

# **THE MINUTES**

*and Accompanying Documents*

## **Illinois Yearly Meeting Religious Society of Friends**

**2017**  
June 21  
to  
June 25



**Sessions in the ILYM Meetinghouse**  
*Near McNabb, Illinois*

# **ILYM 2017**

## **The Minutes and Accompanying Documents**

### **Erratum**

p. 21: number for Assets, Total Cash, End Balance (first column of numbers, fourth line down) should be 273,983.94 not 237,983.94.

p. 22: number for Unrestricted Total (first column of numbers, last line) should be 84,627.05 not 84,827.05.

p. 23: number for Assets, Unrestricted Designated, Maintenance Reserve, Balance 6/30/2017 (sixth column of numbers, sixth line down) should be 65,756.03 not 65,7566.03.

p. 25: number for Expenses & Transfers, Transfer to FWCC World Meeting Travel, 2016-2017 Actual (second column of numbers, sixteen lines down) should be (1,000) not (2,000).

p. 25: number for Expenses & Transfers, Total Operating Expenses, 2016-2017 Actual (second column of numbers, 14 lines down) should be (111,864) not (111,684).

p.25: Income and Expenses & Transfers 2016-2017 Budget (third column of numbers), various line corrections:

Income, Contributions from Individuals: 29,000 not 22,450

Income, Gatherings and Retreats: 15,500 not 14,000

Income, Total Income: 127,100 not 119,050

Expenses & Travel, Personnel: (55,200) not (49, 750)

Expenses & Travel, YM Travel Support: (4,500) not (6,500)

Expenses & Travel, Gatherings & Retreats: (15,000) not (13,000)

Expenses & Travel, Site: (16,700) not (16,200)

Expenses & Travel, Support to Others: (10,650) not (9,550)

Expenses & Travel, Total Operating Expenses: (114,600) not (107,550)

Expenses & Travel, Transfer to FWCC World Meetings Travel: (1,000) not (2,000)

Expenses & Travel, Total Expenses & Transfers: (127,100) not (119,050)

p. 25: number for Expense Line Item Details, Site, Utilities, 2016-2017 Budget (third column of numbers, second line from bottom) should be (3,500) not (3,000).

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# ILYM 2017 PROGRAM

## Theme: *Open Hearts*

### WEDNESDAY:

12:30-1:45 pm Registration table open  
 1:45-3:45 Babysitting & childcare in play area  
 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 Zack Moon  
 8:45-9:15 Registration table open  
 9:00-9:45 New Attenders Meeting (reg. desk)  
 Snacks (dining room)

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

**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 Jay Marshall  
 8:45-9:15 Registration table open  
 9:00-9:45 Snacks

### 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 Presentation by  
 Clear Creek Meeting  
 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  
 Alice Howenstine  
 11:15-12:15 Meeting for Worship  
 12:30-1:30 Lunch  
 1:30 Cleanup and Farewells

### 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

### 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

# ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

2018 Annual Sessions will be held from June 20 to 24  
at the Illinois Yearly Meeting Meetinghouse

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Website: [ilym.org](http://ilym.org)  
Email: [IllinoisYM@ilym.org](mailto: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

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## YEARLY MEETING OFFICERS AND OTHERS WITH SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES 2017-2018

**Presiding Clerk:** Cathy Garra

**Assistant Clerk:**

**Recording Clerk:** Angie Reeks

**Assistant Recording Clerk:** Kent Busse

**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 Johnson

**Children's Religious Education Coordinator:** Joy Duncan

**Adult Young Friends Co-Clerks:** Brittany Koresch & Rose Johnson

**High School Friends Clerk:** Rafi Roberts

**High School Friends Co-Clerk:** Kiva Schobernd

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

# ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING 2016

## BLUE RIVER QUARTERLY

B-N	CC	Co	St.L	SoI	SR	U-C
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### Members & Attenders Statistics

#### Average Attendance

10	6	16	32	9	4	40
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Adults

2	1	3	3	1	0	5
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Under 18 years old

#### Membership Statistics

10	27	11	35	3	3	43
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Resident Adult Members

3	3	0	5	0	0	9
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Resident Young Friends

2	38	16	77	9	0	60
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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>
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Non-Resident Young Friends

15	68	27	119	12	3	118
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TOTAL

12	65	27	112	12	3	103
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Total Adult Members

3	3	0	7	0	0	15
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Total Young Friends

#### NEW MEMBERS

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

By Birth or Adoption

0	2	0	4	0	0	0
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By Request

<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
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By Certificate of Transfer

0	2	0	6	0	0	1
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TOTAL

#### LOSSES

0	0	9	0	0	0	1
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Deceased

0	0	24	0	0	0	0
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Released or Withdrawn

<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
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Transferred

0	0	33	0	0	0	1
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TOTAL

### MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

Blue River Quarterly	362
Metro Chicago	552
Wisconsin	<u>5</u>
TOTAL	919

## NUMERICAL STRENGTH CHART

CHICAGO-Area										WI	TOTALS
DG*	Du	Ev	57*	LF	NS	OaP	RV	SB	UFV	Osh*	
24	5	54	20	27	15	13	4	21	9	7	315
8	2	16	8	6	2	0	0	6	0	0	63
48	8	56	20	64	11	16	9	19	16	3	402
0	2	4	8	10	2	0	0	3	0	0	49
35	6	43	31	67	22	4	2	15	13	2	442
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>26</u>
83	16	116	61	141	35	20	11	40	29	5	919
83	14	99	51	131	33	20	11	34	29	5	844
0	2	17	10	10	2	0	0	6	0	0	75
0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
0	2	2	0	5	0	3	0	2	0	0	19
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6</u>
0	2	2	0	6	3	3	0	2	1	0	27
0	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	13
0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7</u>
0	2	3	2	0	3	1	0	1	0	0	46

\*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 Clear Creek: Poppy Johnson (10/16/16), Barbara Malany (4/30/17)  
To Evanston: Steven David Flowers (11/15/15), Colleen Reardon (1/17/16), Dona LeBlanc (1/17/16), Robyn, Cooper, Fiona Sullivan (11/20/16), Steve Durham (6/18/17)  
To Lake Forest: Arminda Downey-Mavromatis (7/7/16), Thomas, Kathleen, Kyle, Tristan McDonald (7/7/16)  
To Oak Park: Sue Beckman (10/23/2016), Alex Lippitt (12/11/2016), John Mazzola (10/23/2016)  
To South Bend: Frank Seever (9/11/16), Becca Williams (6/11/17)  
To St. Louis: Sara Alsup (10/9/16), Andrea Reiter (5/14/17), Abigail and

Margaret Stacy (12/11/16)

#### By Birth/Adoption

None (some meetings record as "By Request")

#### By Transfer

- To Evanston: Sallyann Garner from Lake Forest (10/25/15)  
To Northside: Pamela Calvert and Helen Haugh from Strawberry Creek, Berkeley, CA (8/2016), Mike Conover from Evanston (6/2017)  
To St. Louis: Thomas Fairbank from Downers Grove (11/13/16), Wesley Biggs from Friends House Meeting, London (4/9/17)  
To Urbana-Champaign: Don Chenoweth from Oklahoma City (6/18/17)

### LOSSES

#### By Release or Withdrawal:

- From Columbia (due to roll review): Kim Dowat, Laura Froese, Howard Hendrix, Laurel Hendrix, Richard McKeever, Carol McKeever, Marty Patton, Karl Laun, Rolf Laun, Iris Stevenson, Raven Stevenson, Jesse McKeever, Sarah McKeever, William "Jesse" Biddle, Natalia Catlett, Carol Keininger, Ron Tipton, Gail Meglitsch, Manessa Weaver, William Weaver, Michael Nash, Tim DeVol, Mary Watson, Heidi Bezzerides  
From Oak Park: Marcia (Marti) Matthews (8/9/2015)

#### By Death

- From Columbia (due to roll review): Bruce Jesse Biddle, Robert Warren, Richard Catlett, Gordon Freese, Joan Gilbert, Ellen Horgan, Charles Laun, Jan Macy, Cole Stevenson  
From Duneland: Darian Thalmann (11/29/16)  
From Downers Grove: Margaret Berg

(1/20/16), Karl Zerfoss (11/15/16)

From Evanston: Ephraim Miller (5/28/15), Michael Imlay (2/4/17), Eleanor Johnson (4/24/17)

From Urbana-Champaign: Thomas Gilmore (4/17)

From Upper Fox Valley: Richard Tabor (12/15/16)

#### By Transfer:

From Downers Grove Mike McKenzie to Boulder CO (1/10/16), Kate MacCrimmon to Madison WI (4/10/16), Tom Fairbank to St. Louis (10/9/19), Jodee Banks to Chico CA (11/13-16)

From Evanston: Michael Conover to Northside (4/16/17)

From Northside: Andrew Harrington and Charlotte Wood-Harrington to Wellesley, MA (6/2017), Daniel Hall to MidCoast, Damariscotta, ME (1/2017)

From South Bend: Matthew Bell to 15th Street, New York, NY (4/9/17)



# MINUTES OF THE ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING

143rd Annual Sessions

Sixth Month 21-25, 2017, Illinois Yearly Meeting Meetinghouse near McNabb, Illinois

## MINUTES OF THE FIRST SESSION, Fourth Day, Sixth Month 21, 2017

**Minute 1** The 2017 Illinois Yearly Meeting (ILYM) Annual Sessions opened with waiting worship.

**Minute 2** Presiding Clerk Cathy Garra welcomed everyone present to the Annual Sessions, including guests Becca Haines-Rosenberg, representing Friends General Conference (FGC), and Brant Rosen, representing the Midwest office of American Friends Service Committee (AFSC).

**Minute 3** Reading Clerk Chris Jocius read an excerpt from the epistle from Cuba Yearly Meeting.

**Minute 4** Cathy Garra informed Friends about Advance Documents and other documents available for review in the red binders near the entrance. The proposed revisions to Faith & Practice and the Handbook are to be found there, as well as financial statements that will be used during these sessions. Minutes and other materials are updated daily.

**Minute 5** The Presiding Clerk Cathy Garra is being assisted by a Clerk's Committee comprised of Wil Brant, Beth Carpenter, Janice Domanik, Assistant Clerk David Shiner, and Gwen Weaver.

**Minute 6** Assistant Clerk David Shiner reviewed the role of the Epistle Committee. To serve for this year's sessions, the Nominating Committee has brought forth the names of Chris Jocius and Brittany Koresch. There may be another name presented tomorrow.

**Minute 7** Cathy Garra presented a description of the Exercises Committee and asked for Friends so interested should speak with her.

**Minute 8** Cathy Garra read the sexual abuse policy observed by ILYM.

**Minute 9** Cathy Garra made announcements concerning absent and departing Friends. Meredith George has been called away suddenly to assist her mother in the hospital. Field Secretary Judy Wolicki has brought some note cards for us to use during sessions in remembering those who cannot be in attendance. These will be mailed to the addressees after sessions end.

**Minute 10** Cathy Garra explained that the agenda as published will be followed loosely enough to follow the Spirit. In shorter sessions, individuals will simply excuse themselves briefly for a rest stretch. This year the numerous site prep workers have been abundantly supported by Chris Goode, Brad Laird, and Monica Tetzlaff. This year's work has been noteworthy. The dishwasher has been repaired.

**Minute 11** For Ministry and Advancement Committee, Beth Burbank 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 the beaded necklaces they are wearing. They are Judy Wolicki, Erin Taylor, Brad Laird, Monica Tetzlaff, Bridget Rorem, Phyllis Reynolds, and Beth Burbank.

**Minute 12** Caryn Kuhn presented the Nominating Committee Report, filling in some of the positions that were blank before sessions. Changes will be carried over to Saturday, with further additions.

**Minute 13** Noel Pavlovic presented the Environmental Concerns Committee report. Building on last year's discussion about the Osage orange tree windbreak at the west side of the Clear Creek House grounds, the committee is displaying a redesign of the windbreak, and for this year is mulching the trees and removing half of the trees to result in a 20 foot spacing. Beyond that, feedback is invited during Annual Sessions and will be submitted to appropriate committees and neighbors. Report accepted.

**Minute 14** Cathy Garra announced that the benches on the front porch are being painted during this session. Special paint is being used to seal the old lead paint. Friends should avoid the porch while the paint dries.

**Minute 15** Cathy Garra reported progress regarding the Personnel Committee. This is an important standing committee, not an ad hoc committee. The ad hoc project was the Provisional Personnel Manual which was approved at Fall 2015 Continuing Committee up to this year. (The text is found in the 2013 Minute Book.) Now it is proposed to extend use of the manual to 2019. Approved.

**Minute 16** Peter Lasersohn presented the report of the Faith and Practice Committee. The committee propose that four texts be adopted for an indefinite period: The Light Within and its Religious Implications (adopted 2014 for a 3-year period), Testimonies (adopted 2014–2015 for a period ending 2017; no revisions proposed), Quarterly Meetings (adopted 2012 for a 5-year period), and Sample Membership Form (adopted 2012 for a 5-year period).

The following two sections have been workshopped and revised several times but not yet considered by the yearly meeting body. They are now proposed to be adopted for a one-year provisional period: Friends and the State, and Pastoral Care.

Two newer sections will be presented and discussed at workshops at our yearly meeting sessions this year: Addiction, Substance Abuse, and Gambling, and Clearness and Support Committees.

Other new sections are under development. The full text developed so far is available online. It is hoped that all sections of the whole book will be assembled by next year's Annual Sessions. Report accepted.

**Minute 17** The Faith and Practice Committee is submitting the section on Membership Records for indefinite period approval at this time. The one recent change is to strike the words "or Civil Union" because same-sex marriage has been legalized nationally. Approved.

**Minute 18** The Faith and Practice Committee is submitting the section on Quarterly Meetings (with mild revisions for clarity of wording) for approval for indefinite period. Approved.

**Minute 19** Carol Bartles reported on her work with Friends Meetinghouse Fund Committee, giving background that is not in the Advance Documents. Because of financial practicalities, the committee is changing its business model. At the end of this month it will process operations in partnership with Everence which is a \$3 billion Mennonite endeavor. Full investment amounts of the former fund (meeting or individual investments) are expected to be returned in July of this year. Report received.

**Minute 20** Meeting closed with expectant silence.

## MINUTES OF THE SECOND SESSION, Fifth Day, Sixth Month 22, 2017

**Minute 21** The second session opened with waiting worship.

**Minute 22** The Presiding Clerk Cathy Gara welcomed the following: a visitor from outside ILYM, David Eley of Keystone Monthly Meeting of Ohio Yearly Meeting and first time attender Sarah Shirk of Oak Park Friends Meeting.

**Minute 23** Reading Clerk Chris Jocius read an excerpt from the epistle from Friends World Committee for Consultation.

**Minute 24** The Cathy Garra informed Friends that the children will be joining this session in worship and business at about 11:45 a.m., and we will carry on in the normal manner. The table by the entrance has Advance Documents (sections of Faith and Practice, Handbook revisions, Finances, etc.) and minutes from yesterday. Tonight's program focuses on Clear Creek Monthly Meeting today, recognizing its 175th anniversary; a celebration will follow. Members of the Committee of Care are identified by bead necklaces. Friends are needed to serve on this year's Exercises Committee, as explained yesterday. With much business ahead today, Friends are encouraged to speak only once to an issue.

**Minute 25** Chris Jocius, Topher Hota, and Brittany Koresh were presented for this year's Epistle Committee. Approved.

**Minute 26** Judy Erickson presented the Treasurer's report to enable Friends to understand the financial well-being of the yearly meeting. She updated figures appearing in the Advance Documents, reflecting increases in both income and certain expenses. It was observed that the checking account is probably paying less interest than would a money market account. Report accepted.

**Minute 27** Ted Kuhn presented the report of the Finance Committee. For this year's Annual Sessions we are testing out offering a 50% reduction on Annual Sessions fees for Young Adult Friends who helped with site preparation. This program will be evaluated for Fall Continuing Committee. Finance Committee is continuing to support the Stewards, Site Envisioning Committee, and Maintenance and Planning Committee with ongoing work, including the renovations to the bathhouse approved at Continuing Committee.

Because of increasing costs associated with yearly meeting operations and property maintenance, Finance Committee is presenting two action items:

- 1) Increasing by 5% the recommended contribution from monthly meetings to \$252 per adult resident member. This increase is calculated to match the salary increases we have given to our staff over the past 5 years. In addition, Finance Committee intends to recommend future increases equivalent to the increase in staff salary each year. This amount is still a recommended amount, recognizing that some monthly meetings have very small budgets and that monthly meetings are also facing budget strains. However, the committee thinks it is important to recognize that ILYM's fiscal needs expand by a small amount each year, and that contributions need to be increased to meet those needs.
- 2) Increasing the Annual Session fee to \$42 per adult per day for 2018: This amount is designed to cover some (but not all) of the property maintenance costs, recognizing that Annual Sessions is one of the biggest users of the ILYM campus, and that having the property available makes Annual Sessions much lower cost than for yearly meetings that are not as fortunate.

Committees are working during Annual Sessions on meeting with the contractors and identifying expenses associated with the main campus. This work will continue within Finance Committee at 3:45 today. All interested Friends are invited. Updated proposals will be shown in the red binders and brought forward Saturday. Report accepted.

**Minute 28** Increasing the recommended contribution from monthly meetings to \$252 per adult resident member. Approved.

**Minute 29** Increasing the Annual Sessions fee to \$42 per adult per day for 2018 Annual Sessions. Approved.

**Minute 30** Ted Kuhn made a first presentation of the proposed budget for fiscal year 2017-2018, noting that any increase in permanent staff positions will require an increase in payroll reserves. Repair and facilities costs are likely to be increased from the previously published figures. The budget reflects both a proposal with continuation of the Children's Religious Education Coordinator and a proposal without. Additional work on the budget is anticipated and will be presented on Saturday with an advance copy available in the red binders.

**Minute 31** Cathy Garra reported that the Review Committee, which reviews requests for additional expenditures, met twice this year to consider and approve four matters, as directed by 2016 Annual Sessions Minute 41. The composition of the committee remains Cathy Garra, Ted Kuhn, and Ashlee Miller-Berry. Report accepted.

**Minute 32** Frank Young presented the report of the Development Committee. The report focused on increasing individual contributions this year. Because 2015-2016 individual contributions to ILYM had increased, an increase was expected in 2016-2017. Instead, contributions decreased and are projected to fall short of meeting this year's financial obligations, bringing a concern before the Finance Committee. The Development Committee deals only with the fundraising aspect. This committee notes that an appeal letter costs about \$500; additional appeals will increase the committee's expenses. Expanding the committee could make it more effective to the support of the operating funds of the yearly meeting. Report accepted.

**Minute 33** Monica Tetzlaff reported for the Children's Religious Education Committee. After giving considerable volunteer service to Children's Religious Education, Joy Duncan had begun serving as a temporary part-time staff member on March 1, 2017. She has worked on several projects including the Children's Sessions at Annual Sessions this year. This position ends at the end of Annual Sessions. Joy is involved with the Quaker Religious Education Cooperative, which is a grassroots network of Friends from all branches of the international Quaker family. The committee presented a list of reasons supporting its request for funding of a quarter-time Children's Religious Education Coordinator for the next year. This request will be carried over to the Saturday session. The committee also reported on the OWL ("Our Whole Lives") program for children and teens. It offers "comprehensive, lifespan sexuality education curricula for use in both secular settings and faith communities" and offers some upcoming training sessions for members interested in this work. Committees are encouraged to budget forward in order to support program opportunities of this type as they develop. Report accepted.

**Minute 34** Joy Duncan, the Children's Religious Education Coordinator, reported that she planned and led several activities throughout the year and proposes to continue the pace for 2017-2018. She pointed out that broadening our experience with the Divine through

singing, fellowship, sharing stories, worship sharing, and more will make us a richer, more vital faith community. There is an increasing participation of children who grow in the programs where they are offered. The fundamental principle is that the purpose of religious education is to awaken a person to the life of the spirit and to provide some context for spiritual formation—for discovering your identity as a spiritual and/or religious person. Religious education is a life-long process that begins in childhood and continues throughout our whole lives. Alongside a Coordinator, the accompanying work of volunteers is highly appreciated. Report accepted.

**Minute 35** Beth Burbank reported for Ministry and Advancement Committee and on its efforts to develop community and greater connection within ILYM. This is particularly valuable with the trends of the times in our meetings and in the national mood. The committee affirms the Field Secretary’s work and is grateful for her thoughtful discernment process to continue as Field Secretary.

The committee also presented its latest draft of a Sexual Abuse and Harassment Policy. This is not all-inclusive, but it addresses the most obvious issues that arise. The committee works together with the Youth Oversight Committee and the Youth Coordinator. The committee also suggests that the topic merits inclusion in Faith and Practice; a good start for drafting the section could be the work previously submitted by Roxy Jacobs and David Finke.

The committee received an inquiry from one of the Friends General Conference ambassadors of the Spiritual Deepening program as to the needs and awareness of ILYM members relative to the online Spiritual Deepening program. The committee would appreciate hearing from anyone in the yearly meeting who has used this tool.

Because of her work duties, Beth Burbank will not continue to clerk Ministry and Advancement Committee. She will stay on as a committee member for another year to provide continuity. Report accepted.

**Minute 36** Renewing the service of Judy Wolicki as the Field Secretary for another three-year term. Approved.

**Minute 37** Meeting closed with expectant silence.

### **MINUTES OF THE THIRD SESSION, Sixth Day, Sixth Month 23, 2017**

**Minute 38** The third session opened with waiting worship.

**Minute 39** Presiding Clerk Cathy Garra made the day’s announcements and welcomed a first-time attender Barry Feldman of Northside Friends Meeting, and visitors Thomas Weber and Jennifer Jensen of Scattergood Friends School. Marie White volunteered to serve on Exercises Committee this year. Another volunteer is needed.

**Minute 40** Reading Clerk Chris Jocius read an excerpt from the epistle from Alaska Friends Conference.

**Minute 41** Peter Lasersohn, Janice Domanik, and David Shiner of the Faith and Practice Committee read and discussed two new sections being submitted for one-year provisional approval: Pastoral Care, and Friends and the State. Both sections approved for a one year provisional period.

**Minute 42** Beth Burbank for Ministry and Advancement Committee read and discussed a revision of the Harassment and Sexual Abuse Policy. The revised policy, which is appended to the Ministry and Advancement Report, was approved.

**Minute 43** Cathy Garra announced the membership of the Harassment Review Committee: Cathy Garra, Beth Burbank, Judy Wolicki, Brad Laird, and David Shiner. Appointments will end at the start of 2018 Annual Sessions. Accepted.

**Minute 44** Field Secretary Judy Wolicki reported her work on a substantial list of topics of concern to Friends. She has facilitated discussions and worship sharing, offered programs, and offered care, encouragement and resources in person and by phone and email to individuals and meetings, including spending time with Friends in their homes. As time permits, she continues to correspond by notes, email, and phone calls with those she is unable to visit in person. She shared with Friends her observations that health of a monthly meeting is not dependent on size. Participation and sacrifice provide meaning. Report accepted.

**Minute 45** Neil Mesner reported for the Stewards. They have begun work on two projects that bear on the understanding of the role of a caretaker. The first is a documentation of projects that the Stewards are currently doing and are responsible for getting done. The second is beginning to reach out to local people (contractors) in the area around McNabb to help do needed work. The Stewards report details maintenance tasks in these two categories, identifying several solutions that have been implemented. The Stewards and members of various committees are using Annual Sessions as an occasion to probe the collective memory relating to such work, and to move forward toward several pending decisions. Report accepted.

**Minute 46** The Maintenance and Planning Committee maintains a To Do List of necessary tasks. Due to weather, the Spring Work Day was canceled so many items were not completed. Some of the items would require contracting and scheduling local professionals. The committee hopes to be in a supportive role to a professional caretaker or contractor. Report accepted.

**Minute 47** Chip Rorem read the Site Envisioning Committee report detailing several projects. Individual detail items are presently being quoted and scheduled for completion. The campground bath house renovation has gone through bidding and is being refined to provide several upgrades and include volunteer exterior painting if that is needed. Work is planned for later summer and fall so that the facility will be renewed before Annual Sessions 2018. The goal for the wood barn is to preserve the center structure for future use. There is no immediate recommendation regarding a caretaker position, but the committee has identified four local contractors to assist in maintenance and repair projects on the ILYM campus. Options are still being evaluated. Regarding property purchase, Dick Ashdown will approach the owner of the adjacent property again about purchasing the three-quarter acre strip of property south of the meeting house. Various configurations are still under consideration for the Clear Creek House addition. Construction documents on the project have been expanded and reissued for pricing. Report accepted.

**Minute 48** Pam Kuhn presented the Handbook Committee Report. The Handbook and Faith & Practice complement each other, with the former being a repository of the decisions that have been made that describe the specifics of our practice. More than just a summary for the Nominating Committee, the Handbook represents the specific charges the Yearly Meeting gives to each committee or individual with specific responsibility in

order that they may carry out the work during the year. It is an accessible living document that is constantly updated. It is available online. The committee submitted, in the Advance Documents, three recommendations for approval today. The committee further requests that the “Handbook” be added to the banner of the ILYM website rather than as a link under the publications headline. Report accepted.

**Minute 49** Meeting approves the proposed Handbook Description.

**Minute 50** Meeting approves the proposed role of the Handbook Committee.

**Minute 51** Meeting approves the proposed Handbook section on changes in practice or policy in the conduct of business or organization of the yearly meeting.

**Minute 52** Jan Mullen reported for Peace Resources Committee. Through an early member of the committee, David Finke, along with Mark McGinnis and Dan Stevens, the committee is presenting two workshops on conscientious objection during this year’s Annual Sessions. Mark and Dan are also working with the teenage group during this year’s Annual Sessions.

As part of an ongoing participation to eliminate the use of torture, the committee is proposing the below following minute. If approved, this minute will be shared by the Peace Resources Committee on the ILYM website and through the Quaker Initiative to End Torture.

Sanctuary movement: A recent concern among monthly meetings has been the political climate with regard to refugees and immigrants. Some have expressed an interest in the sanctuary movement which has been strongly supported by the American Friends Service Committee in the ‘Sanctuary Everywhere’ program ([afsc.org/sanctuaryeverywhere](http://afsc.org/sanctuaryeverywhere)). The Peace Resources Committee has recently encouraged support of a pending Illinois bill called the Immigration Safe Zones bill and encourages monthly meetings to use the ILYM Yahoo group to share information.

The committee is very enthusiastic about facilitating more communication among monthly meeting peace and social justice committees. It looks forward to hearing from monthly meetings on many of these issues as well as their own initiatives. The committee is using its presence on the ILYM website, the Peace Resources Facebook page, and a Yahoo discussion group to promote social values appropriate to its mission. Report accepted.

**Minute 53** Proposed minute regarding torture:

Illinois Yearly Meeting joins other Friends in other meetings to oppose any practice of purposeful harm, torment, or torture, including solitary confinement, on any person. We condemn all forms of torture.

ILYM believes that the practice of torture does not create or lead to reconciliation. Instead, torture, including that utilized by the United States government, creates fear and demeans and destroys the humanity of all involved. In doing so, it compromises the integrity of law, due process, and international agreements.

In addition, torture violates the belief of the Illinois Yearly Meeting that God is in everyone, by denying the rights of all involved. We believe, as William Penn wrote, “A good end cannot sanctify evil means; nor must we ever do evil that good may come of it.”

Minute approved.

**Minute 54** Peter Lasersohn discussed two sections of Faith and Practice which are being submitted for indefinite approval: The Light Within and Its Religious Implications, and Testimonies. Both sections approved for an indefinite period.

**Minute 55** Sean West reported for Publications and Distribution Committee. The print versions of *Among Friends* through Winter 2017 and the Plummer Lectures are up to date. The website for Blue River Quarterly has moved to WordPress, and the ILYM website will be moved shortly. Issues have been resolved with the content management system. Additional tools on the server will enable the administrator to make global changes. All groups having online content should regularly monitor their material to make sure it is both functioning and current; coordinating with the the Publications and Distribution Committee is much appreciated. Report accepted

**Minute 56** Meeting closed with expectant silence.

## **MINUTES OF THE FOURTH SESSION, Seventh Day, Sixth Month 24, 2017**

**Minute 57** The fourth session opened with waiting worship.

**Minute 58** Presiding Clerk Cathy Garra made the day's announcements and welcomed guests from outside ILYM, Rebecca Harris of Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), Tom Roberts and Brad Jackson from Noblesville Friends Meeting in Indiana as well as first-time attenders Christopher "Topher" Hota from Bloomington-Normal Monthly Meeting, Abraham McFee attending Clear Creek Monthly Meeting, Alexia Wendel and her family from Oak Park Friends Meeting, Mark Jaeger and Janet Elaine Guthrie from Urbana-Champaign Friends Meeting, and Chris Benner from Lake Forest Friends Meeting. Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) announces October 1, 2017 as World Quaker Day.

**Minute 59** Reading Clerk Chris Jocius read an epistle from London Yearly Meeting and then an excerpt from The 2016 Swarthmore Lecture (London) *Mending Broken Hearts, Rebuilding Shattered Lives* by Esther Mombo and Cecile Nyiaramana.

**Minute 60** Caryn Kuhn reported additions to the distributed list from Nominating Committee, noting that there are still some unfilled positions. The work of Nominating Committee is ongoing, including processing further nominations which can be approved at Fall and Spring Continuing Committees. Report accepted. Nomination slate approved.

**Minute 61** Naming Committee presented Steve Tamari to serve as the new clerk of Nominating Committee. Approved.

**Minute 62** Chip Rorem reported on transition planning for maintenance. Instead of appointing a caretaker, the yearly meeting is increasingly working with four local independent contractors: Paul Ebner, Greg Bohn, Marshall Brennan, and Luke Griffith. This is allowing flexibility in deployment and compensation according to needs. Site Envisioning and Maintenance and Planning Committees will be functioning together to support the Stewards in meeting ongoing property maintenance needs. The question of combining these committees will be discussed throughout the year and brought to Continuing Committee. Report accepted.

**Minute 63** Ted Kuhn distributed and discussed a significant revision of the budget which includes the Children's Religious Education Coordinator position. This project anticipates a significantly higher level of voluntary contributions to the operating budget to cover the additional amounts requested for expanded needs, notably in personnel areas including travel. This also includes budgeting for the contractor work identified in Minute 62 above, and other upkeep needs. There are reductions in committee allocations



along with a 10% reduction in gifts to other organizations. The increased income projection reflects the changes approved in Minutes 28 (member-based contributions) and 29 (Annual Sessions fees) above. Discussion centered on meeting our challenges.

**Minute 64** Monica Tetzlaff elaborated on the Children’s Religious Education Coordinator position. The committee requests extension of the position for one year, endorsing Joy Duncan’s continued service, as a quarter-time (500 hours) position; the job description appears on pages 43-44 of the 2016 ILYM Minute Book and will be added to the Handbook. The one year extension of the Children’s Religious Education Coordinator position, and Joy Duncan’s continued service, approved.

**Minute 65** Ted Kuhn brought back the budget for final consideration. Discussion centered on the growth of the yearly meeting associated with increased investment of time and money. The proposed budget for 2017-2018 is approved.

**Minute 66** Ted Kuhn explained the payroll reserves item of the Statement of Fund Activity, proposing a one-time transfer of \$7,500 from the Special Gifts Fund to the Payroll Reserve Fund, supporting the new Children’s Religious Education Coordinator position. Approved.

**Minute 67** Rose Johnson and Brittany Koresch presented the report of the Youth Oversight Committee. The committee has been working on delegation of tasks so as to keep within the hours parameters of the Youth Coordinator position. The report identified the need for procedures involved in filing confidential background checks for those working with children. The report also recommended yearly “Mandated Reporter for Child Abuse” training for committee members. Report accepted.

**Minute 68** Brittany Koresch reported on the activities of Adult Young Friends, especially in communications such as social media and information sharing in monthly meetings. The group distributed paper and online digital copies of an information pamphlet describing the program. This year there was a trial program of offering reduced Annual Sessions fees to young adult Friends who participate in site preparation. This experiment to be evaluated by the Finance Committee and reviewed by the Fall Continuing Committee. Report received.

**Minute 69** Dates for 2018 Annual Sessions: June 20-24, 2018.

**Minute 70** Date and location for 2017 Fall Continuing Committee: South Bend Friends will host in South Bend, Indiana, on Saturday, October 14, 2017.

**Minute 71** David Wixom distributed a report for Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) and pointed out to Friends the spiritual enrichment he experienced through participation with QEW and FCNL. The report addressed the damage that the human species has inflicted and continues to inflict upon our planet. It offered specific encouragements for the awareness and behavioral changes that are necessary for the sake of our continued survival. David referred to an FCNL program on the environment, and a current bipartisan report from a congressional caucus addressing climate change. Report accepted.

**Minute 72** Meeting closed with expectant silence.

## **MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SESSION, First Day, Sixth Month, June 25, 2017**

**Minute 73** The fifth session opened with waiting worship.

**Minute 74** Friends heard epistles from the following groups: Wee Friends, 1st & 2nd grade, 3th-5th grade, middle school, high school, and Adult Young Friends.

