

THE MINUTES

and Accompanying Documents

Illinois Yearly Meeting Religious Society of Friends

2020
June 17
to
June 21



Virtual Gathering via Video Conference

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ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

2021 Annual Sessions will be held from June 16 to 20
at the Illinois Yearly Meeting Meetinghouse or Virtually

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

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

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

YEARLY MEETING OFFICERS AND OTHERS WITH SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES 2020-2021

Presiding Clerk: Marcia Nelson

Assistant Clerk: Kent Busse

Recording Clerk: Sarah Pavlovic

Assistant Recording Clerk:

Reading Clerk: Chris Jocius

Co-Treasurers: Dawn Crimson & Val Lester

Stewards: Beth Carpenter, Grayce Mesner & Neil Mesner, Chip Rorem, Chris Goode

Records Librarian: Brent Eckert

Among Friends Editors: Pam Kuhn

Field Secretary: Brad Laird

Administrative Coordinator: Wil Brant

Youth Coordinator: Liam Gardner

Children's Religious Education Coordinator:

Adult Young Friends Co-Clerks:

High School Friends Co-Clerks: Jasmine Dennis and Mars Harroun

High School Friends Recording Clerk:

High School Friends Nurturing Clerk: Mars Harroun

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

ILYM 2020 PROGRAM

Theme: *How Do We Walk Cheerfully Over the Earth Answering That of God in Others and Ourselves?*

MONDAY:

7:00-8:30 pm Open time to check out Zoom

FRIDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING:

3:00-4:00 Meeting for Worship
7:00-8:15 Social Distance Dancing and Social Time

WEDNESDAY:

3:00-4:30 pm Opening worship and welcome
7:00-8:15 Presentation by Steven Angell

SATURDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING:

3:00-4:00 Worship Sharing
7:00-8:15 Presentation by Benigno Sánchez-Eppler

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY:

9:00-9:25 am Pre-school Children's Religious Education Program
9:30-9:55 Primary Children's Religious Education Program
10:00-11:00 Meeting for Business
1:00-1:55 pm Intermediate Children's Religious Education Program
2:00-2:55 Middle School Children's Religious Education Program

SUNDAY

9:30-10:00 am Meeting for Worship and Reading of Epistles
10:00-10:45 Help Think about next year's Annual Sessions
11:00-12:30 Meeting for Worship, Memorials Read

THURSDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING:

3:00-4:00 Meeting for Worship
7:00-8:15 Workshops

REGISTRATION REPORT FOR ILYM ANNUAL SESSIONS 2020

Total Registration: 166

Registration by Quarter/Geographic Grouping:

Blue River	36 Adults 10 Young Friends	Total: 46
Chicago North	48 Adults 12 Young Friends	Total: 60
Chicago South	38 Adults 6 Young Friends	Total: 44
Other	16 Adults 0 Young Friends	Total: 16

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING 7/2019-6/2020

BLUE RIVER QUARTERLY

B-N	CC	Co	St.L	SoI	SR	U-C	
							<u>Members & Attenders Statistics</u>
							Average Attendance
6	7	16	38	10	4	24	Adults
1	<1	3	4	0	0	6	Under 18 years old
							<u>Membership Statistics</u>
11	25	9	35	4	3	49	Resident Adult Members
5	5	0	4	0	0	3	Resident Young Friends
3	39	17	79	0	3	62	Non-Resident Adult Members
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	Non-Resident Young Friends
19	69	26	119	4	6	117	TOTAL
14	64	26	114	4	6	111	Total Adult Members
5	5	0	5	0	0	6	Total Young Friends
							NEW MEMBERS
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	By Birth or Adoption
0	1	0	1	0	0	2	By Request
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	By Certificate of Transfer
1	1	0	1	0	0	2	TOTAL
							LOSSES
0	0	0	2	0	0	2	Deceased
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Released or Withdrawn
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	Transferred
0	1	0	3	0	0	3	TOTAL

MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

Blue River Quarterly	360
Metro Chicago	496
Wisconsin	<u>5</u>
TOTAL	861

NUMERICAL STRENGTH CHART

CHICAGO-Area										WI	TOTALS
DG*	Du	Ev	57*	FV	LF	NS	OaP	RV†	SB	Osh*	
27	6	48	19	8	24	20	10	4	21†	7	299
<1	<1	12	4	0	12	5	1	0	6 †	0	55
29	10	59	19	8	60	15	24	9	23	3	395
0	2	2	7	0	9	2	0	0	1	0	40
9	1	43	32	16	68	21	0	2	12	2	409
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>17</u>
38	13	113	59	24	137	38	24	11	39	5	861
38	11	102	51	24	128	36	24	11	35	5	804
0	2	11	8	0	9	2	0	0	4	0	57
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
0	2	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	12
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
1	2	3	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	14
1	0	3	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	11
0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>
1	0	6	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	16

*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.

†Statistics were not received for 7/2019-6/2020: RV statistics from 7/2017-6/2018. New members and losses listed as 0, since no information provided. SB did not provide attendance for 7/2019-6/2020, attendance listed from 7/2018-6/2019.

ADDITIONS AND LOSSES BY NAME AND MEETING

ADDITIONS

By Request

To Clear Creek: Vicky M. Krause
(9/15/2020)
To Duneland: Gary Crum (6/24/20)
To Duneland: Maryalice Larson (6/24/20)
To Evanston: Margi Barbosa (7/4/19)
To Lake Forest: Charlotte McMenamin
Walshe (9/1/19)
To Lake Forest: Joseph Nichols Rockey
(3/1/20)
To Northside: Erica Dix (5/2/20)
To South Bend: Frederick Rhyhnhart
(3/8/20)

To St. Louis: Ian Farmer (5/17/20)
To Urbana-Champaign: Maria Cox
(7/21/19)
To Urbana-Champaign: Valerie Sgheiza
(7/21/19)

By Birth/Adoption

To Bloomington-Normal: Isaac Watson
(9/19/20)

By Transfer

To Evanston: Dolores Koenig from
Bethesda Friends, BYM (4/19/20)

LOSSES

By Release or Withdrawal:

From Evanston: Asher Dixon-Kolar
(8/25/19)
From Evanston: Maddy McNear (3/17/20)
From Evanston: Myra Mercer (9/5/19)
From St. Louis: Jacqueline Hippensteel
Thirlkel (9/8/19)

By Death

From Downers Grove: Barbara Matt
(5/9/20)
From Evanston: Joel Erkenswick
(8/25/19)
From Evanston: Joyce Povolny (3/27/19)
From Evanston: Nancy Wallace (3/31/20)
From Fox Valley: John Hackman
(3/26/2020)
From Lake Forest: Elizabeth (Wold)
Mertic (4/7/20)

From Lake Forest: William Girard
Dawson (9/8/19)
From St. Louis: Eileen Rooney May
(5/21/20)
From St. Louis: Patricia Berg June
(6/19/20)
From Urbana-Champaign: Charles Haines
(12/25/19)
From Urbana-Champaign: Don
Chenoweth (8/5/19)

By Transfer:

From Clear Creek: Lori Paton to
Bloomington-Normal (9/2020)
From Urbana-Champaign: Cynthia
Baklanov to Tampa Monthly, FL
(3/15/20)

MINUTES OF THE ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING

146th Annual Sessions

Sixth Month 17-21, 2020, Virtual Gathering via Video Conference

MINUTES OF THE FIRST SESSION, Fourth Day, Sixth Month 17, 2020

Minute 1 The 146th Annual Sessions of Illinois Yearly Meeting (ILYM) opened with 8 minutes and 46 seconds of silence in remembrance of the 8 minutes and 46 seconds that a Minneapolis police officer knelt on the neck of George Floyd on May 25, 2020, resulting in his death. This and other recent murders of Black Americans have sparked a new movement to protest the long history of racial injustice in our country.

Minute 2 Presiding Clerk Marcia Nelson welcomed everyone present to the Annual Sessions of Illinois Yearly Meeting, being held for the first time via video conference due to precautions necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Marcia outlined the proceedings of the virtual annual sessions. In addition to business sessions, there will be children's programs, social time, workshops, speakers, worship, and worship sharing, and even dancing, all in a virtual format.

Minute 3 Presiding Clerk Marcia Nelson introduced herself, Recording Clerk Sarah Pavlovic, Reading Clerk Chris Jocius, and Assistant Clerk nominee Kent Busse.

Minute 4 Marcia Nelson welcomed visitors and newcomers to ILYM, including Pamela Moseley (Northside); Pamela Calvert (Northside); Helen Haug (Northside); Allison Kirkegaard (Claremont MM, Pacific YM); Beth Kelly (Brooklyn MM, NYYM); Benigno Sanchez-Eppler (North-Hampton MM, NEYM); Allie Boyaris (Urbana-Champaign); Daniel Lakemacher (Urbana-Champaign); "Michael" Cunningham (Lake Forest); Dreiske Arnold (Lake Forest); Graeme Cunningham (Lake Forest); Sally Weaver Sommer, representative from FGC (Broadmead MM, LEYM); Erica Dix (Northside); Maryalice Larson (Duneland); Adrian Nelson joining from Tacoma, Washington (Northside); and Tom Jacobs from Arcadia, Florida.

Minute 5 The Clerk brought to our attention the Zoom video conference guidance that Administrative Coordinator Wil Brant has compiled to explain Zoom procedures. It is titled "Instructions and Pointers for On-line 2020 ILYM Annual Sessions" and may be found on the ILYM website. In order to accomplish business in a shorter-than-usual time frame, committee and representative reports that do not have action items but need to be accepted will appear on a "unity agenda," to be accepted as a group. Those in attendance are urged to read these reports, available in the advance documents, in order to be prepared to consider them as a group. Friends are reminded to raise hands and be mindful to speak no more than once to a concern.

Minute 6 The Presiding Clerk will be supported by the Clerk's Committee, which this year consists of Wil Brant, Cathy Garra, David Shiner, and Gwen Weaver.

Minute 7 Marcia Nelson reminded us of this year's theme "How do we walk cheerfully over the earth answering that of God in ourselves and others?" and its resonance during this time of pandemic, protests, and the loss of beloved members of our yearly meeting community.

Reading Clerk Chris Jocius, with the assistance of Daniel Lakemacher, read a minute from Lake Forest Monthly Meeting inspired by the Black Lives Matter Movement and by the tragic murders of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd in recent

weeks. The minute, available in the Annual Sessions supplementary documents, lifted up concerns and recommended actions that Friends can take to address racism and white privilege. Those present were invited to consider this statement as a seed for reflection as we engage with this year's theme.

Minute 8 Marcia Nelson asked whether there were Friends who felt led to use time during these sessions as an antiracism working group to propose a response or statement or plan of action from ILYM regarding racism and white privilege. More than a dozen people raised their hands to participate in a breakout session to undertake this work. There will be time on the agenda on Saturday to hear from the working group.

Minute 9 Marcia Nelson called attention to the description of the Epistle Committee on page 5 of the Advance Documents. The Nominating Committee has brought the names of Monica Tetzlaff, Chris Jocius, and Daniel Lakemacher to serve as this year's Epistle Committee. Approved.

Minute 10 Marcia Nelson referred participants to the description of the Exercises Committee in the Advance Documents and asked for volunteers to serve on this committee. Pam Kuhn volunteered. Other volunteers will be requested at the next business session.

Minute 11 Phyllis Reynolds, Clerk of the Ministry and Advancement Committee (M&A), described the Committee of Care. Friends may approach members of this committee if they would like to talk individually about concerns that arise during Annual Sessions. Members of the committee are Phyllis Reynolds, Heather Evert, Brad Laird, Bruce Kanarek, and Mark McGinnis. They will display a "Cte. (for 'Committee') Of Care" designation on their Zoom screens. Committee members may be reached by phone between sessions. Their phone numbers were distributed by the Administrative Coordinator by email.

Minute 12 Phyllis Reynolds reminded those present of ILYM's Harassment and Abuse Policy. The policy is posted online in ILYM's Handbook. Friends currently serving on the Harassment Review Committee are Marcia Nelson (Presiding Clerk), Phyllis Reynolds (Clerk of Ministry and Advancement), Bruce Kanarek (member of Ministry and Advancement), Judy Wolicki (Field Secretary), and Mark McGinnis (member at large appointed by Presiding Clerk).

Minute 13 Bridget Rorem reported for Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee brought forward the following names for consideration:

Assistant Clerk: Kent Busse, to serve in both 2020 and 2021

Development Committee: Coco Colin, for a 3-year term (2023); Marcy Harman, for a 1-year term (2021)

Environmental Concerns Committee: Adrian Fisher, for a 3-year term (2023)

Ministry & Advancement Committee: Janice Domanik, for a 3-year term (2023); Steve Tamari, for a 2-year term (2022); Bruce Kanarek, extended to 2022

Personnel Committee: Colleen Reardon, for a 3-year term (2023), Colleen will serve as Clerk; Sharon Haworth, for a 3-year term (2023); Kate Gunnell, for a 3-year term (2023); Audrey French, for a 3-year term (2023)

For representative to Friends for LGBTQ Concerns: Jad Tamari, for a 3-year term (2023)

Clerk of Publications: Sean West for a 3-year term (2023)

Friends are invited to talk to the Nominating Committee if interested in serving as a representative of ILYM to Friends General Conference (FGC), Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), or American Friends Service Committee (AFSC).

Report accepted. The slate of nominees was approved.

Minute 14 Gwen Weaver reported for Naming Committee that Sharon Haworth has agreed to serve on Nominating Committee. Bridget Rorem has agreed to continue to serve on the committee and to continue to serve as the committee's clerk.

Minute 15 Judy Wolicki presented her final report as ILYM's Field Secretary. She continues to serve with joy. She shared that her cousin and her aunt both recently died of COVID-19, so that joy is mixed with grieving. She invited those in attendance to read her report in which she noted that the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the world and our way of being in it.

What Judy is hearing right now is that things—including Quaker meetings—are re-opening a little bit, which is important. A "silver lining" in the past months has been that virtual meetings have allowed Friends from far away to attend worship and fellowship again. How can we keep that a part of our practice? However, the "not-so-silver lining" is that many Friends are not finding that the on-line resources satisfy their need for physical presence and community, and they are struggling with the loss of the spirit they experience in meetings.

Judy asked that we try to find ways to feed each person's spirit. She asked whether the idea of "listening to the same song" could possibly be a metaphor for how we are connected in worship, even when physically apart. Is there something about this metaphor that can help us find a way to reach out to Friends who are not finding online worship working for them? How can we all listen to the same song?

The number of miles Judy drove last year was ridiculously small compared to other recent years, yet Zoom videoconferencing allowed her to visit many more meetings. How do we keep this going?

Finally, Judy thanked Friends for all the ways they have supported, nurtured, guided, and trusted her and related that she expects to continue in joy. Report accepted.

Minute 16 Phyllis Reynolds presented the Ministry and Advancement Report. The Committee proposes Bradley Laird, a member of South Bend Monthly Meeting, as the new Field Secretary. He will succeed Judy Wolicki, whose term ends at the close of the 2020 Annual Sessions. The committee expressed gratitude for Judy's service. They look forward to future opportunities. Report accepted.

Concerns were expressed about the financial terms of the Field Secretary position, given that the proposed ILYM budget currently shows a deficit. This will be addressed when the budget comes before us tomorrow. Friends voiced affirmation that the Field Secretary serves an important function for the yearly meeting and agreed that the appointment could proceed ahead of the budget discussion.

Appointment of Brad Laird to the position of Field Secretary was approved with one Friend standing aside.

Minute 17 The minutes were read back to the meeting and approved. The session closed with worship.

MINUTES OF THE SECOND SESSION, Fifth Day, Sixth Month 18, 2020

Minute 18 The second session of ILYM's 146th Annual Sessions opened with centering worship.

Minute 19 Marcia Nelson welcomed those present and introduced herself as Presiding Clerk, Kent Busse as Assistant Clerk, and Sarah Pavlovic as Recording Clerk (see Minutes 3 and 13 from the first session.). She invited introductions from visitors and first-time attenders, including Sarah Freeman-Woolpert, a representative from FCNL.

Minute 20 Marcia Nelson made announcements, reminding Friends of the Harassment and Abuse policy and committee (see Minute 11 from the first session), and the Committee of Care (see Minute 12 from the first session). We were reminded of the Zoom video conference guidance document that can be found online. We were also reminded of the importance of reading advance documents, as certain reports will not be read to the business session, but will be considered for acceptance as a group during tomorrow's business session. Please visit the Annual Sessions web page "Front Table" link for updated documents. Marcia Nelson also made the welcome announcement that the US Supreme Court had decided against the Trump Administration's recent attempt to rescind the DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) program, which protects undocumented residents brought into America as children.

Minute 21 The contact person for ILYM's newly-formed working group on racism and white privilege (see Minute 8) is Janice Domanik.

Minute 22 The Clerk reported that "Michael" Cunningham, Dreiske Arnold, and Dawn Crimson have agreed to join Pam Kuhn to form the Exercises Committee. Approved.

Minute 23 Co-treasurers Dawn Crimson and Val Lester presented the Treasurers' Report. They shared financial reports updated to June 18, 2020. On the Statement of Fund Activity, they pointed out that we have received less income from individuals and from meetings compared to last year, but we have also spent less—with this year's annual sessions costing less, some site expenses coming out of the Maintenance Reserve Fund, the Children's Religious Education Coordinator position not filled, and some committees having spent less. Income and expenses are both down about \$40,000 compared with last year, so we are at about the same net income as last year. Additional contributions from monthly meetings are expected in the next few weeks, at which point we will be in better financial shape. The Treasurers also shared the Balance Sheet for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.

The Treasurers and Finance Committee continue to try to make financial information easy to understand. They are currently using new software to generate reports. Reports updated to the end of the fiscal year will be included in the minute book. Report accepted.

Minute 24 Ted Kuhn gave the Finance Committee Report. Continuing Committee approved registration for Annual Sessions to be on a pay-as-led basis (See Minute 6, Spring 2020 Continuing Committee). This may not be a good year to evaluate how this is working, since this is not a typical year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but Finance Committee nevertheless welcomes suggestions for improving the process or registration forms for future years.

Friends Fiduciary has applied for a grant to develop ways to help clients collect donations online more efficiently. Finance Committee may want to participate in the coming year. This will be joint work with Development Committee.

Ted Kuhn presented the proposed ILYM Budget for 2020-21. Finance Committee is concerned about the financial viability of ILYM at current expense levels. Due to the expectation that the economy will be in poor shape for the next year, they forecast that both meeting and individual donations will drop in the next year. If we have an in-person Annual Sessions in 2021, attendance may be down, which will affect income. This draft budget does not show expenses that would be incurred if we decide to approve a caretaker, estimated to be a net expense of about \$1,000.

The first draft of the budget shows a significant deficit. Expenses are about the same in the proposed budget, but income is expected to be about \$24,000 lower, due in part to uncertainties around the pandemic.

The committee asked for guidance as to whether the yearly meeting should plan to run a deficit in a unique situation or if we should attempt to reduce spending. Our financial reserves do allow us to run a deficit budget, but we need to discern if that is what we want to do. Do we operate from an attitude of scarcity or do we trust that we can continue with an attitude of abundance?

This is the first reading of the budget. The Finance Committee will meet Friday 5:00 p.m to 6:00 p.m. This meeting is open to anyone who wishes to attend to further process ideas and concerns about next year's budget.

The Finance Committee Report, including the proposed 2020-21 budget, was accepted.

Minute 25 Peter Lasersohn reported on his communications with the University of Illinois Library regarding the ILYM Archives Agreement. Illinois Yearly Meeting and Blue River Quarterly Meeting signed a joint agreement with the University of Illinois in 1977, according to which records of both meetings were deposited on loan in the University Library. When Peter contacted the library earlier this year to deposit recent records, the library staff indicated that they were now asking everyone to sign a new standard agreement that is inconsistent with ILYM's existing agreement. Copies of both agreements are appended to Peter's report.

Peter recommended that the Yearly Meeting appoint an ad hoc committee to negotiate a new agreement with the University of Illinois Library to bring to Annual Sessions for approval. Peter offered to serve on such a committee, and reported that Carol Neely of Urbana-Champaign Meeting and Brent Eckert, ILYM's Records Librarian, have also agreed to serve. Beth Carpenter offered to serve on the committee as well.

Those present approved the formation of an ad hoc committee, with membership of Peter Lasersohn, Carol Neely, Brent Eckert, and Beth Carpenter, to re-negotiate the agreement with the University of Illinois and/or to explore other options for archiving yearly meeting records.

Minute 26 The minutes from the second session were read and approved.

Minute 27 The Clerk announced online activities scheduled for later in the day: worship, a session to meet the caretaker candidate, and a selection of evening workshops. The session closed with waiting worship.

MINUTES OF THE THIRD SESSION, Sixth Day, Sixth Month 19, 2020

Minute 28 The third session of ILYM's 146th Annual Sessions opened with a reminder that today is Juneteenth, a day celebrated to remember June 19, 1865 as the day when

enslaved people in Texas were notified of the Emancipation Proclamation, one of the last acts of emancipation of enslaved people in the United States. ILYM's working group on racism encourages us to learn more about Juneteenth and various organizations supporting the Movement for Black Lives. Friends then entered centering worship.

Minute 29 Presiding Clerk Marcia Nelson welcomed all those in attendance with words from the hymn "Lift Every Voice and Sing." She introduced the clerks.

Minute 30 The Clerk announced that the anti-racism working group continues its work, with Janice Domanik as convener. We were advised that the website of the Smithsonian Museum for African American History has recommended resources. To learn more about the work of the anti-racism working group, about the Finance Committee meeting happening this afternoon, and to see minutes from recent sessions and additional documents, Friends are urged to check the virtual "Front Table" on the ILYM website.

Minute 31 Chris Goode presented the report from the Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Committee (MP&E). As reported to the Spring 2020 Continuing Committee, members of MP&E have been in communication with Judy Reese, a Quaker woman who contacted ILYM in the fall of 2019 seeking a caretaker position in our area. On Thursday afternoon, interested Friends met with Judy via Zoom for an opportunity to meet her and ask questions.

The Maintenance, Planning, and Envisioning Committee believes strongly that a resident caretaker living on, or very near the site at McNabb, is essential for the care of our campus as we move into the future. It appears that Judy Reese has skills and experience that match our needs. The Committee has worked out proposed arrangements regarding what ILYM would offer Judy and what she would provide to ILYM in return, detailed in the MP&E Report.

Chris presented a summary of expected costs associated with the caretaker. The committee originally estimated the total costs for the year to be about \$2,500; however, some of these costs may already be in the budget, resulting in an addition to the budget likely to be closer to \$1,000.

Minute 32 Illinois Yearly Meeting approved the recommendation of the Maintenance, Planning, and Envisioning Committee to engage Judy Reese to become our property caretaker, under the care of that committee, with one Friend standing aside.

Minute 33 David Shiner brought to our attention that the Personnel Committee in their report to the Fall 2019 Continuing Committee pointed out the need for examination and discernment of our policy around employees. The Personnel Committee is charged to bring to Fall 2020 Continuing Committee a progress report on their discernment around these questions, including the question "Do ILYM's stated personnel policies fit our current and evolving practices and aspirations?"

Minute 34 Marcia Nelson introduced the proposed unity agenda, which is described in the advance documents as a time-saving way to facilitate acceptance of reports that require no corporate action beyond acceptance. Approving this practice means the eleven committee or representative reports included in the unity agenda will not be presented individually, but will be accepted as a group. Approved.

Minute 35 Marcia Nelson, Kent Busse, and Sarah Pavlovic provided brief highlights of reports included in the unity agenda. Those present were invited to make a joyful noise

recognizing the work of the committee members and representatives who had put time and energy into their work and into the preparation of these reports. The reports in the unity agenda were accepted.

Minute 36 Marcia Nelson presented a summarized version of the report of the Faith and Practice Committee. The Faith and Practice Committee requested that it be laid down, effective upon the distribution of published copies of the book. Approved.

Minute 37 The Faith and Practice Committee report was accepted with thanks.

Minute 38 The minutes were read and approved. The session closed with worship.

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH SESSION, Seventh Day, Sixth Month 20, 2020

Minute 39 The fourth session of ILYM's 146th Annual Sessions opened with centering worship.

Minute 40 Clerk Marcia Nelson introduced the clerks and welcomed those in attendance, across communities and states.

Minute 41 Marcia Nelson made announcements regarding our online procedures, about the availability of the resources of the policy on Harassment and Abuse and its committee, and the Committee of Care. She also reminded those present of the availability of the most recent documents in the ILYM website "Front Table" folder.

Minute 42 Minutes 36 and 37 from the third session of business meeting were read and approved.

Minute 43 The report of the Development Committee was summarized, celebrated with joyful noise, and accepted.

Minute 44 Bridget Rorem on behalf of the Nominating Committee proposed additional names for approval:

Adrian Nelson as representative to Friends General Conference Central Committee

Fariba Murray as representative to the American Friends Service Committee Corporation Board

Pam Kuhn as representative to Friends World Committee for Consultation

Approved.

Minute 45 Ted Kuhn presented a revised budget for 2020-21 based on deliberation at the Finance Committee meeting held yesterday afternoon. Nothing has been changed in expected income. Additional expenses were added to accommodate the engagement of a caretaker, as well as a small reduction reflecting expenses saved by having the caretaker do some maintenance work. Travel expenses and expenses for representatives were reduced since travel has been much curtailed during the pandemic. Committee expenses were amended to reflect what committees have been spending, with some amounts greater and some less than the first draft.

The revised budget includes a \$1,000 donation to a Black-led anti-racism organization as recommended by the working group on anti-racism, as a demonstration of our commitment to begin this work.

The proposed budget shows a deficit of \$18,550, intended to be a one-time deficit, necessitated by the pandemic and the economic difficulties that have resulted from it. Approved.

Minute 46 Janice Domanik reported for ILYM’s anti-racism working group. They shared words of commitment and intention from the Black Lives Matter website that informed their work together. The working group united in a sense of urgency around this issue and that the yearly meeting needs to commit to a focus on anti-racism work. Janice Domanik advised that the working group is open to those interested and willing to work.

Those present approved adopting the minute presented in the report of the working group, as a statement of the yearly meeting’s intention to further the work of undoing racism. Approved.

Minute 47 Pam Kuhn presented the Handbook Committee Report outlining updates to Handbook. They proposed a description for a committee of oversight for the Administrative Coordinator. They expressed their willingness to work with other committees of oversight and the Personnel Committee to update descriptions of other committees of oversight. Approved.

Minute 48 The Handbook Committee made specific recommendations to organize and clarify the section on “Specific Practices, Procedures, and Policies.” They recommend adding to the Handbook information about the Safe Congregation Policy, including where to find the complete policy document, to replace the “Guidelines for Youth Volunteers or Youth Leaders,” which will be removed. They recommended adding a description of the Employee Manual and where it can be found. They recommended adding the Records Retention Procedure and Policy adopted in 2016 and updated in 2019. Approved.

Minute 49 The Handbook Committee recommended updating the section on Annual Sessions planning to reflect revisions made in 2019. Approved.

Minute 50 The wording for the updates referenced in Minutes 47-49 may be found in the Handbook Committee Report. The report was accepted.

Minute 51 Marcia Nelson proposed October 3, 2020 as the date for Fall Continuing Committee, with two options for its location and format: Plan A is to meet at the Illinois Yearly Meeting meetinghouse, hosted by Clear Creek Monthly Meeting, contingent on public health conditions; Plan B is to conduct the meeting virtually. A suggestion was made to explore the possibility of having a meeting that includes virtual participation in addition to in-person. Approved.

Minute 52 The proposed date for 2021 Annual Sessions is June 16-20, 2021. Chicago schools will still be in session at that time. More discernment will be undertaken and the dates will be presented for approval at Fall 2020 Continuing Committee.

Minute 53 The minutes from the fourth session were read back and approved. The session closed with worship.

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SESSION, First Day, Sixth Month 21, 2020

Minute 54 The fifth session of ILYM’s 146th Annual Sessions opened with centering worship.

Minute 55 Friends were welcomed to the yearly meeting’s final sessions. Bobby Trice, representative from FCNL (Friends Meeting Washington, Baltimore YM) introduced himself.

