

THE MINUTES

and Accompanying Documents

Illinois Yearly Meeting Religious Society of Friends

2016
June 22
to
June 26



Sessions in the ILYM Meetinghouse
Near McNabb, Illinois

TABLE OF CONTENTS

YEARLY MEETING OFFICERS.....	1
NUMERICAL STRENGTH CHART.....	2
ADDITIONS AND LOSSES BY NAME AND MEETING.....	4
FACILITIES USAGE RATES.....	4
ANNUAL SESSIONS PROGRAM.....	5
MINUTES.....	6
EXERCISES.....	14
EPISTLES.....	16
FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS	
Financial Reports for Fiscal Year 7/1/15 to 6/30/16.....	20
2016-2017 Budget.....	24
RECOMMENDED MONTHLY MEETING CONTRIBUTION.....	21
YEARLY MEETING REGISTRATION REPORT.....	26
TRAVEL POLICY.....	26
ILYM COMMITTEE REPORTS	
Development.....	27
Environmental Concerns.....	28
Faith and Practice.....	29
Finance.....	30
Maintenance & Planning.....	31
Ministry & Advancement.....	32
Field Secretary Report.....	33
Nominating.....	35
Property Use.....	37
Publications.....	38
Records Retention Policy.....	39
Religious Education.....	42
Site Envisioning.....	44
Stewards.....	46
Youth Oversight.....	46
REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES.....	47
OTHER DOCUMENTS FROM BUSINESS SESSIONS	
Faith and Practice - Approved Section: Meeting for Worship.....	51
Faith and Practice - Approved Section: Worship Groups and Preparative Meetings.....	56
Faith and Practice - Approved Section: The Yearly Meeting.....	60
Friends Meeting House Fund Report.....	68
MEMORIALS.....	69
STATE OF SOCIETY REPORTS.....	69
CONTINUING COMMITTEE MINUTES	
Fall 2015.....	85
Spring 2016.....	89
MEETINGS and WORSHIP GROUPS.....	94
ILYM 2016-2017 APPOINTMENTS	
Officers.....	1
Committees.....	96
Representatives to Wider Quaker & Other Organizations.....	97
YEARLY MEETING SESSION COMMITTEES.....	97
CONTINUING COMMITTEE LIST.....	98

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

2017 Annual Sessions will be held from June 21 to 25
at the Illinois Yearly Meetinghouse

Website: ilym.org
Email: IllinoisYM@ilym.org

Office: 5615 S. Woodlawn Ave., Chicago, IL 60637; 773-288-3066

Meetinghouse: 14365 N. 350th Ave., McNabb, IL 61335; 815-882-2214

YEARLY MEETING OFFICERS AND OTHERS WITH SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES 2016-2017

Presiding Clerk: Cathy Garra

Assistant Clerk: David Shiner

Recording Clerk: Kent Busse

Assistant Recording Clerk:

Reading Clerk: Chris Jocius

Treasurer: Judy Erickson

Assistant Treasurer: Janice Domanik

Stewards: Richard Ashdown, Beth Carpenter, Grayce Mesner & Neil Mesner, Chip Rorem

Records Librarian: Brent Eckert

Among Friends Editors: Pam Kuhn & Caryn Kuhn

Field Secretary: Judith Wolicki

Administrative Coordinator: Wil Brant

Youth Coordinator: Rose Dennis

Adult Young Friends Co-Clerks: Mason George & Brittany Koresch

High School Young Friends Clerk: Raphael Roberts

High School Young Friends Co-Clerk: Amal Tamari

High School Recording Clerk: Camille Roberts

Contact information can be found in the ILYM directory
or by contacting the ILYM Administrative Coordinator, Wil Brant
at IllinoisYM@ilym.org or 773-288-3066.

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING 2016

BLUE RIVER QUARTERLY

B-N	CC	Co	St.L	SoI†	SR	U-C†
-----	----	----	------	------	----	------

Members & Attenders Statistics

Average Attendance

5	8	21	36	8	4	23
---	---	----	----	---	---	----

Adults

1	1	1	4	0	0	5
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Under 18 years old

Membership Statistics

8	28	11	36	3	3	36
---	----	----	----	---	---	----

Resident Adult Members

3	2	0	3	0	0	12
---	---	---	---	---	---	----

Resident Young Friends

3	37	33	74	9	0	59
---	----	----	----	---	---	----

Non-Resident Adult Members

<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6</u>
----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------

Non-Resident Young Friends

14	67	44	115	12	3	113
----	----	----	-----	----	---	-----

TOTAL

11	65	44	110	12	3	95
----	----	----	-----	----	---	----

Total Adult Members

3	2	0	5	0	0	18
---	---	---	---	---	---	----

Total Young Friends

NEW MEMBERS

0	0	0	0	0	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

By Birth or Adoption

0	0	1	2	0	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

By Request

<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------

By Certificate of Transfer

0	0	1	2	0	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

TOTAL

LOSSES

0	1	1	1	0	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Deceased

0	1	0	0	0	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Released or Withdrawn

<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------

Transferred

2	2	1	4	0	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

TOTAL

MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

Blue River Quarterly	368
----------------------	-----

Metro Chicago	560
---------------	-----

Wisconsin	<u>5</u>
-----------	----------

TOTAL	933
-------	-----

NUMERICAL STRENGTH CHART

CHICAGO-Area										WI	TOTALS
DG*	Du	Ev	57*	LF	NS	OaP	RV†	SB	UFV	Osh*†	
24	5	50	24	26	17	13	4	19	9	7	303
8	1	10	8	4	3	0	0	3	0	0	49
48	10	57	21	61	26	15	9	20	16	3	411
0	3	5	4	7	3	0	0	3	0	0	45
35	5	41	32	67	12	3	2	15	14	2	443
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>34</u>
83	18	116	59	135	43	18	11	47	30	5	933
84	15	130	51	131	39	15	11	35	29	5	885
0	3	13	6	5	6	0	0	12	0	0	73
0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
0	0	3	2	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	12
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>
0	0	5	2	2	0	3	0	0	1	0	16
0	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6</u>
0	0	2	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	16

†Statistics from 2014, reports not submitted in 2015 or 2016.

*Downers Grove and 57th Street have dual affiliation with ILYM and Western Yearly Meeting (Friends United Meeting). Oshkosh has dual affiliation with ILYM and Northern Yearly Meeting (Friends General Conference). *Please note:* ILYM does not report half-membership for dually affiliated meetings. The totals represent the full membership of dually affiliated meetings.

ADDITIONS AND LOSSES BY NAME AND MEETING

ADDITIONS

By Request

To Bloomington-Normal: Heather Evert
6/15
To Clear Creek: Trent Griffith 5/15;
Marydale Stewart 7/15

By Transfer

To Clear Creek: Chris Goode, Kate
Gunnell, Laure Gunnell Goode, &
Claire Gunnell Goode from Northside
(ILYM) 5/16

By Birth/Adoption

None

LOSSES

By Release or Withdrawal:

From Northside: Richard Wark 9/15

By Transfer:

From Northside: Chris Goode, Kate
Gunnell, Laure Gunnell Goode, &
Claire Gunnell Goode to Clear Creek
(ILYM) 2/16

By Death

From Clear Creek: Kay Mills 12/15
From Northside: Vincent Lopez (3/08)*

*Specific date not provided by reporting meeting

RATES FOR USE OF ILYM FACILITIES

Site fee for ILYM groups:	\$ 25
Fee per person, per night:	\$ 5
Maximum fee per ILYM group:	\$500

Gas and electric startup fee, and dumpster fee
(at cost, according to size) if necessary.

ILYM 2016 PROGRAM

Theme: *Nurturing the Seed: Faith, Action and Growing Community*

WEDNESDAY:

12:30-1:45 pm Registration table open
 2:00-3:30 Opening Session:
 Worship & Business Meeting
 3:30-6:00 Free time/committee meetings
 3:45-6:00 Registration table open
 5:30-6:00 Singing on front porch
 6:00-7:00 Dinner
 6:30-7:30 Registration table open
 7:15-9:00 Hayrack ride & games for Children
 7:30-8:45 Address by Lucy Duncan & Noah White
 8:45-9:15 Registration table open
 9:00 New Attenders Meeting (reg. desk)
 9:00-9:45 Snacks (dining room)

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY:

6:30-7:00 Early Meeting for Worship
 6:45-7:45 Breakfast
 7:30 New attenders meeting on Saturday (reg. desk)
 7:45-8:45 Babysitting & childcare in play area
 8:00-9:00 Meeting for Worship
 (Memorials are read at Sat. MFW)
 8:45-noon Children's morning program
 9:00-noon Meeting for Business

12:00-1:00 Lunch

12:30-1:30 Registration table open
 1:15-4:00 Recreation activities & programs for children
 1:30-2:15 Worship sharing groups
 2:23-3:45 Workshops

THURSDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING:

3:45-6:00 Free time/committee meetings
 4:15-5:45 Registration table open
 5:30-6:00 Singing on front porch
 6:00-7:00 Dinner
 7:15-9:00 Children's program
 7:30-8:45 Address by Melina Wenner Bradley

8:45-9:15 Registration table open
 9:00-9:45 Snacks

FRIDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING:

3:45-6:00 Free time/committee meetings
 4:15-5:45 Registration table open
 5:30-6:00 Singing on front porch
 6:00-7:00 Dinner
 6:30-7:30 Registration table open
 7:30-10:00 Dancing on front lawn
 8:45-9:15 Registration table open
 9:00-9:45 Snack served outside during dancing

SATURDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING:

3:45-4:15 Help think about next year's Annual Sessions
 4:30-5:30 Variety Show
 4:30-5:45 Registration table open
 5:30-6:00 Singing on front porch
 6:00-7:00 Dinner
 7:15-9:00 Campfire
 7:30-8:45 Address by Steve Chase
 8:45-9:15 Registration table open
 9:00-9:45 Snacks

SUNDAY

6:30-7:30 Early Meeting for Worship
 7:30-8:30 Breakfast
 8:15-8:45 Registration table open
 8:45-9:45 Reading of Epistles
 10:00-12:15 First Day School
 10:00-11:00 Plummer Lecture by Nancy Duncan
 11:15-12:15 Meeting for Worship
 12:30-1:30 Lunch
 1:30 Cleanup and Farewells

MINUTES OF THE ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING

142nd Annual Sessions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Minute 13 Illinois Yearly Meeting authorizes Richard Ashdown, Steward, Judith Erickson, Treasurer, Janice Domanik, Assistant Treasurer, and Grayce Mesner, Steward, to exercise all powers listed in the resolution with First State Bank in McNabb, Illinois, including signing checks on behalf of Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, effective Wednesday, June 22, 2016. Approved.

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

1. Meeting for Worship: This section was approved in 2013 for a 3-year provisional period, which is now expiring. The committee revised the text in response to

comments received over the last three years, and now proposes adoption of the revised version for an indefinite period.

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

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

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

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

Minute 16 Meeting closed with expectant silence.

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

Minute 17 The second session opened with waiting worship.

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

Minute 19 Wil Brant reported for the Ad Hoc Records Retention Committee, introducing the Records Retention and Preservation policy document and including a recommendation from the committee that it be laid down, having completed its assigned task. Report accepted; Policy and recommendation to lay down the committee approved.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Minute 33 Meeting closed with expectant silence.

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

Minute 34 The third session opened with waiting worship.

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

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

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

Minute 38 Chris Jocius reported for Ministry and Advancement Committee. Regarding the size of the committee and the size of the yearly meeting, the committee is re-envisioning its opportunities and possibilities for promoting the growth of meetings and of individuals. The committee is in consonance with and supportive of the function and the work of the Field Secretary. On a practical note, the committee submitted its draft "Policy on Sexual Misconduct and Harassment" to Spring Continuing Committee. Brad Laird read a letter that South Bend Friends had written to Quakers in Burundi. Report accepted.

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

Minute 40 Peter Lasersohn reported that the Faith and Practice Committee is withdrawing the section "Recognizing Spiritual Gifts and Leadings" to allow further seasoning in accordance with Minute 15. He then read changes to the section "The Yearly

Meeting” for which 2-year approval is requested. Sections “Meeting for Worship” and “Worship Groups and Preparative Meetings” are submitted for indefinite approval. Adoptions approved for the periods specified.

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

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

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

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

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

Minute 46 Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) field secretary Christine Ashley spoke on behalf of the FCNL. A \$15 million capital campaign continues through 2017. Youth engagement is a high priority. Christine explained other advocacies of FCNL including climate change, immigration, sentencing reform, etc. There is a boom effect in progress, consisting of increasing lobbying efforts nationally. FCNL works hard to ensure that its positions and activities are aligned with Friends. To that end, FCNL is seeking input from monthly meetings and other Friends organizations on its lobbying priorities for the next Congress.

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

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

Minute 49 Meeting closed with expectant silence.

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

Minute 50 The fourth session opened with waiting worship.

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

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

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

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

Minute 55 Ted Kuhn made the second presentation from the Finance Committee, assisted by other members of that committee. Others who are not on the committee were asked to supplement that report. Monica Tetzlaff reported that Children's Religious Education Committee has modified its request for a Children's Religious Education Coordinator to make it a one-time test period, February-June 2017, at a cost of approximately \$5,000. Chip Rorem updated the discussion of the caretaker position by identifying the job more specifically and directing attention to the search for the person or entity best suited to the assignment. There is still a need for balancing between the extent of the assignment and the funds available. Frank Young reported the emergence of excellent suggestions and movement in the right direction involving creative alternatives for addressing program aspirations and their funding.

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

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

if any available funds from the Personnel Contingency line item are insufficient. The Review Committee, under the care of Finance Committee, may be asked to consider proposed additions to the Personnel Contingency line item.

The minute was approved.

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

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

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

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

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

Minute 61 Meeting closed with expectant silence.

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

Minute 62 The fourth session opened with waiting worship.

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

An ad hoc committee will be convened by a member of Finance Committee for the purposes of (1) refining the most recent iteration of caretaker responsibilities and (2) researching creative ways to accomplish those duties. Membership will consist of representation from these committees: Site Envisioning, Maintenance and Planning, Children's Religious Education, Finance, and Stewards. This ad hoc committee will consult with the Clear Creek Meeting and Environmental Concerns Committee. This ad

hoc committee will report its findings to the Continuing Committee. If viable solutions are found to accomplish the caretaker duties, they will be approved by Continuing Committee or during the Annual Sessions 2017. The committee will be laid down if viable solutions are not found.

Approved.

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

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

Approved.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Minute 71 The 142nd Annual Sessions of Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends closed with grateful waiting worship. Next year's gathering will be at the ILYM Meetinghouse near McNabb on June 21-25, 2017.

EXERCISES

The fields are alive with the sound of music. At least driving up to and staying at the Illinois Yearly Meeting (ILYM) campus makes you feel that way. We are blessed with this campus and its gorgeous 1874 meetinghouse, grove, farmhouse, and fields. Unlike many other yearly meetings, ILYM does not have to go to an outside meeting site—we have a permanent home. During Annual Sessions it is also a resort with superb food, beautiful views, a vast tree-canopied space with meeting tents, a dining tent, a tent with beds for rest, play areas, and a lawn to the south like a beach bordering not an ocean, but fields of corn and soybeans as far as the eye can see. We all serve each other here, sharing chores in the spirit of community, and luxuriating in simplicity and fellowship. This year, we spent our time focused on “Nurturing the Seed: Faith, Action, and Growing Community.”

Throughout the week, we rediscovered that we are gifted with many cherished blessings, among them our plentiful group of young Friends, our beautiful campus, and our able and dedicated Administrative Coordinator, Field Secretary, and Youth Coordinator. All of these blessings bring us deep joy, and all require different types of nurture and care. We continue to struggle with how we might nurture all of these seeds well and with integrity despite the limited resources available.

Our worship-centric business meeting sessions wrestled with a number of issues related to growing the community of Friends. Most notably, we explored the more careful nurture of our young Friends and their parents provided by adding a Children’s Religious Education Coordinator, the better use and care of our ILYM campus enabled by employing a caretaker, and the fair, ethical, and legal treatment of existing ILYM staff by paying truly living wages and correctly structuring staff positions. Friends are in unity that all of these actions have great value, and though it is deeply painful that not all can be fully accomplished right now, we rejoice in possibility, recognizing the exciting new opportunities for creativity and cross-committee collaboration that our struggle has generated.

Our afternoons were spent in worship sharing and workshops, many of which were multigenerational, and all of which centered on nurturing the seeds of faith, activism, and community in different ways. Workshops on chanting, creativity, making banners, and famous Quakers in history were especially appealing to young Friends. High school friends attended workshops on the Alexander technique, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, environmental issues, and recognizing one’s privilege. Other workshops included themes focusing on interaction with the outside world, labor and employment, the federal government and all other institutions that represent authority.

We all took great joy in the vibrant participation of the many young, high school, and adult young friends among us. The High School Friends nurtured their seed of activism by donating to the Humane Society. They were also able to have conversations with leaders from American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) and Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) about race, mass incarceration and the refugee crisis. Finally, they found time to nurture the seed of community by enjoying a rock-climbing outing with Adult Young Friends and sharing their slip and slide with young Friends. Adult Young Friends, who assisted with site preparation, mounted a valiant attempt to set up the mouse-eaten ILYM teepee. Though they ultimately failed with the teepee, they were successful in creating shared accommodations with the addition of a new eleven-person tent.

The children’s program, formerly “Friends Under Nineteen” or “FUN,” was renamed “Children’s Sessions” this year as part of our ongoing effort to develop the programming for wee Friends through middle school and to recognize and support the important

spiritual work even the youngest Friends do during Annual Sessions. Despite the name change, all accounts confirm that the program actually still is fun, with a chanting session, visits from adult Friends from the Environmental Concerns and Peace Resources committees, and young Friends' attendance during the last fifteen of business meeting, all of which nurtured the connections between Friends of all ages.

Wednesday evening featured a personal and challenging presentation by Noah White and Lucy Duncan dealing with white supremacy within the Society of Friends today and efforts of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Friends to challenge structural racism under the name of "Undoing Racism." Noah White used the symbolism of a storm forming in the distance when one only sees the lightning. Once we approach closer, we discover that the lightning is paired with thunder to co-create a powerful dynamic. Perhaps fittingly, the conversation was interrupted when a tornado warning forced Friends to the meetinghouse basement, where we were met by young Friends fresh from their annual hayrack ride. Discussion continued downstairs and one young Friend shared words of compassion that brought some to tears. The dialogue concluded as Friends agreed that change must be made to welcome all people to Friendly communities.

On Thursday evening, New York Yearly Meeting Children and Youth Field Secretary Melinda Wenner Bradley spoke movingly to us about nurturing the seed of spirituality in our young Friends and their parents. Her challenge to consider the ways that we assist all Friends in crossing thresholds, how we invite Friends of all ages to our communal table, and how we attend to our own metaphorical garden was reflected in both our new Children's Sessions elements and in our discernment process about hiring a Children's Religious Education Coordinator. We all felt the spirit when our young Friends entered in a flashlight parade to lead us in song carrying the beautiful banner they had created together.

As usual, Friends young and old alike enjoyed Friday evening's dancing on the lawn and watermelon. Unlike usual, the dancing was not interrupted by rain.

Finally, on Saturday evening, Pendle Hill Director of Education Steve Chase invited us to answer the call to radical faithfulness. Citing the example of the widespread Quaker approval of slavery in the early 19th century that transformed to Quaker leadership in the Abolitionist movement, he asked us to be open to change when we miss the mark. Using powerful personal examples from his own life, Steve showed us that we need a willingness to expand our comfort zones and resist the three contemporary Quaker tendencies of denial, despair and distractions in dealing with the world outside our Quaker community. We should not accept the existence of injustice but must engage the world lovingly, acting in a creatively maladjusted mode to bring about the beloved community. Perhaps in the spirit of Steve's early love of Boy Scouting, Friends both young and young at heart enjoyed fellowship, s'mores, and singing around the campfire during his talk.

As is the case most years, Friends will return home energized, refreshed, challenged, and ready to do the difficult and rewarding work of continuing to nurture the seed throughout the year. After a nice long sleep, of course.

EPISTLES

2016 ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING

Dear Friends Everywhere,

Sometimes there are mirages on the prairie to confuse one. Heat waves of summer reflecting places miles distant. Sounds carried far on the prairie. A gun shot could be heard three miles away; a “Halllllooo!” could be heard a mile or more distant, while two people could converse one half miles apart.

The pioneer settlers soon learned that they owed a social as well as a material debt to the community. They realized it was completely rural. There was no nearby town with any entertainment or culture that the community could take advantage of. So, some of the better educated of the community started all kinds of projects for local people of all ages; literary society, singing school, spelling bees and writing schools in which young and old took part; there was no generation gap; from the baby in his basket to the teenager in school, each participated in whatever was offered.

The longer I live the more I realize how much I owe to that heritage that nourished me during all my years.

From *Reflections* written by Lucretia Mott Franklin, a member of ILYM, for her 1969 ILYM Plummer Lecture, talking about the late 1800's. She was born in 1874, the same year that ILYM was formed.

Two years ago, under the banner of Joy: Still a Gift of the Spirit we focused our hearts and minds on becoming more inclusive. We sought information and determined actions challenging ourselves to become more inclusive around gender, sexual identity, race, and personal preferences and styles.

Last year, under the banner of From Mystic Voice to Active Voice we focused our hearts and minds on actualizing our spiritual concerns for those both far and near. We sought information and determined actions, challenging ourselves to walk the talk.

The joyful stories told during this year have been about our strides with inclusion, our strides with actualizing our spiritual concerns. Certainly, we are a work in progress; for, we are not always able to speak frankly about uncomfortable issues. We acknowledge this and continue on, ever more willing to risk asking, “So do you want to be my friend or do you want to be careful?”

In this way we laid the ground for this year’s theme, Nurturing the Seed of Love, which has been focused on re-capturing the days described by Lucretia Franklin and becoming a yearly meeting where “...there was no generation gap; from the baby in his basket to the teenager in school, each participated in whatever was offered.” Today we call this being an intergenerational meeting.

We lovingly embraced consideration that the seeds we cast on soil that we hoped would be fertile will require nurturance. And, we are ever more mindful that too many seeds, if spread over too large an area, can not be tended properly.

Our children and our young adults are our seeds and our beloved and beautiful Illinois Yearly Meeting campus our fertile ground. And if we accept this we must nurture both.

To that end, both during our Annual Sessions and in our monthly meetings, we have begun to design our programing to be intergenerational. We are organizing our fiscal and people resources to take care of both our younger Friends and our yearly meeting campus.

We note our younger friends are often our examples, offering a pattern for that which we fervently hope to become.

An eleven year old seeks Noel, a member of our Environmental Concerns committee, a seed in her hand, asking him to identify it. Why? Because he and his wife had offered that child's age group an introduction to plant nurturance. She was delighted with his response and set off on an adventure to talk to others, spreading her new knowledge. This indicated a change, we are more deliberate about intentionally celebrating our intergenerational interactions.

An Adult Young Friend reports that while on a hike through prairie grasses she and her friends discussed making choices about fostering community and they plan to stay in touch when they return to their widely dispersed communities. This indicates a change, for this group is composed of 18–35 year olds, individuals who are often in different places in their lives with different needs and interests.

Many Friends have shared stories about their children spending time at our ILYM Campus. And stories about how they came to our campus as children. One friend talked about how his grandfather and father spent time on our property.

We are eager to increase usage of what we have at times called our Peace House on the Prairie.

We sense early signs of what we hope will become a groundswell and have evidence that in our committees' work an intergenerational focus is often included. We seek ways to hire someone to work on programming with our young children and already have someone to work with our high school Friends.

We are deeply excited about our vision—an intergenerational faith community linked geographically to place we have loved and owned since 1874. We note a sense of trust among one another, a vulnerable willingness to share in a safe place, even for those who are first-timers, both young and old. This was especially evident during a folk dancing session on our lawn: most everyone was willing to let themselves dance enthusiastically—without self consciousness.

Of course, as our Field Secretary and our Peace Resources committee noted, we will continue to also do work around prison reform, confronting issues of torture, social inequality, acknowledgement and appreciation of differences, the numerous social tensions confronting middle class Americans and, importantly, connecting with the Light of those across the oceans.

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING ADULT YOUNG FRIENDS (AYF) EPISTLE

The following is an excerpt from my biological field notes: Day 73

As I was bushwhacking in the cornfields of McNabb, I was struck by a menacing cackle. Though I did not know it at the time, I was about to encounter with the creature that would define my career: the illusive and flamboyant Adult Young Friend.

The more I came to discover about the Adult young friend, they began to trust me.

The following attributes describe the AYF. Typically walking upright, the AYF will spontaneously jump into the air to catch a flying disc they call a Frisbè. They value the Frisbè, so much so that when one of their own broke the Frisbè in a fit of joy, they punished him with multiple “clearness committees.”

The AYF also wear plaid on plaid in a seemingly oblivious fashion misstatement yet it is a standard of beauty among their own community. The AYF commonly displays brightly colored hair or luscious facial hair as thick and muddy as a barn swallow's nest. At times, they become dormant and can re-appear a decade later, resuming normal behaviors.

The AYF gather for a yearly meeting. During which, I observed their appetite for physical communion such as rock climbing up grain silos or hiking through buffalo park.

For two nights, they took up the responsibility to engage the young with games and activities that were simultaneously captivating and silent. They also came together with their elders and the underlings to create a fiery celebration.

When the AYFer feels solemn, they will trudge to the final resting place of their ancestors. My time with the AYF community has been enlightening and fulfilling. Their trust has grown to the point where I have been anointed to a position of high regard. Through it continues to remain a mystery to me; they have made me their “co-clerp.” I know that it bears great fortune and I look forward for my years to come with this eccentric community.

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING HIGH SCHOOL FRIENDS EPISTLE

- 1) Storm: “Wednesday Night. It was really lightning. Much rain. Very storm. Such wind. Lot tornado.”
- 2) Frisbee: “Thursday. We were just playing Frisbee on the front lawn. Mason and went super Mario on it, but we duct taped it together and kept playing until he punched it again.”
- 3) Fariba workshop: “Lip balm making workshop. Stuff spilled. Fell. Hives were broken out. Wax, everywhere. It smelled like lip balm.”
- 4) Successful business meeting: “It was the first successful business meeting in a long time. Ten minutes of silence. It’s not business, it’s sadness. Amal was named clerk. Wow. Camille would like to thank her mom, her, dad, and the academy as she gracefully accepts the position of recording clerk.”
- 5) FCNL/AFSC: “Visits in the bunkhouse from representatives of AFSC and FCNL. Learning. So much.” “Our brain. Our heart. Our action.”
- 6) Square dancing: “Do-si-do-ing on Friday night, spitting watermelon seeds and twisting ankles. Happy favorite good.”
- 7) Slip n slide: “Slip and slide!”
- 8) Rock climbing: “We pushed ourselves to the UPPER LIMITS with rock climbing. People got burned. Muscles got tired”
- 9) Booth: “Then we sold stuff”
- 10) Graveyard Walk

Kalika Shapiro, Kayla Smith, Amal Tamari, Levi and Riley Schat,
Laure Goode, Camille and Raphael Roberts, Liam Gardner, Ava Rockafeld

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING MIDDLE SCHOOL FRIENDS EPISTLE

We talked about seeds and sowed prairie plants.
The water was bad but better than the ants.
We played a game and bumped into things.
We learned everybody’s name and made wire rings.
We heard Godly Play and also heard the train.
We chanted on Friday and didn’t like the rain.
We stretched like swans and had a lot to say.
Some danced on the lawn and now we’ll go away.

