

**ILYM Proposed Budget 2020-2021**

Drafted 6/19/2020

<b>Revenue</b>	<b>BUDGET FY2021</b>	<b>BUDGET FY2020</b>	<b>ACTUAL 6/18/2020</b>	<b>ACTUAL 6/30/2019</b>
Contributions-Meetings	\$ 80,000	\$ 88,050	\$ 62,588	\$ 88,652
Gifts-Individuals	\$ 25,000	\$ 35,700	\$ 19,147	\$ 39,483
Bank & Investment Income	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 2,848	\$ 1,036
Gatherings-Retreats	\$ 15,000	\$ 19,900	\$ 14,194	\$ 20,288
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 124,000</b>	<b>\$ 147,650</b>	<b>\$ 98,776</b>	<b>\$ 149,459</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>				
<b>1 Personnel &amp; Office</b>	<b>\$ 62,500</b>	<b>\$ 64,700</b>	<b>\$ 49,364</b>	<b>\$ 64,601</b>
<b>2 YM Travel Support</b>	<b>\$ 4,000</b>	<b>\$ 4,500</b>	<b>\$ 3,729</b>	<b>\$ 3,997</b>
<b>3 Site &amp; Property Expenses</b>				
Annual services-Property Taxes	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,100	\$ 1,217	\$ 1,840
Mowing, Tree Trimming	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,200	\$ 5,370	\$ 6,375
Routine Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,500	\$ 940	\$ 4,923
Urgent Repairs	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ 146
Insurance	\$ 9,000	\$ 7,000	\$ 9,022	\$ 6,905
Caretaker Expenses	\$ 500			
Utilities	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,477	\$ 2,717
<b>Total Site &amp; Property</b>	<b>\$ 27,500</b>	<b>\$ 25,300</b>	<b>\$ 18,025</b>	<b>\$ 22,906</b>
<b>4 Gatherings-Retreats</b>				
Annual Sessions Event Expenses (oversight: Admin.Coord.)	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,921	\$ 6,237
Annual Sessions Cooking-Food (oversight: Planning Group)	\$ 8,300	\$ 8,300	\$ 4,200	\$ 7,774
Annual Sessions Program Aft/Eve (oversight: Planning Group)	\$ 2,200	\$ 2,200	\$ -	\$ 2,820
Annual Sessions Children's Program (oversight: CRE Cmte.)	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,467
Annual Sessions Site Prep (oversight: Planning Group)	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,278
Other Gatherings	\$ -	\$ 1,300	\$ 425	\$ 1,546
<b>Total Gatherings-Retreats</b>	<b>\$ 17,500</b>	<b>\$ 18,800</b>	<b>\$ 7,546.13</b>	<b>\$ 21,122</b>
<b>5 Committee Expenses</b>				
Ad hoc	\$ -	\$ 25	\$ -	\$ -
Adult Young Friends	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ 160
Children's Religious Education	\$ 200	\$ 600	\$ 77	\$ 1,298
Development	\$ 700	\$ 1,000	\$ 664	\$ 650
Environmental Concerns	\$ 50	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ -
Faith & Practice	\$ -	\$ 25	\$ -	\$ 168
Finance	\$ 25	\$ 50	\$ 48	\$ 12
Handbook	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ -	\$ -
Maintenance, Planning & Envisioning	\$ 100	\$ 175	\$ -	\$ -
Ministry & Advancement	\$ 50	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ -
Nominating	\$ 50	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ -
Peace Resources	\$ 50	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ -
Peace Tax Fund	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ -	\$ -
Personnel	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ -	\$ -
Publications & Distribution	\$ 3,000	\$ 4,750	\$ 3,058	\$ 2,787
Youth Oversight	\$ 2,400	\$ 2,400	\$ 1,524	\$ 2,868
<b>Total Committee Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 6,900</b>	<b>\$ 9,700</b>	<b>\$ 5,371</b>	<b>\$ 7,943</b>
<b>6 Support to Others</b>				
Quaker organizations to which ILYM assigns representatives				
Friends General Conference (FGC)	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000

Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)	\$	3,500	\$	3,500	\$	3,500	\$	3,500
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)	\$	400	\$	400	\$	400	\$	400
Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)	\$	400	\$	400	\$	400	\$	400
Friends Peace Teams (FPT)	\$	300	\$	300	\$	300	\$	300
Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW)	\$	250	\$	250	\$	250	\$	250
Friends for Lesbian & Gay Concerns (FLGBTQC)	\$	50	\$	50	\$	50	\$	50
Regional Quaker educational institutions								
Chicago Friends School (CFS)	\$	300	\$	300	\$	300	\$	300
Scattergood School	\$	200	\$	200	\$	200	\$	200
Earlham College	\$	200	\$	200	\$	200	\$	200
Earlham School of Religion (ESR)	\$	100	\$	100	\$	100	\$	100
Olney Friends School	\$	100	\$	100	\$	100	\$	100
Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR)	\$	300	\$	300	\$	300	\$	300
Project Lakota	\$	200	\$	200	\$	200	\$	200
Friends Journal	\$	200	\$	200	\$	200	\$	200
National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT)	\$	100	\$	100	\$	100	\$	100
Black Lives Matter								
Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO)	\$	50	\$	50	\$	50	\$	50
<b>Total Support to Others</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>10,650</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>10,650</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>10,650</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>10,650</b>
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>129,050</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>133,650</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>94,685</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>131,219</b>
<b>Transfers</b>								
To Maintenance Reserve	\$	11,500	\$	11,500	\$	11,500	\$	11,500
To FWCC World Meetings	\$	1,000	\$	1,000	\$	1,000	\$	1,000
Operating Surplus/Deficit to Special Gifts								
<b>Total Budgeted Transfers</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>12,500</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>12,500</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>12,500</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>12,500</b>
<b>Net Income / (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(17,550)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(8,409)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5,740</b>

## ILYM Anti-Racism Working Group 2020 Annual Sessions Proposal

Contact for this group: [jdomanik@comcast.net](mailto:jdomanik@comcast.net)

Excerpted from “What We Believe” section of the Black Lives Matter website:

*Every day, we recommit to healing ourselves and each other, and to co-creating alongside comrades, allies, and family a culture where each person feels seen, heard, and supported.*

*We acknowledge, respect, and celebrate differences and commonalities.*

*We work vigorously for freedom and justice for Black people and, by extension, all people.*

*We intentionally build and nurture a beloved community that is bonded together through a beautiful struggle that is restorative, not depleting.*

<https://blacklivesmatter.com/what-we-believe/>

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Illinois Yearly Meeting supports Black Lives Matter and the worldwide movement it sparked in response to state-sanctioned violence and anti-Black racism. We recognize that Quakers have been part of systems of racist oppression, and we commit to taking action toward racial justice in our community and the world.

We recognize that statements are not sufficient and recommend the following actions from Illinois Yearly Meeting and constituent monthly meetings:

- Provide material support, physical and vocal presence, and financial contributions to national and local chapters of Black Lives Matter.
- Illinois Yearly Meeting contribute \$1000 to a Black-led anti-racism organization.
- Ask the Ministry and Advancement Committee to provide opportunities to hear and address grievances of racism experienced by Friends, among Friends at Annual Sessions and other gatherings of the Yearly Meeting.
- Form the anti-racism working group into an ad hoc committee on racism, that is guided by Black-led groups already working for racial justice, to continue this work by supporting and encouraging each other and monthly meetings with:
  1. suggestions for further action to support racial justice.
  2. opportunities for Friends to individually and collectively reflect on and learn about the effects of personal and structural racism in their lives and their spiritual journeys.

3. serving as a connector to report and share the work that individual monthly meetings do.

- Encourage the Program Planning Committee for next year's Annual Sessions to consider our testimony of Equality as the theme of the session.
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**ILYM Statement of Financial Position/Balance Sheet**  
**Fiscal Year Ending June 30, Interim 6/18/2020**