Minute 56 Monica Tetzlaff, Charlotta Koppanyi, Bobbi Trist, and Hannah Laird read outgoing Epistles from the Children’s Sessions. We heard epistles from the pre-school,

primary, intermediate, and middle school groups. Monica and Charlotta thanked all the teachers and high school assistants who helped make virtual children’s sessions possible. Epistles from the Children’s Sessions were accepted.

Minute 57 On behalf of the Epistle Committee, Daniel Lakemacher read this year’s ILYM Epistle, which will be sent to other yearly meetings. Approved.

Minute 58 Dawn Crimson, representing the Exercises Committee, read this year’s Exercises. Accepted.

Minute 59 Illinois Yearly Meeting extended our gratitude to Judy Wolicki who has served as our Field Secretary for the past nine years. During that time she has driven thousands of miles each year to meetings, worship groups and other gatherings, offering programs, resources, care and encouragement, and connection among individuals and meetings. We have been blessed by her friendship, by her calm and reassuring presence, by her deep listening, by her loving care for us all, and by the joy she embodies as she urges us to find joy in our own lives. Approved.

Minute 60 Illinois Yearly Meeting gave thanks to outgoing members of committees for their service to the yearly meeting, and also to those who continue to serve or have recently agreed to serve the yearly meeting in a variety of ways. Approved.

Minute 61 Illinois Yearly Meeting thanked all those who gave time and effort to adapting ILYM’s 2020 Annual Sessions to a virtual format, including the members of the Planning Coordinators Group, and all who brought technological expertise to making the 2020 Annual Sessions a pioneering effort in community. Approved.

Minute 62 Clerk Marcia Nelson reminded Friends of the Annual Sessions evaluation form available on the website. A planning session for 2021 and Meeting for Worship will follow this business session.

Minute 63 Marcia Nelson reminded Friends that Fall Continuing Committee is planned for October 3, 2020 at the ILYM meetinghouse at McNabb, whether in person, virtually, or a combination of the two. The dates for the 2021 Annual Sessions are still under deliberation, and will be announced at Fall Continuing Committee.

Minute 64 Youth Coordinator Liam Gardner reported for the High School Friends. Instead of having virtual sessions during this week of ILYM sessions, High School Friends committed to continuing their ongoing online gatherings on 2nd and 4th Saturdays where they have played games, participated in Quaker trivia sessions, and donned orange clothing to make a statement opposing racial injustice, among other activities. During the virtual Annual Sessions, several High School Friends helped with the Children’s Sessions. Liam has contact information for rising high school students who will be invited to join the ongoing online sessions. Accepted.

Minute 65 The minutes of the fifth session were read and approved.

Minute 66 The 146th Annual Sessions of Illinois Yearly Meeting—the first ILYM Annual Sessions to be held by video conference—closed with worship.

Marcia Nelson
Acting Presiding Clerk

Sarah Pavlovic
Recording Clerk

EXERCISES

When we chose our theme last summer, “How do we walk cheerfully over the earth answering to that of God in others and ourselves,” we could not have imagined the contrast we would be facing at these sessions. Everything seems to be changing, while traditions seem to be intact, the future is wildly unpredictable, yet exciting directions suddenly seem possible.

“Friend, Friend, we can’t hear you, please unmute your microphone.” This was the year of the COVID-19 pandemic. Concern for safety has moved us to meet via video conferencing using a program called Zoom. Everyone was bound and determined to make these sessions work in the times of physical distancing. Most of us, staying close to home for the last few months, experienced such elation to see familiar yearly meeting faces on our computer screens. First time attenders to ILYM felt that they could step in and be comfortable. Even as Friends joined us from home, we had good participation among adults. The business sessions ranged from 51 to 62 participants. The meetings for worship closer to 25 to 32 Friends.

Then as our clerk, Marcia Nelson, started us in sessions, we had 8 minutes and 46 seconds of silence, a sober reminder of the death of Black people at the hands of the police and world-wide denouncement of systemic racism. A working group was formed to consider the yearly meeting’s response. Many Friends joined the working group, wanting to be part of the process to show our support.

At our fourth session, the working group brought forward a minute with a statement capturing our immediate leadings to work towards racial equity while recognizing that there is still much to do. We were clear this included a significant donation to a Black-led organization concerned with racial justice even as we were facing our own uncertain financial stability. Previous work by ILYM Friends with other Quaker organizations as well as speakers we have heard at sessions in the past laid the groundwork to form a minute.

Our business sessions felt grounded in discipline and process even as we labored with some understanding of the way forward. Friends learned to use the “hand-raise” function on Zoom and to wait to be called on enabling us to discern the way forward. It felt like we were on the floor of the yearly meeting meetinghouse.

The Finance Committee, noting that the country is already in recession and there is a possibility of a depression, acknowledged that Friends may not be able to donate as much in the next fiscal year. The meeting with integrity approved a deficit budget for one year. Keeping the programs intact outweighed waiting until the world around became more financially predictable. Past good planning and fiscal responsibility enabled us to have reserves to do this.

This was the last year in the term of our Field Secretary, Judy Wolicki. For nine years, we have heard of the joy she has felt as she visited among our monthly meetings and worship groups. She has been visiting monthly meetings via Zoom during the pandemic and found silver linings in our virtual meetings together. We look forward to getting to know how Brad Laird, our next Field Secretary, will approach the position.

We were delighted to move forward on having a Property Caretaker by making arrangements with Judy Reese, a Friend from the Philadelphia area. She joined us on Zoom for an afternoon meet and greet. We look forward to her capable hands taking care of our site in the future.

We tried to keep some of the other activities of the yearly meeting going. The children met via Zoom with such programs as creating leaf art and origami for middle

schoolers; stories of respect and friendliness for elementary children; while the youngest group focused on plants, pets and nature. The high school group has been meeting in short meetings during the summer rather than at sessions. Some also helped with the smaller children. But the children were not able to interact with other age groups or with the adults making us feel very much socially distanced.

We still had our usual Friday night dancing with Jim and Peggy Hicks' band. Some danced in their backyards or with a teddy bear as a partner. Others just tapped their toes from the seats in their livingrooms.

Our meeting for worship times felt centered in the Spirit even as we looked at faces on the screen. Our communal remembrance and strength of worshipping in the meetinghouse was carried over to our virtual worship. Messages included letting go of our expectations and instead letting God, as well as messages of our connections. On Friday, Juneteenth, worship without messages was deeply felt.

Worship sharing sessions brought out messages about the experience of the last few months of isolation, uncertainty, and unrest in our spiritual life. But there were also messages of hope and openings to the future.

We had one evening of workshops on the usual different topics. For example, in the workshop on *Barclay's Apology*, we explored embracing a willingness to experience what you do not understand as a tool for learning a new vocabulary and slowly catching onto what is being said—which seems like an apt description of Quaker Worship generally.

Our speakers grounded us in the Quaker tradition. They tied the theme selected a year ago to our current circumstances. Steve Angell, the Professor of Quaker Studies at Earlham School of Religion, reminded us of the imagery in the writing of Friends in times of deep trouble. Looking at George Fox's Epistle #228, poetry from Helen Morgan Brooks, and statements from Howard Thurmann, we were struck by the continue relevance of their experience. Benigno Sánchez-Eppler, former Clerk of the FWCC Section of the Americas, gave us an exegesis of George Fox's Letter from the Launceston Jail. For some it was the first opportunity to learn the origin of the phrase "That of God in every person." He inspired us to rethink how the message from this letter challenges our faith today.

Yet for all of the efforts of the planning group to bring the best we could do on Zoom, it was not the same as being on the yearly meeting campus in McNabb. The Plummer Lecture was postponed until it could be given with people present. We could not recreate the interaction during the in between times: the children playing on the lawn, the informal conversations on the porch, ministry shared while washing dishes. We felt we were all in separate silos. David Finke once commented that these exercise reports always mention the long-views of corn fields, the country roads, and, of course, the weather. Yet even though we were not on our campus this year, the collective memory of 146 years of meeting still was present in our time together. Whatever we are facing in the future, we go forward with the sense of God's community around us and within us.

EPISTLES

2020 ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING

To Friends Around the World,

In spite of ‘the weight of the sad time,’ I bring you a message of hope. For I believe our young people can yet save the world. The revolution that is needed now is already taking place in the minds and lives of some of them.

Elizabeth Watson, as quoted in *Nine Contemporary Quaker Women Speak*

For the first time, Illinois Yearly Meeting held annual sessions via online video-conference from June 17-21, 2020, due to the coronavirus pandemic. In this and other ways, reflections on how Friends are called to change became a hallmark of the 146th Annual Session. Many Friends have spent months grappling with the losses and disruptions caused by this pandemic. In response, Northside Friends Meeting was joined by other monthly meetings in holding Memorial Day 2020 as a National Day of Mourning for Victims of COVID-19. In their statement, Northside Friends reminds us that as Quakers “our testimony of equality compels us to see the privilege enjoyed by those whom the pandemic has touched lightly and witness the pain of those whom the pandemic has wounded deeply.”

That same day, May 25, 2020, the horrific inequality that permeates our country was brought to the fore when a Minneapolis police officer killed George Floyd by kneeling on his neck for eight minutes and forty-six seconds. In witness to this injustice, sessions opened in silence for this same period of time. Heightened awareness of racist, state-sponsored violence, and the ongoing suffering from the worldwide pandemic were never far from mind as we contemplated our theme “How do we walk cheerfully over the earth answering that of God in others and ourselves?”

Earlham Quaker Studies professor Stephen Angell shared how we can draw strength from the words of Friends who have gone before us in times of crisis. In the 1660s in England, George Fox, knew fear of dying from endemic disease, which took the lives of hundreds of imprisoned Quakers. “The truth can live in jails,” Fox wrote to Friends. Stephen then shared how Black Friends from the past can help guide us as we face the ugly nature of racial disparities and police brutality in 2020. He read two poems by poet and Pendle Hill resident, Helen Morgan Brooks, written in the 1960s and shared an excerpt from theologian Howard Thurman’s 1971 book, *The Search for Common Ground*:

The heartrending years when hundreds of Negroes were lynched, burned, and butchered by white men, whose women and children were often spectators of the inhuman ceremony are conveniently forgotten.... The bodies of Negroes remember and their psyches can never forget this vast desecration of personality.

Stephen asked us, how can we confront this horrific reality that has lasted for centuries and not turn away from it? How can we act?

One of the ways Friends answered was with a sense of urgency that our work for change in the world today involves providing material support, physical and vocal presence, and financial contributions to Black-led anti-racism organizations. Those present also adopted a minute to acknowledge that Quakers have been part of systems of racist oppression and to describe how we will begin the work of learning about and reflecting on the effects of personal and structural racism in our lives and our spiritual journeys.

During these times our local meetings are also experiencing dramatic changes in format in response to the pandemic. In the absence of in-person gatherings, many of our monthly meetings are connecting online for worship, business, and fellowship. Although this offers increased accessibility and opportunity for many Friends to connect, others are struggling and describe the online environment as a barrier to the quality of spiritual and social experiences they have when physically gathered.

These struggles are especially true among high school Friends who tend to have a smaller local peer group, and are particularly saddened at being unable to fellowship in-person. Simultaneously, a number of high school Friends found meaningful opportunities to volunteer in support of children's events. Children from the ages of 3 to 15 held each other in the Light during the weight of these times as they participated in online Religious Education classes via Zoom. They were glad to have this way to connect to each other and the life of the Spirit, but it could not replace their freedom to play together for hours on the rural campus of the historic Illinois Yearly Meeting Meetinghouse.

While Friends were not physically present at the meetinghouse and grounds, these spaces will receive new care with the appointment of Judy Reese in the role of property caretaker. As we move into the coming days, Friends need discernment in considering how to better meet the needs of those among us and throughout the world who have been impacted by the intersecting forms of inequality.

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.

Martin Luther King, Jr., "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" (1963)

Childrens Sessions Epistle 2020

Virtual children's sessions brought children, adult teachers, and teen assistants from all over Illinois Yearly Meeting together via Zoom screens, rather than by trips to the ILYM campus in McNabb in cars loaded with tents and sleeping bags. 22 children from ages 3 to 15 joined to answer this yearly sessions' query "How do we walk cheerfully over the earth, answering that of God in everyone?"

We had the joy of welcoming new young Friends, who could more easily join us, but also the sorrow of missing the long periods of time when children could spend time together in the open air, meetinghouse, rustic cabins, and tents at the McNabb campus.

The Zoom classes went very well and it was great to see everyone. Charlotta Koppanyi opened our classes at 8:45a.m., with first class starting at 9:00 a.m., with two younger classes in morning, each 25 minutes. In the afternoon, two classes for intermediate and middle school were held, each class being 55 minutes, and the last class ending at 2:55 p.m. Five teens assisted with classes.

Preschool (Ages 2-4)

Our class had 3 little girls: Pippa, Zazy, and Elah and at least that many helpers and teachers. Bobbi Trist was ably assisted by Mars Harroun, along with grandmas, parents, and coordinator Charlotta. We learned about many things in our natural world.

Thursday we talked about pets in our lives, mostly dogs and cats, and why we love them. Friday we turned to our yards. Some children brought treasures from their yard to

show us. We talked about the animals we find outside, and which are pets and which animals are wild. For example, could you have a bear as a pet? Saturday we talked about plants and how they make our lives better, and whether garden or farmers market strawberries taste better. Every day we read at least one story to spark discussion. It was 25 minutes of fun and light each day. We hope it enriched the children's lives. They certainly enriched ours.

Primary (Ages 4-7)

We had a great time talking about nature, reading the Quaker story "The White Feather" with original illustrations on the "shared screen," thanks to Dale Gardner. Our students shared their own feathers and rocks they had found. We shared joys and concerns with our grandparents, parents, siblings, and did art work outside, and a lot of Zoom yoga ("ants in our pants").

On the first day, we went over names and about joys and concerns. We heard from sisters Bea and Lillian, Oliver, and were joined by Jason Shenk and Charlotta Koppanyi. We heard about how Lillian and Bea's cousin Owen has a family of baby skunks, which could be a joy or a concern. We saw a duck feather that Lillian had found in nature, and Oliver talked about his pet rabbit. Then we got to see beautiful art on unconventional mediums, such as painted rocks from Bea and Lillian and painted boards by Oliver and his older brother. I then read a story called "The White Feather," which the children showed their appreciation for by fidgeting and doing other things.

On the second day, we again asked about joys and concerns. Today we were joined by Anna. No grave sorrows for the children, thankfully. I asked what the children had found in nature, and Oliver showed the Juneberries he was picking. I asked if the children remembered anything of the story, but alas none of them did. The White Feather is a story about one Quaker family seeing the light in the Native Americans and choosing to stay in their humble town instead of fleeing. They provide a feast for their guests that was eaten swiftly and messily. The story concludes with the leader of the Native Americans putting a white feather in a crack in the boards of the family home, signifying peace, almost like the one Lillian had found earlier. I reminded everyone that there is that of God in all beings, the ones we love like our dogs and cats, and the ones we fear like the family of baby skunks in Owen's lawn. While fearing people or even simply disliking someone is normal, we must remember that no matter what there is still that of God in them. We ended in a moment of silence.

On the third and final day, we started with joys and concerns. Bea and Lillian had only joy to share as they both got cookies from the farmers market. Oliver showed us a rock he had found, potentially foreshadowing some rock painting. I asked again if any of the children remembered the story, which was, of course, no. I reminded them of a few key moments, like the Quaker family staying strong and not brandishing guns, not letting the opinions of the other members of the town sway their beliefs, and being rewarded with the friendship of the local Native Americans and a beautiful white feather. Then I shared some of my experiences, like how it can be hard for me to remember that of God in the squirrels that eat the flowers off of sunflowers before they even bloom and take a single bite out of unripe tomatoes. That the mosquitoes that bite us and make us itchy have that of God in them. All beings are important, and stewardship must be on an individual, community, and global level. On that we pondered during the moment of silence. Then I promised to show my puppy, coincidentally named Oliver. I was not able to during class, but will via email.

Intermediate (Ages 8-10)

In our group, Camille Roberts (a teen), Michael Pine, and Charlotta taught our group of 7 students. We all learned about the start of slavery, and why Quakers thought it was wrong to have slaves. We also talked about contemporary slavery in its different forms and that it is all over the world, including here. An example we talked about was child marriages, and asked what the students would do if they were forced to marry someone much older their parents had chosen; the students would all run away. Camille and Charlotta then explained how many families were forced to do this due to poverty and that there were no other options. All the students were active at talking. We all wanted to say our points and how we felt. It felt very sad but also very strongly moving. Everyone felt free to talk how they felt about it. It was very eye opening.

On the second day, Micheal read four stories. All the stories were about a person that needed to make a choice. In one story, a person wanted to go to a spelling bee competition but was given the opportunity to speak to a peace and justice rally as the keynote speaker. The story ended before the person made their decision. So we talked about what we would have done if we were them. Michael explained that the stories were based on the parables.

On the last day, it was more relaxing, but with more student-led questions and topics. Charlotta led that class. We also allowed for some fun conversations. We learned that one student who loves dragons, had eaten some “dragon scales” which led us to ask if dragons exist or not. The students were not in agreement about their existence. This led to the question of what do we have around us? The students were saying dragons, evil squirrels, deers, lazy bunnies, cute cats, skunks, and much much more were around them. We ended the class asking if there is a difference between religion and spirituality? Are they the same? Many of the kids did not know, but Michael and Charlotta explained their understanding of religion and spirituality.

These three days created space for sharing mythological, existential and playful stories, questions and answers.

Middle School (Ages 10-13)

We, Abigail, Catherine, Hannah, Lorelei, Margaret, Milo and Sarah, gathered together as a community for three days during the Illinois Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions. Most of us enjoyed pebble meditation that opened our meetings but others found silent worship awkward.

We enjoyed drinking water from an origami cup that we had folded. Making leaf art was fun. Those that had attended Annual Sessions before missed dancing on the front lawn and eating watermelon, singing on the porch, and eating s'mores at the campfire. Those that had not attended Annual Sessions said they would have missed s'mores as well. It was nice to meet in community three days.

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION/BALANCE SHEET
FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2020

	6/30/2020			6/30/2019
Assets				
Cash & Cash Equivalents				
Checking Account	115,361.50			96,242.31
Friends Fiduciary-Combined	0.00			176,259.70
Friends Fiduciary-Temp. Restrct Proprty Imp	31,821.55			0.00
Friends Fiduciary-Unrestricted Designated	152,115.47			0.00
Paypal	<u>638.75</u>			<u>127.81</u>
Total Cash & Cash Equivalents	299,937.27			272,626.82
Current Assets				
Accounts Receivable	<u>0.00</u>			<u>2,620.00</u>
Total Current Assests	0.00			2,620.00
Total Assets	<u>299,937.27</u>			<u>275,246.82</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets				
Liabilities				
Accounts Payable	10,667.17			5,893.02
Loans from Individuals	0.00			1,000.00
Funds Held for Women's Weekend	0.00			232.00
Payroll Taxes	<u>0.00</u>			<u>*0.00</u>
Total Liabilities	10,667.17			7,125.02
Net Assets				
1 Unrestricted Undesignated			Net Income	
1 General Operating	<u>60,625.19</u>			<u>60,625.19</u>
Total 1 Unrestricted Undesignated	60,625.19			60,625.19
2 Unrestricted Designated				
2 Special Gifts	76,991.77	21,396.48	*55,515.29	
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	68,995.03	(2,351.06)		71,346.09
7 Faith & Practice Pub	<u>0.00</u>	<u>(500.00)</u>		<u>500.00</u>
Total 2 Unrestricted Designated	195,694.73			176,149.31
8 Property Impr.	<u>32,950.18</u>	1,602.88		<u>31,347.30</u>
Total 3 Temporary Restricted	32,950.18			31,347.30
Total Net Assets	<u>289,270.10</u>	<u>21,148.30</u>		<u>268,121.80</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>299,937.27</u>			<u>275,246.82</u>

Notes on next page

Financial Position/Balance Sheet notes

*Correction from 2019 Report: \$279.55 of expenses miscoded as Payroll, should have been Site.

Payroll Taxes was -\$279.55, should have been zero. Special Gifts became \$279.55 too high. No change to bottom line balances.

-- Friends Fiduciary Fund balances change daily. The value in the Assets section is a snapshot on this report date.

-- Because it is difficult to appraise, the value of the ILYM site (land and buildings in McNabb, Ill.) is omitted from the Assets section above.

**ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING - MONTHLY MEETING CONTRIBUTIONS
JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020**

	Contribution
Blue River Quarterly	0.00
Bloomington-Normal MM	2,040.00
Burlington WG	0.00
Clear Creek MM	4,000.00
Columbia FM	2,295.00
Downers Grove FM	7,800.00
Duneland FM	1,275.00
Evanston MMoF	15,317.50
57th Street MoF	5,355.00
Fox Valley QM	0.00
Lake Forest FM	17,325.00
Northside FM	1,950.00
Oak Park FM	5,200.00
Oshkosh MM	50.00
Rock Valley FM	0.00
St. Louis MM	8,842.50
South Bend FM	5,280.00
Southern Illinois QM	1,440.00
Spoon River QM	720.00
Urbana-Champaign FM	10,000.00
Total	88,890.00

FM: Friends Meeting; **MM:** Monthly Meeting; **MMoF:** Monthly Meeting of Friends; **MoF:** Meeting of Friends; **QM:** Quaker Meeting; **WG:** Worship Group

<p>MONTHLY MEETING RECOMMENDED ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION PER ADULT RESIDENT MEMBER IS <u>\$255.</u></p>
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ILYM Statement of Fund Activity 1 July 2019 to 30 Jun 2020

	1 General	2 Special	5 FWCC	6 Maint.	7 Fth&Prtc	8 Property	Total
Revenue							
Contributions-Meetings Unrstrctd	\$88,890.00						\$88,890.00
Gifts-Indiv Designated		\$10,000.00					\$10,000.00
Gifts-Indiv Restricted PIF						\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Gifts-Indiv Unrestricted	\$21,747.00						\$21,747.00
Bank & Investment Income	\$5,731.83					1,153.97	\$6,885.80
Gatherings-Retreats	<u>\$14,660.70</u>						<u>\$14,660.70</u>
Total Revenue	\$131,029.53	\$10,000.00				\$2,153.97	\$143,183.50
<hr/>							
Operating Expenses							
1 Personnel & Office	\$53,359.84						\$53,359.84
2 YM Travel Support	\$3,729.47						\$3,729.47
3 Site & Property Expenses							
Ann. Services-Propy Taxes	\$1,216.62						\$1,216.62
Mowing, Tree Trimming	\$5,370.00						\$5,370.00
Repairs & Maintenance	\$5,500.00						\$5,500.00
Site Insurance Expense	\$9,022.00						\$9,022.00
Utilities	<u>\$1,553.30</u>						<u>\$1,553.30</u>
Total 3 Site & Property	\$22,661.92						\$22,661.92
4 Gatherings-Retreats	\$9,089.48						\$9,089.48
5 Committee Expenses							
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	<u>\$1,523.95</u>						<u>\$1,523.95</u>
Total 5 Committee Expenses	\$5,370.75						\$5,370.75

6 Support to Others	\$10,650.00			\$10,650.00
Total Operating Expenses	\$104,861.46			\$104,861.46
Operating Income/(Loss)	\$26,168.07	\$10,000.00		\$2,153.97
Other Income and Expense				
Appliances-Equipment			\$ (5,851.06)	\$ (5,851.06)
Building Projects			\$ (8,000.00)	\$ (8,000.00)
Transfers - Budgeted	\$ (12,500.00)	\$1,000.00	\$11,500.00	
Transfers - Other		500.00		\$ (500)
Transfers - Net Operating	\$ (13,668.07)	13,668.07		
Unrealized Gain/Loss		<u>(\$2,771.59)</u>		<u>\$ (551.09)</u>
Total Other Income & Expense	\$(26,168.07)	\$1,000.00	\$(2,351.06)	\$(551.09)
Net Income/(Loss)	\$0.00	\$21,369.48	\$(2,351.06)	\$1,602.88

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

The **Financial Review Committee** is a subcommittee of Finance Committee. It is charged with reviewing any items going over budget and determining how to pay any items consistent with our budget.

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING OPERATING BUDGET 2020-2021

	2020-2021 Budget	2019-2020 Budget	2019-2020 Actual
Revenue			
Contributions-Meetings	80,000	88,050	88,980
Gifts-Individuals	25,000	34,200	21,747
Bank & Investment Income	4,000	4,000	5,732
Gatherings-Retreats	<u>15,000</u>	<u>19,900</u>	<u>14,661</u>
<i>Total Income</i>	124,000	146,150	131,030
Operating Expenses			
1 Personnel & Office	62,500	64,700	53,360
2 YM Travel Support	4,000	4,500	3,729
3 Site & Property Expenses			
Annual Services-Property Taxes	2,000	2,100	1,217
Mowing, Tree Trimming	6,000	6,200	5,370
Routine Maintenance & Repairs	5,500	5,500	5,500
Urgent Repairs	2,000	2,000	0
Insurance	9,000	7,000	9,022
Caretaker Expenses	500		
Utilities	<u>2,500</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>1,553</u>
<i>Total Site & Property</i>	27,500	25,300	22,662
4 Gatherings-Retreats			
AS Event Expenses (oversight: Admin Coord)	5,000	5,000	3,091
AS Cooking-Food (oversight: Planning Grp)	8,300	8,300	4,200
AS Aft/Eve Program (oversight: Planning Grp)	2,200	2,200	999
AS Children's Program (oversight: CRE Comm)	1,000	1,000	375
AS Site Preparation (oversight: Planning Grp)	1,000	1,000	0
Other Gatherings	<u>0</u>	<u>1,300</u>	<u>425</u>
<i>Total Gatherings-Retreats</i>	17,500	18,800	9,089
5 Committees			
Ad hoc	0	25	0
Adult Young Friends	200	200	0
Children's Religious Education	200	600	77
Development	700	1,000	664
Environmental Concerns	50	100	0
Faith & Practice	0	25	0
Finance	25	50	48
Handbook	25	25	0
Maintenance, Planning & Envisioning	100	175	0
Ministry & Advancement	50	100	0
Nominating	50	100	0
Peace Resources	50	100	0
Peace Tax Fund	25	25	0
Personnel	25	25	0
Publications	3,000	4,750	3,058
Youth Oversight	<u>2,400</u>	<u>2,400</u>	<u>1,524</u>
<i>Total Committee Expenses</i>	6,900	9,700	5,371

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING, OPERATING BUDGET 2020-2021
EXPENSE LINE ITEM DETAILS (CONT.)

	2020-2021	2019-2020	2019-2020
	Budget	Budget	Actual
6 Support to Others			
Quaker organizations to which ILYM assigns representatives			
Friends General Conference (FGC)	4,000	4,000	4,000
Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)	3,500	3,500	3,500
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)	400	400	400
Friends Cmte. on Natl Legislation (FCNL)	400	400	400
Friends Peace Teams (FPT)	300	300	300
Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW)	250	250	250
Friends for Lesbian & Gay Concerns (FLGBTQC)	50	50	50
Regional Quaker educational institutions			
Chicago Friends School (CFS)	300	300	300
Scattergood School	200	200	200
Earlham College	200	200	200
Earlham School of Religion (ESR)	100	100	100
Olney Friends School	100	100	100
Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR)	300	300	300
Project Lakota	200	200	200
Friends Journal	200	200	200
National Relgs Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT)	100	100	100
A Black-led anti-racist organization TBD	1,000		
Quaker United Nations Office (QUONO)	50	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>
<i>Total Committee Expenses</i>	11,650	10,650	10,650
Total Operating Expenses	130,050	133,650	104,861
Transfers			
To Maintenance Reserve	11,500	11,500	11,500
To FWCC World Meetings	1,000	1,000	1,000
Operating Surplus/Deficit to Special Gifts			<u>13,668</u>
<i>Total Transfers</i>	12,500	12,500	26,168
Net Income (Deficit)	(18,550)	0	0

TREASURERS (See Minute 23)

This report is as of the timing of Advance Documents (above numbers are end of the fiscal year). Much activity happens in June and July and as such, this does not reflect how the year will close.

