

2013 Fall Continuing Committee Meeting

10/19/2013

at Urbana-Champaign Meetinghouse, Urbana, Illinois

Attending: Peter Albright, Wil Brant (recording clerk), Janice Domanik (presiding clerk), David Finke, Nancy Finke, Cathy Garra, Meredith George, Mariellen Gilpin, Chris Goode, Sharon Haworth, Margie Haworth-Davis, Judy Jager, Ted Kuhn, Brad Laird, Peter Lasersohn, Valerie Lester, Grayce Mesner, Neil Mesner, Fariba Murray, Joan Pine, Bridget Rorem, Chip Rorem, David Rutschman, David Shiner (assistant clerk), Roy C. Treadway, Sean West, David Wixom, Judy Wolicki, Katherine Young

Minute 1 The Fall 2013 Continuing Committee session began with opening worship.

Minute 2 Presiding Clerk Janice Domanik welcomed Friends to Continuing Committee. The clerk announced that there is a card for Elizabeth Mertic that people can sign. The clerk has appointed Cathy Garra and Roxy Jacobs to the Naming Committee. The clerk also announced that Wil Brant has been appointed to the position of Administrative Coordinator. The new email and postal address for this position is AdminCoor@ilym.org and 5615 S. Woodlawn Ave., Chicago, IL 60637.

Minute 3 Ted Kuhn reported in his capacity as co-treasurer. He reviewed 2013 financials that were printed in the 2013 minutes book. The yearly meeting has ended the fiscal year in good financial shape. End of the fiscal year financials approved.

Minute 4 Ted Kuhn distributed a year-to-date financial report for the current fiscal year. He noted that while expenses are currently more than income, it is still early in the fiscal year and more funds will be coming in as more monthly meetings pay their contributions. Report accepted.

Minute 5 Co-treasurers and Finance Committee recommend that the Review Committee determine whether funds are available for the conversion of the water heater room on the west side of the meetinghouse to a bathroom. Approved.

Minute 6 Judy Jager presented the report from the Finance Committee. The committee will be updating the job description of the treasurer. Liaisons from the Finance Committee to yearly meeting committee clerks and monthly meeting treasurers have been appointed. The committee is working with the Development Committee regarding confidentiality of donor information. In agreement with the treasurers, the committee has established a new fund, the Next Projects Fund, to record and account for contributions made for projects that had been approved and prioritized by the yearly meeting with the stipulation of commencement pending reception of funding. Report accepted.

Minute 7 The Finance Committee has added the following to the Review Committee job description:

- a) Be in dialog with the committee requesting funds.

b) If there is an issue of the request being within the requesting committee's scope, then the Review Committee should consult with Continuing Committee. Approved.

Minute 8 Joan Pine presented the report from the Ministry and Advancement Committee. Members of the committee plan to attend as a group the 2014 White Privilege Conference in Madison, Wisconsin, in March. Out of the workshops offered at annual sessions on monthly meeting ministry committees developed an interest to gather regionally to further the discussion. Two workshops are being planned, one on conflict and one on one of the topics that developed out of the annual session workshops. The committee is looking into developing a list of resources that can be posted on the ILYM website. Report accepted.

Minute 9 Judy Wolicki reported (report attached) in her capacity as Field Secretary. Programs offered to meetings and meeting visitations are listed in her written report. She expressed her joy in visiting meetings and concerns about smaller meetings that are experiencing difficulties in finding growth. Report accepted.

Minute 10 Roy Treadway presented the attached report from the stewards. Various project updates are listed in the written report. Many projects have been completed under budget. Report accepted.

Minute 11 The stewards will continue to explore with the Environmental Concerns and Maintenance and Planning Committees the best way to provide electricity for persons using the cabins and elsewhere at ILYM, including the use of solar sources of electricity, with no decision expected before the 2014 annual sessions. Approved.

Minute 12 During the 2013 annual sessions, the yearly meeting approved the Site Envisioning Committee "to investigate the issue of expanded camping in consultation with other ILYM committees" (Minute 26). Growing out of a joint meeting of the stewards, Environmental Concerns, Maintenance and Planning, and Site Envisioning Committees, the stewards recommend that plans for the quiet campground at ILYM be developed for the 2014 annual sessions by the Site Envisioning Committee and other committees, with a report to the 2014 Spring Continuing Committee. Recommendation approved.

Minute 13 The stewards request the ILYM Handbook description of stewards service on committees of ILYM, which states *ex officio* status, be reconciled with current statuses of actual committee membership and liaison relationships. A recommendation for the Handbook Committee and the stewards for changes should be brought to the Spring Continuing Committee. Approved.

Minute 14 The Continuing Committee thanks Roy Treadway for his years of service for ILYM on the Environmental Concerns Committee and as a steward. Approved.

Minute 15 Chris Goode presented the report from the Site Envisioning Committee. The Site Envisioning Committee has been discussing several potential site and building projects listed in the written report. These include a golf-cart/walking path between the Meetinghouse and Clear Creek House, camp ground bathhouse, use of the barn and shed on the west campus, recommendations for a quiet campground on the west campus, a campus caretaker, and a yearly meeting record storage system (note: University of Illinois has ILYM archives). Report accepted.