	30 Jun 2020		30 Jun 2019
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>			
Checking Account	\$ 83,405.75		\$ 96,242.31
Friends Fiduciary-Temp. Restricted Property Impr.	\$ 30,572.25		\$ -
Friends Fiduciary-Unrestricted Designated	\$ 146,011.55		\$ -
Friends Fiduciary-Combined	\$ -		\$ 176,259.70
PayPal	\$ 82.23		\$ 124.81
<b>Total Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>\$ 260,071.78</b>		<b>\$ 272,626.82</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Accounts Receivable	\$ 2,185.00		\$ 2,620.00
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$ 2,185.00</b>		<b>\$ 2,620.00</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 262,256.78</b>		<b>\$ 275,246.82</b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>			
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Accounts Payable	\$ 4,217.50		\$ 5,893.02
Loans from Individuals	\$ -		\$ 1,000.00
Funds Held For Womens Weekend	\$ 232.00		\$ 232.00
Payroll Taxes	\$ 37.14		\$ (279.55)
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 4,486.64</b>		<b>\$ 6,845.47</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>Net Income</b>	
<b>1 Unrestricted Undesignated</b>			
1 General Operating	\$ 41,666.27	\$ (8,409.09)	\$ 60,625.19
<b>Total 1 Unrestricted Undesignated</b>	<b>\$ 41,666.27</b>		<b>\$ 60,625.19</b>
<b>2 Unrestricted Designated</b>			
2 Special Gifts	\$ 56,919.33	\$ 1,124.49	\$ 55,794.84
3 CCH Accessible Add.	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00
4 Payroll Reserve	\$ 43,787.93		\$ 43,787.93
5 FWCC World Mtgs.	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
6 Maint. Reserve	\$ 67,235.09	\$ (4,111.00)	\$ 71,346.09
7 Faith & Practice Pub.	\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00
<b>Total 2 Unrestricted Designated</b>	<b>\$ 174,442.35</b>		<b>\$ 176,428.86</b>
8 Property Impr.	\$ 31,111.69	\$ (235.61)	\$ 31,347.30
<b>Total 3 Temporarily Restricted</b>	<b>\$ 31,111.69</b>		<b>\$ 31,347.30</b>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 247,220.31</b>	<b>\$(10,631.21)</b>	<b>\$ 268,401.35</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 251,706.95</b>		<b>\$ 275,246.82</b>

-- Friends Fiduciary Fund balances change daily. The value in the Assets section is a s  
-- Because it is difficult to appraise, the value of the ILYM site (land and buildings in M omitted from the Assets section above.

**ILYM Statement of Fund Activity**  
**1 July 2019 to 18 Jun 2020**

	1 General	2 Special Gifts	5 FWCC World	6 Maint.	8 Property	Total
<b>Revenue</b>						
Contributions-Meetings	\$ 62,587.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 62,587.50
Gifts-Indiv Designated	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00
Gifts-Indiv Restricted PIF	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Gifts-Indiv Unrestricted	\$ 19,147.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,147.00
Bank & Investment Income	\$ 2,848.05	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 564.78	\$ 3,412.83
Gatherings-Retreats	\$ 14,193.70	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,193.70
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 98,776.25</b>	<b>\$ 10,000.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,564.78</b>	<b>\$ 110,341.03</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>						
<b>1 Personnel &amp; Office</b>	<b>\$ 49,363.68</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 49,363.68</b>
<b>2 YM Travel Support</b>	<b>\$ 3,729.47</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 3,729.47</b>
<b>3 Site &amp; Property Expenses</b>						
Annual services-Property Taxes	\$ 1,216.62	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,216.62
Mowing, Tree Trimming	\$ 5,370.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,370.00
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 940.06	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 940.06
Site Insurance Expense	\$ 9,022.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,022.00
Utilities	\$ 1,476.63	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,476.63
<b>Total 3 Site &amp; Property</b>	<b>\$ 18,025.31</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 18,025.31</b>
<b>4 Gatherings-Retreats</b>	<b>\$ 7,546.13</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 7,546.13</b>
<b>5 Committee Expenses</b>						
Children's Religious Edu.	\$ 77.25	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 77.25
Development	\$ 663.54	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 663.54
Finance	\$ 48.24	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 48.24
Publications & Distribution	\$ 3,057.77	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,057.77
Youth Oversight	\$ 1,523.95	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,523.95
<b>Total 5 Committee Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 5,370.75</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 5,370.75</b>
<b>6 Support to Others</b>	<b>\$ 10,650.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 10,650.00</b>
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 94,685.34</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 94,685.34</b>
<b>Other Income and Expense</b>						
Commercial Refrigerators	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (7,611.00)	\$ -	\$ (7,611.00)
Meetinghouse Painting	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (8,000.00)	\$ -	\$ (8,000.00)
Transfers	\$ (12,500.00)	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 11,500.00	\$ -	\$ -
Unrealized Gain/Loss	\$ -	\$ (8,875.51)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1,800.39)	\$ (10,675.90)
<b>Total Other Income and Expense</b>	<b>\$ (12,500.00)</b>	<b>\$ (8,875.51)</b>	<b>\$ 1,000.00</b>	<b>\$ (4,111.00)</b>	<b>\$ (1,800.39)</b>	<b>\$ (26,286.90)</b>
<b>Net Inflow / (Outflow)</b>	<b>\$ (8,409.09)</b>	<b>\$ 1,124.49</b>	<b>\$ 1,000.00</b>	<b>\$ (4,111.00)</b>	<b>\$ (235.61)</b>	<b>\$ (10,631.21)</b>

NOTE: anticipated monthly meeting contributions of at least \$20,000 are still forthcoming for FY2020.