**Minute 75** On behalf of the Epistle Committee (Chris Jocius, Brittany Koresch, with assistance from Topher Hota), Brittany Koresch read this year's ILYM Epistle, which will be sent to other yearly meetings. Approved.

**Minute 76** The Exercises Committee (Marie White, Ava Rockafield) read this year's Exercises. Accepted.

**Minute 77** Illinois Yearly Meeting thanks outgoing members of committees for their service to Illinois Yearly Meeting, as well as those who are beginning or extending their service to the yearly meeting. Approved.

**Minute 78** ILYM appreciates the many who have enfolded the Children's Sessions so successfully into the life and spirit of Illinois Yearly Meeting this year. Approved

**Minute 79** ILYM acknowledges with love the 175th anniversary year for Clear Creek Monthly Meeting. Clear Creek was established by Blue River Quarterly Meeting of Indiana Yearly Meeting (Hicksite). Its first meeting for worship as a monthly meeting occurred November 4, 1841 in Putnam County. Approved.

**Minute 80** The 143rd 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 meetinghouse near McNabb on June 20-24, 2018. Date and location for 2017 Fall Continuing Committee: South Bend Friends will host in South Bend, Indiana, on Saturday, October 14, 2017.

Cathy Garra  
Presiding Clerk

Kent Busse  
Recording Clerk

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### 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 2017) 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.

## EXERCISES

### Magic Show on Quaker Lane

Fireflies –	Lying on our bunks
A multitude!	We watched the magic show
Flashing, strobing, blooming.	Through the screen door
Comet streaks	Of our cabin –
Sending silent messages	For hours.
Composed of Light.	Fallen stars among the trees, Looking for Love.

– Pam Timme, Oak Park Friends Meeting, June 23, 2017

Our grounds, which are kept so lovingly by Clear Creek Meeting throughout the year, were prepared by Friends in the days leading up to Annual Sessions. This team was assisted by the Adult Young Friends, joining the group that ranged in age from eight to eighty years old. Site Prep is a time dedicated to the work of cleaning and preparing, but it is also the work of setting an atmosphere. Friends labored over the predicament of repairing our beloved porch benches which was covered in lead paint. As we reached clearness in our small group, two Friends felt led to spend several hours restoring the benches so that it could be safely enjoyed by the community. And enjoy it we did—as a place to rest, catch up with each other, and sing our evening songs before dinner, which combine the lovely voices of many generations. How wonderful that these benches have held up our Friends for so many years, and will hold them for so many more.

We were enriched by the presence of visitors from several Friends organizations and other nearby yearly meetings. We are grateful that representatives of national organizations join us to share their experiences and also become acquainted with Midwestern Friends. This year we were joined by Becca Haines-Rosenberg representing Friends General Conference, Brant Rosen and Jennifer Bing representing the Midwest office of AFSC, Thomas Weber and Jennifer Jensen representing Scattergood Friends School, and Rebecca Harris representing Friends Committee on National Legislation. We also joyfully welcomed Friends from Ohio Yearly Meeting (Conservative), Western Yearly Meeting, and Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting who visit our meeting to enrich their experience of the many varieties of Quakerism (and for fun). We are thankful for all of them, and hold them in the Light.

Throughout the week our work together centered on concern for the future of our yearly meeting: How will we maintain this campus? How will we ensure that our children grow up knowing and loving Quakerism and Illinois Yearly Meeting? How will we provide the foundational religious education we desire, and what resources do we need to achieve such goals? What does it mean that we seem to rely more upon paid assistance and expertise when we once met our needs with the volunteer labor of Friends?

Our business meetings labored over a concerning situation: reduction in giving last year partnered with requests to increase our spending this year. Our hopes to make our meetinghouse and Clear Creek House more accessible and user-friendly will require a substantial increase in giving. The Religious Education Committee's request to continue the position of the Children's Religious Education Coordinator also requires an increase in income. The Finance Committee brought us a balanced budget that will meet some of these needs, and also reminded Friends that it is incumbent upon all to support the meeting by giving our love, time and treasure.

After three years of deliberation Ministry and Advancement presented their proposal for the Harassment and Sexual Abuse policy. We are grateful for the dedicated work on

this policy, and their openness to the changes suggested by Meeting for Business. Upon approval of the new policy, the clerk appointed the Harassment Review Committee for 2016-2017. The policy is to be added to the yearly meeting handbook.

In both business meeting and workshops we gave feedback to the ongoing, very impressive, finally-almost-done Faith and Practice. This project has helped define who “we” are—these Midwestern Friends who gather in the fields outside McNabb every June and then scatter across Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, and Indiana. Friendship, big F or little f, can get messy. Thoughtful, provocative workshops on newly written sections of the Faith and Practice allowed us to examine how we conduct clearness and support committees and our relationship to Friends with addictions.

In other workshops, we explored the possibilities of this year’s theme, “Open Hearts.” Opening one’s heart requires learning. Friends addressed refugee advocacy in “Welcoming the Stranger” and reviewed our ties to Palestine in “Quakers and Gaza.” We reflected on “Conscientious Objection to War,” a practice of the heart we have long employed. While we, like all humans, still conflict with one another at times, there were quiet testimonies to opening hearts: Friends pouring coffee from their own cups when the pot ran out, Friends who drove hours just for a square dance, Friends who give up hours of their time staying up late to keep records, cook delicious meals, and fix the broken things without being asked. Friends, we see you. We appreciate you. Friends, we thank you, for opening your hearts.

On Thursday, we celebrated 175 years of Clear Creek Meeting and the rich gifts they have provided to us and the local community over the years. We were reminded of how that meeting has changed over the years from a local meeting constituted of Quaker families that lived up and down Quaker Lane, and on nearly all the adjacent properties, to a meeting stretched across this central portion of Illinois, with some Friends traveling 1-2 hours to attend First Day Meeting for Worship. Their numbers have decreased but the Spirit remains strong. We share concern for their decreasing numbers, and what that bodes for their future and ours.

An attractive, safe, sustainable campus will provide a foundation for future gatherings. Investing in the spiritual care of our children today lays the groundwork for committed and capable adults in years to come. Our actions today ensure the future of our meeting, and Friends are called upon to be generous and forward-thinking.

Friday night means square dancing on the lawn and watermelon for dessert. The dress code usually calls for bare feet, especially when there are water balloon fights like this year. The piano was moved out onto the porch for the occasion. An astonishing number of fireflies lit our evening jaunts to the bath house, Clear Creek House, or the traditional young Friends’ walk to the cemetery.

On Saturday evening, Jay Marshall of Earlham School of Religion presented his talk, “Knowing, Being, Doing: The Journey Toward Open Hearts.” He began by noting that there is a palpable feeling of love and affection among us and reminded us to be grateful for this blessing. He went on to ask us to consider why we feel the imperative to open our hearts. Do we seek to convert the other? He believes that the best reason for open hearts is because we want to know and appreciate the various perspectives and we want to be known and counted among them. He advised us to draw upon grace, rootedness, presence, and hospitality as we open our hearts.

As we worship together with attention to the paths our monthly meetings are taking, we are reminded to hold each other in the Light. A yearly meeting is a large body to care for. An historic meetinghouse, with acres of land, is a large body to care for. But care we

do, because we have grown up here. Whether we have grown from children, climbing trees in the yard; or adolescents, playing Wink for the first time; or even as adults, finding the Spirit here at last, we return year after year for a reason, sacred to each of us, and that same reason will be what leads us to continue, and to thrive.

## EPISTLES

### 2017 ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING

Dear Friends Everywhere,

As Charles Dickens memorably wrote, “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.” Historians view history as a basic model or paradigm to see the past as a process of continuity versus change. Many of us are challenged to understand the change in our lives and in our culture on a local, regional, national, and international level. Aspects of this concern are pulsating within meetings throughout Illinois Yearly Meeting (ILYM), especially recently. In part, this epistle is based on active listening to Friends within our meetings, following ILYM Announcements, and reading meeting newsletters. The communities of conversation, among old friends and new friends, cultivated connections among us. During the last year, Friends shared concerns of racism and connecting with Muslim communities.

Four decades ago, during an interview James Baldwin, the author and social activist replied to television personality, Dick Cavett’s query, “Why aren’t Negroes more optimistic? It’s getting so much better.” Baldwin replied “It’s not a question of what happens to the Negro. The real question is what is going to happen to this country.” His answer still seems relevant today. What could we do to help the country move forward to make it better for black lives? What was the need and what will would we do about it? There was a need for more information about being a good ally. This started with active listening and increasing engagement. Many Friends individually viewed the recent documentary “*I am Not Your Negro*” based on the writings of Baldwin. Several meetings have acted by engaging with black communities and learning about black culture. St. Louis Meeting hosted a movie night where they showed *13th*. This movie was directed by Ava Duvernay and is about the thirteenth amendment and the prison system. Friends in Urbana-Champaign also watched this film in a community-wide event. Further north, Friends in Evanston engaged in a weekly program entitled DAR (Discussion About Racism) where they attend events, showed films, and had talks about racism in their community.

What other needs do we have as a community? How do we adapt to the rapid changes in newsfeeds and media? Friends across ILYM assessed this need and began to take action. Evanston, Urbana-Champaign, and Northside meetings worked with leaders in Muslim community centers and mosques to arrange times for Friends to visit these places. This was another example of increasing communication and being an active listener. By visiting new places and having new experiences with an open mind and open heart, Friends can increase their empathy with others whom they may not typically engage with.

How have these actions reflected our Quaker principles and actions of the past? Historically, Friends have a strong history taking social action to begin to break the frequent pattern of being a passive members in their community, such as going to prison for not attending the required Church of England. By 1700, 7,000 were imprisoned for their Quaker beliefs and practices. Here in ILYM, during the past year, meetings have

enacted change within their own meeting and beyond. In the coming year, Friends can continue to create change by assessing their meetings needs, discovering why that need is there, then using Quaker process to make social change a reality.

I'm Nobody! Who are you?  
Are you – Nobody – too?  
Then there's a pair of us!  
Don't tell! they'd advertise – you know!

-I'm Nobody! Who are you? by Emily Dickinson

### **Epistle from Adult Young Friends**

“Excuse me! Please ma’am do not pick up the baby goats.” Apparently the Bloomington Zoo has rules that it does not post but rather has twelve year olds that they gift the title “Junior Zookeeper” the job of snootily bequeathing this eleventh commandment upon you.

The Adult Young Friends year started the weekend before Annual Session by identifying and then clearing raccoon poop in order to put up our tent. This story was retold over and over so many times, but this particular penmaster chose to tune it out each and every time (#gross).

The week continued as we intermingled with the wider ILYM by participating in Nordic workshops, dueting Lady Gaga during herding children, contra dancing, and doing the worm across the front lawn. We spent a larger portion of our beyond the AYF time mentoring the High Schoolers.

The first lesson of mentorship came when we trounced the lumpings in Wink. We may have won first blood (FIRST BLOOD!). We also have photographic evidence of pinning while glamour shot posing on top of the weaklings. We finished our paired time with the high schoolers by continuing the tradition of stealing their pizza. However, they got us back by putting not one, but two types of olives on Hawaiian pizza and not cleaning up after themselves.

Other stuff we did included, but were not limited to, making essential oils, doodling, trekking to the graveyard (tradition), making crayon mandalas, cursing Islamophobia, planning our weekend long fall retreat in Bloomington, WEIRD, retelling the story of a girl who fell into a well, and supervising the bonfire in which zero Quaker and non-Quaker children were burned (#responsibility). However, if some of said Quaker and non-Quaker children believe that unpopped popcorn kernels are actually children’s teeth, it is not our fault.

We must conclude the 2017 ILYM AYF epistle with the immortal word of Tom Hanks, “There’s no crying in baseball!”

### **Epistle from High School Friends**

Angel: Are you a 14-18 year old Quaker who lives in the Midwest with a passion for camping?

Devil: Do you enjoy little because of bugs in your bed or smelling less than appealing?

Angel: Then I have the place for you! ILYM high school friends is searching for new...

Devil: VICTIMS!

Angel: Participants.

Devil: Oh yes, participants. At ILYM, you get cold showers and hay rides with no hay.

Angel: But lots of friendly children! We did a scavenger hunt on Thursday. That was really fun, right?

Devil: Yeah, if you like being tortured by third grade arithmetic and over complicated word scrambles.

Angel: Remember when we played Wink with AYF and crushed them?

Devil: More like got crushed BY them. And then on Friday we could not go to Starved Rock because it got rained out.

Angel: Yeah, so we went to the zoo with cute animals.

Devil: Smelly animals.

Angel: Cute!

Devil: Smelly!

Angel: And then we created care packages for foster kids moving into new homes.

Devil: Yeah, I guess that was rewarding.

Angel: Then we tie dyed shirts with indigo and...

Devil: ONIONS! It smelled like onions!

Angel: Moving on. Then some of us had fun dancing on the lawn.

Devil: Yeah, some of us.

Angel: We learned about lobbying & supporting our favorite causes with FCNL representative, Rebecca Harris, on Saturday morning. Also, Kiva is our new co-clerk.

Everyone: Yay...

Angel: And she's gonna be great at it. Then we played cards.

Devil: But it was only fun if you were Nathan and won every game.

Angel: That night we went to the campfire.

Devil: With lots of bugs.

Angel: And children!

Devil: Same thing.

Angel: Then we got to walk to the graveyard late at night, and Nathan scared us all with his Nixon mask.

Devil: It was even scary.

Angel: We had a great time at ILYM. You should join us next year!

Devil: Or not.

### **Epistle from Middle School Friends**

Our first day we did yoga,  
Received notebooks and pens  
To answer queries posed to us  
While we were with our friends.

We wrote our hopes on prayer flags,  
Before, during, and after snack.  
And that was the end of the first day,  
But then next day we came back.

Our second day we made soap  
In the shape of brains and moons.  
It all smelled like peppermint.  
And then we all screamed like loons.

Our third day we whirled like dervishes.  
And learned about the yearly meeting.  
And all the history.

And this is the tablecloth,  
We drew upon while making prayer flags.  
Beautifully, we made it unintentionally.  
It should have been our epistle,  
But people intervened.

### **Epistle from 3rd to 5th Grade Friends**

Everyday day we went to morning assembly, read a book, ate snacks and played twangle. On Thursday, we played bed sheet badminton and make fidget spinners. On Friday we played with a giant beach ball which sadly popped, and Ted talked to us about the Finance Committee. On Saturday, we played capture the flag disgolf version, and Maurine visited in costume to tell us a story about Caroline Lukens, a significant ILYM Quaker in history. Finally we chanted and made portraits for each other in a circle using each other's backs for a drawing board.

### **Epistle from 1st and 2nd Grade Friends**

On Thursday it was blood red and heart-shaped black walnuts

Plus love for people and the earth

Elias, Luke, Milo, Machai, Sam, and Wayra with Aunt Christina and Uncle Steve in tow  
Nudged we Quakers toward friendship, I-love-yous, and light toward

Heart opening, good neighborliness, happiness and

Efforts to open, not close, corazóns and to share them

And parables about the Christmas truce, a New Orleans trombone player, spiders and  
a Samaritan

Reminding us of the power of accepting love

Through music and meeting for worship as we cierra los ojos before Dios

So, we opened hearts to one another by being together and, best of all, swinging on a tire.

### **Epistle from PreK to Kindergarten Friends (3 to 5-year-olds)**

While we started each day with planned activities we accepted that the weather and the children themselves would make the final plans, in their own way and at their own pace.

We shared time, listening, stories, activities and play. We witnessed the children sharing with each other unbidden. A lasting lesson was given to all by a three-year-old. When one child became very concerned that the tent in which we were meeting would blow down, a comment was made that she might be a worry wart. A three-year-old popped up and said, "I'm not a worry wart, I'm a problem solver." All the children blessed us with grace, wisdom, wonder and love.

#### **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.



**ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION/BALANCE SHEET**  
**FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2017**

	<b>End Balance</b> <b>6/30/2017</b>	<b>Opening Balance</b> <b>7/1/2016</b>
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash		
Checking Account	263,459.98	221,699.52
Friends Meetinghouse Fund	10,000.00	10,000.00
Paypal	<u>523.96</u>	<u>198.45</u>
Total Cash	237,983.94	231,897.97
Accounts Receivable	1,412.00	3080.00
Undeposited Funds	3,842.50	12,530.50
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b><u>279,238.44</u></b>	<b><u>247,508.47</u></b>
 <b>Liabilities</b>		
Loans from Individuals	1,000.00	1,000.00
Accounts Payable	3,842.46	403.59
Payroll Taxes Payable	0.00	
Funds Held for 2017 Women's Weekend	<u>0.00</u>	<u>100.00</u>
Total Liabilities	4,842.46	1,503.59
 <b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted Undesignated	60,625.19	53,234.09
Unrestricted Designated	162,739.44	142,739.44
Temporarily Restricted	<u>51,031.35</u>	<u>50,031.35</u>
Total Net Assets	274,395.98	246,004.88
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b><u>279,238.44</u></b>	<b><u>247,508.47</u></b>

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.

**ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING - MONTHLY MEETING CONTRIBUTIONS  
 JULY 1, 2016 - JUNE 30, 2017 (PREPARED 8/18/17)**

	Unrestricted	Property	World Conference	Total
Blue River Quarterly	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bloomington-Normal	1,680.00	0.00	0.00	1,680.00
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	7,250.00	0.00	0.00	7,250.00
Duneland	1,920.00	0.00	0.00	1,920.00
Evanston	14,160.00	0.00	0.00	14,160.00
57th Street	3,400.00	0.00	0.00	3,400.00
Lake Forest	16,500.00	0.00	0.00	16,500.00
Northside	2,032.05	0.00	0.00	2,032.05
Oak Park	3,120.00	0.00	0.00	3,120.00
Oshkosh	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
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	1,560.00	0.00	0.00	1,560.00
Spoon River	720.00	0.00	0.00	720.00
Springfield	200.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
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
<b>Total</b>	<u>84,827.05</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>84,627.05</u>

**MONTHLY MEETING  
 RECOMMENDED ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION  
 PER ADULT RESIDENT MEMBER  
 IS \$252.**

**ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING  
STATEMENT OF FUND ACTIVITY  
FOR THE PERIOD 7/1/2016 - 6/30/2017 (PREPARED 8/18/17)**

	Balance 7/1/2016	Income	Expenses	Budgeted Transfers	Other Transfers	Balance 6/30/2017
<b>ASSETS</b>						
UNRESTRICTED						
1. General Operating	53,234.09	131,754.67	(111,863.57)	(12,500.00)	0.00	60,625.109
UNRESTRICTED DESIGNATED						
2. Special Gifts	42,361.24	7,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	49,861.24
3. Current Projects	9,122.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,122.17
4. Payroll Reserves	36,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	36,000.00
5. FWCC World Meetings	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
6. Maintenance Reserve	54,256.03	0.00	0.00	11,500.00	0.00	65,756.03
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED						
7. Property Improvement	50,031.35	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	51,031.35
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>246,004.88</u>	<u>140,254.67</u>	<u>(111,863.57)</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>274,395.98</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>						
Loans from Individuals	1,000.00					1,000.00
Accounts Payable/other Liabs	503.59					3,842.46
<b>TOTAL CASH</b>	<u>247,508.47</u>					<u>279,238.44</u>

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

## ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING OPERATING BUDGET 2017-2018

	2017-2018 Budget	2016-2017 Actual	2016-2017 Budget
<b>Income</b>			
Contributions from Meetings	84,000	84,627	82,000
Contributions from Individuals	35,700	27,394	22,450
Other Contributions	0	0	0
Gatherings & Retreats	17,900	19,040	14,000
Fundraisers & Other Income	0	35	0
Interest	400	658	600
<i>Total Income</i>	<u>138,000</u>	<u>131,755</u>	<u>119,050</u>
<b>Expenses &amp; Transfers</b>			
Operating			
Personnel (Payroll, Staff Travel, Office)	(59,915)	(54,216)	(49,750)
YM Travel Support	(4,500)	(2,500)	(6,500)
Gatherings & Retreats	(16,800)	(18,790)	(13,000)
Site (Facilities & Deferred Maint)	(23,500)	(18,957)	(16,200)
Committees	(10,700)	(6,751)	(12,550)
Support to Others	(9,585)	(10,650)	(9,550)
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	<u>(125,000)</u>	<u>(111,684)</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)
<i>Faith and Practice</i> Publication Reserve	(500)		
Total Expenses & Transfers	(138,000)	(124,364)	(119,050)
<b>Net General Fund Income (Deficit)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7,391</b>	<b>0</b>

### EXPENSE LINE ITEM DETAILS

#### (1) Personnel

Salaries & Payroll	(52,315)	(42,964)	(43,700)
Staff Travel	(6,600)	(4,978)	(5,500)
Office	(1,000)	(774)	(1,000)
Contingency	0	(5,500)	(5,000)
<i>Total</i>	<u>(59,915)</u>	<u>(54,216)</u>	<u>(55,200)</u>

#### (2) YM Travel Support

ILYM Committee Travel	(1,000)	0	(2,000)
ILYM Reps Travel	(3,500)	(2,500)	(2,500)
<i>Total</i>	<u>(4,500)</u>	<u>(2,500)</u>	<u>(4,500)</u>

#### (3) Site

Annual Facilities Expenses (Oversight: Stewards)			
Insurance	(5,500)	(5,570)	(5,500)
Routine Maintenance	(5,500)	(4,071)	(1,200)
Urgent Maintenance	(2,000)		
Mowing & Tree Trimming	(5,500)	(5,495)	(5,000)
Annual Services (inspections, winterizing)	(1,500)	(1,670)	(1,500)
Utilities	(3,500)	(2,151)	(3,000)
<i>Total</i>	<u>(23,500)</u>	<u>(18,957)</u>	<u>(16,700)</u>

**ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING, OPERATING BUDGET 2017-2018**  
**EXPENSE LINE ITEM DETAILS (CONT.)**

	<b>2017-2018 Budget</b>	2016-2017 Actual	2016-2017 Budget
<b>(4) Committees</b>			
Ad hoc	<b>(50)</b>	0	(100)
Adult Young Friends	<b>(250)</b>	(182)	(300)
Children's Religious Education	<b>(250)</b>	(211)	(300)
Development	<b>(750)</b>	(581)	(1,100)
Environmental Concerns	<b>(150)</b>	(20)	(200)
Faith and Practice	<b>(100)</b>	0	(150)
Finance	<b>(100)</b>	(59)	(450)
Handbook	<b>(50)</b>	0	(50)
Maintenance and Planning	<b>(150)</b>	(198)	(200)
Ministry and Advancement	<b>(200)</b>	0	(250)
Nominating	<b>(250)</b>	(37)	(300)
Peace Resources	<b>(200)</b>	(50)	(250)
Peace Tax Fund	<b>(50)</b>	0	(50)
Personnel	<b>(100)</b>	0	(150)
Publications	<b>(5,500)</b>	(4,484)	(6,000)
Site Envisioning	<b>(150)</b>	(31)	(200)
Youth Oversight	<b>(2,400)</b>	(898)	(2,500)
<i>Total</i>	<b>(10,700)</b>	(6,751)	(12,550)
<b>(5) Support to Others</b>			
Quaker organizations to which ILYM assigns representatives			
Friends General Conference (FGC)	<b>(3,600)</b>	(4000)	(4,000)
Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)	<b>(3,150)</b>	(3,500)	(3,500)
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)	<b>(360)</b>	(400)	(400)
Friends Cmte. on Natl Legislation Edu. Fund (FCNL)	<b>(360)</b>	(400)	(400)
Friends Peace Teams (FPT)	<b>(270)</b>	(300)	(300)
Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW)	<b>(225)</b>	(250)	(250)
Friends for Lesbian & Gay Concerns (FLGBTQC)	<b>(45)</b>	(50)	(50)
Regional Quaker educational institutions			
Chicago Friends School (CFS)	<b>(270)</b>	(300)	(300)
Scattergood School	<b>(180)</b>	(200)	(200)
Earlham College	<b>(180)</b>	(200)	(200)
Earlham School of Religion (ESR)	<b>(90)</b>	(100)	(100)
Olney Friends School	<b>(90)</b>	(100)	(100)
Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR)	<b>(270)</b>	(300)	(300)
Project Lakota	<b>(180)</b>	(200)	(200)
Friends Journal	<b>(180)</b>	(200)	(200)
National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT)	<b>(90)</b>	(100)	(100)
Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO)	<b>(45)</b>	(50)	(50)
<i>Total</i>	<b>(9,585)</b>	(10,650)	(10,650)

## YEARLY MEETING REPORTS

### CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (See Minutes 33-34, 64)

**Children's Religious Education Coordinator:** The CRE Committee was grateful that our vision for a coordinator came to fruition with the experiment of having a part-time staff member of ILYM to oversee children's programming at Blue River Quarterly and in preparation for the 2017 Annual Sessions. Much of our work in 2016 was in discussion of the parameters of the CRE Coordinator position and then the search and screen process for this position. In January of 2017, we were thrilled that Joy Duncan accepted our offer to be the part-time Religious Education Coordinator. We had already been supporting Joy and Marcy Harmon in putting together a middle school program, which began with a retreat at Continuing Committee in the fall of 2017 at Clear Creek House at McNabb. The SnowQuake in February 2017, hosted by 57th Street Meeting, provided excellent children's and intergenerational programming led by Joy as a volunteer. Joy began serving as a staff member on March 1, 2017 and organized the Middle School program of Blue River Quarterly. She attended a Quaker conference on religious education in May and has been working with Barb Harroun and Erin Taylor, as well as Mike Dennis who is organizing the service project, to plan the Children's Sessions at ILYM Annual Sessions. That will be the end of the Children's Coordinator experiment for now. The Children's Religious Education Committee asks that ILYM fund a quarter-time Children's Religious Education Coordinator for the next year for the following reasons:

1. Children's ministry is vitally important to meetings and Friends as a whole. Our vision is to embracing the children and bringing them into worship, service, and community as much as possible. Part of the reason the ILYM Children's Sessions are more organized this year, and the planning has been smooth for the volunteer coordinators, is that it is an actual position. Joy was able to carry her knowledge from coordinating last year's session forward. There is an ease and lack of intimidation for those who are the Children's Sessions coordinators.
2. Our community is built on volunteer labor and ministry, but you can have a lot of good people and no central focus because there is no organizer. A staff person takes responsibility and keeps the program organized.
3. For a while, a volunteer can play the role of a staff person, but eventually they burn out. If you do not have someone who is dedicated and central, the volunteers can get frustrated and quit. Things can fall through the cracks.
4. We have meetings with First Day Schools, and we have a number of meetings without them (even though there are children in some of them). There are other meetings without middle or high school programs. What the Children's Religious Education Coordinator offers is family or multi-generational retreats during the year, providing middle school programming and keeping kids connected. A coordinator can help other meetings have events like Snowquake. Our meetings are small and spread out, even in the Chicago-metro area. We need to keep fostering the connections, especially across the generations. Our style of worship makes it challenging for children. We have to get creative and commit to children's education and connections across distance. The children who stay involved with Quakerism long term tend to be the ones that get involved in the yearly meeting.

5. Quakers have a message that the world needs—mysticism, but being in the world, not a monastery. If we are going to continue into the future, we need to nurture our children in faith and practice as they go out into the world.

**Our Whole Lives Training:** The CRE committee has also been discussing a new curriculum that all meetings can benefit from: the Our Whole Lives (OWL) program for children and teens, which had caught the attention of Evanston Monthly Meeting. OWL is a program designed by the Unitarian Universalists. It is “a comprehensive, lifespan sexuality education curricula for use in both secular settings and faith communities” ([www.uua.org/re/owl](http://www.uua.org/re/owl)). Based on the information presented by committee member Michael Pine and conversations between Joy Duncan and Robyn Sullivan of Evanston Monthly Meeting, the CRE Committee approved asking ILYM for help in funding a training retreat for ILYM members interested in doing this work. In May 2017, we learned that there would be an OWL training in Rockford, Ill. in the fall of 2017 and that Evanston Meeting had committed to funding attendance by several members and their part-time religious education coordinator, Charlotta Koppányani. We are asking ILYM to fund Joy Duncan’s attendance at this conference and are committed to publicizing it as an opportunity for other monthly meetings to send Friends to be trained in the curriculum.

We appreciate the opportunity to serve ILYM by overseeing children’s ministry and we look forward to the continued work and joy this offers us and others who are in touch with the committee’s work and see the fruits in their meetings.

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

## **Children’s Religious Education Coordinator** (See Minute 26)

I want to start by thanking you for creating this new ILYM position. It has been a tremendous year since last year’s Annual Sessions in terms of children/youth programming. In just a year it is obvious to me that more ILYM programming has made a significant difference. I strongly recommend continuing this momentum on a yearly meeting level.

As the Children’s Sessions Overall Coordinator for the Chicago South Planning Group last summer, my eyes were opened to things that I had not noticed before:

- Too many ILYM monthly meetings do not have First Day School (FDS). Interestingly enough, some of our youth claim to be associated with these meetings without children’s religious education.
- ILYM monthly meetings are in general small and if they have a FDS, they struggle with what to do with a small number of children with a wide range of ages.
- Only two ILYM monthly meetings other than my own have FDS specifically for middle school children. This is so important because this is an age when these Friends can go deeper with their faith or they can feel unsupported and fall away from Friends.
- ILYM Annual Sessions are often the only opportunity our children/youth get to come together with other similarly-aged children/youth.
- ILYM covers a huge area and ranges across 5 states. We are geographically isolated from each other.



These are the facts as I see them and they lead me to see the intensity of the need for more connections within ILYM and more opportunities for religious education that is spearheaded by the yearly meeting.

I have responded to this need throughout this year. I organized and led a middle school retreat with Marcy Harman during fall continuing committee (as volunteers). We had 11 middle schoolers attend.

As the ILYM Children's Religious Education Coordinator, I planned and led the middle school program during the Spring Blue River Quarterly gathering. Eight Middle School Young Friends participated in that weekend retreat.

Another big part of my job has been planning 2017 ILYM Children's Sessions. Working with Erin Taylor and Barb Haroun on this has been a pleasure and has made such a big difference in ILYM planning. We are continuing the momentum that was begun last summer. Children's Sessions is a place that connections are being made in a big way. During 2016 Annual Sessions, the Peace Resources Committee and the Environmental Concerns Committee worked with the children, sharing what they do and inviting the children into that work with activities. This year the Finance Committee and the Maintenance and Planning Committees will do the same. The significance of this cannot be understated.

My most recent news is that I applied for a Lyman Grant to travel to New England Yearly Meeting for three Junior High Yearly Meeting retreats over the next nine months and to be mentored by Gretchen Baker-Smith, who has been deep in this spiritual work for 25 years. The idea is to bring back my experience and new knowledge to my monthly meeting and ILYM. My proposal was accepted and it is very exciting.

You are noticing that I focused on Middle School Young Friends this year. But this is not the only need. I also know of a great need for multigenerational programming as well as programming for families, High School Friends, and Adult Young Friends within ILYM.

I know we, as a yearly meeting, are seriously concerned about the budget and making ends meet. I want to turn that idea on its head and tell you that we cannot afford to continue the way we are with regard to religious education and programs in ILYM. This model of scarcity will only continue to weaken us and make us afraid to make changes.

The purpose of religious education is to awaken a person to the life of the spirit and to provide some context for spiritual formation—for discovering your identity as a spiritual and/or religious person. Religious education is a life-long process that begins in childhood and continues throughout our whole lives.

It is not a successful model to expect young adults, newcomers to Quakerism, and families with children to put this together all on their own without preparation, resources, or support from the wider Quaker community. Meanwhile older Friends bemoan our inability to hold onto our Quaker children/youth when they become middle schoolers, high schoolers, young adults, and so on.

Let's focus on families for a minute. Most families bring their kids to Quakerism because they want and need support with religious education. Isn't this our job as members of the Religious Society of Friends? For me, it is barely scratching the surface to say that we need to do this for the future of Quakerism. The real reward is in the here and now. Working with children can be an extremely rich spiritual experience. Broadening our experience with the Divine through singing, fellowship, sharing stories, worship sharing and more will make us a richer, more vital faith community. All this work to include, nurture and welcome families and children will be an experience that will help us grow, not only in numbers, but more importantly grow and renew us spiritually.

Religious education is about sharing our rich, amazing Quakerism—what we believe, how we work and what our experience of the Divine is with the world starting with the ones who are already here with us, all the adults, families, youth/children and everyone. This is how we answer that of God in our members/attenders of all ages.

I have a proposal. I want to continue on as the Children’s Religious Education Coordinator for the next year, running two Middle School Young Friends overnights (fall and spring) and also a retreat for families, as well as providing support and continuity for ILYM children’s sessions. I will continue the tradition of 57th St. Meeting’s SnowQuake as a multigenerational event that has been going strong for three years already (to be clear, this is not part of the staff position). This model of a monthly meeting with energy and leadership that hosts an event that welcomes all ILYM Friends, seems to be particularly suited to the demographics of our yearly meeting. As the Children’s Religious Education Coordinator, I would encourage and offer support to other monthly meetings to hold similar events without actually running them as a staff person myself (keeping in mind budget concerns). This proposal speaks to the need for ILYM to take ownership of meaningful religious education programming for more than four days each year (Annual Sessions). ILYM support is essential because of the five points I highlighted at the beginning of this report. This is big, radical work that has the power to transform individual Friends, our monthly meetings, our yearly meeting and even the world at this critical time.