Minute 16 The Site Envisioning Committee has provided a budget estimate of \$260,000 to move to the campus and restore the Wilson House, which has been offered to be donated to the yearly meeting. Continuing Committee expresses its thanks to Betty and Jan Wolf for this offer. Illinois Yearly Meeting regrets that it cannot accept this generous offer. The Continuing Committee asks that the clerk communicate this to Betty and Jan. Approved.

Minute 17 Margie Haworth-Davis presented the report from the Nominating Committee. The following report of nominations and resignations were presented:

Assisting Recording Clerk: Kent Busse (to Assist 2014 and 2015; Record 2016 and 2017; Assist 2018)

Steward: Chip Rorem (2015); Roy Treadway has requested to come off.

Development Committee: David Finke to serve as clerk, Madelyn George (2017)

Finance Committee: Craig Hammond (2016), Frank Young (2016)

Maintenance & Planning Committee: Kevin Suess (2014) has requested to come off. Rachel Mershon (2016)

Ministry & Advancement Committee: Mariellen Gilpin has requested to come off.

Peace Resources Committee: Mark McGinnis to serve as clerk for this year. Lucas Burkett (2017) and Zoe Rei (2017); Breeze Richardson has requested to come off.

Publications and Distribution Committee: Dawn Rubbert (2016)

Religious Education Committee: Nelson Hammond (2016), Elaine Meyer-Lee (2016)

Representative to FCNL: Fariba Murray (2016), Michael Batinski (2016)

Nominations and resignations approved.

Minute 18 The meeting expresses its appreciation to Breeze Richardson for her service as clerk of the Peace Resources Committee and wishes her well in her new job.

Minute 19 Sean West presented the report from the Publications and Distribution Committee. New platforms for the ILYM announcements list are being tested. The committee is exploring the billing issues related to website hosting and domain names. The committee is preparing for David Finke's retirement and the changes that that will bring to the print publication process and is exploring various print and electronic publication options. The committee is looking for a group of people or a meeting who might be interested in volunteering for the binding work currently being covered by Columbia Meeting. The committee decided to keep the Facebook page as a closed group page rather than change to an organization page. Space is available on the yearly meeting's web host server to host ILYM monthly meeting and worship group websites. Hosting additional sites is of no extra cost to the yearly meeting, so there will be no hosting cost to meetings or worship groups. This does not include any tech support, so the meeting or worship group would be responsible for setting up and maintaining the site. Eventually the committee might provide a website template for use. The address for a hosted site would be www.ilym.org/meetingname. Alternatively, the meeting or worship group could have a page on the website that could be maintained by them (it would be the same address). If a meeting or worship group wants to have its own web address (www.meetingname.org) they can purchase it from a vendor, usually around \$10 per year, and it can be set up for that the address to be used for the site hosted on the yearly meeting's web host server. Report accepted.

Minute 20 The committee recommends that the yearly meeting no longer pay for domain name fees of monthly meetings and meeting projects. Approved.

Minute 21 The committee requests that the Administrative Coordinator serve *ex officio* on the Publications and Distribution Committee. Approved.

Minute 22 Roy Treadway presented the report from the Environmental Concerns Committee. A work day included tree cutting and weeding at various locations on the campus. The pathway between the meetinghouse and Clear Creek House has been graded. The path will be rolled and seeded. The committee will present a workshop at annual sessions about the spiritual, ecological, and practical dimensions of using portable solar panels rather than depending upon power generated from coal-fired or nuclear power plants. Report accepted.

Minute 23 Roy Treadway reported on the upcoming meeting of Quaker Earthcare Witness in Chicago.

Minute 24 David Shiner read an excerpt from the Peace Resources Committee report. The committee is looking toward ILYM becoming a supporting member of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT). Supporting members make a modest financial contribution and designate a delegate who joins a monthly conference call. In preparation for a minute to be presented 2014 annual sessions, the Committee encourages all participants within Illinois Yearly Meeting to become familiar with the National Religious Campaign Against Torture. Information can be found at www.nrcat.org. Report accepted.

Minute 25 Peter Lasersohn reported for the Faith and Practice Committee. The committee will conduct workshops with various local meetings regarding proposed draft sections and have made revisions to those section from input already received. The committee has begun work on a section on death, bereavement, and memorial meetings, and will being work on a section on the structure and organization of the yearly meeting. A preliminary report was presented on the committee's investigation of current and historic practices of yearly meeting reports of “exercises.” Report accepted.

Minute 26 Annual Sessions Area Preparation: Grayce Mesner informally reported for Blue River Quarterly. There is a need for a FUN coordinator. David Shiner read a report from Chicago South. Various oversight tasks for site prep have been covered. David Shiner read a report from Chicago North. The theme for the 2014 Annual Sessions will be “Listen, Speak, Welcome, Belong – A Call to Community!” The theme names behaviors essential to living in a community of diverse individuals. Judy Jager of Evanston Monthly Meeting of Friends has accepted our invitation to deliver the Plummer Lecture. Michael Birkel, Professor of Religion at Earlham College, has accepted an invitation to speak on the theme on Wednesday evening. Reports accepted.

Minute 27 Chip Rorem presented an overview and update on Quaker Volunteer Service Chicago and encouraged people to become more aware of the project. QVS is available to make presentations about the project to monthly meetings. Presentation accepted.

Minute 28 A Friend encouraged ILYM to explore having a formal relationship with QVS. Approved.