## ILYM Constituent Meeting Contributions

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

	Contribution as of 6/18/2020
Blue River Quarterly	
Bloomington-Normal	\$ 2,040.00
Burlington	
Clear Creek	\$ 4,000.00
Columbia	\$ 2,295.00
Downers Grove	\$ 7,800.00
Duneland	\$ 1,275.00
Evanston	\$ 11,620.00
57th Street	\$ 5,355.00
Fox Valley	
Lake Forest	
Northside	\$ 1,950.00
Oak Park	\$ 5,200.00
Oshkosh	\$ 50.00
Rock Valley	
Saint Louis	\$ 8,842.50
South Bend	
Southern Illinois	\$ 1,440.00
Spoon River	\$ 720.00
Urbana-Champaign	\$ 10,000.00
<b>Monthly Meetings</b>	<b>\$ 62,587.50</b>

Monthly Meeting  
Recommended  
Annual Contribution  
Per Adult Resident Member  
is \$255.

### ILYM Fund Descriptions and Oversight

<b>1</b>	<b>General Operating</b>	<b>Finance</b> Annual budgeted income and expenses
<b>2</b>	<b>Special Gifts</b>	<b>Finance</b> Bequests, large unrestricted gifts, special projects
<b>3</b>	<b>Current Projects</b>	<b>Maintenance, Planning &amp; Envisioning</b> Unrestricted gifts and transfers for renovations approved 2013
<b>4</b>	<b>Payroll Reserve</b>	<b>Finance</b> Self-insurance for Illinois Employment Security (unemployment)
<b>5</b>	<b>FWCC World Meetings</b>	<b>Finance</b> Travel assistance for ILYM and other reps to 3-5 year consultations
<b>6</b>	<b>Maintenance Reserve</b>	<b>Maintenance, Planning &amp; Envisioning</b> Save for and pay for capital asset maintenance, repair and upgrades
<b>7</b>	<b>Faith &amp; Practice Pub.</b>	<b>Faith &amp; Practice</b> To publish the ILYM book of Faith and Practice
<b>8</b>	<b>Property Improvement</b>	<b>Maintenance, Planning &amp; Envisioning with Development</b> Restricted by donors for new building projects

*The Review Committee is a subcommittee of Finance, charged with reviewing any items going over budget and determining how to pay for them according to priorities in the approved annual budget.*

## Additional Caretaker Budget Information

MP&E Caretaker Budget:                      As proposed in Report:

Internet Service	\$ 600
Additional Utility Costs at CCH	\$ 660
Moving Expenses	\$ 500
Tools/supplies	\$ 500
Dog Fencing	\$ 200
Insurance/Workers Comp	\$ 40
<u>Total Expenses for the year</u>	<u>\$2,500</u>

<u>Site &amp; Property Expenses:</u>	Initial Budget FY 2021	Budget Adjustments	Possible Adjust. Budget FY2021
Annual Services	\$ 2,100	-\$ 100	\$ 2,000
Mowing/Trimming	\$ 6,200	-\$ 200	\$ 6,000
Routine Repair/Maint.	\$ 5,500	No Change \$500 Tools/Supls.included	\$ 5,500
Urgent Repairs	\$ 2,000	No Change	\$ 2,000
Insurance	\$ 9,000	+\$ 50	\$ 9,050
Utilities	\$ 2,500	No Change \$660 Addl.Utilis.included	\$ 2,500
Dog Fencing	\$ 0	+\$ 200                      may already have	\$ 200
Internet	\$ 0	+\$ 600	\$ 600
Moving Expenses	\$ 0	+\$ 500	\$ 500
<u>Total Site &amp; Property</u>	<u>\$27,300</u>	<u>+\$1,050</u>	<u>\$28,350</u>