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING 3RD-5TH GRADE FRIENDS EPISTLE

This year we learned so much that we never knew before—stories, art, and about seeds. We also got to know new Friends, kids and grownups. John told us three Faith & Play stories: John Woolman and the Wyalusing Indians, Gifts, and Living the Ways of the Spirit. Sarah and Noel from the Environmental Concerns Committee talked to our group about seeds because Nurturing the Seed is our theme. They read us a book that told us all about seeds, how big they are and their names. We broke open soaked bean seeds to see what was inside. Also they gave us pictures of flowers, like milkweed, that we went to find in the wild garden area. Lisa led us in a chanting session. We sang and played instruments to Native American chants. Dan from the Peace Resources Committee taught us about watercolor painting and peace. We talked about different artists and techniques as we made our paintings.

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING 5-7 YEAR OLD FRIENDS EPISTLE

We are the 15 month to 7 year old group, The Plant Group. This puzzle is us. Each of us drew one of the pieces and we fit those pieces together around the heart of God to make our group.

We learned about and planted corn and sunflower seeds. We cut open and ate fruits and vegetables after finding their seeds. We found that those seeds need sun, dirt, and water to grow. We too have a seed in our hearts, a seed of God. We named what our seed within needs to grow, things like Mom and Dad, love, peace, food, dogs, and cats.

Each morning we gathered in a circle and had silence that began and ended with ringing bells. Like the snow in our snow globe, our thoughts (and bodies) had trouble settling down. The first day we talked over each other. So on other days we used a talking stick like Native Americans do. Each day we had visitors. The first day, Sarah and Noel Pavlovic from Environmental Concerns Committee brought seeds they had collected from the prairie land. We took a walk to find the plants that matched. On the second day Jan Mullen brought us lion and monkey puppets. They told the story of friendly animals who remained friends even when all the other animals in the jungle were fighting. Margaret Nelson taught us the song, "I Ain't Gonna Hate My Neighbor." On the third day Melinda Wenner-Bradley told us the story of George Fox finding God was in his heart.

We enjoyed discovering rocks, swinging on the bench swing while watching the corn, and hanging from tree branches. We created miniature gardens with plants, ponds, houses and animals. We had fun and want to come back next year.

Lillian, Jesse Ann, Milo, Machi, Elias, Sam, Collin,
Hannah, Malcolm, Sophia, and John

**ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION/BALANCE SHEET
FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2016**

	To Date 6/30/2016	Opening Balance 7/1/2015
Assets		
Cash		
Checking Account	221,669.52	205,513.80
Friends Meetinghouse Fund	10,000.00	10,000.00
Paypal	<u>198.45</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Cash	231,897.97	215,513.80
Accounts Receivable	3080.00	0.00
Undeposited Funds	12,530.50	0.00
Previous Years Adjustment		2,172.04
Total Assets	<u>247,508.47</u>	<u>217,685.84</u>
Liabilities		
Loans from Individuals	1,000.00	1,000.00
Accounts Payable	403.59	800.40
2014/15 Accounts Payable Adjustment		(502.17)
Funds Held for 2017 Women's Weekend	<u>100.00</u>	<u> </u>
Total Liabilities	1,503.59	1,298.23
Net Assets		
Unrestricted Undesignated	53,234.09	39,902.41
Previous Years General Fund Adjustment		2,574.21
Unrestricted Designated	142,739.44	127,239.44
Temporarily Restricted	<u>50,031.35</u>	<u>46,571.55</u>
Total Net Assets	246,004.88	216,387.61
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	<u>247,508.47</u>	<u>217,685.84</u>

Note: Because it is difficult to appraise, the value of the McNabb site (land and buildings in McNabb, Ill.) is omitted from the Assets section of this report. **FOR THIS YEAR ONLY:** Due to a thorough review in 9/2016 by Treasurer Judy Erickson, she is incorporating adjustments to some ending balances from last fiscal year (FY) published in the 2015 Minute Book. These changes were due to additional income/expenses for the previous FY coming in after the deadline for Minute Book publication, and to correct some minor accounting inconsistencies in Quickbooks (QB). These figures align what appears in the Minute Book with actual transactions in our QB software, which has been used faithfully, continuously, and with great integrity by all ILYM Treasurers since 7/1/2006. The good news is that we have more in the General Fund than we thought we did!

**ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING - MONTHLY MEETING CONTRIBUTIONS
 JULY 1, 2015 - JUNE 30, 2016 (PREPARED 9/15/16)**

	Unrestricted	Property	World Conference	Total
Blue River Quarterly	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bloomington-Normal	2,549.00	0.00	0.00	2,549.00
Clear Creek	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00
Columbia	2,640.00	0.00	0.00	2,640.00
Downers Grove	7,000.00	0.00	0.00	7,000.00
Duneland	2,160.00	0.00	0.00	2,160.00
Evanston	15,230.00	0.00	0.00	15,230.00
57th Street	2,400.00	0.00	0.00	2,400.00
Lake Forest	16,500.00	0.00	0.00	16,500.00
Northside	1,897.50	0.00	0.00	1,897.50
Oak Park	2,880.00	0.00	0.00	2,880.00
Oshkosh	30.00	0.00	0.00	30.00
Rock Valley	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rolla	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
South Bend	4,560.00	0.00	0.00	4,560.00
Southern Illinois	1,440.00	0.00	0.00	1,440.00
Spoon River	720.00	0.00	0.00	720.00
St. Louis	9,120.00	0.00	0.00	9,120.00
Upper Fox Valley	1,500.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00
Urbana-Champaign	9,240.00	0.00	0.00	9,240.00
Total	<u>84,866.50</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>84,866.50</u>

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

**ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING
STATEMENT OF FUND ACTIVITY
FOR THE PERIOD 7/1/2015 - 6/30/2016 (PREPARED 9/16/16)**

	Balance 7/1/2015	Income	Expenses	Budgeted Transfers	Other Transfers	Balance 6/30/2016
ASSETS						
UNRESTRICTED						
1. General Operating (<i>Adjusted</i>)	42,576.62	131,495.44	(103,638.17)	(13,500.00)	(3,699.80)	53,234.09
DESIGNATED						
2. Special Gifts	42,361.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	42,361.24
3. Current Projects	1,122.17	7,470.00	0.00	0.00	530.00	9,122.17
4. Payroll Reserves	36,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	36,000.00
5. FWCC World Meetings	5,000.00	0.00	(6,000.00)	2,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
6. Maintenance Reserve	42,756.03	0.00	0.00	11,500.00	0.00	54,256.03
RESTRICTED						
7. Property Improvement	46,571.55	290.00	0.00	0.00	3,169.80	50,031.35
TOTAL ASSETS	216,387.61	139,255.44	(109,638.17)	0.00	0.00	246,004.88
LIABILITIES						
Loans from Individuals	1,000.00					1,000.00
Accounts Payable/other Liabs (<i>Adjusted</i>)	298.23					503.59
TOTAL CASH	217,685.84					247,508.47

Fund	Name	Oversight Committee
1	General Operating Our general operating fund, where we organize our annual budget.	Finance
2	Special Gifts A reserve fund to receive larger unrestricted contributions, used for special projects.	Finance
3	Current Projects Unrestricted donations to be used for renovation projects as approved at 2013 Annual Session	Site Envisioning
4	Payroll Reserves A reserve fund that would be used for payroll only during unexpected financial circumstances.	Finance
5	FWCC World Meetings A reserve fund to provide travel assistance to ILYM's reps to FWCC world gatherings.	Finance
6	Maintenance Reserve Used to save for and pay for irregular site maintenance, repair & upgrade projects.	Maintenance & Planning
7	Property Improvement Restricted by donors to be used for new building projects.	Site Envisioning with Development

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING OPERATING BUDGET 2016-2017

	2016-2017 Anticipated	2015-2016 Actual	2015-2016 Budget
Income			
Contributions from Meetings	82,000	84,866	82,000
Contributions from Individuals	29,000	28,611	22,450
Other Contributions	0	0	0
Gatherings & Retreats	15,500	16,701	14,000
Fundraisers & Other Income	0	698	0
Interest	600	620	600
<i>Total Income</i>	<u>127,100</u>	<u>131,495</u>	<u>119,050</u>
Expenses & Transfers			
Operating			
Personnel (Payroll, Staff Travel, Office)	(55,200)	(49,083)	(49,750)
YM Travel Support	(5,500)	(1,014)	(6,500)
Gatherings & Retreats	(15,000)	(18,626)	(13,000)
Site (Facilities & Deferred Maint)	(16,700)	(15,937)	(16,200)
Committees	(12,550)	(9,428)	(12,550)
Support to Others	(10,650)	(9,550)	(9,550)
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	<u>(115,600)</u>	<u>(103,638)</u>	<u>(107,550)</u>
Transfer to <i>Deferred Maintenance</i> Fund	(11,500)	(11,500)	(11,500)
Transfer to <i>FWCC World Meetings</i> Travel	(1,000)	(2,000)	(2,000)
Total Expenses & Transfers	(127,100)	(115,138)	(119,050)
Net General Fund Income (Deficit)	0	16,357	0

EXPENSE LINE ITEM DETAILS

(1) Personnel

Salaries & Payroll	(43,700)	(43,006)	(43,250)
Staff Travel	(5,500)	(5,286)	(5,500)
Office	(1,000)	(791)	(1,000)
Contingency	(5,000)		
<i>Total</i>	<u>(55,200)</u>	<u>(49,083)</u>	<u>(49,750)</u>

(2) YM Travel Support

ILYM Committee Travel	(2,000)	(99)	(2,000)
ILYM Reps Travel	(2,500)	(915)	(2,500)
<i>Total</i>	<u>(4,500)</u>	<u>(1,014)</u>	<u>(4,500)</u>

(3) Site

Annual Facilities Expenses (Oversight: Stewards)			
Insurance	(5,500)	(5,521)	(5,500)
Repairs	(1,200)	(1,521)	(1,200)
Mowing & Tree Trimming	(5,000)	(3,940)	(5,000)
Annual Services (inspections, winterizing)	(1,500)	(1,570)	(1,500)
Utilities	(3,500)	(3,385)	(3,000)
<i>Total</i>	<u>(16,700)</u>	<u>(15,937)</u>	<u>(16,200)</u>

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING, OPERATING BUDGET 2016-2017
EXPENSE LINE ITEM DETAILS (CONT.)

	2016-2017 Anticipated	2015-2016 Actual	2015-2016 Budget
(4) Committees			
Ad hoc	(100)	(10)	(100)
Development	(1,100)	(531)	(1,100)
Environmental Concerns	(200)	0	(200)
Faith & Practice	(150)	0	(150)
Finance	(450)	(110)	(450)
Handbook	(50)	0	(50)
Maintenance & Planning	(200)	0	(200)
Ministry & Advancement	(250)	0	(250)
Nominating	(300)	(149)	(300)
Peace Resources	(250)	(100)	(250)
Peace Tax Fund	(50)	0	(50)
Personnel (may increase \$5000 for Children's RE Coord)	(150)	0	(150)
Publications	(6,000)	(5,248)	(6,000)
Religious Education	(300)	(8)	(300)
Site Envisioning	(200)	(15)	(200)
Adult Young Friends	(300)	(307)	(300)
Youth Oversight*	<u>(2,500)</u>	<u>(2,950)</u>	<u>(2,500)</u>
<i>Total</i>	(12,550)	(9,428)	(12,550)
(5) Support to Others			
Quaker organizations to which ILYM assigns representatives			
Friends General Conference (FGC)	(4,000)	(4000)	(4,000)
Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)	(3,500)	(2,500)	(2,500)
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)	(400)	(400)	(400)
Friends Cmte. on Natl Legislation Edu. Fund (FCNL)	(400)	(400)	(400)
Friends Peace Teams (FPT)	(300)	(300)	(300)
Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW)	(250)	(250)	(250)
Friends for Lesbian & Gay Concerns (FLGBTQC)	(50)	(50)	(50)
Regional Quaker educational institutions			
Chicago Friends School (CFS)	(300)	(300)	(300)
Scattergood School	(200)	(200)	(200)
Earlham College	(200)	(200)	(200)
Earlham School of Religion (ESR)	(100)	(100)	(100)
Olney Friends School	(100)	(100)	(100)
Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR)	(300)	(300)	(300)
Project Lakota	(200)	(200)	(200)
Friends Journal	(200)	(200)	(200)
National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT)	(100)		
Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO)	<u>(50)</u>	<u>(50)</u>	<u>(50)</u>
<i>Total</i>	(10,650)	(9,550)	(9,550)

* Youth Oversight income from Quaker registratinos and HSF fundraising totaled \$451, offsetting \$2950 in expenses for net expenses of \$2499.

REGISTRATION REPORT FOR ILYM ANNUAL SESSIONS 2016

Total Registration: 182

Registration by Quarter/Geographic Grouping:

Blue River	47 Adults 21 Young Friends	Total: 68
Chicago North	37 Adults 11 Young Friends	Total: 48
Chicago South	38 Adults 10 Young Friends	Total: 48
Other	14 Adults 4 Young Friends	Total: 18

Housing: 69 camped, 30 stayed in cabins, 14 stayed in Clear Creek House, 11 stayed in the High School Bunkhouse, and 58 used motels or local housing.

TRAVEL POLICY

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

1. Requests for travel funds should be made well in advance to the Treasurer.
2. The amount to be advanced or reimbursed is based on the current IRS rate per automobile mile driven in service of charitable organizations (14 cents per mile in 2015) or reasonable commercial fares. Friends are encouraged to be prudent.
3. Conference registration fees may be reimbursed.
4. Any ordinary expenses for food or lodging may be reimbursed.
5. Questions of travel reimbursement for committee business should be cleared through that committee in advance of the travel and reported to the Treasurer.
6. Friends World Committee for Consultation Triennial travel will be handled from its own fund.

YEARLY MEETING COMMITTEE REPORTS

DEVELOPMENT (See Minute 24)

The Development Committee has the luxury of a very limited charge. This small committee raises money so that the yearly meeting can fulfill the goals set out at the Annual Sessions of the yearly meeting and the meetings of the Continuing Committee.

The budget approved at the 2015 Annual Sessions included anticipated contributions from individuals of \$22,450. The amount contributed as of 4/30/2016 was more than \$26,000. This generosity of members and friends of the yearly meeting furthers our community, our witness, and our mission. It is a way that those who have benefited from the generosity of past contributions can help create and prepare a new generation of contributors.

Many people contributed to this year's appeal but two in particular deserve special thanks—Ashlee Miller-Berry who wrote the appeal letter and Wil Brant who significantly reduced the total cost of duplicating and assembling the annual appeal letter.

The second task of the Development Committee is to raise funds for improvement of the facilities at the yearly meeting site. This past year that task has been deferred because complete details of the two approved projects have not been available. Funding these projects depends on having detailed plans for the work, estimates of costs of the work, and plans for contracting and supervising the work. Other committees are responsible for these matters and have been working on them. The yearly meeting depends on volunteers for many of these tasks and volunteers have other obligations. Further problems have been caused by the unavailability of the contractor who has done much previous work for the yearly meeting. Attention is being paid to these matters by other committees.

After project plans are available and the appropriate committees have determined what existing funds are available for the two approved projects, the Development Committee will approach persons who might be interested in making contributions to these projects. The Nominating Committee has been informed of the need to increase the size of the Development Committee. Volunteers are also welcome—both to contact possible donors and to volunteer to make donations.

For several years the Development and Finance Committees have worked to create a policy statement regarding access to and use of contribution and donor information. This task was completed this past fall and the final draft presented to Continuing Committee which approved it on 10/10/2015. The approved policy states that respect for the privacy of all donors must guide the fund-raising activities of the yearly meeting. The policy recognizes that implementation details are not included in the policy statement. The yearly meeting Treasurer(s), Finance Committee Clerk, Development Committee Clerk, and Presiding Clerk are expected to create guidelines for implementation of the policy. Such guidelines must be reviewed by the Finance Committee and Development Committee as well as the officers of the yearly meeting.

A copy of the approved policy is attached to this report. It should be noted that many of the drafts for this document were created by David Finke and reviewed by Cathy Garra. Their efforts and the contributions of the members of the Finance and Development Committees were important contributions to the completion of this work.

Frank Young, Clerk

Illinois Yearly Meeting (ILYM) Policy Regarding Access to and Use of Contribution and Donor Information

As Approved by Continuing Committee 10/10/2015

Financial support of Illinois Yearly Meeting is a sharing of the gifts the Divine has given us, to sustain the life and work of the yearly meeting and the Religious Society of Friends. Much of the annual operating budget comes from the collective gifts of Friends through monthly meetings and worship groups. Illinois Yearly Meeting does limited individual fund raising in order to balance the annual budget and to provide financial support for special projects. Fund-raising procedures used will respect donor privacy and our sense of community. Illinois Yearly Meeting is committed to operate so as to protect the confidentiality of all individual donor information including name(s), giving history, and amount of gift(s).

The following is a summary of the policies that guide the Treasurer(s), the Development Committee, the Finance Committee, the Clerks, and other persons who need access to donor information.

1. The yearly meeting will not share any individual donation information with outside organizations. Aggregate information regarding types of sources and amounts from each type will be published as part of the normal information shared with the yearly meeting membership.
2. The default rule for donation information will be confidentiality. Limited information may be communicated by the Treasurer(s) to certain committees and officers of the yearly meeting. The creation and use of spreadsheet or similar documents containing information about donors and donor gifts will be done very carefully and only when necessary. Sharing of information will be limited to what is necessary for the operations of the yearly meeting. Whenever the Treasurer(s) have questions about the appropriateness of any requested information, the Presiding Clerk (after consultation with the Treasurer(s) and the Clerks of the Finance and Development Committees) will determine the appropriate information sharing.
3. Donors who request strict anonymity will have identifiable donation information kept and used by the Treasurer(s) only. No information about the donors or their gifts (with the exception of the total amount of such gifts made by individuals) will be shared with others in the yearly meeting.
4. Donor information regarding gifts received after the death of the donor will be considered public unless there is some restriction about the donor's identity that applies to the gift.
5. Donors will be treated equally, regardless of the amount of their gifts.
6. Detailed guidelines for the implementation of these policies will be created periodically by those who are most involved in their implementation—namely the Treasurer(s), the Development and Finance Committee Clerks, and the Presiding Clerk. Any proposed implementation guidelines should be made available to the members of the Finance and Development Committees as well as all officers of the yearly meeting for their review and comment.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS (See Minute 58)

The Environmental Concerns Committee (ECC) is in the process of grieving, responding to, and redirecting our landscaping efforts after the mowing of the osage orange tree seedlings that we planted last fall on the west side of the campus. They were

mowed down by the mower after the wind blew away some of the orange plastic cages. Steward, Dick Ashdown told the mower, that in future if there were similar issues, that he, the mower, contact Dick before taking action. We hope to salvage a few seedlings that are sprouting from the base. In the process of moving forward, we will consult with Maintenance and Planning and Site Envisioning Committees about future plans for the campus landscape.

Clerk, Noel Pavlovic will be presenting a workshop on Friday and Saturday, titled “Planting the seed for low carbon energy sources.” Are you paralyzed by the scale of global climate change? Do you struggle with how to reduce your energy carbon footprint? We will explore opportunities for nurturing the seed of inspiration concerning personal and collective fossil fuel use. I will present several tools and options for reducing our carbon footprint in regards to energy consumption. I will present the concepts of carbon tax witness, divestment from investment in coal and oil, and improvements of sustainable energy. Participants will discuss and seek witness to individual and community action.

Otherwise the ECC has conducted little business.

Prepared by Noel Pavlovic, clerk of ECC.

FAITH AND PRACTICE (See Minutes 14-15,40)

The Faith and Practice Committee has met six times since the 2015 sessions of Illinois Yearly Meeting. Our attention in these meetings has been devoted primarily to four texts:

“Meeting for Worship”: This section was approved in 2013 for a 3-year provisional period, which is now expiring. We have revised the text in response to comments received over the last three years, and would now like to propose adoption of the revised version for an indefinite period. Revisions are indicated in the text by underlining new material and striking through deleted material.

“Worship Groups and Preparative Meetings”: This section was adopted in 2011 for a 5-year provisional period, also now expiring. We have made some relatively minor revisions to this text, and propose that the revised version be adopted for an indefinite period. Revisions are indicated again by underlining new material and striking through deleted material.

“Recognizing Spiritual Gifts and Leadings”: We initially planned to submit a version of this text for provisional adoption last year; but withdrew our proposal when it became clear that more work on the text was needed. We have continued to work on this text all through the year, consulting with a number of interested Friends. We would now like to submit a new version of the text, and propose that it be adopted for a two-year provisional period.

“The Yearly Meeting”: We have been working on this text for close to three years, and would now like to propose adoption for a two-year provisional period.

In addition to these texts, we have begun work on a section dealing with Friends and the state and one on pastoral care. We are also working on a glossary, and have just a few more sections in the planning stages. We continue to aim for 2018 as the date by which we will have a complete version of the entire book; it is for this reason that we are suggesting that new texts be approved provisionally for just a two-year period, rather than a three- or five-year period as with previous texts.

FINANCE (See Minutes 22-23,41, 55-56, 63-64)

During the past year the Finance Committee has had to make important decisions. Most of these decisions have been about codifying proper procedures and documenting how the committee operates. We are concerned about making sure that future members of the committee have guidance from the deliberations of the present committee. It seems unreasonable for future committees to reconsider things that have already been carefully examined. Future committees should build on and improve our work, not do it again without knowing what we have done.

The current policy for Annual Sessions is to have the registration fees pay for the extra expenses of the Annual Sessions. The cost of maintaining the yearly meeting site and buildings is paid out of the yearly meeting general budget (with Clear Creek Monthly Meeting, which uses the property for weekly worship and meeting events, underwriting many utility and maintenance expenditures). Generous individual and monthly meeting support (both financial and volunteer) make this possible.

After years of receiving a deeply discounted delivery rate from our tent/chair/table supplier, they decided to charge us their current market rate. This is still a little lower than other area suppliers. This resulted in a large increase in rental costs. The Finance Committee made the difficult decision to increase the daily attendance fee for the yearly meeting sessions from \$36 per day to \$40 per day. The committee also recognizes that emergency costs are sometimes necessary. In order to prevent the unexpected and prevent surprises the committee has implemented several changes in how expenses are allocated to the Annual Sessions budget line. It may be necessary to make some further increases to the fees in the near future. It is the hope of the committee that this will not be necessary, but it is the intent of the committee to continue to adhere to the policy that the additional costs for the sessions should be completely covered by the registration fees. It is notable that the costs of attending Illinois Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions are very much lower than the costs for attending other yearly meeting annual sessions. We know of no other yearly meeting where a family can attend a four-day session for less than \$400, including program, food, housing and children's registration. Attenders who are unable to pay the full amount are asked to request assistance from their monthly meetings. In addition, a fee reduction policy is in place to assure that financial need does not prohibit someone from attending.

Certain policies have been discussed in the committee. The current policy of reimbursement for travel expenses of committee members and representatives to other Friends organizations continues to be the correct way to support volunteers. Many of these costs are not reimbursed because no reimbursement has been requested. This is not something that the committee is complaining about. What we would complain about is if people refrained from accepting such responsibilities because of financial limitations. The work of the yearly meeting should be done by those qualified and willing, not just by those who can afford to do it.

Our discussions have included the contributions to the yearly meeting from the monthly meetings. We have kept the suggested contribution the same for quite some time. We have done this in recognition of the financial obligations of the local meetings. Over the past few years the monthly meeting contributions have remained stable despite the increased obligations of the yearly meeting. At present an annual appeal for individual contributions is addressing this income problem (see the report from the Development Committee for further information). The committee will continue to discuss ways to effectively sustain the yearly meeting. We are continuing to investigate

ways to provide appropriate future financial support for the yearly meeting activities, employees, and property.

Discussion of the budget for the next fiscal year was not particularly difficult and only minor changes were needed in some items. Many of the budget items are determined by other committees or by the requests of other committees. The Finance Committee needs to be more active in getting such information from these other committees. This is particularly important when additional staff positions are being considered. The availability of resources and income is an important part of the consideration of any decision to approve such increases. Committees are urged to inform the Finance Committee of any planned or possible changes that might increase (or decrease) the yearly meeting budget.

The committee continues to investigate how present restricted funds may be used for the two major projects that have been approved (renovation of the bathhouse and accessibility improvements to Clear Creek House). More information regarding this is expected to be available during the yearly meeting sessions.

The committee remains committed to its primary tasks: determining financial realities; monitoring income and expenses; determining ways to financially support the decisions of the yearly meeting; and communicating needed information to other committees, the monthly meetings, and the yearly meeting membership. We are continuing to work on ways to make our finances clear and understandable to all in the yearly meeting.

The committee members work hard together, with great tenderness for one another and for the yearly meeting.

MAINTENANCE AND PLANNING (See Minute 43)

Spring 2016's work day included Dick Ashdown, Beth Carpenter, Mike Dennis, Meredith George, John Hackman, Melissa Halka, Bruce Kanarek, Andrea and John Kintree, Alex and Elizabeth Lippitt, Grayce and Neil Mesner, Carol Prombo. We met at 9:30 a.m. at Clear Creek House, reviewed the "To Do List," and chose chores. We enjoyed an abundant and delicious potluck lunch and dinner.

Work Completed

Meetinghouse: Scraped and painted exterior patches on south and west sides. Replaced sagging board at top of steps by west door.

Kitchen: Cleaned convection oven.

Junior Yearly Meetinghouse: Completed installation of wall boards. Repaired animal holes in walls.

Chicken House: Replaced blown down aluminum siding to east and north walls.

Clear Creek Garage: Replaced vinyl siding to exterior. Repaired tire on golf cart.

Grounds: Weeded CC House east yard. Sawed and chopped fallen trees. Staked osage orange saplings at western edge of property. Do we want to propagate non-indigenous, prolific trees along the border of a neighboring farmers' field?

To Do List (as of 5/29/16)

Meetinghouse: Replace rotten lowest board exterior southwest corner.

Kitchen: Find, buy, install range hood. Check fire extinguisher. Replace if necessary. Would it be useful to redesign stairs to dining hall so that they are to code with a wider run? They might have to extend further into the dining room.

Fox Hole: Install shelves for computer/phone charging station.

Penn House: Remove old carpet and put in dumpster during sessions. Is the old carpet here for a reason? Do we want to keep the stuff being stored here? Is there a better use for this building?

Cabins: Cabin K - Replace back screen door.

Clear Creek Garage: Repair or replace electric garage door opener. Would it be more economical to house guests needing accessible facilities in a local hotel and pay their bill for them rather than rehabbing the garage to make two apartments?

Barn: Clean out, remove containers, recycle plastic 5 gal buckets - far west barn by silos. Call Marshall Brennan 815.712.8847 see if he will haul for us again. This time we should pay him.