I am deeply grateful to the ILYM Children’s Religious Education Committee and especially to the children and families of ILYM. We are all growing in this work together and I feel a huge commitment to my religious education ministry.

Joy Duncan, ILYM Children’s Religious Education Coordinator

**DEVELOPMENT** (See Minute 32)

<b>Type of Contribution</b>	<b>Fiscal 2015-2016</b>	<b>Fiscal 2016-2017</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Individual Undesignated	\$27,965.36	\$22,858.93	18% DECREASE
General Fund (Monthly Meetings)	\$69,566.50	\$63,324.70	9% DECREASE
Restricted/Designated	\$ 6,470.00	\$ 7,500.00	16% INCREASE

Individual contributions to the yearly meeting for the 2015-16 fiscal year exceeded expectations. At the 2016 Annual Sessions the Yearly Meeting approved a \$5,000 increase in the 2016-17 budgeted income for individual contributions. The table above indicates that the expected increase in donations has not yet happened; instead there has been a decrease.

At the 2016 Annual Sessions, the Finance Committee and the Development Committee indicated that increases in monthly meeting contributions were highly unlikely. The table above provides evidence that reinforces that opinion.

The regular expenses of the yearly meeting for the next fiscal year are likely to exceed expected contributions. This issue will be addressed in the report of the Finance Committee. The Development Committee reports only on the success of raising needed funds and the likelihood of being able to raise needed funds.

The table above clearly indicates that the yearly meeting has a serious financial problem. We have not yet raised the funds that we expected to need for this year’s budget. It does not look likely that enough funds will be raised during the coming year

unless expenses are controlled (either by not increasing or somewhat reducing them) or expensive and extensive fundraising is done (or both).

It should be noted that the cost of the annual appeal letter has been kept to approximately \$500. More extensive fundraising will necessitate additional appeal letters and individual contacts. This will necessitate an increase in Development Committee expenses.

All of these matters must be carefully considered by the Yearly Meeting at the 2017 Annual Session. Attention must also be given to whether qualified volunteers are willing and available to undertake the fundraising work necessary to meet expanded budget goals. It should be noted that the Development Committee membership this year is three people. One is non-resident and the other two are non-resident during the winter months.

Frank Young, Development Committee Clerk

## **ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS** (See Minute 13)

The Environmental Concerns Committee has only met in the fall of 2016.

In response to concerns about the osage orange trees that have been planted on the west side of the property, a clearness committee was held on August 21, 2016 with Clear Creek Friends and other representatives from various committees, clerked by Judy Wolicki. As a result of the findings, Adrian Fisher, Noel Pavlovic, and Chris Goode met in the winter to discuss and redesign the windbreak that we had proposed previously.

The revised windbreak plan has not yet been presented to the rest of the committee, but will be done prior to Annual Sessions. At Annual Sessions, we will present the design as a poster with questionnaires and also as a workshop. We hope to have feedback to present a revised plan to the Continuing Committee in the fall of 2017. We will also present the plan to Clear Creek Friends during the summer.

Due to the rainy and inclement weather and the cancellation of the work weekend in May, we hope to address property landscaping issues that were identified last fall at site preparation on June 17.

We have two actions items that we want to present to the Yearly Meeting. We request permission to remove half of the Osage orange saplings so that there spacing is 20 feet apart. We also request permission to mulch the remaining trees in the interim to assist with protecting the trees and managing the grass adjacent to them. We will use the 2017-2018 budget to purchase mulch. We estimate the mulch for the 18 remaining Osage orange trees will cost approximately \$100.

Clerk Noel Pavlovic, and committee members Alice Howenstine,  
Bill Howenstine, Sarah Pavlovic, Fariba Murray, Chris Goode,  
David Wixom, Adrian Fisher, Don Moorman and Nancy Halliday.

## **FAITH AND PRACTICE** (See Minutes 16-18, 41, 54)

The Faith and Practice Committee has met five times since the 2016 sessions of Illinois Yearly Meeting, and has held several workshops with monthly meetings to receive feedback on various texts.

Our attention this year has been divided among several new and existing texts. We reviewed the following sections whose provisional periods are now expiring, and made a number of revisions. These are indicated by underlining new material and striking

through material to be deleted. We now propose that these texts be adopted for an indefinite period: The Light Within and its Religious Implications (adopted 2014 for a 3-year period); Testimonies (adopted 2014–2015 for a period ending 2017; no revisions proposed); Quarterly Meetings (adopted 2012 for a 5-year period); and Sample Membership Form (adopted 2012 for a 5-year period).

The following two sections have been workshopped and revised several times but not yet considered by the yearly meeting body. We now propose that they be adopted for a one-year provisional period: Friends and the State, and Pastoral Care.

Two newer sections will be presented and discussed at workshops at our yearly meeting sessions this year: Addiction, Substance Abuse, and Gambling, and Clearness and Support Committees. We welcome comments and suggestions for how to improve these sections, whether in the workshops or communicated separately.

A draft of the following section is also available for comment, although no workshop on it is being held during the yearly meeting sessions: Glossary.

We continue to work on the following section, in light of a very helpful recent workshop with Southern Illinois Meeting: Recognizing Spiritual Gifts and Leadings.

The following sections are still in the planning or early development stages, but we hope to have them ready for presentation next year: Religious Education, History of Illinois Yearly Meeting, Sexuality and Gender, and Preface.

We continue to consider summer 2018 to be our target date for having a complete draft of the entire book. The committee welcomes all comments and suggestions, and urges Friends to communicate them early.

## **FINANCE (See Minute 31)**

Finance committee was in unity with a proposal to reduce Annual Session fees for Adult Young Friends who help with site preparation prior to the Annual Sessions in 2017. We will evaluate this experiment and report back to Fall Continuing Committee.

Finance Committee is continuing to support the Stewards, Site Envisioning Committee, and Maintenance and Planning Committee with ongoing work, including the renovations to the bathhouse approved at Continuing Committee.

Finance committee is concerned about the ongoing financial sustainability of the yearly meeting. We have a large property to maintain, which we appreciate greatly, but which has ongoing maintenance costs. Having a property allows us to charge very low fees for annual sessions compared to if we had to rent space from another institution. In addition, we have hard working staff members to whom we would like to give cost of living raises each year, and ILYM has other tasks which would benefit from additional staff, as the Children's Religious Education Coordinator and property caretaker. On the other hand, we are seeing declining contributions both from our monthly meetings and individual Friends as of our April meeting.

Therefore, we present the following two action items:

- 1) We propose increasing the recommended contribution 5% from monthly meetings to \$252 per adult resident member. This increase is calculated to match the salary increases we have given to our staff over the past 5 years. In addition, Finance Committee intends to recommend future increases equivalent to the increase in staff salary each year. This amount is still a recommended amount, recognizing that some of the monthly meetings have very small budgets, and

that the monthly meetings are also facing budget strains. However, we think it is important to recognize that ILYM's fiscal needs expand by a small amount each year, and that we need increased contributions to meet those needs.

2) We propose increasing the Annual Session fee to \$42 per adult per day for 2018. This amount is designed to cover some (but not all) of the property maintenance costs, recognizing that Annual Sessions is one of the biggest users of the ILYM campus, and that having the property available makes Annual Sessions much lower cost than for yearly meetings that are not as fortunate.

Finance committee will be presenting a proposed fiscal year 2017-2018 budget for discernment to the Yearly Meeting. In addition to the operating budget shown, we note that any increase in permanent staff positions will require an increase in payroll reserves.

Submitted by Ted Kuhn, clerk

## **HANDBOOK** (See Minutes 48-51)

As the Illinois Yearly Meeting book of Faith and Practice (F&P) nears completion, with more sections being provisionally approved each Annual Sessions, the Handbook Committee has been considering how the Handbook and F&P can best complement each other. We would like to remind Friends that while some parts of F&P are probably taken from the Handbook (a good source) and it sometimes reads like the Handbook, it does not replace the Handbook. Some things we noted:

- While F&P gives a general description of the practices of the yearly meeting, the Handbook gives many more details of our Quaker process.
- The Handbook is a repository of the decisions that have been made that describe the specifics of our practice. It is the place people go when they want to know who to contact about a specific concern or if they want to understand how a committee functions.
- More than just a summary for the Nominating Committee, the Handbook represents the specific charges the yearly meeting gives to each committee or individual with specific responsibility in order that they may carry out the work during the year.
- The Handbook is a living document that is constantly updated with the latest information. It is flexible (in a three-ring binder or online). The information is (hopefully) easy to access.

The committee recommends the following new description of the Handbook:

### Handbook Description

The Handbook communicates the specifics of Quaker process for the functioning of the Illinois Yearly Meeting as a body. The Handbook is descriptive rather than prescriptive. It is a compilation of the Yearly Meeting decisions that describe the direction, practice, and organization of the yearly meeting. The Handbook reflects the most up-to-date minutes or approved committee reports from Annual Sessions or in some cases Continuing Committee. The Handbook also includes important approved documents such as the ILYM by-laws. The Handbook is a resource and reminder to individuals and committees of the charge given by the Yearly Meeting at Annual Sessions. It provides information to various people in ILYM such as officers, committee clerks, and those who want to know who to contact when they have a specific concern or want to know how a committee functions.

The committee discussed the role of the Handbook Committee and recommends the following description:

### The Handbook Committee

The Handbook Committee continually examines the details of our Quaker process and strives to make it clear to our members. The work of the Handbook Committee (with help from members of the yearly meeting) includes:

- Attend Annual Sessions and Continuing Committee, when possible, and reviewing the minutes and approved reports for decisions that change the direction or charges of committees or individuals with specific responsibilities. In a timely manner, to rewrite these minutes in the same style as the Handbook and bring them to Continuing Committee or Annual Sessions for action. When approved, add them to the Handbook.
- Read through the Handbook annually to identify inaccuracies or places where our practice has evolved and bring them to the attention of appropriate committee, individual, or sometimes the yearly meeting as a whole at Annual Sessions.
- Look for inconsistencies in the Handbook and correct them.
- Edit the Handbook for stylistic consistency. The committee is empowered to do these edits without necessarily bringing these changes to the Yearly Meeting for review.
- Try to identify omissions that should be in the Handbook.
- Electronically send the revised Handbook annually to the Administrative Coordinator to update the online version and inform monthly meetings. Print out new copies for the Presiding Clerk, Assistant Clerk, members of the Handbook Committee and anyone else who requests it.

The committee also discussed the section on changes to the yearly meeting and recommends the following description:

### Changes in Practices by the Yearly Meeting

Most deliberate changes in yearly meeting practices come from standing or ad hoc committees which may bring forward a recommendation for change to Annual Sessions. For significant changes, the idea should first be brought to Continuing Committee for seasoning. Further, it might be sent to monthly meetings for feedback. The originating committee is responsible for bringing the suggested change to the yearly meeting at Annual Sessions. The Handbook Committee will incorporate changes based on the approved minute from Annual Sessions. Occasionally committees working together may bring forward changes in a similar manner as above.

When an officer, individual with a specific responsibility, or an individual who is a participating member feels moved to bring forward a recommendation for change, it should first be seasoned and tested by a smaller body. The body may vary depending on the recommendation. It could be the Friend's monthly meeting and then quarterly meeting. It may be the clerk's committee or an appropriate standing committee. Individuals may also season a concern by approaching Friends in neighboring meetings or with the Field Secretary. Often the Yearly Meeting will appoint an ad hoc committee to season the leading. The recommendation would then be brought to Annual Sessions as in the paragraph above.

When a change in practice or policy in the conduct of business or organization of the yearly meeting has evolved into a new practice that does not fall under the

auspices of a committee or individual with specific responsibilities, that change should be brought to the attention of the Handbook Committee. The Handbook Committee will then notify the yearly meeting at Annual Sessions of such changes. If the committee has accurately described the new direction and if the Yearly Meeting approves the change, the Handbook Committee incorporates it into the next version of the Handbook.

The committee would like to request that the “Handbook” be added to the banner of the ILYM website rather than as a link on the publications headline.

Sue Styer and Pam Kuhn

## **MAINTENANCE AND PLANNING** (See Minutes 46, 62)

Maintenance Planning canceled its spring workday this month due to non-stop rain. We have not met since fall 2016 and have not yet rescheduled a spring workday. I have not scheduled conference call meetings as was suggested to me at Continuing Committee. Many of the items on M&P’s To Do List require contracting with and scheduling with local professionals. This task is as much beyond the skills or abilities of this committee as are most of the jobs that need to be done. I would like to adjust our committee role to being supportive of a professional caretaker or contractor. It is overwhelming to keep up a 12 acre farm with an aged meetinghouse, a large house, and outbuildings from hours away with a geographically diverse committee. I have maintained an updated To Do List (updated list is viewable on the ILYM website), but that is only a computer skill. My apologies for my abominable committee leadership and lack of construction skills.

Respectfully overwhelmed, Meredith George

## **MINISTRY AND ADVANCEMENT** (See Minutes 35-36, 42)

Ministry and Advancement has not met since Spring Continuing Committee. We are including several highlights from our spring report as we consider these significant to our ongoing process. As reported then, a significant focus for our committee at our past two meetings has been to develop community and greater connection among us. Judy Wolicki led us on a morning retreat exploring our spiritual gifts at our fall meeting. We continued this process by taking time for a connecting exercise during our winter meeting. We are grateful to Judy for facilitation of these activities. It has made a significant difference in the spiritual life and connection in the committee.

In addition to specific reports on our visits and connections with ILYM meetings, the committee has reflected upon trends we experience in meetings and in our national mood. Many people are looking for a safe and grounding space. Peace and Social Justice concerns are evident in the energy of many meetings. What draws people to Friends in contrast with other traditions? The fact that we are unprogrammed allows us to “improvise like jazz”; each meeting can respond to the Spirit in the ways that seem called for in this national moment building on the foundation of our faith and practice. Meetings need to season our collective responses to the mood of the country and find ways to reach out and connect with other communities for support and to show support.

## **Field Secretary**

Judy Wolicki continues to find joy in the work of supporting meetings and worship groups. She has been with us for 6 years and her desire to serve is undiminished though she wants to make sure that she is making room for another who may be called by Spirit to offer their gifts to the role of Field Secretary. This longevity has deepened her relationships within ILYM. Her familiarity with meetings and theirs with her, provides her visits with the sense of Presence and Opportunities that has bound Friends historically. The committee affirms Judy's work and are grateful for her thoughtful discernment process to continue with us as Field Secretary for the time being. She has been the primary connective tissue for our committee and member meetings. She visits an ILYM meeting most Sundays and has become a familiar presence who is known by members and attenders. Her deep knowledge of the strengths and needs of the various meetings she attends contributes to her ability to offer program related to their need. Judy attended a School of the Spirit Retreat to help keep her grounded for this important work.

## **Sexual Abuse and Harassment Policy**

We are presenting to Annual Sessions our latest draft of a Sexual Abuse and Harassment policy. We determined that it was too complicated to contain all our concerns around sexual abuse and harassment in one policy. This policy is a simple process for the most obvious issues that arise. We have invited the Clerk of Youth Oversight (and any member who can attend) and the Youth Coordinator for a conversation during Annual Sessions reflecting the needs for a safe space for our youth to feel comfortable with each other and clear ideas of whom to turn to if there are concerns. In general, we know that our Youth Coordinator and the Youth Oversight Committee have essentially been serving in this capacity for some time. M&A wants to work with them to develop an ILYM policy that is supportive to their particular needs and programs within the yearly meeting.

## **Sexuality and Faith and Practice**

As we considered the Sexual Abuse and Harassment policy, we were aware that much of the good work done previously by Roxy Jacobs and David Finke for the yearly meeting was not appropriate for this policy document. As we reported in the spring, we considered that a faith and practice for the modern day needs to include a statement on sexuality and gender and that some of the good work that Roxy and David did for the yearly meeting a few years ago could be a helpful starting point.

Such as section in faith and practice could include such areas as:

- Awareness of the changing attitudes toward gender and people's use of pronouns to describe themselves
- Friends respect for persons around affection, body awareness and sensitivity to touch or concern for personal space
- The "dignity of all Children of God must be protected and Friends desire to provide a safe and loving space for all—a spiritual mandate not legal one"
- How concerns around these areas might be addressed by local meetings,
- Queries that address sexual concerns. Some that were proposed in the earlier document were: "Is my sexual behavior consistent with the testimonies of Friends on honesty and integrity? Does it promote a trusted, safe sense of a Beloved Community? What may it say to the larger world about Friends? Is all my behavior such that both I and those around me are led to greater growth in God's Spirit?"

## **Spiritual Deepening**

We were contacted by one of the FGC ambassadors of the Spiritual Deepening



program as to the needs and awareness of ILYM members around the online Spiritual Deepening program. The committee will explore how this program can be used within our member meetings and worship groups. We would appreciate hearing from anyone in the yearly meeting who has used this tool about your experience with it.

Ministry and Advancement has lost members over the past couple of years because of personal and family needs. I have decided not to continue as clerk as my contract work has involved a good deal of travel. I have indicated my willingness to stay on the committee for another year for continuity with the new committee. We continue to hope that Friends in yearly meeting feel called to work with our committee on the spiritual life and growth of ILYM.

### **Harassment and Sexual Abuse Policy**

Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, in keeping with Friends historical spiritual concern for equality and justice and responding to the dignity of all children of God, is committed to providing an environment free from sexual abuse, discrimination and harassment. Sexual abuse of a minor or other coercive sexual conduct will not be tolerated. Harassment includes demeaning actions, words, jokes, comments, or bullying behavior based on an individual's gender, sexual orientation, abilities, race, ethnicity, appearance, or age. Harassment or sexual abuse will not be tolerated at Illinois Yearly Meeting annual sessions, Continuing Committee sessions or any other ILYM sponsored activity.

#### **Sexual Abuse of a Minor**

It is the spiritual responsibility of Illinois Yearly Meeting to protect all children participating in any ILYM activity. Any adult who is required by the laws of the state to report alleged sexual abuse of a minor (anyone under 18 years) to legal authorities should abide by the law. ILYM has the expectation that any adult who becomes aware of sexual abuse of a minor will report it to the Harassment Review Committee for help in reporting to legal authorities.\*

#### **Harassment**

Harassment, whether overt or subtle, is demeaning and oppressive, and Illinois Yearly Meeting will investigate any allegations of it thoroughly and fairly. This will be carried out by the Harassment Review Committee of the yearly meeting. The Harassment Review Committee will be responsible to investigate any alleged harassment at ILYM Annual sessions, Continuing Committee sessions, or any other ILYM sponsored activity.

Friends who have experienced harassment are always welcome to contact any member of the Harassment Review Committee for support. The Harassment Review Committee will help anyone process the experience and how the individual wishes to move forward. If the person who has been harassed wishes to observe the practice of Gospel Order as described in (Matthew 18:15-16)\*\*, the Harassment Review Committee will provide any support requested. Anyone who witnesses a situation involving discrimination or harassment, but who is unwilling or unable to resolve it, is likewise encouraged to report what they have witnessed to the Harassment Review Committee.

The Harassment Review Committee will be made up of the Presiding Clerk, the Clerk of Ministry and Advancement or their designee, another member of Ministry and Advancement, the Field Secretary, and one at large Friend appointed by the Presiding Clerk. If any of the people in those roles is directly involved in the actions that led to the investigation, that person(s) will be excluded from the Harassment Review Committee

for the purpose of that particular investigation. In such cases, the remaining persons will carry out the investigation.

The Clerk of Ministry and Advancement and the Presiding Clerk will appoint Friends to the committee a month before the Annual Sessions. Members of the Harassment Review Committee will be announced in the advance documents of the Yearly Meeting Sessions and included in the minute book. Those members will serve for one year, from the convening of one Yearly Meeting Session to the next. An allegation can be brought to any member of the committee. Complaints will be handled promptly and confidentially.

*Illinois Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline – 1 800 252-2873 (Of Illinois Department of Child and Family Services)	If there is an Illinois Yearly Meeting sponsored activity in another state, the leaders are responsible for obtaining, in advance, the appropriate child abuse contact information.
Indiana Child Abuse and Neglect hotline – 1 800 800-5556 (Of Indiana Department of Child Services)	Cases involving other criminal sexual action require contacting local law enforcement officials.
Iowa Child Abuse Hotline – 1 800 362-2178 (Of Iowa Department of Human Services)	**Matthew 18:15-16 New Revised Standard Version: If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses.
Missouri Child Abuse/Neglect hotline – 1 800 392-3738 (Of Missouri Department of Social Services)	
Wisconsin Department of Children and Families – contact county where child lives – Check <a href="http://dcf.wisconsin.gov">dcf.wisconsin.gov</a>	

## FIELD SECRETARY (See Minute 44)

This November, if the body approves my continuation as Field Secretary, I will enter my seventh year serving you in that role. My joy in what I do is undiminished, and I continue to be blessed by this work.

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 again traveled more miles, visited more meetings more often, listened, facilitated retreats, introduced new topics of discussion, and, I hope, served the yearly meeting as well as you might hope I would.

I continue to be concerned about small meetings, which I experience as deeply grounded in worship, yet struggling to find ways to increase their numbers, and to not burn out from the responsibilities that cannot be shared widely due to their small numbers. I look forward to finding ways to nurture and support these Friends, and to find ways to help forge connections and commitment across meetings and among individuals.

Once again, I offer here a list of new and persisting topics being raised by Friends in my visits, discussions, emails and other correspondence from meetings and individuals:

- Eldering and supporting Adult Young Friends in their discernment of the actions they are called to take in the world now and how they can take those actions.
- Need for purpose and encouragement in this time of political uncertainty—What actions are we led to take at this time? How do we find ways to go forward, when we are bombarded with opportunities to be stuck in blaming and ridicule?
- Discussion of “What Is God?”—What does “God” mean to each of us? What names do we use? How does what I believe and can articulate join with what other Friends say? How can what I believe align with what someone of another tradition believes? What is the Truth we seek? Can talking about our different perspectives help us to join together?

- Issues around meeting spaces: renewal, renovation, finding new space, intentionally using questions around space to strengthen community and commitment.
- Continuing work on issues of race and privilege and how to address them, especially in ourselves.
- Building on the work we have begun to fully welcome and integrate all our children, youth, and young adults into the full life of their monthly meetings and our yearly meeting.
- Continuing to commit to and connect with one another and with the Light.
- Continuing to discern ways to build and nurture our community.
- Continuing to seek ways to foster better communication, resolution of conflicts, and reconciliation.
- Learning more about the issues of gender identity and acceptance.
- Recognizing individuals' gifts and finding ways to help individuals use their gifts.
- 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. I believe that it is our sharing of silence and listening that gives us strength and courage to take action in the world, and to support Friends as they do so also.

### **Travel and Visits**

During the fiscal year 2016-2017 I will have driven approximately 7,550 miles for the yearly meeting. I will have visited with Friends in Bloomington-Normal, Carbondale, Clear Creek, Columbia, Downers Grove, Hyde Park, Evanston, the mid-week meeting for worship at the Admiral in Chicago (under the care of Evanston), Lake Forest, Northside, Oak Park, Oshkosh, Duneland (Valparaiso), Burlington (IA), Urbana-Champaign, Upper Fox Valley, Rolla, Rockford (Rock Valley), South Bend, Elkhart, Springfield, and St. Louis, several of them more than once. I attended Blue River Quarterly meetings in DuBois and Cantrall, the SnowQuake Gathering hosted by 57th Street (attended by Chicago area Friends and others, including some from South Bend).

I attended Women's Weekend in McNabb, and Friends Committee on National Legislation's programs at Downers Grove and at the Admiral in Chicago. I attended the Women's March with Friends from Downers Grove, wearing banners made by Margaret Nelson. With her permission, I shared some of them with Friends meetings I visited. (At the SnowQuake, young people and adults wore the banners for the 57th Street Friends' candlelight vigil in front of the meetinghouse.)

I have offered programs, facilitated discussions and worship sharing, and offered care, encouragement and resources in person and by phone and email 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. Friends' commitments to each other, their communities, and to justice issues in the world and their efforts to be educated on issues of racism and culture are inspiring. My goal is to continue to connect meetings and individuals to each other. I encourage Friends to connect to one another across meetings, to keep in contact by visiting, phone calls, emails, cards, and letters.

## **Future Visits and Programs**

I am planning to visit Burlington Worship Group, St. Louis Friends, Rolla Friends, and Columbia Friends before I give this report at Annual Sessions. I was unable to visit Spoon River Friends, though I was able to keep in contact by phone with them. I was also unable to worship with Macomb Friends, but have been able to visit with most of them at BRQ and other events. I hope to visit both Macomb and Spoon River in the fall.

I have been asked to present a program on pastoral care for 57th Street Meeting, which I expect will be scheduled for late summer or fall. I will be doing a workshop discussion for High School Friends, and a workshop with Phyllis Reynolds at Annual Sessions. I also plan to continue to attend and help facilitate the 4th Sunday program at Downers Grove Friends Meeting during the next year. This discussion group has been a rich opportunity to learn and bring new ideas to other ILYM monthly meetings.

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

I continue to 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. I continue to be honored to serve the yearly meeting, and joyful in service to you, my Friends. Thank you for all the ways you continue to support, nurture, guide and trust me.

Respectfully submitted, Judy Wolicki, Field Secretary

## **PEACE RESOURCES** (See Minute 52-53)

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

**Financial Status:** The committee has a \$100 budget and no expenditures this year.

**Overview:** This year has seen a decrease in activity of our committee, as its members have been drawn in many directions to work on the challenges to many of our Quaker values in the current political climate. Some members have been led to join the FCNL local advocacy teams in order to advocate for Quaker values directly to legislators. Following are the activities of the PRC committee with regard to the objectives as directed by ILYM.

**Conscientious Objection:** The first objective for Peace Resources is "To develop a proactive conscientious objection counseling program." An early member of the Peace Resources Committee David Finke has lent his support and shared his depth of knowledge in this subject, and with Mark McGinnis is presenting two workshops on Conscientious Objection at this Annual Sessions. Any Friends interested in joining this Working Group are invited to contact members of PRC.

The next objectives are related to education of children, teens, and young adults. PRC members Mark McGinnis and Dan Stevens will be meeting with teens at Annual Sessions to present information on Conscientious Objection.

**Opposition to the use of Torture:** ILYM is now a participating member of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT). 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. 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.

Peace Resources Committee is proposing the following minute written by Rebekah Buchanan opposing the use of torture for consideration by Yearly Meeting:

Illinois Yearly Meeting joins other Friends in other meetings to oppose any practice of purposeful harm, torment, or torture, including solitary confinement, on any person. We condemn all forms of torture.

ILYM believes that the practice of torture does not create or further reconciliation. Instead, torture, especially as utilized by the United States government, creates fear and demeans and destroys the humanity of all involved. In doing so, it compromises the integrity of law, due process, and international agreements.

In addition, torture violates the belief of the Illinois Yearly Meeting that God is in everyone, by denying the rights of all involved. We believe, as William Penn wrote, "A good end cannot sanctify evil means; nor must we ever do evil that good may come of it."

ILYM supports Quakers world-wide, and other peace organizations hoping to raise awareness of the policies and practices which we find in violation of fundamental human rights. If this minute is approved, it will be published on the ILYM website as well as being sent to QUIT, the Quaker Initiative to end Torture. Such a minute would be useful when peace workers are interacting with the media on the issue of torture.

**Sanctuary Movement:** A recent concern among monthly meetings has been the political climate with regard to refugees and immigrants. Some have expressed an interest in the Sanctuary movement which has been strongly supported by the American Friends Service Committee in the 'Sanctuary Everywhere' program: [www.afsc.org/sanctuaryeverywhere](http://www.afsc.org/sanctuaryeverywhere). The Peace Resources Committee has recently encouraged support of an Illinois bill called the Immigration Safe Zones bill which is still pending and encourages monthly meetings to use the ILYM Yahoo group to share information.

**Communications:** In the belief that the best resource for monthly meetings is the shared wisdom of all the Friends working for peace in worship groups and monthly meetings, PRC has developed several initiatives:

- ILYM website - under review.
- Facebook: PRC monitors the Facebook Peace Resources page which is a 'closed group.' Friends can send a message to the group moderator to join.
- Online Connections: PRC has developed a Yahoo group for all Friends who are on peace and social concerns committees or otherwise interested in issues of peace. We developed a list of contacts and have invited 38 Friends to join this online group called ILYM Peace. We encourage any Friends who are interested in sharing messages with other meetings regarding readings, activities and questions or messages of encouragement about peace are encouraged to join this group and post messages, or upload files to the website. To join, please email Jan Mullen at [jrsmullen@gmail.com](mailto:jrsmullen@gmail.com).

We are very enthusiastic about facilitating more communication 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:

As many candles lighted and placed in one place add to the light and make the light shine brighter, so when many are gathered together in the same life, there is more of the glory of God and the power of God, to refresh each individual, for each takes part not only of the light and life raised in himself or herself, but in all the rest. (Robert Barclay)

Respectfully submitted by Jan Mullen

## **PUBLICATIONS AND DISTRIBUTION** (See Minute 55)

### **Print**

Plummer Lectures: Everything is up to date, no new publications

*Among Friends*: Winter 2016, printed and distributed

### **Web**

ILYM.org : BRQ.org has been converted to WordPress and is now live so Sean has some time to start working on ILYM.org

### **Monthly Meeting WordPress Sites:**

We recently had an issue with a monthly meeting not keeping their WordPress installation and plugins up to date. One of the plugins they were using was discontinued and was no longer compatible with WordPress causing their site to go down. If your monthly meeting is hosting a WordPress site on the ILYM server it is highly recommended that you have a dedicated person check on the site at least once every other month to make sure everything is up to date.

During this issue Sean also discovered that the base level backup service that HostMonster provides was not working. They are supposed to provide daily, one week, and one month backups but none of them are working. HostMonster is aware of this and said they were working on it but have no idea when it will be fixed. While they provide this backup service as well as a pro backup services, which costs more, they do not guarantee that they will work and suggest we make our own backups.

## **SITE ENVISIONING** (See Minute 47, 62)

The committee met twice since last yearly meeting; once in October and once in February and discussed the following items.

**Campground Bath House Renovation:** Chris Goode and Chip Rorem met with three local contractors early in February and asked them to price the project. Spring Continuing Committee approved spending up to \$60,000 on the project with an additional \$6,000 emergency contingency to be used only if required once the project is underway. We received pricing from Tieman Builders of LaSalle and are working with them to determine what portions of the work we can accomplish with that budget. It looks like we will be able to replace the sink area with new mirrors and phone charging stations, new plumbing fixtures and piping, weather resistant partitions with doors, new LED or fluorescent lighting, new epoxy finish on floors and painted interior walls. We are trying to see if we can also replace the shutters with sturdy awning windows. Furnishings may be more affordable as plastic chairs rather than powder coated metal benches. We have chosen to eliminate the skylights, outdoor showers, painted ceiling and exterior siding. Any work to paint the exterior will be done by us at a workday. The work should be done later this summer and fall and should be ready for use at next year's

Annual Sessions. The building has given us about 45 years of good use so far and expect that this work will give us more of the same well into the future.

**The Wood Barn:** The barn has no current use, nor was one proposed in the campus plan approved in 2012. It has several parts to it, some of which with more importance to us than others. The tallest portion is likely the first and original barn structure and has a heavy timber frame. There is a desire to keep it for some possible future use and is the part that we most want to take care of. The lean-to on the east side and the concrete block dairy structure on the west side are of less importance. A portion of the dairy structure has lost its roof and can be removed in the near future if this can be done inexpensively. The tallest structure has the newest roof but a portion of it at the northwest corner has torn off in the wind and needs to be replaced. We are investigating to see how this can be fixed as soon as possible. The siding is old weathered boards with gaps and porous enough to let in rain with wind. We may need to reinforce the base of the heavy timber elements as the wood close to the ground is growing soft. In a workshop at Annual Sessions a few years ago Tim Narkiewicz, who worked with old barns thought it might be possible to take apart and relocate the heavy timber frame and re-erect it at another location. The siding likely could not be reused as it is, but could possibly be milled for some other use, or sold. Renovated at its present location it might be reused as a recreation/education structure or gathering place for groups. If relocated it might become an indoor/outdoor dining pavilion. Dick Ashdown did a walk-thru with a local barn contractor who we hope to meet with, and we intend to have a meeting with Dean Tieman, the Bath House contractor during Annual Sessions to tour our buildings and discuss construction and maintenance issues with the participation of M&P and the Stewards. The committee feels that we should continue to maintain the roof to the best of our abilities to slow the deterioration and keep it for future use.