As of May 24, looking at the Income Statement far right column (Statement of Fund Activity, p. 23-23), ILYM received \$5,105 more than we spent in Operating Income. Investments in the property (refrigerators and painting) as well as declines in our invested funds, make the net cash flow -\$21,181 to date. Investments in property are why we maintain and consistently transfer funds to our Maintenance Reserve. The market has recovered somewhat since March, and it is fortunate that we do not have to tap those funds at this time (giving them time to further recover).

As of May, Income is down \$65,000 vs the prior year and again, we expect that to be significantly better by year end as meetings make their final contributions and from the generosity of individuals. Donations from individuals have been trending below the prior

year about 10%. Historically 25% of our individual donations come in during this final quarter particularly as Friends add to their registration. We, along with the Development Committee hope that Friends who are able will continue to make generous contribution to the yearly meeting

Income from Gathering & Retreats is -\$2,500 this time last year. Usually Registrations cover most of the cost of Sessions, as we move to pay as led in this unusual year, we hope that those who are able contribute to offset the cost of Annual Sessions. The Planning Committees were led to continue to support many of the people who have served the yearly meeting to help them weather the challenges of not being able to work, as a result, we expect Annual Sessions expenses to be at least \$8,500 this year. If 85 of us contribute \$100, we should cover our costs.

Our largest expense is Personnel. Our expenses are coming in below year ago and budget due to not filling the Children's Religious Education position and reduced travel due to Stay at Home measures. Increased Site expenses flowed out of the Maintenance Reserve and including higher Insurance premiums show up in different places. We spent \$5,000 less out of the General Fund so far and \$15,000 more out of the Maintenance Reserve, Netting -\$10,000 in overall cash flow for the site. As usually happens, Committees lower spending than year ago more than offset increases in Publications. I remind Friends to submit any expense you have promptly. There is much to do to close the books in the next couple of months.

Looking at our Balance Sheet, our Assets are -\$22,000 as of this point in the year, we expect this to improve somewhat with meeting and individual fiscal year end contributions and market recovery. And we expect that this year is one where we benefit from our past financial stewardship as we tap our reserves.

Valerie Lester & Dawn Crimson, Co-Treasurers

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE (See Minutes 34, 35)

Overview: Ministry to children has evolved since the last Annual Session. In the absence of anyone applying for the position of quarter-time CRE Coordinator, Robyn Sullivan and Charlotta Koppanyi have stepped in to coordinate projects with one time payments for their labor and time. The committee is in the process of overseeing a virtual program for Annual Sessions because of the necessity of physical distancing during the coronavirus pandemic.

New Member: We were very happy to welcome Jason Shenk to our committee this year. He brings experience in the ministry of bridging historic divisions and strengthening the movement to end poverty, as well as being a parent of a young child.

Our Whole Lives (OWL) Retreat: Robyn Sullivan coordinated an OWL retreat 11/9-11/2010 at Evanston Friends Meetinghouse. Nine Quaker youth, 3 Quaker facilitators, and one Quaker chaperone studied 5 topics such as Healthy Relationships and Sexual Decision Making. The youth who were at the retreat have another 5 OWL lessons they would like to cover in a future retreat. They would like to meet again at Evanston Friends Meetinghouse.

Going Virtual: The committee discerned that we wanted to continue with ministry to children and keeping the community of children connected by having virtual Childrens Sessions as part of going virtual during the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Charlotta Koppanyi and Committee Coordinating Virtual Children's Sessions 2020: The Committee hired Charlotta Koppanyi as Children's Religious Education Coordinator for Annual Sessions 2020 as a part-time temporary employee. She has been working to

prepare volunteer teachers. We transitioned the employee we had hired for babysitting to a paid assistant teacher and musician for the Children’s Sessions. Ages approximately 3 to 13 will be taught using the gifts and leadings of the teachers curriculum around the theme “How do we walk cheerfully over the earth, answering that of God in everyone?” Two adult teachers and one H.S. volunteer are scheduled to teach age groups of 3-5 year-olds, 6-7 year-olds, 8-10 year-olds, and Middle School/10-13 year olds. Charlotta will be present during all the online teaching sessions to troubleshoot if needed.

Committee members: Joy Duncan, Dale Gardner, Charlotta Koppanyi (ex officio), Michael Pine, Jason Shenk, Robyn Sullivan, Monica Tetzlaff (clerk), Bobbi Trist

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (See Minute 43)

The 2019–2020 annual appeal for unrestricted annual giving has yielded \$17,837 through May 22, 2020, from 43 families and individuals, less than unrestricted giving at this time in 2018–2019 which was \$30,200 from 53 families; we have a long way to go toward our 2019–2020 goal of \$35,700. On the positive side there has been a designated gift of \$10,000. In addition to that, Annual Sessions registration money exceeding costs (estimated at \$8,500) will be considered as unrestricted annual gifts. The reasons for the decrease in \$ and donors are not clear, and the Development Committee would enjoy input, whether conjectural or evidence based.

Planned Development Committee activities include:

Update the ILYM.org website for “Support ILYM” – new verbiage and new more visible menu option

- Supersede the current verbiage that:
 - Emphasizes tax deductions that no longer apply to many Friends
 - Does not put enough emphasis in support of volunteer opportunities to support ILYM and its members
 - Includes significant verbiage on expense reimbursement which in our view is out of focus
 - Misses a number of contact points within ILYM
 - Includes gifts in kind which are not really applicable in most circumstances
- Replace the existing with the Development Committee verbiage accompanying this report (as modified from Spring Continuing Committee input). Implement the verbiage to:
 - Fit a web format
 - Be printable in a user-friendly format
 - Eliminate emails in the Contact List and replace with boxes where people can communicate with the contacts by entering text, where the website in the background emails the contact specified (e.g. remove verbiage on “folder/document”, etc.)
 - Copy “Support ILYM” to the second (more visible) menu row
- Establish processes to assure control of the text:
 - The Development Committee must approve any change.

Boosting of “Support ILYM” communication and trust

- Communicate through the website and Among Friends progress toward our giving goals

- Recruit volunteers from Continuing Committee to take the ILYM message to their respective meetings, talk up annual sessions and ask for contributions toward the annual giving goal
- Provide all ILYM members with directories; encourage meetings to order a sufficient number of directories to reach all ILYM participants
- Define narrowly who has access to individual donation information (suggestion: co-Treasurers only)

Appointment of Regional Representatives

- Appointing Development Committee regional representatives, “ILYM Ambassadors,” to the Development Committee (e.g. St. Louis, downstate Illinois, Chicago North, Chicago South, Indiana) who can work with the Development Committee to communicate needs bi-laterally and identify those interested in exploring new ways to support ILYM

Effectively deferred until 2020-2021 is the following:

- Consolidating/developing a set of giving guidelines with specific emphasis on permissible giving, personal information sharing and donor contact. We want to make sure that our work is transparent, that there is “nothing going on behind the curtain.” Our work product would combine existing minuted guidelines, legal restrictions, financial restrictions and the “Policy Regarding Access to and Use of Contribution and Donor Information.”

The Development Committee stands ready to support, as feasible, the Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Committee to support special earmarked campaigns.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE (See Minutes 34, 35)

The ECC met on April 14 to remember and reminisce about our dear Friend John Hackman who passed away on March 26, 2020. Former member of ECC, Roy Treadway joined us from Washington state. We remembered John’s good nature, hammered dulcimer playing, love of music, and love of chain sawing dead and down tree branches on the ILYM campus. Friends remembered his gift of friendship. John was a member of Fox Valley Friends Meeting.

Due to the CONID-19 pandemic, we have not made any progress on our work at the ILYM campus. Noel was not able to purchase some oaks from Possibility Place Nursery. He has potted some red oak and white oak seedlings for the ILYM campus. He will be looking to purchase some bur oaks as well.

The General Secretary of Quaker Earthcare Witness, Shelley Tanenbaum and Noel Pavlovic will be hosting a workshop on Thursday night, June 18, concerning ‘What can we individually do about climate change?’

Prepared by Noel B. Pavlovic, clerk

COMMITTEE ON FAITH AND PRACTICE (See Minutes 36, 37)

The Faith and Practice Committee has met six times since our last yearly meeting, including three sessions via teleconference. Having received approval last summer to regard the text as complete, our attention this year has been on copyediting and proofreading. Late last summer, we sent the manuscript to Grayce Mesner, Gwen Weaver, and Sue Styer, each of whom reviewed the entire manuscript and made suggestions for changes to improve clarity and consistency. Based on these suggestions

and on our own review of the text, we prepared a final manuscript and sent it to the Publications and Distribution Committee for typesetting by Wil Brant. We also discussed ideas for the cover with the Publications and Distribution Committee, and came to a shared sense on a general design including a photo of Friends on the lawn in front of the ILYM Meetinghouse. When page proofs were ready, we again sent them to Grayce, Gwen, and Sue for final proofreading. Members of the committee also checked the proofs. We made a final review of all suggested corrections, and returned the corrected proofs to Wil for production. The book should be ready for publication after these final corrections are typeset. Our thanks go to Grayce, Gwen, Sue, and Wil, all of whom have done extensive and valuable work on this project.

The Faith and Practice Committee believes that its charge will have been fulfilled with publication of the book, and requests that it be laid down, effective on receipt of published copies.

FINANCE COMMITTEE (See Minutes 24, 45)

Finance committee is grateful to the meetings and individuals who donated this year even though we are unable to meet in person.

Budget for Fiscal Year 2021: Finance Committee is concerned about the financial viability of ILYM at current expense levels. Due to the expectation that the economy will be in poor shape for the next year, we are concerned that both meeting and individual donations will drop in the next year. As a result, the budget will need significantly more discernment on the (virtual) floor of ILYM business sessions. The first draft of the budget shows a significant deficit. We need the Meeting’s guidance if we should expect to run a deficit in a unique situation or if we should attempt to reduce spending. The budget may also need revising depending on the caretaker proposal discerned by Maintenance, Planning, and Envisioning.

Pay As Led: Continuing Committee approved registration for Annual Sessions on a pay as led basis. This year is not a typical year due to the pandemic, but if you have suggestions for improving the process or registration forms for future years please let finance committee know.

Items we may be working on in the next year:

- Friends Fiduciary has applied for a grant to help clients collect donations online more efficiently. We may want to participate—this will be joint work with development committee.
- Continued efforts to increase transparency of finances for Friends

Submitted by Ted Kuhn, FC committee

HANDBOOK COMMITTEE (See Minutes 48-50)

Oversight

The Handbook Committee notes that the descriptions of the committees of oversight for paid staff use the word “oversight” as a general term. The Handbook Committee recommends we give specifics in each description. The terms we suggest using are, “support, guidance, stewardship, consultation, supervision, feedback, and job reviews.” In addition, we recommend noting that the committees of oversight are responsible, when necessary, for hiring (including an employee search) and dismissing someone.

Minute 18, 2019 Annual Sessions calls for a creation of an oversight committee for the Administrative Coordinator. With the terms for “oversight” in mind, we recommend the following description.

Administrative Coordinator Committee of Oversight

The Administrative Coordinator Committee of Oversight provides support, guidance, stewardship, and consultation for the Administrative Coordinator, a paid staff position. The committee is responsible for supervision, feedback, an annual job review.

Membership: Clerk of Publications and Distribution Committee (acts as supervisor), the Presiding Clerk, and the Assistant Clerk.

Responsibilities include:

- a) Supporting and giving feedback to the Administrative Coordinator as needed.
- b) Reviewing time sheets.
- c) Providing an annual review for the Administrative Coordinator with the supervisor.
- d) Updating the job description as needed.
- e) If necessary, hiring a new person for the position or dismissing someone.

[2019, Minute 18]

The Handbook Committee is willing to work with other committees of oversight or the Personnel Committee to update their descriptions.

Practices and Policies

The Handbook has a section called “Specific Practices, Procedures, and Policies.” The committee recommends that this section contains all of our official policies in order of when they were originally created. Additionally, the committee recommends that each policy or specific practice has an intro explaining the purpose of the practice or policy where needed, a reference to the original minute where appropriate, and the committee, officers, or individual responsible for the policy’s creation, implementation, and for updating, if necessary.

The contents will be as follows:

- Travel Policy – Finance Committee
- Access to and Use of Contribution and Donor Information – Development Committee and the Finance Committee
- Harassment and Sexual Abuse Policy – Ministry & Advancement Committee
- Conflict of Interest Policy – the Stewards
- Safe Congregation Policy – the Stewards
- Employee Manual – Personnel Committee
- Records Retention – Publication and Distribution Committee

The descriptions of these committees also need to be adjusted to reflect this responsibility.

The Handbook Committee recommends adding the following policies to the Handbook. Because the Safe Congregation Policy and the Employee Handbook are stand alone documents, we do not plan to put these in the Handbook but refer people to where they can find them.

Safe Congregation Policy

Responsibility for the creation of, implementation of, and updating the policy: The Stewards.

Friends’ testimonies, along with our belief that there is that of God in everyone, encourage a heightened awareness of the need for care in our relationships with one another. Still, Quakers recognize that, despite our testimonies and our highest aspirations, members and attenders of Friends meetings are not exempted from weaknesses. We are all capable of hurting

each other, and we are all at risk of being hurt. Some hurtful incidents are easily rectified. Others are not.

Abuse, exploitation, harassment, bullying, and other similar types of misconduct – whether physical, verbal, sexual, or emotional – are contrary to Friends’ testimonies. Individual Friends bear responsibility in those areas; so too do Quaker meetings. Every meeting and worship group must do whatever it can to provide a safe and love space for everyone, as Friends seek to affirm the worth of all children of God.

Faith and Practice Illinois Yearly Meeting Religious Society of Friends

The entire policy appears on pages 65-74 of the 2019 Minute Book, is available from the Stewards, and can be found on the ILYM website in the Committees & Resource section at the end under “Other Resources.”

[2019, Minutes 28 & 57]

The Handbook Committee recommends that the Safe Congregation Policy will replace the “Guidelines for Youth Volunteers or Youth Leaders” that is currently in the Handbook. Therefore, we will remove that page.

Employee Manual

Responsibility for the creation of, implementation of, and updating the manual: The Personnel Committee

The Employee Manual was developed by the Personnel Committee as a guide for paid staff. It has been reviewed by an attorney. It is intended to answer questions that may arise from employment at Illinois Yearly Meeting. It sets general policies and guidelines only. The entire manual appears on pages 74-91 of the 2019 Minute Book, is available from the Personnel Committee, or on the webpage under Standing Committees Personnel Committee.

[2019, Minutes 18 & 56]

Records Retention Procedure and Policy

Responsibility for the creation of, implementation of, and updating the policy: Publications and Distribution Committee.

Record Retention Policy

[Insert the entire policy with charts from the 2016 Minute Book pages 39 – 42]

[2016, Minute 19]

Record Retention and Storage

To retain yearly meeting documents in a consistent format, the yearly meeting has purchased an annual subscription of Box, an electronic document management system. This document management system is intended to be used across the yearly meeting by all committee clerks and others who have records to be filed.

ILYM is the ‘owner’ and the Clerk of Publications and Distribution Committee is the Box Administrator. The Box Administrator has had extensive training (or is offered the opportunity for training) to understand how to administer Box. End-user training for others is available along with assistance from the Box Administrator.

Access rights to the specific files is set and maintained by the Box Administrator. Some files are to be kept in perpetuity and others set to expire in accordance with the Illinois Yearly Meeting Record Retention Policy. Some files are highly confidential, and

others are be public. These distinctions are identified by the committee storing the documents. The Box Administrator will be able to set up a file that is marked as confidential and then limit access to the file.

[2019, Minute 28]

Annual Sessions

The Handbook Committee recommends changing the section on Committees with specific responsibilities at Annual Sessions to the following.

Planning and Implementing the Annual Sessions.

This section refers to the Annual Sessions, an event held annually in June, during which there are various activities including business sessions of the yearly meeting, an adult program, a teen program, Children’s Sessions, and intergenerational activities.

[2019, Minute 40]

Planning Groups for Adult and Multi-age Activities

The planning groups rotate between different geographic sections (Blue River Quarterly, Chicago North, Chicago South) each year. Specific check lists, details of duties and responsibilities are in the log books available on the ILYM website under “Annual Sessions/Planning”. The term of each group’s service begins with the end of one Annual Sessions and continues to the end of the next.

Program Planning Group

The Program Planning Group plans and implements the children and adult afternoon and evening programs at annual sessions. The Children’s Religious Education Coordinator may help with the children’s part of the afternoon and evening programs. The Youth Oversight Committee is current responsible for the high school program though may coordinate with the Program Planning Group during the afternoons and evenings.

Food Planning Group

The Food Planning Group plans and implements the serving of food at annual sessions.

Site Services Planning Group

The Site Services Planning Group plans for site prep before annual sessions, housekeeping during annual sessions, and cleanup following annual sessions.

Planning Coordinators Group

The Planning Coordinators Group consists of the three Overall Coordinators from each of the planning groups, the Administrative Coordinator, the Children’s Religious Education Coordinator, the Youth Coordinator, and the Assistant Clerk, with the Assistant Clerk convening. The Presiding Clerk is also welcome to attend these meetings. The purpose of the Planning Coordinators Group is to provide communication between the different planning groups and the staff as well as to support each other. The group will meet as needed prior to or during Annual Sessions.

Updating the Log Books

The Administrative Coordinator is responsible for gathering changes and updating the log books. The Administrative Coordinator will email evaluations to all participants as well as to the Planning Coordinators to solicit input. However, it is the responsibility of those doing the planning and implementation to give suggestions to the Administrative

Coordinator. Major changes should be brought to Continuing Committee and/or Annual Sessions for seasoning.

Other Activities during Annual Sessions

Business Sessions

The annual sessions with concern for the yearly meeting business are under the care of the Presiding Clerk, along with the Assistant Clerk, Clerk's Committee, and the Administrative Coordinator.

Children's Religious Education Committee

This committee is responsible for the planning of the Children's Sessions including the hiring and oversight of a Children's Religious Education Coordinator.

Youth Oversight Committee

This committee is responsible for the planning of the teen program including the hiring and oversight of a Youth Coordinator.

[This section also includes Epistle Committee, Exercises Committee, Committee of Care which are already in the Handbook.]

MAINTENANCE, PLANNING AND ENVISIONING COMMITTEE (See Minutes 31, 32)

Our committee, which includes the Stewards, met seven times since our last annual sessions: phone meetings on Sunday, September 15 and Sunday, November 24; an all-day meeting on Saturday, January 18 at Clear Creek House; a phone meeting on Tuesday, February 11; and two Zoom meetings on May 5 and May 21.

Caretaker: In late October we received a letter from Judy Reese seeking a Caretaker position in our area. Given that this has been a topic of discussion within the yearly meeting for some time, we chose to follow up on it. She is currently a caretaker for Chichester Meetinghouse, an historic, but inactive Quaker site outside of Chester, near Philadelphia that is currently under the care of Concord Monthly Meeting, her monthly meeting. Her current arrangement gives her lodging, including utilities and communications in return for caring for that property and she is looking for a similar situation. She has family in Chicago and Milwaukee and would like to move closer to them. Chris Goode spoke with her on the phone in November and invited her to attend our committee meeting in January. She spent the afternoon with us. We had a good discussion where she got a better sense of the campus and of our needs, and we got a better sense of her, her abilities, and her needs. She has a large, and well-behaved service dog, Shakespeare, and currently lives in a small house on the grounds of the meetinghouse. She is a Quaker, and seems to us to be energetic and capable and loaded with many ideas about making better, more extensive use of our campus. We checked her two references, Clerks of her present and her past meeting and they gave glowing reports.

Our committee believes strongly that a Resident Caretaker living on, or very near the site in McNabb, is essential for the care of our campus as we move into the future. We feel that this opportunity, which seemed to fall into our laps, is exactly what we need. We look forward to living and growing into a partnership with this Friend.

Meet Judy Reese: We had invited Judy to our annual sessions so that all could get a chance to meet her, but coronavirus and the virtual yearly meeting has altered that. Instead, we have scheduled a Meet and Greet of Judy as part of the virtual sessions on Thursday afternoon June 18 from 4:30 to 5:30pm. It will be emceed by Chip Rorem. We hope folks will take advantage of this opportunity to get to meet her, hear what she has

been doing in her past position as a caretaker, find out about ideas she is forming about our facilities, and just get to know more about her.

Caretaker Arrangement: *What ILYM is offering:* Housing for the coming year at Clear Creek House (use of two upstairs rooms for living and sleeping), including utility expenses (additional LP gas heat, electricity for lightning, power and air-conditioning, ~\$660) and internet service (~\$50/month). She will pay for her own phone, but we would pay for any land-line for the meeting if she is expected to answer calls. She asked if we would be willing to help with moving expenses for her belongings. We have asked her to get estimates for this expense and propose to assist with up to \$500. She has little furniture that she will be bringing. She does have several boxes of her things and metal shelves to store them on. We will give her space in the garage or shed so that she can conveniently access them. She will need a fenced area for her dog and we propose temporary fencing (~\$200) at the east side of CCH from the east recycle room door. We will enter a written agreement between ILYM and Judy, and we may need to monetize the value of the housing stipend, etc. for tax and legal purposes to avoid any future problems or misunderstandings. We are consulting an attorney on this, as well as on our tax and legal issues on use of the campus by non-Quakers and our ability to rent facilities and raise income, and if and how that affects our non-profit and non-taxable status. We may need to purchase some tools, equipment and supplies as needed for her to do the work requested (~\$500). We will provide Workers Comp. Insurance (~\$10) and other insurance as advised by Church Mutual. We have attempted to keep any real monetary costs to ILYM and Clear Creek Meeting to a minimum. Total budget for ILYM expenses for the year we estimate to be about \$2500. She will be regarded as a part-time employee (or contractor) of the yearly meeting, though she will not be receiving a monetary salary, and will be under the care of the Maintenance Planning and Envisioning Committee (which includes the Stewards) and the Personnel Committee.

Our best housing option now is for Judy to live in Clear Creek House to start, but we have concern that this might not be best in the long term. There is some concern that Shakespeare's presence might present allergy, or other problems for ILYM folks staying overnight at CCH for an event, but even more, that Judy would lack privacy with no real boundaries between the meeting and living areas which could potentially be uncomfortable for both her and meeting members. So the current intention is that staying at Clear Creek House will be for a finite period of time, up to one year, or when another good alternative (no farther away than McNabb) comes available. This will likely not be on campus (though MP&E will plan to look into and price out more private housing options on campus for viability and possible eventual use) as living on site is likely best in the long term. We understand from Judy Jager, a CPA, that a resident caretaker is an employee of the landlords who hire them (ILYM), and that, so long as we require her to live on our property, we are not required to withhold any federal taxes on the value of the lodging, and that this should be stated in the written employee agreement. Should she be asked to live elsewhere, off of the property, these would change, and we would need to fully investigate the implications of the changes before proceeding.

What Judy Reese will be providing: Tasks done for many years by Dick Ashdown, including keeping an eye on things, winter and spring prep, water and air filter, LP gas, septic system, and equipment and thermostat checks and coordination, prep for events and groups using campus, keep lists of needed maintenance and repair, making simple repairs as able, keeping Stewards and MP&E informed of others, know and keep lists of contractors/professionals to engage as needed, assist with Work Day planning, remove

tree deadfall, coordinate with mowers and snow removers. Judy Reese has a wider sense of caretaking, and we expect her to: become part of Clear Creek Meeting and keep the CCH tidy for Meeting for Worship and help with communications (website?, links?); become part of Putman County community and establish connections, consider ways of outreach and service; look into community service opportunities for our campus via local area programs, schools, scouts, etc.; develop ways to make better, fuller use of our property, assist with new Quaker programs, retreats, etc.; look for other opportunities for property use, rental, etc.; make our historic meetinghouse more visible and open to visitors; with Dick, help connect with Historical Society and Grange Hall; and assist with Clear Creek Meeting and ILYM in other ways as led, and as way opens.

We had discussed the possibility of Judy doing some or all of the mowing, partly to offset some of this ~\$6000 budget line item. But we would need to purchase a good mower and gas and electric mowers were priced ranging from \$3000 to \$5000 and environmental/maintenance/fuel issues were also discussed. Our present mowers have also been good to work with, and reducing or ending their work with us would not help us to build our community relationships as we hope to do. We felt that, as the present mowing season is already started and will be more than half over by the time we have a caretaker onboard, we should continue with our present arrangements. We also think that mowing might not be the best use of Judy's time and effort on our behalf. This situation may change as we work together with Judy and get a better sense of her abilities and our needs and expenses.

Action Item: We seek approval to bring Judy Reese on as our resident caretaker at Illinois Yearly Meeting Campus near McNabb, as outlined in this report above.

Other issues: We discussed the Queries on ILYM's future, and forwarded the responses we developed to the yearly meeting Clerk as requested. Other issues from our Fall Continuing Committee Report including updating the Campus Plan and the Campus Asset Management Plan, listening about the potential Accessible Bedroom/Bathroom Addition at Clear Creek House, and contracting with a Sustainable Electrical Supplier are not forgotten, but have taken a back seat to these other tasks. We began painting the exterior of the meetinghouse in the fall, and that will be continuing this spring until complete.

Respectfully Submitted: Christopher Goode, Clerk

MINISTRY AND ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE (See Minute 16)

Ministry and Advancement Committee proposes Bradley Laird, a member of South Bend Monthly Meeting, as the new Field Secretary. He will succeed Judy Wolicki whose term ends after Annual Sessions. We are grateful for her service and look forward to the future opportunities.

The committee of care is available for personal contact during Annual Sessions if someone has a concern and would like to connect individually. This committee is composed of Phyllis Reynolds, Heather Evert, Brad Laird, Bruce Kanarek and Mark McGinnis. Each of our names will include "Cte. of Care" on our zoom images.

The Harassment Review Committee is composed of Marcia Nelson (Presiding Clerk), Phyllis Reynolds (Clerk of Ministry and Advancement), Bruce Kanarek (member of Ministry and Advancement), Judy Wolicki (Field Secretary), Mark McGinnis (member at large appointed by Presiding Clerk).

Submitted by Phyllis Reynolds, Clerk

FIELD SECRETARY (See Minute 15)

This is my final report to you as your Field Secretary, Friends. It has been a momentous year! I can also report that my joy in service to you has not abated.

The coronavirus COVID-19 has changed the world and our way of being in it. We can no longer meet physically together in our meetinghouses and worship spaces. Most of our monthly meetings and worship groups are now using on-line communication to meet virtually. The “silver lining” is that those who have the technology and who are comfortable meeting this way are finding ways to be even more closely connected than we were when we were meeting physically. Friends from far away have begun to be able to attend worship and fellowship again. We see faces and hear voices that we may not have been able to see and hear before or have not seen and heard for a long time. Some Friends are experiencing “gathered” meetings over internet, are learning more about one another and building community through check-ins, talent shows, show-and-tell opportunities, scavenger hunts, and other fun. Children are invited to play dates and First Day School on-line.

Clear Creek meeting has been connecting from their own homes during the same worship time on first day, as has Fox Valley meeting. Clear Creek tried to connect on Zoom last week. Zoom happened to have issues that morning that resulted in many other meetings being canceled in addition to Clear Creek’s meeting that day. Clear Creek Friends have gone back to being together separately, and not on-line.

The “not so silver lining” of on-line meetings is that many Friends are not finding that the on-line resources satisfy their need for physical presence and community and are struggling with the loss of the spirit they experience in meetings, some even finding on-line meetings to be a barrier to spirituality. Given the uncertainty surrounding when we will be able to physically meet again, it is important for us to figure out how to serve and remain connected with these Friends in the interim.

Recently at Meeting for Worship a Friend spoke of having been looking at the New York Times article about connecting with God by Zoom. She spoke of looking at the pictures of Quakers worshipping and said it was as if each was hearing a part of a song in their heads that spoke to them. She wondered if all might be “listening to the same song.”

Could “listening to the same song” possibly be a metaphor for how we are connected in worship? Is there something about this metaphor that can help us find a way we can reach out to these Friends who are not finding on-line worship working for them?

At Continuing Committee in March, I reported on things I was hearing that seemed timely and important for us to consider. I repeat a few here with comments:

A Friend recently told me “Quakers are uniquely ‘qualified’ to help heal the secular-religious, urban-rural divide in our country.... We want to stress what we can offer them and our uniqueness.” What actions can we commit to taking? How can we take our “Quaker qualifications” to that next level that helps to heal the divide?