When the MP&E committee was creating the Caretaker budget, we weren't looking at past budgets to see where things fit, just at what we thought might be the additional costs to add a Caretaker and came up with a figure of about \$2500. And it seems possible that some of those additional costs may already be in the budget. The \$500 for Tools/Supplies ought to already be part of routine repairs and maintenance. Mowing and Annual Services look like they could be trimmed just a bit from past experience. Utilities averaged at about \$1780 over the last three years and the addition of \$660 (for additional HVAC at CCH to accommodate a full time occupant) to that amount would still be under the \$2500 budgeted. Insurance looked like it might want to increase a bit. We may already have some fencing in the shed we can use for the dog yard, but added the \$200 in the budget along with the \$500 Moving expenses and the \$600 Internet expenses. With these adjustments to the proposed budget the actual impact to provide for a Caretaker on the Site and Property Expenses budget may only be an additional \$1050, instead of the original \$2500 total.



## OLNEY FRIENDS SCHOOL REPORT TO ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING - 2020

In May of 2019 seventeen seniors and two other students would not be coming back in the fall. Olney wanted to find at least nineteen new students to maintain their same enrollment for the 2019-2020 school year. They surpassed that goal and had 36 students from Bolivia, China, Costa Rica, Rwanda, South Africa, South Korea, United States and Uganda. “We have a cohesive and diverse school that will help us attract even more students drawn to what we have to offer.”

A new five-year strategy was approved by the Board at its annual meeting in July 2019. The six goals are: 1) curriculum and enrollment, 2) resource mobilization, 3) management of our assets, 4) faculty management, 5) alumni stewardship, and 6) robust governance. A more detailed version of this new strategy can be found on their website.

In the summer of 2019, Olney hired a vibrant new teacher who had plans to use the farm, greenhouse, and vegetable garden as laboratories for agricultural sciences, chemistry, and physics classes. That part of their curriculum, especially the agriculture piece, needed to be strengthened and the right educator walked into their lives at the right time! “We look forward to hearing how the year went in this area of their studies.”

Classes started August 28 and they included Algebra 1 & 2, Geometry, Pre-calculus and Calculus, Biology, Chemistry, Conceptual Physics, Agricultural Science and Environmental Science, as well as Humanities (History with English), Spanish, and Financial Literacy. Electives the first quarter included Design, Intro to Art, Instrumental Music, Women Leading the Way (Art), What’s On Your Conscience?, and Fountain Refurbishment (of the “Senior Project”.)

Olney was affected by the coronavirus this spring the same as other schools around the country and the world. They closed on March 16 and an April 10 communication indicated that students and faculty were all engaged in distance and online learning. Some families hosted international students for over a month. I have had no communication from them since, but assume the seventeen graduating seniors would not be having their normal ceremonies.

You can help Olney’s future by directing potential students to them, also by donating funds. They are also accepting donated vehicles—if you have one contact [annemarie@olneyfriends.org](mailto:annemarie@olneyfriends.org). To learn more about Olney Friends School, go to [olneyfriends.org](http://olneyfriends.org), call 740-425-3655, or send mail to 61830 Sandy Ridge Rd, Barnesville, OH 43713.

Called Business Meeting  
May 17, 2020

In attendance:

Hilarie Hunt, Robin Harvey, Ellen Hiatt, Chuc Smith, Mark Fredericks, Debra Penna-Fredericks, David Wixom, Denice Smith, Sherrill Marchbanks, Wes Biggs, Nicholas Strauss, Rose Miyatsu, Toshi Miyatsu, Margaret Katranides, Brea Youngblood, Candy Boyd, Kevin Chestnut, Martha Riley, Don Ellis, Sara Alsup, Tom Fairbank, Melissa Breed-Parks, Janet Heath, Marcia Estep

After discussion, the following STL Friends Meeting Statement on Absentee Voting as a Faith Practice was approved by the Meeting:

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As Quakers, we continually seek the ongoing revelation of God, or Spirit, or the Light in guiding the daily practice of our faith, particularly in regards to matters of Equality, Peace, and Integrity.

We are a people who have historically held that because “that of God” may be found in everyone, all people are equal and deserving of justice.

We are a people who have historically held that because we are all equal, where there is cause for strife, conflict, and disenfranchisement we will choose to seek the way of peace.