Minute 29 In further, ongoing, consideration of Minutes 60 and 63 from ILYM 2013 that were developed out of concerns raised by Northside Friends Meeting, the following minutes are proposed:

Minute 30 We live in a society that separates people into diverse groups, which include groups based on race, ethnicity, language, socio-economic status, age, ableness, sexual orientation, gender identification, and religion. The society in which we live has developed a pattern of prejudicial responses. We find ourselves in a continual process of turning to the Light Within to move beyond this. We look forward to opportunities this upcoming year to further understand the diversity that makes up Illinois Yearly Meeting through discussions and reflections on the unapproved draft sections to the ILYM *Faith and Practice* on “Testimonies” and “The Light Within and its Religious Implications” and during the 2014 Annual Sessions, which is themed “Listen, Speak, Welcome, Belong – A Call to Community!” Approved.

Minute 31 In resonance with the yearly meeting’s long-time practice of recognizing and celebrating the committed relationships of same-sex couples and their families and acknowledgement that the worth of these relationships should be judged to the degree that the relationship contributes to the growth of love in those affected, the Continuing Committee of ILYM supports legislation for marriage equality of same-sex couples and encourages members to contact their legislators regarding marriage equality of same-sex couples. Approved.

Minute 32 The Presiding Clerk announced that the Spring Continuing Committee will be on March 8 at a location in the Chicago area.

Minute 33 The meeting offered its sincere thanks to Urbana-Champaign Friends Meeting for hosting today’s Continuing Committee.

Minute 34 The Continuing Committee session concluded with closing worship.

Janice Domanik
Presiding Clerk

Wil Brant
Recording Clerk

Reports to 2013 Fall Continuing Committee

Treasurer's report Illinois Yearly Meeting Statement of Financial Position/Balance Sheet Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2014

	To Date 10/2/2013	Opening Balance 7/1/2013
Assets		
Cash		
Checking Account	155,945.75	172,784.27
Friends Meetinghouse Fund	10,000.00	10,000.00
Money Market Fund	0.00	0.00
Total Cash	<u>165,945.75</u>	<u>182,784.27</u>
Undeposited funds	0.00	(200.00)
Total Assets	<u>165,945.75</u>	<u>182,584.27</u>
 Liabilities		
Loans from Individuals	1,000.00	1,000.00
Accounts Payable	0.00	6,476.88
Total Liabilities	<u>1,000.00</u>	<u>7,476.88</u>
 Net Assets		
Unrestricted Undesignated	15,533.53	25,668.77
Unrestricted Designated	112,989.27	112,989.27
Restricted	36,422.55	36,422.55
Total Net Assets	<u>164,945.35</u>	<u>175,107.39</u>
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	<u>165,945.35</u>	<u>182,584.27</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 7/1/2013 - 6/30/2014

	A	B	C	D	E	F
	Balance 6/30/13					Balance To Date
ASSETS						
UNRESTRICTED		Income	Expenses	Budgeted Transfers	Other Transfers	
1. General Operating	25,668.77	8,441.21	(18,576.45)	0.00		15,533.53
DESIGNATED						
2. Special Gifts	44,861.24	0.00	0.00			44,861.24
3. Current Projects	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
3. Payroll Reserves	36,000.00	0.00	0.00			36,000.00
4. FWCC World Meetings	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		1,000.00
5. Deferred Maintenance	31,128.03	0.00	0.00	0.00		31,128.03
RESTRICTED						
6. Property Improvement	36,422.55	0.00	0.00			36,422.55
TOTAL ASSETS	175,080.59	8,441.21	(18,576.45)	0.00	0.00	164,945.35
LIABILITIES						
Loans from Individuals	1,000.00					1,000.00
Accounts Payable	6,476.88					0.00
TOTAL CASH	182,557.47					165,945.35

- | 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 | Current Projects | |
| | To be used for projects approved as funds are raised by the annual session | |
| 4 | Payroll Reserves | Finance |
| | A reserve fund that would be used for payroll only during unexpected financial circumstances. | |
| 5 | FWCC World Meetings | Finance |
| | A reserve fund to provide travel assistance to ILYM's reps to FWCC world gatherings. | |
| 6 | Deferred Maintenance | Maintenance & Planning |
| | Used to save for and pay for irregular site maintenance, repair & upgrade projects. | |
| 7 | Property Improvement | Site Envisioning with Development |
| | Restricted by donors to be used for new building projects. | |

Finance Committee Report

Committee met October 5 at McNabb

Arrangement with the new payroll service is going very well.

Committee will be updating the job descriptions of the treasurers and bring proposed changes to Spring Continuing Committee for review

We have added to the job description for the Review Committee the following guidelines:

a) Be in dialog with the committee requesting funds

b) If there is an issue of the request being within the requesting committee's scope, then Continuing Committee may be a resource.

Reviewed and assigned liaison responsibilities for members of Finance Committee. Each Yearly Meeting standing committee will have a liaison to and from Finance Committee for budget planning and information-sharing.

Assigned a liaison from the committee to the Monthly Meetings, to write to them and stay in touch over the year, to be an information source for Monthly Meeting treasurers, and to stay current as to their financial support for the Yearly Meeting and any issues about which Finance Committee should be apprised. We thank Steve Tamari for agreeing to serve this liaison function.