Fall Workday will be Saturday, October 8, 2016, at 9:30 a.m. at Clear Creek House.

Submitted by Meredith George

MINISTRY AND ADVANCEMENT (See Minute 38)

This past year Ministry and Advancement Committee spent a significant amount of time reflecting upon our role in the yearly meeting and how we go about the work of supporting meetings and worship groups of ILYM. Our members' ability to do inter-visitation to meetings as often as we would wish has been challenged by the busy schedules and local responsibilities of our membership. With 23 monthly meetings, preparative meetings and worship groups, committee members are too stretched to develop meaningful relationships with them. The committee has for many years tried to follow a structure of visitation developed by a previous generation of M&A members.

We are going through a re-envisioning process, exploring and identifying new ways to support and encourage the meetings in our midst. A number of ideas have been put forward and we are continuing to season how to turn these ideas into reality:

- Encourage inter-visitation between meetings and worship groups. Develop interest and understanding of the value this practice among members of meetings
- Invite non-committee members to travel with us when we do make visits to meetings
- Write an article (8 or less paragraphs) for a meeting's newsletter: "Why am I a M&A member?"
- Encourage community and shared ministry between meetings that are closer together. Help foster "sister relationships" between meetings.
- Encourage M&A members to connect with meeting committees charged with oversight of the spiritual life of their meetings. Use the telephone and social media if available in addition to email.
- Assist in the level of relationships between meetings—particularly with small and far-flung meetings.
- Provide a yearly meeting workshop with the goal of recognizing and nurturing gifts for ministry throughout ILYM.
- Create a support committee in local communities for people with gifts for ministry.
- Encourage the use of FGC resources that have been developed to help foster meeting growth, such as: Growing our Meetings Toolkit, Welcoming Friends, and the Spiritual Deepening program.

Field Secretary

The members of M&A continue to feel blessed by Judy Wolicki's energy, commitment and compassion for visiting meetings in our far-flung ILYM universe. Her travels are extensive and her reports are central to our understanding of the meetings visited and our own work. This past Spring, we reviewed and revised the Field Secretary Job Description for the Personnel Manual and reviewed Judy's work. Judy serves as "significant connective tissue" for the yearly meeting. Judy often presents a list of topics of significant interest and concern to Friends that are raised in the course of her visits to meetings. Judy finds that her visits are often serendipitous to the life of the particular meeting that she is visiting, and is always delighted to offer programs of interest to them as requested. Judy has found her own way of providing ministry as Field Secretary. It is a fluid approach that combines the above, spiritual care to both individuals and meetings as a whole, and connecting meetings to resources that are available for their concerns. Judy's work helps us to lift up movements within our meetings and helps our committee to focus our energies. She puts in more time than she is compensated for, but also sees these visits as a gift to her. Her service in both quantity and quality is enthusiastically received.

Policy on Sexual Misconduct and Harassment

In the Spring, we presented a draft of this policy to Continuing Committee. There were many thoughtful reflections offered and considered. We are thankful for the work of our drafting committee, Cathy Garra, Jan Dominick, and Bridget Rorem. We understand the need for a policy that is short and usable, but also reflects the nuances of a wide variety of concerns.

FIELD SECRETARY (See Minute 39)

As always, my work for you is filled with joy! Again, I report here some major themes for further discussion, as well as where I have been, how far I have traveled, where I plan to go next, and what I expect to be offering in the future. This year I have traveled more miles, visited far and wide, listened more and offered more of what you have asked of me (I hope).

I aspire to do more and better work as your representative. Therefore, as always, I invite your thoughts, ideas, and concerns, Friends. I ask that you continue to let me know how I can serve you and your meetings.

As you may remember, in connection with a reflection upon losing weighty Friends who have moved or will be moving away, the following appeared in my report for the Spring 2016 Continuing Committee meeting:

"In this yearly meeting there are many Friends who are experienced, weighty elders. How can we facilitate their passing along their wisdom and knowledge to our younger or less experienced members? Would those experienced, weighty Friends be willing to take on the task of mentoring less experienced Friends? (Do you know who you are, weighty and experienced Friends?) I invite all Friends' thoughts and suggestions about how I might help to further this goal."

And: "This request has led to suggestions for programs and discussions on leadership and gifts. I would like to propose that individuals and meetings consider these possibilities—especially the issues of

1) recognizing one's own gifts of encouragement, leadership and mentoring,

- 2) willingness to identify other leaders (especially young ones), and
- 3) helping others to recognize and nurture their own gifts.”

I am happy to report that the idea for such a program has gained some traction, and such programs are being considered. I hope that Friends are also recognizing and nurturing gifts—in themselves as well as others.

Previously reported and new topics being raised in my visits and in emails and other correspondence from meetings and individuals include:

- Need for purpose and encouragement in this time of political uncertainty
- Issues around meeting spaces: renewal, renovation, finding new space, intentionally using questions around space to strengthen community and commitment
- Friends awareness of issues of race and privilege and how to address them
- Welcome and integration of children, youth, and young adults into the full life of their monthly meetings and our yearly meeting
- Connecting with one another and with the Light
- Building and nurturing community
- Fostering better communication, resolution of conflicts, and reconciliation
- Help and encouragement for small meetings
- Gender identity and acceptance
- The use and efficacy of prayer
- Individuals’ gifts and the use of one’s gifts in service of meeting(s) and one another
- Satisfying our desire for joyfully deep and spiritual lives in spite of individual differences
- Outreach and welcome to those seeking deeper spiritual experience

In my visiting I continue to encounter wisdom in vocal ministry, and to experience the value and efficacy of our shared silence.

Travel and Visits

During the fiscal year 2015-2016, I will have driven approximately 7,700 miles for the yearly meeting. I have visited with Friends in Bloomington-Normal, Peoria, Carbondale, Clear Creek, Downers Grove, Hyde Park, Evanston, Lake Forest, Northside, Oak Park, Duneland (Valparaiso), Spoon River (Monmouth), Burlington (IA), Macomb, Urbana-Champaign, Upper Fox Valley, Rolla, and St Louis. I attended Blue River Quarterly meetings in DuBois and Cantrall, the 57th Street Meeting retreat (attended by other Chicago-area meetings), Women’s Weekend in McNabb, and Peace Resource Committee’s program at Urbana Champaign, as well as an Friends Committee on National Legislation program at Downers Grove, the SnowQuake at 57th Street, and other programs.

I offered programs, facilitated discussions and worship sharing, and offered care, encouragement and resources in person and by phone to individuals and meetings.

As time permits, I continue to correspond by notes, email and phone calls with those I am unable to visit in person. I have also been privileged to visit and spend time with Friends in their homes, and to participate in “Meetings for Eating” in Normal and in Downers Grove.

We are strengthened by our contacts and commitments to one another, especially across meetings. I continue to be inspired by the reports I have read of Friends’ commitments to each other, their communities, and to justice issues in the world. As I visit, I try, to connect meetings to each other, to report on meetings’ efforts in religious education, social justice and peace, community building, and other activities.

I encourage Friends to connect to one another across meetings, to keep in contact by visiting, phone calls, emails, and cards and letters.

Future Visits and Programs

I hope to visit South Bend, Elkhart, and Oshkosh before the end of June, and Columbia sometime this summer or fall.

I have been asked to co-facilitate a program for Southern Illinois Quaker Meeting in Carbondale and a retreat for Clear Creek Meeting in McNabb in August. I will also continue to attend and help facilitate the 4th Sunday program at Downers Grove Friends Meeting during the next year.

Friends' suggestions of places that you think might want a visit or a program are appreciated. And I am always delighted to have the chance to develop new programs as requested.

The last four months have been busy and eventful. I continue to be honored to serve the yearly meeting, and joyful in service to you, my Friends. Thank you for your support, nurture, guidance and trust.

Respectfully submitted, Judy Wolicki, Field Secretary

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (See Minute 11)

Nominating Committee would like to thank all Friends who have served as officers, on committees and as representatives to wider Quaker organizations over the last year. Some individuals have resigned during the last year due to other commitments: Judy Jager from Ministry & Advancement; Angie Thinnes from Nominating Committee; Karl Malachut from Peace Resources; and Mike Ruberton from Finance Committee. We are grateful for the work all Friends do for our yearly meeting.

PEACE RESOURCES (See Minute 53)

Committee members: Kent Busse, Mark McGinnis, Contessa Miller, Dave Moorman, Jan Mullen (clerk), Naoki Nakamura, Dan Stevens. John Knox and Dave Moorman are members of the Subcommittee on the Peace Tax Fund.

Financial Status: The committee had a \$300 budget, and requested that the Treasurer send \$100 from that budget to pay the initial dues to NRCAT, the National Religious Campaign Against Torture.

This year has been one of energy and enthusiasm among members of PRC, as we have expanded our membership and explored several areas within our objectives. Our mission is one of providing resources on issues of peace to monthly meetings, so that the fruit of our labors is in support of peace activities within the monthly meetings. To this end, PRC has connected with monthly meetings around issues of discrimination or inclusion of sexual minorities, police accountability, and activism to eliminate the use of torture and solitary confinement. In May, PRC convened a gathering of Friends working for peace held at the Urbana/Champaign meeting to support monthly meetings and promote greater communication among peace committees in the monthly meetings.

Objectives of PRC as stated on the ILYM website:

- The first objective "To develop a proactive conscientious objection counseling program" has recently become a new working group within PRC due to renewed interest. In April an amendment was added to the annual defense bill which would

require women to register for the draft if the bill passes through Congress and is signed by the President. Any Friends interested in joining this working group are invited to contact members of PRC.

- The next three objectives are related to education of children, teens, and young adults. PRC is seeking to work jointly with the Religious Education Committee to further these objectives. PRC is helping with Children's Sessions this session and plans to explore other joint projects.
- The objective regarding war and terrorism is currently being addressed through two initiatives with respect to military or police violence:

NRCAT: ILYM is a participating member of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture. Jan Mullen is the current delegate. Monthly meetings are encouraged to join NRCAT as either Participating Members or Endorsing Members. PRC can provide monthly meetings with materials or a speaker on the issue of torture including solitary confinement. ILYM as well as monthly meetings are being encouraged to write a minute stating their opposition to the use of torture, including solitary confinement, so that these minutes may be published on the ILYM website as well as being sent to QUIT, the Quaker Initiative to End Torture.

Several monthly meetings are involved in various projects involving prisons and prisoners, in conjunction with other organizations and faith communities. Recently, some Friends supported the Voices for Creative Nonviolence in their 150 mile walk to protest the building of 1,900 new solitary confinement cells in a federal prison at Thomson, Illinois. This concern will continue to be explored by PRC.

Police brutality and racial profiling: Members of PRC Contessa Miller and Naoki Nakamura together with their monthly meeting peace committees have hosted events promoting police accountability. In addition to supporting local community activities, they look forward to assisting other monthly meetings with programs regarding police issues. Activism of this type has already had the high profile result that the mayor of Chicago announced his intention to replace the current appointed police review board with a new elected civilian oversight body.

Sexual Minority issues: PRC met with Friends knowledgeable about matters of politics and discrimination towards sexual minorities in East Africa. A discernment process led to a recommendation that Friends wishing to help Ugandan members of sexual minorities reach safety might direct their donations through the Friends Underground Safe Transport project of Olympia monthly meeting. As of 5/13/2016 FUST has supported Ugandan conductors to help 1,385 individuals to escape from Uganda: 1,375 LGBTQ adults, six straight allies, and eight children. They report that 75 additional Ugandans are in hiding waiting for the funds to help them leave.

The working group on sexual minorities asked Friends in monthly meetings "to gather insight into how ILYM member meetings are encountering the struggle for justice of sexual minorities, locally, and around the world." Monthly meetings have responded to this letter describing their activities and sharing minutes regarding inclusivity. Resources can be offered to meetings who wish to explore this issue more fully.

Communications: To serve as a resource for monthly meetings, PRC has developed several initiatives:

ILYM website: Working on revisions to make the PRC page more user-friendly.

Facebook: PRC continues to monitor the Facebook Peace Resources page which currently is a closed group with 34 members.

Connections: Monthly meeting peace and social justice committees were contacted to explore ways in which PRC can facilitate a connection among them, and with PRC. An in-person meeting was held May 21 at the Urbana/Champaign meetinghouse attended by 14 people from 7 meetings. There was a great deal of enthusiasm for this type of connection, in which Friends shared their hopes, activities and frustrations. Friends felt energized by hearing what other meetings are working on, and encouraged PRC to facilitate both online and more in-person gatherings. PRC extends an open invitation for everyone to attend the next such gathering during Annual Sessions, on Friday June 24 at 4:00 p.m.

The Peace Resources Committee has been energized, as we have come together in an in person meeting and hope to meet again in person, which will be further supported by teleconferences. We are very enthusiastic about the rising interest from conveners of peace committees in our facilitating the conferencing among monthly meeting Peace and Social Justice committees. We look forward to hearing from monthly meetings on many of these issues as well as their own initiatives. The following quote exemplifies our purpose:

“Community also gives me courage. We don’t bear the burdens on our own, but we carry them together. Community is about creating a critical mass, just like the coals of a fire keep the fire alive. You put a fire out by spreading the coals out: you keep the fire alive by putting it together. We keep fanning each other’s flame of hope.” Shane Claiborne, author of “Irresistible Revolution,” in *Sojourners* magazine, February 2016

Respectfully submitted by Jan Mullen

PROPERTY USE (See Minutes 28-29)

The Property Use Committee has met both virtually and in person over the course of this year. We have been charged with several different tasks, but the one that we have made a priority this year is composing a job description for a caretaker. Additionally we have worked with Finance Committee to discern the pricing of the use of Clear Creek House as it currently stands. They have taken charge of that particular task. We have seasoned the job description within the committee and have presented it at Spring Continuing Committee for comments and general improvements. We will be presenting that proposal for Yearly Meeting consideration.

Title: Caretaker

Committee with Oversight: Stewards plus Maintenance and Planning

Supervisor: Stewards

Purpose and Background: The expanding campus and number of buildings has become too much work for the all-volunteer Stewards and Maintenance and Planning Committee alone. ILYM’s Continuing Committee responded by tasking the Ad Hoc Property Use Committee with “the development of a recommendation concerning a caretaker or contracted arrangement for overseeing the care of the campus.” This job description is based on the “List of Caretaker Tasks performed by Dick Ashdown” prepared by Chris Goode, based on an interview with Dick Ashdown. It also considered recommendations from the property use community with representation from across ILYM. The job description for the function we are calling “caretaker” has been explicitly written so that it could be done by a part-time hire, a contractor, and/or a management firm that would accomplish the work. They will not live on-site, but should be in close proximity to it.

Qualifications

- Ability to work with Dick Ashdown, other Stewards, and the Clerk of Maintenance and Planning to learn what is required and as quickly as possible take over most of that work.
- Two or more years' experience doing maintenance and the range of responsibilities described below.
- Ability to check on the property and be on call in the event of an emergency or special event.
- Should ideally be someone who would share our Quaker values and can work well with the ILYM community; being Quaker is not required.

Responsibilities

- Facility oversight and alerts to Stewards plus the Clerk of Maintenance and Planning.
- Mowing and snow removal.
- Checking and getting fuel delivered when needed.
- Turning on and off utilities for buildings at proper times.
- Minor repairs and maintenance, some painting, some cleaning.
- Opening Clear Creek House and the ILYM Meetinghouse to visitors.
- Bidding on or helping to get bids on more extensive work (e.g., rebuilding steps, painting meeting house exterior, work on sump pump).
- Working with stewards to coordinate delivery of materials or subcontractor work.

Evaluation: Reports to and is evaluated by Stewards with input from the Clerk of Maintenance and Planning.

Compensation: The Caretaker is to be compensated approximately \$12,000 per year, plus reimbursement for any supplies or expenses accrued on behalf of ILYM. Hours of work will vary from month to month based on needs and scheduled events. If a part-time employee, this work will be paid at the prevailing rate paid to all ILYM staff (currently ~\$15/hr). If a subcontractor, we will seek a bid for the proposed work.

Estimated Hours by Task

- 50% Mowing and snow removal
- 30% Facility maintenance (including fuel and opening/closing facilities)
- 10% Coordination of deliveries, bids, and other work
- 10% Meetings and communication with Stewards and Maintenance and Planning

As a committee we are looking for approval of this job description along with a laying down of this particular committee. We believe that at this time, our work as a whole committee with representatives of most other committees has come to an end. There is still work to be done, but we believe that this work can be taken on by the various other committees and is no longer in need of a specific committee.

Property Use Committee, Co-Clerks Ashlee Miller-Berry and Sarah Pavlovic

PUBLICATIONS AND DISTRIBUTION (See Minute 48)

Print

1. Plummer Lectures
 - (a) 2012 - Mark Mattaini : Looking to have this printed and available for distribution at Fall 2016 Continuing Committee

(b) 2016 - Nancy Duncan: Looking to have this printed and available for distribution at Spring 2017 Continuing Committee

2. *Among Friends*

(a) Summer 2016 will go to the printer by July 18 and be delivered in the mail by the first week of August.

Web

1. ILYM.org: The current version of Drupal has been updated.

(a) While preparing to update the look and feel of the current ILYM website a discussion on whether or not stay with Drupal began. Sean is currently converting the Blue River Quarterly website from Tiki Wiki to WordPress and thought that since so many of us are using WordPress for our monthly meeting websites it might be prudent to switch the ILYM.org site over as well to capitalize on the shared knowledge of that content management system.

(b) Drupal 6, the version we are currently running, is no longer supported. So we will need to do a major upgrade if we decide to stay with Drupal making it an even better time to make a major change if that is the direction that is decided on.

RECORDS RETENTION POLICY (See Minute 19)

Following is the proposed Record Retention Policy. It was initially presented for review at Fall 2015 Continuing Committee and was revised in relation to specific issues raised at that meeting, in conversations, and via email. This revised version was submitted to Spring 2016 Continuing Committee. No specific issues have been raised since Spring Continuing Committee. This revised version is being submitted for approval.

While the focus of a records retention policy is on documents for legal and operational issues, the ad hoc committee has received concerns regarding the preservation for documentation of the wider life of the yearly meeting, especially beyond organic documents (e.g., minutes and publications) that are being sent to the ILYM archive collection at the Illinois History and Lincoln Collections of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. While the development of projects to address these concerns would be outside the scope of this ad hoc committee, two potential projects have been initially identified which through creating a historical record would help to provide a fuller view of ILYM beyond what is recorded in minutes and publications. One project would be the development of a photography repository. The other project would be an oral history project. The establishment of an ad hoc history committee might help facilitate these and other projects.

Illinois Yearly Meeting Records Retention and Preservation

ILYM records are defined as documents in any form that are made or received and maintained by ILYM, the committees of ILYM, or appointees and employees of ILYM for the work or operation of ILYM.

Types of Records

Active records are records currently being used for the work or operation of ILYM.

Semi-active records are records that are not in current use, but might be for future use or reference for the work, operation or legal concerns of ILYM.

Inactive records are records that are no longer being used for the work or operation of ILYM.

Types of Records Storage/Preservation

Archives are for permanent records of historic value. The ILYM archives are held in the Illinois History and Lincoln Collections at the University of Illinois-Champaign.

Repositories are libraries that receive items published and/or distributed by ILYM.

Record Retention is a process through which semi-active records are retained to help aid the work or operation of ILYM.

Administrative Coordinator oversees records retention and the Records Librarian oversees sending items to the ILYM Archives and designated repositories.

The ILYM Records Librarian handles sending items to defined repositories and to the ILYM Archive Collection in the Illinois History and Lincoln Collections (formerly called the Illinois Historical Survey) of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. These items may be a combination of active, semi-active, and inactive records. The receiving institutions handle access to submitted items as well as determining the types of items that they will receive.

The Administrative Coordinator handles the filing, storage, and access to records being retained. These items would only be semi-active records. Types of semi-active records to be retained are defined by the Yearly Meeting. Electronic files will be maintained with an off-site backup.

Active records should be maintained by the person or committee using those records.

When records are no longer being actively used, they should be given to the Administrative Coordinator. Some people might find it good to review records around the end of the yearly meeting fiscal/appointment year and turn over records no longer in use at or soon after Annual Sessions.

Illinois Yearly Meeting Records Retention and Preservation

	Retention	Archives	Repositories
Corporate Records			
Minute Book	permanent	X	X
Continuing Committee Minutes & Reports	permanent	X	X
Articles of Incorporation	permanent**		
Constitution and bylaws	permanent	X	
Contracts	7 years*		
Committee Minutes	5 years	as submitted by committee	
Qualifications to do business	permanent		
Reorganization records	permanent		
Insurance			
Accident reports	7 years		
Insurance claims	7 years		
Insurance policies	7 years		
Miscellaneous Legal			
Claims & Litigation files	10 years*		
Copyright, patent & trademarks	permanent		

	Retention	Archives	Repositories
Personnel			
Applications	2 years after hiring process		
Employee earnings/payroll records	7 years		
Employee files	7 years* after termination unless there is ongoing litigation		
Employee benefit records	6 years		
Employee contracts	7 years		
IRS 941, W-2s	7 years		
I-9 Forms	3 years after date of hire or 1 year after termination, whichever is later		
Pension, profit sharing plan documents	permanent		
Time cards/sheets	7 years		
Independent Contractor IRS 1099s	7 years		
Real Estate			
Deeds	permanent**		
Property surveys, topology reports	permanent**		
Building blueprints (current)	permanent***		
Building blueprints (past)		x	
Leases	10 years*		
Purchases	20 years*		
Taxes			
Income tax returns and canceled checks (federal, state & local)	permanent		
Payroll tax returns	7 years		
Property tax returns	permanent		
Sales and use tax returns	7 years		
General			
Supporting documents, correspondence, and notes regarding patents, copyrights, licenses, agreements, Bills of sale, permits, liabilities, property improvement*, etc.	The life of principal document which it supports.		
Accounts receivable & payable	7 years		
Annual financial statements	Permanent if there is no audit to replace them		
Auditors reports	permanent		
Bank deposit slips	7 years		

	Retention	Archives	Repositories
Accounting (continued)			
Bank statements, reconciliations	7 years		
Budgets	7 years		
Canceled checks	7 years		
Cash disbursements journal	7 years		
Depreciation records	permanent		
Employee expense reports	7 years		
Cash receipts journal (includes donation information)	7 years		
Trial balance and General ledger	permanent		
Inventory lists	7 years		
Invoices	7 years		
Payroll Journals Petty cash vouchers	7 years		
Publications			
Annual Publications (Among Friends, Plummer Lectures, directories)	permanent	X	X
Occasional Publications (Faith & Practice, pamphlets)	permanent	X	X

*The retention period begins after final payment, settlement, expiration, termination, sale, pending project laid down, etc.

**Original copy stored in safe deposit box in addition to an electronic copy, when available

***Blueprints for buildings that are removed or torn down will be sent to the ILYM Archives

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (See Minutes 26-27)

Committee members: Joy Duncan, Dale Gardner, Barb Harroun, Monica Tetzlaff (clerk), Bobbi Trist.

Including children in our worship is not just about preventing Friends from ‘dying out,’ but about reconnecting all of us with ‘life’s longing for itself.’ Without children we are not a Society. (Tracy Bourne, The Religious Society of Friends, Australia, 2014)

This year the Religious Education Committee continued the weighty work begun by earlier committees to find better ways to support parents and children at Annual Sessions, other ILYM gatherings, and in the First Day Schools of monthly meetings and worship groups. The committee met in the fall and spring. Based on our understanding of the above quotation by Tracy Bourne, we had two areas of focus:

- Providing more intergenerational worship, play and education opportunities at ILYM Annual Sessions and supporting the FUN (Friends Under Nineteen) program so that parents would be less burdened.
- Discerning the parameters for a part-time Children’s Religious Education Coordinator.

1. **Annual Sessions:** The committee worked with Joy Duncan, who volunteered as this year’s FUN coordinator, to develop more times for parents to worship and learn at Annual Sessions, knowing that their children were also learning or playing at programs tailored to their developmental needs. To accord this work with the weight that it

deserves and to more accurately represent the population served by Children's Religious Education, the name of the Annual Session program was changed to Children's Sessions. It encompasses pre-K through eighth grade, while the Youth Coordinator handles the High School program. First Day School during Meeting for Worship on Sunday was added. The Committee discussed best practices for the swimming, craft tent, campfire, and hayrack ride, planning for protocol and chaperons for these activities. The committee was grateful that the Program Planning Committee provided more intergenerational activities than ever before. Finally, the program for children during the week was enhanced with increased participation from the Peace Resources and Environmental Concerns Committee who agreed to provide programming for part of the Children's Sessions. We thank Joy Duncan for the huge effort and care she has put into this year's Children's Sessions.

2. Children's Religious Education Coordinator Position: The Committee worked in the fall and spring to draft a job description for this position, which is attached. We believe that this Coordinator position is the best way to insure that children and parent's spiritual needs are met at Annual Sessions and other ILYM events and that this will lead to vitality and growth in ILYM. If approved at Annual Sessions, the position would begin on Oct. 1.

Respectfully submitted by Monica Tetzlaff

Children's Religious Education Coordinator Job Description

Committee with Oversight: Religious Education Committee

Purpose: To provide programs and to coordinate activities for children younger than High School Friends (HSF) from Illinois Yearly Meeting, including a) Children's Sessions at ILYM Annual Sessions, b) Children's programming for at least three other opportunities per year, such as Continuing Committee Meetings, Blue River Quarterly or SnowQuake, c) provide an Annual Sessions workshop for Friends who teach Children's Religious Education in their monthly meetings, d) serve ex officio on the Religious Education Committee, e) connect with the wider world of Friends through membership in Quaker Religious Education Collaborative.

Qualifications:

- Active in the Society of Friends (Illinois Yearly Meeting preferred but not required), called to youth ministry, and knowledgeable about the Bible and Friends testimonies, business procedures, and writings.
- Attuned to Friends' social concerns and also to problems and concerns of today's children.
- Proven ability to interact effectively with children and to share religious faith and Friends' convictions.
- Able to work cooperatively and to encourage local development of children's education activities.
- Able to manage program planning details and to operate within a budget.
- College degree or equivalent (specific training or experience in children's education preferred).
- Computer literate and preferably familiar with e-mail, social networks (like Facebook), and webgroups (like yahoo or google).

- Must have a car, valid driver's license and be available for weekend travel and be able to accept overnight hospitality.
- Must pass a background check.

Responsibilities:

- Work with the Religious Education (RE) committee and individual meetings to organize and publicize children's activities at yearly meeting levels.
- Work with the Children's Sessions Coordinator from the designated ILYM planning group to plan children's programming for Annual Sessions and three other opportunities when ILYM Friends meet during the rest of the year.
- Be involved in the QREC (Quaker Religious Education Collaborative) and attend the annual gathering of QREC for networking, resources, and ideas
- Act as a children's religious education resource to monthly and quarterly meetings of ILYM.
- Assist in the spiritual nurture of children in ILYM, drawing on additional resources from RE Committee as necessary.
- Track and report hours worked & expenses, submitting expense receipts to Treasurer for reimbursement.
- Submit monthly activity reports to RE Committee and work with RE Committee to submit 2-3 summary reports to Illinois Yearly Meeting at Annual Sessions or Continuing Committee as requested.
- Become familiar with Policy Manual. Submit self-evaluation after 3 months and yearly thereafter. Comment on performance evaluation. Travel as necessary.