The “divide” seems wider and more uncrossable today. In this new world we are in, are there steps we can take to cross into the other side and connect with those we are divided from?

We seek hope and peace in the chaos we experience in our world. There is some evidence that volunteering and working with groups of other individuals lifts spirits and fosters hope in us.

Are there ways we can volunteer that allow us to keep our physical distance and remain safe? What other things we can do to provide volunteer opportunities that foster hope and community? Examples of some actions meetings are taking: 57th Street Meeting has an on-line letter stuffing opportunity that serves the prison population and

Springfield Worship Group continues to support Helping Hands, even though they are no longer able to make and serve dinner for the homeless.

Travel and Visits

During the fiscal year 2019-2020, I drove 2,350 actual miles for the yearly meeting. Due to a back injury, weather and COVID-19, my physical visiting was curtailed, and as of March 15, 2020, I was sheltering in place. Nevertheless, thanks to on-line communication, my virtual visiting has continued and will continue until the end of my tenure as your Field Secretary.

Thanks to on-line meetings, emails, and phone calls, I will have been able to visit or connect with every monthly meeting and worship group. Visiting a meeting in Burlington, Iowa, a meeting in Normal, a meeting in Downers Grove, and a meeting in Hyde Park on the same First Day became possible. Visiting St. Louis and Columbia several times each has been made possible.

Since stay-at-home became effective on 3/20/20, I have participated in 49 monthly and worship group meetings. I participated in two meetings with the Secretaries & Superintendents group in which we shared information about how various yearly meetings and organizations are working to remain connected and envisioning the future. I have attended five M&A meetings, two Pendle Hill programs, and an interfaith webinar on reopening churches.

I continue my concerns for Spoon River, Macomb, and Rock Valley, our smallest meetings. Macomb and Rock Valley are not meeting as of 5/25/20. Rolla Preparative Meeting was laid down last year. I hope to be able to reach out to offer support to these small meetings before Annual Sessions and to report on them at that time.

It has been an honor and a joy to serve as your Field Secretary these past years, my Friends. I will miss being in this role, but hope that I will be able to continue to spend time with you, that you will continue to tell me your stories, laugh with me, allow me to worship with you. I look forward to our continued connection.

My wish for you, Friends, is that joy will be your companion in whatever activities, experiences, and service you find yourself invited to engage in with the yearly meeting, your monthly meetings and worship groups, and with one another.

Thank you once again for all the ways you have supported, nurtured, guided and trusted me.

Respectfully submitted, Judy Wolicki, Field Secretary

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (See Minutes 13, 44)

Nominating Committee has been meeting throughout the year by Zoom. The Committee asks that the Meeting approve the following appointments to committees and other organizations:

Assistant Clerk: Kent Busse, to serve in both 2020 and 2021

Development Committee: Coco Colin, for a 3-year term (2023); Marcy Harman, for a 1-year term (2021)

Environmental Concerns Committee: Adrian Fisher, for a 3-year term (2023)

Ministry & Advancement Committee: Janice Domanik, for a 3-year term (2023); Steve Tamari, for a 2-year term (2022); Bruce Kanarek, extended to 2022

Personnel Committee: Colleen Reardon, for a 3-year term (2023), Colleen will serve as Clerk; Sharon Haworth, for a 3-year term (2023); Kate Gunnell, for a 3-year term (2023); Audrey French, for a 3-year term (2023)

For representative to Friends for LGBTQ Concerns: Jad Tamari, for a 3-year term (2023)

Further appointments may come during Annual Sessions.

PUBLICATIONS AND DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE (See Minutes 34, 35)

Among Friends

- *Among Friends* is transitioning from printed issues to individual articles added to the ILYM.org website throughout the year, kind of like a blog. One yearly “Best of” volume will still be published in print like previous issues and distributed.
- The first set of articles have been submitted and will start rolling out to the web soon.

Plummer Lecture

- Nothing to report, everything is up to date

Faith & Practice

- We continue to work with the Faith & Practice Committee in preparation of the ILYM Faith & Practice publication
- Currently, final proof reading corrections are being entered and the index page references are being updated.
- We are hopeful that the books will be distributed at Fall Continuing Committee or be mailed out at that time.

Web

- No major changes
- Among Friends articles in a blog format will start to be added soon

Stewards (See Minutes 34, 35)

The Stewards continue in service to the yearly meeting. We are happy to be assisting the Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Committee in completing their work which includes the consideration of the new Caretaker position. We refer you to the MP&E report for details of our deliberations with them over that topic.

We hope to work with MP&E on improving the quality of the insulation in Clear Creek House. This improvement will reduce the risk of freezing pipes and lower our energy consumption cost.

Raccoons have chewed into the meetinghouse. The raccoons were trapped in live traps and moved away. The holes were patched and primed. We await the completion of the meetinghouse painting and hope that the patches will be given a finished coat of paint.

Internet connections now seem useful in the meetinghouse and Clear Creek House. We look to consolidate those costs.

Church Mutual tells us that the additional cost to add a caretaker would be \$4.00 per year. We will review that cost again at our annual workers comp audit. We also look to complete the last of the work on the repairs to Clear Creek House in order to close out our claim over the frozen pipe burst. The remaining work is repair to the interior of the hall closet near the first floor bathroom.

The water has been turned back on in the meetinghouse but not in the campground. The pandemic is altering our behavior this year. Workdays may also be canceled due to distancing constraints.

Respectfully submitted, Chris Goode, Beth Carpenter, Grayce Mesner,
Neil Mesner, Dick Ashdown (emeritus) and Chip Rorem

YOUTH OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (See Minutes 34, 35)

Members: Diane Clark Dennis, Warwick Daw, Jasmine Dennis, Michael Dennis, Mars Harroun, Choz Howard-McKinney, Dale Gardner, Liam Gardner, Nathan Lasersohn, Fariba Murray, Jad Tamari

Hours: At the time of completing this report, Liam has logged a total of 285 hours and 10 minutes since the end of 2019 ILYM Annual Sessions.

Youth Programming in 2020: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, ILYM High School Friends have not been able to meet in person. So instead we have been meeting over Zoom bi-monthly to keep the HSF program alive and stay connected. One of the meetings per month is more fun and casual, while the other meeting is more structured and educational. We have also conducted a Meeting for Business over Zoom as well to discuss the future of our program during the pandemic and to nominate a new Co-Clerk and Recording Clerk to replace Nathan Lasersohn and Jad Tamari, whose terms expire this year.

Unfortunately there is not much else to report. The pandemic has greatly limited our abilities to organize and engage in youth programming outside of hour-long Zoom sessions twice per month.

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

AFSC Representatives

At an organization-wide level, AFSC is very near completing its Strategic Plan 2020-2030, expecting to get Board approval soon, in June 2020. Additionally, the AFSC Board will be selecting a new clerk with an appointment in April 2021.

At the regional level, Sharon Goens is the Associate Regional Director for the Midwest AFSC. Sharon started with the AFSC in 2012 as the director of the then new Healing Justice Program in the Twin Cities. The Healing Justice Program combines anti-racist education and organizing with restorative practices to provide young people and their adult allies with the skills and tools to advocate for change. To learn more about the current activities in the Twin Cities program, go to afsc.org/office/st-paul-minn. Also, in the Twin Cities, the Youth Undoing Institutional Racism program has a very active Facebook page: www.facebook.com/yuirtc

The St. Louis Peace Education Program partners with youth most impacted by unjust systems and helps them see their own power to create institutional and systemic change. To learn about the current activities in St. Louis, go to their webpage afsc.org/office/st-louis-mo.

The AFSC Iowa Immigrant Rights Program is devolving from AFSC to join Iowa Justice For Our Neighbors (IowaJFON) in creating a new organization. This newly structured non-profit organization will continue to provide free, high-quality immigration legal services, education, and advocacy. This is one more example of AFSC working in a community and evolving.

AFSC staff and Steve Tamari, member of St Louis Friends Meeting and clerk of the Steering Committee for the Quaker Palestine/Israel Network (QPIN), are working with meetings in ILYM to participate in legislative advocacy. Specifically, the H.R. 2407 “Promoting Human Rights for Palestinian Children Living under Israeli Military Occupation Act” which seeks to promote justice, equality, and human rights for children globally by prohibiting any U.S. foreign aid dollars from contributing to “the military

detention, interrogation, abuse, or ill-treatment of children in violation of international humanitarian law.” Currently, the Burlington Worship Group is seeking to meet with US Congressional candidates in its area to educate these candidates about the issues that concern and are of importance to members of the worship group. Other meetings are invited to make these connections with candidates as well. Sample letters to the candidates are available from Burlington Worship Group.

In the world, an AFSC program in Zimbabwe is coordinating the purchase and delivery of PPEs to medical facilities, as well as supporting smaller district hospitals by providing thermometers, soap, gallons of water, and other essentials.

AFSC is seeking to build a more powerful working relationship with every Quaker meeting. AFSC is actively seeking one person from each monthly meeting to serve as a “liaison” with the AFSC. If interested, please contact Lucy Duncan, AFSC Director of Friend Relations or one of the ILYM Representatives to AFSC. Anyone looking to get more involved with AFSC governance are invited to contact an ILYM AFSC Representative to learn how to get involved as individuals or as monthly meetings.

Carol Bartles, Phyllis Reynolds, Karyn Kuhn,
Contessa Miller, ILYM Representatives to AFSC

FCNL REPRESENTATIVES

Friends Committee on National Legislation continues its work to bring Quaker values to Congress and federal law. As everyone else, the pandemic has caused FCNL to adapt and its work has shifted to home offices and virtual workspaces.

Through texts, emails and web invitations FCNL has been encouraging citizen lobbying at a distance. Alerts have been going out apace as Congress takes up the various relief bills and other matters dear to our values (see fcnl.org/action/act-online). Other on-line activities have been geared up. Diane Randall, FCNL General Secretary, has invited everyone to take part in the biweekly “Thursday with Friends” conversation series which are information sessions that rotate around to different FCNL topics and experts (see fcnl.org/updates/thursdays-with-friends-2695). Even advocacy training has been moved on-line. Later this year November Annual Meeting and Quaker Public Policy Institute is still planned as a face-to-face event, though I expect that events may still cause it to go virtual.

To share from the 2019 Annual Meeting, FCNL has continued to do good. The General Committee heard the usual success stories and there was a big focus on the programs that pull in young people. Advocacy teams continue to make FCNL advocacy known throughout the country with advocacy teams, including ILYM members here in Illinois and Missouri. In the lobby day before Annual Meeting, we lobbied for the end of the 2002 Iraq Authorization of the Use of Military Force (see fcnl.org/updates/love-thy-neighbor-annual-meeting-2019-2467).

In some news of note, the General Committee updated the FCNL Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, action which seemed long overdue. Furthermore, it was announced that FCNL Education Fund would assume governance and management of the William Penn House in DC. FCNL had long partnered with William Penn House (WPH) with its separate mission dedicated to hospitality and activism on peace, justice, equality. This mission will continue unchanged of course, though WPH currently remains closed for renovation.

Coming into the pandemic, FCNL finances were sound enough. However, there was particular note of a relative shortfall in the non-tax-deductible donations to FCNL proper (the lobbying arm), while the tax-deductible FCNL Education Fund was taking in plenty.

Nevertheless, overall endowments were considered sufficient. Hopefully this recession will prove easier to weather than the last one, but FCNL and FCNL Education Fund will still need generosity from Friends and friends of Friends.

FGC REPRESENTATIVES

With the decisions across the country for people to stay in place and in the anticipation of the shutting down of their office building in Philadelphia, all staff of Friends General Conference began to work from home. FGC was already using Zoom for some meetings and so the staff were able to continue to connect face to face using Zoom. The changes caused by the COVID-19 virus meant there was a need to provide meetings and Friends with help in connecting while sheltering at home. Barry Crossno has been holding zoom meetings with yearly meeting clerks. This has been a time to determine what support yearly meetings need as they approach their annual sessions. It has also been a way for yearly meeting clerks to share with each other. One of the goals of FGC is to act as a connector between yearly meetings to help them to share their best practices which may actually be of assistance to another yearly meeting. To further assist with this FGC sends visitors to the annual sessions of yearly meetings whose job is to notice those things which a yearly meeting does that may be helpful to other yearly meetings. ILYM does not know when its does something which is unique and may be helpful to others and the fresh eyes of an outsider can be important. As of this writing most yearly meetings are planning to have virtual annual sessions. This means that many are getting used to new technology and those who have earlier sessions like ILYM may have experiences which will be helpful to those meeting later in the summer. As an additional assistance to individuals and meetings FGC is compiling news and actions from monthly and yearly meetings: fgcquaker.org/news/coronavirus-prevention-your-quaker-community-fgc-events.

FGC made the decision to convert the Gathering from an in person event to a virtual event. The planning for this year has been done in just a few months and has the usual Bible Half Hour, workshops, plenaries, and programs for Junior Gathering, High School and Adult young Friends. In addition, there will be hang out spaces and afternoon times for the Centers and author presentations. It will be held at the same time as was originally planned, June 28 to July 4. The theme of the virtual Gathering is Sink Down to the Seed Sown in the Heart. People must register to attend and the fees are on a pay as led sliding scale. Registration is anticipated to open by the end of May. There have been some changes in order accommodate individuals living in all the time zones of North America. Events will begin later for those of us living close to the east coast.

In order to serve Friends who are not able to go to their meetinghouses to worship, the Spiritual Deepening program has organized a Quarantine Calendar of online offerings, including eRetreats, a weekly worship sharing group, and a book discussion group. You can do any of these from the comfort of your favorite chair with your computer or via phone. The Ministry on Racism Program has added mid-week worship, worship sharing and an open house for Friends of Color.

QuakerBooks of FGC is still fulfilling orders and the Publications and Distribution put together a collection of books and pamphlets to help Friends with grief and loss (quakerbooks.org/collections/support-in-grieving).

As of this writing, plans were being drawn up to assist meetings as they prepare to reopen meeting houses. The information will be posted on the FGC web site in order to be of assistance to all.

Janice Domanik

SECONDARY SCHOOLS REPRESENTATIVES

Olney Friends School

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. To learn more about Olney Friends School, go to olneyfriends.org, call 740-425-3655, or send mail to 61830 Sandy Ridge Rd, Barnesville, OH 43713.

Scattergood Friends School

Written by Laël Gatewood, Northern Yearly Meeting Rep to SFS School Committee, with Thomas Weber, Head of School (with an addendum by Alex Lippitt)

The mission of Scattergood Friends School is to challenge students with a college-preparatory curriculum, farm experience, a shared work program, and community living in the spirit of Quaker faith. As a high-school program, the school is unique in the Midwest with boarding and day students, largely nourished by a certified organic farm on campus. With their teachers, students utilize the school, farm, pond and prairie as living laboratories for study and experimentation, so needed this pandemic year.

In its 129th year Scattergood remained rich and vibrant with 23 students enrolled in grades 9-12. Dedicated staff combine with new and returning students as lively and joyous stewards of Friends’ testimonies. Laughter and game-playing (Jackbox and Dungeons and Dragons [D&D] among others) leavened multiple creative learning experiences that continued beyond the proscribed social isolation on campus and in

student homes after Spring Break. The COVID-19 pandemic divided the school year into events before and after campus shutdown in mid-March, and illustrate the scholarly changes in commitment to the Scattergood students and families, in a combined mission of classes, farm and crew work, and community living.

- Head of School Thomas Weber and Registrar Amy Weber announced their family move back to Bainbridge Island, Washington, after seven years of dedicated and innovative leadership at Scattergood. Thanks, with love to Thomas and Amy.
- In its fourth year, successes with the integrated Fall Farm Term continued with studies of climate change on the farm and animal psychology, as well as harvest rites and farm lore.
- A fourth quarter poetry class culminated with readings in a community setting via Zoom.
- Independent online studies in lieu of the May Interim trip included critical reading of socially contemporary books, Mixed Martial Arts, documenting life in quarantine, botanical drawing, simulating a scientifically accurate D&D world, and collegiate test preparation; as well as group work in creative writing, or producing a video reality show modeled after the British Taskmaster, now producing comedic ‘hometasks.’
- The Iowa Governor’s LGBTQ online conference in May replaced a trip to Des Moines.
- Senior papers explored a comparison of the lives and poetry of David Ignatow and Richard Brautigan, how the ‘incel’ movement uses media and propaganda, bias in the Academy Awards, reptile imagery in culture and mythology, and proposed solutions for problems facing Afghan children.
- Seniors led the committee planning their own graduation, modeling their planned college associations next fall.

After the March school quarantine was put in place, the campus was then closed to students after Spring Break. Digital learning at home provided learning, community, and spiritual life through Meeting for Worship, home chore tasks, evening and weekend activities, and weekly calls to parents for overall programmatic review. Relationships established this year have been critical to current success. Not ideal, and grief is being felt, yet persevering students and their parents have expressed appreciation for what’s been accomplished thus far. Meanwhile SFS commitments continue to the local and regional communities.

- The farm in this pandemic spring is devoted to preparing for the School’s return while providing the local West Branch community with produce for pay-what-one-can and donating surplus to two Iowa City organizations supplying the food-insecure.
- Quaker Scholarships for 75% of tuition and boarding expenses have been identified for grades 9 to 11, for students coming from Quaker meetings and worship groups. These are intended to grow relationships with students seeking or continuing to utilize Quaker testimonies in their life. Application deadline is June 1.
- The next year begins with a new middle school day program to complement the high school boarding program. With a separate classroom, grades 6-8 will share crew, cafeteria, and cross-school farm/field integration of curriculum.
- A successful national search for Head of School resulted in a call to John Zimmerman of Princeton Friends School, who embraced the School Committee’s

offer. He and his wife Stephanie with two small children move from New Jersey, where he's been based at PFS as Admissions Director, Dean of Students and Director of Summer Camp and Auxiliary Programs. He is a graduate of the Friends Council of Education two-year Institute in Engaging Leadership, that will provide academic collaboration next year. He brings joy and much administrative experience to his new job.

Shared SFS commitment continues with the School Committee and Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) as well as affiliations with Illinois and Northern Yearly Meetings. To search for an uncertain future, it is essential that programmatic planning involve students and parents in the conversations about how to work together under different and changing circumstances. As said by another head of a Friends School, "Our optimism is shaken and yet our faith strengthened to create a new learning community within realistic parameters that minimize harm and maximize sense of community around the testimonies."

Addendum from Alex Lippitt, ILYM

This will be a busy summer preparing in large part for an unknown start, whether on-campus or remote. Decisions need to be made about tuition, programming and self-distancing among many others. Scattergood did receive over \$150,000 the Paycheck Protection Program created by Congress which helps with retaining staff.

FWCC REPRESENTATIVES

It has been an eventful year for the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), the worldwide body of Quakers. Like other organizations throughout the world, Quaker and non-Quaker, FWCC has had to adjust to the radically changing condition of the world created by the COVID-19 pandemic. No worldwide gathering of FWCC is scheduled until 2023, so that has not been an issue, but the working of the organization was nevertheless disrupted. The Central Executive Committee had to move its annual meeting, which will have taken place shortly before ILYM, from Brussels to an online event. Other committee gatherings scheduled for this summer have also been canceled or moved to an online format. And travel between countries and continents, the lynchpin of FWCC communication and consultation, has lessened greatly in recent months.

Nevertheless, FWCC remains committed to continuing its mission: "Answering God's call to universal love, FWCC brings Friends of varying traditions and cultural experiences together in worship, communications, and consultation, to express our common heritage and our Quaker message to the world." It is doing that by continuing its work on sustainability, and by exploring means of communing together that do not involve face-to-face gatherings for the time being.

The situation has been similar for the FWCC Section of the Americas, comprising Friends meetings and churches from North, South, and Central America. The next biennial meeting of the Section is scheduled to take place in March 2021, not during the current year. Given the COVID-19 pandemic, that turned out to be fortunate. The Executive Committee of the Section was also unable to meet in person as scheduled in March, so that meeting was held online. The next face-to-face meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled to take place in North Carolina in October, but as of this writing it is unclear whether that will be possible. If not, the committee will again meet via Zoom. The Traveling Ministry program, which is the core program of the Section, has been unable to function because of the pandemic, and is now exploring other ways of

ministering to Friends throughout the Americas. The Section is currently initiating a plan to provide financial support to yearly meetings that will offset the additional costs incurred by the move to technology caused by the pandemic.

The Section was heartbroken by the loss of two of its major stalwarts, both longtime members of ILYM, this spring. Elizabeth Mertic of Lake Forest Friends Meeting served as Clerk of the Section for six years in the early 2000s. Nancy Wallace of Evanston Monthly Meeting was the Assistant Treasurer of the Section at the time of her death, after serving as Treasurer for the previous four years. Elizabeth and Nancy provided considerable service to FWCC internationally as well as within the Section of the Americas. They are greatly missed.

FWCC hosts World Quaker Day on the first Sunday in October every year. All meetings are invited to participate. As we do not yet know whether Friends will be gathering in person by October, participation this year might call for an unusual degree of creativity. The FWCC World Office website has lots of suggestions for activities, which can be accessed at their website, www.fwcc.org.

Report submitted by David Shiner,
Clerk of the FWCC Section of the Americas and ILYM Representative to FWCC

QEW REPRESENTATIVES

David and Noel attended the Quaker Earthcare Witness held the spring steering committee meeting via Zoom from April 24-26. The meetings were a great success even though physically distant due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The weekend included business sessions, worship sharing, and meeting for worship. On Friday night, Carol Barta from Manhattan Kansas presented a talk about Regenerative Agriculture (see following resource list). On Saturday night Jennie Ratcliffe presented a talk based on her book titled Nothing Lowly in the Universe. Her book presents the scientific and spiritual basis for transforming humans to recognize that all life is sacred and that this fact alone will lead us out of the climate crisis.

Shelley Tanenbaum encouraged us to respond simultaneously living our lives in expectant integrity and systematically changing the way we do business in the world. What does the world look like that you want to live in? Hayley Hathaway encouraged us to continue to act on climate change despite and because of the COVID-19 pandemic to bring about the changes we need to save the earth, ourselves, our children, and non-human beings. We need to become organizers and mobilize to create real change.

Here are some highlights of the work of QEW

- The work of the Shelley Tanenbaum, General Secretary and Hayley Hathaway, Communications Coordinator, has been increasingly successful and engaging with wider Friends, as a result their contracts have been increased from half to three quarters time to better achieve QEW's goals.
- A new logo and website for QEW is in progress to be completed later this year.
- QEW has endorsed supporting the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe on Cape Cod (the native American tribe that welcomed the pilgrims). The Trump administration and David Bernhardt, Secretary of the Interior have decided to revoke that tribe's sovereignty and treaty with the US government. By the end of May the US District Court will decide on this issue in Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe vs Zinke. See southcoasttoday.com/news/20200522/letter-open-hearted-plea-concerning-native-peoples-and-mashpee-in-particular (action from the Sustainability Faith and Action Working Group)

- Shelley and Noel (ILYM Environmental Concerns Committee) will be presenting a workshop at ILYM Annual Sessions concerning how we can respond to climate change.
- The Population Working Group is continues to use contributed funds for the Population Offset Program. The funds support organizations working on educating women and girls.
- The FCNL working group continues to engage concerning climate change and earth care (David attended the FCNL Annual Sessions). The new environmental staff person at FCNL is Alicia Cannon. She hosts regular national environmental Zoom calls which are open to those who sign up. FCNL.org continuously has timely and current updated national legislation which includes all Quaker testimonies and in particular environmental issues. Please put our faith into action, check out the website.
- Please Friends, our planet is rapidly becoming uninhabitable, we are running out of clean water and air, for example the maximum sustainable amount of carbon dioxide is 350 parts per million, the level is now 441. Take some more action for our home.
- Worships sharing queries from the QEW meeting that you might like to share with your monthly meeting:
 - How are you faring in this time of enormous change and upheaval?
 - What is alive in you and your life? What is being released?
 - How has nature been a ‘balm’ to you in this time?
 - What lessons are you learning from “nature?” What incredible natural system/process inspires you with awe and wonder?
 - What do we have to gain from living with reciprocity, respect, and in right relationship with the Circle of Life on Earth?

Report prepared by Noel Pavlovic and David Wixom

QEW Report Appendix:

- Regenerative Agriculture Bibliography*, April 2020, prepared by Carol Barta Ausubel, Kenny. *Dreaming the Future: Reimagining Civilization in the Age of Nature*, Chelsea Green, 2012.
- Bates, Albert. *The Biochar Solution: Carbon Farming and Climate Change*, New Society Publishers, 2010.
- Brown, Gabe. *Dirt to Soil: One Family’s Journey into Regenerative Agriculture*, ChelseaGreen, 2018.
- Meadows, Dennis, Linda Booth Sweeney and Gillian Martin Mehers. *The Climate Change Playbook*, Chelsea Green, 2016.
- Montgomery, David. *Growing a Revolution: Bringing Our Soil Back to Life*, W.W. Norton, 2017.
- Montgomery, David. *The Hidden Half of Nature: The Microbial Roots of Life and Health*, W.W. Norton, 2016.
- Nabhan, Gary Paul. *Growing Food in a Hotter, Drier Land: Lessons from Desert Farmers on Adapting to Climate Uncertainty*, Chelsea Green, 2013.
- Nauta, Phil. *Building Soils Naturally: Innovative Solutions for Organic Gardeners*, Acres USA, 2012.
- Ohlson Kristin. *The Soil Will Save US*, Rodale, 2014.
- Pfutzer, Caroline. *The Modern Grower’s Guide to Terra Preta: Making Super-Fertile Black Earth for Garden and Farm*, Acres USA, 2019.

Soule, Judith D. and Jon K. Piper. *Farming in Nature's Image: An Ecological Approach to Agriculture*, Island Press, 1992.
Wahl, Daniel Christian. *Designing Regenerative Cultures*, Triarchy Press, 2016.

OTHER DOCUMENTS FROM BUSINESS SESSIONS

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE “SUPPORTING ILYM” TEXT (See Minutes 43)

[FRONT PANEL]

Title: Supporting Illinois Yearly Meeting: a short “How To” document

Date of issue is on front page

“Prepared by” is on front page

Short introduction of purpose is on front page

Purpose: This document has been created by the Illinois Yearly Meeting Development Committee with assistance from the Finance Committee, certain committee clerks, and the Presiding Clerk. Our goal is to let Friends know basic details of the various ways that individuals can support Illinois Yearly Meeting. The document also contains a complete list of contacts for assistance and detailed information.

[PANEL 2]

How to support Illinois Yearly Meeting

Joining: Membership in a local Monthly Meeting includes membership in the Yearly Meeting. Each Monthly Meeting provides financial support to the Yearly Meeting based on its discernment. These funds provide historically about 60% of the annual Yearly Meeting budget.

Attending: All Monthly Meeting members are welcome at Yearly Meeting and Continuing Committee sessions and will be able to contribute to the Yearly Meeting decisions and direction.

Volunteering: Volunteers are needed for childcare at meetings, care and improvement of the Yearly Meeting facilities, and preparation for Yearly Meeting activities and sessions. The Yearly Meeting committees are charged with various tasks and the Nominating Committee is always interested in learning names of potential committee members. The Nominating Committee also recommends people for appointment as representatives of the Yearly Meeting to other Quaker organizations.

Contributing: Individual contributions are necessary to support the annual budget of the Yearly Meeting. Friends contribute as they are able. There are many ways to make such contributions. The next page of this document describes many of these ways and indicates how to get further information. Recent history indicates that individual contributions provide about 25% of the annual budget and almost all the funds for long term care and improvement of the Yearly Meeting property in McNabb.

[PANEL 3]

Making Financial Contributions

Financial contributions should be made in context of you, your situation, and your ability.

Checks: Send checks to Dawn Crimson, ILYM Treasurer, PO Box 3691, Carbondale, IL 62902

Credit Cards: Use PayPal on the ILYM website. Visit the ILYM Website at <http://www.ilym.org/> and click “Support ILYM” at the top of the page. Scroll down and

click the yellow “Donate” button to be redirected to the secure payment processing page. (Note that the Yearly Meeting will be charged a fee of about 3% of the contribution).

Direct Bank Transfers: Create an online monthly, quarterly, or annual contribution through your bank’s bill pay service (usually low- or no-cost to you). First, ask your financial institution for instructions about using their online bill payment feature to send gift(s)—as you direct and schedule—to the Illinois Yearly Meeting. Then contact one of the Yearly Meeting Co-Treasurers to complete arrangements.