Finance Committee clerk, Judy Jager and Development Committee clerk David Finke are in communication and working to discern how the two committees will collaborate regarding confidential donor information.

There was discussion of the Yearly Meeting's decision to begin certain projects only when the money for them has already been received. How would we record and account for contributions made for one of these projects? The committee and the treasurers agreed that contributions toward these projects would be put into a new fund, the Next Projects Fund, and kept there until the Yearly Meeting decides to commence the project.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Jager
Clerk

Ministry and Advancement Committee Report

As members of Ministry and Advancement (M&A) met during annual session, we realized that ministering with integrity to Friends of color in our monthly meetings, and outreach to seekers with diverse backgrounds, require us first to discover and find healing for hurtful assumptions of the dominant culture that are hidden within ourselves. Consequently, we plan to attend as a group the 2014 White Privilege Conference at Madison, Wisconsin, in March.

Our committee also recognizes the importance of strengthening our connections with, and support for, members of ministry committees in monthly meetings. We began by offering two workshop periods during annual session in which Friends with special responsibilities for worship and pastoral care could share experiences, joys and concerns, and ideas. Saturday's session was particularly

well attended, and participants expressed interest in gathering regionally during the year. One of our members will be working with our field secretary to follow up.

M&A welcomed Phyllis Reynolds and Chris Jocius to the committee. We also regretfully accepted the resignation of Mariellen Gilpin, for whom the mission of M&A is central, and who willingly gave her energy and creativity as long as she was physically able.

In response to a request from one monthly meeting's ministry committee, M&A members joined them in a session of worship sharing and listening. A request from another meeting was referred to our field secretary, whose visits and presentations throughout the yearly meeting have kept her on the road nearly every weekend. The variety and depth of her skills and experience, along with her gracious personality, are wonderful blessings. We also are grateful when you reach out and tell us your meetings' needs so that we can offer resources that are timely and appropriate.

M&A's autumn meetings are scheduled for October 12 and 13 in Evanston. We plan to begin with a workshop on prayer led by Quaker teacher Marcelle Martin. We need Divine guidance as we seek more effective ways to support and strengthen Friends' ministries of spiritual nurture, pastoral care, adult education, and outreach.

Joan Pine, Clerk
Ministry and Advancement

Field Secretary Report

It feels as if it has been only a moment since annual sessions! Where does the time go?
Visiting and listening continue to be a joy!

Last year I learned about the challenges we face: "questions and concerns around conflict, lack of participation, lack of vocal ministry, sometimes a 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." These issues continue to challenge us. As I have visited, I am aware of the work MMs are putting into meeting these challenges.

As I visit, I continue to encourage Meetings to identify and celebrate their strengths. In many meetings, I am aware of their work to grow, to strengthen and build community and to nurture new members and attenders.

DEVELOPING AND AVAILABLE PROGRAMS

At annual sessions, M&A presented two workshops for members of Ministry committees, inviting them to come to share joys of ministry, what has worked for them and what challenges they have faced. The workshops were well received and participants expressed a wish for an opportunity to continue the discussion in half-day or full-day workshops to be offered regionally. We hope to be able to facilitate a workshop later this Fall and in the Spring. I have been contacting Meeting clerks and Ministry Committee clerks to get their input as we develop this program.

I will be presenting a program on Eldering at 57th Street Meeting on November 3rd.

I continue to be available to offer the programs listed below, or to develop other programs to meet the specific needs of Meetings and individuals.

- Spiritual Genograms
- Discernment and Decision-Making in the Manner of Friends
- Clearness Committees (Process and Experience)
- Conflict Resolution
- Vocal Ministry
- The Journey of the Seeker
- Eldering: Nurturing, Celebrating and Passing It On

On a recent visit to Oak Park FM, I learned of a program on Grief that was offered for them by one of their members, and this program might be available to other meetings as well. There is great spiritual depth in our members, many of whom can offer resources to our MMs.

Travel and Visits

During the past three-and-a-half months, I've visited

- Downers Grove
- th57 Street,
- Oak Park
- Upper Fox Valley
- Southern Illinois
- Macomb
- Urbana-Champaign

I attended the Corn Roast and visited with the Howenstines, and others from many of the Chicago area meetings. I also traveled to Macomb with Beth Schobernd, Diane Clark Dennis, Rose Dennis, and Rose's son Milo.

I attended Blue River Quarterly in DuBois, and participated in the intergenerational program, which was a delight. Being there provided lots of opportunities for meeting with and listening to members of the southern meetings.

Because I finally have accepted that I can't bi-locate, I've visited in person and by phone, email and regular mail with members of Rock Valley, Northside, Evanston, Lake Forest, St. Louis, Clear Creek, Bloomington-Normal, Southern Illinois, and Columbia. I've tried to keep up with newsletters and email messages from those meetings that have been kind enough to add me to their email lists.

Future Visits

My plans for future visits include the meetings I have not yet visited: Columbia, Oshkosh, and Springfield. (This September, I was able to attend Southern Illinois Quaker Meeting, and to participate in their continued discussion of the newest section of Faith & Practice.) Plans also include visits to small meetings, like Rockford and Spoon River, as well as the new Northside mid-week MfW at the Admiral in Chicago, Duneland, South Bend, and the Elkhart Worship Group.

I also will be attending the Chicago Friends Gathering of MCGM on November 2nd, to which thall are invited. The meeting will be held at 57 Street Meeting House.