Evaluation: Reports to and is evaluated by RE Committee Clerk in consultation with RE Committee. It is also recommended that applicants have a local clearness committee in their own meeting to support their decision to apply and continue in this position.

Pay and Budget: Salary is based on 500 hours per year (~41 per month) x \$15/hr or \$7,500/year paid monthly in 12 equal installments. ILYM will pay taxes, \$500 in travel (based on mileage) and subsidize (beyond registration fees) another \$2500 for other expenses related to children's programs.

Estimated Hours/Tasks: 50% Plan/Attend Children's events, 30% Communications, 10% Reports/Committee Meetings, 10% Other

SITE ENVISIONING (See Minute 44)

The committee consists of Bill Howenstine, Sandra Bales, Chip Rorem, Angie Reeks, Marlena Amos, Dick Ashdown (Steward representative), and Christopher Goode, clerk.

Campground Bath House Renovation

Paul Ebener, our contractor on several projects, who had given us prices for the bathhouse renovation, has taken a job with a company that manages assisted living facilities involving a lot of travel, and will no longer be doing construction work. He has given us a few names of other contractors in the area that might be able to provide pricing and work with us in a similar way, and with the help of the Stewards, we are actively looking for other contractors. So we are in the process of interviewing some potential new contractors and getting new pricing for the bathhouse project. Chip Rorem has talked with Joe Bell of Key Builders, who did the campground cabins, and he has the construction documents and will be visiting the site to provide us with new pricing. The

Scope of Work is organized into several separate projects which can be done all at once or one or more in at a time, much like a menu. We also will be going over the Scope of Work to see where we can bring pricing down and which menu items are most important to move forward with if enough funds are raised to begin to do work.

Accessible Bedroom/Bathroom Addition at Clear Creek House

We will also work with new contractors to update pricing for this addition (originally estimated ~5 years ago at about \$120,000). While we have a schematic plan that attempts to reuse the existing garage in order to be most economical, we will also investigate the cost of a different arrangement that might be more effective for incorporating energy saving and sustainable energy collecting. The committee feels strongly, along with the Environmental Concerns Committee, that this is one area where we should make use of sustainable energy and green design technology.

Other locations for using sustainable energy technology in upcoming years could include the meetinghouse as the rear south facing roof is ideal for photovoltaic solar panels.

Other Site Work

Site Envisioning is always trying to think ahead toward the next site improvements and realizing elements of the Campus Plan that was approved a few years ago. The concrete foundation and exterior slabs of the portion of the long shed that was demolished a few years ago take up a large portion of the ridgetop making that area difficult to use and to mow and control weeds. We have obtained a budget price from Key Builders of \$7,500 to have all of that concrete dug up and hauled away. We currently do not have authorization to do this work and other projects currently have priority. Dick Ashdown and others from Clear Creek may know some local folks that could help us to remove this concrete less expensively, and are looking into that.

We also need and intend to talk with contractors about measures and prices to arrest further deterioration of the wood barn and to remove portions of the dairy shed that should be demolished.

Members of our committee helped the Environmental Concerns Committee to plant osage orange trees to form a hedgerow/windbreak/habitat area along the west property line near Clear Creek House last fall as one of the elements of the Campus Plan. The plants were raised by Adrian Fisher from seeds gathered from trees on our campground. They were planted well back from the property line so as not to interfere with the adjacent farmer's field, and each tree was protected and marked with orange plastic fencing. Our understanding is that some of the fencing was blown away during the course of the winter and the mower thought that the trees were dead and so mowed them down without asking anyone. While I am not sure I can speak for the whole committee, I am saddened that this happened and hope that ECC and ILYM consider making a third attempt to establish a hedgerow at that location soon, perhaps providing some kind of tree protection that is more permanent and resistant to mowers.

Caretaker

Our committee continues to work with the Property Use Committee on establishing a formal caretaker arrangement for our campus and looks forward to considering the proposal they plan to bring to the Yearly Meeting for consideration.

Respectfully submitted: Christopher Goode, clerk.

STEWARDS (See Minute 12)

Dick Ashdown, Neil and Grayce Mesner continue to manage the brush that falls on the grounds of the campus. In addition, Dick is working with a local contractor on a gradual removal of brush and above-grade concrete block that remain at the location of the former long shed.

We continue to seek a replacement contractor for Paul Ebener. Paul has been a great help to us over many years, but has now moved on to take a position as a full-time facilities manager for an assisted living company. We hope that this search might identify a person or company that might provide the role of a caretaker or facility manager for us in the near future. We appreciate the effort of the Property Use Committee in helping us to identify and fill this position.

We continue to work with the Finance Committee to analyze our spending history. The goal of this effort is to establish what it takes to sustain the McNabb campus.

Respectfully submitted, Dick Ashdown, Beth Carpenter,
Grayce Mesner, Neil Mesner, and Chip Rorem

YOUTH OVERSIGHT (See Minute 59)

Youth Oversight has held Quakes for teens from Illinois, Indiana, and Missouri in fall, winter, and spring, as well as work days on campus. We have seen some much needed work on the Jr. Yearly Meeting House, thanks to the relentless efforts of Mike and Diane Dennis. We had some dwindling of attendance, some related to the population ebb and flow. This was particularly true for the January Quake that Rocked the Midwest. At that retreat, graciously hosted by Evanston Friends (yet again!) we went to the Garfield Park Conservatory which was far warmer than any of our past out-trips have ever been. Our fall and spring Quakes were combined with Blue River Quarterly. This collaboration allowed more intergenerational activities and was welcomed by the committee members. Our committee work has been done at Quakes and by phone, with all members feeling the burden of other work distracting from our focus. We have intended, but not been able, to complete reviewing materials on maintenance of safety, and are working on replenishing the budget. We struggle with ways to maintain robust communications. This year we will transition to a new clerk, and our Youth Coordinator will be very busy with a new baby to come. So it will be a year of new beginnings, and the teens and committee members will be fortified and challenged. As outgoing clerk, I have been both humbled and enriched by the growth I see in the individual teens, by the strong bonds created, and by the tasks this committee is assigned. Much work has been done and much remains. The teens, some of whom are moving to the next chapter of their lives (and, I hope, to Adult Young Friends!), have been a source of growth and change for the yearly meeting as a whole. Our upcoming committee goals remain, as before, to ease the path from FUN program to the HS Friends to the AYF, to develop ways of providing a safe and supple environment for teens to explore their faith, and to offer an experience that supports Quaker growth and yearly meeting as a whole. As well as being sure the supply of tie dye shirts never flags.

Kate Gunnell, clerk

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

Four of us attended the annual meeting of AFSC held in Cherry Street Meetinghouse in Philadelphia from Thursday, March 4 to Saturday, March 6. Contessa Miller and Phyllis Reynolds were newly appointed ILYM representatives; Bridget Rorem and Carol Bartles were returning.

About 100 Friends from across the United States attended. Particularly noteworthy was the opening speech by Rev. William Barber II, a Protestant minister in North Carolina, an organizer and leader of civil right demonstrations in that state that began in 2013. He led non-violent protests against government legislation that resulted in discrimination, a curb on voting rights, and repeal of the Racial Justice Act, among other adverse effects on the citizens of North Carolina.

He spoke to us of past movements of the Spirit to change things for the better. He feels we are now witnessing and taking part in a movement where people of various faiths, races, ethnicities, economic classes, sexual orientations, and gender identities are working together for a deep change. He emphasized that this is a moral movement, and that there is resistance to this movement of the Spirit. Every Monday, Barber and thousands of other gather for “Moral Monday” outside the state legislature in Raleigh, North Carolina to speak out against what Barber calls “immoral politics.”

We experienced worship together as well as reports from staff. We participated in workshops on important themes of AFSC’s work: immigrant and migrant rights, narrative change for social transformation, mass incarceration and militarization in prisons, peace with Israel and Palestine, as well as others. We attended workshops that showed these themes as well as a documentary film and art exhibit and reports by staff members working on these topics. We met with Brant Rosen the Midwest AFSC Director.

AFSC staff will be attending yearly meetings, including Lucy Duncan of the Friends Relations Committee at ILYM. We were provided with suggestions for how our monthly meetings can address the concerns of AFSC. The meeting in the historic Cherry Street Meetinghouse in central Philadelphia was a grounding experience in historic Quaker territory. Next year AFSC will celebrate its 100 year anniversary.

Composed by Bridget Rorem and Phyllis Reynolds

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION

The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) met in Annual Session between Eleventh Month 12 and Eleventh Month 15, 2015. Approximately 400 individuals attended the Annual Session and/or the accompanying Quaker Policy Institute. Illinois Yearly Meeting was formally represented by several of its appointees.

FCNL’s meeting for worship began just minutes after a deadly terrorist attack in Paris and a day after those in Beirut. Friends came together in prayerful concern for those touched by violence. A minute was approved which reads, in part, “We hold you in Light and Love at this time of senseless loss of life and the deep trauma to your community. We hope you will be better able to carry this sorrow, knowing you do not carry it alone.”

We proudly note that Illinois’ senior senator, Richard Durbin, was given FCNL’s Edward F. Snyder Peace Award for “successfully organizing Senate support for the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action to peacefully resolve the dispute over Iran’s nuclear program; leading the effort to increase U.S. humanitarian and resettlement support for Syrian refugees; and advancing criminal justice reform through bipartisan action.” Northside Monthly Meeting has written to Senator Durbin to congratulate him for this award, and we encourage other monthly meetings to do likewise.

FCNL works hard to ensure that its positions and activities are aligned with Friends. To that end, FCNL is seeking input from monthly meetings and other Friends organizations on its lobbying priorities for the next Congress (January 2017 – December 2018). Meetings are encouraged to participate in this discernment process and to return their responses by April 15, 2016.

FCNL formally launched its \$15 million capital campaign. As always, support from individuals and organizations is appreciated. FCNL reminded participants that contributions from Friends meetings should be made to FNCL rather than to the FCNL Education Fund. While contributions to FCNL are not tax deductible, this benefit is meaningless to religious gatherings that do not pay taxes. Moreover, contributions to FCNL allow the organization the flexibility to spend its resources on lobbying activities.

Submitted by Kevin Brubaker, Northside Friends Meeting

FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE

This year Friends General Conference has spent time reducing the number of programs that it offers. The programs that have been cut are ones where there was limited use being made of them in recent years. These cuts were necessary for the organization to live within its means. The focus of our continuing work is:

- Fostering and nourishing collaboration among yearly and monthly meetings
- Growing and strengthening the Religious Society of Friends
- Fostering more inclusive community

The decisions to cut programs have meant the elimination of some staff positions, while others have been redefined. Portions of the office space in Philadelphia have been rented and others will be. Some work that was done by staff in the past is being done by volunteers who are appointed to Central Committee.

The collaboration among yearly meetings is to help yearly meetings know what others are doing and to share this widely. For those of us who have attended other yearly meetings there is much to be learned from being a visitor at another yearly meeting. FGC hopes to be able to facilitate the sharing of information so that we can be directly in touch with another yearly meeting that may have encountered a similar concern or leading.

To assist meetings with growth and strengthening, FGC is about to release its Spiritual Deepening Program. Individuals from 23 yearly meetings have contributed to the design and content of this program. FGC is committed to sharing both the diversity and the commonality of our faith and practice. We believe meetings will become more grounded in the fundamentals of our faith. We believe Friends' spiritual lives will be transformed and seekers will have an opportunity to explore the Quaker path.

FGC's Ministry on Racism program continues to work with individuals, and monthly and yearly meetings to challenge white privilege and oppression. The Ministry on Racism Program holds retreats for Friends of Color and supports individual Friends and yearly meetings as they challenge racism. Since 2011 FGC has facilitated Quaker attendance at the White Privilege Conference. This year FGC was important in putting together a host team that enabled bringing the conference to Philadelphia. Over 400 hundred Friends attended.

In a couple of weeks Friends will gather at the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph, Minnesota for the FGC annual gathering of Friends. The theme this year is "be humble, Be Faithful, Be Bold." This is an opportunity to spend a week exploring an aspect of our tradition in depth. Next year it will be at Niagara University in New York State. If you

have never attended, consider it. This is a time for Quakers of all ages to explore their faith deeply for a week. It has been a transformative experience for a number of Illinois Yearly Meeting Friends. In particular there are a number of Young Adult Friends whose lives have been enriched by attending these gatherings.

Janice Domanik

FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS

Friends Peace Teams has continued working around the world this year in areas many ILYM Friends will find familiar by now. If you have been keeping up on international news, you will be aware of the coup in Burundi last year. This turmoil has made the presence of our work more important than ever. Dave Zarembka told the story of a young man who attended one of FPT's HROC workshops not long ago. When the workshop was finished, the young man offered that he had been planning to murder some people a few days after the workshop, but had changed his mind after attending the HROC workshop. The young man had gotten caught up in the political upheaval and that was what had caused him to plan to murder people in his community. Would not it be great if all of the people who are murdering and committing other crimes could be aided in finding the path back to their inner Light so they could walk away from the trouble they are involved in?

Val Liveoak is happy she will finally be able to retire from the coordinator position for Peacebuilding en Las Americas (PLA), turning the position over to the new coordinator this year. Retiring from the coordinators position will allow Val to focus on the work she does best, AVP work. She is also compassionate enough to put her life on the line by stepping up to help others when asked, even having flown all the way back to one of the countries to help out when asked. The visitors FPT have had from Columbia and El Salvador (people from Honduras have not made it here, yet, that I have seen) have expressed nothing but gratitude for Val and for the work of the others in Friends Peace Teams, saying Friends Peace Teams has given people courage to begin to live their lives again, it has given people hope when they once had only despair, and much more.

Asia West Pacific Initiative (AWPI) continues to help out in Nepal where the people still suffer from the earthquake. As you might recall, Friends Peace Teams went to the regions that did not receive media attention and are not considered "sexy." The government in Nepal did not give the regions consideration, nor did any of the well known aid organizations like Doctors without Borders or Red Cross. These regions required 2 days of walking, dragging carts of supplies, and determination. One could not drive in one's jeep or drop in on a helicopter right after the quake (I am not sure where that stands now). FPT has kept people in food, fresh water, basic medical supplies (if needed), and helped bring in supplies for rebuilding the tiny, humble shacks in which the people in these areas live. For their next homes, they will have metal roofs, which should hold up better, as I understand things.

Even while working in Nepal, AWPI has continued working in Philippines, Indonesia, and Israel. Most recently, AWPI introduced a water filter program to Indonesia. They are training native potters to produce the filters which will achieve 98.6 percent clean water.

If anyone would like to keep up with the work of FPT, please feel free to follow any of FPT's initiatives on Facebook. None of them will bombard you with updates. They are much too busy doing their work!

Debra Penna-Fredericks

FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION

The Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) brings together Quakers from all over the world. While much of this “bringing together” happens as a result of small group travel, FWCC also hosts World Plenary Meetings every few years. The most recent World Plenary took place in scenic Pisac, Peru, on January 19 -27, 2016. It was attended by some 320 Friends from around the world, plus an additional 60 Peruvian and Bolivian Friends who joined us for the weekend that took place during the middle of the gathering.

The diversity of those who attended the plenary was impressive, as Friends journeyed to the plenary from 37 countries. Almost 100 of them were under the age of 35, the largest number of Young Adult Friends (YAFs) in the history of these gatherings. All three ILYM representatives to FWCC, Nancy Duncan, David Shiner, and Nancy Wallace, attended the plenary. Since none of us remotely qualifies as a YAF, we are hopeful that a young adult Friend will feel led to represent ILYM in the near future.

The theme of the plenary was Living the Transformation: Creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God (Romans 9:19). That theme was realized beautifully during our time together, as all branches of Friends—programmed, unprogrammed, semi-programmed, Christocentric, universalist—moved beyond the barriers of our particular understandings of Quakerism and came to know one another in that which is eternal. We prayed together; we ate together; we laughed and cried together. The feeling that, in the words of George Fox, we are “a great people to be gathered” was palpable from start to finish.

The plenary featured many sorts of events, including worship services from the various Quaker traditions, home groups (daily gatherings of about a dozen Friends from different regions and with different orientations to Quakerism), and workshops. We were reminded of the excellent and vital work of FWCC in overseeing the Quaker United Nations Offices (QUNO) in New York and Geneva, representing Friends at the World Council of Churches, sponsoring the annual Quaker Day (October 2), and making vital connections between Quakers throughout the world.

One important practical result of the plenary was a minute entitled “Living Sustainably and Sustaining Life on Earth.” The FWCC World Conference in Kenya had approved the Kabarak Call for Peace and Ecojustice in April 2012, after which the FWCC World Office served as a signatory to a Quaker statement on climate change and divested from fossil fuels. The sustainability minute that was approved in Peru was FWCC’s most recent response to the environmental crisis, recognizing it as a symptom of a wider crisis in our political and economic systems.

Like many other Quaker organizations, FWCC does not have the financial means to serve Friends as well as it would like. This is largely because it does not receive a fair share of funding from Friends in the USA. For this reason, we representatives propose that ILYM donate \$3000 to FWCC in the coming year, a modest increase from the current donation of \$2500 per year.

Your representatives to FWCC would like to express gratitude for the generous support of the yearly meeting on behalf of FWCC in general and the three of us in particular. We are aware that “to whom much is given, much will be expected” (Luke 12:48), and we hope to share the spirit of unity in diversity that nourished us at the plenary in the coming months and years.

David Shiner, ILYM Representative to FWCC

OTHER DOCUMENTS FROM BUSINESS SESSIONS

FAITH AND PRACTICE SECTION ON MEETING FOR WORSHIP

Approved 2016 for an indefinite period

Introduction

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

Preparing for meeting for worship

Preparation for the next meeting for worship begins with the closing of the previous meeting. Friends seek God outside of meeting for worship by engaging in personal reflection, prayer or meditation, journaling, and reading the Bible or other spiritual literature. Friends who engage in such spiritual practices may more readily enter worship prepared in mind and spirit. Taking time from the busyness of life to experience even brief moments of awareness of God’s presence sows the seed for deeper spiritual engagement. Meetings are encouraged to provide opportunities for Friends to share the spiritual dimensions of their lives, by organizing retreats, workshops, spiritual nurture groups, or other gatherings.

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

Beginning meeting

So Friends, when you come together to wait upon God, come orderly...: the first that enters into the place of your meeting, be not careless, nor wander up and down, either in body or mind; but innocently sit down in some place, and turn in thy mind to the light, and wait upon God singly, as if none were present but the Lord; and here thou art strong. Then the next that comes in, let them in simplicity of heart, sit down and turn in to the same light, and wait in the Spirit: and so all the rest coming in... sit down in pure stillness and silence of all flesh, and wait in the light; a few that are thus gathered by the arm of the Lord into the unity of the Spirit,— this is a sweet and precious meeting, where all meet with the

Lord!...In such a meeting, where the presence and power of God is felt, there will be an unwillingness to part asunder, being ready to say in yourselves, it is good to be here: and this is the end of all words and writings — to bring people to the eternal living Word.

Alexander Parker, 1659

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

Centering

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

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

When distractions occur during meeting for worship, individual Friends or the community as a whole may need to work to re-center on the movements of the Spirit. Distractions may take the form of outward disturbances or of unsettling thoughts or feelings. When dealing with distractions, it is helpful to turn back to a place of expectant waiting rather than trying to suppress the distracting thoughts.

Communal worship

For when I came into the silent assemblies of God’s people, I felt a secret power among them, which touched my heart, and as I gave way unto it, I found the evil weakening in me, and the good raised up, and so I became thus knit and united unto them, hungering more and more after the increase of this power and life...

Robert Barclay, 1676

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

This discernment is a communal, collective process that differs in important ways from individual meditation. Some Friends find that reading or journaling can help them center or deepen their worship. However, such activities may have an isolating effect, diminishing participation in the communal character of our worship. All in attendance have a responsibility for the quality of worship, humbly listening together for how God is leading us.

Vocal ministry

Whatever a man does or says or thinks in matters pertaining to divine worship must be done under the special impulse, inspiration, and influence of God... For, in order to perform true public worship properly, every worshipper ought to listen with the deepest quietness of mind to the internal strivings of the divine Spirit in his heart; so that as the Spirit prompts, leads, and assists he will either prophesy or pray or render thanks, or perform some other duty of divine worship. And in this way not only he but also the worship offered by him will be both pleasing to God and altogether beneficial to the worshipper himself and to the entire Church of God.

Robert Barclay, 1675

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

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

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

rest in the knowledge that such unspoken messages are an invaluable part of the worship experience.

- Friends are tenderly advised to speak loudly and clearly enough to be understood. Except in very small meetings it is normal to rise when speaking in order to be heard.
- A period of silence traditionally follows vocal ministry. Others who wish to speak are urged to wait until the meeting has had time to absorb the previous message back into the silence.
- When many Friends offer vocal ministry with little silence between messages, a Friend may rise and remain silent as a way of enabling the meeting to re-experience waiting worship.
- A person does not generally speak more than once in a given meeting for worship.
- Messages are best stated simply.

Some Friends engage in vocal ministry with some frequency; others find that they are seldom called to speak. Both those who engage in vocal ministry and those that do not are equally called to active participation in the meeting. Those who provide silent ministry help the meeting to reach or maintain a state of focused, attentive waiting on the presence of God.

The absence or presence of vocal ministry is not in itself a reflection of the quality of worship. Deep listening lies at the heart of Quaker worship. Entirely silent meetings can be the most powerful.

The gathered meeting

In the Quaker practice of group worship on the basis of silence come special times when an electric hush and solemnity and depth of power steals over the worshippers. A blanket of divine covering comes over the room, and a quickening Presence pervades us, breaking down some part of the special privacy and isolation of our individual lives and blending our spirits with a super-individual Life and Power — an objective, dynamic Presence which enfolds us all, nourishes our souls, speaks glad, unutterable comfort within us, and quickens in us depths that had before been slumbering. The Burning Bush has been kindled in our midst, and we stand together on holy ground.

Thomas R. Kelly, 1940

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

Closing meeting

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

There are several different practices that may follow the end of meeting for worship. In some meetings there is a time to express joys and sorrows; in others a time to make

prayer requests. In larger meetings, a member of the worship and ministry or some similar committee will introduce himself or herself so that Friends who have concerns or questions may share them after the rise of meeting. Some meetings ask all those present to introduce themselves; others ask that newcomers or those who have been absent for a period of time introduce themselves to the body. As a final practice, most meetings allow time for announcements. These may be given by the individual most involved in the activity or event to be shared. In other cases, announcements may be provided to the clerk or other designated individual to read. Following announcements there is often a time for conversation and an opportunity to get to know newcomers. Taking this time is valuable for building a sense of community in the meeting.

Logistics

In many meetings, Friends gather for worship once a week on First Day (Sunday). A number of meetings also hold mid-week worship.

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

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

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

Dealing with problems in meeting for worship

The quality of worship is compromised if some worshippers feel that their vocal ministry, though Spirit-led, would not be welcome in meeting for worship. Meetings need to be aware when they are creating an environment that has the effect of discouraging some voices or perspectives. Individuals who feel silenced are encouraged to bring their concerns to the worship and ministry committee or its equivalent.

There are also times when the behavior of a particular individual interferes with the quality of worship. Sometimes a Friend may engage in frequent vocal ministry, the content, length or tone of which is disruptive. To address such situations, the worship and ministry or other similar committee should consider how to proceed. In making a determination as to how to respond to this person's behavior, consideration is given to the degree to which it affects the quality of worship. The meeting should take care to hold the disruptive worshiper in the Light and to treat her or him tenderly and with compassion. Meetings would also do well to consider how they would deal with an unexpected instance of disruptive behavior before one actually occurs. (See worship and ministry committee, pp. xx-xx.)

Queries on meeting for worship

For the individual:

- How do you prepare for meeting for worship?
- Do you arrive at meeting on time?
- Do you enter the meeting room in a manner which does not disturb the worship which has already begun?
- Do you come to meeting neither determined to speak nor determined not to speak?
- Do you wait to speak until you feel led?
- When you feel led, do you speak? If not, what holds you back?
- Do you listen with an open heart to the messages which are offered in worship?
- How can meeting be a source of help when you feel disconnected from the Divine?
- Do you carry the experience of meeting for worship into your daily life?

For the meeting as a whole:

- What does your meeting do to increase the depth of meeting for worship?
- Does the quality of vocal ministry in your meeting contribute to the quality of worship?
- Do Friends in your meeting find that they are spiritually refreshed, enriched and sustained by meeting for worship?
- How does meeting for worship nourish the spiritual growth of your meeting community?
- Is your meeting open to the diversity of messages that may arise as vocal ministry?
- Do Friends in your meeting feel safe to speak as led?

FAITH AND PRACTICE SECTION ON **WORSHIP GROUPS AND PREPARATIVE MEETINGS**

Approved 2016 for an indefinite period

Worship Groups and Preparative Meetings

A local meeting need not be organized as a monthly meeting. Especially if a meeting is very small, or includes few experienced Friends, it may not feel prepared to fulfill all the functions and responsibilities normally expected of a monthly meeting. A small meeting may also find that it does not have enough business to require a regular business meeting. Depending on the circumstances, it may be appropriate to organize such a meeting as a worship group or preparative meeting.

Worship groups and preparative meetings affiliated with Illinois Yearly Meeting are normally held under the care of a monthly meeting; but are acknowledged to have a high degree of local autonomy, making their own decisions about internal matters. However, membership in the Religious Society of Friends resides in a monthly meeting; decisions to admit a Friend to membership, transfer a Friend's membership from one meeting to another, or remove a Friend from membership are made in the monthly meeting, not the preparative meeting or worship group. Likewise, monthly meetings have responsibility for the clearness process leading to marriage; requests for marriage under the care of a meeting should be directed to the monthly meeting.

Even if autonomous in its decision-making, a preparative meeting or worship group held under the care of a monthly meeting forms a part of that monthly meeting, which in these circumstances serves as a kind of regional body rather than a strictly local meeting. It is this regional body under whose care the meeting is held, and all the meetings involved—even a large, old and established meeting—are under this same care. The care which these meetings exercise is mutual; they hold each other in love, supporting each other spiritually and practically, offering assistance as circumstances require and abilities permit.

Distance may prevent Friends belonging to the worship group or preparative meeting from frequent participation in the monthly meeting; but they form part of the monthly meeting community, and should feel welcome as full participants whenever they have the opportunity to attend its business sessions, meetings for worship, and other functions. The worship group or preparative meeting should not hesitate to request the assistance of the monthly meeting with large projects, or any other matters where the participation of the monthly meeting as a whole would be useful. Smaller meetings under the care of a monthly meeting may also expect periodic visitors from the monthly meeting, who should provide support as needed and keep the monthly meeting informed about the state of the smaller meeting. For more information on the relation between monthly meetings and the meetings under their care, see “Responsibilities of the monthly meeting to meetings under its care,” pp. xx–xx.