**Caretaker:** Site Envisioning does not have anything to add to this concern at this moment. We look forward to the formation of the Ad-Hoc Caretaker Committee under the oversight of the Finance Committee to help find some creative solutions toward this issue in the near future. In last year's discussions with Finance Committee at sessions to fund two new part-time positions (Children's Religious Education Coordinator and Caretaker) it became apparent that it will be extremely difficult to fund the Caretaker position in a conventional fee-for-service way as the budget is stretched with revenue from personal donations as well as monthly meeting contributions making up the income side, with few possibilities to increase it. Looking for a creative solution we discussed Quaker Voluntary Service, the possibility of an adult young friend in residence, and the possibility of trading use of some of our land in return for mowing and other caretaking duties from someone who shares our values. We will continue to explore and develop these ideas further, but we also feel that we should create a budget line item and set aside some money each year for the future as we continue to look for solutions.

**Property Purchase:** Dick Ashdown will approach the owner of the adjacent property again about trying to purchase the three-quarter acre strip of property south of the meeting house. We look forward to hearing what he is able to find out.

**Clear Creek House Addition:** The addition as currently sketched out assumes that the existing garage is able to be repurposed for this addition and that this might be more economical. That may not be the case and another configuration with south facing roof might prove more workable for solar panels and other reasons. We will investigate alternate configurations and in our June contractor campus walk-thru will discuss these options and ask for updated pricing for this project.

Respectfully submitted by Christopher Goode, Clerk

## **STEWARDS** (See Minute 45)

The Stewards continue in service to the yearly meeting. We realize that the need to be prepared for others to assume some of our site care responsibilities is becoming more important. In that light, we have begun work on two projects. The first is a documentation of what we are currently doing and are responsible for getting done. The second is beginning to reach out to local people in the area around McNabb to help us do our work. We hope that this work will assist the Finance Committee's ad hoc committee (on the topic of the caretaker) to move this issue forward.

What follows is some of the work done by the Stewards over the past six months. Some of this work was previously described in our Spring report to the Continuing Committee.

The Clear Creek House furnace needed a new condensation pump for the furnace. Water had been collecting on the floor for months and though Neil had rigged up a system to catch that water it needed someone to regularly empty the bucket. Dick ordered the replacement pump from Grasser's (\$75) but hired a local person (grandson of "inactive" member) to install it (\$80).

The goal is to start a "pool" of people to do certain jobs. We are adding to our list of contractors, (heating/air conditioning/plumbing people, and barn experts) to assist the stewards in care for the building and grounds. In our opinion, to address caretaker's duties, we would prefer that a local person or a Quaker who could move to the area. We would prefer not to hire some firm to take over the jobs.

The maple tree in the Clear Creek House front yard had lost a large limb, which was mostly cut and cleared away by a local person who took the lumber for his pay. Large chunks of the remaining limbs are still in the yard. We look to have them cut up and hauled away. This will take chainsaws and help.

Chris Goode, Dick Ashdown, and Chip Rorem met three contractors (sequentially) at the campground bathhouse to discuss improvements to the facility. These contractors will submit proposals to Chris for review. This work will be discussed in the Site Envisioning Report.

Our last work weekend on May 20 was canceled due to rain. The work that Maintenance and Planning scheduled for us to do remains. We appreciate the help of all those good Friends willing to care for our property and look forward to their help as weather permits.

Dick and Chip changed the water filters in the basement of Clear Creek House, and also chlorinated the well at Clear Creek House. The water was retested shortly thereafter and the septic system was pumped and serviced. When we chlorinated the well, we took photos.

Our goal, over the days of the Annual Sessions, is to take advantage of the collective memories and experiences of those gathered on site at that time and use it to expand the Stewards site responsibility document. We thank Carol Bartles for her ongoing help with the site duties and look forward from input from others as we document our work.

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

## **YOUTH OVERSIGHT** (See Minute 67)

Youth Oversight had a meeting at the end of Blue River Quarterly in April. During this meeting, we discussed the need for background checks for members of the Youth Oversight Committee. Since members of the committee assist with events with high school friends (HSF), we need to ensure that those working with children have a clear



background. We have not decided as of yet what is the criteria that would clear someone for being on the committee. Currently we are gathering more information about the process and any fees. The information would stay with other background checks. It would stay on file as long as a person is on the committee, only viewable by the potential member, the clerk of Youth Oversight, administrator, and ILYM clerk.

We also discussed having each member complete the Mandated Reporter for child abuse training through Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). This would be a yearly training for members on the committee. We would like to start this training schedule in July and have members complete it before Fall Blue River Quarterly.

The clerk and Youth Coordinator have created a timeline of tasks, attached. They are working on bringing in other members of the committee to help with delegation of tasks. One of those tasks is purchasing supplies. Another is making follow-up calls to HSF after the Youth Coordinator has made the initial call prior to events.

Brittany Koresch, Dianne Clark-Dennis,  
Kate Gunnell, Rose Johnson, Andrea Kintree

### **ADULT YOUNG FRIENDS (See Minute 49)**

This year brought some new faces, ways of communication, and opportunities for Adult Young Friends (AYF).

We have had some new and returning AYFers attend potlucks and wider events such as Blue River Quarterly. We will continue to spread the word via social media but more importantly encourage others to speak up and share information at their monthly meetings.

AYF also created an information pamphlet this year. This pamphlet has information about who we are, what events we hold, how people can participate, and contact information. We mailed paper copies out to as many meetings as we could. We also posted the digital version on our AYF page of the ILYM website. If anyone would like more paper copies of these to display at their monthly meeting as well as for handing out, please contact the co-clerks at [ayf@ilym.org](mailto:ayf@ilym.org) and we can send out more.

Finally, this summer brings a new opportunity. It puts the co-clerks in a position of being fortune tellers since the opportunity is about Site Prep which has already happened when this report is read but has yet to happen at the penning of this report. So, we will write with hope in our hearts that it went well. We are speaking of the fee reduction trial run. During Continuing Committee in March, people discussed ways to increase AYF participation in Site Prep and Annual Sessions. After bringing the idea to the Finance Committee meeting in April, AYF will try this idea.

The reduction in fees is for any AYFer who worked any day of Site Prep. That person would receive a reduction of fifty percent of their fees for Annual Sessions. This is an experiment and the topic will be revisited with insight from Finance Committee at the next Continuing Committee to discuss the outcome and future of the idea.

Peace, Brittany Koresch and Rose Johnson, co-clerks

## REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

### AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

Our report to Illinois Yearly Meeting is shared with appreciation and joy for the opportunity to be a connection of our yearly meeting to the American Friends Service Committee.

Shan Cretin, the retiring General Secretary shared the following during the AFSC Annual Sessions: “The American Friends Service Committee is a complex, 100-year-old, and still evolving Quaker organization. It is tempting to say that our witness has never been more needed. But that would be a mistake. The truth is that since its beginnings in 1917 AFSC has worked for peace and justice in turbulent, violent, even hateful times. In the past century, we have different incarnations of strongmen, Red Scares, internment camps, civil wars, genocide, apartheid, segregation, McCarthyism, world wars, immigrant raids, and religious bigotry. And still we persist. Now, as throughout the past 100 years, we are called to live up to the Light we are given and do our best to be a beacon of hope. We know that we don’t have to be perfect to make a difference in the world. We just need to be honest with ourselves and others and persistent about learning from our mistakes. AFSC has taken some hard hits, but we are finding ways to repair and heal—and still be a needed voice for peace and justice. As we enter our second century, the incoming leadership will be blessed with amazing staff and governance volunteers ready to chart a course together that is true to our courageous legacy and answers today’s calling. It has been the greatest honor of my life to be a part of this organization and to serve as general secretary over the past seven years. On September 1, Joyce Ajlouny will take over this often challenging, always humbling role. I look forward to seeing AFSC thrive under her leadership and ask you to join me in offering her our prayers and wholehearted support.”

We, yearly meeting representatives serving on the AFSC Corporation, look forward to the next 100 years of the American Friends Service Committee. Anyone seeking to join in serving as a volunteer with the AFSC is welcome to contact any of us to learn more about the opportunities for service in AFSC.

Kind Regards, Phyllis Reynolds, Bridget Rorem, Contessa Miller,  
Carol Bartles, Yearly Meeting representatives

### FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION

The Annual Meeting of Friends Committee on National Legislation met November 11–13, 2016, with a Lobby Day immediately preceding on the 10th. Most ILYM representatives and attendees arrived early to an organization, city, and nation in shock.

Personally, I used the time for composure and healing. I found repose in worships, commiserated with fellow travelers over meals, and listened in to anguished and inspired messages and sermons. Our work would go on.

With support from FCNL staff, Illinois representatives (including ones from Northern and Western Yearly Meetings) lobbied Congress. Of course lobbying also included some activists and friends besides the reps. Though our original goal of promoting legislation to reduce prison time for non-violent offenders had been knocked off the likely agenda by the surprise election results, we forged on ahead. We visited with the staff of our Representatives and Senators, making our concerns known and giving them opportunities to share with us too. Besides sharing understandings and solace, we also had to push back with a discouraged, but ranting lame-duck Republican staffer.

After the Lobby Day, we got down to business. We heard inspired talks from the likes of Diane Randall ([www.fcnl.org/updates/healing-the-heart-of-democracy-annual-](http://www.fcnl.org/updates/healing-the-heart-of-democracy-annual-)

meeting-message-446), Amelia Kegan ([www.fcnl.org/updates/when-the-impossible-becomes-possible-451](http://www.fcnl.org/updates/when-the-impossible-becomes-possible-451)), Jose Woss, Jim Wallis and others. We also celebrated the life of Ed Snyder, FCNL's Executive Secretary Emeritus. We even broke ground for the Quaker Welcome Center, intended, among other things, as neutral ground for bi-partisan negotiation, made possible by FCNL's recent Capital Campaign.

We wrestled with FCNL policy for the upcoming Congress and Administration. Previous work and input from numerous monthly meetings on setting lobby priorities was left largely intact. However we did minute a special concern on institutionalized sexism. Finally we placed full, continued trust in FCNL staff to respond as needed to changing circumstances expected over the coming year.

As I departed on Sunday, I felt heartened and energized, knowing that we could still persevere.

For more information on FCNL and their many issues and advocacy, please find their webpages at [fcnl.org](http://fcnl.org).

Dale Gardner

### **FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE**

Illinois Yearly Meeting is one of the affiliated yearly meetings with Friends General Conference (FGC). Jonathan Plummer was instrumental in the start of FGC and so we have a long history together. Each year the representatives try to let members know about the work of FGC. We can never let you know the full scope of the work but I will attempt to give you a taste of this year's work.

At this year's Central Committee meeting we agreed to move forward with an Institutional Assessment to uncover structural racism within the organization when the funds to support it were obtained. A working group was formed to begin the process while funds were being solicited. The money has been obtained and a contract will be signed with the consultants who will teach FGC Friends how to do the assessment. The work which FGC does will be shared with affiliated yearly and monthly meetings. We are aware that there are barriers to full participation by some in our meetings and we are all spiritually diminished by this. We move forward with this work trusting that it will lead to spiritual transformation for us as a community.

We continue to plan, prepare, and launch units for the Spiritual Deepening Program. The first of these was launched on October of 2016. An eight week online eRetreat will be offered quarterly. Some local meetings have embarked on the small group portion of the program. Meetings are invited to participate in the program which is a pay-as-led program with a suggested donation of \$20 per participant per set. The newest set is the Beloved Community and it is an eRetreat which starts June 4, 2017.

The Quaker Cloud is now being supported by a vendor which has been able to clear all the backlog of problems with the Quaker Cloud. At this time a problem that is submitted is usually clear within a day or two.

The Gathering will be at Niagara University July 2-8, 2017. The theme is "Ripples Start Where Spirit Moves." In 2018 the Gathering will be at the University of Toledo in Ohio. This is a location that is close to most of us in Illinois Yearly Meeting. It is a wonderful opportunity for families with children to give the children a chance to be in a room filled with other Quaker children. I will never forget my son Stephen's face the first time he walked into a junior gathering group. He did not realize there were lots of Quaker children his own age.

This year we have worked to improve QuakerBooks service. The online ordering has been improved with inventory synchronization. There are additional offerings besides books and so the service is now referred to as QuakerBooks&More.

Faith and Play volunteers continue to create new curricula to explore Quaker practice and faith via the Faith and Play methodology. Four new Faith and Play stories will be released in an e-book format this fall. This will be followed by a revised edition of the Faith and Play Curriculum including the new stories available in a paperback or e-book format. This work is being done by a group that works autonomously with support from FGC.

The Christian and Interfaith Relations Committee brings a Quaker perspective to ecumenical and interfaith work. It also connects FGC with faith-based conversations about truth, justice and reconciliation.

The Ministry on Racism Program offers assistance and support to meetings that want to develop their racial and ethnical awareness, increase their diversity and strive to address the impact of racism on our Society. It provides a Pre-Gathering Retreat for People of Color and their Families and organizing support for Friends to attend the annual White Privilege Conference (WPC). In 2018, WPC will be in Grand Rapids, Michigan. A location close for many members of ILYM. In addition, planning is underway for a regional gathering of People of Color in New York this fall.

While doing all this work, we have made tremendous strides toward cutting our expenses. We are focusing on providing quality programs and materials. As we do this we hope that Friends will continue their individual and meeting support. As one of your representatives, I want to thank you for your continuing support of FGC's programs. I have seen the work FGC provides transform lives.

Janice Domanik

## **FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS**

Following is a report from Friends Peace Teams forwarded to ILYM by ILYM Representative Debra Penna-Fredericks

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First, Friends Peace Teams would like to thank you for your support, both spiritually and financially. During this past year, our peace work has intensified, and we have new leadership for two of our initiatives. For AGLI (the African Great Lakes Initiative), David Bucura, a long-time coordinator with a local partner organization, stepped in for David Zarembka as our new coordinator. Monica Maher is our new coordinator for PLA (Peacebuilding in Las Americas), taking over the leadership responsibilities from Val Liveoak who is one of the founders of FPT.

The FPT Council (our governing body) has begun an examination our infrastructure, specifically the financial authority and responsibilities, with the goal of more transparency and accountability. Examples of what we are looking at are: What is the Council's role for oversight? What is the role of the working groups for each of the initiatives? And what is its relationships with partner organizations?

Our decentralized structure calls for the three initiatives (AGLI, PLA, and AWP—Asia West Pacific serves us well. Abiding by and honoring our commitments to Friends process and practice as we solve conflicts and work through opportunities. Just recently, we established a Governance Committee, to be sure our practices continue to empower us all in the manner of Friends.

To help celebrate our 22nd year, Friends Peace Teams held our annual meeting at Wellesley Monthly Meeting (Massachusetts) on May 18 & 19, followed by our third annual PeaceQuest, where we celebrate FPT's and Friends' work with peace around the world, on Saturday, May 20. PeaceQuest was also held at Wellesley.

## The Initiatives This Year:

Friends Peace Teams Asia West Pacific Initiative engages with peace workers in Central Java, North Sumatra, Aceh in Indonesia; Manila, Tagbilaran City, and Davao City in the Philippines; Seoul in Korea; Kathmandu, Pokara and Bhutanese camps in Nepal; and we maintain a concern for peace workers in Palestine, Israel, Afghanistan, Chechnya, Ukraine, New Zealand and Australia. As our peace-work follows the calling of our volunteers, in 2016 we actively worked in Nepal, Indonesia, the Philippines and Korea supporting nonviolence, peace, trauma healing, conflict transformation, and social justice advocacy for communities recovering from war or religious violence.

We completed earthquake relief activities in Nepal. We also provided a grant to Peace Place in Central Java to expand their training center and school. We continue to develop and support pre-schools, after-school programs, and parent, family and teacher training based on peace and nonviolence. The book, *The Power of Goodness: Art and Stories for a Culture of Peace* was published and is now available. It is a collection of short stories from the lives of real people who chose nonviolence and reconciliation and is accompanied by illustrations by young artists.

Peacebuilding en las Américas (PLA) has over ten active peacebuilding and trauma healing programs in Colombia, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, Peacebuilding en Las Americas (PLA) provides grassroots solidarity, tools and hope to those most discriminated against and marginalized. 2016 marked an important year for the continued sustainability of PLA's programs. After 13 years of volunteer service, Founding Coordinator, Val Liveoak, retired, continuing as advisor to the new team: Monica Maher, Initiative Coordinator; Allie Prescott, Communications Specialist and Andy Cross, Financial Specialist. During this transition, the new team focused on growing and solidifying relationships with in-field Facilitators, Coordinators, and Volunteers who have passionately supported and facilitated workshops.

In 2016, each of PLA's programs focused work with at-risk youth, teachers, war survivors, former and active gang members, prison personnel, indigenous communities and grassroots leaders. Some program highlights include: the first ever workshop in a Mayan Language in Guatemala; trauma healing workshops in El Salvador with female war survivors who have disappeared relatives; workshops that empowered women in Afro-Indigenous and Indigenous communities defending their land rights against illegal development in Honduras; workshops that provide rehabilitation for former gang members and prisoners in a Honduran Prison; and workshops with victims of violence as well as demobilized guerrilla and paramilitary fighters in Colombia during the historic signing of the Peace Accords. For more information on our work, please visit: <http://pla.friendspeaceteams.org/>.

The African Great Lakes Initiative of Friends Peace Teams (AGLI) has continued its work in Central East Africa: Burundi, Rwanda, Kenya, and Democratic Republic of Congo. This includes Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities (HROC), Friends Womens Association's, clinic in Bujumbura, Burundi, the Alternatives to Violence Project AVP, and other work. David Zarembka, the founder of AGLI resigned in August, and was partially replaced by David Bucura, a Rwandan. AGLI will be seeking a US-based person for outreach.

FPT's office in St. Louis continues to be run efficiently and frugally by our Administrative Specialist, John Kintree. A new Communications Specialist, Hayley Hathaway, has been doing a great job updating our website and producing the beautiful new brochure available on our table. Tom Martin and Nancy Shippen continue as co-Clerks. We are grateful to the many volunteers who help us and our partners abroad continue to do this work.

Please visit our table in the display area for newsletters and more to take back to your monthly meetings, and also our website at: [www.FriendsPeaceTeams.org](http://www.FriendsPeaceTeams.org).

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## FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION

The mission of the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) is to bring together Quakers from all over the world, as it did in 2016 by means of the World Plenary in Pisac, Peru. The biannual meeting of FWCC's Section of the Americas, which took place in Stony Point, New York in March, involved only Friends from the Western Hemisphere—still a pretty sizable region, representing a wide range of views on what it means to be a Quaker. All three of ILYM's representatives to FWCC (Nancy Duncan, David Shiner, and Nancy Wallace) attended the Stony Point meeting as well as last year's World Plenary in Pisac.

The focus of this year's meeting was on how to bridge the divergences in the Quaker spectrum—as the advance materials put it, “seeking pathways to an attitude of both/and rather than either/or.” This is squarely in the center of FWCC's mission, which is to bring Friends of varying religious traditions and cultural experiences together in worship, communication, and consultation to express our common spiritual heritage and our Quaker message to the world. Those of us at Stony Point found ourselves broken open to new spiritual ideas and presented with many opportunities to connect and deepen ourselves, our meetings, and the Society of Friends.

The event was chock full of memorable moments, of which it is possible to mention only a couple in this brief report. Carl Magruder, an environmentally active Quaker, ministered to us on the first morning. Carl, a hospice chaplain in San Francisco, explained that when people are near death they are frequently able to cross bridges that they could not previously. Our earth may be near to death now; as Carl surmised, that might allow us to cross bridges that we have not been able to until now. In the worship that followed Carl's address, a woman reported that during a meditation she had asked the earth what we could do to save her and the earth replied, “Don't worry about me. I will survive. But if humans don't fix your ways, I will purge you.” Perhaps she is right. In geological time the earth will repair itself, but we might not be here to enjoy it.

As usual, Bible study was a staple of each morning's events. This year's approach to Bible study was through Godly Play/Faith & Play, which has been explored by members of Religious Education committees from several ILYM meetings in recent years. As the presenters demonstrated, this way of telling Bible stories renders them engaging and opening to the spirit. Anyone who thinks this program is only for children is missing out on an amazing way of accessing the Bible.

Throughout the meeting at Stony Point, Friends shared why they come to FWCC events and what they have experienced at those events. Their stories were remarkable and moving: “It allows me to go out of myself and my traditions and prejudices and into other's lives. The door springs both ways and lets others into my life as well”; “I received a call 50 years ago from God and Jesus to devote my life to community building in God's community (Peace Corps, international development, etc.). FWCC is a direct extension of this calling”; “The world for the future needs Quakers. Quakers have a disproportional impact because we can show the world how peace can work”; “FWCC expands my spiritual horizons, opening my heart and mind to different experiences”; and “FWCC is grassroots peace. It is something that I can do, and it has also helped me grow spiritually.”

But FWCC is about much more than providing a transformative experience for its representatives. It seeks to awaken Friends to the gifts that the various branches have to offer each other. Its current foray in this direction is formation of the Traveling Ministries Corps, a group of gifted Quakers who share their spiritual experiences across the branches of Friends and encourage Friends to learn from one another. Their goal is to visit every Quaker Meeting and Friends Church in the Section of the Americas within the next five years. A traveling minister (along with an elder who travels with them) is being scheduled

to visit Evanston, Lake Forest, and Northside this fall. We will be happy to arrange for other traveling ministers to visit any of ILYM's monthly and quarterly meetings.

As with all Quaker organizations, nurturing the younger generation is a necessity and a challenge. At FWCC gatherings, due to recently-taken intentional measures, the percentage of young adults has been growing steadily. For next year, though, ILYM will have the same three gray-haired representatives to FWCC as in recent years. We suggest that the yearly meeting ask some of our young adults to represent us so they can experience the power of FWCC gatherings and nurture their own meetings in turn.

FWCC supports Friends throughout the world. It provides Friends with the experience of crossing bridges and touching hearts, nurturing skills that are greatly needed in today's world. We who represent ILYM cherish the opportunities we have had through FWCC to have such experiences, and we hope to continue to bring them to the meetings and individuals within the yearly meeting.

Nancy Wallace and David Shiner

### **OLNEY FRIENDS SCHOOL**

Olney Friends School is a progressive independent day and boarding high school founded in 1837. This school year, celebrating its 179th year, it has 55 students, an average class size of 8 and a student to faculty ratio of 4:1. While they currently enroll their highest number of day students, in recent history, the majority of students attend as either 5 or 7 day boarders. Ken Hinshaw, class of 1974, is the head of the school.

In September 2015, Olney Friends School issued a redesign of its internet home so as to give visitors a more comprehensive authentic glimpse of what makes the school so special. In the past 15 months, the school website has yielded a nearly 200% increase in daily web traffic. Combined with their increasing social media presences and various admissions efforts, prospective student interest is rapidly rising.

A 2015 graduate, Kayla Killen, wrote her senior class "Graddy" essay titled "Olney Friends School and Solar Energy: A Case Study." She knew the 2013 decision (included in my last report) of Olney to decline the sale of mineral rights would impede financing such an ambitious product. However, she knew her proposal would not be forgotten and felt certain that under Ken Hinshaw's leadership the school would continue pursuing renewable energy installments. Nearly 17 months later her vision was brought to life. During the 2016 Christmas break they had new solar panels installed on the Girls Dorm and they were to be fully operational by the time school resumed early in January. Olney looks forward to having about 1/3 of the campus energy needs met by solar.

In March, students and faculty visited the University of Pittsburgh for a reading by National Book Award winner and MacArthur Grant recipient Ta-Nehesi Coates. He is a memorist, educator and regular contributor to numerous periodicals including *The Atlantic*, *Time*, and *The Washington Post*.

Stanley Plumly, born in Barnesville, OH came to Olney April 14 for a reading. He graduated from Wilmington College and is the current poet laureate for the state of Maryland, is a professor of English and director of the University of Maryland, College Park's creative writing program. He is the author of numerous collections of poetry, his latest being *Against Sunset*, published by W.W. Norton in 2016.

On the Olney farm, as of April 21, seven kids have been born on campus. A video can be seen at their website, showing the students helping in the birth of one kid.

This is only a small report of what activities go on at Olney. If interested, learn more about this Quaker institution: Olney Friends School, 61830 Sandy Ridge Rd., Barnesville, OH 43713; [olneyfriends.org](http://olneyfriends.org)

## **NATIONAL RELIGIOUS CAMPAIGN AGAINST TORTURE**

NRCAT provides many ways in which monthly meetings, peace committees and individuals can support the elimination of torture:

**June Torture Awareness Month activities:** Every June, human rights and faith organizations join together to mark Torture Awareness Month because on June 26, 1987, the nations of the world took a major step against the immoral and abhorrent practice of torture. On that day, the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT for short) entered into force and the United Nations later declared June 26 the “International Day in Support of Victims of Torture.” NRCAT has on its website, [nrcat.org](http://nrcat.org), many creative ideas on how meetings can create more awareness of torture, solitary confinement, and the relationship to anti-Muslim sentiment to torture.

**Membership:** ILYM has joined NRCAT as a Participating Member. This level of participation includes naming a representative and making a modest financial contribution. Meetings that are not ready for that level of participation can join as Endorsing Members who endorse the Statement of Conscience and agree to consider using their programs. Monthly meetings are encouraged to become members of NRCAT at either level, to create a minute in opposition of torture, and submit that minute to the Peace Resources Committee which will publish it on the ILYM website and also send it to the John Calvi website, [www.quit.com](http://www.quit.com)

**Statement of Conscience:** Individuals can sign this Statement which is on the NRCAT website. **Torture is a Moral Issue Statement of Conscience:** “Torture violates the basic dignity of the human person that all religions, in their highest ideals, hold dear. It degrades everyone involved—policy-makers, perpetrators and victims. It contradicts our nation's most cherished ideals. Any policies that permit torture and inhumane treatment are shocking and morally intolerable. Nothing less is at stake in the torture abuse crisis than the soul of our nation. What does it signify if torture is condemned in word but allowed in deed? Let America abolish torture now—without exceptions.”

**Petition to the President:** NRCAT has on its website a petition to the President which individuals can sign: "Dear Mr. President: Torture is Always Wrong" Petition. By signing this, individuals can bring more awareness of this moral issue.

**Anti-Muslim Sentiment: Coalition called Shoulder-to-Shoulder:** NRCAT joined other national denominational and faith groups to form a new campaign to combat anti-Muslim bigotry. "Shoulder-to-Shoulder: Standing with American Muslims; Upholding American Values," is a coalition of 28 religious organizations. Additionally, regional and local religious organizations are invited to join Shoulder-to-Shoulder. The labeling of Muslims as “other” was one critical factor that led to the U.S. government’s use of torture in the last decade, and the majority of the U.S. government’s post September 11 detainees have been Muslim. By reducing anti-Muslim sentiment, NRCAT hopes to ensure that the dignity of each person is upheld and that torture is prohibited without exception.

Respectfully submitted by Jan Mullen



## OTHER DOCUMENTS FROM BUSINESS SESSIONS

### FAITH AND PRACTICE SECTION ON THE LIGHT WITHIN AND ITS RELIGIOUS IMPLICATIONS

*Approved 2017 for an indefinite period*

Deep within us all there is an amazing inner sanctuary of the soul, a holy place, a Divine Center, a speaking Voice, to which we may continuously return. Eternity is at our hearts, pressing upon our time-torn lives, warming us with intimations of an astounding destiny, calling us home unto Itself. Yielding to these persuasions, gladly committing ourselves in body and soul, utterly and completely, to the Light Within, is the beginning of true life.

Thomas R. Kelly, 1941

#### **Introduction**

The Society of Friends encompasses a wide variety of beliefs and perspectives, but perhaps the most distinctively Quaker religious concept is that of the Light Within. Also frequently called the “Spirit” or “that of God in everyone,” the Light is a Divine presence within each of us: a manifestation of God in all people. Identified by early Friends as the living Spirit of Christ, the Light serves as a moral guide, a comfort in times of need, a spur to action, and the Seed from which inward spiritual transformation can grow.

Light is that which makes visible, and the first function of the Light Within is to make clear to us our true spiritual nature, laying bare what we may have hidden from ourselves, whether good or bad, and showing us ourselves as we really are. For some, this may mean seeing one’s true worth after years of imagined worthlessness; for others, it may mean recognizing for the first time one’s own capacity for evil. For all, gaining a more honest and complete understanding of oneself is a crucial step in spiritual growth.

By this light it hath pleased the Lord to give me the distinction of things inwardly in my own heart. The Lord hath shewn me by it evil and good in my own heart, and taught me to chuse the good, and refuse the evil. So that as my eye hath been turned to this light, and kept to this light, I have known and walked in the way of life; for the power which hath appeared in this light, hath created me anew, made me a child of light, and taught and caused me to walk in this light, as God is in the light.

Isaac Pennington, 1681

The Light not only clarifies our own inward nature, but also helps us discern how to live our lives. The Light informs and excites the conscience, turning us away from what we know is wrong, and toward what is right and true and just. The Light is the source of authentic “concerns” — the persistent, growing sense we sometimes feel that some moral or spiritual issue requires our attention and discernment; and of authentic “leadings” — the sense that one is impelled by Divine will toward a particular course of action.

We can just let go and contemplate the painful reality as the Light reveals it to us, turning it slowly around the way a child holds a glittering pebble up in the light. In this more expansive, less judgmental state of consciousness we may gradually become aware of new dimensions, or causes, or outcomes of the problem as we continue to hold it in the Light.

William Taber, 1992

The Light can be unsettling but is ultimately a source of inward peace and comfort, both in the assurance it provides that God is always with us, and in the clear conscience it brings to those who do what they know inwardly to be right. Friends have a special calling to build peace in the world; but true peace is rarely built by those who are dominated by turmoil in themselves. Those who would bring peace out to others must

find it also within. It is by turning to this inward source of reconciliation and forgiveness that we find the foundation for outward action.

This I told them was their first step to peace, even to stand still in the light...

George Fox, recounting events of 1652

### **Discerning the Light**

Attending to the Light Within requires effort, and a careful discernment of what in ourselves is truly of the Divine Spirit, and what instead is simply the expression of our own egos, desires, or assumptions. The Light endows all people with the capacity to perceive and act in accord with what God would have us do, but our exercise of that capacity is frequently imperfect.

The experience of Friends has been that the Light is most reliably recognized from a state of inward calm and quiet. It is for this reason that in our meetings for worship, including our business meetings, we try to empty our minds and put aside anything which might mask or distract us from our perception of the Light: the stresses and worries of daily life, the bitterness of resentment or anger, the diversion of idle fantasy, or whatever else might so fully occupy our thoughts as to crowd out what we most need to see. We should hesitate to accept as the Light's guidance any impulse which does not persist as these things are set aside.

Give over thine own willing; give over thine own running; give over thine own desiring to know or to be any thing, and sink down to the seed which God sows in the heart, and let that grow in thee, and be in thee, and breathe in thee, and act in thee, and thou shalt find by sweet experience that the Lord knows that, and loves and owns that, and will lead it to the inheritance of life, which is his portion.

Isaac Pennington, 1661

Discerning the Light is most effective when pursued communally. Not everyone is led to the same actions, and we cannot expect that what the Light makes clear to one person will always be made clear to everyone; but checking one's perceptions against the understanding of a broader spiritual community provides an invaluable anchor and partial safeguard against a false sense of Divine leading. The Light does not contradict itself; when Friends' understandings of what the Light requires are not just different but incompatible, this is a sign that more discernment is needed.

Since there is but one Light and one Truth, if the Light of Truth be faithfully followed, unity will result. "The Light itself," says Thomas Story, "is not divided, but one and the same entire, undivided Being continually." The nearer the members of a group come to this one Light, the nearer they will be to one another, just as the spokes of a wheel approach one another as they near the center.

Howard Brinton, 1952

Friends have often found that living as the Light leads us requires personal sacrifice. Early Friends faced severe persecution for their beliefs, and even in modern times Friends have frequently found themselves in confrontation with the state or other powerful interests. Friends who face no such dangers may still find that the lit path conflicts with their natural desires to pursue comfort, pleasure, wealth, or prestige. Sacrifice by its nature involves hardship, but sacrifices to which one feels deeply called can also be spiritually enriching.

The natural Mind is active about the Things of this Life; and, in this natural Activity, Business is proposed, and a Will in us to go forward in it. As long as this natural Will remains unsubjected, so long there remains an Obstruction against the Clearness of divine Light operating in us; but when we love God with all our Heart, and with all our

Strength then in this Love, we love our Neighbours as ourselves; and a Tenderness of Heart is felt toward all People...

John Woolman, 1772

Friends should not feel troubled if the Light is difficult to discern, or if they do not feel clearly led to any particular course of action. Our first responsibility is simply to wait and to listen. No more can be asked than a sincere effort to discover and live out what one knows inwardly to be right. Even those most experienced in cultivating the spiritual life report long periods of drought; our part is to keep the ground prepared so that the Seed may sprout in its own time.

The first gleam of light, ‘the first cold light of morning’ which gave promise of day with its noontide glories, dawned on me one day at Meeting, when I had been meditating on my state in great depression. I seemed to hear the words articulated in my spirit, ‘Live up to the light thou hast; and more will be granted thee.’