I am a joy-filled Field Secretary! Friends continue to offer me their kindness, their guidance, their elderring their mentoring, and their wisdom. Once again, please accept my thanks to YM members for all the ways you support me, nurture and guide me in this work.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Wolicki, Field Secretary

Stewards Report

Carol Bartles, Dick Ashdown, and Roy Treadway, Stewards

Since the Annual Sessions of Illinois Yearly Meeting in 2013 June, the Stewards have been involved with several projects and have considered other improvements to the yearly meeting campus.

Projects

The Stewards have overseen or been involved with the following projects. (Source of funding is given in parentheses.)

Completed

1. In August and September, Ebener Construction painted the west side and northwest corner (bathroom) of the Meetinghouse exterior, tightened cables in the attic, and completely replaced the roof to the campground shower house for \$7,615 (Maintenance).
2. In October, the septic tank for the Clear Creek House was repaired and cleaned for \$500 to \$600 (Maintenance).
3. The south side of the bunkhouse was painted and four windows repaired for \$2,980 (Maintenance).

Underway

4. Under the guidance of the Environmental Concerns Committee, a path was graded and smoothed between the Meetinghouse and Clear Creek House with two yew bushes near the CCH garage removed to allow for easy entrance into the Clear Creek House with grass seeding this fall or next spring (with a budget of \$1,000 from Property Improvement).

Expected Soon

5. The Clear Creek House propane tank will be moved nearer to the Metal Shed once the propane gas is extra low before winter for less than \$150 (Maintenance).
6. As routine maintenance, racoons will be removed from the Meetinghouse as needed, the Clear Creek House gutters cleaned in late November (\$60 to \$80), and the three water wells tested next May (about \$90).

Proposed when Funds are Available

7. The Stewards solicited bids for a second toilet and sink in the Meetinghouse for about \$3,800 (Special Gifts).
8. An estimate for improving the campground bathhouse awaits further specifications of the improvements desired (Special Gifts).
9. We have also received an estimate for building accessible bedrooms and toilet facilities in the area of the garage of the Clear Creek House along with a necessary septic field for about \$120,000 (Special Gifts).

Issues and recommendations on the electrification of the cabins — ILYM next steps.

At the annual sessions in 2013 June, Illinois Yearly Meeting approved putting two electrical outlets inside and one electrical outlet outside each cabin via underground wiring for medical and safety purposes. The proposed action was vague since no budget amount or budget line (maintenance or property improvement) was specified. From Ebener Construction, the Stewards received an estimate of \$3,800 to complete this project from the electrical grid. Following the yearly meeting sessions, however, the Environmental Concerns Committee raised concerns about the continued use of non-renewable sources of electricity for the yearly meeting grounds (as well as the increased use of electricity) and more generally the yearly meeting's use of resources overall.

At a joint meeting of the Environmental Concerns, Maintenance and Planning, and Site Envisioning Committees and the Stewards on September 7, several issues regarding electrification of the cabins were discussed. The group was unclear how much the CPAPs were used in cabins and tents now that could not be satisfied by their use in the Clear Creek House. Some Friends were surprised to learn that a few Friends were stringing power cords to their tents for various uses during ILYM sessions; this is potentially a safety issue that the cabin electrification does not address. We wondered whether the limited use of the cabins with electricity justified installing electricity in the cabins. We were also concerned if electricity were installed in the cabins underground in Spring 2014, the campground would be safe to use for the 2014 annual sessions.

Several alternatives were suggested to provide electricity in the cabins (or possibly tents or elsewhere). ECC identified two sizes of portable solar battery units; the smaller (and preferred), lasting 4-10 hours on a charge, would be about \$940 each, and the larger, more powerful unit, lasting 12 to 40 hours on a charge, would cost \$1,800 each. Ebener Construction could provide movable solar panels for \$1,500 each. (They have also proposed a pole-mounted grid tie-solar electric system to offset electrical usage at the Clear Creek House, but this would not directly address electricity in the cabins.) Any of the solar systems to provide electricity would not incur additional costs for electricity or generate additional carbon in the atmosphere, while the grid system would, thus saving electricity costs in the future.

Because of these issues and concerns, the Stewards will continue to explore with the Environmental Concerns and Maintenance and Planning Committees the best way to provide electricity for persons using the cabins and elsewhere at ILYM, including the use of solar sources of electricity, with no decision expected before the 2014 Annual Sessions.

Development of the Quiet Campground: Recommendations

Growing out the joint meeting of the Stewards and the Environmental Concerns, Maintenance and Planning, and Site Envisioning Committees on September 7 came a strong feeling the quiet campground should be developed as soon as possible on the west side of the ILYM campus for those who do not want increased use of electricity. It would be a place of limited light and sound. The quiet campground could serve as an example of reduced electricity use and simple lifestyle. During the 2013 Annual Sessions, the yearly meeting approved the Site Envisioning Committee “to investigate the issue of expanded camping in consultation with other ILYM committees” (Minute 26).

The Stewards recommend that plans for the quiet campground at ILYM be developed for the 2014 Annual Sessions by the Site Envisioning Committee and other committees, with a report to the 2014 Spring Continuing Committee Meeting.