Stocks and financial instruments: Contact one of the Co-Treasurers for instructions regarding contributions of stocks, bonds, or mutual funds. There may be tax advantages when they are transferred to the Yearly Meeting, rather than being sold with the proceeds sent to the Yearly Meeting.

Donating from required IRA distributions. If you are over 70.5 and have an IRA, then you can make a direct contribution to ILYM from your IRA. If this is done correctly then the amount of the contribution (up to \$100,000) will not be taxable income. For information contact your financial advisor, Friends Fiduciary (www.friendsfiduciary.org) or Everence (<https://www.everence.com>), a faith-based financial services organization, for assistance.

[PANEL 4]

Planned Giving

Beneficiary designation: You can make ILYM the primary or secondary beneficiary of a life insurance policy, an IRA, or a retirement account. For information contact Friends Fiduciary (www.friendsfiduciary.org) or Everence (<https://www.everence.com>), a faith-based financial services organization, for assistance.

Insert bequest language in a will: Bequests may be made by a will you can draw up, usually with the assistance of an attorney. Bequests can be as large or as small as you desire and are effectively a consideration for any ILYM member. These can be set up as a fixed amount or as a % of your estate. Note below for cautions regarding restricted gifts. **Implement major planned giving:** Those interested in establishing a donor advised fund, a charitable gift annuity, or a charitable remainder trust should consult with their tax and financial advisors. It may also be helpful to contact Friends Fiduciary (www.friendsfiduciary.org) or Everence (<https://www.everence.com>) for assistance.

In your contribution decisions please keep in mind that ILYM is not able to offer specific legal, tax or financial advice on these matters. Contribution restrictions vary by state tax laws. 2018 Federal tax changes have also had a major impact. Please consult an attorney and/or qualified financial advisor for information applicable to your situation.

[PANEL 5]

Regarding Large and Restricted Gifts

Any unrestricted gift to ILYM will be applied to any current need of the Yearly Meeting and is ILYM’s preference. Yearly Meeting budgets are determined by a regular budget discernment process. Preliminary budgets are developed by the Finance Committee; final budgets must be approved by the annual business meeting. To lessen large fluctuations in expenditures, all large unrestricted gifts are placed in a Special Gifts Fund and will normally be used over several years.

A restricted gift can be made to existing special funds of ILYM. Examples include the Property Improvement Fund (for major restorations of existing buildings and construction of new buildings) and the Site Fund (for the upkeep of the buildings and grounds). Contributions can also be earmarked for specific ILYM projects, but only for projects that have already been approved by ILYM.

Yearly Meeting actions and expenditures are governed by the community of ILYM Friends and not by specific individuals. Gifts that are restricted for projects that have not been approved by the Yearly Meeting will normally be returned to the donor. It is a good idea to discuss the designation language for potential restricted gifts in advance. The Finance and Development Committees welcome such discussions.

[PANEL 6]

Contact List for 2019-2020

Co-Treasurer: Valerie Lester

Co-Treasurer: Dawn Crimson

Finance Clerk: Ted Kuhn

Development Clerk: Alex Lippitt

ILYM website (www.ilym.org)

Friends Fiduciary: Mimi Blackwell

Everence: Lyle Miller

COMMUNICATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS LIBRARY Regarding ILYM Archives Agreement (See Minute 25)

Illinois Yearly Meeting and Blue River Quarterly Meeting signed a joint agreement with the University of Illinois in 1977, according to which records of both meetings were deposited on loan in the university library. Both meetings have made periodic deposits ever since, as have most of the monthly meetings in ILYM. The records are kept in the Illinois History and Lincoln Collections, a department of the library which maintains a variety of archival and manuscript collections.

On 1/7/2020, I contacted the library to set up an appointment to deposit recent records of Blue River Quarterly and Urbana-Champaign Monthly Meetings. In their reply, library staff indicated that they were now asking everyone depositing materials to sign a standard agreement and attached a copy. The new standard agreement is inconsistent with ILYM and BRQ's existing agreement, primarily in that it transfers title of deposited materials to the University of Illinois Foundation. When I pointed this out to library staff, it became clear that they had been unaware of the existing agreement. After some research, the staff were able to verify the terms of the existing agreement, and consulted with their supervisors to determine what to do. I decided not to deposit any materials until the matter was settled.

I was informed a few days later that the university would like to update the terms of the agreement and have new paperwork signed. As Krista Gray, Archives Program Officer, put it, "state and university regulations and library policies and best practices have changed in the past 42 years, so a new agreement will need to reflect those changes and will look different than the one from 1977."

In light of this communication from the library, I recommend that the yearly meeting appoint an ad hoc committee to negotiate a new agreement with the University of Illinois Library. I presume that any such agreement would need to be approved by the yearly meeting body in its annual sessions, so this committee would be empowered only to negotiate, not to sign or otherwise finalize the agreement which it negotiates. I would be willing to serve on such a committee. Carol Neely of Urbana-Champaign Meeting has also expressed a willingness to serve. It seems appropriate to include the ILYM Records Librarian ex officio; our current Records Librarian, Brent Eckert, has expressed a willingness to serve. Of course we would welcome additional Friends with an interest in this issue.

Peter Lasersohn

ILYM ANTI-RACISM WORKING GROUP (See Minutes 8, 46)

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.

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:
 - suggestions for further action to support racial justice.
 - 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.
 - 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.

MEMORIALS

DON CHENOWETH

1940 - 2019

Don Chenoweth had been an integral part of the Urbana-Champaign Friends Meeting since he retired as a professor of political science and Russian culture and moved from Oklahoma to Champaign in 1998. Don was a happy willing participant in multiple aspects of our Quaker community. He remained uncommonly forthright, optimistic and life-affirming while suffering through two bouts with lymphoma, chemotherapy regimens, and an autologous bone marrow transplant. His determination to survive and his zest for life may have led to his outliving his doctor's predictions by many years.

Don was a valued participant on several Quaker committees. He shared his good sense and knowledge of Quakerism during his stints on the Ministry and Oversight Committee. Long committed to libraries, Don regularly served on our library committee and used and circulated its books. (He was also on the Champaign Library Foundation Board when the present public library was built.) He enjoyed volunteering in First Day School and particularly loved reading to the younger children. On Advancement Committee he liked planning activities, especially game nights which he happily participated in with his beloved wife, Roma. He and Roma were welcoming hosts and engaged members of Quaker 8 dinner groups, including one that stayed together well past its end date.

Don will be remembered especially for his many years as a cheerful greeter at Meeting for Worship each Sunday, a job he loved. We miss his anchoring presence in Meeting for Worship. Don always sat in the same spot on a bench against the south windows; he meditated for many years on an ash tree on our property as it lived, while it slowly died, and later on its absence. The tree inspired his poetry and his ministry, ministry which often expressed gratitude. He shared that poetry with us at the annual Stone Soup Supper and Talent Show for our emergency fund, an event he relished.

Don's bluntness was a signal characteristic, as one Friend notes. She remembers that when she barely knew Don, she met him in a snowstorm at a demonstration in front of the courthouse. He stopped her, looked her dead in the eye, and said, "I was diagnosed with cancer today." Another Friend remembers him, during his last weeks of life as his cancer was spreading, declaring, with cheerful equanimity, "I'm a goner."

One source of Don's good cheer was the gratitude he felt for all those who supported him throughout his bouts with illness. He gratefully took strength from the Meeting for Healing held by Rochester Friends in his room the night before his transplant operation at Mayo Clinic. He found comfort in the Meeting for Healing held by U-C Friends during his stay at Meadowbrook. Above all he was sustained by Roma's love and care and by his many pleasures in life. He ran with the Second Wind Running Club, even after his transplant, and swam regularly. He found joy in painting, writing poetry, and putting together large LEGO constructions when he and Roma spent time at her legacy farm. He loved reading, especially hard-boiled detective fiction. He was a huge fan of the University of Illinois Women's Volleyball team, rarely missing a home game. He and Roma regularly attended music and dance concerts and plays in Chicago and in town. His life was a rich one and we will miss his kind, cheerful, and sustaining presence.

WILLIAM (BILL) DAWSON

1931-2019

William “Bill” Dawson a long time member of Lake Forest Friends Meeting passed away on September 8, 2019 at Haven Hospice in Gainesville Florida. He was 88 years old. Bill was born on August 9, 1931 in Muscatine, Iowa to Agnes (Stewart) Dawson and Ralph Gerard Dawson. Soon after his mother, Agnes, was stricken with rheumatoid arthritis—a condition that would leave her bedridden for the rest of her life. Bill was 13 months old when he and his mother went to live at the Hopkins family farm in Granville, Illinois a few miles north of the Illinois Yearly Meeting meetinghouse. He grew up on the farm, cared for by his cousin Joel Hopkins whose sons were like Bill’s younger brothers. Bill provided care for his mother until her death in 1979.

Bill received a BS in Education from Eastern Illinois University in 1953. He served as a teacher in the Army in Poitiers, France for two years. Following his army service, Bill moved to Chicago and began a career in life insurance underwriting. He joined Allstate Life Insurance Company six months after its formation in 1957 and was transferred to Allstate’s Menlo Park office in 1961. That same year he married Maureen “Mo” Kratzke on September 2. They lived on the west coast until promotions at Allstate brought them back to Chicago in 1965.

Bill and Mo raised their three sons (Stewart “Mac” Dawson, Paul Dawson, and William “Bill” Dawson) in a house on Round Lake. Their home become the perfect place to host extended family, friends from work, and Quaker meeting. Thanksgiving and Fourth of July were regular big events on the lake. This suited Bill well because he truly enjoyed being with people. He was known for his wit, bright smile, and good nature. The family moved to Libertyville for the boys’ high school years. Though still hosting Thanksgiving, these years centered on attending high school athletics of their sons.

Bill and Mo joined the Lake Forest Friends Meeting in 1975. Bill became an important part of the life of the community. He had a quiet way of leading which served the meeting well when he was clerk. He was comfortable listening to how to proceed when working with others as he demonstrated when he assisted another member in constructing cabinets for the Illinois Yearly Meeting kitchen. He regularly took care of mowing the lawn at the Lake Forest meetinghouse, sat near the fireplace in winter making sure sparks were quickly extinguished. He served as a mentor to children growing up in the meeting. Again it was his quiet manner which made him approachable. Bill retired from Allstate in 1996. He was widely recognized for his handling of the most complex cases. Bill and Mo fully enjoyed retirement. They moved to Ashland, Oregon. Bill volunteered for fire watch and hiked in the mountains around their home. He took classes at Southern Oregon University’s Life Long Learning Institute, attended Oregon Shakespeare Festivals, and made many friends.

Living in the West fed one of Bill’s lifelong endeavors—the driving vacation. A master of the open road (though not always a master of the gas gauge), he loved to go on extended road trips. As a result of these trips, Bill and Mo visited all of the lower 48 states. They moved to Gainesville, Florida at Thanksgiving 2011 to be close to family.

A Celebration of a Life well lived was held at Lake Forest Friends Meeting November 23, 2019. Interment was in Granville Cemetery, Granville, Illinois.

JOEL G. ERKENSWICK

1946-2019

Joel G. Erkenwick was born on August 8, 1946 in Chicago, Illinois to Mary Lou Erkenwick (nee Sharp) and Herbert Erkenwick. He had a younger brother, Robert B., with whom he stayed close his entire life. Joel graduated from Lane Tech High School in 1964 and Wheaton College (IL) in 1968. He was drafted after graduating from college and became a Lieutenant in the U.S. Army, serving in southern Vietnam in 1970. After some time, he refused to carry his own weapon, which almost got him court martialed. He returned to Chicago in 1971 and completed the core curriculum for a Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of Illinois. He worked at various businesses in the Chicago area. He also did contract teaching work for the Chicago and Evanston public schools.

Joel met his wife Jane (nee Lehman) in the 1970s, and they married on July 2, 1977. They had two sons, Aaron (born 1982) and Gideon (born 1984). After periods at LaSalle Street Church in Chicago and the Unitarian Church of Evanston, Joel joined the Evanston Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends in 1989. Joel recalled that he heard a presentation about the Quakers at the Unitarian Church and said, "I would like to check those people out!," to which someone responded "The real thing is right down the street." Joel quickly bonded with Evanston Friends. Participating actively in the life of the meeting, he served on several committees. He was loved for his good nature, loving and positive attitude, and his unique and joyful messages during worship.

Joel had a lively sense of humor and a zest for life, despite serious health problems the last three decades of his life. He was a three-time kidney transplant recipient, and was on dialysis four times the during course of his life. He also developed multiple myeloma and Parkinson's disease. Yet his desire for life was unstoppable. He never played the victim. He was an extremely loving and dedicated spouse and father. He loved community and helped to grow community wherever he was.

Joel lived in St. Louis the last nine years of his life, where he worshiped with the St. Louis Friends. Joel died on August 30, 2019. His family and friends gathered for a celebration of his life at Evanston Meeting on November 2, 2019. His family placed Joel's ashes in the Memorial Garden of Evanston Friends Meeting.

CHARLIE HAINES

1939 - 2019

Charlie Haines was a kind and gentle man. He was very proud of his two daughters, Karen and Marie, and a devoted husband to his wife Carolyn. They were married for 58 years. He died in December of 2019.

Charlie was a birthright Quaker, growing up in Medford Monthly Meeting in New Jersey. From kindergarten through high school graduation, he thrived at nearby Moorestown Friends School, gaining a Quaker education for which he was grateful his whole life. He then attended Earlham College in Indiana, where he studied mathematics and physics, and where he met his wife Carolyn. He obtained his MS and PhD in Applied Mathematics at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, and later settled in Rochester, New York, with his young family. He had a long career of 35 years in academia, teaching, writing, and administering, mostly at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT). After an extended period with the Baptist Church, the family turned to Rochester Friends Meeting, where they all became members. There, Charlie was active for many years on the finance committee, where he put his analytical skills to good use; a fellow member remembers him as "a deep keel" there.

He was widely regarded by those who knew him as an incredibly smart man with great integrity, character, and generosity of spirit. He was unusual for men of his generation in recognizing the gifts and contributions of women. His cousin Bruce Haines wrote: “Charlie grew up in a household in New Jersey with two generations of women who were independent and garnered respect as partners in life and their communities. His mother was an accomplished mathematician, as well as a full community member, and his grandmother was a recorded Quaker minister ... and I will say that he channeled his grandmother as to his gentle but clear touch.”

His colleague at RIT Donna Cullen wrote: “I interacted with Charlie [for decades]. I appreciated his intellect. Perhaps more importantly, I appreciated his integrity, character, and willingness to work with generosity to all team members. He sought the best for his students and faculty with a masterful, gentle spirit that brought out the best from those around him. Even if ultimately a decision didn’t go your way, you knew that Charlie heard you and respected your input. He encouraged excellence and respected it in others. These qualities were so greatly appreciated during an era where women were discounted, especially in science and computing. Perhaps it was his wife and daughters who were instrumental in showing him how vital a role women can play. Charlie was one of the good guys, a joy to work with, a smile to cherish, and a consummate professional.”

After he retired from RIT, he and Carolyn decided to move to central Illinois to be closer to their daughter Karen, with some urging from her and her sister. They came together to Quaker Meeting and, with daughter Karen and family, enjoyed attending the Stone Soup Supper. More recently they transferred their membership to our meeting. When Carolyn’s health declined, they moved to an independent living facility, where Charlie continued to care for her, faithfully and loyally, even willfully, sometimes to the point of ignoring his own needs. During that time, Charlie joined a mutual support group, led by a member of our meeting, for men who were caring for wives with dementia. He was an avid participant, always present for the other men, and willing to share his own feelings. Ultimately, Carolyn’s health declined to the point where she needed to live in a separate facility (on the same grounds) with 24-hour care, where Charlie continued to be a loving presence in her daily life. He was then able to again attend the U-C Friends Meeting for Worship. He became a faithful regular who often and generously sacrificed his own worship time so that he could offer rides to and from meeting for older members who were unable to sit for the entire hour.

We will all miss Charlie’s genial curiosity about others and his kind and gentle manner.

ELIZABETH MERTIC

1934 – 2020

Elizabeth Wold Mertic lived life fully as a Friend. A natural leader and elder, she served with integrity instead of splash and with humility instead of self-aggrandizement. Her strong faith showed in her work, whether among Friends around the world or growing vegetables in her garden. She was a familiar sight at yearly meeting, with a big smile under her straw hat.

As a mentor, Elizabeth was nurturing and direct. She taught us Quaker process because she had such a good understanding of it. She lived the testimonies without having to think about them. Her writing and our memories of things she said are straightforward and not-complicated.

Until she gave the Plummer Lecture to Illinois Yearly Meeting in 2008, we didn’t fully understand that Elizabeth had a difficult childhood that shaped her as an adult. Her

parents struggling to make ends meet, she moved around the Midwest many times in her early years. She had difficulty transitioning from school to school which made it hard for her to make friends. Yet she developed a sense of empathy to injustice in the world. She once wrote: “I have gradually moved toward the goal of growing more peaceful with myself which will help me live peacefully with the rest of humanity.”

Elizabeth was introduced to Friends when she was a student at the University of Wisconsin. She met Francis Hole at an outdoor gathering of peace organizations on the anniversary of Gandhi’s death. Francis handed her a pamphlet about Madison Friends Meeting and she started attending. Later, she lived with a family at 57th Street Meeting while working for Barrington Dunbar at the Newberry Avenue Settlement House. She was attracted to the peace and social concerns work of Friends, and she was happy to feel she was an equal in the meeting. She said, “Peace is part of living [and] being actively involved in the community.”

Elizabeth and her husband, Don Mertic, joined 57th Street Meeting and raised their three children in that community. Nurtured by the meeting, she took on leadership roles, including Recording Clerk, Treasurer, and Presiding Clerk. In 1989, with her children grown, Elizabeth and Don moved to Lake Villa, Illinois, and she transferred her membership to Lake Forest Friends Meeting. She immediately became active in the meeting. The founding members of the meeting had begun to move on and she became part of a rising leadership group at the meeting. She served wherever she was needed. She participated in a Shalem nurturing group with her peers for over 12 years. She brought to the meeting a tireless leading to work against injustice as well as a wry sense of humor.

Elizabeth’s leadership went beyond Lake Forest Meeting to include Illinois Yearly Meeting. In 1994, she became aware of the Friends World Committee for Consultation and started to travel to FWCC events as the ILYM representative. Her understanding of Quakers extended to other branches, and she was drawn to these new openings. She started taking on leadership roles in FWCC, including Clerk of the Section of the Americas in 2002. Her trust in God’s presence at meetings for business was her greatest asset.

When her marriage to Don ended in 2001, Elizabeth learned to lean on the meeting and others for spiritual support. In her new life, she started to go on many adventures. In addition to traveling for FWCC, she also went on trips to places like Machu Picchu, China, and Iran. On a trip to Syria, she learned of the Iraqi Student Project, and with her usual empathy, she started to help bring Iraqi students living in Damascus to colleges in the United States.

Elizabeth had many accomplishments in her life. We remember her most for her simplicity, integrity, and tremendous energy for the Religious Society of Friends. She wrote in her Plummer Lecture: “Many days I walk in my neighborhood and enjoy the flowers, trees, grasses, puddles, blue sky and my heart overflows. At the rise of meeting for worship I often feel joy upon seeing the smiling face of a child entering the room and spotting his daddy or mommy.”

ELOISE PIPER

1939-2019

Artist Eloise “Ellie” Piper, a long-time member of Pittsburgh Friends Meeting and active Friend in La Jolla and Northside Friends Meetings, died on July 15, 2019 after a long battle with cancer. Ellie was an artist author and educator. Her paintings, batiks, and dolls were featured in numerous solo and group shows and are in a number of permanent collections including the Library of Congress, museums, and in business and residential

collections throughout the world. She received numerous awards for her work and taught art in public schools, private art centers, and colleges. She authored and illustrated seven books including *Sewing and Sculpting Dolls and Batik for Artists and Quilters*.

Ellie was born on December 8, 1939 in Ocala, Florida, the 2nd daughter of Martha Buck and James Fort. Her sister, Joyce Elizabeth, had been born 20 months before. From the age of three, Ellie saw herself as an artist: “That was what defined me, making art.” She said being creative and artistic was how she survived a peripatetic upbringing. They moved frequently, living in various homes, even the YMCA for a time, as her mother worked to support them, while earning a PhD in Social Work.

Ellie experienced her own schooling as a “tedium of studies.” An inquisitive and creative child, her questions about God challenged the religious milieu about her. She was not sure there was a God. In an autobiographical story, she describes discovering a high school science book in a garbage can at the age of nine: “Now—miracle of miracles—a book that held the answer and the answer was Molecules! Those shimmering, dancing particles that metamorphosized into shape, and air, and water—Molecules, wiggling through the heavens, through the universe, up to the Big Molecule—then back to earth again to take the shape of cats and cars, kings and kerchiefs, moles and mountains, why...even my sister was made of molecules.”

Ellie married twice, first to Jonathan Piper and then to William “Bill” Zinner. She had three children, Carolyn, Megan, and Aaron. Ellie joined the Pittsburgh Meeting of the Society of Friends in the 1960’s, following her mother who discovered Friends first. Ellie’s art during her early career included elaborate batiks, many of which were framed by her then husband Bill.

When Ellie’s son Aaron was 10 years-old he was killed tragically after being hit by a car while in Yellow Springs, Ohio, attending Carolyn’s graduation from Antioch College. A tree was planted in his memory in the front yard of the meetinghouse. Ellie never transferred her membership from Pittsburgh Meeting feeling her tie to Aaron there felt so strong.

Ellie moved to the San Diego area so she could assist her mother Martha, who was active in La Jolla Friends Meeting well into her 90’s. Ellie was very connected to the arts community in San Diego, as a painter and teacher.

For over 35 years Ellie found a home in La Jolla Friends Meeting, a source of serenity for her. As a writer and a poet, she served on the Communications Committee, helping to publish the meeting’s newsletter. Ellie was a well-loved member in La Jolla Meeting, often ministering to members there, writing notes when people were ill or experiencing difficulties. After she became ill, the meeting supported her through many treatments, until her care became too difficult to manage in her home.

In 2015, Ellie moved to Chicago to live with her daughter Carolyn, son-in law Dan and granddaughters, Dylan and Hannah. Carolyn connected her with innovative cancer treatment at Northwestern Hospital. Not expecting to survive four years when she came to Chicago, Ellie nonetheless lived an active life around her illness, continuing to paint in small frames, ushering plays with Carolyn and her family, and traveling to visit friends in Pittsburgh and California, all the while juggling her treatments. She attended Northside Friends Meeting where she became a pillar member of a women’s coffee group and served on the care committee for the meeting clerk’s difficult illness. She used her exceptional writing skills to co-author the annual State of the Meeting report. Ellie’s approach to living creatively and joyfully despite her illness was an inspiration.

ALICE PETERSON-HERTZ

2018-2019

It is with great sadness that the South Bend Friends Meeting received news of Andrew Peterson-Hertz's daughter's death. Andrew is a non-resident member of the South Bend Friends Meeting. He and his wife Géraldine live in Nantes, France with their son Lucien and their daughter Alice until her death on October 27, 2019 at the age of a year and a half.

The South Bend Friend's Meeting has extended condolences to Andrew and his family and share their sorrow. We hope that the healing Light will bring them resolution for their grief and peace to their lives.

NANCY G. WALLACE

1950-2020

Nancy Gene Wallace, 69, died of lung cancer on March 31, 2020, at her home in Chicago, Illinois. Nancy was born in Evanston, Illinois on July 30, 1950, the fourth of five children. After high school, she briefly attended Lake Forest College and the University of Illinois before heading to Las Vegas where she spent several years as a croupier. She returned to college and received a Master's Degree in Liberal Studies from St. John's College in 1983 and an MBA in Accounting from DePaul University in Chicago in 1987.

Nancy became a Certified Public Accountant in 1988 and was hired by Shimer College to serve as financial controller and faculty member. There she met David Shiner, a fellow faculty member who served as her colleague and mentor for two years. They later became friends, then began dating. They were married in the summer of 1993. Nancy believed that was the best decision she ever made. Professionally, after leaving Shimer she served a national organization as controller, then spent 16 years as a consultant to nonprofit organizations until her retirement in 2018.

Nancy and David began attending Lake Forest Meeting in September of 1993. It was there that they both became convinced Friends, David becoming a member in 1995 and Nancy in 1998. At Lake Forest Meeting they spent twenty years of service on a variety of committees. They moved to Chicago in 2010 and, a few years later, transferred their memberships to Evanston Friends Meeting.

Both Nancy and David had commitments to the wider world of Friends, including Illinois Yearly Meeting (ILYM). In 2002, Nancy became one of ILYM's representatives to the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), a position she held until her death. She served as Clerk of the International Finance Committee as well as in other FWCC positions for many years. She and David attended world gatherings of Friends in New Zealand (2004), Ireland (2007) and Peru (2016). They were a team in their service to Friends. At the time of her death Nancy was still serving on the Religious Education Committee of Evanston Meeting, the Personnel Committee of Illinois Yearly Meeting, and as Assistant Treasurer of the FWCC Section of the Americas following four years as Treasurer.

Nancy and David were international in more than their Quaker commitments. Over the years they hosted some 15 international exchange students from Europe, Asia, and South America. They stayed in touch with those students over the years. During Nancy's final days several of them wanted to fly back to tell her in person how much she had meant to them. Artistic creations from those students and friends, as well as from their international travels, delighted Nancy and filled their ever-welcoming home.

Nancy's reach went beyond the Quaker world, stretching to gardening groups, environmental groups, and book groups, as well as others. She brought her commitment to Quaker values and principles to all of those endeavors.

Many people will miss Nancy for the many things she did, but the deeper missing will be for who she was as she did them. Nancy was generous with her time and skills, freely devoting an enormous amount of time to nature conservation, service on non-profit committees, and a variety of Quaker organizations. She was always there for people who needed her.

Nancy was really smart and curious. Her Great Books background implanted an endless hunger for learning. She decided to master Spanish, and continued to take online lessons until the week before her death. She was enthusiastic and upbeat, energetic and vibrant. She was witty, humorous, and had an infectious laugh. She had the amazing and rare gift of speaking with loving directness when situations invited something deeper than the customary Quaker niceness.

Nancy was at home in the world, fitting into whatever circumstances presented themselves, whether sitting on the floor at a gathering or moving through the difficult stages of her cancer treatment. When the doctors had done all they could, she accepted the truth of that situation and turned her attention to caring for David as he cared for her.

Nancy was loved and respected by all whose paths were blessed to walk along hers for a time.

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.

STATES OF SOCIETY

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL MONTHLY MEETING

We have not grown much in membership but have grown in spiritual depth and in our ability to support each other through a challenging political time and a worldwide health pandemic. We have eight members and additional attenders. An average meeting includes five to seven people. We continue to enjoy our permanent space in Normandy Village.

The plight of immigrants has been the focus of much activity. The meeting co-sponsored a rally on immigrant rights, one member has volunteered at the Immigration Project, the meeting provided Christmas presents for the children of one immigrant family, and members organized and participated in a weekly protest from November thru February in front of the office of one member of the US Congress about the treatment of migrant children at the United States border. With the advent of the pandemic, members joined the Immigration Project in giving food to immigrant families. Several members were also involved in making and distributing masks for immigrants in the pandemic.

The monthly Meeting for Eating for Quaker women has continued through the calendar year. The gatherings are co-sponsored by the Clear Creek Meeting and often attended by Friends from Urbana-Champaign. These meals as well as those at monthly potlucks clearly demonstrate the cooking skills of Quaker women and men. The Meeting for Eating dinners have over time become a place of social support and a closeness with other members.

First Day School has continued to be difficult for our meeting. Part of this is because we have few children, and they do no't always come which makes planning difficult. We have started to identify the second Sunday of the month as a time when children are especially welcomed, and First Day School is held for them. The service is followed by a pot-luck.

As with all groups we are not meeting in a physical location during the COVID-19 crisis. Since mid-March, Renee Sneider has organized weekly Zoom meetings for our meeting. These meetings have helped us maintain our connections to each other and to Quaker values. We also have learned more technical skills.