Caroline Fox, 1841

### **A Religion of First-Hand Experience**

A religion based on discerning and responding to the Divine Light within each of us must be a religion of first-hand personal experience. Friends have long held that religion known only through accounts in books, intellectual systems of theology, the mediation of clergy, or in any other way than personally and directly leaves out what is most essential in spiritual life and may even displace the necessary work of opening ourselves to the inwardly transformative power of the Spirit.

And then [George Fox] went on, and opened the scriptures, and said, ‘The scriptures were the prophets’ words, and Christ’s and the apostles’ words, and what as they spoke they enjoyed and possessed, and had it from the Lord:’ and said, ‘Then what had any to do with the scriptures, but as they came to the spirit that gave them forth. You will say, Christ saith this, and the apostles say this; but what canst thou say? Art thou a child of light, and hast walked in the light, and what thou speakest, is it inwardly from God?’ &c. This opened me so, that it cut me to the heart; and then I saw clearly, we were all wrong. So I sat down in my pew again, and cried bitterly; and I cried in my spirit to the Lord, ‘We are all thieves, we are all thieves, we have taken the scriptures in words, and know nothing of them in ourselves.’

Margaret Fell, recounting events of 1652

Through much of our history, Friends objected even to the performance of psalms and other hymns, as “singing the condition of David” — that is, as expressing the spiritual state of King David, presumed author of many of the psalms — which would be a poor substitute for discovering and expressing one’s own spiritual state. Few Friends object to hymn singing nowadays, but we continue to recognize the importance of personal authenticity in religious expression, and the danger of putting vicarious religion in the place of real experience.

To say that religion must be known first hand does not mean that hearing the religious perspectives of others is of no profit; on the contrary, this can be of immense value. But the words of others have an effect only to the degree that they strike a respondent chord in ourselves and so lead us to experience something on a personal level. Other people may give a clearer articulation to what we know only dimly in ourselves, or may present it in a new way or from a novel perspective, or may lead us to see elements of our own views as inconsistent with what we know more deeply to be true.

Conversely, in our own religious speech and conduct toward others, we may expect to be helpful only if what we say and do finds an echo in what the Spirit already testifies to them inwardly, or to use George Fox’s phrase, if it “answers that of God” in them.

...be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come; that your life and conduct may preach among all sorts of people, and to them. Then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one; whereby in them ye may be a blessing, and make the witness of God in them to bless you: then to the Lord God you shall be a sweet savour, and a blessing.

George Fox, 1656

We cannot hope to call forward the Light in others unless our own communication with them flows from the Light in ourselves. Indeed, Quakers have traditionally held that all religious speech, whether ministry or prayer, in meeting for worship or elsewhere, should be under the direct and extemporaneous influence of the Spirit, and not simply recited from memory or composed by the “natural intellect”:

The worship, preaching, praying, and singing, which we plead for, is such as proceedeth from the Spirit of God, and is always accompanied with its influence, being begun by its motion, and carried on by the power and strength thereof; and so is a worship purely spiritual...

Robert Barclay, 1678

### **Diversity of Belief**

Our paramount concerns in religious life are to properly attend to God’s Light in ourselves and all people, discern what we are called thereby to do, and respond to that call as led, both as individuals and as a community. A sincere effort in all these things leaves room for a wide variety of theological perspectives. Issues of religious doctrine are of secondary importance at best, and at worst serve as a divisive and harmful distraction from the real business of spiritual engagement and building a more just and peaceful world. Partly for this reason, we do not require assent to any specific list of religious tenets as a condition of membership in the Religious Society of Friends, nor does Illinois Yearly Meeting formally affiliate with any organization which requires such assent.

*Humanity and Purity, Bowels and Holiness, they are the pure Religion and undefiled in God’s Sight, in his Account; not Creeds but Practice, not Profession tho’ of true Words, but Experience and good Living.*

William Penn, 1692

Just as faith without works is dead, so too is a merely intellectual belief in religious ideas without the quickening power of the Spirit. Instituting a standard of belief in a religious organization encourages the false view that belief, by itself, has some redemptive or salutary effect. But the Light, properly attended to, effects a far more thoroughgoing and deeper transformation than simply coming to believe a doctrine.

For by our works we must be tried, and not by a profession founded on belief or faith; nor by faith only; for belief never saved the soul, except when it has become an operative belief—till the soul is led to condescend to those things that are pointed out to it by the light, and to work by it and with it...

Elias Hicks, 1826

In any organization in which a confession to specific articles of faith is required, some individuals will inevitably feel pressure to make such a confession, whether they are inwardly convinced of its truth or not. Such requirements tend therefore to undermine the integrity of the members, and to promote dishonesty and hypocrisy. Friends value authenticity above conformity, holding that any expression of religious faith should arise from the operation of God’s Spirit within, not from external expectations.

And, dear friends, be faithful in what you know, take heed of making a profession of what you are not, and so you be found dissemblers before the Lord; but keep low in meekness and patience, standing in the will of God in all things...and then you shall be brought into a possession of what you have but had a profession, and find the power of what you had but in words, which is hid from all professions in the world, and is revealed no other way, but by the pure light of God dwelling in you, and you in it.

James Nayler, 1653

Many Friends have felt that some important elements of religious Truth resist formulation in words. Any statement of faith to which Friends were expected to subscribe would therefore provide an incomplete and distorted view of what we really regard as most important.

The deepest spiritual insights are wordless. A Friend called one morning to say that in meditation that morning she had had an overwhelming awareness of the reality of the Inner Self, the God Within. Her voice was filled with awe. The awareness was accompanied by a certainty, an understanding that could not be disputed, yet there were no words with which to express what had transpired....A wordless knowing, an indisputable clarity of understanding — such is the eloquence of the mystical experience. It speaks to something deep within us, and we are never quite the same.

Betty Clegg, 1982

Although there is no specific list of doctrines to which we expect our members to assent, this does not mean that there are no specifically Quaker religious ideas. Far from it: Friends have developed a rich system of Quaker religious thought over a period of more than 350 years, and we encourage participants in our meetings to familiarize themselves with it and consider its principles carefully. Nor can it be said that we regard every conceivable religious idea as an equal expression of the Truth which God reveals in all people. In the clearness process for membership, for example, meetings may consider whether an applicant's views are broadly compatible with the perspective of the meeting community as a whole and of Friends more generally. But the utmost caution must always be exercised not to let a concern for doctrine divert us down a divisive and lifeless path.

### **Christ and Christianity**

Early Quakers understood themselves to be engaging in “primitive Christianity revived” (to use William Penn’s phrase), and through most of our history, Friends have been united in placing the person and teachings of Jesus Christ at the center of their spiritual life. Present-day Friends recognize and value the Christian foundations of Quaker faith, although an overtly Christian perspective is no longer universal among Friends. To varying degrees in our different meetings, many of us draw as heavily from other spiritual traditions as from Christianity, or understand the Light Within and other Quaker religious concepts in ways which are largely independent both of Christianity and of other traditional religions. Not a few of us approach such matters from a primarily or entirely non-theistic perspective. Many also of us are committed Christians—and diverse in our understanding of what that entails.

Yet underlying this diversity is a deeper unity, and a commitment to discerning and following the Light Within. We have found by experience that we reap more spiritual fruit through love and care for one another, through forbearance and forgiveness, through service and community, than we do through a vain attempt at achieving a homogeneous theological position.

It may nevertheless be useful and interesting to Friends of all perspectives to have some familiarity with historic or traditional Quaker thought on Christ—not as a normative standard of belief, but as an aid to understanding the original motivations for some of our concepts and practices, as a reference point in understanding our current diversity, and as part of the common heritage of the Religious Society of Friends. Many Friends have also found—sometimes to their surprise—that engaging with the perspectives of earlier generations of Friends serves to advance their own spiritual growth, or to significantly alter their understanding of Christianity.

But as I had forsaken the priests, so I left the separate preachers also, and those called the most experienced people; for I saw there was none among them all that could speak to my condition. And when all my hopes in them and in all men were gone, so that I had nothing outwardly to help me, nor could tell what to do; then, Oh! then I heard a voice which said, ‘There is one, even Christ Jesus, that can speak to thy condition.’ When I heard it, my heart did leap for joy.

George Fox, recounting events of 1647

As understood by Fox and other early Friends, Christ is found first and foremost by turning inward. They perceived the Light Within to be the Spirit of Christ, working in and through all people to guide us and redeem us into the life which God would have us live. Present within us at first perhaps only as a small seed, Christ is strengthened in us as we hearken to such guidance, remaking us anew. The voice of Christ within teaches a life of love, forgiveness, humility, and compassion; and turns us away from all that is contrary to such a life.

What is the sum and substance of the true religion? Is it not love from a principle of life? Is it not a travel out of the enmity of the creature into the love of God? Doth not the light of life spring in the love, and gather into the love? Doth not Christ, revealed in the heart, and leavening the heart with the favour of life, teach love to enemies, to bear with them in love, to seek them in love, to forgive them in love, to pray for them in love, to wish good to them, and wrestle with God for mercy towards them, even while they are hating and persecuting?

Isaac Penington, 1663

In contrast to many of their Puritan contemporaries, who understood salvation as an external payment of our debts by Christ, early Quakers saw redemption in Christ’s inward work transforming and purifying the spirit.

Here is light, here is life, here is righteousness, here is peace, here is heavenly joy, here is the holy power, springing and bringing forth their fruits, and precious operations and effects in the heart; and here is assurance of the love of God in Christ for ever, and that God will never leave nor forsake that soul which is joined to him, and abides with him in this seed; but it shall be kept by the power of God, through the faith that springs from this seed, unto perfect redemption and salvation.

Isaac Penington, undated

It is not always clear from the writings of seventeenth century Friends how they understood the respective roles of the inward operation of Christ in the spirit and the outward, “historical” crucifixion and resurrection in effecting salvation. This issue became a major point of schism in the 1820’s. In keeping with our general openness to diversity of belief, most of us are now content to regard such questions as matters of individual faith.

## **Friends and the Bible**

Just as we are diverse in the roles we ascribe to Jesus in our spiritual lives, we are diverse also in the ways we use and interpret the Bible. There can be no doubt that to George Fox and the other founders of Quakerism, the Bible was deeply important and influential. Their writings are rich in scriptural allusions, and they clearly took themselves to be advancing the same religion as advocated by scripture, taken as a whole and rightly understood.

Yet it would be a mistake to think that early Friends favored a “Bible-based” religion. Friends have always held that religious belief and practice ought to be based on what God reveals inwardly through the Light. Fox and other Friends claimed that what God taught inwardly could frequently be found also in the testimony of scripture, but it is the Light, not the Bible, which serves as the foundation.

This I saw in the pure openings of the light without the help of any man; neither did I then know where to find it in the scriptures; though afterwards, searching the scriptures, I found it. For I saw in that light and spirit which was before the scriptures were given forth, and which led the holy men of God to give them forth, that all must come to that spirit, if they would know God or Christ, or the scriptures aright, which they that gave them forth were led and taught by.

George Fox, recounting events of 1648

Early Friends believed that the scriptures were written under the guidance of the Light Within, and that therefore there could be no contradiction between scripture, rightly understood, and what the Light reveals to us now. While this may seem to imply that one can “test” apparent revelations by checking whether they are consistent with scripture, Friends have often held that such testing is problematic, because the correct interpretation of scripture—at least for the purposes of spiritual discernment—can itself be reliably garnered only under the guidance of the Light. Without confidence that we are discerning accurately what God reveals inwardly and directly, we can have no confidence in our interpretation of scripture. Indeed, we would have no reason to trust the scriptures at all if not for a respondent spark in ourselves which finds itself echoed in them.

Friends believe that Divine guidance is freely available to all people, to guide our speech and actions. The idea that the scriptures were written under Divine guidance therefore does not accord them a unique status in human history. Revelation continues down to the present day; there can be no closed canon. Many of us feel that other writings, including some from very different religious traditions, express the Light no less than the Bible.

We now recognize that the writings of the Bible reflect to some extent the varying personal experiences and cultural perspectives of its authors; just as our own speech in meeting for worship, though offered under a sense of Divine guidance, may reflect the limitations of personal experience and understanding. The Bible is perhaps all the more useful for expressing a variety of different conceptions of God and the relation between God and humanity, including some from historical and cultural contexts quite far removed from our own. Yet underlying this variety we perceive a deeper unity: a single Spirit that finds expression in many ways.

## **Quakerism and Other Religious Traditions**

Our experience of the divine-human relationship is that it is constant and eternal, and includes every human being at every moment.

Lloyd Lee Wilson, 1993

Friends hold that the Light Within is present in all people, regardless of religious affiliation. Quakers claim no monopoly on religious truth, and we welcome the insights we may gain from other religious traditions.

There is a Principle which is pure, placed in the human Mind, which in different Places or Ages hath had different Names; it is, however, pure, and proceeds from God. It is deep and inward, confined to no forms of Religion, nor excluded from any, where the Heart stands in perfect sincerity. In whomsoever this takes Root and grows, of what Nation soever, they become Brethren in the best Sense of the Expression.

John Woolman, 1760

What is truly important in spiritual life may be found among the adherents of many different outward faiths. This is not to say that all religions are equally true or that all spiritual paths are equally legitimate, for it seems clear that different faiths make different and incompatible claims. But discerning and responding to the Light Within does not require adherence to any particular tradition or organization. In a deeper sense, all those who humbly and sincerely commit themselves to do what they know inwardly to be right are united: on a single path and in a common community, despite all superficial diversity.

The *Humble, Meek, Merciful, Just, Pious* and *Devout* Souls, are every where of one Religion; and when Death has taken off the Mask, they will know one another, though the diverse Liveries they wear here, make them Strangers.

William Penn, 1682

Just as spiritual Truth is not confined to any one outward religion, so neither is any outward religion immune from error, even of the most egregious kinds. History provides innumerable examples of atrocities and crimes committed in the name of religion. Even though Friends are known for our work toward justice, peace and equality, we are far indeed from being able to claim a spotless record. Many of the accomplishments for which Quakers are best known were the result of long efforts by small minorities of Friends who had to labor hard against resistance from other Quakers. Our attitude to other faiths must be one of openness and humility, and we must be diligent in seeking out and uprooting the seeds of injustice, both in our individual beliefs and practices, and in the institutional structures of the Society of Friends.

I was then carried in spirit to the mines, where poor oppressed people were digging rich treasures for those called Christians, and heard them blaspheme the name of Christ; at which I was grieved; for His name to me was precious. I was then informed that these heathen were told, that those who oppressed them were the followers of Christ; and they said among themselves, 'if Christ directed them to use us in this sort, then Christ is a cruel tyrant.'

John Woolman, 1772

## **Rites and Ceremonies, Days and Times**

Friends have made an honest effort to take that last step which the Reformation did not take. They have wished to exhibit a genuinely spiritual religion. . . . They have wanted every step and stage of salvation and of worship to be a living process. They are afraid of phrases which are supposed to have some sacred efficacy. They are anxious not to have officials who belong in a special class and are assumed to have peculiar powers that others lack. They do not recognize places or buildings as having any inherent sanctity. They count only on those operations which are truly ethical and spiritual; that is, those operations which produce in the person a new spirit and a new power to live by. The religious life, for them, is witnessed by a new creation. There are no substitutes for life; there is nothing that can take the place of a momentous spiritual event.

Rufus Jones, 1927



For Friends, the essence of spiritual life is to attend diligently to God's promptings within, and respond as led. In our experience, a faithful response to such leadings will serve the practical goals of cultivating peace, forgiveness, justice, and loving care—in ourselves and in the world. The performance of rites and ceremonies is largely extraneous to such goals, and Friends have generally regarded ceremonial performance as inessential to religious life. Seventeenth century Friends took the unusual step of discontinuing the rites of baptism with water and the Lord's supper, which had been part of Christian practice from the earliest times. Most Friends today continue to view such ceremonies as separable from, and much less important than, the spiritual realities they represent.

It is perhaps not humanly possible to live a life completely free of ritualized behavior, and from some perspectives Quaker practices such as meeting for worship might be seen as rituals. We do not attempt to eliminate everything in our conduct which serves to mark certain activities as religious. But we keep the level of ceremony low, in order to concentrate on what is truly vital.

Friends have sometimes claimed that to those who experience the spiritual reality which a ceremony symbolizes, the outward form becomes superfluous; and to those who have no such experience, it is pointless: an empty form. But rituals often seem much more powerful than we would expect of empty forms and superfluities. A well-designed ritual, like well-composed music, can induce a vivid sense of connection with the Divine. This power gives us all the more reason to be cautious about rituals. Authentic connection with the Divine is not simply a feeling, however vivid, but a regeneration of the spirit, bearing real fruits of love, compassion and forgiveness. An artificially induced feeling may or may not have such a regenerative effect; it is important not to let the feeling itself become one's primary goal in spiritual practice.

The whole of life is a sacrament. The worst, the poorest and meanest, of us as well as the bravest and the noblest before our brief day darkens, have broken divine bread. If we believed it wholly, for others as for ourselves, we should have peace. Even now, the measure of our peace is our belief in it, and our forgetfulness of it is the measure of our unrest. To forget it utterly is despair. That the daily bread of human existence, with all its hope and joy, its agony and failure, is broken to men by no blind fate, but by an Eternal Wisdom that is Eternal Love,—this is the underlying faith that saves us from madness. But it is a faith that must be proved, and striven for, and actualised, hour by hour and day by day. We must grip it hard, if we are to recognise God's sacraments as, one by one, they enter into our experience.

May Kendall, 1902

Ceremonies, religious holidays, and visits to places with religious significance can serve as occasions to rejoice in God's grace and bounty, and may invite a deeper connection with the Divine. However, we might be misled in confusing such observances and the emotions that accompany them with the divine encounter itself. True religious experience contributes to inward transformation and its outward expression in how we live our lives.

For most of our history, Friends did not celebrate holidays; and while simple celebrations of Christmas and Easter have now become common, we continue to hold that all days are equally holy in the sight of God. Similarly, while we may feel special attachment to our old meetinghouses and other places associated with our Quaker heritage, we do not regard them as more holy than the world in general, all of which is consecrated to God's purposes.

FAITH AND PRACTICE SECTION ON  
**TESTIMONIES**

*Approved 2017 for an indefinite period*

Among the distinctive Quaker principles are those known as the testimonies. These are values that Friends hold corporately, and which are reflected in our witness to the world.

The testimonies express our communal experience of the Light Within and our commitment to its fruits. We show this commitment in our outward lives: in our dedication to living peacefully, for example, and in our love for each other in “that which is eternal.” Living out the testimonies in thought and action reflects the influence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Be faithful in those testimonies of life and light, against all those things that have come up in this night of apostasy from the light, life and power of God.

George Fox, 1675

The testimonies are not a set of distinct tenets, such as those that might be found in a creedal religion. Still, for the sake of clarity, modern Friends often list the testimonies under separate categories such as “simplicity” and “equality.” In order to emphasize the unity of the testimonies, the testimony of integrity (“wholeness”) is often the first one cited, as wholeness characterizes the testimonies taken together.

### **Integrity**

Perhaps the most fundamental testimony of Friends is that of integrity. This testimony calls us to a way of life aligned with the will of God as revealed by the Light Within us, reflecting our devotion to truth, honesty, authenticity, and wholeness. We endeavor to become whole within ourselves, and to make our actions reflect our words and beliefs. We strive to hold to a single standard of truth, saying what we mean and doing what we say.

Let your ‘yea’ be yea and your ‘nay’ be nay; anything more than this comes from evil.

The Gospel According to Matthew 5:37

The commitment of Friends to a single standard of truth has many practical implications. For example, Quakers do not swear to tell the truth in a court of law when instructed to do so, because we believe that swearing to tell the truth implies that we might otherwise lie or distort the truth. We invest our money on the basis of Quaker principles, rather than entrusting it to organizations that offer a higher rate of return but do not act in accordance with Friends’ beliefs. Actions such as these might not be comfortable for us, but Friends hold integrity to be of a higher value than comfort.

The Inner Light does not lead men to do what is right in their own eyes, but that which is right in God’s eyes.

Ellen S. Bosanquet, 1927

### **Peace**

Friends are widely known for our efforts to bring about a more peaceful world. We shun violence in word and deed, holding that war is inconsistent with God’s will. Early Friends steadfastly refused to participate in wars, preferring imprisonment and persecution to harming other children of God.

We...utterly deny...all outward wars and strife, and fightings with outward weapons, for any end, or under any pretense whatsoever. This is our testimony to the whole world....[T]he Spirit of Christ, which leads us into all truth, will never move us to fight and war against any man with outward weapons, neither for the Kingdom of Christ nor for the Kingdoms of this world.

Friends' Declaration to Charles II, 1660

In recent times, Friends who have refused to fight have often requested to serve in some humanitarian way, and many have done so. Illinois Yearly Meeting stands in support of Friends who engage in conscientious objection, war tax resistance, relief and reconciliation work, and similar efforts to promote peace and justice.

Mindful of the presence of evil in the world, Friends attempt to counter it by using nonviolent means of preventing harm to others while bearing in mind that the perpetrators are also children of God. We have ministered to those on all sides of any conflict, in accordance with our belief that God "sends rain on the just and on the unjust," as Jesus states in *The Gospel According to Matthew* (5:45).

The Quaker peace testimony is not simply a denunciation of outward violence, but also an affirmation of the power of inner peace. As Quaker founder George Fox wrote about his response to those who offered him a military commission, "I told them that I lived in the virtue of that life and power that took away the occasion of all wars." Fox understood that once we achieve peace inwardly, participation in war and violence becomes impossible. The closer we come to achieving the inward condition that God wants for us, the better able we are to cultivate peace in our family, our workplace, our community, and the world.

## **Simplicity**

The Quaker testimony of simplicity denotes an inward centeredness that is responsive to the Divine. As we become centered, we are drawn away from the complexity and clutteredness of secular life and led toward the purity and simplicity of truth to which Friends aspire.

Life is meant to be lived from a Center, a divine Center – a life of unhurried peace and power. It is simple. It is serene. It takes no time but occupies all our time.

Thomas Kelly, 1941

Friends do not have a set procedure for reflecting inward simplicity, but we have found that outward adornments can be impediments to achieving and maintaining it. Early Friends believed that wearing unadorned plain dress helped free them from vanity. Few contemporary Quakers wear traditional plain dress, but we continue to believe that some measure of detachment from material possessions and worldly aspirations helps us attend to the Light.

The increase of business became my burden, for though my natural inclination was toward merchandise, yet I believed Truth required me to live more free from outward cumbers and there was now a strife in my mind between the two; and in this exercise my prayers were put up to the Lord, who graciously heard me and gave me a heart resigned to his holy will.

John Woolman, 1774

Friends regard church rituals and material trappings as having the potential to hinder our attention to God's word. We gather in unadorned meeting houses and wait in holy silence for the Divine Spirit to guide our worship.

## **Equality**

The testimony of equality is based on Friends' belief that there is that of God in everyone. We regard outward differences between people as less significant than the spiritual equality of all human beings. Quakers have always regarded men and women as equally worthy in God's eyes.

The power and spirit of God gives liberty to all, for women are heirs of life as well as men.

George Fox, 1676

Early Quakers refused to address their "superiors" by honorifics or titles, nor would they bow or doff their hats to them. These countercultural practices, which resulted in the persecution of our 17th-century forebears, have informed our tradition ever since that time. Quakers accepted and upheld the equality of people of different races, classes, and sexual orientations earlier than most of the rest of society, and have worked toward economic equality and social justice. In our meetings we strive to create an inclusive environment, one in which all of those attending feel fully welcome.

The testimony of equality does not imply that everyone has the same talents, but rather that each of us is equally a child of God, blessed with gifts that are different from and complementary to those of other people. When we unite as a meeting community, our diverse gifts unite to serve that community.

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians 12:4-6

## **Community**

The testimony of community is central to Friends' practices. We worship together in order to be receptive and responsive to God's Light, and we minister to all members of our meeting community.

Our life is love, and peace, and tenderness; and bearing with another, and forgiving one another, and not laying accusations against another; but praying for one another and helping one another up with a tender hand.

Isaac Penington, 1667

Friends' orientation toward community stands in contrast to the individualism that characterizes our contemporary secular world. We interpret Jesus' injunction to love one another as calling us to share concerns and practices with each other. Our collective attention to God's word, undertaken corporately in Meeting for Worship, serves as the foundation of the faith community to which Friends aspire.

As Quakers, we believe that we are called to be responsible and accountable to each other. We respond to the needs of our meeting community in many ways. These include pastoral care and the formation of clearness committees, in which an individual Friend is held in the Light by fellow worshippers who seek God's will for that Friend.

A Quaker community offers loving support, guidance, comfort, and inspiration to all of those who become a part of it. It also serves as a foundation for our witness to other communities of which we are also a part.

We are an imperfect human community, growing into a more perfect relationship with God.

Lloyd Lee Wilson, 1993

## **Stewardship**

Quakers consider all possessions and resources to be gifts that God has entrusted to our loving care. As individuals and as a community, we are called to selflessly consider whether our lifestyles and daily practices are consistent with this understanding.

O that we who declare against wars and acknowledge our trust to be in God only, may walk in the Light and thereby examine our foundation and motives in holding great estates! May we look upon our treasures, and the furniture of our houses, and the garments in which we array ourselves, and try whether the seeds of war have nourishment in our possessions...

John Woolman, c. 1770, *A Plea for the Poor*

In prayerfully reflecting on how we obtain and use our possessions and resources, we are likely to discover the seeds, not only of war, but also of oppression, self-indulgence, injustice, and ecological damage. Faithful stewardship consists in sincere efforts to remedy those ills. Each of us is called to consider what changes we can make in our lives, lifestyles, and relationships to better support the earth and all its creatures, and then to make those changes as best we can. Such reflection and transformation can be difficult and even painful, but Friends believe that faithful stewardship is essential to being in right relationship with one another and the Divine.

We are called to live in right relationship with all Creation, recognizing that the entire world is interconnected and is a manifestation of God.

Quaker EarthCare Witness, Vision and Witness Statement

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As Friends, we are called to bear the testimonies in our hearts, minds, and actions. This is not a matter of memorizing lists of categories, whether those cited above or any others, but of responding to our experience of the Divine and gaining strength and insight from those who have preceded us in doing so. In learning of the courageous witness of our predecessors over the centuries—those devoted Quakers who have witnessed to that of God in all human beings, spoken truth to power, and honored the earth and all its creatures — we orient ourselves toward more fully reflecting Quaker testimonies in our lives and encouraging others to do likewise.

A “testimony” is a declaration of truth...It is not an ejaculation, a way of letting off steam, or baring one’s soul. It has a purpose, and that is to get other people...to turn to God.

John Punshon, 1987

The testimonies are neither fixed nor unchangeable. In accordance with Friends’ belief in “continuing revelation” they evolve, and our understanding of them evolves as well. Many of the issues to which early 21st-century Friends feel called to respond, such as nuclear power and recombinant genetic engineering, are the products of recent technological innovations which did not exist for earlier generations of Friends. In such cases we endeavor to discern God’s will concerning whether a new testimony, or perhaps an extension of an old one, is in order.

Friends sustain and deepen their commitment to the testimonies through various means, including prayer, reading devotional literature, and attending to vocal ministry in meeting for worship. Some of us have found it helpful to regularly ask ourselves questions such as “How am I living the testimonies?” and “How am I being faithful?” In attending to the testimonies, we often find that issues that seemed complex or even insoluble are better understood and resolved through devoted attention to the leadings of the Holy Spirit.

The testimonies represent our highest values as Quakers. Learning to live in accordance with them is challenging. We often fall short, but we continue to strive.

I don’t regard the testimonies as rules to walk by but ideals to aim for, as guides and reminders of how we should try to live....We have not attained perfection; we are still on our way.

Kathleen Douglas, 2000

FAITH AND PRACTICE SECTION ON  
**QUARTERLY MEETINGS**

*Approved 2017 for an indefinite period*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Decisions of the quarterly meeting are made by the Friends gathered in the quarterly meeting business sessions, and do not require the approval or ratification of the monthly meetings which compose the quarterly meeting, though such approval may be sought in cases where the quarterly meeting deems it helpful to do so. Quarterly meetings must respect the local autonomy of their constituent meetings, and may not override their decisions or direct their affairs in purely internal matters.

### **Setting up and laying down quarterly meetings**

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

- What do you see as the spiritual and practical benefits of establishing a new quarterly meeting?
- What kinds of support can you provide as a quarterly meeting to the yearly meeting and to your monthly meetings? What kinds of support do you expect to receive from the yearly and monthly meetings?
- How strong is the commitment of each of the monthly meetings involved?
- Will you have a treasury? How will funds be raised? What will they be used for?

How will the treasury be administered?

- How often will you meet and where? Have you considered potential scheduling conflicts?
- How will your gatherings be planned?
- Will your sessions include worship? business? workshops? retreats? fellowship? • community building? How will you decide on the relative balance?
- Do you have any qualms, fears, or reservations about establishing a quarterly meeting?

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

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

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

### **Monthly meetings which do not belong to a quarterly meeting**

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

For historical reasons, Illinois Yearly Meeting now includes a number of monthly meetings which are not part of a quarterly meeting. Such meetings may find that some of the functions of a quarterly meeting are well-served by other regional gatherings. However, business which is strictly internal to Illinois Yearly Meeting is not generally considered at such gatherings. If a monthly meeting is not part of a quarterly meeting which can provide preliminary consideration of proposals before they are brought to the yearly meeting, the monthly meeting should submit such proposals first to the



Continuing Committee, unless the next session of the yearly meeting falls before the next session of the Continuing Committee, and the matter is too urgent to delay.

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

FAITH AND PRACTICE SECTION ON  
**APPENDIX A: SAMPLE MEMBERSHIP RECORD**

*Approved 2017 for an indefinite period*

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

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

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

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

## Membership Record

Record number: \_\_\_\_\_

Record closed

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Previous name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

### Contact Information

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address(es): \_\_\_\_\_

### Admission Data

Date of Admission: \_\_\_\_\_  by birth or adoption

by application

by transfer from \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Type:  full

associate, expires on \_\_\_\_\_

**Termination Data**

Date of Termination: \_\_\_\_\_  by death  
 by release  
 by transfer to \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks:

**Personal and Family Data**

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

**Father's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  Is/was a member?  
Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mother's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_   
Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

**Marriage 1 to:** \_\_\_\_\_   
Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

**Marriage 2 to:** \_\_\_\_\_   
Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

**Marriage 3 to:** \_\_\_\_\_   
Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

**Child/Stepchild 1:** \_\_\_\_\_   
Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

**Child/Stepchild 2:** \_\_\_\_\_   
Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Child/Stepchild 3: \_\_\_\_\_   
Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Child/Stepchild 4: \_\_\_\_\_   
Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Child/Stepchild 5: \_\_\_\_\_   
Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

FAITH AND PRACTICE SECTION ON  
**FRIENDS AND THE STATE**

*Adopted 2017 for a one year provisional period*

While we recognize the need of law and order, which in the present condition of mankind can perhaps only be maintained by governments resting on human authority, we believe that in the degree that we come individually under the government of that principle of justice and unselfish regard for the welfare of others, that lies at the foundation of the Christian faith, we shall render governments sustained by force, unnecessary, and build up through self restraint, the government of Righteousness in the earth.

Rules of Discipline and Advices of Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends, 1878

Friends' relation with civil government proceeds both from our recognition that government plays a useful and beneficial role in promoting the common good, upholding justice, and providing a system for collective decision-making; and from our awareness that government sometimes depends on violence or threats of violence to achieve its goals, and may be diverted from the pursuit of justice into the service of powerful interests. It is our responsibility to participate in the civic life of our communities, states, nations and world. But it is also our responsibility firmly to oppose governmental structures, actions and policies which promote war or injustice of any kind.

### **Civic Responsibility and the Political Process**

Remember your responsibility as citizens for the government of your town and country, and do not shirk the effort and time this may demand. Do not be content to accept things as they are, but keep an alert and questioning mind. Seek to discover the causes of social unrest, injustice and fear; try to discern the new growing-points in social and economic life. Work for an order of society which will allow men and women to develop their capacities and will foster their desire to serve.

London Yearly Meeting, 1964

Love of God and humankind calls us to labor for a just, equitable and peaceful society. Friends are urged to participate fully in public life, working to build and maintain civic institutions which strengthen communities, promote health and safety, and protect the rights and freedoms of all people. Friends should stand willing to serve their communities as needed, in elected or appointed office, through volunteer work, organizing, or in other ways. Friends communicate their views on public policy to those in positions of authority, promoting policies and decisions which build peace and justice.

Engagement in the political process is a necessary and useful part of efforts to improve the world, but also requires a good deal of care. Decisions in the public sphere, as in a Friends meeting, are most effective when those affected by them are deeply convinced of their rightness. A contentious, partisan spirit is rarely helpful in producing such conviction. Friends engaged in political activity must guard diligently against letting triumph over political adversaries become a goal, rather than reaching a real collective understanding of how an issue is to be resolved.

...and we are not for Names, nor for Men, nor for Titles of Government, nor are we for this party, nor against the other, because of its name and pretence; but we are for Justice, and Mercy, and Truth, and Peace, and true freedom, that these may be exalted in our Nation; and that goodness, righteousness, meekness, temperance, peace, and unity, with God, and one with another; that these things may abound, and be brought forth abundantly...