Committee Involvement and Handbook Description of the Stewards

The stewards have been involved with other committees of ILYM. Carol Bartles served on the Maintenance and Planning Committee, Dick Ashdown was active on the Site Envisioning Committee, while Roy Treadway was a member of the Environmental Concerns Committee and a liaison to the Finance Committee.

These committee roles are not consistent with the current description in the Handbook of the roles of Stewards on Committees. At the Continuing Committee in 2013 March, the following change was approved (with clerical corrections).

A steward will serve ex officio on the Finance, Environmental Concerns, Site Envisioning, and Maintenance and Planning Committees. The stewards will decide which steward of their number is assigned to which of these four committees.

The Stewards hope that Handbook can be revised soon to be consistent with the actual committee membership and liaison relationship of the Stewards.

Thanks from Roy Treadway

Roy Treadway’s responsibilities as Steward conclude at the end of the Continuing Committee meeting on 2013 October 19. He will be moving with Carolyn to the Seattle area to be nearer to daughters and their families. He has found fulfillment in his nearly two years as Steward of ILYM and hopes his service has helped the yearly meeting as it continues to develop its property for greater, wider, and deeper purposes. He deeply appreciates the opportunity to work with the other Stewards of the Yearly Meeting: Carol Bartles, whose extraordinary work in coordinating all the property projects of the yearly meeting from start to finish is awesome, and Dick Ashdown, whose quiet taking care of all the ILYM property (even in the most inopportune times) and working with the wonderful local folks is amazing. Roy thanks all Friends for their support and friendship for 37 years and will continue to be involved with the yearly meeting through the Environmental Concerns Committee until he and Carolyn move in Summer 2014.

Site Envisioning Committee Report

The Committee met during Work Weekend on Saturday September 7th , 2013 with five members present and three members absent.

- The committee discussed several potential site and building projects.
- A straight golf-cart/walking path between the Meetinghouse and Clear Creek House developed by ECC was being graded during the meeting with expectations that a smooth grass covered path will be complete by next annual sessions.
- The location of paths at the north campground is undetermined, partly due to the transitory nature of tent arrangement and the need is less clear. We recommend focusing on filling holes and lowering bumps at the campground to make walking safer.
- Issues of campus landscaping, border plantings, prairies and ways to reduce mowing are in the capable hands of ECC. SEC will contribute if and as needed or requested.
- Cabin Electrification and whether it should be hardwired on the grid or off-grid solar of some kind is being discussed by ECC, M&P and the Stewards and we leave it to them to develop a way forward.
- At Annual sessions the meeting approved three projects in the following sequence for the future pending adequate funds being raised:
 1. Conversion of water heater/storage room to a second Meetinghouse bathroom. Paul Ebener has provided a rough estimate for the work of about \$4000.
 2. Campground Bath House renovations. Chip Rorem and Chris Goode will develop a work-list of improvements from which to develop a cost estimate.
 3. Accessible Bedroom/Bathroom addition at Clear Creek House. A schematic design has been developed with two bedrooms and three bathrooms and Paul Ebener has provided a rough estimate over a year ago of ~\$98,000. A needed septic system will bring the estimate to ~\$120,000. As this project comes closer to fruition construction documents will need to be developed for a more accurate bid and for construction.SEC wants to reach out to the Development Committee to see if they need any tools or information from us to assist in fundraising.

SEC has provided a budget estimate of \$260,000 to move the Wilson House to the campus and restore it to some purpose. Possible uses discussed include additional meeting/sleeping/retreat facilities, caretaker housing, and/or bathroom facilities. Its location on the site would be dependent on the chosen function. SEC makes no recommendation about whether or not we should do this and leaves it for Continuing Committee and the Yearly Meeting for discussion and a decision.

We will continue to think about how we can make the best use of the barn and shed buildings on the west side of campus. The timber frame barn also has a shed and dairy barn attached and near at hand is the metal machine shed building and the round metal grain bin.

Site Envisioning Committee has been charged with developing recommendations for the quiet campground near Clear Creek House for the next sessions and for the future. We will address this in an upcoming meeting.

The concept of a campus Caretaker was briefly discussed. We intend to develop some ideas in concert with the Stewards and other committees in order to bring some recommendations to the next annual session.

We think that some kind of yearly meeting record storage system should be developed to keep minutes, notes, drawings, and other documents in a safe place and easily used by members and transferable as clerks and members change. This may include paper as well as digital documents. This system should be developed with the involvement of other committees and the yearly meeting clerks.

We plan to meet both by conference call and in-person three or four times before June but no meeting dates/times have been set.

Nominating Committee Report

Nominations for approval at the Fall 2013 Continuing Committee:

Assisting Recording Clerk: Kent Busse (to Assist 2014 and 2015; Record 2016 and 2017; Assist 2018)

Steward: Chip Rorem

Development: David Finke to serve as clerk.

Finance Committee: Craig Hammond (2016)

Maintenance & Planning: Kevin Suess (2014) has requested to come off. Add Rachel Mershon (2016)

Ministry & Advancement: Mariellen Gilpin has requested to come off.