CLEAR CREEK MONTHLY MEETING

At Clear Creek, we tend to think of our worship life as quiet and routine, until we start to write our State of Society report. Then we realize it is not as quiet and routine as we might believe.

The past year has seen some shift in membership and attendance. Vicky Krause, an attender at Burlington Worship Group which is under our care, applied for membership this past summer. In early September, several of us traveled to Burlington to participate in a clearness committee for Vicky. At our September business meeting, at the clearness committee's recommendation, we welcomed Vicky into our meeting. We are pleased to see the thriving Burlington Worship Group nourishing its attenders to this extent. Long-time Clear Creek member, Lori Paton, moved to Bloomington from Peoria in March. Lori requested a transfer to the Bloomington-Normal Meeting, and we released her to their care with our blessings. We also have two new attenders. Barb Day, long time member at Upper Fox Valley Meeting, moved to Dunlap, Illinois, to be closer to family and has been attending with us since August. Mike Murphy of Princeton has also recently begun attending meeting at Clear Creek. We are enriched by their participation in our worship.

Also under our care is the Macomb Worship Group. These Friends are struggling, having not met regularly in over a year. The group has always been primarily three families, all of whom are undergoing various stresses. Please hold these Friends in the Light as they weigh the viability of their worship group.

We had two milestone birthdays this year. Dick Ashdown turned 80 in May, and Neil Mesner turned 90 in July. We celebrated both these events in Clear Creek style. We are blessed by the presence of these weighty Friends among us and by the depth they bring to our worship and fellowship.

During the summer, we were contacted by the pastor of the Metamora Mennonite Church. The church was exploring other faith traditions and were encouraged by one of their members (who many years ago attended Clear Creek Meeting) to contact us to see if we were willing to have them visit us. Always glad to have company, we immediately responded “Yes!” On August 4, we were joined by about 60 Mennonites as well as a number of Friends from other meetings for a deep and fruitful worship. Since no Quaker gathering is complete without a potluck, we then had lunch with our visitors, spreading ourselves out so that each table had a Quaker or two to answer any further questions. It was a meaningful day for all of us. Later in the fall, several of us reciprocated and visited the Metamora Mennonite Church for a Sunday service.

The Bloomington-Normal based Quaker women’s monthly potluck (aka Meeting for Eating) continues, with participation from some of our members. This gathering provides additional fellowship opportunities for Friends and a form of visitation between meetings, strengthening our ties to each other. In September, this group decided they needed to do “something” to protest the separation of immigrant families and the caging of their children in detention centers around the country. Since the end of September, these women have been holding a weekly vigil outside the office of Congressman Rodney Davis in Uptown Normal, urging him to support legislation to end these practices. While those of us outside of Bloomington-Normal are unable to participate in the vigils, we support them in any way we can.

We are always enriched by our interactions with the wider Quaker community. The grounds come alive during Illinois Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions when we share our home with the rest of ILYM. We also hosted, with the help of Bloomington-Normal Friends, the Fall Continuing Committee. In September, several of us made the trip to southern Indiana to participate in the 200th anniversary celebration of Blue River Quarterly. We enjoyed the various historical programs, getting to worship in the meetinghouse of our religious ancestors, and having Sunday lunch with the local Friends Church. All of these gatherings provide us with opportunities for deep worship and nurturing fellowship that can only serve to strengthen our local community.

COLUMBIA FRIENDS MEETING

We continue to be a meeting of about 30 souls. On the average First Day, we have an attendance of about 15 or 20. While many of us are active in a variety of community affairs, worship is the primary focus for our meeting. Our worship is often blessed with insightful and moving witness, and other times blessed with a gathered silence. Whatever the case, it remains a valued part of our shared experience.

We are additionally blessed with four growing and active children. The oldest is Mae at age 8 and the youngest is Maggie who was born in March of 2019. Mae and her brother Louis spent the first-half of 2019 in Germany with their parents. We were overjoyed in their return and a little shocked at how much they grew while away.

As you may know, we have been planning to build a new meetinghouse for a while. Having put the property on the market, we reached an agreement with a local church to rent space from them. This proved to be fortuitous, as in December, we received an offer on the property.

Despite feeling some regret at leaving a place that holds so many memories, there is an excitement about beginning a new chapter for our meeting. We are on the road to a new meetinghouse. We do not quite see the end yet, so we must precede with faith.

DOWNERS GROVE FRIENDS MEETING

Meeting for worship is a spiritual touchstone for many who worship with us. We find that Downers Grove Friends Meeting is a meaningful way for Friends to connect to each other in a loving community. We extended our community by inviting Friends and family from Chicago area meetings to join us for our annual carol sing and Memorial Day picnic. We also collect stamps for Right Sharing of World Resources. To support our local community, we collect coupons for a food pantry, and twice a month when we gather to eat donations are gathered and given to social service agencies. At Christmas, we set up a mitten tree at the meetinghouse to collect winter accessories, some handmade, for a shelter.

Our meeting strives to make everyone feel welcome. We have greeters each First Day to welcome everyone as they enter the building, especially new attenders. To help newer attenders understand what “we are about,” we had a series of six sessions, titled Q101, which explain not just our history but who Friends are today. Another way we promote community is through potlucks in Friends’ homes, which we find helps us to know each other better. Our Meeting for Learning brings us current topics, for instance, the documentary, *Griefwalker*, about end of life issues, and a video of Dr. Joy DeGruy on Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome. On the 3rd Sunday of the month before meeting, a group gathers for reflective Worship Sharing conversations. On the 4th Sunday, we have a discussion after meeting led by ILYM’s Field Secretary and others. The topics vary but often focus on what it means to be a Quaker. There is a dedicated Friday sewing group that also supports Friends. There is a strong core group that meets on Mondays to discuss aspects of aging. We have met the needs of others by having an additional meeting for worship on Thursday evenings. We are experimenting with a clerk’s committee to bring new people into leadership in the meeting and to share the work of clerking.

We welcomed Jennifer Budziak as a member with a cake and fellowship (April 28). We also celebrated the life of much loved long-time member, Betty Clegg, who passed at age 96 at her daughter Barb’s home in Tennessee. October marked the 10th anniversary of our first meeting for worship in our new meeting house. To add to it being fully accessible, we are now equipped with, and many trained for, an AED defibrillator.

We find the challenge of having an aging population brings new opportunities. We have few families with school-aged children, but are always ready and welcoming when they come. This points out a challenge that we and other small communities of faith have, that of bringing in new members, especially families. The way that Spirit opens may be narrow as far as numbers go, but those new to us persist in attendance and enrich the community. Seasoned Friends and energetic seekers journeying together anchor and renew Downers Grove Friends Meeting.

Advise from an essay by Patricia Thomas after having spent a night as a hostess at Hope House (a woman and children’s shelter: “Hope begins where we are; Hope comes to us as a gift. Hope is renewed daily, sometimes minute by minute. Hope grows step by step.”

DUNELAND FRIENDS MEETING

Duneland Friends Meeting continued to meet about twice monthly through 2019, as a small but faithful community of seekers of the truth. With a core of six regular members and attenders, we remained committed to communal worship, with occasional vocal ministry. We maintained a small budget that we used to support organizations and projects that reflected our shared values among Quakers and in communities near our meeting place. We also continued to meet for Bible Study about twice a month at the home of Marlou Carlson. We were grateful to one of our attenders for creating a Facebook page for Duneland Friends, an accomplishment that we consider to be one small step toward our ongoing wish to make our meeting more visible to others.

This year we mourned the loss of former member Pat Lucas, recently of Madison, Wisconsin, on July 30, 2019. She and her spouse, Sandra Huntley, were members of Duneland Friends Meeting from 2002 to 2018. We cherish memories of Pat's vast store of knowledge on a wide variety of topics, her dry sense of humor, and her love of the meeting's children.

Connections with Friends from other meetings were a source of energy and inspiration in 2019. In September, several of us traveled to southern Indiana to join in the celebration of the 200th anniversary of Blue River Quarterly Meeting, including a High School Friends Quake. In October, we were enriched by a gathering of Friends for a retreat planned jointly by South Bend and Duneland meetings and held at the Portage Lakefront Pavilion in the Indiana Dunes. With a view of Lake Michigan to the north and the dunes to the south, we experienced together a nature walk, silent journaling, focused prayer, sharing about vocal ministry, worship, and fellowship.

In this time when it appears that there is a general lack of integrity, compassion, respect, and engagement across our society and politics, we at Duneland Friends Meeting often find ourselves contemplating and sharing thoughts about how we can respond as Friends. How do we acknowledge and answer that of God in everyone? We pray that our work, worship, and examples will help bring about compassionate responses to the global issues threatening our world.

State of Society approved at a meeting for worship with a focus on business held February 23, 2020.

EVANSTON MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

The Spirit moves among us, through us, and around us as it always has. We lovingly nurture God's Presence within the meeting, and moved by It, we witness in our families, neighborhoods, workplaces, and the wider world to the joy, peace, and healing it brings.

The cores of our shared spiritual journey are weekly meetings for worship, one upstairs and a briefer one downstairs for children. Some children sit with adults upstairs for a while; some adults sit downstairs with the children for a while. Many come on time, helping to settle the meeting. Some come as they are able. On average, 32-40 persons primarily worship upstairs and 10-20 downstairs. Often worship times are felt deeply by many. We struggle a bit to ensure that vocal ministry is rooted in the Spirit rather than in the various tumults that surround us all. As meeting for worship concludes, we always invite the sharing of joys and/or concerns that we may hold them together in the Light. This practice often opens the way to pastoral care.

With the coming of the coronavirus pandemic, we began using Zoom to gather all who wish to join in for Sunday meetings for worship and Wednesday times of worship sharing. This practice has offered deep worship and the joy of checking in with one another at the rise of meetings. A children's first day school session and worship are also

being held using Zoom technology. For the encouragement of spiritual growth, various meeting members have followed their leadings to offer one day silent retreats, art retreats, a weekend long silent retreat, book groups studying Quaker practice and race, and spiritual nurture groups. Twice monthly we offer meetings for learning to broaden our understandings and our vision. Spiritual growth is stimulated among our children by our commitment to three age-specific First Day School classes taught by rotating dedicated, well-trained Godly Play teachers who are organized and nourished by our Religious Education Coordinator and by paid child care staff.

Understanding that we all share the responsibilities for caring for each other, both spiritually and practically, we have been called upon by circumstances to do much of that this year. Some in our community have experienced serious medical issues which invite both spiritual and logistic support. At times, organizing our response has been undertaken by a committee. At other times, by individuals close to the persons. Care for the broad life of the meeting is carried by many skillful, dedicated committee members and individuals who assume ongoing responsibilities for specific tasks. We are grateful to them all!

Our meeting community includes people deeply led to participate in various ways to carry our testimonies of peace, equity and justice into the world. As a meeting, we also make donations available to Quaker and other organizations doing such work. Some examples in the past year include: A presence in the Evanston 4th of July parade and the Chicago Pride parade as well as various local and regional demonstrations; participation with Evanston Interfaith Action's programs of feeding and sheltering our neighbors; and active participation in climate change matters. Many Evanston Friends are active in ILYM and some in FWCC. We hosted "The Quake that Rocked the Midwest" and OWL (Our Whole Lives) weekends for regional young Friends.

Joel Erckenswick's life (1946-2019) was celebrated by friends and family; Nancy Wallace died on March 31. A memorial meeting will be held when the pandemic isolation guidelines are lifted, and we can all be together in person to celebrate her life of service, beauty, and faithfulness; Elizabeth Mertic, a cherished attender for many years, died on April 7. Lake Forest Meeting is planning the memorial meeting for her; Nina Mae was born to member Emma Rodewald Daisy and her husband Timothy Mark Daisy; Colin Adcox Sheridan was born to members Tadd Adcox and Helenmary Sheridan.; Margi Barbosa and Greta Bever became members of the meeting; and Dolores Koenig's membership transfer from Bethesda Meeting was welcomed.

57TH STREET MEETING OF FRIENDS

Given all the changes in the lives and practices of our community, we continue to seek ways to be together in Spirit and community, and to reach out to our greater communities in fellowship and in service. We are not just now able to produce a document or report that fully and accurately reflects the state of our meeting as a whole or of its members and attenders. We will proceed to reach out to all, seeking ways to share worship, fellowship, community and outreach as we work through the transitions and constraints of the COVID pandemic.

FOX VALLEY QUAKER MEETING - ILYM

We have changed the name of our small meeting by dropping the preface "Upper" and adding the letters "ILYM." This was done in recognition that "our" Fox River flows down from Wisconsin, and to distinguish us from meetings elsewhere that might have similar names.

The name change did not change the spirit or sense of community within our small group. Until the coronavirus arrived an average of about 9 or 10 Friends and attenders met for Friends meeting in the old farmhouse at Pioneer Farm. The meeting for worship and meditation was followed by a light snack that over the months grew into a full-fledged pot-luck lunch with spirited conversation.

All of this changed, of course, with the coming of the virus. Now, instead of meeting in person, many of us meet at the same hour in our individual homes—together in spirit. We look forward to the day when we can meet together again in the physical presence of each other.

Just as we were beginning to feel the effects of the pandemic, our meeting suffered great sadness and sorrow with the unexpected death of John Hackman, who had been an active and much loved member since our earliest years. John died unexpectedly on March 26 from injuries suffered in a fall at his home.

As the long-time editor of our newsletter, John spoke not only to our small group but also to many beyond. He was actively involved in ILYM as a member of the Environmental Concerns Committee and an enthusiastic participant in work days at the McNabb campus. A memorial service will be held later this year.

Our meeting again sponsored the “Old-fashioned Corn Roast and Pot Luck Dinner” for Chicagoland Friends. This annual gathering of Friends from different Quaker traditions and cultural backgrounds served as a happy time of love, in contrast with the tensions and conflicts that were to come to our country with the virus. We can only hope to host this event again in 2020.

LAKE FOREST FRIENDS MEETING

As with the rest of the world, Lake Forest Friends Meeting has been adjusting to the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic and orders to shelter-in-place at home. We decided that we could come together for Meeting for Worship via video conferencing. We have had as many as 30 people at worship including some members who have moved away but no newcomers so far. The strength we have built up at the meeting has carried over and allowed us to center into worship even as we sit in our own homes with faces on the computer screen. However, we dearly miss gathering together at our meetinghouse and socializing after meeting.

Lake Forest Friends Meeting welcomed long-time attender Joe Rockey as a member this past year. Joe has served as our greeter for several years and has a bright smile and kind word for everyone who enters. While we welcomed Joe into membership, we are also sad to see Jane and Joe Rockey and Ward Burton move across the country. Jane, Joe, and Ward have served as calming and warm members of our community.

Lake Forest Friends Meeting lost two members over the past year. Bill Dawson passed away in September 2019 and Elizabeth Mertic in April 2020. Lake Forest Friends Meeting also deeply feels the loss of Nancy Wallace in March 2020, a long-time, well-loved member of Lake Forest before transferring her membership to Evanston.

Our First Day School program has been thriving over the past few years. We have three classes: one for kids age 0 through Kindergarten (generally 3-5 kids/week); one for 1st through 6th graders (4-7 kids/week); and one for junior high and high schoolers (2-5 kids/week). As we have transitioned from in-person meetings to Zoom meetings, we are working to find something that works for each age group. While the children appreciate getting to talk with each other, it is a struggle for our youngest children who do not understand why meeting is closed and who do not appreciate Zoom technology.

Adult Religious Education continues to be a very active community at Lake Forest Friends Meeting. In addition, there are occasional potluck dinners to discuss specific queries. For most of the year, a small but regular group of adults has held Friendly Bible Study. Inspired by Friends General Conference's Welcoming Friend Project, the meeting formed The Working Group on the Impact of Systemic Racism on Spirituality.

This year, we created a new position in our roster of clerks. We now have three clerk positions: Clerk, Assistant Clerk, and Rising Clerk. By having three individuals, we are able to spread out the work of Clerk.

The Peace and Social Justice Committee held a successful fundraiser at the meetinghouse to assist a Waukegan-based not-for-profit called FOCUS which provides small stipends for recent high school graduates planning to attend community colleges. In addition, the committee continued its work with a local FCNL-trained team advocating legislation to reaffirm Congress's role (rather than the President's) in starting war.

Overall, Lake Forest Friends Meeting is doing well. We are fortunate to worship in a building surrounded by nature. The layout of the Meetinghouse helps drive intergenerational connection, which is so important to our Meeting. While we have a lot of members who are getting older, we also have growing families and people willing to take on new responsibilities within the meeting. Our strong support of our First Day School program has allowed families to participate in our community. While we are sometimes rooted in our ways, the meeting has a collective attitude of being open to the idea of change. The many prayerful and/or social gatherings, outside of Meeting for Worship, help strengthen our community. Within worship, we have several members who regularly share heartfelt and vocal messages, which help the rest of us grow, learn, and experience other perspectives. The rest of our community is made up of people who give occasional messages and those who rarely, if ever, speak. We are a steady community that handles personality conflicts like a family, and which strives to be a welcoming place for all who enter.

NORTHSIDE FRIENDS MEETING

Northside Friends Meeting has enjoyed growth in numbers of attenders and in deepening of Spirit during the past year. We have renovated our website, provided childcare during Meeting for Worship, begun hosting regular Healing Circles, and expanded our antiracism work. Our annual retreat was designed to celebrate this growth in Healing, families, and antiracism, as well as discernment about who we are as a meeting. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to delay both the retreat and our anti-racism training workshop, but it has not diminished our Spirit.

Our website's much-needed renovation was completed by an Ad Hoc Website Committee without need for outside expertise. Our attractive new website and online archive has many user-friendly features that better serve the needs of the meeting and will be easier to maintain.

A number of families with young children began attending NFM this year. Recognizing the need to welcome families, NFM formed a Childcare Committee. Friends with little previous experience in First Day learning, volunteered for childcare duty and found great pleasure in "watching the kids make friends and become Friends".

An influx of young adults into NFM is, we believe, a direct result of the meeting's conscious efforts to be a welcoming community. These new attenders give NFM a fresh vibrancy. The increased committee work associated with NFM's growth has provided newer Friends the opportunity to learn Quaker process while utilizing their personal skill sets.

An exciting new leading resulted in formation of the Healing Circle Committee, which in June 2019 began monthly Meetings for Worship with Concern for Healing within the Second Hour calendar. Friends have found healing and recognized their own healing gifts in these deeply gathered meetings. These Healing Circles attracted participation from other Chicagoland meetings, and other monthly meetings are now forming Healing Circles of their own. NFM currently holds virtual Healing Circles twice monthly, responding to the world's vast need for healing.

The new Ad Hoc Committee for Ministry on Racism has brought prodigious spiritual energy into NFM. The Committee organized a 2-1/2-day workshop, "Analyzing and Understanding Systemic Racism," with the anti-racism training group CROAR (Chicago Regional Organizing for Anti-Racism). This workshop, designed specifically for Quakers and jointly sponsored with several Chicagoland meetings, was scheduled to occur at the end of May, and will be rescheduled as soon as possible. Our increasing sensitivity to racial issues has also led to deepening interaction with our physical hosts, the Japanese American Service Committee, including Friends attending some JASC events.

Thus, NFM has faced the COVID-19 pandemic anchored in deep spiritual interconnection, providing a firm foundation of 'normalcy' to carry us through these abnormal times. One Friend likened it to learning to drive stick shift in Kansas, then driving in San Francisco: the terrain has changed, but we have not ground to a halt. Our first virtual Meeting for Worship was held March 22.

Since then, NFM's virtual activity has flowered on the Zoom platform. In addition to First Day Worship we have a mid-week Meeting for Worship, twice-weekly 'Check-In' meetings for Friendly interaction, and weekly 'Playdate' meetings for the children. We have navigated our first virtual Meetings for Business and formed two book clubs. Committee meetings are far easier to schedule and attend virtually, but we remain cognizant that the convenience of virtual interaction must never impede discernment in decision-making.

We have discovered, with abiding joy and gratitude, that electronic meetings have been fully as gathered and covered as physical meetings. Moreover, a silver lining of virtual Meeting for Worship is that Friends may attend from other locations. Participants have joined Meeting for Worship from France, England, and many distant states, keeping us connected with distant members of our beloved community. We predict that NFM will continue 'hybrid' meetings long after the shelter in place restrictions have lifted, thus keeping Meeting for Worship accessible regardless of Friends' geographic locale or physical condition.

Milestones: August 2019 Beth Burbank's endorsement for chaplaincy re-confirmed; August 2019 Died, Eloise Piper; October 2019 Married, Melissa Halka and Siobhan (Shea) Kohl; January 2020 Born, Rennard William Henley, to Ted Ehnle and John Heintz; May 2020 Erica Dix accepted as Member

OSHKOSH MONTHLY MEETING

Oshkosh Monthly Meeting has not had a lot of growth in membership over the past year. But, we still seek: to seek God's blessing for ourselves; to express our appreciation to the Father, our faith in Him, and our love; to open ourselves to receive forgiveness for our misdeeds; to ask God's favor for others and thank Him for His love of them; to open and close our meditation sessions; to attune ourselves to the will of our Creator; to offer ourselves and our efforts to Him; to invite His participation in our lives; and to remind ourselves of His abiding presence.

We as a group have been active with other religious denominations in our community to help the poor and homeless. One of our primary activities has been our community loan fund. We were particularly happy that we could raise \$500-600 of new money. We have not received any visitors this year from NYM or ILYM. We are hoping that will change.

Elders Report

The state of our meeting is firmly committed to goals but fragmented in action. Our meeting has always been a meeting of a few committed Quakers and many attenders, who are with us for varying periods. We are very small and believe in following the spirit rather than just the letter of our faith. We have a strong belief in social action and frequently interact with our officials in an attempt to redress missteps in the legislative process. Due to our size we have more or less split concerns or duties among ourselves, according to our bundles and interests, and often our attenders help us do this.

Some of us interact with the prisoners in our prison system. Some go to meetings involving the community we live in, such as the group Esther and the warming shelter. Some round up urgently needed items for those in need such as toilet paper or clothing or food. We have never been disappointed in getting the help we have needed to accomplish our goals. Usually, and when possible, we come together each Sunday in faith and humility. Time and time again we have been the recipients of amazing grace, and our work with those less fortunate than ourselves has reinforced our perception of this, both individually and as a meeting; When we come together, the examples we see have helped us to practice more faith, humility, and patience than we might otherwise, with ourselves and our attenders. As we grow older, we cherish each other more and take more pains to understand each other's concerns.

Attempting to see all sides of any issue before us is done by taking it to the light, which helps us to find out what God would want us to do. This, of course, is an on-going project which sometimes is easier than at other times. We seek to apply the light to our lives, with different degrees of success at various times, as our lives are made up of many movable parts and getting all of them moving and working together within the light is the continuing challenge of our very busy lives. Meeting is an oasis in the center of our lives that renews our faith and returns us to God whenever one of those movable pieces leads us too far astray.

ST. LOUIS MONTHLY MEETING

2019 was a year of continued growth and joy, even as it included some growing pains for St. Louis Monthly Meeting. Continued regular attendance and increased involvement, especially from younger friends, has felt like something that can be built upon for our future. It was agreed that Meetings for Worship with a Concern for Business are held with a deep sense of worship even when there is disagreement. There is a sense that people are listening both to the Spirit and to each other.

The meeting is nurturing the spiritual life of members and attenders through opportunities for service—notably, the Friends' Winter Outreach shelter and the ongoing anti-racism work. Additionally, Friends cited the opportunities for gathering through Friendly dozens, Spiritual Directions, and the Quaker Reading Group. Friends greatly appreciated Quakerism 101.

Regular meetings for worship feel deeply connected to each other and to the spirit. Members and attenders are creating a community where people are doing their best to practice with intention. It does seem that an ongoing question for our meeting is when or

when not speak during meeting for worship, that is learning to discern whether a message received is for everyone or solely for the individual receiving it. As one person put it, “Sometimes there needs to be space for people to find their way—when to speak and when not to speak.” Another person felt there was room for eldering regarding vocal ministry and particularly discerning a spiritual message from a political message or opinion. “I come here,” they said, “because I need to hear God-sent messages.”

Among the joys cited by members and attenders were what the membership practices preached in terms of Quaker values and that there are many opportunities to get together for adult religious education. When people do gather together, there is a feeling of fellowship and joy. One attender noted that they valued the regular meals we share together as that allows relationships to grow.

Many folks cited the appreciation that they had for holding each other in the light and sharing during the time for “Joys and Sorrows” in meeting for worship. People appreciated being supported and being given the opportunity to support others. Clearness committees were also cited as a joy that helped someone to “tell the truth of a situation” during an ongoing problem they were facing.

Among the leadings that meeting feels most strongly about in this moment are Peace Initiatives, work with the Friends National Advocacy team, and Winter Outreach. People expressed gratitude that we are not just talking about things, but that we are also doing things. One particularly wise thought that expressed the sense of the meeting was when someone noted that our group, “does a lot of internal work to heal ourselves that translates into healing our community.” We are feeling led to continue to build a community of support so that we can continue to be a space for our members and attenders while also being accessible and welcoming to those who are seeking this community.

Some of the challenges facing our meeting are seen as “good ones” to have in that they are ones of growth—how do we accommodate and maintain growth and do so in keeping with the Spirit. There is also a desire for ongoing and meaningful cooperation among our committees. A greater need for thinking about and increasing accessibility within the meeting was discussed—a need to think about “all the forms that accessibility takes.” Someone thoughtfully said, “You don’t always understand the roadblocks to someone’s comfort until you talk to that person.” Someone also said that “Often welcome comes from a place of clarity.”

Despite the challenges, there is a sense of joy and excitement about the time we all spend together. It is clear that there is a sense of love and peace among us. One mother shared that when she told her three year old that they were about to go to meeting, he replied, “Meeting for Worship? Those people are quiet, but they love me.” This young friend speaks all our minds.

SOUTH BEND FRIENDS MEETING

This year’s State of Society report finds South Bend Friends staying at home to protect one another’s health during the COVID-19 pandemic. While Friends have been physically isolated, we have maintained fellowship through increased phone contacts and through shared worship. We have continued to worship synchronously from home at our usual time, and some Friends have gathered virtually for worship as well; virtual meeting has brought us the joy of being joined by nonresident Friends and of getting to know Friends from Duneland Meeting who have been worshipping online with us. The Elkhart Worship Group under the Care of South Bend Monthly Meeting is holding virtual Meeting for Worship as well on alternate Thursday evenings.

Prior to these unexpected, dramatic changes to our regular worship, the meeting had been preparing for a different change. Last spring, after many years of worshipping at the Charles Martin Youth Center, the Meeting decided to consider finding another location, and now the Meeting is in the process of working out a lease for a new worship space. Relocating is always a challenging process, but we have found this challenge to be an occasion for spiritual growth. Our discernment together has deepened our fellowship and enabled us to come to clarity about our authentic needs as a meeting; we feel great gratitude for this blessing!

In other respects, the meeting experienced stability and growth this year. Although our hearts were saddened by the passing of the young daughter of a nonresident member due to congenital disease, we have joyfully welcomed two babies to the meeting as well as one new adult member and several new attenders. First-Day School for young Friends remains an important part of the life of the meeting. As the main cohort of young Friends approaches their teen years, they are becoming more active in the community in volunteer work, sports, and the arts. Supporting young Friends' endeavors has become an important aspect of the life of the meeting this year.

Adult Friends have also taken up new forms of activity within the meeting community and in service to the larger community as well. The meeting joined Faith in Action in Indiana this year. Friends are actively involved in leadership in our county chapter, and many Friends have attended events supporting social justice initiatives consistent with Friends' testimonies. Within meeting, the Fellowship, Study, and Outreach Committee organized a bimonthly Quaker 101 group, which met mid-week last fall to provide an introduction to Quakerism focused around Philip Gulley's *Living the Quaker Way*. A second, ongoing adult study group called Quaker Conversations formed last spring to practice a contemplative form of dialogue based on the vocal ministry practice of "speaking out of silence." Texts used have been Gorman's *The Amazing Fact of Quaker Worship* and Neil Douglas-Klotz's *The Hidden Gospel*. Friends have also begun a practice of singing once a month prior to Meeting for Worship. Following the rise of meeting, Friends have appreciated weekly provision of coffee that two Friends have taken up as a service to the meeting. Their action has inspired an increase in participation in providing post-meeting snacks as well. We find we are more able to linger in conversation following meeting when we are not so urgently called to lunch. The meeting continued its practice of holding monthly potlucks following meeting. The meeting also convened a worship sharing, a practice we had not used in some years, to celebrate Jason Shenk's ministry on the occasion of his laying down the ministry. The meeting's first retreat in some years, held in October jointly with Duneland Meeting, rounded out our year's activities supporting the life of the Spirit among Friends.