Preparative meetings and worship groups do not share the same level of responsibility to the yearly and quarterly meetings as a monthly meeting: there is no general expectation that they will send representatives to the yearly meeting Continuing Committee or host its sessions, that they will send State of Society reports, or that they will provide direct financial support to the yearly and quarterly meetings. However, they may do any of these things at their option. Smaller meetings are tenderly urged to assist their monthly meetings as needed in fulfilling these responsibilities.

The following chart summarizes the differences among different types of local meetings. More detailed explanation follows the chart:

	Informal, Independent Worship Group	Recognized Worship Group under the minuted care of a meeting	Preparative Meeting	Monthly Meeting
Holds regular meeting for worship	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Has official affiliation with Illinois Yearly Meeting & the Religious Society of Friends	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Holds an official meeting for business	No	No	Yes	Yes
May receive, release or transfer members	No	No	No	Yes
May approve requests for marriage	No	No	No	Yes
May have more than one local meeting under its care	No	No	No	Yes

	Informal, Independent Worship Group	Recognized Worship Group under the minuted care of a meeting	Preparative Meeting	Monthly Meeting
Reports to Illinois Yearly Meeting, and supports it financially	Optional	Optional	Optional	Expected
Is set up and laid down by minute of...	N/A	Monthly Meeting	Quarterly meeting (or yearly meeting if no available quarterly) on recommendation of the monthly meeting	Yearly meeting on recommendation of the quarterly meeting, if any

Worship groups

A worship group is simply a group of individuals, meeting together on a regular basis for worship in the manner of Friends. Such groups are often organized on a completely informal and unofficial basis. Over time, a worship group may gradually come to function more and more as an established Friends meeting; many of the meetings in Illinois Yearly Meeting began in just this way.

The formation of new worship groups is encouraged in all areas where an existing meeting is not available. Individuals organizing a new worship group often find it beneficial to seek the advice and support of an existing meeting (typically the nearest monthly meeting), even if it is some distance away. A monthly meeting may lend informal assistance to a worship group without formally taking the worship group under its care.

An informally organized worship group which has not affiliated with a yearly meeting or analogous Quaker organization should avoid representing itself as an official body of the Religious Society of Friends. Any worship group which anticipates long term existence is encouraged to seek affiliation.

To affiliate with Illinois Yearly Meeting, a worship group normally makes a request to a monthly meeting which already forms part of the yearly meeting. The monthly meeting appoints a clearness committee to visit the worship group and explore with it the practical and spiritual issues involved in affiliation under the monthly meeting's care. Appropriate topics for discussion include the nature and basis of meeting for worship in the manner of Friends, the familiarity and consonance of the worship group with Friends testimonies and practices, expectations regarding the relation between the worship group and the monthly meeting after affiliation, and any other pertinent matters. The following sample queries may be used in exploring these areas:

- What experience do you have with the Religious Society of Friends?
- How do you understand worship in the manner of Friends? Do you approach worship as communal seeking? Do you experience it as uniting?

- How do you understand Friends' testimonies and their role in your daily lives?
- Describe the expected relationship between the worship group and the monthly meeting after affiliation.
- What are you doing as a group to know each other better? What is the quality of your potlucks or other community events?
- Are you aware and respectful of the individual differences within your worship group?
- Are you prepared to support each other spiritually and in times of need?
- If there are families with children, have you considered how to provide for their religious education?
- How will you participate in the yearly and quarterly (if any) meeting?

The clearness committee reports back to the monthly meeting, which records in its minutes a decision whether to take the worship group under its care. A decision to take the worship group under the monthly meeting's care establishes the worship group as a part of the monthly meeting, the quarterly meeting (if any) to which the monthly meeting belongs, and Illinois Yearly Meeting. The monthly meeting should report such decisions to the quarterly and yearly meetings. A worship group held under the minuted care of another meeting may also be known as a recognized meeting (or, in older terminology, an allowed or indulged meeting).

Affiliating a worship group with a monthly meeting does not confer membership on the worship group's participants. Participants in a worship group may become members of a monthly meeting in the usual ways, before or after affiliation; see *Membership*, pp. xx–xx.

In exceptional circumstances, it may be appropriate for a worship group to affiliate under the direct care of a quarterly meeting or Illinois Yearly Meeting, rather than a monthly meeting. A quarterly meeting may take worship groups under its care using the same procedure as a monthly meeting. Requests for affiliation under the direct care of Illinois Yearly Meeting should be addressed to the yearly meeting's Continuing Committee, which may appoint a clearness committee directly, or ask the Ministry and Advancement Committee to do so. The clearness committee reports to the body that appointed it, which in turn makes a recommendation to the yearly meeting. Affiliation is established by minute of the yearly meeting in its annual business sessions.

As the name implies, worship groups are primarily for worship, with minimal business. Historically, all business pertaining to a worship group held under the care of a monthly meeting was handled by the monthly meeting; and such an arrangement may occasionally still be appropriate, particularly if the worship group is located close enough for its participants regularly to attend the monthly meeting for business. But in many circumstances, it is appropriate for a worship group to hold its own decision-making sessions, to decide such practical matters as the time and location of meetings. Such decisions should be promptly reported to the monthly meeting. If the worship group finds that it has sufficient business to hold such sessions on a regular basis, it should consider whether the time has come to request the establishment of a preparative or monthly meeting.

If a worship group under the care of another meeting has become unable to sustain itself, with no expectation of revival, it should be "laid down," or formally discontinued. The decision to lay down a worship group is normally made by the worship group itself in consultation with the monthly meeting under whose care it is held, and minuted by the monthly meeting in its business sessions. In special circumstances—for example, if a worship group has become completely inactive and its participants scattered—the monthly meeting may also lay down the worship group without such consultation; but monthly

meetings are strongly advised to consult with the participants of the worship group if this is realistically possible. When a worship group under the care of a monthly meeting is laid down, the monthly meeting should report it to the quarterly (if any) and yearly meeting.

FAITH AND PRACTICE SECTION ON
THE YEARLY MEETING

Approved 2016 for a 2-year provisional period

A yearly meeting of the Religious Society of Friends is an association of monthly meetings, preparative meetings, worship groups and quarterly meetings. Its constituent meetings are usually located in the same general geographic region, and share a similar perspective on faith and practice. As the name indicates, a yearly meeting gathers annually to conduct its business, which may include consideration of spiritual concerns of its members and calls to witness to the wider world, as well as such organizational matters as care of property, budgeting and finances, selection of officers and committee members, planning for future events, and other concerns brought forward by monthly meetings, quarterly meetings, or ILYM committees.

Illinois Yearly Meeting was established in 1875 when two quarterly meetings joined to form the new yearly meeting: one with monthly meetings in Iowa originally under the care of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, and the other consisting of monthly meetings in Illinois and Indiana under the care of Indiana Yearly Meeting, now known as Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. Throughout its history, Illinois Yearly Meeting has included local meetings across a wide region, centered on Illinois but never limited to it. The section of this chapter on Monthly Meetings (p. xx) describes the processes by which a monthly meeting joins or leaves Illinois Yearly Meeting.

Functions of a yearly meeting

A yearly meeting, like any Friends meeting, is a community in which Friends worship together, care for each other, seek together the leadings of the Spirit, and support one another's spiritual growth. Yearly meetings serve their membership by furthering connections between Friends, fostering a more expansive and fuller sense of Quaker community than Friends might attain from their local meetings alone. These connections form as Friends come together for the annual sessions of the yearly meeting, through intervisitation, and by participation in the common work of the yearly meeting through committee meetings or other gatherings throughout the year. Much of the work of the yearly meeting is grounded in its care and concern for the spiritual growth and well-being of its constituent meetings and individual members.

Yearly meetings also help to advance the cause of Quaker witness to the world. Every monthly meeting undertakes such witness; but a yearly meeting, especially one that serves as large a geographical area as ILYM, is in a position to embark on collective action more effectively and with a more powerful voice than any individual meeting. This sort of activity can take a number of forms. It might involve charitable or relief work. It might take the form of peace and reconciliation work or draft counseling. It might involve using our collective voice to urge a civic policy consistent with Quaker values. It might be for the purpose of involvement in the wider Quaker world or any other expression of Friends testimonies.

The yearly meeting writes and promulgates its own Faith and Practice, which articulates the guiding principles, organizational processes, and collected expressions of

faith of Friends it serves. In doing so it provides a structure that serves to affirm what it means to be a Quaker in general and an ILYM Quaker in particular.

Relationship of the yearly meeting to individual members, monthly meetings and other regional meetings

Individuals are members of the yearly meeting by virtue of their membership in one of its constituent monthly meetings. In the case of Illinois Yearly Meeting, the authority of the yearly meeting is not over the monthly meetings individually but rather through them collectively. Monthly meetings are independent financial entities from Illinois Yearly Meeting. They control their own finances and own their own property.

As described in “Setting up, laying down, and re-affiliation of monthly meetings” (pp. xx–xx), the quarterly and yearly meetings have a role in the establishment and laying down of monthly meetings. In addition, the yearly meeting has a responsibility to nurture the spiritual health and growth of monthly meetings and individual members of all ages. The ILYM Field Secretary, the Youth Coordinator, the Ministry and Advancement Committee, the Religious Education Committee and other positions and committees have been put in place to support the spiritual care of the monthly meetings and their members.

Relationship of ILYM and Clear Creek Monthly Meeting

Illinois Yearly Meeting has a longstanding close relationship with Clear Creek Monthly Meeting. Clear Creek Monthly Meeting has met in the vicinity of McNabb, Illinois since before the establishment of Illinois Yearly Meeting. In recent history, Clear Creek Friends have met for worship at the yearly meeting meetinghouse or at the Clear Creek House of Illinois Yearly Meeting. The yearly meeting and monthly meeting therefore have a unique relationship, and both seek to be continually mindful to communicate and clarify their respective needs and responsibilities with regard to the buildings and grounds.

Relationship of ILYM with the wider Quaker world

Illinois Yearly Meeting benefits from association with national and international Quaker organizations that support the yearly meeting in various ways and help further its witness to the world. Illinois Yearly Meeting is affiliated with Friends General Conference and sends representatives to serve on FGC’s Central Committee, its governing board. Illinois Yearly Meeting also sends representatives to the American Friends Service Committee Corporation and to the Friends Committee on National Legislation General Committee. Illinois Yearly Meeting is affiliated with Friends World Committee for Consultation, and sends representatives to the Section of the Americas. As the yearly meeting is moved, and Friends agree to serve, ILYM sends representatives to other Quaker organizations such as Quaker Earthcare Witness, Friends for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns, Friends Peace Teams, and others.

Illinois Yearly Meeting communicates with other yearly meetings around the world through the tradition of sending and receiving epistles, or letters, composed at annual sessions. Excerpts of selected epistles from other yearly meetings are read aloud during Annual Sessions, and ILYM’s epistle is sent to yearly meetings around the world to share spiritual concerns, challenges, leadings, and accomplishments of ILYM.

Organization and Structure of ILYM

The Corporation

In 2004, Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends was incorporated in the State of Illinois under the Illinois General Not For Profit Corporation

Act as a regional church. (Previously, Illinois Yearly Meeting had been organized in 1875 as a trust under 1872 enabling legislation.) Our incorporation bylaws were approved by the Yearly Meeting in 2007, stressing the continuity of operation of Illinois Yearly Meeting and its Quaker business principles and practices. Incorporation provides protection of individual officers or stewards of the yearly meeting from legal liability by shifting such liability to the corporation. The clerk, assistant clerk, and two stewards act as the Board of Directors for the corporation, and a treasurer serves as the Registered Agent for ILYM, the liaison between the State of Illinois and Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. The Board of Directors represents Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends in matters that require legal authority.

Ownership of property

The yearly meeting may purchase and own property. The Illinois Yearly Meeting Meetinghouse, now on the National Register of Historic Places, was built in 1874 near what is now McNabb, Illinois in anticipation of the first sessions of the yearly meeting. Over the years, additional land has been purchased and various changes have been made to land owned on both the south and north sides of “Quaker Lane” or County Road 350 North adjacent to the 1874 meetinghouse grounds: construction of a dining hall later converted to the Junior Yearly Meetinghouse, construction of a dormitory, construction of a campground with bathhouse, the re-location of the Junior Yearly meetinghouse to the north property, the disassembly of the dormitory, and the repurposing of its materials to build six cabins on the north property. In 2009, the Yearly Meeting purchased approximately six acres immediately to the west of the meetinghouse property, including a farmhouse that was subsequently renovated and is now known as Clear Creek House of ILYM.

Officers of the Yearly Meeting

Officers of the yearly meeting are nominated by committee and approved by the assembled Yearly Meeting. The following are descriptions of officers that have been of service to Illinois Yearly Meeting, but this list does not limit or prescribe the possibilities. The Yearly Meeting may create officers and assign responsibilities to best serve its circumstances and needs at a given time.

The work of the presiding clerk is to prepare the agenda for the business meeting, to help set the worshipful tone of the gathering, to recognize those who wish to speak, to collect and articulate the sense of the meeting, and to help maintain right order in the proceedings. He or she should keep informed of ongoing activities of the yearly meeting during the year so as to be responsive to issues as they arise. The clerk also carries on correspondence relating to the business of the yearly meeting. A clerk’s committee is appointed to assist him or her in this role. The assistant presiding clerk, who is ordinarily an incoming or outgoing presiding clerk, assists with the clerk’s duties and may substitute for the clerk if needed.

The recording clerk composes minutes to be read back to the assembled body for approval, thus recording the decisions and actions of the yearly meeting. The assistant recording clerk, ordinarily an incoming or outgoing recording clerk, assists as needed.

The reading clerk reviews incoming epistles from other yearly meetings, and selects portions of these to be read at the start of business sessions. He or she may also be asked to read other items before the yearly meeting, and he or she serves on the committee that drafts the annual outgoing epistle from Illinois Yearly Meeting to the wider Quaker world.

The financial transactions of the yearly meeting are entrusted to a treasurer or co-

treasurers, who receive contributions to the yearly meeting and pay out obligations or contributions as directed by the yearly meeting. The treasurer makes reports on the financial status of the yearly meeting, and works closely with the finance committee, the stewards, and committee clerks as needed.

The stewards of Illinois Yearly Meeting have the responsibility and authority to manage the real estate and tangible property of Illinois Yearly Meeting, at the direction of the yearly meeting in its annual sessions. They may appoint and/or engage persons or companies as required for these purposes. Stewards will represent the yearly meeting in renovating the buildings and grounds; in securing insurance; and in handling easements, leases and other management needs as they arise. Among these may be planning, zoning, and building permit issues, and property tax matters. Illinois Yearly Meeting may direct others to assist the stewards in specific matters.

Other positions

In addition to the positions listed above, the yearly meeting may appoint Friends to new or existing positions as needed to accomplish the work of the yearly meeting. Examples of such positions are editor(s) of a yearly meeting publication, a records librarian to oversee the collection and archiving of yearly meeting records, and a website coordinator to oversee and update a yearly meeting website.

Yearly Meeting employees

Illinois Yearly Meeting may employ individuals to serve the yearly meeting as the need arises and funds are available. The yearly meeting in annual sessions minutes the desire and financial ability to hire an employee. The yearly meeting may delegate the work of writing a position description, posting announcements, and interviewing and selecting a candidate to a committee which is given oversight for a particular position. The final approval for hiring is given by the yearly meeting in its annual sessions, unless delegated to the Continuing Committee. A Personnel Manual sets forth guidelines for hiring, compensation, and oversight of the yearly meeting's employees. The number of employees and their position descriptions are at the discretion of the yearly meeting. The following paragraphs give brief descriptions of employee positions that are serving identified needs of Illinois Yearly Meeting at the time of this writing. Detailed descriptions of the qualifications, responsibilities, and expectations for each position are maintained in ILYM's Personnel Manual.

The many duties of the Administrative Coordinator include keeping a calendar of ILYM-related events, sending out yearly meeting news and announcements, and posting relevant information on the yearly meeting website. He or she collects and records data on membership from ILYM's constituent monthly meetings, assists in the preparation of ILYM publications, and facilitates the distribution of logbooks and other materials to committees and planning groups. Certain duties of the Administrative Coordinator are associated with Annual Sessions, such as collecting and making available reports and other documents in advance of the meetings, overseeing registration, and coordinating many logistic details that are necessary for the sessions to run smoothly.

The work of the Field Secretary is to focus on the spiritual nurture of ILYM's constituent meetings and worship groups. The Ministry and Advancement Committee has oversight of the Field Secretary, and may work closely with him or her to identify needs within the yearly meeting. It is understood that each person who fills the role of Field Secretary brings different gifts to the work, and that person is trusted to discern how to best use his or her gifts while working among Friends. That work may include visitation;

offering workshops, retreats, or meetings for reconciliation; responding to needs brought forward; and encouraging the work of the Spirit in local or regional meetings.

ILYM's Youth Coordinator works closely with the Youth Oversight Committee and the clerks of the high school young friends to plan and carry out their gatherings, both at Annual Sessions and throughout the year. In addition to meeting at Annual Sessions, high school age Friends typically gather for three "Quakes," at least one of which has traditionally involved young Friends from other yearly meetings. The Youth Coordinator also serves as a resource person for monthly meetings and encourages youth participation in yearly meeting activities and service.

Yearly Meeting Committees

Much of the work of the yearly meeting is carried out by committees that meet as needed during and between ILYM's Annual Sessions to accomplish their work. A committee is often where Friends first bring concerns for corporate discernment, where proposals for actions are drafted and seasoned, where minutes are composed, where the budget is drafted, and where Friends work together on maintenance or other tasks related to the buildings and grounds. Committees bring forward proposals for the yearly meeting's consideration, and they need its approval before taking action, for example, before committing funds or speaking on behalf of the yearly meeting.

Standing committees, in general, include committees that address ongoing needs and concerns of the yearly meeting, including spiritual support of its members, support for the organizational and fiscal well-being of the yearly meeting, maintenance of its property, and support for the service and witness of the yearly meeting.

Matching the gifts and talents of individual Friends with the needs of the yearly meeting and its work is the concern of the Nominating Committee. Nominating committee members seek out Friends to serve as yearly meeting officers, committee members, committee clerks, and representatives from ILYM to wider Quaker organizations, and the committee brings their names to the yearly meeting for consideration.

The Finance Committee is responsible for preparing the proposed annual budget for Illinois Yearly Meeting, for providing guidance and support to the treasurer(s), and for putting into place procedures that serve the yearly meeting in receiving, maintaining, and disbursing funds.

Among the responsibilities of the Ministry and Advancement Committee is care for the spiritual life of monthly meetings and worship groups in the yearly meeting. It undertakes this in conjunction with the ILYM Field Secretary, for whom it is the committee of oversight. Members of the committee have often undertaken visitation among meetings and organized activities to promote spiritual development among Friends. The committee may be called upon to assist meetings who are struggling with conflict or other internal issues.

While standing committees are generally expected to exist long-term, the yearly meeting may from time to time decide to alter the configuration of its committees to adapt to changing circumstances. Whatever the particular configuration of committees at a given time, the yearly meeting is advised to consider making provisions for committee oversight of such matters as:

- Maintenance of buildings and grounds
- Policies and practices regarding yearly meeting employees
- Support for religious education at the monthly meeting and yearly meeting levels
- Support for high school aged Young Friends

- Editing and distribution of yearly meeting publications, both paper and electronic
- Provision for the long-term well-being of the yearly meeting, both materially and spiritually
- Maintenance of a yearly meeting handbook of current policies and practices
- Advancement of Friends' testimonies

Up-to-date descriptions of the composition and responsibilities of ILYM committees is maintained in the Illinois Yearly Meeting Handbook (see pp xx – xx).

Ad hoc committees may be appointed by the yearly meeting to address a specific concern which is relatively short-lived, which lies outside the scope of any standing committee, and/or which requires input from several existing committees. The members of the committee, the expected tenure of the committee, and the body to which the committee will report are decided at the time it is formed. When the specific concern has been addressed to the satisfaction of the yearly meeting, the committee is laid down.

The Annual Sessions

Illinois Yearly Meeting gathers for several days of annual sessions each summer at the historic Illinois Yearly Meeting Meetinghouse near McNabb, Illinois. Members and attenders of constituent monthly meetings, preparative meetings, and worship groups, members of other yearly meetings, representatives from wider Quaker organizations, and individual seekers are all welcome and encouraged to attend Annual Sessions. In addition to daily sessions to consider the business of the yearly meeting, the annual gathering ordinarily includes invited speakers, worship sharing groups, workshops, programs for children and teens, time for committee meetings, time for worship, and opportunities for recreation and fellowship.

For many Friends, the annual gathering is a time of spiritual refreshment and renewal, as they encounter or renew relationships with Friends from other meetings and engage together in worship and in the work of the Spirit. Speakers from within the yearly meeting and beyond it share their work and bring insight and inspiration. Joy may be found in singing, in shared work, in the beauty of the landscape, in watching the children grow from year to year.

Bringing Business to the Yearly Meeting

Most of the business at the yearly meeting annual sessions comes by way of its committees, whose representatives report on the committee's work and bring proposals for action by the yearly meeting as needed.

An individual Friend with a concern or leading should ordinarily take it first to their monthly meeting or to an appropriate yearly meeting committee. If a monthly meeting decides that a concern should be raised to a wider group, the next step is for the monthly meeting clerk or representative to take the concern to a quarterly meeting, if available, or to the continuing committee of the yearly meeting. From a quarterly meeting or the continuing committee, a concern may be placed on the agenda for consideration at the yearly meeting annual sessions, or it may be referred to a yearly meeting committee for further discernment.

A concern brought forward by a yearly meeting committee would similarly be brought to the yearly meeting continuing committee, which would proceed as described above. While such a process is not mandated, it allows leadings and concerns to be examined and held in the Light by smaller groups, so that by the time a recommendation or call for action comes to the yearly meeting it has been well "seasoned".

Decision-making at the Yearly Meeting Level

Friends in attendance at the business meeting during Annual Sessions are welcome to speak as recognized by the clerk. Decisions are made through discernment of the sense of the gathered body of Illinois Yearly Meeting at Annual Sessions and need not be ratified by its constituent monthly meetings.

There may be situations in which the Yearly Meeting cannot reach unity or for some other reason may not be able to make a decision during Annual Sessions. The Yearly Meeting at Annual Sessions can choose to minute that Continuing Committee has authority to act on specific items during the year.

Decisions and actions of the Yearly Meeting are articulated and approved during the session and are recorded as written minutes. The recorded minutes of the Yearly Meeting make up the record of its actions and are published in booklet form each year after Annual Sessions and also made available to all on the yearly meeting website.

Epistles and Exercises

During Annual Sessions a committee is appointed to write an epistle, or letter, to Friends in other yearly meetings and organizations. The epistle conveys the yearly meeting's spiritual message, based on the concerns, actions, and insights arising during the yearly meeting sessions. After approval by the yearly meeting body the epistle is communicated to Friends world-wide.

It has been the practice of Illinois Yearly Meeting to have a separate committee write a summary of "exercises" of the yearly meeting sessions, reflecting that which has inspired or moved the meeting during their gathering. The exercises may record events or significant ministry that would not appear in the business session minutes. Both the exercises and epistle are recorded in the yearly meeting minute book, but, ordinarily, only the epistle is sent to other groups of Friends.

The Jonathan W. Plummer Lecture

Beginning with the 1961 sessions, Illinois Yearly Meeting has followed a tradition of having one of its members present at Annual Sessions an address named in honor of ILYM's first clerk and "father" of Friends General Conference, Jonathan W. Plummer. The original minute simply named the lecture as an opportunity "to hear from a member of the yearly meeting," without restricting the content. Friends have typically chosen to share their spiritual journey or to share spiritual insights or concerns from their lives. After presentation at the annual sessions, the Plummer Lecture is published and disseminated.

Children, High School Young Friends and Adult Young Friends

The young people of Illinois Yearly Meeting are a treasured part of the community. At Annual Sessions, the children participate in a religious education program planned by yearly meeting Friends. There are opportunities for organized recreation, crafts, service projects, and free play.

The High School age young Friends, under the supervision of the Youth Oversight Committee and Youth Coordinator, help to plan their own yearly meeting experience, and they appoint their own clerks to oversee their business meetings and to record minutes. They write an epistle to share their experiences with the wider Quaker world. Throughout the year young Friends and their adult advisers plan additional gatherings for ILYM high school Friends, or host or participate in gatherings with young Friends from neighboring yearly meetings.

Adult Young Friends, from ages about 18 to about 35, may plan gatherings, outings, business meetings, or other activities specifically for Adult Young Friends in addition to

participating in the scheduled yearly meeting proceedings. Adult Young Friends may appoint their own clerks and write an epistle describing their particular experiences and concerns. They may plan activities and gatherings throughout the year as time and energy permits.

Planning and Carrying Out the Work of Annual Sessions

Planning for Annual Sessions has typically been divided into different areas of responsibility which are delegated on a rotating basis among planning groups, each composed of members of monthly meetings from a designated geographic region of the yearly meeting. The planning and preparation tasks include choosing a theme, inviting evening speakers, inviting an ILYM Friend to give the Plummer Lecture, organizing workshops and worship sharing groups, securing kitchen staff to provide meals, preparing the site, planning for the children's program, and organizing any other special events during the week. The yearly meeting's Administrative Coordinator has generally taken responsibility for publicity, registration, coordination of housing, and certain logistics of preparing for Annual Sessions.

Much of the daily work during Annual Sessions, such as serving food, cleaning common areas, and making sure consumable supplies are replenished, is done by those who sign up for volunteer jobs each day. The ILYM Handbook and regularly updated logbooks provide specific details about the tasks of the planning groups and the distribution of work during the sessions.

Continuing the Work of the Yearly Meeting between Sessions—Continuing Committee

The Continuing Committee of Illinois Yearly Meeting generally meets once each fall and once each spring to consider the work of Illinois Yearly Meeting between Annual Sessions. Membership of the Continuing Committee includes all ILYM Friends, who are encouraged to attend its meetings and participate in its business. Effective functioning of the Continuing Committee is best accomplished if those in attendance include at least officers of the yearly meeting, an appointed representative from each monthly meeting and worship group, representatives from the High School Young Friends group and the Young Adult Friends group, clerks of all ILYM standing committees and ad hoc committees, and clerks of constituent regional groups. The yearly meeting clerk presides over the proceedings and the recording clerk prepares minutes.

The main functions of Illinois Yearly Meeting's Continuing Committee are to move forward business that has been initiated by the sense of the business meeting at the previous Annual Sessions and to prepare new business that will come before the next Annual Sessions. Continuing Committee hears progress reports from committees working on yearly meeting business and from the planning groups working to prepare for the next Annual Sessions, allowing committees to respond to one another's work and to coordinate as needed. Committees and monthly meetings are encouraged to bring new business to Continuing Committee meetings where Friends help to discern whether a particular concern or request for action is ready to come before the yearly meeting as a whole or whether it would benefit from further study or action within a smaller group, such as one of the committees.

On occasion, Continuing Committee may be called upon to take action that would ordinarily occur during Annual Sessions. The business meeting at Annual Sessions may delegate a decision or action on a particular item of business to the Continuing Committee by approving a minute specifying the decision or action to be taken. In addition, there are some circumstances in which the Continuing Committee may need to

take action that has not been anticipated ahead of time, such as dealing with sudden personnel vacancies, emergency repairs to property, and the like.