Edward Burrough, 1659

Friends' religious values provide ample motivation for advancing peace, justice, compassion and equality in public life and government policy. But the promotion of such values must be clearly distinguished from the promotion of religion itself. Friends are firmly committed to the separation of church and state, and do not countenance any role for government in supporting religion, or any role for religious institutions in the operation of government.

Meetings are cautioned that their legal status as tax-exempt churches may be threatened if they campaign for particular political candidates, or engage in substantial lobbying.

### **Police, Judicial, and Penal Institutions**

Over more than three and a half centuries, Quakers have often faced imprisonment or

other legal penalties for the sake of religious conscience. Based in part on this experience, Friends have been concerned to improve the institutions by which society deals with criminal and civil wrongdoing of all kinds. We work for the creation of a justice system which treats all people fairly, recognizes the value of every life, and promotes honesty, compassion, and regard for others as central principles by which society is ordered.

True justice consists not in the punishment of wrongdoers, but in kind and equitable treatment of all people. Once wrongdoing has occurred, the possibility of complete justice is lost. The first priority in building justice, therefore, is to foster the values of kindness, fairness, charity, and respect — in ourselves, in others, and in the general organization of society. To the extent that people order their lives around these values, and perceive themselves to be treated by others in accordance with them, the need for a system of responding to crimes and other wrongs is diminished.

The present reality of injustice requires some means of investigating crime and bringing those who commit it to account. Friends therefore recognize the legitimate police powers of the state. However, we stand in opposition to the militarization of police equipment and tactics. We recognize too the problems caused by real or perceived bias in police conduct, and support efforts to reduce it, and to hold officers accountable when bias occurs.

When crimes are committed, Friends generally favor responses which focus to the extent possible, on repairing the damage caused by the crime, involving all the affected parties in the resolution, and creating the conditions under which both those who have been affected by crimes and those who have committed them can resume safe and responsible roles in society.

In some cases, people who have committed crimes may have proven so dangerous that it is necessary to separate them from the rest of society, at least for a time. Such separation must not be imposed as a form of vengeance or retribution, but conducted in a way which recognizes and respects the humanity of prisoners. Prisoners, no less than other people, have a moral right to good quality healthcare, human interaction, and the opportunity to maintain family relations. The families of prisoners must not be excessively burdened by obstacles to communicating with their loved ones in prison, such as unreasonable fees. Every effort must be made to provide prisoners with the skills, habits, and attitudes which will allow for a safe and successful reintegration on release. It is the responsibility of society as a whole to provide opportunities for people released from prison to build honest and productive lives; the lack of such opportunities all too often encourages ex-prisoners to resume criminal activity.

While we recognize a need to restrain those whose dangerous behavior is a threat, that restraint and any help offered must reflect our concern for that of God in everyone. The prejudice, dishonesty, and racism prevalent in society frequently lead to unfair and unjust sentences and to brutality in the handling of prisoners. Improvement in the parole system and the reduction of pretrial time are greatly needed.

New York Yearly Meeting, 1995

## **Capital Punishment**

Friends have long felt a special concern to end the use of capital punishment as a penalty for crime. It is our faith that something of God is present in all people, even those who have committed the most heinous acts. A proper regard for the sanctity of human life weighs heavily against the idea of destroying life, even when intended as an act of justice. No person is beyond God's power of redemption, but to cut short an offender's life is to give up hope for his or her eventual reclamation. Execution of offenders by the state also tends to create in people's minds the impression that killing is a legitimate response to perceived offenses. It has a degrading and brutalizing effect on society, and offers no better safety than alternatives.

No man is ever utterly lost, and however deep he is sunk in evil, the only just approach to him is to work for his recovery. This principle led John Bellers, the earliest Friend to pay serious and systematic attention to social reform, to plead for the abolition of the death penalty. Society had done enough for its own protection, he argued, when it had rendered a murderer harmless by putting him in prison; if it did more it was acting in a spirit of revenge.

Harold Loukes, 1960

## **Oaths**

In certain legal contexts, such as when testifying in court, Friends may find that they are asked to swear oaths. Since the very earliest days of the Quaker movement, Friends have resisted this expectation, taking seriously Jesus' injunction "Do not swear at all...

Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil" (Matthew 5:37). Swearing sets up a double standard, implying that a lie is more acceptable if not sworn to. In place of swearing, Friends generally give a simple affirmation that what they say is true. Statements made after such an affirmation are subject to perjury laws, just as sworn statements are.

The distinction between swearing and affirming may seem minor to some people; but the right to affirm rather than swear was hard-won, and many of our predecessors suffered greatly to establish it. Friends are urged not to abandon it lightly.

## **Conscientious Objection and Civil Disobedience**

Friends have long held that participation in war is incompatible with a life of compassion and love for one's enemies as taught by Jesus. We stand in support of those who refuse for reasons of conscience to be conscripted into military service, or to register for such conscription. We likewise support those who withhold a portion of their taxes, up to the amount which would otherwise go to military spending, provided the withheld amount is set aside for charitable donation if not seized by the government.

More generally, we hold that no government or other human authority may compel people to act contrary to their conscience. When one's deeply and sincerely held moral convictions are incompatible with the demands of the state, it is one's right and responsibility to refrain from complying with those demands.

The witness of those who conscientiously disobey a law is badly undermined if they—or those with whom they are associated—are perceived as having little regard for law even apart from issues of conscience. For this reason, all Friends are strongly urged to adhere strictly to the law in all cases where conscience permits.

When one's conscience is in tension with the expectations of the state or other authorities, difficult decisions must be faced. Noncompliance without sacrifice may not be possible and should not be expected. Those who violate the law for the sake of conscience must be prepared to receive punishment as the law provides. Employees who find that they cannot conscientiously perform essential parts of their jobs must be prepared to lose them. In many cases it may make more sense to resign, than to insist on remaining in a job while refusing to perform it.

Friends feeling led to violate the law for reasons of conscience, or to pursue any course of action which may result in adversity for themselves or others, are urged to seek a clearness process from their meetings. Young Friends who believe that they may eventually seek legal status as conscientious objectors are advised to document their anti-war beliefs and activities, starting as early as possible. In some cases it may be appropriate to seek a minute from one's monthly meeting in support of action pursued as a form of religious witness. See 'Recognizing Gifts and Leadings', pp. xx–xx. Meetings should stand ready to provide spiritual and practical support to Friends and others who may be suffering for their convictions.

Meetings have a role not only in supporting individuals as they face such issues, but also in taking action themselves, as a meeting. The corporate action of a meeting may provide a powerful witness to the unjustness of a law. Modern examples include Friends meetings which have sheltered refugees who were in the United States without proper documentation, and meetings which held same-sex marriages under their care before such marriages were legal. Meetings must approach such actions very seriously, and only with deep, prayerful discernment, and clear-eyed attention to possible consequences. But if, after such careful discernment, a meeting is united in its perception of what God requires it to do, it must proceed as led.

Civil disobedience means open, considerate, non-violent defiance of some law which is against the conscience of those who disobey it, and is resorted to after all means of altering it have been exhausted. Since the purpose of civil disobedience is to compel others to re-examine the conscientious basis of the law, the proposed disobedience and the reasons for it are widely announced in advance. The law enforcement authorities are given every opportunity to prevent the proposed action and to punish the participants. The necessary role of the authorities in enforcing the law is recognized and they are treated courteously, but opposition to the law is unyielding and its opponents willingly accept prison sentences and sacrifice all rather than comply. This builds a moral force which no law can withstand if the cause is just and the disobedience is sufficiently widespread and prolonged.

Lawrence S. Apsey, 1960

## FAITH AND PRACTICE SECTION ON **PASTORAL CARE**

*Adopted 2017 for a one year provisional period*

Quakers regard all individuals in their meeting community as “members one of another” (Romans 12:4). As Friends, we regard ourselves as being called to care for each other’s spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being. The traditional term for this form of ministry is “pastoral care.” For Quakers in Illinois Yearly Meeting, pastoral care is the collective responsibility of the entire meeting.

Pastoral care begins when we recognize the needs of our fellow worshippers. We do this by coming to know one another deeply and by listening to each other actively and lovingly. Every encounter, whether at the meeting house or elsewhere, is an opportunity for us to learn about the needs of others and to respond to those needs.

The spiritual welfare of a meeting is greatly helped if its social life is vigorous, and members take a warm personal interest in one another’s welfare. The pastoral work of the Society is specially committed to [the Care and Counsel Committee], but our members should generally not allow themselves to feel that they are relieved from responsibility. In the greater events of life, such as marriage, birth of a child, illness or death, it is our duty and privilege to share in one another’s joys and sorrows; and sympathy thus shown is a potent means of binding us in closer fellowship.

London Yearly Meeting, 1925

Pastoral care often takes place informally, as a natural consequence of our concern for one another. When Friends find that informal means of care are insufficient for a particular situation calling for pastoral care, they should bring that issue to the care and counsel or similar committee (pp xx-xx) or to the meeting as a whole if there is no committee for such matters. Members of the committee that undertakes pastoral care are expected to take a personal interest in the spiritual, emotional, and physical welfare of

each member and regular attender in the meeting, thus assuring that everyone within the meeting community is supported in difficult times. (Ministry to individuals outside of the meeting community is also of major concern to Friends (see Section xx), but it is not normally referred to as “pastoral care.”)

Situations for which pastoral care might be in order are discussed elsewhere in this Faith & Practice, including conflict within the meeting (pp xx-xx) and death and bereavement (pp xx-xx), among others. Individuals who are not members of the committee that undertakes pastoral care are encouraged to bring such issues to the attention of that committee, particularly when they discern that their individual gifts are not likely to be sufficient to deal with the issue at hand.

In order to undertake responsibility for pastoral care, members of the care and counsel committee are encouraged to:

- acquaint themselves with all members and attenders in order to keep informed about their various needs for personal encouragement and assistance;
- inform others, as appropriate, if there are needs for which the Meeting can be helpful;
- communicate with any Friend whose relationship with the Meeting has gone amiss;
- facilitate communication between individual Friends and the Meeting’s official structures for clearness and support.

The care and counsel committee is expected to undertake pastoral care with humility, tact, and discretion. This involves the ability to listen carefully and tenderly, to “speak the truth in love,” to maintain confidentiality, and to refrain from giving advice unless asked. Gifts of insight, experience, and emotional maturity are especially helpful.

The humility with which the care and counsel committee is called to carry out its work includes acknowledging any limitations in its abilities and resources. It is therefore beneficial for the committee to be aware of the presence of gifts and expertise among the members and attenders of the meeting.

In cases in which the care and counsel committee discerns that the meeting’s resources are insufficient for a particular concern, it may wish to refer the Friend(s) under its care to an outside organization that provides practical or material assistance, counseling, or other services. The committee is urged to inform itself about the availability of such services and to keep an up-to-date directory with contact information on the organizations that offer them.

The role of the care and counsel committee, while important, should not detract from the responsibility of the entire meeting community concerning pastoral care. As “members one of another,” Friends are called to take this responsibility seriously and to undertake it tenderly. Even when primary assistance for someone in the meeting community is beyond the resources of that community, committees or individuals within the meeting might be able to offer a caring presence as well as practical support in matters such as transportation, meals, or childcare. While it is important that Friends do not “outrun their guide” in attempting to provide care in ways for which they are not equipped, it is equally important that we endeavor to act in support of each other as the Spirit leads.

I have come to know that one essential ingredient is to recognize that we are not responsible for fixing the situation. Except for the few situations in which provision of some material aid is needed, we are not likely to be able to resolve the situation, but rather to be with the person or family in the midst of it. . . . We are called to be instruments for the work of the living God; we are called to be channels through which the Spirit can move.

Arlene Kelly, “The Ministry of Pastoral Care”

*Pastoral Care Newsletter* September 1993

## **MEMORIALS**

### **GENE GILMORE**

Gene S. Gilmore, born February 15, 1920, passed away on January 15, 2017 in Bonita, CA. His memorial service was held by Urbana-Champaign Friends Meeting on February 12. He is survived by his widow, Virginia, and by two children, Louise Gilmore Donahue and Daniel. A third child, Thomas, died in April.

After joining the Journalism faculty at the University of Illinois in 1963, Gene became active in the Urbana-Champaign Friends Meeting, starting with his service as clerk, 1964-66. He maintained a lifelong commitment to social justice and peace among nations. He was active in efforts to advance African-American civil rights, as well as efforts to end the Vietnam War. He and Virginia hosted a Vietnamese refugee in their home during 1975. For many years, until they moved to California in Gene's retirement, they were also mainstay organizers of the meeting's Peace Bazaar, founded in 1971 and initially sponsored by the Women's International League for Peace & Freedom. He served on the Urbana City Council for many years, and he helped to inspire and shape the careers of a great many young journalists. Gene's thoughtful and unfailingly reliable presence among Urbana-Champaign Friends was a substantial asset for a great many years.

### **EDITH HEDGES**

Edith Rittenhouse Hedges, born March 15, 1937, in Oakland, CA, passed away on June 7, 2016. A long-time resident of Charleston, Ill, she is survived by her husband, Frank H. Hedges. She was a member of Urbana-Champaign Friends Meeting.

Edith grew up in Nevada and California, studying dietetics and nutrition at the University of Nevada, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Purdue University, and the University of Illinois. She spent two years in New York City with the USDA as a nutritionist with the National School Lunch Program, as well as two years volunteering with the American Friends Service Committee in rural Mexico. After arriving at Eastern Illinois University, Edith taught for 27 years in the School of Home Economics. In 1986, following an accidental fall in her home which left her a paraplegic, Edith became an advocate for disabled persons. Edith was a weaver, a writer, and a talented and strong-willed woman whose positive outlook on life was a great inspiration for many.

### **MICHAEL IMLAY**

Michael McDonald Imlay was born December 11, 1933 in Zanesville, Ohio, the son of Robert John Imlay and Marguerite McDonald Imlay. His father had studied landscape architecture and worked in the family gardening business in Zanesville. Michael had two older siblings, Ella and Robert John, and a younger brother, Peter. Michael studied architecture at the University of Illinois School of Architecture, graduating in 1956. He



was in the ROTC during college and then served in the Army as a second Lieutenant at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Michael married Barbara Hecht and they had one son, Gabriel.

He worked in Chicago as an architect for the Austin Company and independently. In retirement, he engaged in semi-abstract watercolor painting, exhibiting at the Evanston Art Center and the Center for Artists in Recovery. He often spent the summer in Door County, Wisconsin, painting watercolors. In 1999, he was appointed to the Evanston Preservation Commission.

Michael began attending Evanston Meeting in 1991 and was an active member, serving on Trustees and other committees. He helped advise on the restoration of the meetinghouse in 2004-2006. In 2013, he moved to northern California to be near his brother. He passed away February 4, 2017. A Memorial Meeting for Worship was held at Evanston Friends Meeting on May 27, 2017.

### **ELEANOR JOHNSON**

Eleanor Mavity Johnson was born in French Lick, Indiana on January 8, 1916; the daughter of Norman B. and Myrtle Marie Mavity. Her brother, Julian, was seven years older. Eleanor passed away on April 24, 2017.

Eleanor graduated from high school in 1932 and attended Earlham College, where she met her future husband, Ralph Johnson. Ralph and Eleanor were married on October 16, 1938. They rented an apartment at 1009 Greenleaf Street in Evanston, Ill. across the street from Evanston Friends Meeting. Later on they bought a house at 2222 Colfax Street in Evanston where they lived with their three children: Virginia, Richard and Steven.

Eleanor was active in community affairs, including P.T.A., Girl Scouts, and the Evanston Women's Athletic Club. After the children went off to college, Eleanor decided to go back into the business world and worked part-time for an Evanston Law firm for sixteen years.

Ralph and Eleanor were faithful members of Evanston Meeting. Eleanor was a member of the Hospitality Committee for many years and acted as recorder. She participated in the work of the Women's Society. She particularly enjoyed serving as Editor of *Among Friends* for several years.

After Ralph's death in 2000, Eleanor and Virginia moved to Westminster Place of the Presbyterian Homes in Evanston. Virginia passed away in 2010, but Eleanor continued to live at Westminster and enjoyed an active life there. In 2014, she lost her son Richard. She is survived by her son, Steven (Judy); daughter-in-law, Andrea; six grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; 3 great great-grandchildren; nieces, Jacqueline Grisaffe (Sal) and Eleanor Bewley; and nephews, Wally, Larry (Bunny), and Tom (Ann).

A memorial service was held on May 6, 2017 at Westminster Place at Presbyterian Homes, Elliott Chapel. A Memorial Meeting for Worship was held at Evanston Friends Meeting on May 20, 2017.

## **Richard Taber**

Richard Taber, a member of Upper Fox Valley Quaker Meeting, died December 15 at Foxdale Village where he was a longtime resident. Richard was born April 23, 1932 in rural Iowa to Esther and Louis Taber. A formative experience for Richard was his four years at Scattergood Friends Boarding School in Iowa. At Scattergood, Richard found a love of learning. His Quaker convictions, developed at Scattergood, stayed with him throughout life.

Richard finished his BA at the University of Iowa in 1954. During the Korean War he worked at a children's home in Pennsylvania as his alternative service. This experience with disturbed and difficult children set the pattern for his study and work the next 40 years.

Richard moved to New York City, worked in a settlement house on the Lower East Side and at Wiltwyck School of disturbed boys, then earned a Master's degree in social work from NYU in 1964. Richard wanted to visit England and landed a job as a child care officer in London. The director of his office gave Richard a caseload of 34 of their most disturbed and difficult families. Richard did so well that he was offered a senior position in London two years later. But Richard wanted to move on. After another world trip he found a position in a mental health center at the Cabrini-Green Projects in Chicago. He worked there 1968-71. While there he helped public housing residents organize themselves to demand better library services, and more sympathetic and effective protection from the Chicago Police. Richard is likely the only social worker who has worked successfully with broken families in the Lower East Side of New York City, London and Chicago.

In 1974, Richard took a position as School Social Worker in Woodstock, 55 miles northwest of Chicago. He worked at the McHenry County Special Education District until 1994, when he retired.

After retirement Richard selected Foxdale as home for his remaining years. At Foxdale, Richard (known to most as "Dick") was a familiar figure for his hard work collecting and sorting recyclables, setting up equipment for movie nights, and more. He was a vigorous explorer by bicycle and on foot throughout the area and a cheerful presence at lectures, activities, performances, and at Quaker meetings for worship. He will be sorely missed.

Richard counted his extended family as his own. Every summer Richard would take his well-used Toyota around the West, visiting each of his many relatives one year or next. Richard is survived by his brother Merlin Taber, three nieces, and four nephews.

## **DARIAN T. THALMANN**

*(Abridged from 1,134 to 743 words due to print space availability. Contact yearly meeting for unabridged text)*

Darian Tracy Thalmann was born October 9, 1975 in Hammond, Ind. Due to his mother's ill health and long hospitalization, it was deemed necessary for infant Darian's survival that he be delivered somewhat early by caesarian section. After a short time in the hospital nursery, Darian was diagnosed with "failure to thrive" and his mother was advised by the obstetrician to take him home and "hold him, talk to him, sing to him, and love him until he has the will to live." Darian was a beautiful small child with flaming red hair who grew slowly and intermittently. Early on, it became apparent that he was significantly different than his older siblings. It was not until Darian was a teenager that he was diagnosed with autism.

Darian's two main interests, from grade school years into adult years, were reptiles and remote control vehicles. This turned out to be very beneficial for him. It was through his love of snakes that Darian learned to read and he developed an extensive vocabulary. For years, every Sunday after Quaker Meeting, Darian's mother took him to the pet and hobby shop where he spent a couple of hours holding the snakes and other reptiles. He enjoyed talking with his friends, the owners about their reptiles, as well as discussing their selection of remote control vehicles. Darian's step-father, Tom, also spent many hours a week with Darian working with the remote control vehicles. Over the years, through his love of snakes, Darian learned geography, climate, habitat, conservation and environmental concerns.

Darian began attending Duneland Friends Meeting (Quaker) with his mother and other siblings when he was five years old. He was a regular participant in First Day School and other Friends' activities. He loved going to Illinois Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions every summer until he graduated from high school. As a teen he enjoyed hanging out with the other teens. They always made him welcome and accepted his quietness and lower levels of participation. In 1992, on his own initiative, Darian requested membership in Duneland Friends Meeting, which was granted on February 9 of that year.

In his grade school years, Darian was placed in special education classes for "retarded youth" as the language of the time specified, or in classes for the "severely emotionally disturbed." When he reached high school age, Darian's family insisted he be mainstreamed into regular classes as there were no appropriate classes for him in the small rural district where they lived. Later testing revealed that Darian had a narrow range of genius which could potentially open up other opportunities for education and employment. These opportunities did not develop as Darian began showing signs of schizophrenia in his senior year of high school. Two years after graduation Darian was committed to a state mental hospital where he remained for three years. At one point during this time, Darian was near death when he suffered a severe reaction to the anti-psychotic drugs given to him.

Darian reached a place of moderate stability (without the support of medications) about eight years ago and successfully maintained an apartment. Late last February Darian laid down on the floor in his apartment and did not move until he was discovered by his landlord. He was taken by ambulance to the hospital where doctors said he had been only a couple of days from death. After many months in the hospital, he was released to a skilled-care nursing home in October where he received excellent care.

Darian lacked the will to live. He had given up walking since he had lain down in his apartment months before. Now wheelchair bound, he had regressed to the point that he needed total care. His family was notified in November that he had stopped eating and was declining. Darian's sister came to spend a couple of days with him and his mother stayed at his bedside his last three weeks. During this time, Darian's mind was clear and at peace. He knew he was much loved and passed away shortly after 4:00 a.m., November 29, 2016, at the age of 41 years.

Darian is survived by his mother, Roxy Jacobs, and step-father, Tom Jacobs; three siblings, Heidi Badgley, Ronald Van Sessen (wife, Kimberly), Carey Thalmann (wife, Amy); nieces, Ashly Thalmann, Nicole Thalmann, Sarah Van Sessen, and Faith Badgley; nephew, Mark Van Sessen; and father Michael William Thalmann. Preceding him in death in 1962 is his sister, Hope Dawn Badgley.

## STATES OF SOCIETY

### BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL FRIENDS MEETING

We will begin, as we do every year, with how well we nurture each other with exceptional potlucks. It has been an unusual year for members having a hard time. We have members who are unable to attend regularly due to health and other commitments or challenges. We as a meeting need to support and reach out to each other. The number of attenders has increased over all during this year. The number of members and attenders averages five to ten each Sunday. First Day School includes three toddlers and two grade school children.

The energy and attention of members has been much impacted by the Fall election at the national and state level. The results and general political environment present a challenge to programs which reflect basic Quaker values. In response some members were led to participate in political change groups such as Indivisible and Black Lives Matter while others continued in self-awareness groups that focus on non-violence and substance abuse that also bring societal change. An effort was made to reach out and attend services in the two local mosques.

Group members continue to maintain contact with other meetings. We attended several meetings in Peoria in an effort to explore starting a meeting there. We have had Quaker attenders from Peoria, Pekin, Clear Creek, and Champaign. We provide a core group for the Quaker women's group, Meeting for Eating, which meets for delicious food and company once a month. That group also includes members from Peoria, Clear Creek, and Champaign. We celebrated Easter with the Clear Creek meeting. Our members continue to serve the wider Quaker community. Fariba Murray belongs to Youth Oversight committee and Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) for the Illinois Yearly Meeting. Christina Schulz is the Recording Clerk for the Blue River Quarterly.

Members felt that a permanent meeting place would bring more stability than meeting weekly in different homes. Two churches have generously shared space with us but we continue to seek the quiet and independence needed for Quaker worship. First Day School remains a challenge because of the wide age range of children. An adult leader has assumed responsibility every week for coordinating an event for children even though there have not always been children present. Two sets of curriculum have been used for the older children. One was *The Giraffe Project* and the other was *The Children's Worship Kit*. Lindsey Rabbe has volunteered to coordinate First Day School for the next year and a committee is being formed to help her.

The meeting has also committed to provide education for adults. Five sessions were held which focused on chapters in Phillip Gulley's *Living the Quaker Way*. Heather Evert coordinates adult education. Some sessions have been held before meeting that included discussion of select passages from the developing ILYM Book of Faith and Practice. These sessions are to continue once a month.

Bob Broad and Julie Hile have served faithfully and creatively as our clerk for the last five years. The meeting leadership transitioned in February to co-clerks Fariba Murray and Mary Cunningham. After twelve years of faithful service, Christina Schulz has stepped aside as treasurer. We are seeking a new treasurer. Business meetings are held once every six weeks after worship and potluck.

In these political times we have often been discouraged but are steadfast in our belief that these times especially call for Quaker values and we are committed to living them in

our families, our community and our world. Such dedication requires action as well as worship. We are committed to both.

### **Burlington Worship Group**

The Burlington Worship Group is standing steady at five regular participants. We all gather for worship each First Day, as we are available. We feel the vocal ministry in our meeting contributes to the quality of worship, and if there is only silence, it is a very expectant silence. We feel spiritually refreshed, enriched and sustained by Meeting for Worship. The spiritual nature of our worship community encourages us to continue to seek the Divine for our lives in the present moment and strengthen us for the work God has set before us to do.

We seek to find new ways to grow spiritually as well as grow in numbers. One way we are seeking is to know our faith more fully in relationship with other Friends. Another way is to be a public example of Friends in our community. Ways we are working towards that end include the following examples: some of us participated in a day-long workshop hosted at Clear Creek Meeting last fall; some of us are participating in the ILYM Women's Weekend gathering; most of our attenders participate in an ecumenical Centering Prayer group in Burlington that meets weekly.

There is an interest in becoming a Quaker social change ministry as defined by the American Friends Service Committee. This ministry works to bring together the work for social justice while practicing the spiritual discipline of Friends. We are not quite prepared to bring this work into the world but we are seeking how best to be a Friend's ministry in our community

In summary, we are a stable group with our own public Meeting for Worship space at the Burlington Art Center, with a small sign announcing our meeting time outside this meeting space. We have weekly notices in the local newspaper. We are listed in [quakerfinder.org](http://quakerfinder.org). We recently arranged to be in *Friends Journal* in the "Meeting Listing" section of each issue.

An edited summary of the ILYM Women's Weekend experience from one of our attenders: I have attended the Quaker meeting for only few months and was not sure what to expect on the retreat but I knew there would be times of silence and was looking forward to meeting other women from the Quaker tradition. I was not disappointed and quickly met other like-minded women with deep spiritual experience at the retreat. The conversation while enjoying the scrumptious and nutritious meals was particularly rich. One woman had asked if anyone had adopted a child and what were their experiences. Well, that opened the floodgates with story after story from other women around the table. I thought as I quietly listened, what a way to encourage, share and even commiserate with other daughters, mothers, grandmothers, and friends. It confirmed for me the power and strength in shared community, and I felt privileged to be a part of these Quaker women even if it was only a few days on retreat.

We are a people that follow after those things that make for peace, love and unity. It is our desire that other's feet may walk in the same. We do deny and bear our testimony against all strife and wars and contention.

Margaret Fell

### **CLEAR CREEK MONTHLY MEETING**

Clear Creek Monthly Meeting has had a very quiet year—no major projects, no catastrophes, no serious illnesses, and plenty of deep and satisfying worship. In the midst of it all, in typical Clear Creek fashion, we quietly celebrated our 175th anniversary as a

monthly meeting. We did have a celebratory cake when we hosted Continuing Committee in October, and we hear there may be some mention of the milestone at Annual Sessions in June.

To enhance our weekly worship, in October we enjoyed a retreat on the topic of “Decision Making and Conflict Resolution,” led by Field Secretary Judy Wolicki. Our Friendly Circle group continues to meet monthly with Betty Wolf at the Mendota Lutheran Home. In addition, Friendly Circle also organized two outings for the meeting this year. On one day we visited the alpaca farm near Granville and the Dixon Waterfowl Refuge at Hennepin-Hopper Lake. On another day we toured the Miller Park Zoo and the David Davis Mansion in Bloomington. This year, Anne Comisky led our discussion hour only four times instead of monthly as in previous years. Several of us participated in the Blue River Quarterly retreat led by Maurine Pyle and Mariellen Gilpin that took place at Clear Creek house in November.

In memory of our late member, Jim Bumgarner, each year we donate to needy families in Putnam County, typically around Christmas time. This year instead of holding a garage sale (too much work) to raise money for this purpose, we dropped contributions in a basket and collected \$300 for distribution to two families. We also contributed to the work member Lori Paton and her husband Bob are doing with the Latino community in Peoria.

We continue to be a close-knit community in spite of the distances many of us travel to attend meeting. To extend our time together we eat after meeting every week, calling it by various names—potluck, coffee hour, snacks—but there is always plenty of good food and conversation. This spring we celebrate the 80th birthdays of three of our stalwart members, all within one week. We are preparing to present the Thursday night program at Illinois Yearly Meeting, sharing with Friends the life of a rural meeting.

We always enjoy visitors who come our way for committee meetings, retreats, or just passing through, and encourage you to join us for worship any time.

### **COLUMBIA FRIENDS MEETING**

This year has been challenging, but we have hope for the future. While we have not lost any members, we have experienced lower attendance and lower donations. We have spent time and energy contacting long-absent members with whom we have lost touch. While a few have expressed interest in staying in contact, in most cases we failed to reach them. In an effort to be more accessible, we discussed possible changes to the meeting house, or finding an alternative site. Many alternatives have been examined, and we have received assistance from the yearly meeting in the form of a visitation from Mariellen Gilpin and Maurine Pyle, which was helpful and much appreciated. At the end of the year we are negotiating for an alternative site in the city. David and Nancy Finke, who had both been very active in the meeting, moved to Ohio, and we struggled to fill the gap left by their absence. We restructured our committees in an attempt to reduce the number of positions to be filled, and changed the dates of service to coincide with the calendar year.

As always, we search for ways to be the change we wish to see in the world. We have worked with food banks, soup kitchens, a weekly peace vigil, and community gardens. Our members are engaged in such diverse issues as sustainable agriculture and common sense gun control legislation. We try to hold a Meeting for Worship with friends in nursing homes once a month as they have difficulties attending meetings. We take joy in the anticipated marriage of a couple in our meeting and the expected birth of a baby to a couple married in our meeting in 2014.

We were not unaffected by the political climate this past year. We have struggled to find ways to express the testimonies of equality, justice, and community in such a

divisive atmosphere. But despite the turbulent nature of the political climate, we have found peace and hope in our worship. A bird sings, a child laughs, a ray of sun pierces the clouds, and we are reminded again of the hope and love that is our faith.

### **DOWNERS GROVE FRIENDS MEETING**

Downers Grove Friends Meeting gathers as a community in a variety of ways. Many of us attend Meeting for Worship each first day, hearing the Spirit in silence or in vocal ministry. We have been blessed during 2016 to see many new faces at Meeting for Worship. We welcomed one new member, Anthony Groenewold, and mourned the loss of Karl Zerfoss.

Members and attenders engage in the life of the meeting in various groups. Our two adult fellowship groups continue, offering opportunities for society during the week. Meeting for Learning showed filmed presentations on Quaker history given by Ben Pink Dandelion. A reading group is now engaged in the study of John Woolman's life and witness. We began a worship sharing group that gathers once a month. A fourth Sunday discussion group focuses on experiences of being a Quaker.

Members and attenders engage in the life of our community and the larger world in many ways local and global. Our Peace, Environment and Social Concerns Committee provided leadership in placing on our website a statement of identity as open and affirming of all gender expressions and sexual orientations. We became participating members of the National Religious Campaign against Torture. FCNL Quaker Field Secretary Christine Ashley blessed us with her visit in February. We support two local service agencies with contributions collected monthly at simple meal and snack. We are active participants in DuPage United, a local coalition that has organized events in solidarity with our Muslim neighbors and which has worked to organize mental health training for local law enforcement.

At this stage in the life of our meeting, we do not have enough children in regular attendance to offer a formal First Day School, although our Children's Religious Education Committee works with children when they do attend. A threshing session and subsequent discussion produced a commitment to host two family-friendly events each year. Our first Memorial Day family picnic attracted more than two dozen picnickers, a few returning after a long absence. The annual December carol sing was beautiful and enjoyable.

The beauty of the meetinghouse was enhanced by a gift of leaded glass windows made by Mark Erickson that included wood frames made from a walnut tree cut down on the grounds when the new meetinghouse was built.

Our challenges are not unusual: an aging membership, involvement with other causes and commitments that claim time and energy. Our Meeting for Business could use more attenders, our committees more members. Still, we are a grateful community of active Quakers, joined together by bonds of Friendship and the Spirit.

### **DUNELAND FRIENDS MEETING**

Duneland Friends Meeting continues as a small meeting of Illinois Yearly Meeting, gathering at least twice a month for worship and fellowship. We continue to value our worship time together and our care for one another.