Peace Resources: Mark McGinnis to serve as clerk for this year. Add Lucas Burkett (2017) and Zoe Rei

(2017)

Publications: Dawn Rubbert (2016)

Religious Education: Nelson Hammond (2016)

Youth Oversight: Elaine Meyer-Lee (2016)

FCNL: Fariba Murray (2016), Michael Batinski (2016)

Publications Committee Report

1. New Listserve:
 - a) Multiple platforms have been tested; we are now deciding which one will best suit our needs.
2. Webhost & Domain name billing
 - a) Is there a way for reoccurring bills to be paid by ILYM
 - b) Monthly meetings domain names and leadings, i.e. Project Lakota
 - We can host these websites, should we cover the cost of domain names?
3. Print Publications
 - a) Number of Copies Needed Survey: Sharon received reports and it was suggested that this survey be conducted every two years.

4. Planning for David's retirement
 - a) Waiting on specifications so we can begin to collect bids:
 - Among Friends – Working on Fall 2013
 - Minute Books – 2013 hopefully out by continuing committee
 - Plummer Lectures – Working on 2011, 2012, and 2013
 - Evaluating the possibility of posting recordings on the web.
5. Facebook
 - a) It was determined that we don't need an organizational page at this time but we will continue to maintain the closed group page. Judy will/has request/ed that the Administrative Coordinator be an *ex officio* member of the Publications & Distribution Committee

Sean West, Clerk
Publications Committee

Environmental Concerns Committee Report

The Environmental Concerns Committee (ECC) met with Maintenance and Planning and Site Envisioning Committees (SE) at the ILYM campus on September 7, 2013 to conduct business, worship, and work. After breakfast, we were treated to a brief rain shower before work started. Much work was conducted around the property including removing the yews from the front of the garage on the Clear Creek House (CCH), cutting of dead limbs off trees, cutting of mulberries adjacent to the barn, weeding under the burning bushes along the walkway to the Clear Creek House entrance and much more. A major task was completed by farmer Bob, who brought his road grader to create the pathway from the meeting house to the CCH. Once graded, the sod remained, so it was decided to let the sod dry out and then Bob would return to disc it. This has been accomplished with nice results. Dick Ashdown hopes to roll the pathway before sowing the seed. We hope to plant the seed for the pathway before winter, but that may be postponed till spring.

Adrian Fisher has written a document highlighting the spiritual and responsibility dimensions of considering portable solar power sources for various power needs, e.g. lighting and CPAP operation. This report and concept was presented to the combined committees for the Stewards' and M & P's consideration in light of the ILYM minute authorizing the yearly meeting to provide electricity to the cabins. Adrian will submit the document to Among Friends and the ECC will present a workshop about the spiritual, ecological, and practical dimensions of using portable solar panels rather than depending upon power generated from coal-fired power plants.

The ECC continues to plan for the ILYM grounds with both M&P and SE committees.

Noel Pavlovic, clerk of ECC

Peace Resources Committee Report

Invitation to join NRCAT

Peace Resources Committee recommends to all participants within Illinois Yearly Meeting to become familiar with the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (www.nrcat.org). The committee recommends this as preparation for a Minute to be passed at Annual Sessions (June 2014) authorizing ILYM to become a supporting organization of NRCAT.

1. 57th Street Meeting, Oak Park Friends Meeting, Urbana-Champaign Friends' Meeting, AFSC, QUIT (Quaker Initiative to End Torture) have already joined. The membership list is laden with Friends' organizations at <http://www.nrcat.org/member-organizations>; reasons for endorsement are at http://fcnl.org/resources/newsletter/apr06/fcnl_joins_religious_antitorture_coalition/.

2. Supporting members make a modest financial contribution and designate a delegate who joins a monthly free conference call. The web site and the conference call are packed with progress reports and opportunities to participate. Campaigns are always in good taste, dignified so as to be persuasive. Extensive research and planning enable NRCAT to select areas of need where people of conscience can make a difference. Large numbers and interdenominational participation provide the strength to pursue a considerable number of causes that are dear to the Quaker peace testimony. Suggested activities include signing petitions, visiting legislators, making presentations (videos and tailored discussion guides are provided), distributing handouts, and other efforts to spread positive attitudes and practices. Currently there is a national focus on rethinking solitary confinement, along with other issues; elimination of torture and bigotry involves the broader ranges of penal reform and intercultural understanding.

3. Quaker groups benefit from the NRCAT material, and NRCAT benefits by representing significant portions of society.

Faith and Practice Committee

The Faith and Practice Committee has met once since our last yearly meeting. In this meeting, we discussed plans for the coming year, and made changes to our drafts on testimonies and the Light Within, based on feedback received at workshops and from individual Friends. Our plan is to continue revising these texts over the coming year, with the intention of submitting versions of them for provisional approval at Illinois Yearly Meeting in 2014. We will conduct workshops with various local meetings to gather suggestions; we also encourage Friends to send comments to any member of the committee.

In addition to the sections on testimonies and the Light Within, we have been working on a section on death, bereavement, and memorial meetings. We hope to have a version of this text ready for public presentation at yearly meeting this summer. During the coming year we also plan to begin work on a section dealing with the structure and organization of the yearly meeting.

At its 2013 sessions, the yearly meeting charged our committee with investigating current and historic practices among yearly meetings regarding reports of “exercises.” We have begun this investigation and can make a preliminary report:

Preparing a report of exercises was standard practice in yearly meetings of all branches of

Friends at least as far back as the mid-19th century. Exercise reports in that era generally took the form of summaries of the major business of the meeting, usually with some reporting of ministry offered in meeting for worship as well. In Illinois Yearly Meeting, the exercises were originally prepared by the same committee that prepared the outgoing epistles; a major functional difference appears to have been that the exercises were distributed internally to the quarterly and monthly meetings which formed a part of Illinois Yearly Meeting, while the epistles were sent to other yearly meetings. Publication of the exercises in *Friends Intelligencer* (a predecessor to *Friends Journal*) appears to have begun in 1918.