The Handbook

Illinois Yearly Meeting maintains a handbook, to provide an up-to-date compilation of policies, procedures, practices and organization of the yearly meeting. The document is under the care of the Handbook Committee which reviews minutes from Annual Sessions for decisions that represent changes to current practice. They may bring the changes to the handbook to Annual Session or Continuing Committee to ensure they have accurately reflected the intent of the minutes or to seek clarification of proposed text.

ILYM Faith and Practice

While the ILYM Handbook records details of procedures and practices of the yearly meeting that may change with particular circumstances, ILYM's Faith and Practice intends to reflect the enduring elements of our faith and our practice that provide the foundation of our identity as Friends, and as Friends of Illinois Yearly Meeting. Changes to the ILYM Faith and Practice should be undertaken with caution and only after careful discernment. Should Illinois Yearly Meeting decide that revisions are in order, the yearly meeting shall appoint a committee to propose such revisions and bring their recommendations to the yearly meeting for consideration.

FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE FUND REPORT

In 2014-2015 the Friends Meeting House Fund (FMHF) board sent out a survey to Friends across the US and Canada to ask how familiar how they were with FMHF and its management. We invited their feedback to help us maximize the effectiveness of the fund. The survey was conducted and evaluated by professional survey coordinators Matthew Smith and Courtney Penn of Lake Forest Monthly Meeting in cooperation with the FMHF Board of Directors. We had excellent participation with 260 responses out of 780 participants in the survey pool.

The survey information has provided us with valuable information about meetinghouses across the country and has given us a better understanding of their needs, limitations and goals. As a result of this survey we have upgraded our website, written a new informational brochure and created a toolbox of on-line web resources for meetings seeking to renovate, repair, or purchase a meetinghouse.

The FMHF Board is preparing a letter to be shared with all the meetings in Illinois Yearly Meeting. Courtney Penn, the survey coordinator, will be sending you this letter in the next week or two under my name as clerk of the Friends Meetinghouse Fund. Everyone who received the survey will get an email message with a link to a summary of the results.

Please consider using the Friends Meeting House Fund when financing your next project. If you have any questions or comments you would like to share, contact Lee Meinicke, FMHF staff, at leem@fgcquaker.org. To learn more about the survey and Friends Meeting House Fund go to fgcquaker.org/fmhf

Again, thanks to all who participated and let us know if you have any questions or comments you would like to share.

Carol Bartles, Clerk Friends Meeting House Fund

MEMORIALS

MARGARET A. BERG

April 6, 1927 – January 20, 2016

Margaret Berg was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana, to Frank and Marie (Lambert) Noel.

Saying Margaret was an avid reader is an understatement. Her love of books led to attend college to become a library coordinator. This was a career she never used but her interest in the subject matter was important to her.

Margaret was an active member of Downers Grove Friends Meeting. After moving to Sparta, Wisconsin, she would correspond frequently with the meeting. Her ideas on simplicity, peace, and integrity were shared in our monthly newsletter.

She married Harold Berg and together they had three children. She is survived by her children Elizabeth Spannraft, John Berg, and James Berg, and numerous grandchildren, other relatives, and dear friends.

Private family arrangements were held in Sparta, Wisconsin.

STATES OF SOCIETY

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL FRIENDS MEETING

In the words of the six Friends gathered for today's (April 2, 2016) Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business, 2015-16 has been a year of increasing "momentum, energy, vitality, vibrancy, joy, fun, and community" for the Bloomington-Normal Friends Meeting (BNFM).

Small, rich, meetings for worship that were once the norm now seem a distant memory, as we regularly have groups of ten, fifteen, and even twenty Friends gathering on a Sunday. Our meeting benefits from the spiritual gifts of numerous new attenders, several of whom have brought family members (including life-partners and children) into our meetings and other events.

Whether in vocal ministry during meeting or during our sharing of joys and concerns at the rise of meeting, Friends consistently speak of their joy and satisfaction in the strengthening spirit and energy of the meeting and in the fellowship and mutual support we gain from worshipping with one another (and from eating each other's food at potlucks).

As we have seen happen in the past, new attenders have expressed a thirst for knowledge about Quaker history and faith. Efforts to slake this thirst have helped to deepen the knowledge of long-time members, too. Our new Quaker Book Group gathers monthly. Currently we are reading and discussing Phillip Gulley's *Living the Quaker Way*.

At our previous meeting for business (February 2016), we re-visited the three main "buckets" of goals we set for ourselves as a meeting for calendar year 2015. We were pleased to discover that we have made substantial progress on all three buckets: 1. Care for and sustain the meeting; 2. Create a Friendly presence in the world beyond the meeting; 3. Reach out to seekers.

Of course we have a great deal of work still to do, but we are gratified to see that we have made real progress in these areas. One way we have cared for and sustained the meeting is by lifting up our members and attenders. Two Friends became members in the last couple of years. We arranged a dinner out together to celebrate these new members.

We have also rejoiced in asserting a strong and palpable Quakerly presence at a series of events in our community. We organized and attended a "Vigil for Peace and

Human Rights” in November 2015 to speak out on behalf of all people’s rights to live free of violence and injustice. (The event was precipitated by the terrorist attacks in Paris, but focused on many societies around the globe where people have been victimized.) Quakers were again a powerful force in attending a “Not In Our Town” (anti-racist) rally in December 2015 in support of our Muslim-American neighbors. In response to the Bloomington-Normal community’s outpouring of support for them at the December rally, the Muslim community held an open-house at their mosque in February 2016. Here again, Quakers made a strong showing.

Another cause for celebration in our meeting’s life is our need to provide First Day School as part of virtually every meeting for worship—and our success in doing so. Every active adult in the meeting has helped lead First Day School, which allows us to get to know our children well. Currently, we are greatly enjoying use of The Giraffe Heroes Project (www.giraffe.org ; #StickYourNeckOut) as our curriculum.

We are pleased to have one of our members serving among ILYM’s representatives to the General Committee of Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). This Friend has also traveled twice to Washington, D.C., to do some high-powered Quaker lobbying on Capitol Hill.

Two quick final notes on one thing we never thought we would do and another thing we thought we would never say.

1. We are going to have BNFM Quaker t-shirts!
2. We recently used the phrase “It’s raining men” to note how for a while BNFM had few (and sometimes only one) members/attenders who were male, we have happily experienced a modest resurgence of male Friends to help provide the meeting with more gender diversity.

BURLINGTON WORSHIP GROUP

The Burlington Worship Group started meeting for worship in late 2014 at the home of Robert and Carol Bartles. In late September 2015, we set a regular meeting time of 8:30 a.m. on First Day, and then in December, we moved the meeting location to the Burlington Art Center at 301 Jefferson Street, Burlington, Iowa.

We have five regular attenders. Each of us are at ease with the Friends meeting for worship finding messages and the accompanying gathered sense is alive in our small group. Two traveling ministers, Judy Wolicki and Maurine Pyle have visited us with good discussions and seasoning of how to be a Friend in a newly formed worship group.

The Art Center location has worked well for us. We are preparing to purchase a Friends meeting welcome banner that will hang outside the worship area. We are listed in the Quakerfinder.com website. In July 2015, we asked and were approved to be under the care of Clear Creek Friends. The Burlington Worship Group continues to formalize our group’s presence, setting up a checking account and scheduling meetings for worship with attention to business.

Our attenders are active in other Friends-related activities in the area. Molly Lovelock, Deb Walz, Robert Bartles and Carol Bartles participate in a weekly Centering Prayer group meeting, gathering together in an ecumenical setting. Carol and Robert Bartles are giving a program on Quakers and the Religious Society of Friends at the Iowa State Penitentiary’s Project Harmony, an inmate organized club. Molly Lovelock and Carol Bartles are participating in and receiving training to become facilitators in the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) through the AVP program at the Iowa State Penitentiary in nearby Fort Madison.

CLEAR CREEK MONTHLY MEETING

Once again, Clear Creek began our report year with a wedding. Rose Dennis and Peyton Johnson were married May, 18, 2015, at Ewing Manor in Bloomington. Many of our members attended the beautiful ceremony, joining in wishing Rose and Peyton many happy years together.

In August, Zeke Schobernd, son of Beth Schobernd Carpenter and the late Paul Schobernd passed away. His memorial service was held at the meetinghouse August 29, 2015, six years to the day after his father's memorial. It was attended by a number of Friends as well as family members and school mates of Zeke's, many of whom shared heart-warming memories of his life. After the service, Clear Creek Friends hosted a luncheon at the McNabb Firehouse.

In September, we held our annual homecoming event, complete with potluck and hay rack rides. During this year's festivities, we celebrated two new members, Marydale Stewart and Trent Griffith. In Santos, Brazil, on September 23, Andrew Bartels and Fabiana Lima welcomed a son, Joseph Lee Lima Bartels. The family now resides in Dalian, China. Joseph is the grandson of Bob and Carol Bartels.

The fall Continuing Committee once again met at Clear Creek in October. The business meeting was held in the meetinghouse, while lunch was served in the Clear Creek House. It was a lovely fall day and Friends enjoyed the walk between the two buildings as a break from hours of sitting in the meeting.

We held what we called a "Procrastination Sale" in December, selling craft items made by our members, baked goods, and gently used household items. The sale brought in \$500 which we dispersed to 3 families who either live or work in Putnam County. These gifts continue a tradition begun by a friend of Jim Bumgarner who for several years donated money to Clear Creek around Christmas time, asking that we distribute it to those in need in memory of Jim.

In February, we mourned the loss of Kay Mills. While she had lived away from Putnam County for several years, her family was once active in Clear Creek Meeting. She was a previous owner and resident of Clear Creek House and donated the painting of the house now hanging in the dining room.

A large crowd attended the memorial service for Barbara Griffith, mother of Trent Griffith, at the meetinghouse in March. Many friends and family members with Clear Creek connections were able to visit from afar.

Macomb Worship Group continues under our care and Friends from there join us for special events, including our annual Easter Sunday celebration complete with potluck and egg hunt for the children. This year we also took under our care the Burlington (Iowa) Worship Group which is attended by Clear Creek members Bob and Carol Bartles.

Friendly Circle continues to visit Betty Wolf once a month at the Mendota Lutheran Home. We have worship with Betty and share readings and songs with her. Friends also visit at other times as they are able.

Our worship enriches us, although it is often silent. Our attendance ranges from 4 or 5 to nearly 20, depending on the week. We hold discussion prior to meeting about once a month, typically led by Anne Comiskey. After worship we eat, pretty much every Sunday, as a way to connect with our dispersed community. We are always glad when ILYM committees meet on campus and join us for worship, and enjoy other visitors as well.

DOWNERS GROVE FRIENDS MEETING

The contemplative silence of meeting for worship continues to nourish the life of the meeting. A sense of inward communion sometimes occurs during the silence of meeting for worship as we strive for the “pure inward prayer” that John Woolman describes. During some meetings, no messages are shared. During other meetings, one, two, or three messages of joy or consolation or an insight about our relation to the Divine come out of the silence.

For some time, the meeting has had difficulty with conflict and hurt feelings among some of its members. In February, 2015, we had a workshop, led by Fernando Freire and Roxy Jacobs, which sought to address these issues. The workshop was preceded by a series of listening sessions where the leaders encouraged Friends to share with them their experiences of conflict and hurt within the meeting. Through the workshop, we came to realize how our diversity continues to cause us to labor at finding a common purpose as a meeting community. We view conflict among ourselves as an opportunity for greater understanding, growth, and reconciliation.

One of the strengths of the meeting is the various groups that we offer to adult Friends for support and education. For some Friends, there are two adult fellowship groups that meet during the week. We have had a series of Friday night films that featured short documentary films followed by discussion. Usually three times a month after meeting for worship, we have some form of adult religious education discussion. We hope to initiate spiritual formation groups as a way to promote deeper spiritual growth and understanding.

We continue to look for ways to serve children in the meeting. A threshing session regarding young friends affirmed that our young Friends’ ministry contributes to the lives of individual young people. Meeting will try to commit itself to two children’s events during this year.

We labored with whether or not we should display the decal showing an outline of a gun with a line through it which is a state sponsored alert to prohibit guns from the meetinghouse or any public building. We minuted that no weapons be brought to the meeting but we consider the issue of carrying guns a moral and not a legal issue. We declined to have the decal on our door, as it is a secular emblem that would not direct us spiritually.

DGFM is blessed to have many Friends who contribute to the life of the meeting. Some of the ways in which Friends contribute include maintaining the building and grounds as well as strengthening our ties with our two yearly meetings, various Quaker service organizations, and the community-based DuPage United. We continue as contemplatives and activists.

DUNELAND FRIENDS MEETING

We faithfully gather weekly to worship as a community of Friends, seeking that truth that God reveals. Though small, we continue as a monthly meeting seeking to transform our inner and outer lives and to make the world more compassionate and loving. To foster spiritual centering in meeting for worship, the recording clerk has been reading a Naylor Sonnet by Kenneth Boulding each First Day out of the worshiping silence: “There is a spirit that I feel that delights to do not evil nor avenge any wrong....”

Fernando Freire presented this year’s Plummer Lecture at Illinois Yearly Meeting (ILYM) Annual Sessions. Titled “My Family, My People, My Faith,” he shared his Puerto Rican childhood and how he was led to Quakers from Catholicism. Fernando led adult education sessions about his Plummer Lecture, so that Friends who were not at Annual Sessions could absorb his message.

On July 27, Duneland Friends Meeting held a special potluck to wish farewell to Roxy Jacobs. Several Friends from ILYM attended for this occasion. Roxy has been an elder to our meeting and long served ILYM. While her departure for Florida with her husband Tom, was pending, Roxy last attended DFM in late November. We miss her deeply and especially at Bible Study for the depth of her understanding of the Bible, and places and people.

We have a more consistent presence of several young Friends. The children have been actively involved in First Day School, experiencing their Quaker Heritage and values. Intergenerational worship is a meaningful time to teach and exemplify Quaker practice by sharing activities with the children that bind us together as a community.

While most Friends have participated in teaching First Day School, Rebecca has taken the lead to develop appropriate activities for Baird, Danica, and Daniel. Young Friends studied the Quaker SPICES—specifically the testimonies: simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality, and stewardship. Young Friends expressed particular interest in learning about integrity, inquiring about the ways in which we are challenged and compelled to have the will to do it. After worship on Easter, young Friends and adults participated in a thoughtful game created by Rebecca, focusing on the practice of integrity in real life situations. She also selected and found sheet music for young Friends to practice and subsequently play music for intergenerational worship at Christmas, much to the delight of all present.

Sarah led several adult education sessions about the ILYM Faith and Practice. We read the “Gathered Meeting” section of our Faith and Practice. One Friend felt that the writing was not inclusive for those Friends who profess a monotheistic view. How do we remain inclusive to people yet retain our Christian-centered roots? Does the Faith and Practice represent the ideal vision of Quakerism with the perspective to grow, strive, and mature into the faith...? We look forward to elucidating our faith in the exploration of these and other emerging questions, and in doing so deepening our connection to the Divine, and to each other.

EVANSTON MEETING OF FRIENDS

It has been a vibrant year for our meeting. We have warmly welcomed several new members: James Tadd Adcox, Helenmary Sheridan, Colleen Reardon, Steven David Flowers, and Dona Le Blanc. Sallyann Garner’s membership was transferred from Lake Forest Friends Meeting. Leo and Virginia Schelbert transferred from Mount Holly Meeting of Friends in New Jersey. We were delighted to welcome Linda Selph a sojourner member from Berkeley Friends Meeting in California while she attends graduate school at Northwestern University. We held a baby toddler welcoming where each of our ten newest community members was presented with a book.

We experienced the joy of two marriages under the care of the meeting, that of Alyce Barry and Paul Barker who were united on June 6, 2015, and James Tadd Adcox and Helenmary Sheridan on October 24, 2015. We welcomed the birth of Fiona Sullivan last fall. She joins her parents Dan and Robyn and older brother, Cooper. On January 8, 2016, our long time member Eleanor Johnson celebrated her 100th birthday with family, some coming from as far as California and the state of Washington for the event.

We also experienced sorrow with the loss of Rita Krahl, a cherished attender who passed away on November 24, 2015 after a long illness. We celebrated her life during a memorial service on December 5, 2015. Several members were closely involved in the loving support of Rita and her husband Bill during the last weeks of her life.

Long time attenders of our meeting, Rob and Sondra Sula are moving to Mendocino, California. Members, Tadd Adcox and Helenmary Sheridan have moved to Urbana, Illinois. Both couples plan to attend their local meetings.

The midweek meeting for worship under the care of Evanston Meeting continues to meet at the retirement facility The Admiral on the Lake every Wednesday morning. Several members of the community as well as some members of Evanston Meeting attend the meeting for worship and breakfast afterwards.

The meeting has continued several traditions such as a pancake breakfast meeting the first Sunday of each month and a meeting for learning following the rise of the meeting for worship the first and fourth Sundays each month. We now have arranged for volunteers who will bring Elizabeth Mertic to and from South Holland so that she may attend the meeting for worship and join in fellowship with those attending potluck on every second Sunday of the month. We continue to provide monthly meals for homeless youth at a shelter in Chicago through the Night Ministry. Each Sunday a group continues to meet before meeting for worship to sing hymns. Two Friday evenings a month, interested people gather to watch films selected earlier by the group. This is coordinated by our caretaker John Knox. We continue to offer the fall silent retreat at Portiuncula Retreat Center in Frankfort, Illinois. High school Friends from Illinois Yearly Meeting again met at Evanston Meeting on a weekend in January for the Quake that Rocked the Midwest.

Inquirers meetings were held on six consecutive Saturdays in February and March 2016. They were well attended and informative sessions with discussions for new attenders who had questions about the Quaker faith. Members of the meeting shared the weekly topics and facilitated the discussions.

The meeting for clerks of the various committees continues to provide support and thereby strengthen committee work. Friendly dinner groups meet monthly and several spiritual nurture groups continue to meet regularly.

Discussion about Race is a new group that evolved last summer in reaction to a film shown at our bi-monthly movie night at the meetinghouse. Facilitated by Alyce Barry and Steven David Flowers, it focuses on racial issues, inequities, injustices, privilege, violence, and our responses. The group meets every other week for worship sharing with discussion and sponsors a relevant film once a month.

The 2016 Peace Award was given to YWCA Evanston/Northshore for its Racial Justice program co-directed by Eileen Heineman and Donique McIntosh. In accepting the award, Eileen, gave a moving and inspiring talk about her personal journey towards her work in racial justice. Warren Forbes was chosen as our Vision Keeper for Interfaith Action of Evanston for his work coordinating the purchase, preparation, and serving of the monthly meals to the homeless youth shelter in Chicago.

Long term childcare workers Norma Dupont and Suzanne Sheridan continue to provide capable, stable, and loving care of our infants and young children during meeting and adult learning programs. It is a joy to have our young families participate in simple meals and potluck lunches. Charlotta Koppanyi started in the fall as our new Religious Education coordinator. The Religious Education Committee sponsored a two day workshop last November. It was led by Melinda Wenner Bradley and Joy Duncan and focused on the implementation of the Godly Play curriculum. First Day School has continued to thrive with the attendance of more children this year. They and our members who engage as their teachers truly enrich the life of our meeting.

Meeting for learning provided a variety of programs. Some were led by members of the meeting and others by guest speakers such as Diane Randall of FCNL who updated

us on their plans and activities for the year. Others were Eileen Heineman from our local YWCA who helped us confront our prejudices; Benjamin Holliman, a member of the Evanston Police Department, who educated us on their efforts to improve the Outreach and Community Policing efforts; and Deena Uzzell, who presented some of her art work and encouraged group discussion with reactions to it. Additionally, we had one fall evening with two Sisters from the Amigo del Senor Monastery who spoke of their work in Honduras. Two speakers from the faith-based Christian Peacemakers Team also informed us of their project in support of nonviolent Palestinian resistance in Hebron, a city in the West Bank.

We also have our challenges. An ongoing concern that late comers who enter and go through the center of the meeting room disrupt the worship of several settled folks. Although Ministry and Council has tried potential solutions none of which has been effective or satisfactory over time. We plan to continue the discussion at a future meeting for business. We approved a document, Guidelines for Offering and Receiving Spoken Ministry in Quaker Meetings, adapted from Howard Brinton's Pendle Hill Pamphlet #20. After printing, one pamphlet will be placed in the holder behind each bench for use by newcomers.

Our monthly newsletter edited by Kenneth Laughlin helps to keep us, especially for those without electronic access, connected with the minutes from meeting for business, the quarterly Treasurer's report, and the announcements of pending events.

57TH STREET MEETING OF FRIENDS

Over the past few years, due to the commitment and vision of those overseeing children's programming, we have experienced a growth in the number and involvement of children and their parents in the life of meeting. One First Day in March we had 19 children and 23 adults in attendance. Quite often during the sharing of joys and concerns, children will freely share (unprompted by their parents) what is happening in their lives. This year, the meeting opened itself to have the upper elementary/middle school First Day School class respond to queries about the state of 57th Street Meeting and have their responses serve as the foundation of this State of Society Report.

The meeting provides a good sense of community where individuals contribute in their own way to the life of the meeting. Adults without children take turns leading First Day School programs. Children help put away the chairs after meeting (albeit so to clear the room so to be able to use the room to play various self-chosen non-competitive games during fellowship time). The meeting's buildings and grounds are a wonderful resource. In addition to residential rental, they are used by a wide variety of community groups and for private gatherings. However, the financial stability that is provided by building rental revenue has allowed us to become complacent in encouraging individual financial support to the work of the meeting.

We generally treat each other well, both those within the meeting and outside of it. The meeting community shows its members what is important and what is not. A testimony like equality is lived out in realizing that we should not be mean to each other and not to be concerned about things like popularity, which is based on having to have and do things and not having respect for others. A testimony like simplicity is lived out by embracing the simple and practical dress of sneakers and not being enticed by peer pressure to wear high heels.

Last year the meeting simplified its committee structure in response to a difficulty in filling committee appointments. While the meeting has been in a period of slow steady growth in attendance, many new attenders are new to Quaker faith and practice so there

is a difficulty in filling appointments that require well-seasoned Quakers and a need for better informing people about the process of Quaker committees.

While there is an understanding among the children that meeting for worship is a time to listen for and to the voice of God, some children also expressed that they “do not get it.” However, in hearing how the children are living out the practice of their Quaker faith in their daily lives, it seems that they are not getting that they have gotten it. Having 9-14 children trickle in for the last 5-10 minutes of worship and settle into quiet waiting worship is not a disruptive event and adds to the experience of gathered worship. Meeting for worship ending with the children’s joint and joyous announcement that “meeting may rise” speaks to an anticipation of that which we have experienced in worship, we carry with us during the rest of the week. However, the adults have realized that the adults would benefit from setting aside some time for themselves to more deeply understand and have open conversations about the purpose and practice of meeting for worship.

Whether in meeting for worship or in other aspects of meeting life, we do not challenge ourselves, as individuals or as a meeting. While various individuals are engaged in good endeavors as individuals, we do relatively little together as a meeting and do not seem to have connection with the wider neighboring community or the wider world of Friends. The children did perceive a certain concern related to the need to better listen for and respond to openings to do ministry and live out our joint practice of Quaker faith by asking the query “Why can’t we listen for and to the voice of God while climbing trees?”

NORTHSIDE FRIENDS MEETING

Northside Friends Meeting was challenged by the mobility of modern society this year, as many Friends have moved out of the area and our meeting was significantly reduced in size. Last summer our clerk, Richard Wark, left to follow his leadings, and this (combined with so many significant losses last year) brought us to a space where we were not sure if we could continue as a meeting. We held a retreat in October at the home of Beth Burbank and Bill Esler, where Friends collectively reflected on the year’s many changes. Fourteen people attended, expressing their interest, need, and love for our community. This retreat led Friends to “focus on who we are and want to be for each other, the community, and the world.”

We are a resilient meeting—and we have become known locally for this resiliency. Our members and attenders designed creative ways to continue the business of meeting with fewer hands, including the consolidation of some committees, the laying down others (hopefully temporarily) and operating meeting for business with rotating clerks. While this new adventure has worked surprisingly well, it has increased the workload for Ministry & Counsel significantly. In addition to all their regular duties, this committee has been functioning as a Clerk’s committee. M&C ensures that each new clerk knows what is on the agenda, so that our business gets completed and projects are not lost. Friends have pulled together and found silver linings in the process of working with fewer members, including intimate business meetings of 6 or 7 people, where everyone has time to air and explain concerns. There is increased ownership in the affairs of the meeting this year and an increased sense of shared responsibility.

Our meeting for worship was our focus this year. We simplified our mission: to provide a Quaker meeting for worship on the Northside of Chicago. Friends can also attend a midweek meeting at The Admiral retirement home. We are smaller, but due to our urban setting, we have a lot of coming and goings; we are a permeable community where players enter and leave and give their gifts as they can. Kate Gunnell and Chris

Goode transferred their memberships to Downer's Grove and Clear Creek Friends Meetings. Their daughters, Laure and Claire Goode, transferred their memberships to Clear Creek Friends Meeting. From January 1 through April 30 we recorded 40 visitors, and this year we also welcomed a number of new attenders who were already seasoned Friends, including Jim Hollis, Sherry Monroe, Mike Conover, Pam Calvert and Helen Haug, Ellie Piper and Dan and Carolyn Cooney. We get to know each other and grow our community and commitment by working together. As one Friend stated, this year we had "the opportunity to become clear; [to] discern what's important to our life as a meeting. To forgive ourselves what we can't do—Peace and Social Concerns [Committee]...to be more transparent with each other. Doing the work of our [non-existent] committees at business meeting creates intimacy, a fire around which folks gather".

Northside sought, nominated, and welcomed a new treasurer this year, Pam Calvert, who has recently moved to Chicago, and we are grateful and excited that she offers her expertise and presence to our community. With Charlotte Wood Harrington and Andy Harrington's move to Massachusetts, we organized and moved our archives from their home to the location of our current meeting for worship, the Japanese American Service Committee. We have been mindfully creating a new handbook for the meeting this year that we post on our website, both to confirm and consolidate our practices and also to conserve our history. The shrinking of our meeting size, and the process of moving the archives helped us to see the wisdom in creating the handbook, for we found gaps in our community knowledge that were disconcerting. (Who remembered where we stored our cabinet? Do our landlords/hosts even know about it? Who has keys?)

Since our web master is moving from Chicago, Northside Friends is in the process of moving our website to the Quaker Cloud, a service of Friends General Conference. Our website continues to serve as a way for new friends to find us, and a place to chronicle our activities, practices and minutes, share resources, and recipes. It is our primary outreach tool and is the way that new friends find us.

Our second hour discussions have continued this year, held from September to June. Since we did not have a second hour committee, we met in second hours to plan our schedules. Some sessions were lead by members/attenders, and others welcomed outside speakers such as Karen Carney, the new (and first) Head of School for the Chicago Friends School, Dan Rutt on "Radical Pacifism," and Judy Wolicki, ILYM Field Secretary, on "Inward and Outward."

Last year Northside Friends hired Tyroam McGhee for set up and clean up in our rented space. Ty, who performs the duties, has done an amazing job, for which we are very grateful. This has proved to be a gift to our meeting that has enhanced our Sunday morning experience, and we have continued it this year.