Early in the year we made a commitment to hold a meeting retreat to reflect on our identity as Friends and on what we have to offer our community and the world, individually and as a Friends meeting. In preparation we read two Pendle Hill pamphlets: *But Who Do You Say That I Am?* by Douglas Gwyn and *Marking the Quaker Path* by Robert Griswold. During the retreat held in October, Fernando Freire and Field Secretary

Judy Wolicki led us in worship sharing and conversation around these questions, while Caryn Kuhn of South Bend Monthly Meeting led activities with our young Friends. We came away with many ideas to consider in the year to come and renewed commitment to our small meeting community.

As in any community, Duneland has had our share of joys and sorrows during the year. In March, we were saddened to learn that long-time member Marlou Carlson suffered another stroke, which has left her largely home-bound. Once she was able to return home with a live-in caretaker, she continued to welcome us to her home twice monthly for Bible Study. Even with only a word or two, she is often able to share her thoughts and feelings with Friends. She has also enjoyed having Friends visit her at home after meeting for hymn singing.

In late November, Duneland Friends lost a long-time member, Darian Thalmann (age 41), son of Roxy and Tom Jacobs. Darian's life was not an easy one, for he struggled with autism and later schizophrenia. In early December, Duneland Friends held a memorial service for Darian when friends and family shared memories of Darian's love for animals and remote-controlled vehicles, of the importance of Duneland Friends and Illinois Yearly Meeting in his early life, and of our love for Darian and our respect for the struggles he faced during his lifetime.

As for our joys, we are continually amazed at the way our young Friends—now teens or pre-teens—are developing their unique talents. A couple of our young Friends are enthusiastic participants in singing after worship, with favorite choices including “All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir,” “The George Fox Song,” and “Harriet Tubman.” First Day School lessons have included instrumental music as well as exploring deep questions the young Friends have raised about God, Jesus, and the Bible. We have greatly appreciated the young Friends' musical contributions to our intergenerational gatherings at Christmas and Easter. Another joy this year has been to welcome a new couple who have become regular attenders at Meeting.

In November 2016, our clerk read out of the silence the following advice and queries from Britain Yearly Meeting's Faith and Practice: “Respect the wide diversity among us in our lives and relationships. Refrain from making prejudiced judgments about the life journeys of others. Do you foster the spirit of mutual understanding and forgiveness which our discipleship asks of us? Remember that each one of us is unique, precious, a child of God.” As we gathered for worship and fellowship throughout the year, we often found ourselves holding in the Light queries about how our faith guides us as we react to events in the world around us, about what it means to be a Quaker community, and about how we can best be involved in the communities where we live, work, and worship. May the Spirit continue to guide us as we seek our way forward together.

### **EVANSTON MEETING OF FRIENDS**

*(Abridged from 1,093 to 846 words due to print space availability. Contact yearly meeting for unabridged text)*

It has been another vibrant year for our meeting. We have warmly welcomed new members: Robyn Sullivan and her two children, Cooper and Fiona. Michael Conover transferred his membership from Evanston to Northside Friends Meeting. We experienced the joy of the marriage of Colleen Reardon and Henrietta Yardley under the care of the Meeting on October 8, 2016. On January 8, 2017, our long-time member Eleanor Johnson celebrated her 101st birthday with family, some coming from as far as California and Washington for this event. We also experienced sorrow with the losses of Eleanor Johnson and Michael Imlay.

The midweek Meeting for Worship under the care of Evanston Meeting continues to meet at The Admiral on the Lake, a retirement facility, every Wednesday morning.



Several members of the community as well as some members of Evanston Meeting attend the Meeting for Worship and then gather for breakfast afterwards.

The meeting has continued several traditions such as a pancake breakfast meeting the third 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 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. We continue to offer the fall silent retreat at Portiuncula Retreat Center in Frankfort, Illinois.

Inquirers Meetings were held on five consecutive Sundays in February and March 2017. 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. A table is reserved for those interested in discussing Quaker beliefs and practices during our monthly potluck meals. The biannual 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 group that continues to meet every other week for worship sharing with discussion and sponsors a relevant film once a month at the meetinghouse. Mary Theis and Phyllis Reynolds traveled to Peru in March/April for a women's retreat on indigenous healing practices. They hope to hold another retreat in Illinois within the next year.

The 2017 Peace Award was presented to Youth & Opportunity United (Y.O.U.) for its outstanding work with young people. In accepting the award, the director Seth Green gave a moving and inspiring talk about the organization's mission in working with local youth. Meredith George was chosen as our Vision Keeper for Interfaith Action of Evanston for her activism in the Chicago area.

Long term childcare workers Norma Dupont and Suzanne Sheridan together with several young Friends 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. Ministry and Counsel and Religious Education Committees sponsored an afternoon program on encouraging increased child and parent attendance last September. This was followed up by an interactive discussion led by Joy Duncan, which focused on increasing the participation of the children and their parents in Meeting for Worship. First Day School has continued to thrive with the attendance of more young children this year. They, and those 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 and attenders of the meeting. Each event stimulated thoughtful group discussion.

Evanston Friends Meeting is happy to be co-sponsoring a refugee family with RefugeeOne. Meeting was assigned a Rohingya Burmese (Myanmar) family with mother, father, and two children, and has donated funds and begun visiting them. More than 25 members and attenders have agreed to help with everything from donating money, to visiting with the family, helping them learn English, accompanying them to medical appointments, and assisting to find adequate work.

We continue to have our challenges. A longtime concern is that of latecomers whose arrival disrupts the worship of several settled folks. Ministry and Council has distributed

a trifold pamphlet on offering and receiving spoken ministry. We are continually seeking ways to increase the caring interaction between our adults and children.

Our monthly newsletter, edited by Kenneth Laughlin, helps to keep us connected, especially for distant friends and those without electronic access, with the minutes from Meeting for Business, the quarterly Treasurer's Report, and the announcements of pending events. Charlotta Koppanyi, the Religious Education coordinator, writes a First Day School report; others provide book reviews and present ecological concerns.

### **57TH STREET MEETING OF FRIENDS**

57th Street Meeting of Friends continues to change and to grow. We have seen beloved members move on to other places and other meetings; some of this is as Friends retire and move away, some happens as jobs and circumstances lead Friends to another place. It is gratifying that new people come to worship with us as their lives lead them.

We continue to be an oft-visited meeting, receiving greetings from meetings and churches around the country and the world. Some visitors are new to Quakers, and we do our best to welcome them. Visitors are often surprised by the number of children that enter the room for the last part of worship.

We are working on integrating the children more fully into worship, starting with an multigenerational lesson on Meeting for Worship preceding that meeting on one First Day each month. The children then begin worship with the larger group. We have a growing cadre of young Friends and families, and the multigenerational program is seeking to deepen our corporate worship experience as well as to introduce young and new attenders to the practice of silent worship.

Though occasionally we have a great number of messages, our worship often remains silent. Many remark that the meeting helps to carry them through a difficult week or time. It would be helpful to have a few more hands to help with the work of the meeting, and it is more difficult than we like to meet our budget goals. We are grateful, for our meetinghouse and those who contribute their time and love, and for our community.

### **LAKE FOREST FRIENDS MEETING**

*(Abridged from 1,602 to 724 words due to print space availability. Contact yearly meeting for unabridged text)*

There is no question we are living in difficult times. The last decade and a half has been increasingly turbulent and conflict filled. Quakers are familiar with difficult times. It has been the work of Quakers to meet challenges. How this is done individually and as a body is the mystery and embodiment of "being in the Spirit."

An event that speaks to meeting "new problems" with "new ways of life" was the crisis this past year when no one was able to fill the position of Presiding Clerk. Undaunted, we entered into a year of rotating clerks. Friends who had previously served as Presiding Clerks and were currently on the Ministry and Worship Committee, each clerked Meeting for Business for two months. The meeting showed patience, nurture and support of each. Some details were glossed over but overall our business continued.

Forums and pre-meeting adult religious education programs have been particularly rich and well attended this past year. We had three well-attended and probing discussions on aging as Quakers. One conclusion: The Inner Light never ages. We were fascinated by a unique and useful forum on how to prepare at home for a serious emergency involving a black-out for more than several hours. Our Friendly Bible Study group started up again with study of the Letter of James which highlights faith in actions. Lake Forest Friends continue to be very active in leadership positions and participation in the Wider Quaker World. The Meeting continued its formal endorsement for the ministry of Jessica Easter who is working as a chaplain in a children's hospital.

The meeting is holding steady in average attendance (27 adults and 6 young friends) and membership with 141 total members, 64 resident adult members and 10 resident young Friends. New members are Penelope Sasha Colin, an infant member by request of her parents; Thomas and Kathleen McDonald and their sons, Kyle and Tristan, and Arminda Downy Mavromatis. Two births blessed our meeting: Penelope, daughter of Alexandra and Aaron Colin, and Jonathan Young, son of Katherine and Jay Young. We noted with joy the marriage of Emily Wills to Nick Raef that took place on July 23, 2016. Sadly, there were two deaths: Debbie Schwartz, an away member who lived in Arizona and Al Lang, a Madison resident and a former long-time member of LFFM. Al and his late wife Jenny, founded the still-active Camp Woodbrooke in Southwestern Wisconsin where many younger friends from our meeting over the years learned about nature and community with a Quaker touch.

The meeting continues its efforts to address humanitarian concerns. The meeting was active on a number of fronts in the past year. The Peace and Social Justice Committee invited representatives from two organizations assisting Syrian refugees to present a forum on the extent of the plight of millions of Syrian refugees in the Middle East, Europe and the United States, including Chicago. One of these organizations, the Karam Foundation, is based in Lake Forest. On a related matter, the meeting co-hosted with the North Suburban Mennonites a presentation by a representative from Refugee One in Chicago which resulted in the meeting agreeing to assist a Congolese family in Chicago with five children. In addition, a number of members attended an open house sponsored by a Mosque in Libertyville called the Islamic Foundation North. Members also attended a rally and dinner sponsored by supporters of the family of Justus Howell a young African American shot and killed two years ago by a Zion police officer. We continue to support Peaceful Communities in their work educating communities on gun control; and their activism in urging better legislation. The Lake County organization, PADS, recognized the valuable work of LFFM volunteers in preparing and serving dinners for homeless people.

These are definitely not ordinary times. LFFM always manages to confront the vital issues of the times. For a group, a “community” of independent minds, backgrounds and values, to create a common ground of action is an immense task. The “voice” that echoes in the reports of the past seems to say “we can do better, we can do more, why can’t we get past our loss of momentum?” As Quakers, our devotion to honesty and integrity means that we are willing to question ourselves. Moving forward with an answer is the hard part.

### **NORTHSIDE FRIENDS MEETING**

*(Abridged from 1,084 to 992 words due to print space availability. Contact yearly meeting for unabridged text)*

Meeting is us! We are members, attenders, visitors, and seekers. We are young, old, and in-between. Some of us are life-long Quakers, others convinced, some come from other religious roots, and others have none at all. We unite in holy silence on First Day. Out of this worship we transition to social hours, pot lucks, Meetings for Business, committee meetings, and second hour programs but it is our worship that defines us. We share our gifts. We celebrate that which is unique in each of us.

The past year has continued to be a time of regrouping and growth, an ongoing process since our 2003-2004 sabbath year. During 2015 fall retreat, we agreed to simplify our structure by retaining just two committees, Ministry and Counsel and House. In 2016, Nominating Committee brought forward a presiding clerk and Second Hour Committee slate. Appointing a presiding clerk has provided immense help keeping things running smoothly. For other meeting tasks, like those of greeter and closer of Meeting for

Worship, we ask individuals to step forward as led. This provides both an opportunity to serve meeting and a healthy way to grow our community. To deepen our connection and caring of each other we added a time for Joys and Sorrows immediately following worship, allowing that which has been important in our lives to be shared.

The Second Hour Committee arranges weekly First Day programs and workshops. These presentations are most always facilitated by our meeting members and attenders and engage us in a further understanding of our Quaker world. We find in them an intimacy, powerful and positive, not always found in those programs facilitated by external guests.

We delight in our children and provide them with activities and teachings, with Ministry and Counsel providing oversight to First Day concerns. We welcome into worship children who want to join us. Sometimes they sit quietly reading a book, or play with toys, or wiggle, as they learn to participate in worship. Sometimes babies, cuddled in parents' arms, join us. Since our paid childcare provider left we moved our focus from childcare to First Day programming, managing to give our children the “village” so necessary to develop their spiritual lives. Our children’s recent rigorous rehearsal schedule and performance of a play boosted First Day School attendance. The children’s enthusiasm was shared by all and inspired the planning of another play.

Members have formed a Book Club, held a concern for social justice while visiting a near-by mosque, and hosted a visit by 57th Street Meeting. While attending the Chicago Women’s March some members wore pink pussy hats while fondly carrying a long-ago-made Northside Friends Meeting banner. We were delighted this became a multi-generational activity, bonding children and adults who participated. A group from meeting attended the powerful Gone But Not Forgotten Quilt exhibit and lecture that called for awareness of those in our communities who have been lost to police violence. Some of us attended the Upper Valley Corn Roast, ILYM Annual Sessions, and the FGC Gathering. In solidarity with Japanese American friends several Northsiders visited the Japanese American Day of Remembrance exhibit at the Chicago History Museum. We hold special concern for Japanese Americans, reinforced by our weekly worship in the Japanese American Service Committee building.

Attendance has consistently remained 15-30 on First Day. Visitors, particularly young adults unfamiliar with Quaker faith and practice, have joined our worship as have those from other meetings who are seasoned Friends. Our door is always open to newcomers.

Though many stay for potluck it is a small group who stays for second hour and Business Meeting. While a small group means that each voice is heard, it also means the work of meeting is falling on a core few. There are some advantages to a small group but we must ensure that work does not become a burden and that Friends step up for financial contributions, child care and education, greeting and closing, and Second Hour facilitation.

Milestones of this past year include: Pamela Calvert and Helen Haug transferred memberships to Northside. Glenn Neumann, a long-time active member, moved to be near family in Colorado. Tyler Callich served with children’s programming. Recently she transitioned to another house of worship. Steve Hawk, a regular attender until his health interceded, has died. Janice Thompson moved to Paris but remains a member of our meeting. Daniel Hall requested his membership be transferred to Midcoast Meeting, Damariscotta, Maine. Adrian Nelson, currently working at L'Arche Tacoma Hope community in Tacoma, WA, lifted up a minute of concern from ze current ministry, seeking our response. Mike Conover transferred his membership to Northside. Ted Ehnle married John Heintz. Martha Lavey, a recent regular attender, has died. Andy Harrington and Charlotte Wood-Harrington moved to the Boston area, requesting transfers of

memberships to Wellesley Friends Meeting. Ty McGee faithfully transformed our rented space into a place of worship.

We are not a group led by the elders, but instead, all of us, young through old, have a responsibility for managing the tasks and decisions of meeting. As we consider our state of society we ask ourselves: “Do we provide nurturance to those who come?” “Do we step up to do the work needed to keep Meeting viable and solvent?” “Are we doing enough outreach to attract and keep visitors, particularly those with children?” “Do we successfully engage visitors in our activities?” “Do we help them feel welcome and wanted?” “Do we provide a spiritual home?” “Do we help transfer-of-memberships for those coming from other meetings?”

Always a work-in-progress, we come together, led by Spirit, on First Day. Most notably, there has been fluidity this year in the midst of which we find ourselves relaxed (except about politics) and able to manage the tasks of our meeting with open hearts. We trust each other and are willing to be Friends to one another.

Meeting is us, and we unite, most of all, through the holy silence we share.

### **OAK PARK FRIENDS MEETING**

Oak Park Friends Meeting continues its efforts to reach both outward and inward.

Peace and Justice Committee members were instrumental in setting up a viewing and discussion of the documentary *In Pursuit of Peace* at the Oak Park Public Library. The event was free and open to the public. It created a space for both inward reflection and outward demonstration of the Quaker peace testimony. It was refreshing to connect with peace advocates at the event such as the Little Friends for Peace, a local group trying to deepen inner peace, build trust, cultivate empathy, and disarm conflict.

Our committees have been led to reach outward at both the local and national level. We have several members who represent Oak Park Friends Meeting with local groups such as the Community of Congregations, Holiday Food/Gift Basket Program, Housing Forward, and Interfaith Green Network. In addition, we have been participating in national advocacy with visits to legislators as part of the Friends Committee on National Legislation advocacy training program.

At the same time, we have made efforts to take time to reflect on inward leadings on difficult topics such as privilege and being Quaker in a secular world. Our adult religious education leaders have created programs around both becoming aware of our privilege and knowing how/when to take action to create a more equitable world. The book *Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We're in without Going Crazy* by Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone was especially helpful with providing attenders with ideas to move forward with hope and action.

We continue to offer a mid-week worship to accommodate Friends who find it difficult to attend the traditional Sunday 10 a.m. Meeting for Worship. This mid-week option is offered in a Friend's home that creates a cozy, intimate option for people wanting a Meeting for Worship on Wednesday's once per month during the school year.

We are joyful in experiencing an expanding membership that has encouraged the Ministry and Care Committee to refine the membership processes to make them clearer for all involved. Our seeking for a long-term home for Oak Park Friends Meeting continues, but in the meantime we are inspired by the art that surrounds us in our current home at the Oak Park Art League. We continue to move forward with hope and action as way opens.

## OSHKOSH

### *Clerk's Report*

Faith and doubt in the religious sense are both about openness. "I believe, help thou my unbelief." Mark 9:24

We have had no request for membership this past year. A variety of new attenders have attended worship with us. We have had three children visit our Meeting for Worship. We do not offer a First Day School. Three members currently worship with us and two of our members are out of the city. We have three regular attenders. We have supported two yearly meetings financially and through participation. Our membership has through participation in the community social justice group Ester, been part of the success in starting up a warming shelter for the homeless in Oshkosh. We ended our Wednesday Evening Classes in January. Instead, we have replaced this with meetings on Thursday afternoons. We continue to protest war publicly both with the Unitarians in Appleton and Oshkosh Friends at Senator Ron Johnson's office on Tuesdays. We urge all Friends to stand up for our peace testimony. We continue our prison visitation at Oshkosh Correctional. There are about 10 prisoners that gather with us on a monthly basis and love to sing the George Fox song.

### *Elder's Report*

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

This report is a celebration of life and meeting challenges. Our meeting has been struggling with life lessons on many different levels—the teenage challenge, the challenge of elderly relatives, the challenges of changing roles in our lives and marriages as we feel too tired to continue, to name just a few. We have done well, for the most part. It is easy to get wrapped up in our causes and to run over individual opinions in our quest to "get something done" in our current society. We have tried to not bring this secular group psychology into our meeting, but to bring the Society of Friends' spirituality out into our world. We have kept in mind the fact that our religion begins with the individual and have put work into respecting individual opinions and lifestyles. We have worked at being forbearing with our families, understanding with our friends, hopefully helpful to those in need, and have striven mightily to make sure the necessary tasks are covered by someone. No, we have not been perfect—we have snapped and been less diligent in formalities than we or others might have liked. However, we have tried to make amends when possible without outside urging. That is a triumph in itself—recognizing the need to repair "wrongs" that are personal. It is easier to recognize the impersonal wrongs like slavery and killing, but harder to recognize/appreciate the care a friend gives when he or she intrudes in your life. Seeing the need to repair damage without going into endless self-castigation is a skill/gift most of us need to continually work at, but we have done better this year.

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

### **SOUTH BEND FRIENDS MEETING**

South Bend Friends Meeting has experienced the gifts of the Spirit in the past year. Our gatherings for worship have nurtured us with deep silence and rich vocal ministry. To enhance our fellowship following worship and to strengthen our sense of mutual support, we have been experimenting with changes in the order of activities at the rise of meeting to encourage more sharing of joy and concerns and of messages that did not rise to vocal ministry during worship.

The Elkhart Worship group has continued its twice-monthly meetings for worship and monthly watershed spirituality events. Friends from South Bend and from Elkhart regularly attend Meeting for Worship in one another's communities.

Outside of Meeting for Worship, the cultivation of spiritual nurture groups continues to be an ongoing activity and concern. Begun last year, the Friendly Midweek Moment serves as another important source of nurture for the meeting: all benefit from a prompt to mindful reflection during the week. Friends have also nurtured one another this year through spiritual and material support for families in the meeting facing significant health challenges.

Another continuing contribution to the life of the Meeting is our active first-day school. This past year, we have had both younger class for children ages 5-12 and a bi-monthly class for teens. Young Friends bring great joy and clarity to the meeting. On the recommendation of yearly meeting, the younger class spent a month learning about Friends' business practices and attended a meeting for business, at which they made a presentation about the importance of adults remembering to sign up to bring snacks at the rise of meeting, which support fellowship for the whole meeting but which are of particular importance to young Friends.

The past year has also brought significant action in the meeting around social concerns. Following the November elections and at the time of the presidential inauguration, we held several called meetings for worship to hold our nation in the light and to provide support for one another. Under the guidance of an active Peace and Social Concerns Committee, the meeting has responded to our shared concerns for people in the South Bend community and elsewhere. The social ministries of individual Friends have also advanced this year with the support of the meeting. In addition to the support committee for Jason Shenk's ministry, which is under the care of the meeting, we have convened a clearness committee for a Friend discerning about a leading to social action. We have found many fruitful opportunities to act in our communities in light of Friends' testimonies.

South Bend Friends have been blessed with the opportunity to bring a marriage under the care of the meeting. The civil service took place in May with a Meeting for Worship with attention to marriage to follow in September.

Membership in the meeting has remained steady, with one longtime member, who has moved from South Bend, transferring membership to another meeting and one new member joining the meeting.

### **SOUTHERN ILLINOIS QUAKER MEETING**

In the past year, our meeting has been facing profound questions surrounding our move from the Gaia House Interfaith Center to a new location at the Dayemi Family Center. This has been a process of introspection, looking back at our long history in an historic interfaith building and finding our way into a new home. We are not yet settled but we are together.

We utilized the Appreciative Inquiry process to help us in the early stages of our discernment about moving. This process helped us see ourselves as Quakers and articulated what our affiliation with the Gaia House Interfaith Center has meant to us in the past. However, it became clear that we were divided about the prospect of moving. The meeting agreed to seek outside support in helping us with discernment after nearly a year of prayer, further discussion and lingering indecision. Elders from ILYM, which included the Field Secretary and a Friend from the St. Louis Meeting, graciously facilitated our deep seeking. There came a time when we agreed that some of our difficulties would remain with us regardless of our meeting location. We made the move, and will continue to seek healing for our meeting community.

Our meeting has continued to recognize members in leadings for service and unrecorded ministry. Individuals have reported a variety of service and Quaker led ministry in several areas. Although in many cases we work individually, we recognize the familiarity of our Quaker values and its influence for the care of our community. One member said that in his service in the recovery self-help community, he is bringing some Quaker methods to decision making, like using silence and encouraging discernment rather than voting.

In providing responses to the ILYM Faith & Practice section on Recognizing Spiritual Gifts and Leadings, we articulated our meeting's experiences of supporting several ministries over the decades. While we had "learned by doing" and developed guidelines and processes for supporting ministers. We recently recognized that our oversight of Maurine Pyle's recorded ministry was not as responsive as needed. We are now learning how we might approach laying down oversight of an evolving or indefinite-term ministry.

Our meeting has enjoyed several of the same members or attenders over the years. We continue to be small in number, but we worship every Sunday. We miss past members who have left our meeting, but we still feel connected to them and in some cases are connected by the internet. We have continued to enjoy our new attenders or visits from "old Friends." We are often silent in worship, and we continue to utilize our second hour fellowship for more vocal sharing, music and poetry, Adult Religious Education, breaking bread, and worship for business. We remain welcoming to visitors and seekers.

### **SPRINGFIELD FRIENDS WORSHIP GROUP**

We continue to meet in members' homes, rotating the host role each month. The second Sunday includes an abbreviated silent worship, concluding with business items and a potluck. On the fourth Friday of each month, our group provides a meal for the local homeless shelter, which houses about 45 adults. This activity has been a part of our community outreach for over 20 years, and is a satisfying way for us to support an underserved population in our community.



The past year brought several visitors. Some were curious one-timers, and others requested to remain on our e-mail list with the possibility of returning. We also had a visit from Judy Wolicki, which was much enjoyed. Our weekly attendance ranges from 4 to 8 adults.

The Quaker library we inherited when Decatur Monthly Meeting was laid down, has been moved to the home of Vinnie Gupta. We enjoyed sharing a book by Phillip Gully (*If Grace is True*), and are in the process of selecting a book regarding race relations in America.

The Springfield Bahai congregation shared the movie *Racial Taboo* with the community almost two years ago, and several positive efforts arose from that screening. Racial Conversation groups have been meeting to break down the barriers that keep true compassion and understanding from occurring on a daily basis. Several of our Worship Group members have been a parts of those conversation groups, and friendships have blossomed as a result. We, as a group, continue to look for ways to bring more understanding, civility, and grace into our daily lives.

Although we are an aging population, we enjoy sharing opportunities that arise locally for entertainment, education, and enlightenment. We continue the practice of pondering a query during the months that have five Sundays. We select a query at Business Meeting, and allow several weeks to ponder the subject. At query, we allow several minutes for each member to respond. These opportunities to share have helped us to grow as a worship group, and as spiritual seekers.

Several members receive *Friends Journal* and share copies within the group. At times, other literature is brought to be shared, especially pamphlets from Pendle Hill.

We continue to meet weekly to share in each other's lives, and support each other as much as possible. Because we are a small group, the absence of each member is noticeable to all. Our energy and strength ebb at times, but we are committed to continuing as a viable worship group as long as we are able. "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20).

## **ST. LOUIS MONTHLY MEETING**

2016 was a year full of change, expected and unexpected, for St. Louis Monthly Meeting. This reflected the wider growing pains felt in our country within the year.

We were heartened to add new members to our meeting, and to welcome new attenders. We reached unity about offering a membership for children at the request of the family after the conversation regarding this was renewed. We participated joyfully in celebrating the birthdays and marriages of our attenders, gave thanks for the children who have arrived in our meeting this year, and we mourned alongside those of us who suffered loss and grief. There is a real and present sense of empathy felt for concerns raised by our members and attenders.

The meeting followed the Spirit's leading as we responded to events within our community. An increase in attenders led to a renewed Quakerism 101 group that has been meeting monthly and is attended by 15 to 20 people. We have started a Quaker reading group that meets monthly to explore Quaker faith and testimonies. Post meeting discussions on Barclay's theology and topics such as "Knowing when to Speak in Meeting" have been well attended and indicate a sincere desire to deepen the knowledge and practice of Quakerism.

In addition to these steps, our meeting has been sensitive to needs within our city and country. The meeting continued its work with Winter Outreach, opening our space to

our homeless neighbors when the temperature dropped too low. Led by the Peace, Justice, and Community Concerns Committee, the meeting has balanced the need to wait patiently on the spirit and the need to act. The urgent events surrounding Michael Brown's tragic killing in Ferguson and the need to examine the racial division in St. Louis have been addressed through sessions with the "Michael Brown Working Group," as well as dialogue surrounding and unpacking white privilege. In a Business Meeting in which the Spirit was clearly felt, the meeting made the decision to join with the sanctuary movement and become a sanctuary church for any immigrants or refugees who may call upon us in the face of more stringent immigration law enforcement.

As we undertake this work in our committees and Business Meeting, we are reminded of our humanness—of the good fruit that is borne of our spirit-led efforts, and of the hurt and misunderstanding that arise when our egos lead because we are too impatient or too frenzied to hear the Spirit's voice. There is a sense that the structure of the committees should be reexamined: to lay down that which has served its use, and to more widely engage our members and attenders. It has also been suggested that we could renew a sense of vitality and efficiency in meeting for business by having committee reports submitted to the recording clerk ahead of time. This would help focus the meeting on spirit led decision-making. There is also a strong need expressed for the nominating committee to more fully utilize and nurture the gifts of members and attenders. There is also a need for ongoing opportunities for members, especially those who may be new to Quakerism, to explore Quaker practice such as serving as the clerk of a committee, and conducting Meeting for Business.

As we walk forward into 2017 there is a sense of expectancy and faith that whatever events unfold, the Spirit will continue to guide our meeting as we seek to answer that of God in everyone, to live up to the light within ourselves and recognize and call out to the light within others.

## **UPPER FOX VALLEY FRIENDS (QUAKERS) MEETING**

The meeting is on the move. We are moving out of our home of many years, the Crystal Lake Montessori School. We will be moving back into homes on "trial basis." We will be at the Howenstines' Pioneer Tree Farm during the months of June and July. We continue to reach out to the wider Quaker world through participation with Illinois Yearly Meeting and in Quaker Earthcare Witness.

Our biggest event is our hosting the annual "Old-Fashioned Pot Luck Picnic and Corn Roast" for Chicago-area Friends. Lake Forest Meeting and the Evangelical Friends return the favor by inviting us to their Thanksgiving Dinners.

Every Sunday, we have a discussion where the focus is usually on the Plummer Lectures and followed by some singing before centering down for worship. We "break bread together" weekly with a potluck luncheon after Meetings for Worship and by Social Nights at the homes of Friends. These social nights are times for dinner and fellowship.

Our small Meeting continues to be significantly involved in the activities of the larger bodies of the Society of Friends (including Illinois Yearly Meeting and Chicago Friends Gathering) and works for peace, social justice, and care of the Earth.

The Upper Fox Valley Quaker Meeting continues to support the St. Charles Worship Group that meets the second Sunday of the month in homes of Friends. It is small (two to four attenders), but is committed to meeting once a month.

## URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

This year the meeting has experienced increasing attendance (typically 30-40 adult worshippers) and strong participation in events before and after Meeting for Worship. A twice monthly pre-worship Adult Religious Education discussion group has focused on writings by and about Quaker women: Emily Green Balch, Henry J. Cadbury, Kathleen Lonsdale, Fay Honey Knopp, Mary S. Calderone, Florence Kelly, Susan B. Anthony, and Margaret Fell. We discover evidence of their sacrifices to this day. Margaret Hope Bacon's *Mothers of Feminism* (1986) provided context for the ensuing discussions.

In October, Ministry & Oversight hosted a workshop led by Paul Buckley, a Quaker theologian and writer who presented an overview of his research on the early American Friend Elias Hicks. Friends from other central Illinois meetings joined us for worship, potluck, and the afternoon workshop. Inspired by the story of Elias Hicks's spiritual awakening, Ministry & Oversight in February instituted several Spiritual Sharing groups. These groups (each consisting of six to eight people) are intended to last for several months, to provide a platform for fellowship to fan the embers of friendship, and to foster spiritual awakening.

Post-worship "Quaker Q&A" sessions have taken place thrice yearly for the past five years. Attenders bring their questions about any aspect of Quaker belief or practice; multiple answers and enriching discussion ensue. The Q&A in January was attended by more than two dozen people, ranging from new attenders to long-time members, several with experiences in Friends meetings elsewhere.

The Peace & Service Committee continues its engagement in activities ranging from local to international. Once a month Friends prepare 80 sandwiches and deliver them, with fruit, to the Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, where they are distributed to those who request a meal for later in the day. Peace & Service also continues to organize the annual Stone Soup Supper, with proceeds going to replenish Meeting's Emergency Fund. A display of Friends' visual arts and a talent show (which has, in the past, featured poetry readings, music, and magic tricks) take place on the same evening. Another food-related fundraiser is the Pancake Breakfast: the young and teen Friends assist with food preparation, and the donations are directed toward a Ugandan student's scholarship.

Building & Grounds Committee has planted many native saplings on meeting property, harking back to the days before the arrival of white settlers, when today's lawn was part of the Big Grove. One of the largest and oldest bur oak trees in today's Champaign County (pre-dating the American Revolution) stands on the eastern edge of our property. The Urbana City Arborist has initiated the process to have it recognized as a Legacy Tree.

Edith Hedges, a long-time member of the meeting who resided in Charleston Ill., died last June. While her family requested no memorial service, a Memorial Minute will be submitted to ILYM. In February U-C Friends hosted a memorial service for Gene Gilmore, previously a very active and well-loved member. Although he had transferred his membership to California in retirement, his family requested a service under U-C Friends' care. A memorial service in March commemorated the life of Richard Taber, a life-long Friend and the brother of U-C member Merlin Taber.

An unquestionable highlight of the year has been the development of a more robust program for First Day School. Last autumn we focused on teaching the young Friends about the various committees and life in the meeting more generally. In the winter we were joined by a University of Illinois graduate student, who has been working with a Quaker parent to develop a more structured First Day School curriculum. This major step has provided continuity and added zest to the program. The children have reflected

upon Meister Eckhart’s insight that “Gratitude is the beginning of worship.” They have engaged in crafts projects expressing their ideas about gratitude and contemplation. One parent has said, “I love, love, love the new First Day School program. The girls love it, too. Thank you to meeting.” Our teacher is also working to develop a lively teen Friends program. He recently hosted a teen Sunday discussion, offering attendees a chance to voice their goals and ideas. An interest in local immigration issues was identified; perhaps they can work together to identify a community project that will allow each teen Friend to build a strong connection between the Quaker aspect of his/her life and the many other aspects.