We are a people who have historically held that we must speak truthfully and act upon our beliefs in order to live with wholeness and integrity in our community and before God.

The gift of our practice is that while we hold no creed, we are informed by our historic practices and guided by Spirit as practice evolves to meet the age in which we live. As such, when it becomes clear that a stand must be taken to preserve or call for justice for all people, to promote peace for all people, and to live in integrity with ourselves and others, we can quickly adapt our practice to the demands of an historical moment.

Whereas it is clear to us that gathering to vote in person would endanger ourselves and our community, and that voting is one of the most expedient ways of ensuring and pursuing justice for our communities, and further, that voting rights have too long been denied to the most vulnerable members of our community, we hold that voting in person in a pandemic is in violation of our commitment to equality and peace, and inconsistent with our religious practice.

It is the sense of our meeting that all who are led to share the foregoing discernment — regardless of Quaker membership or prior affiliation — be granted a religious exemption provided for under Missouri law to vote absentee in all upcoming local, state, and federal elections.

Furthermore, in accordance with our well-established beliefs on the sanctity of human life and equality for all peoples, we call upon the state of Missouri to make absentee voting available to all citizens in order to preserve life and justice for all.

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Ministry and Caring will be in charge of distributing this statement.

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We would like to thank our colleagues at the Jewish Community Relations Council of St. Louis for inspiring us to write this statement.

## **LFFM Minute in the wake of George Floyd's Murder and the Black Lives Matter Protests**

In the wake of the horrific murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery, our nation has been left shocked, breathless, and grieving. Added to the anxiety and bereavement occasioned by COVID-19, the frustrations borne for centuries by Black people have spilled into the streets in over 150 of our nation's cities.

Langston Hughes once asked what happens to a dream deferred. Millennials of all races have replied in mostly non-violent street protests despite the risk of death from a pandemic running wild through the country. By organizing demonstrations in such diverse communities as Lake Forest and Chicago, their message is simple: " No more! We will not let this happen again on our watch."

For many of us, it is not safe to be on the street protesting. It is literally a matter of life and death to leave our homes. Silence is not an option at this unique, historical moment, but what to do?

Lake Forest Friends Meeting over the past five years has taken halting but steadily forward-moving steps to make each other aware of how people of color move through and exist in the world. To become aware is to know there is suffering, and to know this, we are called as Quakers to

ease that suffering. That knowledge is heavy. Knowing what is the right thing to do can be unclear. It is all too easy to exercise White privilege and do nothing or do something that alleviates white guilt rather than responds to the needs of my Black brothers and sisters.

In this moment we as Quakers are called to action.

However, the question remains: what kind of action should we take to address racism and white privilege? After prayerful consideration and worship sharing, the Peace and Social Justice Committee assisted by our Clerk have proposed some answers to these questions. They are only the first step. They may make us uncomfortable. The committee hopes that this minute will open the door to further actions and conversations.

Here are *six* of the suggestions of what we can do:

- 1) Recognize and support the LFFM's anti-racism work, initiated in our Meeting by the Working Group on the Impact of Systemic Racism on our Spirituality, which is grounded in Spirit and affords us the opportunity to study and grow in understanding of systemic racism.

- 2) On an individual level, Friends are encouraged to exercise a ministry comprised of many "little things" within and outside the Meeting like establishing relationships with people of color which provide opportunities for deep listening and mutual expressions of compassion - smiling,

acknowledging and making eye contact, offering verbal support, and learning ways to be an active bystander and ally.

3) Join an activist organization that is committed to reforming the criminal justice system: e.g., repealing the felony murder laws, eliminating disparate jail sentencing, ending our bail bond system, instituting citizen review boards for police misconduct.

4) Try to empathize with what it must mean when a *black* person says, "It took a constitutional amendment to make me a full person."

5) Remind ourselves of the radical acts of Jesus and ask ourselves what does this require of us in terms of how we interact with and relate to people of color.

*6) Infuse our First Day School with a curriculum that identifies and rejects racism in all of its insidious manifestations.* Encourage our middle school, high school and college students to participate in anti-racist initiatives wherever they live or attend school.

*NOTE: The above Minute was approved on June 7, 2020 by the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business of Lake Forest Friends Meeting. This Minute was inspired by the Black Lives Matters Movement. It is not intended in any way to diminish our support for the resolution of*

*issues that impact other people of color including Hispanics, Asians, and Indigenous People.*