The volume of activity has at times challenged our capacity to carry out the functions of meeting, but we have been clear that our activities have arisen authentically out of leadings and concerns for the quality of our shared life together. We look forward to finding ways in the coming year to continue to act as Friends in the world while cultivating simplicity and inward peace.

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN FRIENDS MEETING

This year our meeting's unity and vitality have been enhanced by widespread committed participation in Meetings for Worship and Meetings for Business, by service on formal Committees of Care and informal care networks, and by joining together in workshops, presentations, and discussion series. Our well-attended Meetings for Worship

may offer deeply gathered silent worship, or a feast of powerful ministry, sometimes in the form of a poem or a song. After worship we remain together to share joys and concerns, hear excited reports from First Day School, and hear many announcements—often about events that connect us to the wider community.

We are grateful for an especially active Committee on Adult Religious Education whose programming has helped us to explore the roots of our Quaker beliefs and ponder how these can be made visible. We heard five compelling talks from friends who sought conscientious objector status in conflicts from World War II to Afghanistan. These demonstrated the courage demanded by this paradigmatic Quaker action. In the fall, Marcia Nelson, clerk of ILYM, led an invaluable five-hour workshop on Quaker decision-making; our inclusive and spirited discussion continues to provoke reflection. We followed up in the winter with a worship sharing on the topic and a down-to-earth question and answer session. Participants offered many practical suggestions for strengthening our day-to-day processes to achieve unified and transparent decisions. Many of us are participating in an ongoing Exploring Quakerism series, using a curriculum by Marsha Holliday, a Friends General Conference publication. Sessions explore one aspect of Quakerism through a two page handout followed by worship sharing. Reflecting together on our faith and practice throughout the year has deepened our meeting's unity and purpose.

We have also grown closer by providing abundant care for friends in need—both formally and informally. Appointed Committees of Care are offering ongoing support to friends managing chronic diseases, recovering from addiction, or needing help with the activities of daily life. Informal networks of care, organized by friends or family, have given rides to meeting or to medical appointments and provided plentiful food and welcome companionship to folks suffering from pain or disease. We arranged a Meeting for Worship with a concern for healing for one member as his health declined. Daily visits sustained another member as he struggled with severe pain and difficult surgeries. We grew closer to each other and to those we visited in their last months and were sustained and inspired by their cheerful courage. We had the grief and joy of hosting a Memorial Meeting that celebrated the life of Don Chenoweth, a long-standing and active member, and we look forward to one for Charlie Haines, a more recent and welcome addition to our meeting.

We continue to enjoy socializing at our annual events: the Thanksgiving potluck whose move to Saturday garnered increased participation and the festive Holiday potluck. We are especially grateful to Peter Lasersohn whose presentation on his recently published *Two Hundred Years of Blue River Quarterly Meeting* helped to generate a larger group than usual at the September meeting of Blue River Quarterly. This was a special anniversary celebration at the historic Blue River Meeting House which is more than 200 years old, the oldest in Indiana.

Although our Meeting has thrived this year, we continue to seek solutions to perennial issues. We have an active First Day School, with a paid teacher and 5-8 children attending weekly. But we have not yet figured out how to provide needed volunteers to sustain an ongoing curriculum that meets the needs of small contingents of preschoolers, grade schoolers, tweens, and teens. And, at this time of the year when the Nominating Committee works to create next year's slate of Officers and Committees, it is always a struggle to find enough volunteers.

Since COVID-19 closed our meetinghouse, we still care for and support each other with phone calls, food drops, and park meet-ups. We Zoom Meeting for Worship, First Day School, midweek check-in, committee and business meetings. A Virtual Stone Soup Fundraiser and talent show with matching donors was instituted to benefit our community's most vulnerable. In these ways, we continue to sustain and revitalize ourselves.

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 2019) 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.

FALL CONTINUING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tenth Month 12, 2019

ILYM Meetinghouse, McNabb, Illinois

Attending: Dick Ashdown, Wil Brant, Barbara Burke, Beth Carpenter, Mike Dennis, Janice Domanik, Kay Drake, Dale Gardner, Liam Gardner, Chris Goode, Chris Jocius (Reading Clerk), Pam Kuhn, Ted Kuhn, Peter Lasersohn, Alex Lippitt, Mark McGinnis, Grayce Mesner, Neil Mesner, Fariba Murray, Marcia Nelson (Presiding Clerk), Noel Pavlovic, Sarah Pavlovic (Recording Clerk), Phyllis Reynolds, Bridget Rorem, Chip Rorem, David Shiner, Haskell Swygert, Nancy Wallace, Sean West, David Wixom

Minute 01 The Fall 2019 Continuing Committee of Illinois Yearly Meeting (ILYM) opened with centering worship.

Minute 02 Clerk Marcia Nelson welcomed those in attendance and introduced at the clerk's table Sarah Pavlovic, recording clerk, and Chris Jocius, reading clerk. Marcia reminded everyone to speak loudly and clearly. She thanked Clear Creek Meeting for hosting the meeting and both Clear Creek and Bloomington-Normal meetings for providing lunch.

Minute 03 Clerk Marcia Nelson announced with sadness the death of long-time ILYM Friend Pat Lucas on July 30th of this year. Her memorial service was held on August 11th in Madison, Wisconsin. Many ILYM attenders remember Pat for her years of service to ILYM. Her marriage to Sandra Huntley in March 1989 was the first same-gender marriage under the care of a monthly meeting of ILYM.

Minute 04 Clerk Marcia Nelson reviewed the agenda for the day.

Minute 05 Ted Kuhn presented the Treasurer's Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, in the absence of co-treasurers Dawn Crimson and Val Lester, including the Statement of Financial Position/Balance Sheet, ILYM Statement of Fund Activity, ILYM Monthly Meeting Contributions, and ILYM Operating Budget.

In 2018-19, ILYM increased net assets by \$17,443. The treasurers were able to transfer an operating surplus of \$5,740 to the Special Gifts Fund, primarily from monthly meeting and individual contributions which were both ahead of budget and dividends from Friends Fiduciary investments. The treasurers thank meetings and individuals for their generosity.

Expenses came in about at budget. However, Annual Sessions fees did not cover expenses again this year. Personnel expenses came in below budget due to frugal staff travel and office spending. Site expenses also came in slightly below budget despite some surprises handled by the Stewards and the Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Committee, thanks to insurance and funding from the Maintenance Reserve. Committee spending was comparable to a year ago.

The suggested amount for monthly meeting contributions for this fiscal year is \$255 per adult resident member, up 2% to reflect ILYM's increased need for support and is consistent with staff pay increases.

In their written report, co-treasurers Dawn Crimson and Valerie Lester thanked past co-treasurer Judy Erickson for her faithful service in transitioning ILYM to its new accounting system in addition to other day to day duties. Report accepted.

Minute 06 Ted Kuhn reported for the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee thanks meetings and individuals for their financial support, noting the strong financial

position for the past year in spite of several unexpected site expenses. Finance Committee will be working with Publications Committee and the Committee on Faith and Practice on the process for the publication of the ILYM Faith and Practice (working title), which is expected to happen this fiscal year. The funding will depend on how many copies we print and how they will be distributed. Some of the funding may come out of the special gifts fund. The committee welcomes suggestions on how to communicate financial information.

The committee will be looking at a “pay as you are led” system used by a few other yearly meetings to see if it makes sense to recommend for ILYM Annual Sessions. They expect to bring a more detailed report to Spring Continuing Committee for seasoning ahead of the 2020 Annual Sessions. Report accepted.

Minute 07 Alex Lippett presented the report of the Development Committee. Individual contributions in 2018-19 were ahead of budget and showed an increase over the previous year at \$39,483. The committee is focusing on expanding the number of individuals who contribute, as well as the number of people who contribute monthly with automatic deductions. There are currently six automatic deduction enrollees, up from two last year at this time. The committee seeks guidance from Continuing Committee as to how they can support ILYM projects by communications and/or fundraising. The committee is planning to put out an updated version of “Giving to Illinois Yearly Meeting,” primarily on the website, with the ability to print out the website information as a paper document as needed. The draft annual appeal letter was shared for all to review. Comments would be appreciated within the next two weeks. Report accepted.

Minute 08 Sean West reported for the Publications Committee. Today, meetings will receive copies of the 2019 Minute Book, the 2019-20 ILYM Directory, and the 2019 Plummer Lecture by Gwen Weaver. The Publications Committee is considering a new format for Among Friends in which articles would be published individually online, and then compiled into a “best of” collection to be printed. The Publications Committee is working with the Finance and Faith and Practice committees regarding the printing of ILYM’s Faith and Practice.

Updating the website is pretty much done, with some conversion of older documents remaining to be completed. Updates to content on the website can be made by contacting Wil Brant or Sean West. Report accepted.

Minute 09 Dale Gardner reported that the Children’s Religious Education (CRE) Committee continues its search for a Children’s Religious Education Coordinator. No one has applied, but one person has expressed interest and had a conversation with the committee clerk.

The ILYM Children’s Sessions in June 2019 went well, and plans for 2020 Annual Sessions are underway. The committee thanks former CRE Coordinator Joy Duncan for her leadership and for giving of her gifts, time, and labor for the children and families of the yearly meeting.

The CRE Committee has been addressing an issue regarding compensation for the CRE Coordinator—whether compensation was to be based on successful completion of work, or whether it was linked to hours worked and reported. They have worked with Personnel Committee on this, and agree with the recommendations of the Personnel Committee.

Robyn Sullivan will be leading another “Our Whole Lives (OWL)” retreat for middle school and high school age youth November 9-11, 2019 at Evanston Meeting House. The

Clerk of CRE and Robyn will be using an improved hours-time-keeping system mostly focused on keeping track of any overtime, but pay will be tied to the job of preparing for and leading the retreat. Report accepted.

Minute 10 The Personnel Committee report was presented by Nancy Wallace. At the 2019 Annual Sessions the Safe Congregation Policy, the Employee Manual, and the Conflict of Interest Policy were approved with a few amendments. The final versions have been submitted to the Administrative Coordinator to be uploaded to the ILYM site.

ILYM has added employees about one every several years. Two issues regarding compensation have arisen recently. The first is what employees are paid for having done, that is, whether they are to be paid for the number of hours worked, or on the basis of completing their work. The second concerns the amount of compensation.

During Fiscal Year 2019, employees were asked to keep track of their hours worked, reporting them on time sheets; however, there was confusion as to whether they were to be paid according to the time sheets or on the basis of completion of their job. Personnel Committee recommended that for the foreseeable future ILYM employees be paid for completing their jobs rather than for the hours indicated on their timesheets, although they will still be required to fill out timesheets. The Committee of Oversight for each employee will be responsible for monitoring that the job has been completed in relationship to the job description. If so, the employee will receive the budgeted amount even if they worked fewer hours than were budgeted for the job. If an employee's work is deemed by the Committee of Oversight to have been inadequate or incomplete, that employee will receive pay based on the number of hours worked rather than the budgeted amount. The Committee of Oversight will also be responsible for assuring that their employee does not work hours in excess of those budgeted without having received prior approval from the Finance Committee. The actual hours worked and recorded on the timesheets should influence future budgeted hours for these positions. The committee also recommended that ILYM explore instituting standardized timesheets that can be linked to the payroll system but do not govern the hours for which employees are paid.

The second issue concerned the amount that ILYM employees are paid. Currently all employees are paid the same hourly rate without regard to their educational background or other qualifications. The hourly amount is a little over \$19 per hour. Attenders were asked to reflect on the following questions in light of the Testimony of Equality.

- Is it really equal to pay a high school graduate the same as someone with extensive professional experience?
- How are we led with respect to fairness in employee compensation, including both hourly compensation and benefits?
- What will we do in the case that we are unable for an extended period of time to fill a position?

A secular organization would probably handle this by raising the assigned salary for the position. Is that in the yearly meeting's interest, and consistent with our beliefs? If so, how would such a decision be made? If not, what other options should we consider?

Those in attendance noted that these and other short-term decisions we need to make as a yearly meeting are best grounded in a deep sense of our values and our long-term vision for our yearly meeting community. In the past, our envisioning processes have been the foundation of growth and forward movement regarding programming and site.

Those present were drawn by the issues raised toward putting together an envisioning process. Several possibilities for such a process were suggested, including Thursday

evening of 2020 Annual Sessions which has not yet been planned. We should anticipate that this could be a long process, requiring multiple sessions. In the past we have benefited from a dedicated envisioning session, something like a retreat. Perhaps a committee could be helpful in organizing and structuring such a session. ILYM committees could spend time in committee-level discernment ahead of Spring Continuing Committee 2020. Attenders will discuss these ideas over lunch today. Report accepted.

Minute 11 Liam Gardner, Youth Coordinator, reported for the Youth Oversight Committee. A total of 15 High School Friends attended the Annual Sessions in June 2019. Activities included playing games with the younger children, tie-dyeing t-shirts, building Leopold benches for the ILYM campus, and filling backpacks with toiletries and school supplies for runaway teens. High School Friends and Adult Young Friends enjoyed a hike at Starved Rock State Park. High School Friends also joined Junior High School Friends at the campfire, walked to the graveyard, and played Wink. At their business meeting they planned future Quakes and approved Jasmine Dennis as a co-clerk for the coming year, to replace Kiva Schobernd whose term had expired.

Four ILYM High School Friends attended the Friends General Conference (FGC) Gathering in July 2019 in Grinnell, Iowa. Liam served as one of the High School Counselors. Camille Roberts from Evanston Meeting was approved by the FGC teens to be one of the clerks for the FGC Gathering High School Program for 2020. ILYM High School Friends are very proud of her.

The Fall Quake was held September 27-29, 2019 at Camp Pyoca near Brownstown, Indiana, in conjunction with Blue River Quarterly's 200th anniversary celebration. They climbed a rock-climbing wall and attended a workshop about Quaker dispute resolution.

On November 9-11, 2019 an OWL (Our Whole Lives) retreat will be led by Robyn Sullivan at Evanston Friends Meeting. There will be a webinar for adults on October 20. More information is available on the ILYM website.

The Quake That Rocked the Midwest will be held at Evanston Friends Meeting over the long Martin Luther King Jr. Day weekend, January 17-21, 2020. Michael Dennis and Liam Gardner are collaborating again with Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting and Scattergood Friends School to plan the retreat, and Northern Yearly Meeting and Lake Erie Yearly Meeting teens will be invited. The Quake will be having its twentieth year anniversary and a celebration is being planned to honor this milestone. Report accepted.

Minute 12 Peter Lasersohn reported for the Committee on Faith and Practice that the committee has met twice since Annual Sessions. Their focus has been final editing, including considering edits from three Friends outside the committee. When the editing process is completed in one or two more meetings, the text will be turned over to the Publications and Distribution Committee for preparation of proofs. After a subsequent round of proofreading, the book should be ready for printing. If all goes smoothly the book should be ready by summer of 2020. Report accepted.

Minute 13 Chip Rorem reported that all our Stewards were present in the room. The Stewards continue in service to the yearly meeting, including assisting the Maintenance, Planning, and Envisioning Committee in completing their work list and acting as liaison to our insurer, Church Mutual, for ILYM events that are off site. This process is working well, as has the process for reimbursement in the case of insurance claims. Chip will inquire and report back about appropriate insurance for Blue River Quarterly events. Report accepted.

Minute 14 Dick Ashdown reported \$2,000 wind damage to the doors of the machine shed that has been rented out for storage. He asked for guidance as to who should be

responsible for the cost of repairs. Those present agreed that this should be ILYM's responsibility. Chip Rorem will check on the insurance coverage.

Minute 15 Chris Goode presented the report of the Maintenance, Planning, and Envisioning Committee. They decided not to have a fall work day in 2019 due to other ILYM events. Chris will work with Dean Tieman to contract out some of the needed maintenance work before winter sets in.

The meetinghouse painting is maybe three-fourths complete at this time. About 60% of what we owe the painters is paid out. There is much painting and repair work that needs to be done at the campground. The committee will be asking for prices from the meetinghouse painting contractor for painting the bunkhouse and Fox Hole, and completing the bathhouse painting.

Chris Goode has met with Dick Ashdown for a walk-around regarding winterizing the meetinghouse and bathhouse and updating the maintenance list. Chip Rorem will schedule a meeting this fall with an engineer to examine the bunkhouse structure and foundation to see if it needs improvement to prevent settling.

The committee will be reviewing the Campus Assets Management Plan in an effort to make it work to anticipate possible upcoming maintenance and/or replacement needs.

The committee will also be updating the 2012 Campus Plan, with special attention to the western end of the campus. Friends are encouraged to view the plan drawing and narrative online. There may be a workshop next summer about the campus plan.

Regarding the proposed Clear Creek House Accessible Bedroom-Bathroom Addition, the committee has rough estimates that indicate the cost for renovating the garage into two large bedrooms and three bathrooms with laundry closet and new septic field might be around \$125,000. Before proceeding further, the committee is spending this year listening to the yearly meeting to make sure that there is a will to proceed. They would like everyone to approach a Steward or member of the committee and let them know what you think about this potential project. They hope to have a better sense of this to report at next Annual Sessions and perhaps a workshop to discuss this further.

Chris reported that Kevin Brubaker suggests we wait until January to look for a green electrical provider with whom ILYM and Clear Creek could contract instead of Ameren. Report accepted.

Minute 16 Field Secretary Judy Wolicki was not able to be with us this day due to illness. In her written report, she continued to urge us to ask ourselves what brings us joy. She reported her observation that Friends, separately and together, are working on challenging issues: advocacy and care for the earth; racial injustice, white supremacy, "black lives matter", microaggressions and macroaggressions against people of color; advocacy support and care for immigrants; advocacy for prison reform; advocacy to change systemic causes of poverty and homelessness; advocacy for Native Peoples. This year she was able to attend the Secretaries and Superintendents Retreat in Colorado to connect with and learn from Friends from other yearly meetings and wider Quaker organizations. She continues to travel widely among ILYM monthly meetings and gatherings. Finally, Judy encourages us all to connect with one another.

The High School Friends thank Judy for conducting an engaging workshop at the September Blue River Quarterly about Quaker dispute resolution, complete with examples and role play.

We hold Judy in the Light and pray for her good health. Report accepted.

Minute 17 Phyllis Reynolds reported for the Ministry and Advancement (M & A) Committee. The committee met at BRQ at Camp Pyoca at the end of September.

“Pay as led” is used by New England and Intermountain yearly meetings for their annual sessions. Phyllis distributed copies of a Friends Journal article about the practice. New York Yearly Meeting is also implementing “pay as led” this year. The Ministry and Advancement Committee invites all meetings to familiarize themselves with the concept, as M&A expects to bring a recommendation regarding this practice to Annual Sessions in June 2020.

Finance Committee invites Ministry and Advancement to join their committee meeting in January to consider possible financial implications. Report accepted.

Minute 18 Noel Pavlovic reported for the Environmental Concerns Committee. Sandy Huntley has offered to pay for two trees to be planted on the yearly meeting campus in memory of Pat Lucas who passed away in July. The committee is considering the location and species for memorial trees and for shade trees along the east-west walkway between Clear Creek House and the ILYM Meetinghouse. They continue to investigate proper disposal of chemicals in the barn that have been there since the purchase of the property 10 years ago. Plans for Annual Sessions in 2020 include a bike ride or nature walk at a nearby natural area and a possible workshop about climate change and species collapse. The Osage orange trees along the west end of the property have been trimmed, and the eastern red cedars that were planted between them have survived. Report accepted.

Minute 19 Bridget Rorem reported for Nominating Committee. They have not been able to find a nominee for Assistant Clerk. There are committee positions that need to be filled as well. The committee requests everyone to ask attenders of their monthly meetings to consider what service they might be led to undertake for the yearly meeting. If anyone knows of people with gifts to offer the yearly meeting, please make them known to the Nominating Committee. Report accepted.

Minute 20 Marcia Nelson brought forward the name of Kate Gunnell for Naming Committee. Approved.

Minute 21 Continuing Committee approved Marcia Nelson moving forward to find a second person for the Naming Committee without further approval. Approved.

Minute 22 Continuing Committee heard progress reports from Annual Sessions Planning Groups.

South Chicago has most food coordinator positions filled and Zach Schobernd is returning to cook.

Chicago North reported that the 2020 Theme will be: “How do we walk cheerfully over the earth answering that of God in others and ourselves?” Steve Angell will speak on Wednesday night. The Saturday night speaker will be Benigno Sanchez-Eppler. The Plummer Lecture will be given by David Shiner and Nancy Wallace.

BRQ reported that Coordinator positions are filled for site prep.

Reports accepted.

Minute 23 Pam Kuhn reported that the Handbook Committee has been updating the committee section of the Handbook in a more standard format. The Handbook will also include updated committee descriptions and other changes approved at annual sessions as well as a new, approved Conflict of Interest policy.

Nancy Wallace of the Personnel Committee clarified that the Conflict of Interest Policy and accompanying form applies to those who sign contracts or direct funds to

others. This would be clerks of committees, stewards, and others in positions of leadership. One possibility is for each committee to review the policy and sign off as a committee, as is done in FGC committees. Individuals or committees would also be expected to report any unforeseen conflict that might arise after filling out the form. The Handbook Committee will draft a paragraph for the Handbook regarding how this form is to be used within ILYM, to be brought to Spring Continuing Committee for seasoning. Report accepted.

Minute 24 Continuing Committee resumed contemplation of long-term visioning for the yearly meeting. After reflection, Friends agreed that a small group consisting of Mike Dennis, Chris Goode, Pam Kuhn, Ted Kuhn, Marcia Nelson, Phyllis Reynolds, David Shiner, and Nancy Wallace will develop and share a query for committees and monthly meetings to consider. The query would be along the lines of “What do you see as the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats that ILYM faces over the next 5, 10, or 20 years?”

Chicago North planning group will hold Thursday evening at the 2020 Annual Sessions for continuing consideration of this issue. Approved.

Minute 25 Spring Continuing Committee will tentatively be held Saturday, March 7, 2020 at Downers Grove Friends Meeting. Watch for confirmation after Downers Grove has considered this request.

Minute 26 The Continuing Committee extends heartfelt gratitude to Clear Creek Friends for hosting the meeting, and to both Clear Creek and Bloomington-Normal Friends for providing lunch.

Minute 27 These minutes from the Continuing Committee meeting were read back to those in attendance and approved .

Minute 28 Continuing Committee closed with centering worship.

SPRING CONTINUING COMMITTEE

Third Month 7, 2020,

Downers Grove Meetinghouse, Downers Grove, Illinois

In attendance: Andrea Anderson, Wil Brant, Beth Burbank, Steven David Flowers, Dale Gardner, Liam Gardner, Cathy Garra (assistant presiding clerk for this meeting), Chris Goode, Kate Gunnell, Pam Kuhn, Ted Kuhn, Brad Laird, Alex Lippitt, John Lloyd, Mark McGinnis, Jan Mullen, Marcia Nelson (presiding clerk), John Park, Sunny Park, Noel Pavlovic, Sarah Pavlovic (recording clerk), Phyllis Reynolds, Laurie Rippe, Chip Rorem, Bridget Rorem, Haskell Swygert, Monica Tetzlaff, Bobbi Trist, Richard Utman, Pam Wolfe, Judy Wolicki

Minute 01 The Spring 2020 Continuing Committee of Illinois Yearly Meeting (ILYM) opened with centering worship. We were asked to pray for healing love and strength for those not with us who are dealing with illness or debility. Presiding clerk Marcia Nelson welcomed those in attendance and introduced at the clerk’s table Cathy Garra (proposed assistant clerk for this meeting), and Sarah Pavlovic (recording clerk). Newcomers to Continuing Committee introduced themselves. Thanks were extended to Downers Grove Meeting for hosting the meeting and providing food, including “just” tamales provided by a local business. We were reminded to identify ourselves before we speak, and to speak once to a concern. Marcia Nelson also announced a faculty opening at the Earlham School of Religion in Richmond, Indiana. Friends approved Cathy Garra to act as assistant clerk for this meeting.

Minute 02 The agenda was approved as presented.

Minute 03 Bridget Rorem presented the Nominating Committee report. The Nominating Committee is still seeking someone to serve as assistant Clerk through the 2020 sessions, and also someone to take on the Assistant Clerk/Clerk position for the following four years.

The committee asked that the Meeting approve the following appointments to committees and other organizations:

For Ministry & Advancement Committee: Bruce Kanarek, to serve a term through 2021 sessions, beginning immediately; Mark McGinnis and Heather Evert for 3-year terms (2023); Judy Wolicki for a 1-year term (2021)

For Children’s Religious Education Committee: Jason Shenk and Bobbi Trist for 3-year terms (2023)

For Development Committee: Frank Young (2021) as clerk; Alex Lippitt and Dale Gardner for 3-year terms (2023)

Environmental Concerns Committee: Nancy Halliday and David Wixom for 3-year terms (2023)

For Finance Committee: Kevin Brubaker for a 3-year term (2023); Maggie Wanner for a 1-year term (2021)

For Maintenance, Planning, & Envisioning: Casey Kashnig, Noel Pavlovic, Carol Bartles, and Marie White for 3-year terms (2023); Bill Howenstine for a 2-year term (2022)

For FCNL: David Wixom, Dale Gardner, and Garnet Fay for 3-year terms.

For liaison to Scattergood School: Alex Lippitt, for a 3-year term (2023)

For Stewards: Grayce Mesner and Neil Mesner for 6-year terms (2026)

For FWCC: David Shiner for a 3-year term (2023)

Approved. Report accepted.

Minute 04 Ted Kuhn gave the Treasurers’ Report, in the absence of our treasurers. The treasurers had prepared an income statement, itemizing the yearly meeting’s revenue and expenses to date (as of February 10, 2020). The finances are generally in good shape. Contributions are a bit lower than at this time last year, but this is not a great concern at this point. Report accepted.

Minute 05 Ted Kuhn reported for the Finance Committee. Finance Committee reported on a method for managing and tracking funds invested with Friends Fiduciary Fund (FF). Funds will be split between the property improvement fund (PIF) investment and other funds’ investments because the PIF is restricted by the donors. Other FF investments will be grouped together for simplicity. Interest will therefore be split between the PIF and operating budget, and unrealized gains/losses will be split between the PIF and special gifts funds. Finance Committee will monitor the balance in each designated fund, and may bring minutes to future Annual Sessions recommending a transfer between designated funds. This minimizes the difficulty for the treasurers while providing a clear picture of the yearly meeting’s finances. This accounting is already reflected in the Treasurer’s Report distributed at this Continuing Committee.

Minute 06 Finance Committee reported that they are in unity with a proposal to use ‘pay as led’ annual session registration fees. They recommend that the registration form for Annual Sessions show several amounts—the “direct cost” per person for Annual Sessions (i.e. food, speakers, tent rental) as well as a larger amount that incorporates

some of the site and personnel expenses. Based on this information, each attendee when registering would determine how much they are able to pay.

The committee cited a number of advantages to ‘pay as led.’ It eliminates any inability to attend Annual Sessions for financial reasons, though likely shifting some costs from monthly meetings to the yearly meeting. It allows us to recognize that a significant portion of site expenses and personnel wages are in fact supporting annual sessions. We can more easily vary the listed costs of Annual Sessions if we have more expensive speakers or other unusual costs.

Some of the unknown consequences are how ‘pay as led’ will affect budgeted contributions from monthly meetings and whether it will affect individual donations. The Finance Committee is clear to move forward if the Meeting approves.

Those present shared ideas regarding the financial implications of the proposal, implications for the timetable for preparation, the importance of language, and a shared sense that Illinois Yearly Meeting be welcoming to all, no matter their financial situation. Continuing Committee agreed to adopt a ‘pay as led’ philosophy for Annual Sessions this year, with monthly meetings making an effort to let everyone know of their resources for financial support. The Administrative Coordinator, co-treasurers, and Finance Committee are to confer on implementation of details. The Yearly Meeting will re-evaluate the process after Annual Sessions.