To support our mission of providing meeting for worship on the Northside of Chicago, we decided to hire a child care provider. Mitzi Johnson now tends to our children on First Days this year, and her expertise is much welcomed. Our small group of Friends were rotating child care each First Day, and now they and all the parents can attend worship knowing their children are in good hands. In addition, some of our children joined 57th Street Meeting in a CircEsteem community building workshop (March-April) which was funded by a grant from Western Yearly Meeting. In May, we held a long-planned and extremely well-attended intergenerational meeting for worship. We read queries on joy, and many people, including children, shared vocal ministry. We were joined by families from 57th Street Meeting and Chicago Friends School. We hope to hold these meetings more regularly.

Our over-arching theme this year has been focusing on the spiritual life of the meeting. At our second hour worship sharing on this State of Society Report, one of our newcomers stated "whatever is not here, whatever is lacking, there is definitely Spirit".

OAK PARK FRIENDS MEETING

Oak Park Friends Meeting has worshiped in new ways, breaking out of old patterns to accommodate the changing needs of members and attenders. One example of this new offering is a mid-week worship session hosted at a member's home to reach out to community members who are not able to attend during the traditional First Day 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. time frame.

Another example is expanding outreach to groups beyond our meeting. The Adult Religious Education Committee has designed programs that deeply examine the immigration crisis. An attorney specializing in immigration issues helped us to view the immigration challenges from a legal standpoint while a representative from American Friends Service Committee helped advance the discussion from a moral perspective. Discussions about the history of the Syrian refugee crisis and how Friends respond to this type of tragedy with our testimonies helped to guide us.

Our meeting is also strengthening activities with Oak Park community groups such as Housing Forward (a social service agency with a mission to transition individuals and families out of homelessness), Community of Congregations (an interfaith organization that is focusing on outreach to the Austin neighborhood), and Green Community Connections/Interfaith Green Network (environmental associations that focus on sustainability issues). Our members and attenders have benefited from the synergy these service organizations provide as we channel our energies for various social justice issues.

Speaking of social justice, the nominating committee for 2016-2017 is pleased to report that the Peace & Justice Committee will be reignited under new leadership. For several years the meeting as a whole coordinated the peace & justice leadings of Oak Park Friends. Our membership is expanding, and we are grateful for many hands make for lighter work.

Our meeting is finding new ways to share our voices in the greater Quaker community. We honor our Friends who provide time to serve at ILYM, Quaker Earthcare Witness, and Chicago Friends School.

We are breathing new life into the meeting, perhaps prompted by one of the adult religious education programs entitled "Peace Through Body, Breath, and Voice." In conclusion we extend an invitation to all our ILYM Friends to join as at The Oak Park Art League. Come sit with us, breathe with us, and find your voice with us.

OSHKOSH

Clerk's Report

"Bring the whole of your life under the healing and ordering of the Holy Spirit, remembering that there is no time but this present" (*Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice*, 1972).

We have had no requests for membership this past year. We have two members living out of state. We have three active members and ten attenders or more who meet with us on a regular basis. We have financially supported both yearly meetings and participated with them where possible. There has been sporadic visitation from attenders with children to our worship. We do not offer a First Day School. We have not had visitation from Illinois Yearly Meeting this year. Two members attended Northern Yearly Meeting in May. We had one visitor this last spring from Northern Yearly Meeting.

Politically, we have been active by maintaining membership in Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice. We ourselves have actively participated in peace demonstrations with the Unitarians on College Ave. in Appleton. We have also written letters to legislators. We have been very active with ESTHER seeking prison reform. We continue

our prison visitation at Oshkosh Correctional Institution. We have been actively working to support the Salvation Army by transporting people to their meal site weekly. We have been active in opening up dialog with the Muslim Community in Oshkosh. An additional group we have been active with is Common Grounds, which is an interfaith ministerial group in Oshkosh.

Elder's Report

Once again, it has been a demanding year but our meeting has coped and is continuing to work on advancing spiritually, that, as always, is a matter of ebb and flow. Most of our members have demanding and stressful situations with our relatives on a fairly ongoing basis. Some of us have had deaths in the family and others have dealt with situations that have been very hard on family members, and on the rest of us as their support. Some of us have had personally draining, lingering but hopefully temporary ailments on top of it. In a world of tightening resources and hardening extremes we have been more pressed for time but fairly successful in our attempts to help each other de-stress and generally cope. Most of us are undergoing personal lessons in spiritual advancement, which are not only never easy, but often not wished for. In a small meeting, any of these issues can become critical if not attended to promptly, and often personally—doing so has helped to improve our meeting's balance.

Taking more time to and placing more emphasis on taking things to the Light has helped us to be more tolerant and kinder, and to find solutions to the most pressing issues together. We have worked very, very hard on not forming judgments when we think that those around us slip. We have ongoing projects on a personal and meeting level to learn from the past and work at being optimistic enough to pitch in and help spread the Light in a world that seems determined to cover it, but have learned to pay attention to our limits. We have done so with prayerful vigilance, and will continue to as we reach out to our communities to spread the Light. We have worked and are working on making our concept of God more inclusive, rather than exclusive.

We continually bring wrongly directed issues in our personal lives, in meeting, and in the world to the Light to find out what, if anything, can be done. If it is required, we correspond with the forces of power. Being human, we tend to be hasty. We are learning to temper that, as we continue to struggle towards and stay in the Light.

SPRINGFIELD FRIENDS WORSHIP GROUP

Summoned by spiritual yearnings, Springfield Friends Worship Group continues its journey with trust in one another, and in the leading of the Holy Spirit to discern those pathways of compassionate service to our fellow creatures, drawn by His hand through the trials and troubles of this life.

We continue to meet weekly in search of the spiritual and intellectual sustenance that we receive from our community of seekers. Our group remains small but dedicated, with attendance ranging from six to twelve adults. We have enjoyed several visitors this year, and continue to welcome those who choose to spend time with us.

Our current status as a worship group defines us most accurately. We elected to have a clerk and a recording clerk, and to hold meeting for business once a month (with creative and delicious potlucks afterward). As a group, we discussed and considered the option of becoming a preparatory meeting, but believe that the worship group defines where we are developmentally at this time.

As individuals, our religious experiences are varied, which adds to the richness of our discussions. Several members are involved in community efforts to bring about change, such as the Greater Springfield Interfaith Association, Homeless United for Change, Constructive

Conversations discussion groups (created as a response to the viewing of the movie *Racial Taboo*), New Berlin's Womens' Club, and Peacemakers at Laurel United Methodist Church. We report on the progress of these efforts during meeting for business.

Our worship group community is stable and sound. Urbana-Champaign Friends Meeting continues our care, and we share our weekly e-mail "Friendly Updates" with them.

We have enjoyed selecting challenging queries, which we share during the months with five Sundays. This becomes a quarterly occurrence, and allows us time to prepare thoughtful responses.

Once a month, our group prepares and serves a meal at Helping Hands, a local homeless shelter. We enjoy this service project, and look forward to the fellowship and expressions of gratitude from the residents each month.

Our group receives sustenance from each other, from our query-sharing to our ongoing study of different Quaker materials. We support each other as fellow worshipers, but also as friends and family.

ST. LOUIS MONTHLY MEETING

The St. Louis Friends Meeting has experienced a very active year. Many good things are taking place with several very active committees, but we also continue with several non-functioning committees and committees without clerks.

We average around 30 to 35 people for worship each week and most agree the quality of silence is good. We frequently have visitors who tell us we seem very friendly and welcoming. Notes are sent to everyone who leaves their contact information in the guest book. We have gained some regular attenders and many of them are youthful (which pleases us as we think of the future of the meeting). Recently we had a Young Adult Friends gathering and it is hoped that they will continue to meet.

Meetings for worship with a concern for business are spirit-led. Quaker process is followed and usually 9 to 12 Friends are present. Meeting labored through a process to establish rules for our winter shelter that included a maximum number of guests per night.

One evening in November a wedding took place at the meetinghouse and was a beautiful and joyful event.

We regularly have four children in First Day School. At least seven of our young people are now in college. Our meeting subscribes to *Friends Journal* for our college students.

Activities that Friends named as the most spiritually-led and beneficial this year included the retreat, spiritual direction groups, organized discussions during potluck, Winter Outreach (Friends Shelter), "Not Just for Clerks" meetings, and the Joyful Work & Worship days.

A retreat was held in spring 2015 at the meetinghouse for simplicity and low cost so all could attend. We had better attendance than expected (over 20), and Friends expressed that it was a valuable experience. Another retreat is planned for April 2016.

Monthly discussions during potluck were offered on topics such as Quaker decision making and simplicity. They were well-attended, and many named this as one of the most spiritually-led activities this year.

Friends Shelter was open for our fourth winter. On Monday and Tuesday nights the meetinghouse serves as an over-flow shelter if the temperature goes below 20 degrees. Three other churches have joined us in this ministry and help us with volunteers and food. A freezer and new oven were donated to our meeting.

To face our on-going situation of non-functioning committees we held several "Not Just for Clerks" (NJFC) meetings. They are open to everyone, thus the name Not Just for Clerks, and were attended by around 9 to 12 people each time. This led to several Joyful Work, Worship & Potluck events in 2015. We recognized the neglectful state of our building, especially the First Day School wing, and accomplished a lot toward caring for

it. Early in 2016 we met for several more NJFC meetings to facilitate the process of forming a Nominating Committee. We are without an Advancement Committee again this year. We hope to establish a way to present information about membership to those who might be interested.

The Michael Brown Working Group met for most of the year to organize responses to the murder of Michael Brown and the other racial injustices which were brought to the attention of the community through the Ferguson demonstrations. Condolences were sent to the family of Michael Brown and contributions were made to the NAACP for legal fees for the family. Black Lives Matter signs were made available and meeting agreed to permanently place one in front of the meetinghouse. As part of the YWCA's city-wide program, many Friends spent six months in a book study of *Witnessing Whiteness* by Shelly Tochluk which was facilitated by three volunteers from the YWCA. Other books were made available and films were viewed and discussed. We continue to learn about racism and how we can be white allies.

The Peace, Justice & Community Concerns committee is active. They recently received a large anonymous donation which enabled meeting to support many local programs that serve the St. Louis community.

Financial contributions to the meeting were lower but our expenses were also lower. Our dedicated treasurer provides excellent, valuable service for the meeting. He is currently training a co-treasurer.

Two new Spiritual Directions Groups were formed to make a total of three that are currently active. It is hoped that a fourth group will soon be formed as there are other Friends who would like to participate and these small groups meeting regularly help to strengthen the spiritual life of the meeting as a whole.

Two Friendly Dozens groups continue to meet for a monthly potluck meal followed by worship sharing. We are currently asking if there is sufficient interest to form additional groups.

St. Louis Friends hosted the ILYM Continuing Committee meeting in March 2016.

A Friend reminds us of how committees can be a ministry. Ideally we work together in a mindful way, getting to know one another as we spend time doing the work of our meeting. It can be a spiritual experience. We look forward to including our new attenders in the life of the meeting. As we move forward we are reminded that we need our "elders" to guide us by word and example.

SOUTH BEND FRIENDS MEETING

The past year has seen important transitions for South Bend Friends Meeting as we saw three active families move out of state. We have also welcomed new visitors and attenders, new member Holly McCune, and have had several recent inquiries on joining Friends or transferring membership to our meeting. At some meetings this spring, we have nearly run out of seats during worship. Strong attendance at our monthly business meetings, a point of concern mentioned in last year's state of society report, has been a joy.

The loss of long-time Friends and the arrival of new faces have accompanied a continued dedication to nurturing our spiritual lives and our ministry in the community. Our ad-hoc committee on Peace and Social Concerns took on work related to gun violence, Syrian women in refugee camps in Turkey, college scholarship funding in Indiana for vulnerable groups of immigrants, and gathering stories from the recent experiences of the LGBT community. We created a fund to support the work of the African Great Lakes Initiative in Burundi. We continued to support the Elkhart Worship Group (which is under our care) and the social justice work done there.

Jason Shenk has discerned a leading to support the People's History of Elkhart, the Poor People's Campaign, and other efforts to address poverty, and in April 2015 we were

led to take his ministry under the care of South Bend Friends Meeting. In the first year of this support we have worked with Jason to learn how best to support his ministry. This shared work has enriched the spiritual life of our meeting.

Our meeting continues to host spiritual nurture groups; we reorganized these groups this year to give others a chance to participate. Our religious education committee introduced a new First-Day School curriculum that includes a weekly “feast” for the children, in which they share joys and concerns. One of our First Day School teachers also offered Faith and Play/Godly Play lessons after attending a training in this method.

Our midweek moments, begun last year, have continued. While we did not host a retreat, we did enjoy a number of potlucks and presentations where members discussed their work on (for example) environmental justice, anti-poverty programs, and work on women’s rights in Ghana and anti-violence efforts in Burundi.

The Elkhart Worship Group continues to host worship twice a month at the Red Oak Community House on First Day evenings. The ongoing monthly Watershed Spirituality gatherings for worship at outdoor locations have led Friends to seek deeper understanding around environmental health and justice in our community. From these conversations, this spring Friends joined with others to host a three-part community learning series to inform an emerging desire for action on these issues.

Worship in South Bend takes place in the Quaker Room at the Charles Martin Youth Center. As is natural, we continue to have conversations about our use of this space and the future of our meeting, and we look forward to some conversation in the coming year on the different worship spaces our meeting has historically used. We also have been gratified by a high level of participation from many in our meeting, and we temper this with a concern that we do not stretch ourselves too thin.

Both in Elkhart and in South Bend, the time of response to queries at the rise of meeting has become a rich part of our spiritual life—and the potlucks that follow continue to delight young and old. We have also generally appreciated the quality of our worship. In all of our work, for our worship and for our ministry, in Elkhart, South Bend, and elsewhere, Friends in our monthly meeting look forward to the leadings of the Spirit for coming year.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS QUAKER MEETING

Southern Illinois Quaker Meeting in Carbondale is a small but active meeting that continues to see changes in attendees, as is common in a university town. We miss families who have moved away like the Leveretts and Allen-Stoddens and miss portions of the year with Ginny Hoffman and Michael Batinski as they spend time in the East. We are glad that our meeting has grown to include two young families and have enjoyed the zest of having a toddler in the meeting again.

A monthly Life of the Meeting potluck in members’ homes continues to strengthen our relationships with both active Friends and those who are just outside our circle of regular attenders. Quaker visitors, such as Pam Richards and Judy Wolicki, gave us a chance to hear from other communities and broaden our thinking about our own.

Over several months we engaged in a significant process of appreciative inquiry, which included creating “stretch affirmations” that outlined the ideas and values that we see as the core of our meeting, for example: “We use Quaker traditions, practices, and disciplines to nurture our transformation, which grounds our individual witness in the world.” This process led to an exploration of the different ministries with which both our meeting and the individuals from within our meeting are engaged. We noted joys to be strengthened, such as our hour of singing.

Our time of inquiry led us to look at our meeting’s presence in our community. We feel led to update our website and to utilize online tools for the recording of minutes and

maintaining a membership directory, which can be done using the Quaker Cloud. We have also continued to discern at length about our relationship to the Gaia House organization from which we rent meeting space. This is an ongoing process and we continue to listen for how we are called.

We continue to support a calling to ministry within the meeting, including Maurine Pyle's ministry of traveling among Friends, and note that her work now also includes a writing ministry, with one book manuscript completed and another beginning. This year our meeting felt called to discern and minute our sense of the meeting affirming acceptance and support of non-binary gender identity. This minute was delivered by one of our teens to Blue River Quarterly, which then inspired programming at Quarterly Meeting.

UPPER FOX VALLEY FRIENDS (QUAKERS) MEETING

The 2015 State of Society report of our small meeting was very positive, and this perception was expressed again among UFV Friends at an informal gathering held following a meeting for worship in May 2016. Phrases such as "like an extended family" and "a place where conflicts can be resolved" dominated the perceptions of our condition. Strong feelings of love, kindness, and openness are present and felt within our group. The smallness of our meeting for worship (seldom more than 12 in number) followed by a potluck lunch, contributes to a sense of intimacy. We also enjoy each others' presence at our weekly study/singing sessions before meetings for worship and at monthly "social evenings" held at the homes of members.

In spite of these warm qualities, our attendance has not grown, and we consistently have no children present. One might ask if our close sense of "family" is perceived as a barrier by some visitors. Or could it be that our efforts to be warm and "friendly" are unwelcoming to some who might like to attend church "privately"? As an effort to increase our outreach, one of our attenders has prepared a "press release" describing our particular meeting in the broader context of the Religious Society of Friends and to be used for a feature story (not yet published) in the local newspapers.

Members and attenders of our meeting engage individually in many good works with social agencies, environmental issues, peace action, and various groups of the Religious Society of Friends. Perhaps our most significant collective impact has been in bridging historic gaps among Quakers. Through the intervisitation with other Friends' groups of our clerk, Mark McGinnis, and by sponsorship of the "Annual Old-fashioned Pot Luck Dinner and Corn Roast" for all Chicagoland Friends, we hope we are helping to overcome differences among Friends that go back more than a century. As attenders at Illinois Yearly Meeting well know, when eating or singing together, or enjoying a hayride or campfire with enthusiastic children, it matters less what language we learned in childhood, whether we are evangelical or liberal, or programmed or unprogrammed Friends. The world sorely needs such "community building." In a related way, we have been inspired by our member, Bridgette Hansen, who worked toward world community through her study of Arabic language and culture in lengthy stays in Oman and Jordan. We will continue to explore ways in which our meeting as a whole can develop loving interactions with others, near and far.

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

On a recent sunny morning, a young (3-year-old) Friend chose to attend U-C Friends Meeting, instead of playing in the park. A (4-year-old) First Day School classmate often reports that he is "having fun." We take these as signs of new vitality in our congregation. Adult Friends have recently made similar comments: "Meeting feels calm; there is no strife

between members,” and “That felt so gathered. I am very thankful for this meeting and for meeting for worship,” and “I feel at home here.” We strive to deepen the spiritual condition of every member and attender through our worship and our other collective activities.

Our 2015 report indicated that our Youth Religious Education and Advancement Committees were not regularly active. Both situations have dramatically improved. Advancement has arranged several “Quaker 8” dinner groups, revived the occasional “Quaker Q&A” sessions, and hosted two “Speed Friending” sessions after meetings for worship. We have celebrated the birthday of a venerable Friend, rejoiced in the births of two babies, hosted two weddings, and gratefully accepted a painting of the “Old Meeting House” (where we worshipped from the 1950s through the 1990s) from the daughters of Fran and Dodie Weeks.

We are now in our twelfth year at 1904 E. Main, Urbana, and have lately made efforts to improve the acoustics in our meetingroom, attempting to make everyone feel that their needs have been considered. First we purchased a portable device that amplifies sound for attenders who have T-coil enabled hearing aids. More recently we have placed carpeting over a large portion of the concrete floor. A successful initiative of the Ministry & Oversight committee has now been handed over to Building & Grounds: Faith in Place (a group promoting environmental concerns) approved our Prairie Wild Ones grant application this spring, leading to purchase and planting of \$472 worth of native plants on our property. This project will allow Friends (and interested others) to learn about the plants, terrain, and wildlife that existed on this spot when (and before) the first white settler staked his claim in the 1830s.

The Peace & Service Committee continues with its activities involving peace and social justice, from the local to the international. The Adult Religious Education committee has offered a series of twice-monthly pre-meeting sessions focusing on the writings of notable Friends, ranging from long ago (Margaret Fell, John Bellers, Anthony Benezet) to more recent times (Herbert Hoover on WWI food relief efforts; Emily Greene Balch, A. J. Muste, and Elizabeth Watson).

To bring this report full circle: We rejoice in the vitality of our First Day School. Special thanks go to Andrea Bretl and to all Friends who have assisted, one month at a time, in implementing a curriculum for our children. The group is not always predictable, or large; still, each week there is a session to interest and inform a wide range of ages. (Occasional events are also organized for teen Friends.) A young couple and two “formerly young” Friends, now a high school senior and a college sophomore, are paid to provide child care for meeting’s very youngest attenders. As our Treasurer has remarked, “At that age they are attracted by the small income, and they enjoy being back with us.”

This report of progress on several fronts leads us to conclude with a question recently posed by a member of Ministry & Oversight: “How can we best focus on building spirituality, fanning the spark into a flame?” Indeed. If U-C Friends seek and find the answer(s) to that question, our spiritual condition(s) should continue to deepen.

2015 FALL CONTINUING COMMITTEE MEETING

10/09/2015

Hosted by Clear Creek Monthly Meeting at the ILYM Meetinghouse, McNabb, Illinois

Present: Dick Ashdown, Wil Brant (assistant recording clerk), Beth Burbank, Kent Busse (recording clerk), Beth Carpenter, Janice Domanik, Kay Drake, Joy Duncan, David & Nancy Finke, Cathy Garra (assistant clerk), Chris Goode, Chris Jocius, Britany Koresh, Pam Kuhn, Ted Kuhn, Brad Laird, Peter Lasersohn, Rachel Merchon, Neil & Grayce Haworth Messner, Ashlee Miller-Berry, Jan Mullen, Fariba Murray, Sarah & Noel Pavlovic, Angie Reeks, Chip and Bridget Rorem, David Shiner (presiding clerk), Dan Stevens, Monica Tetzlaff, Bobbi Trist, Sean West, David Wixom, Judy Wolicki, Frank Young

Minute 1 The Fall 2015 Continuing Committee session of Illinois Yearly Meeting (ILYM) began with opening worship.

Minute 2 Presiding Clerk David Shiner welcomed Friends to Continuing Committee.

Minute 3 Ted Kuhn reported in his capacity as Co-Treasurer. There is a surplus of about \$4,000 for fiscal year 2015, helped by increased individual donations. The Finance Committee is studying items such as increased Annual Sessions expenses last year. Most items proceed smoothly from year to year. The report corrects terminology of the Maintenance Fund to reflect actual purposes. Report accepted.

Minute 4 Cathy Garra presented the Finance Committee report. Bruce Kanarek has been convening Finance Committee until a clerk is appointed. The committee works with the Ad Hoc Property Use Committee. The clerk of Nominating Committee has been alerted that Finance Committee is down by two members. It would be good order to notify Review Committee in advance of unexpected expenditures, distinguishing emergency expenditures. The members of review committee are Val Lester, Ashlee Miller-Berry and David Shiner. Report accepted.

Minute 5 Friends approved the Finance Committee recommendation that the Review Committee description will include "oversight of unbudgeted items."

Minute 6 Frank Young presented the Development Committee report. The annual appeal letter is expected to be sent out by November 1. A statement was distributed clarifying ILYM Policy Regarding Access to and Use of Contribution and Donor Information. Report accepted.

Minute 7 Friends approved adoption of the attached ILYM Donor Policy named above in Minute 6.

Minute 8 Chip Rorem presented the Stewards Report. Repairs and improvements have been made on the meetinghouse (porch and screen door) and Clear Creek House (culvert in the middle drive). Chip Rorem, Judy Jager and Ted Kuhn met in Evanston to analyze spending on the ILYM campus over the last six years. Further efforts are needed installing the kitchen hood, and finding new resources to provide work of the type previously done by Paul Ebener who has been a long-time contractor on many projects and who is in the process of closing his business. Report accepted.

Minute 9 In absence of a member of Maintenance and Planning Committee, Cathy Garra read the report submitted by that committee. The committee met for work day on

October 3. Tasks completed are: reattaching the downspout to the northwest corner of the meetinghouse, reattaching the soffit in the kitchen above the fridge and freezer, repairing the leaky left shower in the women's showerhouse, cleaning out all the sink drains, trimming the weeds on patio southeast side of Clear Creek (CC) house, installing siding on east exterior wall of CC garage, patching southwest exterior corner siding with metal corner pieces, opening all latex paint in garage and pouring in kitty litter to solidify the paint, and removing all the oil-based paints and solvents from the CC garage. Meanwhile the Environmental Concerns Committee (ECC) people planted numerous osage orange trees along the entire west boundary of the property. Report accepted.

Minute 10 Chris Goode presented the report of Site Envisioning Committee, which is working on campground bath house renovations, considering a caretaker arrangement for the campus, implementing records storage, developing sustainable energy, and undertaking specific new projects with Stewards and Maintenance and Planning. Report accepted.

Minute 11 Noel Pavlovic presented the report of Environmental Concerns Committee. The committee toured the Paul and Cathy Ebener home outside of LaSalle, Illinois to learn about sustainable features that might be incorporated into the ILYM campus. In following through on Minute 66 from 2015 Annual Sessions (expressing appreciation for Pope Francis's climate encyclical), the committee asks monthly meetings and the yearly meeting to consider endorsing the statement on climate change authored by Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW), Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), and Quaker United Nations Organization (QUNO) (<http://www.quakerearthcare.org/article/shared-quaker-statement-facing-challenge-climate-change>). Regarding carbon tax, the concept of a private self-tax was suggested for publicizing and using in a workshop at 2016 Annual Sessions. Nancy Halliday's art presentation was also suggested for display. Various aspects of the ILYM campus were discussed in detail. Report accepted.

Minute 12 Friends approved endorsing the QEW/FCNL/QUNO statement on climate change.

Minute 13 Friends approved the recommendation of Environmental Concerns Committee to suggest this endorsing action on climate change to monthly meetings.

Minute 14 Judy Wolicki reported in her capacity as Field Secretary, expanding on details of her written report. There is so much depth in the moving away or passing away of Friends, be they old or young. Nurturing the Rolla Meeting (and other small meetings) offers opportunity for including young people, for example—with no rigid definition of “young.” Meetings face issues like gender acceptance, gun policies, fostering communication, and race and privilege. Report accepted with gratitude for the work of the Field Secretary.

Minute 15 Jan Mullen reported for Peace Resources Committee. She is the current ILYM delegate to National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT), which takes the lead on concrete ways of working to eliminate torture. PRC has formed a working group toward the goal of eliminating police brutality and racial profiling, suggesting several possible avenues of supporting organized ongoing efforts in this field. The working group on treatment of sexual minorities has gathered statements by monthly meetings appropriate for sharing on the ILYM web page. Intending to express support for the work of Friends Ugandan Safe Transport Fund (FUST) sponsored by the Olympia

(Washington) Friends Meeting, PRC would like to donate \$25 from its budget towards FUST. PRC faces a variety of public media options for internal and external communications and outreach, and seeks further guidance as ILYM develops policies around the issues raised. PRC also requests clarifications regarding committee appointment structure and its oversight of the Peace Tax Fund, especially with respect to the expectation that the committee maintain the confidentiality of the workings of the fund within the smallest possible circle. PRC has communicated this request to Nominating Committee. Report accepted.

Minute 16 Friends approve the PRC recommendation that monthly meetings are also encouraged to write a minute about the use of torture and solitary confinement, and to send such minutes to the PRC who will put them on the ILYM website and also send them to the John Calvi website QUIT (Quaker Initiative To End Torture).

Minute 17 In accordance with ILYM policies that donations to others be decided as part of the budget process at Annual Sessions, the PRC is asked to bring their suggestion about a donation to FUST to the Finance Committee for consideration. Approved.