We continue to provide paid child care during each Meeting for Worship and Business Meeting, so parents can attend with that assurance. But now, with a more formal curriculum taking shape, and with regular e-mail “preview announcements” to parents, we have been delighted to see a dramatic increase in children’s attendance: from one/two to four/five in the past, we now are delighted to welcome more typically six/seven, and a high (so far) of thirteen young Friends. Financial investments are associated with this change, of course. But what could be more important than attracting and engaging our young Friends?

Attendance at Meeting for Worship has grown in recent months, but we need to find ways to encourage more members and attenders to contribute their time, energy, and skills by serving as officers or on committees. In addition, while specific “basket donations” for monthly sandwich making and the Emergency Fund are strong, we must now focus on generating more (and larger) contributions to sustain our property and our activities.

Spoken ministry and attendance have continued to blossom recently, as long-time Friends and new attenders reflect on the openness of the meeting. There is a shared sense that fear can be left behind and acceptance found within the meeting’s embrace. A growing interest in Quaker values and community seems to have resulted from our nation’s current political climate. One college student stated at her first visit, in early November, “This is the first time in a week that I have been among strangers and have felt safe. Thank you.”

## **REGISTRATION REPORT FOR ILYM ANNUAL SESSIONS 2017**

Total Registration: 205

Registration by Quarter/Geographic Grouping:

Blue River	50 Adults 24 Young Friends	Total: 74
Chicago North	42 Adults 13 Young Friends	Total: 55
Chicago South	44 Adults 10 Young Friends	Total: 54
Other	19 Adults 3 Young Friends	Total: 22

Housing: 80 camped, 39 stayed in cabins, 17 stayed in Clear Creek House, 12 stayed in the High School Bunkhouse, and 57 used motels or local housing.

## **2016 FALL CONTINUING COMMITTEE MEETING**

10/22/2016

Hosted by Clear Creek Meeting, McComb Worship Group, and Burlington Worship Group  
at the ILYM Meetinghouse, McNabb, Illinois

Attending: Dick Ashdown, Wil Brant, Kent Busse (Recording Clerk), Beth Carpenter, Janice Domanik, Kay Drake, Joy Duncan, Judy Erickson, Fernando Freiri, Priscilla Freiri, Dale Gardner, Cathy Garra (Presiding Clerk), Meredith George, Mariellen Gilpin, Chris Goode, John Hackman, Bill Howenstine, Chris Jocius, Brittany Koresh, Caryn Kuhn, Pam Kuhn, Steve Kuhn, Ted Kuhn, Peter Lasersohn, Ichiro Matsuda, Sandy Matsuda, Rachel Mershon, Gryce Mesner, Neil Mesner, Fariba Murray, Bridget Rorem, Chip Rorem, David Shiner (Assistant Clerk), Dan Stevens, Monica Tetzlaff, Sean West, Marie White, and Judy Wolicki.

### **Minutes**

Minute 01 Illinois Yearly Meeting Fall Continuing Committee opened with worshipful silence.

Minute 02 Presiding Clerk Cathy Garra welcomed those in attendance. This year we welcome the children of the yearly meeting to the children's program held concurrently with Continuing Committee. Some of the children are staying for a Middle School weekend retreat. There is a bundle of printed material for each monthly meeting; someone from each meeting should take home a bundle to reduce mailing expenses and provide the materials quickly.

Minute 03 Monica Tetzlaff, clerk of Children's Religious Education Committee, reported for the committee. The recent work of the committee has had an intergenerational focus. One sign of progress is that there are eleven middle schoolers present at Continuing Committee. The children's program during Annual Sessions 2016 accomplished a good and valuable function. Report accepted.

Minute 04 Judy Erickson presented the treasurer's report noting that later in Continuing Committee there will be additional discussion regarding the Children's Religious Education Coordinator position. Considering the account balances and their changes, last fiscal year showed a surplus at year-end; for the current fiscal year, the net loss in year-to-date balance is normal for this point in the year. Treasurer's report accepted.

Minute 05 Ted Kuhn, clerk of the Finance Committee committee reported for the committee. Technical work has been done by the Treasurer on refining Quickbooks information. Additional technical work is being done on budgeting for Annual Sessions and long-term property maintenance. The committee is working on finding a replacement payroll preparer for Chuc Smith who is retiring, collaborating with 57th Street Meeting where he also has managed payroll. In this area, specialized professional expertise is especially needed. Report accepted.

Minute 06 The Meeting approves finding and hiring a payroll coordinator as recommended by and to be carried out by the Finance Committee. Action approved.

Minute 07 Cathy Garra described the function of the Review Committee in processing unexpected expenses as they arise, as described in the ILYM Handbook. Current committee membership is found in Minute 41 of 2016 Annual Sessions.

Minute 08 David Shiner read a portion of Minute 55 from 2016 Annual Sessions which provides priorities for Continuing Committee to determine the use of a \$5,000 Personnel contingency line. Monica Tetzlaff elaborated on the document describing the duties of the proposed position of Children's Religious Education Coordinator. The Children's Religious Education Committee (CREC) anticipates that further detailing of hours and expenses will be adequately covered by the \$5,000 estimated budget. This is a trial proposal for fixed duties over a fixed amount of time. The committee is asked to consider whether this person would be directly teaching children during various functions, instead of only coordinating that task. In accord with the intent of Minute 55 of 2016 Annual Sessions, and Minute 31 of 2013 Annual Sessions, Meeting approves the description of the position and authorizes CREC to proceed with the recruitment and hiring process per provisions found in the personnel manual. Approved. One Friend expressed a vision of the appropriateness of our facilities as a children's summer camp.

Minute 09 David Shiner read the Development Committee Report submitted by Frank Young, clerk of the committee. The annual letter of appeal for individual financial contributions is expected to be mailed before the end of the month. Other work on fundraising related to planned projects is ongoing. Report accepted.

Minute 10 Chip Rorem presented the Stewards Report describing numerous maintenance projects that are being carried out at many locations on the yearly meeting campus. There were five concerns to add to the material in the submitted report: 1. Adding a hood over the new stove; 2. Possible replacement of the dishwasher; 3. Possible repair/replacement of twelve windows in the high school bunkhouse; 4. Status of improvements to the bathhouse (whether a partial project would help us move forward); 5. The status of the big blue barn in back of Clear Creek House. It was noted that all of the ILYM Stewards were present in the room. Report accepted.

Minute 11 Meredith George, clerk of Maintenance and Planning Committee, commented on the committee report which detailed numerous successes of the fall work day. Many projects remain on the to do list. There were very dedicated volunteers at the work day; however, there was need for many more. It is questionable and untenable to expect too few aging members to do the manual work of the property. Possibilities for improvement might include making Annual Sessions free to younger work volunteers; letting young Friends organize an approach to their doing the work; having work day retreats by individual meetings or groups of meetings, and implementing other creative ideas. May 20, 2017 is already scheduled for the next work day, allowing Friends to make firm plans well ahead. Report accepted.

Minute 12 Chris Goode read and discussed the Site Envisioning Committee report. Regarding the big blue barn, of urgency are the roof repairs needed to prevent rapid deterioration of the rest of the structure. For the campground bathhouse, current best practice seems to be doing some work starting before Annual Sessions 2017 if details are approved at Spring 2017 Continuing Committee, but not committing to the most extensive envisioned renovation at this time. Regarding the proposed caretaker position, the committee recommends creating a budget line item now, setting aside some money each year for the future, while also considering other solutions named in the report. Minute 63 from Annual Sessions 2016 calls for an ad hoc committee to address the Caretaker needs and solutions. The Meeting noted how much all of the projects of all of the committees are interrelated. Report accepted

Minute 13 Clerk Cathy Garra read a historical review of the Clear Creek Monthly Meeting which is celebrating its 175th Anniversary in November 2016. This led into reflection on the current progress and state of the yearly meeting campus, followed by open discussion of projects.

Minute 14 On behalf of the Site Envisioning Committee (SEC), clerk Chris Goode suggested that a month of feedback from the yearly meeting about the bathhouse alternatives would result in more focused proposals for going ahead. The yearly meeting announcements list would be a good medium for soliciting feedback and publicizing steps of progress.

The current and past treasurers clarified the use of moneys in the ILYM budget for categories of projects. The Meeting supports conscientious efforts of the SEC in defining and selecting maintenance projects. The Maintenance and Planning Committee will be accepting and seasoning ideas about how to involve more Friends in property upkeep. The Finance Committee will be working from Minute 63 of 2016 Annual Session to promptly set up the ad hoc committee on the caretaker issue. Approved.

Minute 15 Chris Goode, member of the Environmental Concerns Committee, read the report from the committee. A clearness committee was held with Environmental Concerns Committee, Clear Creek Friends, and the Stewards concerning the way forward on the shelter belt/windbreak. Planning is underway for future tree and shrub work on the entire ILYM campus. Report accepted.

Minute 16 Bridget Rorem, member of the Ministry and Advancement Committee, reported for the committee. Committee members and other Friends have been visiting ILYM meetings. Efforts are ongoing to support small and struggling meetings and to season the ILYM policy on Sexual Misconduct and Harassment. Notably, there is a new worship group in St. Charles, Illinois. Report accepted.

Minute 17 Judy Wolicki gave her report as Field Secretary. Previously, Judy had requested suggestions about service she might give to the yearly meeting and monthly meetings. The response has been a flood of opportunities that are keeping her very busy. She reported on concerns that are on the hearts of the participants: belief, race, gender equality, gifts, resolution of conflicts and reconciliation, building community, welcome and integration of all ages. Report accepted.

Minute 18 Peter Lasersohn, clerk of Faith and Practices Committee, asked for final comments on four remaining sections of the Meeting's Faith and Practice, ideally by February, 2017. These sections are Light Within and its Religious Implications, Testimonies, Quarterly Meetings, and Sample Membership Form. The Committee has begun work on four more texts for provisional approval in 2017 or soon after. These sections are Recognizing Gifts and Leadings, Friends and the State, Pastoral Care, and Glossary. The committee hopes to begin the following sections in the very near future: Religious Education, History of Illinois Yearly Meeting, Addiction, Clearness Committees, Worship Sharing and Threshing Sessions, and Wider Quaker Organizations. After that, there will not be too many sections to go. The original goal of 2018 is not impossible. Friends are asked to let everyone know that the texts are available on the website so that people will not be taken by surprise when the full book of faith and practice is published as a single volume. Report accepted.

Minute 19 Brittany Koresch, clerk of Youth Oversight Committee, reported for the committee on events executed and still planned. The work hours by the Youth Coordinator have considerably exceeded projected expectations. Youth Oversight Committee is requested to work with Finance Committee and Personnel Committee on a resolution of this issue. Report accepted.

Minute 20 The Clerk is charged with selecting the Naming Committee, which is the group that submits names to consider for Nominating Committee. Cathy Garra indicated that Bridget Rorem and Judy Wolicki have agreed to serve on this year's Naming Committee. Approved

Minute 21 Nominating Committee is working hard and even up to the start of Continuing Committee, but it does not have any new appointments to submit for approval at this time.

Minute 22 Cathy Garra announced that the most recent edition of the ILYM Handbook (October 2015) has been uploaded to the ILYM website. This is a valuable resource, often neglected. Its use is encouraged.

Minute 23 Sean West, clerk of Publications and Distribution Committee, reported that the committee is caught up on its publication backlog. Publications having been upload to the ILYM website and print copies are being distributed today during Continuing Committee. Sean is working hard on evaluating Drupal in relation to WordPress as a platform for the ILYM website. Report accepted.

Minute 24 Cathy Garra thanked our Administrative Coordinator, Wil Brant, for the publication of the ILYM Directory. She noted that her personal contact information is missing in this edition. It is the same as in last year's directory. An update to the directory will come out early in 2017.

Minute 25 Brittany Koresch, co-clerk of Adult Young Friends (AYF), reported AYF has been updating its web presence, developing material on being a co-clerk, drafting a pamphlet describing ILYM AYF, and putting to paper guidelines for hosting a potluck. An online version of the pamphlet draft is starting to receive responses. Graphics talent is invited. Report accepted.

Minute 26 Reports from ILYM representatives to wider-Quaker organizations included the following: American Friends Service Committee is searching for a new General Secretary; Friends Committee on National Legislation will focus after the November election on prison reform; and Bruce Kanarek's (ILYM representative to Friends General Conference) description of the deep, conscientious deliberations and actions involved in carrying out effectively the spiritual mission of FCG while holding concerns over best methods and practices.

Minute 27 Planning Group Reports for 2017 Annual Sessions:

Pam Kuhn reported for Chicago North planning groups for Program and Food (Pam Kuhn, overall coordinator for program, and Janice Domanik, overall coordinator for food). The theme will be "Open Hearts." Workshops are still under construction and will include multigenerational workshops. Blue River Quarterly planning group is working on Children's Session planning, with Barb Harroun and Erin Taylor serving as overall coordinators. Judy Wolicki read the Chicago South planning group report from Brad Laird (overall coordinator for Site). The report included names of several people who will serve



in various positions. Work is progressing well for all groups. Treasurer Judy Erickson reminded Friends that purchases made for ILYM are tax exempt. She has copies of the sales tax exemption certificate letter that purchasers should use to make tax exempt purchases.

Minute 28 Meredith George read a report from Mike Dennis, clerk of Personnel Committee, on the activities of the committee. The report dealt primarily with the new requirement of changing reporting method from fixed salary to hourly wage in order to satisfy a change in the law effective December 1, 2016. The Finance Committee will cooperate with Personnel Committee toward the goal of meeting the deadline. Report accepted

Minute 29 There has been an approach made to scheduling Spring Continuing Committee in the Chicago area on March 4, 2017. Notice will be given when a decision is reached.

Minute 30 The Meeting gives special thanks to Clear Creek Meeting, Macomb Worship Group, and Burlington Worship Group for the lunch service and hospitality for today's meeting.

Minute 31 The Meeting gives special thanks for the inclusion of the new Children's Program and Middle School Retreat in the Continuing Committee schedule.

Minute 32 The Meeting expresses its love to Clear Creek Monthly Meeting in celebration of its 175th Anniversary.

Minute 33 Meeting closed with silent worship.

Cathy Garra, Presiding Clerk

Kent Busse, Recording Clerk

## **2017 SPRING CONTINUING COMMITTEE MEETING**

**03/04/2017**

Downers Grove Friends Meeting, Downers Grove, Illinois

Attending: Peter Albright, Wil Brant, Kent Busse (Recording Clerk), Beth Carpenter, Janice Domanik, Joy Duncan, Judy Erickson, Dale Gardner, Cathy Garra (Presiding Clerk), Meredith George, Chris Goode, Kate Gunnell, Bill Howenstine, Alice Howentine, Chris Jocius, Brittany Koresh, Caryn Kuhn, Pam Kuhn, Brad Laird, Peter Lasersohn, Ichiro Matsuda, Sandy Matsuda, Mark McGinnis, Grayce Mesner, Neil Mesner, Jan Mullen, Fariba Murray, Noel Pavlovic, Sarah Pavlovic, Angie Reeks, Bridget Rorem, Chip Rorem, David Shiner (Assistant Clerk), Sue Styer, Monica Tetzlaff, Marie White, David Wixom, Judy Wolicki

### **Minutes**

Minute 01 Illinois Yearly Meeting Spring Continuing Committee opened with worshipful silence.

Minute 02 Presiding Clerk Cathy Garra welcomed those in attendance. Lunch is planned for 12:30; there is a donation basket. There are handout materials.

Minute 03 Bridget Rorem, member of Ministry and Advancement Committee, reported that the committee engaged the help of Field Secretary Judy Wolicki to explore spiritual gifts, developing the spiritual life and connection in the committee. The committee is sad to lose Cherie DuPuis who needs to devote more time in caring for family needs.

Throughout ILYM, meetings need to season our collective responses to the mood of the country and find ways to reach out and connect with other communities for support and to show support.

Judy Wolicki reported to the committee that, after five and one-half years as Field Secretary, her desire to serve is undiminished though she wants to make sure that she is making room for another who may be called by Spirit to offer their gifts to the role of Field Secretary. The committee affirmed Judy's work, sending the appropriate evaluation to the Personnel Committee. Her work is not done.

The Committee has been considering a draft Sexual Abuse and Harassment Policy, leading to an update which will be carried over to Annual Sessions. Using previous good work by Roxy Jacobs and David Finke as a helpful starting point, a Boo of Faith and Practice for the modern day needs to include a statement on sexuality and gender. The committee is in communication with the Faith and Practice Committee as they consider areas to include in the publication of the new Book of Faith and Practice prior to its finalization. Report accepted.

Minute 04 Field Secretary Judy Wolicki reported her great joy in serving Friends and the yearly meeting. As noted in the Ministry and Advancement Committee report, she has requested extension of her term in order to continue the focus on connection and relationship and to explore how individuals, monthly meetings, and the yearly meeting can deepen commitments to each other and strengthen the meetings. Individuals and meetings reflect a strong desire to respond to social justice issues and peace activism. Each piece of the peace is individual, or the picture will not come out right. Report accepted.

Minute 05 Monica Tezlaff, clerk of Children's Religions Education Committee, reported its follow-up of the 2016 Fall Continuing Committee approval to hire a Children's Religious Education Coordinator in accord with the personnel manual. After appropriate processing of applications, the committee offered the position to Joy Duncan, who accepted. Joy comes with experience in this field in her monthly meeting (57th Street Meeting) and serving on the Quaker Religious Education Collaborative. Report accepted.

Minute 06 Caryn Kuhn, clerk of Nominating Committee, brought forward two nominations for approval, namely, Rebekah Buchanan to serve on Peace Resources Committee for a 3+ year term ending in 2020, and Angie Reeks to serve as Assistant Recording Clerk. She will be assisting until June 2017; then serving as recording from June 2017 through June 2019, then assisting from June 2019 through June 2020. Approved.

Minute 07 Bridget Rorem and Judy Wolicki, the Naming Committee, proposed these persons to serve on Nominating Committee for three-year terms: Andrea Kintree (St. Louis) and Brenda Schaut (Bloomington-Normal). Approved.

Minute 08 Treasurer Judy Erickson presented her report and fielded questions. The current report on the operating budget now shows anticipated figures for the whole year, and actual YTD figures for the current and previous year for more useful comparison. Our gifts to other Quaker organizations have been made for this year. The treasurer expressed our appreciation for all gifts from individuals and monthly meetings. Report accepted.

Minute 09 David Shiner read the Finance Committee report. The report specifically addressed topics relating to progress on hiring a new payroll administrator, property maintenance and improvement, annual session fee, youth coordinator, a caretaker position, a routine audit, and managing the costs of maintaining the property. Friends

were reminded of the importance of discernment in making their own giving plans. Report accepted.

Minute 10 David Shiner read the Development Committee Report in the absence of Frank Young, clerk of the committee, who was unable to attend today. Individuals are contributing restricted funds; however, when fundraising for the Clear Creek House addition is undertaken, the committee will need leads to substantial contributions. In the General Fund, if the rest of the year is the same as last year, there will be a shortfall of about \$6,000 for the fiscal year, possibly to be partially offset by under-spending in certain budget lines. The Development Committee will need additional membership if there is a special campaign next year. It will also probably need a new clerk. Report accepted.

Minute 11 Steward Chip Rorem presented the Stewards Report. The stewards recently completed replacement of the Clear Creek House furnace condensation pump. They also saw to removal of a large limb that fell from the maple tree in front of that building; some logs still await removal. This winter there has not yet been any snow removal expense. Three contractors inspected the campground bathhouse so that they could submit proposals. There is a growing list of contractors who are qualified to assist the stewards in caring for the buildings and grounds. With respect to having a caretaker, the stewards prefer a local person or a Quaker who could move to the area instead of a hired firm. Finance Committee is charged with forming the ad-hoc committee for the caretaker position. Report accepted.

Minute 12 Meredith George, clerk of Maintenance and Planning Committee, repeated the Fall 2016 Continuing Committee suggestion that hiring a paid professional might be better management than overburdening a small, aging committee. She presented a revised list of suggestions for developing more effective maintenance through broader involvement of individuals and groups beyond this committee. She also noted that Penn House, the little building closest to the Junior Yearly Meetinghouse, has electricity and could be fixed up as a cabin for people who need electricity for their CPAP's. Spring workday will launch Saturday, May 20, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. at Clear Creek House. Friends are invited to join in. Report accepted.

Minute 13 Chris Goode, clerk of Site Envisioning Committee, reported the committee's conference call covering pending topics: Three contractors are preparing price proposals for prioritized renovation projects on the forty-year-old campground bath house. Without spending all of the \$85,000 potentially available, the committee hopes to begin the work sometime after annual sessions this year, timing them to get the best volume and slow-season pricing.

The wood barn needs some patching of roofing and siding, as well as reinforcement of the base of the heavy structural timber elements. A barn specialist is currently advising us on possibilities. The committee hopes during Annual Sessions this June to discuss with the bathhouse contractor several construction and maintenance issues, as well as alternative estimates for the planned Clear Creek House addition for which different approaches are being considered.

The Committee looks forward to formation of the Ad-Hoc Caretaker Committee under the Finance Committee. Dick Ashdown is again approaching the owner of the adjacent property toward purchase of the three-quarter acre strip of property south of the meetinghouse (for squaring our property lines). Report accepted.

Minute 14 Consistent with Annual Sessions 2016 Minute 64 and 2013 Minute 57, the campus bathhouse renovation is approved to \$60,000 total, with a 10% contingency option that could be added if required for completion of the project without having further approval from the Yearly Meeting. Negotiations will determine how many parts of the project can be completed within this budget figure. Approved.

Minute 15 The 2017 Annual Sessions Planning groups are reporting good progress.

Janice Domanik (Chicago North, Food) is arranging to have Zach and Kelly Schobernd as cooks, with most of the coordinator positions filled.

Pam Kuhn spoke for Chicago North, Program, introducing the theme “Open Hearts.” Zack Moon, a Quaker military chaplain who has worked with veterans and who lives in Chicago, will be our Wednesday night speaker. The other evening programs will be Thursday, Clear Creek Monthly Meeting; Friday, the dancing on the lawn; and on Saturday, Jay Marshall, Dean of Earlham School of Religion. On Sunday, we are all looking forward to hearing from Alice Howenstine who is presenting the Plummer Lecture. The program committee suggested inviting people from the local McNabb community to participate in selected events such as the dance evening and Plummer lecture.

For Blue River Quarterly, Children’s Sessions, Barb Harroun and Erin Taylor are arranging the Children’s Sessions consistent with above Minute 5.

Brad Laird for Chicago South, Site, requested help carrying out site preparation and cleanup, and promoted the quality of the food service during site prep. Reports accepted.

Minute 16 Peter Lasersohn, clerk of Faith and Practice Committee, reported the progress of remaining sections of the publication. The Committee plans to request at Annual Sessions this year a one-year provisional approval for some or all new sections on Pastoral Care, Friends and the State, Addiction, Substance Abuse and Gambling, Clearness Committees, and Glossary.

The committee will submit for approval, for an indefinite period, revised versions of sections whose provisional periods expire this year: Light Within and its Religious Implications; Testimonies; Quarterly Meetings; Sample Membership Form.

The committee hopes this year or next to submit the section on Recognizing Spiritual Gifts and Leadings. Still looking forward to having a complete draft of the entire book by Annual Sessions 2018, the committee is also planning sections on Religious Education; Wider Quaker Organizations; History of Illinois Yearly Meeting; and Preface.

The committee will take up at its next meeting the Ministry and Advancement Committee recommendation to include text on sexuality and gender. The committee is still considering quantity and placement of queries. It seeks comments and advice from all Friends on topics to be included or changes to be made. Report accepted.

Minute 17 Brittany Koresch, clerk of Youth Oversight Committee, reported plans for Blue River Quarterly on April 7-9 and cancellation of the January Quake That Rocked the Midwest. Because of the cap on the Youth Coordinator hours, the Committee and the Youth Coordinator are working together on delegating tasks. Report accepted.

Minute 18 Brittany Koresch, co-clerk of Adult Young Friends, reported finishing their information pamphlet, now ready for printing and distribution, with several copies available today to take back to monthly meetings. She discussed past and planned activities of the group. Report received.

Minute 19 Based on the recommendation of the Maintenance and Planning Committee and Adult Young Friends, Continuing Committee asks Finance Committee, which meets next month, to consider a reduction of Annual Sessions fees, to be given on a one-year trial basis to Adult Young Friends who participate in site preparation for Annual Sessions this year. Brittany Koresch will bring this proposal to Finance Committee which is authorized to implement its decision. Approved.

Minute 20 Jan Mullen, clerk of Peace Resources Committee, outlined areas of need for peace efforts. She described resources that the committee is compiling to address current needs, invited individuals to participate in the committee's online discussion, and invited monthly meetings to designate a peace representative to maintain exchanges of information and energy with the committee and other meetings. Areas needing attention include police brutality and racial profiling, torture, and conscientious objection/drafting of women. The committee is using its strength to support peace interested Friends throughout the yearly meeting, including in-person gatherings, internet communications, and involvement in ongoing study and action such as the Indivisible Movement. Report accepted.

Minute 21 A minute from Western Young Friends New Years Gathering, sent by Adrian Nelson, an Adult Young Friend from Northside Meeting, asks for guidance and participation in facing together the challenges of our times. We perceive a call to love, a prophetic call to action, and openness to sharing experiences and stories. Cathy Garra will respond to Adrian along these lines. Individuals and monthly meetings are welcome to share similarly.

Minute 22 Meredith George noted that many faith-based organizations are working together in the sanctuary movement which includes both refugees and immigrants. The AFSC website offers a sanctuary toolkit. The ILYM Peace Resources Committee will incorporate these issues in its search for resources that help meetings and individuals who care to develop positions and find their leadings in acting on their concerns. PRC is encouraged to bring recommendations to Annual Sessions. Approved.

Minute 23 Noel Pavlovic reported that Environmental Concerns Committee is moving forward in good order. The advance documents contain reports from American Friends Service Committee, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Friends General Conference, National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT), and an update of the Publications and Distribution Committee stating that the Plummer Lectures are all printed while Winter 2017 Among Friends is pending, as well as a late-breaking report from David Wixom regarding Quaker Earthcare Witness.

Friends General Conference is seeking an administration and communications associate to work in Philadelphia. Details are on the FGC website. ILYM Peace Resources Committee encourages monthly meetings to support NRCAT, whose progress is steadily being reported to the yearly meeting.

Minute 24 Detailed materials in support of the above minutes can be found on the ILYM website where advance documents are available for all recent Continuing Committee sessions.

Minute 25 We thank Downers Grove Friends Meeting for providing us with a fine place to meet today, and gracious hospitality to support our work. Our special thanks go to Downers Grove Friends for their support of our children today, as they got to meet and play with one another. Everyone enjoyed the delicious lunch and snacks, and seeing signs of spring out in the garden.

Minute 26 Meeting closed with silent worship.

Cathy Garra, Presiding Clerk      Kent Busse, 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](mailto:IllinoisYM@ilym.org) or 773-288-3066.

## **BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL MONTHLY MEETING**

In homes  
11am  
[bnquakers.wordpress.com/](http://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](mailto:cabartles@gmail.com)

## **CLEAR CREEK MONTHLY MEETING**

14365 N 350th Ave., McNabb, IL 61335  
11:00 am 815-882-2214  
[clearcreek.ilym.org](http://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](http://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/](http://duneland.ilym.org/)  
Business: 3rd First Day, 11:30am

## **ELKHART WORSHIP GROUP**

(under the care of South Bend)  
1721 Prairie St., Elkhart, IN 46516  
1st & 3rd First Days, 5:00 pm  
[elkhartquakers@gmail.org](mailto:elkhartquakers@gmail.org)

## **EVANSTON MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS**

1010 Greenleaf Street, Evanston, IL 60202  
10:00 am 847-864-8511  
[EvanstonQuakers.com](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://macombquakers.org)

## **NORTHSIDE FRIENDS MEETING**

Japanese American Service Center  
4427 N. Clark, Chicago, IL 60640  
10:00 am 773-784-2155  
[northsidefriends.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://southbendquakermeeting.org)

Business: 2nd First Day, 12:00 noon

**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS QUAKER MEETING**

Dayemi Family Center,

214 E. Jackson St., Carbondale, IL 62901

10:00 am

[www.siquaker.org](http://www.siquaker.org)

Business: 4th First Days, 11:00 am

**SPOON RIVER QUAKER MEETING**

In homes 309-343-6847

10:00 am

[sqm.wordpress.com](http://sqm.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](http://stlouisfriends.org)

Business: 2nd First Day, 11:00 am

**UPPER FOX VALLEY QUAKER MEETING**

Pioneer Tree Farm,

4614 Pioneer Road, McHenry, IL 60051

10:00 am

[clerk.UFVQM@yahoo.com](mailto: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](http://www.quaker.org/urbana)

Business: 3rd First Day, 12:15 pm

## ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING 2017-2018 APPOINTMENTS

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

### STANDING COMMITTEES

#### Religious Education Committee

Clerk: Monica Tetzlaff  
2018: Monica Tetzlaff  
2019: Joy Duncan, Dale Gardner,  
Michael Pine  
2020: Barbara Lawhorn, Bobbi Trist

#### Development Committee

Clerk: Alex Lippitt  
2020: Ashlee Miller-Berry, Alex Lippitt,  
Toher Hota

#### Environmental Concerns Committee

Clerk: Noel Pavlovic  
2018: Sarah Pavlovic, Noel Pavlovic, Chris  
Goode, John Hackman, Fariba Murray  
2019: Alice Howenstine, Bill Howenstine  
2020: Nancy Halliday, Adrian Fisher,  
David Wixom

#### Committee on Faith and Practice

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

#### Finance Committee

Clerk: Ted Kuhn  
2018: Judy Jager, Ashlee Miller-Berry  
2019: Ted Kuhn, Margie Haworth-Davis  
2020: Val Lester  
ex-officio: Treasurer, Judy Erickson  
Assistant Treasurer, Janice Domanik

#### Handbook Committee

Clerk: Pam Kuhn  
2018: Pam Kuhn, Sue Styer

#### Maintenance and Planning Committee

Clerk: Meredith George  
2018: Mike Dennis, Meredith George  
2019: Neil Mesner  
2020: Bill Howenstine, Carol Bartles,  
Marie White

#### Ministry and Advancement Committee

Clerk: Phyllis Reynolds  
2018 Brad Laird, Beth Burbank  
2019: Phyllis Reynolds, Chris Jocius,  
Erin Taylor  
2020: Mark McGinnis, Heather Evert

#### Nominating Committee

Clerk: Steve Tamari  
2018: Peter Albright  
2019: Barb Lawhorn, Steve Tamari  
2020: Brenda Schaut, Andre Kintree

#### Peace Resources Committee

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

#### Personnel Committee

Clerk: Nancy Wallace  
2019: Nancy Wallace  
2020: Mike Dennis, Sharon Haworth,  
Pam Kuhn  
Designated members of M&A,  
Youth Oversight, Finance

#### Publications and Distribution Committee

Clerk: Sean West  
2018: Grayce Mesner  
2020: Sean West  
ex-officio: Administrative Coordinator,  
Wil Brant  
ex-officio: Editors of *Among Friends*,  
Pam Kuhn, Caryn Kuhn

#### Site Envisioning Committee

Clerk: Chris Goode  
2018: Bill Howenstine, Marlana Amos  
2019: Sandy Bales, Mark Robinson  
2020: Chris Goode, Noel Pavlovic  
ex-officio: Steward, Richard Ashdown



Youth Oversight Committee  
Clerk: Brittany Koresch  
2018: Warwick Daw, Andrea Kintree  
2019: Kate Gunnell  
2020: Brittany Koresch

**APPOINTMENTS TO WIDER QUAKER  
& OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

American Friends Service Committee Corporation  
2018: Carol Bartles, Contessa Miller,  
Phyllis Reynolds  
2020: Caryn Kuhn

Friends Committee on National Legislation  
2018: Kevin Brubaker, Hal Mead  
2019: Fariba Murray, Michael Batinski  
2020: Dale Gardner, David Wixom

Friends General Conference Central Committee  
2019: Janice Domanik, Bruce Kanarek  
2020: Nancy Duncan

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  
2018: Nancy Duncan  
2019: Nancy Wallace  
2020: David Shiner

National Religious Campaign Against Torture  
2018: Jan Mullen

Quaker Earthcare Witness  
2018: David Wixom  
2019: Noel Pavlovic

**INDIVIDUALS WITH SPECIFIC  
RESPONSIBILITIES**

Records Librarian: Brent Eckert  
Web Contact: Sean West

Blue River Quarterly Clerk:

Yearly Meeting Sessions Committees

2017 Clerk's Committee: Wil Brant, Beth  
Carpenter, Janice Domanik, David  
Shiner, and Gwen Weaver

2017 Epistle Committee: Chris Jocius,  
Topher Hota, and Brittany Koresh

2017 Exercises Committee: Marie White,  
Ava Rockafield

**2018 ANNUAL SESSIONS  
RESPONSIBILITIES**

Children's Sessions:  
Chicago North

Food and Adult Program:  
Chicago South

Site Preparation/ Housekeeping/Cleanup:  
Blue River Quarterly

## 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, 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	Monica Tetzlaff
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

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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