Minute 07 Finance Committee recommended that the cost of printing ILYM’s Faith and Practice be taken first from the reserve set up several years ago, and then from the Special Gifts fund. The committee expects this will be about \$3,000 in total including \$2500 from Special Gifts. Approved.

Minute 08 Continuing Committee accepted the Finance Committee report.

Minute 09 Alex Lippitt gave the Development Committee report. The 2019-2020 annual appeal for unrestricted annual giving has yielded \$22,152 through January 31, 2020 from 37 families and individuals, less than unrestricted giving at this time in 2018–2019 which was \$28,480 from 41 families, with a long way to go toward the 2019–2020 goal of \$35,700. The reasons for the decrease in dollars and donors are not clear, and the Development Committee would welcome input.

The Development Committee proposes to encourage visibility and opportunities for everyone to support ILYM, whether financially or in other ways. Regarding the availability of ILYM directories, the Administrative Coordinator clarified that monthly meetings may request as many copies as they need. Regarding questions of the sharing of financial information, the committee will review the guidance regarding confidentiality in the ILYM Handbook and communicate with the treasurers regarding what information is shared with them.

The Development Committee shared a draft pamphlet, asking that everyone review the pamphlet and send comments to the Development Committee in the next two weeks. They plan to update the website for “Supporting ILYM” with this preferred language, to better fit their content to a web format, to have the content be printable in a user-friendly format, and to replace contact email addresses with boxes where people can enter text that would then be directed to the appropriate contact.

Effectively deferred until 2020–2021 are 1) appointing Development Committee regional representatives and 2) consolidating/developing a set of giving guidelines that balance transparency with confidentiality. Continuing Committee approved Development Committee proceeding with updating the website. Report accepted.

Minute 10 Monica Tetzlaff gave the Children’s Religious Education Committee report. The committee has not filled the Children’s Religious Education Coordinator Position, but the Children’s Religious Education Committee (CRE) is pleased to announce that Charlotta Koppanyi has agreed to coordinate Children’s Sessions at ILYM in June 2020. The clerk of CRE and Charlotta are working out the details. The yearly meeting will pay Charlotta out of the salary set aside for the Religious Education Coordinator.

Robyn Sullivan coordinated an OWL (Our Whole Lives) retreat November 9-11, 2019 at Evanston Friends Meetinghouse. Nine Quaker youth, three Quaker facilitators and one Quaker chaperone studied five topics such as Healthy Relationships and Sexual Decision Making. Robyn will not be able to coordinate an OWL retreat in the future, although she is willing to be a facilitator, along with others. The retreat went well, but it was evident that without a Children’s Religious Education Coordinator, there was less participation by middle schoolers.

The Committee has begun Children’s Sessions planning, but still has a few unconfirmed teacher spots. There are three groups for the morning religious education: K-2, grades 3-5, and middle school (6th-8th grade). The committee members emphasize that they have curriculum, supplies, and advice on lessons based around the theme “How do we walk cheerfully over the earth?” for anyone interested in helping with teaching. Report accepted.

Minute 11 Youth Coordinator Liam Gardner gave the Youth Oversight Committee report. Liam has been logging his hours, and the committee does not anticipate him going over 500 hours this year. Liam has agreed to continue in the position of ILYM Youth Coordinator during the coming year.

The OWL (Our Whole Lives) Retreat was held at Evanston Meeting over Veteran’s Day weekend, from Saturday, November 9, to Monday, November 11, 2019. The teens participated in workshops that taught them healthy relationship skills, gender roles, and how to make responsible sexual decisions with a partner. They bathed and swam at the local YMCA, slept on the meetinghouse floor, and prepared meals in small groups. They went to a trampoline park and had a movie night on Sunday. In spite of plumbing issues at the meetinghouse on Sunday, everyone had a very good time at the retreat, and the participants are very grateful to the people of Evanston Meeting and their neighbors for letting them use their facilities.

High School Friends (HSF) were again grateful for Evanston Meeting’s facilities during the Quake that Rocked the Midwest held January 17-20, 2020. Seventeen teens were present that weekend, and including teens from Scattergood Friends School, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, Illinois Yearly Meeting and Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. On Saturday, the teens participated in a Kingian Nonviolence workshop, where they learned how to peacefully intervene in conflicts, and learned about how other people have changed their society by peacefully protesting. The teens on Sunday attended meeting for worship and helped prepare the monthly Evanston pancake breakfast. On Monday, they participated in the Evanston Interfaith Action group’s Walk for Warmth to raise money and awareness for the homeless in Evanston. The Quake also included time for art, relaxing, games.

ILYM High School Friends have decided to hold their next retreat at Urbana-Champaign Friends Meeting on the weekend of April 24-26, 2020. They discussed fundraising ideas to raise money for going to the FGC Gathering, and they nominated Mars Harroun to fill the newly established role of Nurturing Clerk. Future events include the following:

Spring Tremor (April 24-26, 2020): The Spring Tremor will be held at Urbana-Champaign Friends Meeting. They will volunteer at a nearby Food Bank, among other activities. High School Friends typically invite graduating 8th graders to join this event, to prepare them for moving on to the high school program. If desired, they may also request a clearness committee before officially joining the high school program in the summer.

ILYM Site Prep & Mural Painting (June 13-17, 2020): The HSF agreed to paint a mural in the high school bunkhouse during Site Prep instead of during a normal Quake to allow them more time to paint, as well as give them more time to spend together during Annual Sessions.

ILYM Annual Sessions (June 17-21, 2020): At ILYM Annual Sessions, the HSF will participate in activities they decided on in previous meetings for business, including a service project, an out-trip, and two or three workshops. They will also attend ILYM-wide workshops and other activities as well.

FGC Gathering (June 28-July 4, 2020): ILYM Friend Camille Roberts will be clerking for the High School program, so high school Friends encourage ILYM teen participation so as to make Camille feel as supported as possible during the event.

Report accepted.

Minute 12 Alex Lippitt reported as ILYM representative to Scattergood School. A challenge at Scattergood School is attracting Quaker students. A generous tuition discount is being offered for Quaker students, and we are asked to share that information.

Minute 13 Judy Wolicki presented her report as ILYM's Field Secretary. She is sorry to have missed out on a lot of visiting the past few months due to illness. Judy is completing her term as Field Secretary in the next few months. She shared that her goal is to squeeze as much joy as possible out of her upcoming visits.

Several of Judy's visits to meetings since Continuing Committee have been for the purpose of attending or facilitating discussions around the ILYM visioning queries, and she has heard some wonderful ideas. One such suggestion is to have a poster advertising "What is ILYM? Where are ILYM's Meetings (showing locations)? What is the work of ILYM? Perhaps this poster could be entitled "This is OUR Yearly Meeting."

In contemplating ending her term of service, Judy has been reflecting on what ILYM might need from a new Field Secretary. She asks what prevents those who are older people from envisioning and planning for meetings as younger people would. How can we envision a yearly meeting where no matter our age, we are envisioning and planning for the future? She has seen many young people at meetings during her visits! How can we engage and encourage them?

In her written report Judy commented, "It continues to be such an honor to serve you, my Friends. I hope, as always, that I can do more and better work as your Field Secretary in the coming months. Please let me know your thoughts, ideas, and concerns, and how I can serve you and your meetings."

With much gratitude and a few tears, the Field Secretary Report was accepted.

Minute 14 Phyllis Reynolds gave the report of the Ministry and Advancement Committee. Judy Wolicki's role as Field Secretary of Illinois Yearly Meeting ends with 2020 Annual Sessions. She has gifted us with nine years of service and pastoral care of ourselves, our own meetings, as well as Illinois Yearly Meeting as a whole.

The committee has shared some of their considerations regarding the qualifications they seek in a person led to be the next Field Secretary, including descriptions of the

work of the Field Secretary from the ILYM Faith and Practice and Handbook. The committee has written and distributed within ILYM a letter to ask for applicants or for nominations for the position. If anyone recognizes someone they think might be a good fit, for the position, please talk to that person and encourage them to consider applying. It was suggested that a larger pool of candidates might be reached through advertising in Friends Journal or through the Earlham School of Religion.

Questions, concerns and nominations for this position should be referred to the Clerk of the Ministry and Advancement Committee, Phyllis Reynolds. The committee asks that nominations be submitted by April 1. Candidates may apply with a letter of interest and resume by May 1. Applicants may submit materials through email. Report accepted.

Minute 15 Pam Kuhn gave the Personnel Committee report. The committee is currently in transition following the resignation of committee clerk Nancy Wallace.

The Committee reported the following recent accomplishments:

The Personnel Committee sent out the annual evaluations for the staff.

The committee helped with the Children's Religious Education Committee discernment regarding how to cover Annual Sessions 2020 given the lack of applicants for the open position.

They responded to the queries that came from Personnel Committee concerns that were brought to Fall CC.

They have moved forward the long-term storage issue that came up at 2019 Annual Sessions so that the ILYM Box system is now starting to go operational. Personnel Committee files have been uploaded to Box confidential folders. At their next meeting they will be discussing which files should be made available on the Personnel Committee shared folder which is available to everyone in ILYM who has access to Box.

Background checks are now a regular part of our First Day program. Youth Oversight has been completing them for all volunteers and staff working with our youths in programs like OWL and retreats.

The committee has started working on building a Personnel Committee Guidebook to help the current and future committees. It is different from the Employee Manual which is given to employees. Report accepted.

Minute 16 The Continuing Committee minutes our thanks to Nancy Wallace for all that she has done for the yearly meeting.

Minute 17 The Stewards report was given by Chip Rorem. The Stewards continue in service to the yearly meeting. In January, stewards joined the Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Committee for an all-day meeting at Clear Creek House. They began a discussion of the queries about the future of the yearly meeting and the possibility of engaging a caretaker.

Steward Emeritus Dick Ashdown and Clear Creek have paid to have a new thermostat put in Clear Creek House that allows Dick to be able to remotely operate the furnace temperature. A monthly internet charge involved will be paid by Clear Creek Meeting. Clear Creek will disconnect the internet service in April and have it hooked up at the meetinghouse for Annual Sessions.

In February, stewards met at Clear Creek House with Jamie Witte, account manager with ILYM's insurer, Church Mutual. This year is a renewal year for our policy. Jamie toured the campus, reviewed the terms of our current policy, and offered us some options to consider. She will be sending the stewards a proposal with those options enumerated. When asked about the consequences of an onsite caretaker in residence and/or renting

rooms to people not part of our religious community, Jamie said our current coverage is sufficient to protect us under those circumstances. Our policy cost would not increase were we to have a caretaker or to rent rooms or cabins. She asked that if we undertake either of these, we inform Church Mutual. Steward Chris Goode also had an informal conversation with a lawyer about renting our facilities to others. Her first reaction was that there should be few, if any, issues with renting our space to others; churches do this all the time. Chris will share any additional information that the lawyer has to offer.

The stewards also recommend that we become more diligent in making sure that yearly meeting events at other locations are covered under our insurance. Report accepted.

Minute 18 Steven Flowers and Beth Burbank made an announcement regarding a Quaker-oriented anti-racism training entitled “Understanding and Analyzing Systemic Racism” to be held May 28-30, 2020 at the Admiral at the Lake in Chicago. Early registration for ILYM members is open until March 31, after which it will open to Quakers nation-wide. Steven and Beth encouraged everyone to share this information, including with high schoolers. Thanks to fund-raising efforts, this workshop is available for only \$100 per person. More information and registration is available on the Northside Friends Meeting website.

Minute 19 Chris Goode gave the report of the Maintenance, Planning, and Envisioning Committee (MP&E). The committee, which includes the Stewards, met three times since Fall Continuing Committee. The committee discussed the Queries developed from Fall Continuing Committee and will forward the responses they developed to the yearly meeting Clerk as requested.

In late October, ILYM received a letter from a Quaker woman seeking a Caretaker position in our area. Given that this has been a topic of discussion within the yearly meeting for some time, MP&E chose to follow up on it. Chris Goode spoke with her on the phone in November and invited her to attend the committee meeting in January. She spent the afternoon on the ILYM campus with committee members and stewards, and they had a good discussion where she got a better sense of the campus and of our needs, and they got a better sense of her, her abilities, and her needs. She seems to MP&E committee members to be energetic and capable and loaded with many ideas about making better, more extensive use of our campus. Her references have been very positive.

The Maintenance, Planning, and Envisioning Committee believes strongly that a resident caretaker living on, or very near the site in McNabb, is essential for the care of our campus as we move into the future. They feel that this opportunity, which seemed to fall into our laps, is worth pursuing. The committee has some work to do yet; finding a place for her to live and looking at our resources and finances, including our mowing and maintenance figures to try to balance possible expenses with services to be received. The committee’s intention is to season this further this spring with the assistance of other yearly meeting committees and members, and to bring a recommendation for consideration to Annual Sessions. Committee members look forward to living and growing into a partnership with this Friend, and have invited her to our annual sessions so all can meet and get to know her.

Other issues, including updating the Campus Plan and the Campus Asset Management Plan, listening about the potential Accessible Bedroom/Bathroom Addition at Clear Creek House, and contracting with a sustainable electrical supplier are not forgotten, but have taken a back seat to these other tasks. We are in the middle of painting the exterior of the meetinghouse, and plan soon to set a Spring Workday in early May to do some smaller repair and maintenance projects. Report accepted.

Minute 20 Following Fall 2019 Continuing Committee, the ILYM community was invited to respond to queries exploring our hopes and concerns about the future of Illinois Yearly Meeting. The responses have been compiled by the presiding clerk, with some common themes identified. We were asked to talk today about the query responses and to come up with a plan for moving the work forward at Annual Sessions in June 2020. Individuals shared impressions of the conversations that happened in monthly meeting and committee sessions. Ted Kuhn recorded some main points from the discussion. A sense emerged of the necessity for Friends to state the many ways in which Illinois Yearly Meeting has value as a spiritual home, a physical place to house gatherings, and a historic place for Friends in Illinois.

On Thursday evening at Annual Sessions 2020, can we use our time together to come up with ways to share information about ILYM and make ourselves more welcoming via posters, outreach representatives, video, etc.? Can we plan ways to create more opportunities for shared worship and retreats to bring people together in the Spirit? Can this Thursday evening session incorporate elements of fun?

Representatives of the Chicago North program planning group offered to take these ideas and set up a structure for an intergenerational Thursday evening session to depict in media the ideas that have arisen.

Minute 21 Pam Kuhn gave the Handbook Committee report. The Handbook has a section called “Specific Practices and Policies.” The committee recommends that this section contain all of our official policies in order of when they were originally created. Additionally, the committee recommends that each policy or specific practice has an introduction explaining the purpose of the practice or policy where needed, a reference to the original minute where appropriate, and the committee, officers, or individual responsible for the policy’s creation, implementation, and for updating, if necessary. They asked for clarification on which committee or set of officers would have the responsibility to bring any changes to the policy.

The following shows the recommended committee responsibilities: Travel Policy – Finance Committee; Access to and Use of Contribution and Donor Information – Development Committee and Finance Committee; Harassment and Sexual Abuse Policy – Ministry & Advancement Committee; Conflict of Interest Policy – the Stewards; Safe Congregation Policy – the Stewards; Employee Manual – Personnel Committee; Records Retention – Publication and Distribution Committee. The Handbook Committee will be bringing more complete descriptions to Annual Sessions for action. Report accepted.

Minute 22 The presiding clerk called our attention to the report of the Publications and Distribution Committee. Among Friends is transitioning from printed issues to individual articles added to the ILYM.org website throughout the year, kind of like a blog. One yearly “Best of” volume will still be published in print like previous issues and distributed. The first set of articles has been submitted and will start rolling out to the web soon.

Plummer Lectures are up to date.

The committee continues to work with the Faith & Practice Committee in preparation of the ILYM Faith & Practice publication. Currently, typesetting, binding options, cover design, and the number of copies to be printed are being worked out. The committee is hopeful that the book will be available during the 2020 Annual Sessions.

Books of Faith and Practice will be distributed to monthly meetings at no cost until Fall 2020 Continuing Committee. At 2020 Annual Sessions each monthly meetings will get a box with an initial number of copies for them to distribute as they determine. Meetings can ask for additional copies as needed. After Fall 2020 Continuing

Committee, monthly meetings would pay printing costs for additional copies. Individuals will be able to purchase copies at Annual Sessions and copies may be available through the FGC bookstore. Report accepted.

Minute 23 Administrative Coordinator Wil Brant read the report from the Faith and Practice Committee. The hope and expectation of the committee is that the book will be published in time for yearly meeting this summer. Report accepted.

Minute 24 Noel Pavlovic presented the Environmental Concerns Committee (ECC) report. Shelley Tanenbaum, the executive director of Quaker Earthcare Witness, will be attending ILYM Annual Sessions. The committee will ask whether she would like to co-host workshop(s) with ECC and possibly meet with high school and/or Adult Young Friends.

The committee has decided to purchase a variety of oak and other tree species to plant along the south side of the east-west walkway between Clear Creek House and meetinghouse.

Work continues on the inventory of the chemicals in the west side of the barn. Report accepted.

Minute 25 Annual Session Planning Groups

Site Planning Group (Blue River Quarterly): The responsibilities associated with the site portion of planning for ILYM Annual Sessions have been assigned as follows: Overall Coordinators: Erin Taylor; Site Prep Coordinator: Barb Lawhorn; Site Prep Food Service: Heather Evert and Sharon Haworth; Purchasing Coordinator: Beth Carpenter; Housekeeping Coordinator: Margie Haworth-Davis; Cleanup Coordinator: Mike Dennis

In the coming weeks, they will begin to include notices in the Administrative Coordinator's announcements for volunteers for site prep, which will begin on Saturday, June 13.

Food Planning Group (Chicago South): Noel Pavlovic will check his records, but believes the coordinator positions are filled, with the possible exception of a recycling coordinator.

Program Planning Group (Chicago North): Virginia Schelbert is coordinating workshops. A link to workshop proposal forms will be available on the website soon. May 1st is the due date for returning the form to Virginia. Speakers and evening programs are planned, worship sharing will be coordinated by Jessica Easter, and Pam Kuhn will coordinate children's afternoon activities.

Reports accepted.

Minute 26 Continuing Committee extends our thanks to Downers Grove for hosting our gathering and for nourishing our bodies and spirits today.

Minute 27 These minutes were read back to the meeting at the time they were written and approved.

Minute 28 Spring 2020 Continuing Committee closed with worship and prayers for traveling mercies.

CALLED CONTINUING COMMITTEE

Fourth Month 4, 2020,

Held virtually via Zoom video conferencing

Attending: Wil Brant, Beth Burbank, Kent Busse, Beth Carpenter, Dawn Crimson, Janice Domanik, Heather Evert, Dale Gardner, Liam Gardner, Cathy Garra, Meredith George, Chris Goode, Sharon Haworth, Judy Jager, Bruce Kanarek, Pam Kuhn, Ted Kuhn, Brad Laird (Zoom host), Peter Lasersohn, Alex Lippitt, Mark McGinnis, Marcia Nelson (presiding clerk), Sarah Pavlovic (recording clerk), Noel Pavlovic, Peter Poshepny, Colleen Reardon, Phyllis Reynolds, Bridget Rorem, Chip Rorem, David Shiner, Erin Taylor, Gwen Weaver, Marie White, Judy Wolicki

Minute 01 Presiding clerk Marcia Nelson welcomed participants and gave basic instructions and guidelines regarding videoconference mechanics and etiquette. The purpose for the called Continuing Committee meeting was to discern potential changes to the annual sessions planned for June 17-21, 2020 in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Those present were asked to participate worshipfully in discerning whether to hold the annual sessions as scheduled in June; to reschedule to a later time in person; to adapt our annual sessions to an online form to be devised; or to cancel our annual sessions.

Minute 02 Continuing Committee united on the sense that the 2020 Annual Sessions scheduled for June 17-21 will not be conducted in person at that time.

Minute 03 Those present agreed to conduct an online version of an ILYM yearly meeting for worship and a business session with a simplified agenda of core business during the week of June 17-21, 2020.

Minute 04 Continuing Committee approved that committees or individuals may plan and propose other online elements such as children’s programming, workshops, worship-sharing, and speakers. An annual sessions Planning Coordinator Group was approved at last year’s annual sessions. This group—currently including planning group coordinators Noel Pavlovic, Erin Taylor, Janice Domanik and Ted Kuhn, plus Administrative Coordinator Wil Brant, Youth Coordinator Liam Gardner, the Children’s Religious Education Coordinator (position vacant), and Presiding Clerk Marcia Nelson (in the absence of an assistant clerk)—

is asked to coordinate proposed elements for the yearly meeting week. The program planning group, the Children’s Religious Education Committee, the Youth Oversight Committee, oversight committees for yearly meeting employees, and the Finance or Finance Review Committee would likely also have work to do in preparation.

Minute 05 Those in attendance agreed to take up at the virtual business session in June discernment about an in-person gathering for later in the year.

Minute 06 Minutes 1-5 were read and approved.

Minute 07 The called Continuing Committee closed with worship. Friends were asked to hold all the losses we are experiencing in healing Light. Let us lament these losses and take our needs to the Spirit who sustains us.

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING 2020-2021 APPOINTMENTS

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

STANDING COMMITTEES

Childrens Religious Education Committee

Clerk: Monica Tetzlaff
2021: Monica Tetzlaff, Robyn Sullivan
2022: Dale Gardner, Michael Pine
2023: Jason Shenk, Bobbi Trist

Development Committee

Clerk: Frank Young
2021: Marcy Harman, Frank Young
2022: Kay Drake
2023: Coco Colin, Dale Gardner, Alex Lippitt

Environmental Concerns Committee

Clerk: Noel Pavlovic
2021: Sarah Pavlovic, Noel Pavlovic, Chris Goode, Fariba Murray
2022: Alice Howenstine, Bill Howenstine
2023: Adrian Fisher, Nancy Halliday, David Wixom

Finance Committee

Clerk: Ted Kuhn
2021: Judy Jager, Ashlee Miller-Berry, Maggie Wanner
2022: Ted Kuhn
2023: Kevin Brubaker
ex-officio: Co-Treasurers, Dawn Crimson & Val Lester

Handbook Committee

Clerk: Pam Kuhn
2021: Pam Kuhn, Sue Styer

Maintenance, Planning & Envisioning Committee

Clerk: Chris Goode
2021: Chris Goode
2022: Neil Mesner, Bill Howenstine
2023: Carol Bartles, Casey Kashnig, Noel Pavlovic, Marie White,
ex-officio: all Stewards

Ministry and Advancement Committee

Clerk: Phyllis Reynolds
2021: Fernando Freire, Judy Wolicki
2022: Bruce Kanarek, Chris Jocius, Phyllis Reynolds, Steve Tamari
2023: Janic Domanik, Mark McGinnis, Heather Evert

Nominating Committee

Clerk: Bridget Rorem
2021: Alexandra "Coco" Colin
2022: Brad Laird, Dale Gardner
2023: Sharon Haworth, Bridget Rorem

Personnel Committee

Clerk: Colleen Reardon
2023: Audrey French, Kate Gunnell, Sharon Haworth, Colleen Reardon
Designated members of Youth Oversight, Finance, CREC, Publications

Publications and Distribution Committee

Clerk: Sean West
2021: Grayce Mesner
2023: Sean West
ex-officio: Administrative Coordinator, Wil Brant
ex-officio: Editor of *Among Friends*, Pam Kuhn

Youth Oversight Committee

Clerk: Mike Dennis
2021: Mike Dennis, Andrea Kintree, Warwick Daw

2021 ANNUAL SESSIONS RESPONSIBILITIES

Food: Blue River Quarterly

Program: Chicago South

Site Services: Chicago North

APPOINTMENTS TO WIDER QUAKER & OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

American Friends Service Committee Corporation

2021: Carol Bartles, Contessa Miller, Phyllis Reynolds
2023: Fariba Murray

Friends Committee on National Legislation

2021: Kevin Brubaker
2022: Fariba Murray
2023: Garnet Fay, Dale Gardner, David Wixom

Friends General Conference Central Committee

2022: Janice Domanik, Haskell Swygert
2023: Adrian Nelson

Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer Concerns

2023: Jad Tamari

Friends Peace Teams

2023:

Friends Secondary School Liaison

2022 Olney: Grayce Mesner, David Wixom
2023 Scattergood: Alex Lippitt

Friends World Committee for Consultation

2021: Bridget Rorem
2023: Nancy Wallace
2023: Pam Kuhn

National Religious Campaign Against Torture

2021: Jan Mullen

Quaker Earthcare Witness

2021: David Wixom
2022: Noel Pavlovic

INDIVIDUALS WITH SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

Records Librarian: Brent Eckert

Web Contact: Sean West

Among Friends Editor: Pam Kuhn

Blue River Quarterly Clerk:

Yearly Meeting Sessions Committees

2020 Clerk’s Committee: Wil Brant, Cathy Garra, David Shiner, and Gwen Weaver

2020 Exercises Committee: Pam Kuhn, "Michael" Cunningham, Dreiske Arnold, Dawn Crimson

2020 Epistle Committee: Monica Tetzlaff, Chris Jocius, Daniel Lakemacher

**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 IlliniosYM@ilym.org or 773-288-3066.

**BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
MONTHLY MEETING**

1100 N. Beech ST #7, Normal, IL 61761
10:30 am
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

CLEAR CREEK MONTHLY MEETING

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

COLUMBIA FRIENDS MEETING

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

DOWNERS GROVE FRIENDS MEETING

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

DUNELAND FRIENDS MEETING

Fourth Days, 7:00 pm
duneland.ilym.org
 Business: 3rd Fourth Day

ELKHART WORSHIP GROUP

(under the care of South Bend)
 1721 Prairie St., Elkhart, IN 46516
 1st & 3rd First Days, 5:00 pm

EVANSTON MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

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

57TH STREET MEETING OF FRIENDS

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

FOX VALLEY QUAKER MEETING

Pioneer Tree Farm,
 4614 Pioneer Road, McHenry, IL 60051
 10:00 am 815-385-8512
 Business: 1st First Day, 11:00 am

LAKE FOREST FRIENDS MEETING

101 West Old Elm Road, Lake Forest, IL 60045
 10:30 am First Day, 8:00 am Fifth Day
 847-234-8410
quakercloud/cloud/lake-forest-friends-meeting
 Business: 1st First Day, 9:00 am

MACOMB WORSHIP GROUP

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

NORTHSIDE FRIENDS MEETING

Japanese American Service Center
 4427 N. Clark, Chicago, IL 60640
 10:00 am 773-980-6734
northsidefriends.org
 Business: 1st First Day, 12:30 pm

OAK PARK FRIENDS MEETING

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

OSHKOSH MONTHLY MEETING

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

ROCK VALLEY FRIENDS MEETING

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

SOUTH BEND FRIENDS MEETING

Charles Martin Youth Center,
 802 Lincolnway West, South Bend, IN 46616
 10:30 a.m. 574-232-8258
fgcquaker.org/cloud/south-bend-friends-monthly-meeting
 Business: 2nd First Day, 12:00 noon

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS QUAKER MEETING

Dayemi Family Center,
 214 E. Jackson St., Carbondale, IL 62901
 10:00 am
siquaker.org
 Business: 4th First Days, 11:00 am

SPOON RIVER QUAKER MEETING

In homes 309-734-5848
 10:00 am
srqm.wordpress.com
 Business: Second First Days, 11:30 am

SPRINGFIELD WORSHIP GROUP

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

ST. LOUIS MONTHLY MEETING

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

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN FRIEND MEETING

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

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	Nigel & Jenny Church
Downers Grove	Chris Goode
Duneland	Sarah Pavlovic
Evanston	Colleen Reardon
57th Street	
Fox Valley	
Lake Forest	Ted Kuhn
Northside	Marie White
Oak Park	Valerie Lester
Oshkosh	Nan MacDonald
Rock Valley	Ann & Brent Eckert
St. Louis	David Wixom
South Bend	Brad Laird
Southern Illinois	Dawn Crimson
Spoon River	
Urbana-Champaign	Bobbi Trist & Dale Gardner

*Burlington (WG), Elkhart (WG), Macomb (WG), & Springfield (WG)
do not have appointed representatives

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

Cover Painting of ILYM Meetinghouse: M. Richie