Minute 18 Monica Tetzlaff reported for Religious Education Committee based on the previously submitted report. She explained the support of the committee for creating the position of Children's Religious Education Coordinator and having a children's program at Annual Sessions, as coordinated with the yearly meeting planning group, and enjoying true intergenerational activity. The coordinator would also be a resource person for monthly meetings. Religious Education Committee will work with Finance Committee regarding funding for this position. Accepted.

Minute 19 Britany Koresch reported for Adult Young Friends. After strong activity in 2014, there was a relative lull in 2015, followed by renewed activity currently moving forward. The group currently has two co-clerks whose duties include treasurer functions. Report accepted.

Minute 20 Peter Lasersohn reported for Faith and Practice Committee. Two sections are coming to the end of their provisional terms (Meeting for Worship, Worship Groups and Preparative Meetings), and two more are planned to be proposed for acceptance on a provisional basis (Recognizing Spiritual Gifts and Leadings, The Yearly Meeting). The committee expects to bring those four sections to 2016 Annual Sessions. It is beginning to look at publication costs for the completed document in order to facilitate work with Publications Committee. Intermediate versions are already available on the ILYM website. Sections planned but remaining unwritten to date: Clearness Committees, Worship Sharing, etc.; Pastoral Care; Religious Education; Addiction & Addictive Behavior; Friends and the State; History of the Quaker Movement; History of ILYM; Sample Transfer Letter; Sample Travel Minute. Report accepted.

Minute 21 The Clerk announced that the Naming Committee will be Chris Goode and Margie Haworth Davis. This committee will bring forward proposals for two new Nominating Committee members at Spring Continuing Committee.

Minute 22 Beth Carpenter reported that Nominating Committee recommends two committee appointments: Fariba Murray from Bloomington-Normal (2018, Environmental Concerns); Naoki Nakamura from Lake Forest (2018, Peace Resources). Approved.

Minute 23 Reporting for the Handbook Committee, Pam Kuhn presented specific revisions based on Minutes from 2015 Annual Sessions. The changes were approved previously and are being presented for formal inclusion. Report accepted.

Minute 24 Changes to the Handbook, as proposed by the Handbook Committee and attached hereto, were approved with corrections to the titles of certain sections of Faith and Practice.

Minute 25 Sean West reported for Publications and Distributions Committee, which is updating the availability of various publications in print form. The committee is working on some major updates for the ILYM website to improve navigation, etc. The current website and extensions have all been brought up to date. Any ILYM-hosted WordPress sites should create an administrative account for the Publications and Distributions Committee to use in case of a need for emergency maintenance. This committee is a facilitator but not a regulator of information that other committees post online. There is currently no “Communications” committee for policy questions such as those that have appeared in earlier minutes today. Report accepted.

Minute 26 Mike Dennis reported for the Personnel Committee, which requested renewed authorization in light of its expiration at the 2015 Annual Sessions. While further successful experience might lead to a standing committee, authorization is approved until 2017 Annual Sessions. The committee will work with the Handbook Committee to incorporate the inclusion of Administrative Coordinator Oversight. Report accepted.

Minute 27 Joy Duncan reported for Chicago South F.U.N. (Friends Under Nineteen) planning group. Their report outlined a number of changes, modifications, and amplifications suggested to be implemented during Annual Sessions.

Minute 28 Beth Carpenter reported for Blue River Quarterly on the topic of food and program for Annual Sessions.

Minute 29 Ted Kuhn announced that there is no overall coordinator for Chicago North, but that Friends have been identified for many tasks involving site preparation and cleanup.

Minute 30 Wil Brant reported for the Ad Hoc Records Retention Committee. Their report details specific guidelines for various classes of records. Other committees, including Finance, Personnel, and Site Envisioning, will provide input toward carrying out good practice. Suggestions made by Friends will be taken up by the committee as it moves forward.

Minute 31 David Shiner discussed selection of dates for future Annual Sessions. 2015 Annual Sessions, Minute 44 stated that the Clerk’s Committee would work on this. There was not enough response to the inquiries to indicate any particular direction or to create any sense of urgency. In 2016 our Annual Sessions dates will be June 22-26.

Minute 31 Janice Domanik reported for Friends General Conference (FGC), which is discerning if it should maintain all of its current programs. David Shiner reported that all three ILYM representatives to the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) will attend the January 2016 World Plenary in Peru. He also referred to the report on QEW in the advance documents.

Minute 32 The clerk announced that Spring Continuing Committee will meet in St. Louis on March 5, 2016.

Minute 33 Friends approved expressing our sincere gratitude to Clear Creek Meeting for hosting us today.

Minute 34 The Continuing Committee session concluded with closing worship.

David Shiner
Presiding Clerk

Kent Busse
Recording Clerk

2016 SPRING CONTINUING COMMITTEE MEETING

03/05/2016

St. Louis Friends Meeting, St. Louis, Missouri

Present: Wil Brant (assistant recording clerk), Jeff Brotemarkle, Janice Domanik, David & Nancy Finke, Cathy Garra (assistant clerk), Mariellen Gilpin, Jan Goodman, Marsha Heck, Chris Jocius, Andrea Kintree, Ted Kuhn, Jan Mullen, Fariba Murray, Sarah & Noel Pavlovic, Maurine Pyle, Chip Rorem, Dawn Rubbert, David Shiner (presiding clerk), Steve Tamari, Bobbi Trist, Judy Wolicki, and David Wixom.

Minute 1 The Spring 2016 Continuing Committee session began with opening worship.

Minute 2 Presiding Clerk David Shiner welcomed Friends to Continuing Committee and reviewed the function of the Continuing Committee.

Minute 3 Ted Kuhn reported in his capacity as Co-Treasurer. Financially, the yearly meeting is in similar shape as it was a year ago and it is in accordance to what has been budgeted. Report accepted.

Minute 4 Cathy Garra gave a report for the Finance Committee. The committee is working on technical issues to better understand finances including the concept of pledges, handling the property improvement fund, budgeting for Annual Sessions, refining the system for sending thank-you notes to donors, and working with issues around the Records Retention Policy and the handling of other yearly meeting documents. Report accepted.

Minute 5 Cathy Garra presented the report for the Development Committee. The annual appeal for individual contributions has met its goal. Thank you letters are now being sent promptly to contributors. Fund-raising for the two approved property improvement projects (bathroom renovation and Clear Creek House addition) has not yet been initiated. Fund-raising for these projects will begin after probable starting dates, appropriate plans, and reasonable cost estimates are available. Nominating Committee has been informed about the need for additional members. Report accepted.

Minute 6 Chip Rorem presented the report for the Stewards. It has been a relatively quiet three months with no major problems to report. This past summer the Stewards consolidated the lawn care service of the meetinghouse, Clear Creek House grounds and campground under one person, Mitchell Wilson. This has resulted in cost savings. There are four major topics to present: 1) Siding on the west side of the Clear Creek House is

overdue for repair. Realizing that shower house renovation has been given the next funding priority, Clear Creek Meeting has offered to fix this at their expense pending approval by Yearly Meeting; 2) The garage door opener on the Clear Creek House garage is not working. Clear Creek seeks guidance on this issue; 3) In view of the on-the-spot decision for mosquito treatment at last year's Annual Sessions, should treatment options be explored in advance of Annual Sessions so that a plan can be in place if needed? 4) Neil Mesner has been working on the water hemlock infestation on the ILYM campus. He is looking for someone willing and able to continue and finish this work. The committee is compiling a history of spending to sustain the campus and is working on estimating costs for sustainability. Report accepted.

Minute 7 Continuing Committee discussed the issues presented in the Stewards report. Continuing Committee realizes that the siding and broken door are undesirable; however the garage side and door may be removed during renovation. A primary need is making sure the shell of the building is preserved and not deteriorated, for example by water penetration, for its future use. Continuing Committee does not know the future of the garage in terms of how that it will fare in renovation and is concerned about funding repairs, whether from the yearly meeting or Clear Creek Meeting, that might be of short term use.

Minute 8 Continuing Committee requests that Stewards who are from Clear Creek Friends to consult with Maintenance and Planning Committee regarding whether the garage door opener should be replaced or repaired. If moved forward, funding for the repair or replacement of the garage door opener would come from the ILYM Maintenance Reserve Fund. Approved.

Minute 9 Continuing Committee authorized Clear Creek Friends to move forward on repair of the west side siding of the Clear Creek House garage repair as they see fit according to their offer to fund, realizing that the future of garage is undetermined. Approved.

Minute 10 Continuing Committee defers the discernment of addressing the mosquito issues at Annual Sessions to the Stewards with our gratitude, and supports their investigation of options and costs for treatments at future Annual Sessions.

Minute 11 David Shiner summarized the report submitted by the Maintenance and Planning Committee. The committee has not met since the fall workday. At that time the committee completed all jobs on the "To Do List." Scrap metal from the Clear Creek garage and the agricultural chemicals from the barn were hauled away. The next two workdays will be Saturday, May 28, 2016 and Saturday, October 8, 2016.

Minute 12 Chip Rorem presented the report for the Site Envisioning Committee. The contractor the yearly meeting has been working with in the past is moving on to other things so will no longer be doing construction work. The committee is looking for new contractors and will be interviewing them and getting new pricing for the bathhouse project. The committee is looking into pricing for removal and hauling away of the concrete wall/foundation and walks that remain at the demolished portion of the long shed. Pricing will also be explored for arresting further deterioration of the wood barn and removing portions of the dairy shed that should be demolished. Pricing for the accessible bedroom/bathroom addition at Clear Creek House will be updated with the new contractors including options of using the existing garage and another arrangement that might be more effective for incorporating energy saving and sustainable energy collecting. Barn stabilization and concrete wall/foundation and walk removal have not

been incorporated into the priority list of property improvement projects that had been previously approved (see Minute 57, 2013 Annual Sessions). Report accepted.

Minute 13 Cathy Garra presented the report for the Ministry and Advancement Committee. The committee had agreed that the proposed policy on Sexual Abuse and Misconduct needed more work and that the subcommittee working on the policy would need to bring it back for consideration to the committee's February meeting. The committee spent a substantial amount of time reflecting upon ideas for ministry to develop the strength of the ILYM monthly meetings. The committee agreed to pursue offering a planning group to develop a retreat with the goal of nurturing ministry within ILYM. The committee agreed to make use of the Ministry and Advancement travel policy to include those willing to travel on behalf of M&A or offer programs on its behalf in accordance with that policy. Report accepted.

Minute 14 Judy Wolicki reported in her capacity as Field Secretary. She reflected on being incited by the Spirit to speak regarding her report. Realizing the viewpoint that our work will not be completed in our own lifetimes, Judy noted that her work as the Field Secretary happens in relation to being nurtured and supported by the members of the yearly meeting. She suggested that monthly meetings and the yearly meeting explore programs and discussions on leadership and gifts, especially in an intergenerational context, and to explore the query "Do you know who you are, weighty and experienced Friends?" A detailed list of topics of concern and places visited are in her submitted report. Report accepted.

Minute 15 Janice Dominik on behalf of the Ministry and Advancement subcommittee on the Sexual Abuse and Misconduct Policy read the proposed Sexual Abuse and Harassment policy. Janice took notes on comments and discussion about the proposed policy and will take these notes back to the subcommittee.

Minute 16 David Shiner gave a brief overview of the Religious Education committee report that was contained in the Advanced Documents. The committee is working with the Annual Sessions FUN planning group regarding children's program at Annual Session and will be working on a proposal for a job description for a part-time Children's Religious Education coordinator. Report accepted.

Minute 17 Janice Dominik presented the report for the Faith and Practice Committee. The committee hopes to present at Annual Sessions a new section on "The Yearly Meeting," revisions of "Recognizing Spiritual Gifts and Leadings," and "Meeting for Worship." A glossary and a section on "Friends and the State" are being worked on. Janice and Sarah Pavlovic read the revised section on "Recognizing Spiritual Gifts and Leadings." Janice took notes on comments and discussion about the section and will take these notes back to the committee. Report accepted.

Minute 18 Jan Mullen presented the report for the Peace Resources Committee. Discussions of the complex issues surrounding the Peace Tax Fund are continuing. Concerns have been raised related to police brutality and racial profiling. Programming and community group involvement by monthly meetings has been done or is planned related to these concerns. The committee invites monthly meetings to write a minute regarding these issues of police brutality and racial profiling and to send to them to Peace Resources Committee as well as to be in conversation with the committee regarding their work on these issues. The committee also ask monthly meetings to let them know how they welcome those who are not like them to their worship. The Facebook page is

attracting new members and is looking for people's feedback on its use. The committee would like to meet with as many monthly meeting peace committees as possible and possibly hold a joint meeting for all monthly meeting's peace committees and other Friends at a centralized location. Report accepted.

Minute 19 David Shiner reported for the Naming Committee, Chris Goode, and Margie Haworth-Davis. On behalf of the committee, David presented the names of Barbara Harroun (Macomb Worship Group) and Steve Tamari (St. Louis Friends Meeting) to serve on the Nominating Committee. They will begin their three-year term at the rise of Annual Sessions. Approved.

Minute 20 Wil Brant presented the report for the Publications and Distribution Committee. The 2015 Plummer Lecture has been printed. The only backlogged lecture to be printed is the 2012 lecture. A pricing estimate was given to the Faith and Practice Committee for budgeting for the printing of Books of Faith and Practice. The website is in the process of being updated. Report accepted.

Minute 21 David Shiner reported for the Personnel Committee. According to the Consumer Price Index calculator, there has been basically no inflation to the cost of living in this past year. Therefore, the committee is not asking the Finance Committee for any pay increases for staff for next year.

Minute 22 David Shiner presented a report received from Adult Young Friends clerks, Mason George and Brittney Koresch. Potlucks were held in December and January. The AYF page on the ILYM website has been updated. Report accepted

Minute 23 Continuing Committee expresses its gratitude to Adult Young Friends for organizing the Blue River Quarterly fall program. Approved.

Minute 24 Judy Wolicki on the behalf of the Ad-hoc Property Use Committee read a draft of the ILYM Caretaker job description. David Shiner took notes on comments and discussion about the job description and will take these notes back to the committee.

Minute 25 Reports from representatives to Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), Friends General Conference (FGC), Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), and Olney School were included in the Advance Documents. Janice Domanik presented an overview of the report from the representative to the Friends General Conference highlighting the issue of facilitating collaboration between yearly meetings, the work and resources related to building right relationships, and the spiritual deepening program. David Shiner presented an overview of the report from representatives to the Friends World Committee for Consultation. David reflected on his experience at the recent gathering in Peru in a context of worship and fellowship with Friends outside of unprogrammed Liberal Friends. David Wixom reported for the representatives to Quaker Earthcare Witness. He brought to our attention the amount of CO2 in our atmosphere and the damage that it causing to the world around us, as well as reminding us of our spiritually-grounded responsibility to take care of the earth.

Minute 26 Reports from the Planning Groups are included in the Advance Document. Chicago South Planning Group, which is overseeing FUN (Friends Under Nineteen), proposed that the name of it be changed to Children's Sessions with the responsibilities remaining the same. Continuing Committee approved the name change.

Minute 27 David Shiner reported on the issue of the dates of Annual Sessions, especially in relation to the end of the Chicago Public School year. According to the CPS calendar for 2016-2017, an Annual Sessions start date of June 21, 2017 (third Wednesday of June) will be after the end of the CPS school year.

Minute 28 The Meeting offered its gratitude to St. Louis Friends Meeting for hosting today's Continuing Committee. Approved.

Minute 29 The Continuing Committee session concluded with closing worship.

David Shiner
Presiding Clerk

Wil Brant
Assistant Recording Clerk

MONTHLY MEETINGS AND WORSHIP GROUPS IN ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING

with meeting locations and times

For mailing and additional contact information consult the ILYM directory or contact the ILYM Administrative Coordinator, Wil Brant, at IllinoisYM@ilym.org or 773-288-3066.

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL MONTHLY MEETING

In homes
11am
bnquakers.wordpress.com/
Business: varies

BURLINGTON WORSHIP GROUP

(under the care of Clear Creek)
Burlinton Arts Center,
301 Jefferson St., Burlington, IA 52601
8:30 am 319-208-0181
cabartles@gmail.com

CLEAR CREEK MONTHLY MEETING

14365 N 350th Ave., McNabb, IL 61335
11:00 am 815-882-2214
clearcreek.ilym.org
Business: 3rd First Day, 9:45am

COLUMBIA FRIENDS MEETING

6408 E. Locust Grove Dr., Columbia, MO 65202
10:00 am 573-474-1827
QuakersMissouri.org
Business: 2nd First Day, noon

DOWNERS GROVE FRIENDS MEETING

5710 Lomond Ave, Downers Grove, IL 60516
10:30 am 630-968-3861
<http://www.dgquakers.org>
Business: 2nd First Day, 9am

DUNELAND FRIENDS MEETING

Youth Services Bureau,
253 W. Lincolnway, Valparaiso, IN 46385
10:00 am 219-926-7411
duneland.ilym.org/
Business: 3rd First Day, 11:30am

ELKHART WORSHIP GROUP

(under the care of South Bend)
1721 Prairie St., Elkhart, IN 46515
1st & 3rd First Days, 5:00 pm
elkhartquakers@gmail.org

EVANSTON MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

1010 Greenleaf Street, Evanston, IL 60202
10:00 am 847-864-8511
EvanstonQuakers.com
Business: 3rd First Day, 11:30am

57TH STREET MEETING OF FRIENDS

5615 S. Woodlawn, Chicago, IL 60637
10:30 am 773-288-3066
57thstreetmeeting.org
Business: 3rd First Day, 12:45 pm

LAKE FOREST FRIENDS MEETING

101 West Old Elm Road, Lake Forest, IL 60045
10:30 am First Day, 8:00 am Thursday
847-234-8410 lakeforest.il.quaker.org
Business: 1st First Day, 9:00 am

MACOMB WORSHIP GROUP

(under the care of Clear Creek)
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Macomb,
300 Wigwam Hollow Rd., Macomb, IL 61455
5:00 pm
macombquakers.org

NORTHSIDE FRIENDS MEETING

Japanese American Service Center
4427 N. Clark, Chicago, IL 60640
10:00 am 773-784-2155
northsidefriends.org
Business: 1st First Day, 12:30 pm

OAK PARK FRIENDS MEETING

Oak Park Art League,
720 Chicago Ave., Oak Park, IL 60303
10:00 am 708-445-8201
oakparkfriends.org
Business: 2nd First Day 11:30am

OSHKOSH MONTHLY MEETING

419 Boyd St., Oshkosh WI 54901
4:00 pm
Business: 2nd First Day 5:00 pm

ROCK VALLEY FRIENDS MEETING

201 Seventh St., Rockford, IL 61107
 Worship: 1st First Days, 11:00 am
 Business: as needed

FRIENDS MEETING OF ROLLA

(Preparative—under the care of St. Louis Mtg.)
 603 East 10th Street, Rolla, MO 65401
 10:30am
www.friendsmeetingofrolla.org
 Business: 3rd First Day after worship

SOUTH BEND FRIENDS MEETING

Charles Martin Youth Center,
 802 Lincolnway West, South Bend, IN 46616
 10:30 a.m. 574-232-8258
southbendquakermeeting.org
 Business: 2nd First Day, 12:00 noon

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS QUAKER MEETING

Interfaith Center,
 913 S. Illinois Ave., Carbondale, IL 62901
 10:00 am
www.siquaker.org
 Business: 4th First Days, 11:00 am

SPOON RIVER QUAKER MEETING

In homes 309-343-6847
 10:00 am
srqm.wordpress.com
 Business: Second First Days, 11:30 am

SPRINGFIELD WORSHIP GROUP

(under the care of Urbana-Champaign)
 10:30 am in homes

ST. CHARLES WORSHIP GROUP

(under the care of Upper Fox Valley)
 834 Second Ave., St Charles, IL 60098
 Worship: 2nd First Days, 10:00 am
 630-377-8476

ST. LOUIS MONTHLY MEETING

1001 Park Ave., St. Louis MO 63104
 10:00 am 314-588-1122
stlouisfriends.org
 Business: 2nd First Day, 11:00 am

UPPER FOX VALLEY QUAKER MEETING

Crystal Lake Montessori School, 3013 Country
 Club Rd. (between Crystal Lake & Woodstock)
 10:00 am
clerk.UFVQM@yahoo.com
 Business: 1st First Day, 11:00 am

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN FRIEND MEETING

1904 E. Main St., Urbana, IL 61802
 10:30 am 217-328-5853
www.quaker.org/urbana
 Business: 3rd First Day, 12:15 pm

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING 2016-2017 APPOINTMENTS

For mailing and additional contact information consult the ILYM directory or contact the ILYM Administrative Coordinator, Wil Brant, at IllinoisYM@ilym.org or 773-288-3066.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Development Committee

Clerk: Frank Young
2017: Madelyn George Hjertmann
2018: Frank Young

Environmental Concerns Committee

Clerk: Noel Pavlovic
2017: Nancy Halliday, Don Moorman,
Adrian Fisher, David Wixom
2018: Sarah Pavlovic, Noel Pavlovic,
Chris Goode, John Hackman, Fariba
Murray
2019: Alice Howenstine, Bill Howenstine

Committee on Faith and Practice

Clerk: Peter Lasersohn
Janice Domanik, Peter Lasersohn,
Colleen Reardon, David Shiner, Sarah
Pavlovic

Finance Committee

Clerk: Ted Kuhn
2017: Val Lester, Peter Poshepny, Bruce
Kanarek
2018: Judy Jager, Ashlee Miller-Berry
2019: Ted Kuhn, Margie Haworth-Davis,
Frank Young
ex-officio: Treasurer, Judy Erickson
Assistant Treasurer, Janice Domanik

Handbook Committee

Clerk: Pam Kuhn
2017: David Finke
2018: Pam Kuhn, Sue Styer

Maintenance and Planning Committee

Clerk: Meredith George
2017: Rachel Mershon, Bill Howenstine,
John Hackman, Andrea Kintree
2018: Mike Dennis, Meredith George
2019: Neil Mesner

Ministry and Advancement Committee

Clerk: Beth Burbank
2017: Bridget Rorem, Mark McGinnis,
Beth Burbank
2018 Brad Laird
2019: Cherie DuPuis, Phyllis Reynolds,
Chris Jocius, Erin Taylor

Nominating Committee

Clerk: Caryn Kuhn
2017: Caryn Kuhn
2018: Peter Albright
2019: Barb Harroun, Steve Tamari

Peace Resources Committee

Clerk: Jan Mullen
2018: Kent Busse, John Knox, Mark
McGinnis, Naoki Nakamura, Dan
Stevens
2019: Jan Mullen, Dave Moorman

Personnel Committee

Clerk: Mike Dennis
2017: Mike Dennis, Sharon Haworth
2019: Dawn Rubbert, Nancy Wallace
Designated members of M&A,
Youth Oversight, Finance

Publications and Distribution Committee

Clerk: Sean West
2017: Sean West, Chris Jocius
2018: Grayce Mesner
ex-officio: Administrative Coordinator,
Wil Brant
ex-officio: Editors of *Among Friends*,
Pam Kuhn, Caryn Kuhn

Religious Education Committee

Clerk: Monica Tetzlaff
2017: Barbara Harroun, Bobbi Trist
2018: Monica Tetzlaff
2016: Joy Duncan, Dale Gardner,
Michael Pine

Site Envisioning Committee
Clerk: Chris Goode
2017: Angie Reeks, Chris Goode, Chip Rorem
2018: Bill Howenstine, Marlena Amos
2019: Sandy Bales, Mark Robinson
ex-officio: Steward, Richard Ashdown

Youth Oversight Committee
Clerk: Brittany Koresch
2017: Brittany Koresch, Mason George, Fariba Murray
2015: Warwick Daw, Andrea Kintree
2016: Kate Gunnell, Diane Dennis

INDIVIDUALS WITH SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

Records Librarian: Brent Eckert
Web Contact: Sean West

Blue River Quarterly Clerk: Dawn Rubbert

Yearly Meeting Sessions Committees
2016 Clerk's Committee: Janice Domanik, Wil Brant, Cathy Garra, Gwen Weaver, and Tom Fairbank
2016 Epistle Committee: Chris Jocius, Bruce Kanarek, and Brittany Koresh
2016 Exercises Committee: Alex Lippitt, Amal Tamari, and Erin Taylor

APPOINTMENTS TO WIDER QUAKER & OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

American Friends Service Committee Corporation
2017: Bridget Rorem
2018: Carol Bartles, Contessa Miller, Phyllis Reynolds

Friends Committee on National Legislation
2017: Dale Gardner
2018: Kevin Brubaker, Hal Mead
2019: Fariba Murray, Michael Batinski

Friends General Conference Central Committee
2017: Nancy Duncan
2019: Ashlee Miller-Berry, Janice Domanik, Bruce Kanarek

Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer Concerns
2019: Colleen Reardon

Friends Peace Teams
2018: Debra Penna-Fredericks

Friends Secondary School Liaison
2019 Olney: Grayce Mesner
2019 Scattergood: Katherine Young

Friends World Committee for Consultation
2017: David Shiner
2018: Nancy Duncan
2019: Nancy Wallace

National Religious Campaign Against Torture
2018: Jan Mullen

Quaker Earthcare Witness
2017: Nancy Halliday
2018: David Wixom
2019: Noel Pavlovic

2017 ANNUAL SESSIONS RESPONSIBILITIES

Children's Sessions:
Blue River Quarterly

Food and Adult Program:
Chicago North

Site Preparation/ Housekeeping/Cleanup:
Chicago South

CONTINUING COMMITTEE

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

MEMBERS OF THE CONTINUING COMMITTEE INCLUDE:

- Any Friend who is part of Illinois Yearly Meeting
- A representative of High School Young Friends and the Adult Young Friends
- The Presiding Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Recording Clerk, Assistant Recording Clerk, Stewards, Treasurers, Field Secretary, Youth Coordinator, and the Administrative Coordinator
- The clerks of all Illinois Yearly Meeting standing and ad hoc committees
- The Clerk of Blue River Quarterly
- ILYM Planning Group Coordinators
- The following appointed representatives* from each meeting:

Bloomington-Normal	Fariba Murray
Clear Creek	Grayce Mesner
Columbia	Sandy Matsuda
Downers Grove	Chris Goode
Duneland	Sarah Pavlovic
Evanston	Meredith George
57th Street	Chip & Bridget Rorem
Lake Forest	Ted Kuhn
Northside	Marie White
Oak Park	Adrian Fisher
Oshkosh	Nan MacDonald
Rock Valley	Ann & Brent Eckert
St. Louis	David Wixom
South Bend	Lucus Burkett
Southern Illinois	Maurine Pyle
Upper Fox Valley	Peter Albright
Urbana-Champaign	Dale Gardner & Bobbi Trist

*Burlington (WG), Elkhart (WG), Macomb (WG), Rolla (Prep), Spoon River (MM), Springfield (WG) & St. Charles (WG) do not have appointed representatives

All listings of names, addresses, and contact information in this book are for the sole use of Illinois Yearly Meeting, and may not be used for any other purpose without approval of the business meeting. Contact information is specifically not to be used for commercial purposes.

Cover Painting of ILYM Meetinghouse: M. Richie