Few if any yearly meetings continue to prepare reports of exercises in precisely the traditional sense. Many yearly meetings do regularly or occasionally record some sort of report or minute bearing the name “exercise” or “exercises,” but there is very wide variation in how these reports and minutes are conceived. The following list summarizes some of the main historical and contemporary conceptions we have found:

- A summary of major business and concerns raised during the sessions (historically widespread, now rare)
- A summary of vocal ministry offered during meeting for worship (Iowa YM(C))
- A summary of such vocal expressions in yearly meeting sessions (ministry, concerns, etc.) as is not otherwise minuted (ILYM in the early 20th century)
- An encapsulation of the spiritual “tone” prevailing at the sessions, usually with a summary of major activities (ILYM in the mid-20th century and later)
- A report of deep exploration of some particular concern which arose in the meeting (NYYM, NPYM)
- An expression by the clerk of insights and concerns he or she feels led to raise up to the yearly meeting body following a meeting for business (PhYM)
- The committee will continue to research past and current practices, and submit a more detailed report if needed.

Annual Sessions Area Preparation Reports

Chicago South Planning Group

Various Friends from all Chicago South Meetings have volunteered to coordinate our major tasks, as follows:

Overall Coordinators/Advance Prep: Sarah Pavlovic & Judy Erickson
Site Prep Coordinators: Noel & Sarah Pavlovic & Judy Erickson
Food Service during Site Prep: Bridget & Chip Rorem
Purchasing Coordinators: Wil Brant & Angie Thinnes
Housekeeping Coordinators: Chris Goode & Kate Gunnell
Clean-Up Coordinators: Brad Laird & Pam Timme

This is clearly a team effort; the Coordinators will need help from other volunteers to get it all done. Please contact any of the Coordinators (or Sarah or Judy) if you'd like to help with any of the above tasks at our beautiful McNabb campus.

Judy Erickson
Chicago North Planning Group

Phyllis Reynolds (Evanston) and Gwen Weaver (Lake Forest) co-convened Chicago North Friends on September 14, 2013 to plan the 2014 Annual Sessions of Illinois Yearly Meeting.

We chose as our theme “Listen, Speak, Welcome, Belong – A Call to Community!” Our theme names behaviors essential to living in a community of diverse individuals, as we all do in multiple contexts in our lives. We call the members and attenders of ILYM to live as Friends in all the various communities to which they belong, at monthly and yearly meetings, at home, at work, in their neighborhoods and elsewhere.

Judy Jager (Evanston) has accepted our invitation to deliver the Plummer Lecture.

Michael Birkel, Professor of Religion at Earlham College, has accepted our invitation to speak to our theme on Wednesday evening. We’ve asked him to remind us of Friends’ historical experiences related to living faithfully in community.

We await replies to invitations to several other speakers, and continue to develop plans for workshops and worship sharing. The Planning Committee will meet again on November 16 at 10 am at Lake Forest Friends Meeting.

Gwen Weaver, on behalf of Planning Committee

Quaker Volunteer Service Committee Chicago

Friends,

Quaker Volunteer Service in Chicago began in 2008 as a project envisioned by several Friends from 57th Street Meeting. In 2009, QVS was underwritten by 57th St Meeting. We have collaborated with the Sophia Community, an intentional community living at Quaker House, to provide room and board within the structure of their community.

Volunteers are offered the aforementioned room and board, a bus pass, stipend, and health insurance in support of their service. This is underwritten by 57th St Quaker Volunteer Service (QVS) offers spiritual support to the volunteers, and urges a connection to 57th St Meeting for Worship.

Our first volunteer was Rebecca Tolmach, a graduate of Earlham College. She served at Girls in the Game, providing access to confidence for low-income girls. Zachary Johnson of Downers Grove Meeting was our second volunteer. Zach served in arts advocacy at Marwen, providing access to the arts for low-income children. Katie Styer of Downers Grove Meeting, our third volunteer, served at Corazon a Corazon, providing language skill development for people new to our country. Our current volunteer is Jessica Easter of Lake Forest Friends, serving with the Night Ministry on the streets of Chicago.

The concept of Quaker Volunteer Service seems to be growing. A newer group, Quaker Voluntary Service of Atlanta, now has 8 volunteers. We are establishing links with them, and have been enriched by their youthful organization. We hope to grow QVS Chicago to 4 volunteers living in residence in the coach house at 57th ST.

We currently suffer from underexposure and look for help from the meetings of ILYM; we are grateful for the financial support we received from ILYM a year and a half ago. We would like Friends to be more aware of what is underway, and how they may become involved. We look forward to

sharing our efforts and opportunities with others throughout the yearly meeting. We seek funding as Friends and Friends Meetings are led, and hope that others might join our committee. We also are beginning to present QVS through visits to monthly meetings. Last month, we met with Lake Forest Friends to discuss the current state of our effort and how we hope to grow. Please let us know if you would like a visit to your monthly meeting, and visit our website at www.quakervolunteers.org

Chip Rorem for QVS