaker Hill starting with dinner on Friday, August 8, and wrap up after breakfast on Sunday, August 10. Whether you're a volunteer, staff member, or simply discerning the work of Friends with Youth and Young Adults, this weekend is for you.

Expect meaningful connection, shared resources, encouragement, and expertise of consultants with experience in youth and young adult ministry to help us deepen and grow our work.

Sign up with this QR code:



if you have any questions, contact: Tom.s@westernyearlymeeting.org or 989 307 9847