

THE MINUTES

and Accompanying Documents

Illinois Yearly Meeting Religious Society of Friends

2021
June
16-20, 25-27



Virtual Gathering via Video Conference

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ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

2022 Annual Sessions will be held from June 15 to 19
at the Illinois Yearly Meeting Meetinghouse

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

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

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

YEARLY MEETING OFFICERS AND OTHERS WITH SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES 2021-2022

Presiding Clerk: Kent Busse

Assistant Clerk: Marcia Nelson

Recording Clerk: David Shiner

Assistant Recording Clerk: Sarah Pavlovic

Reading Clerk:

Co-Treasurers: Dawn Crimson & Ted Kuhn

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

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.

REGISTRATION REPORT FOR ILYM ANNUAL SESSIONS 2021

Total Registration: 115

Registration by Quarter/Geographic Grouping:

Blue River	28 Adults 4 Young Friends	Total: 32
Chicago North	31 Adults 7 Young Friends	Total: 38
Chicago South	30 Adults 2 Young Friends	Total: 32
Other	13 Adults 0 Young Friends	Total: 13

RATES FOR USE OF ILYM FACILITIES

Site fee for ILYM groups: \$ 25

Fee per person, per night: \$ 5

Maximum fee per ILYM group: \$500

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

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING 7/2020-6/2021

BLUE RIVER QUARTERLY

B-N†	CC	Co	St.L	SoI	SR†	U-C†	
							<u>Members & Attenders Statistics</u>
							Average Attendance
6	6	16	31	5	4	24	Adults
1	0	4	3	0	0	6	Under 18 years old
							<u>Membership Statistics</u>
11	25	7	37	2	3	49	Resident Adult Members
5	5	0	5	0	0	3	Resident Young Friends
3	38	17	80	3	3	62	Non-Resident Adult Members
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	Non-Resident Young Friends
19	68	24	122	5	6	117	TOTAL
14	63	24	117	5	6	111	Total Adult Members
5	5	0	5	0	0	6	Total Young Friends
							NEW MEMBERS
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	By Birth or Adoption
0	0	0	5	1	0	0	By Request
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	By Certificate of Transfer
0	0	0	5	1	0	0	TOTAL
							LOSSES
0	1	2	1	0	0	0	Deceased
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Released or Withdrawn
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Transferred
0	1	2	2	0	0	0	TOTAL

MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

Blue River Quarterly	361
Metro Chicago	495
Wisconsin	<u>5</u>
TOTAL	861

NUMERICAL STRENGTH CHART

CHICAGO-Area										WI	TOTALS
DG*	Du	Ev	57*	FV	LF	NS	OaP	RV†	SB	Osh*†	
17	8	36	NR	8	20	20	NR	4	NR	7	218
<1	0	10	NR	0	15	1	NR	0	NR	0	40
31	9	64	19	7	58	17	22	9	22	3	395
0	2	2	7	0	9	2	0	0	2	0	42
8	1	41	32	16	70	20	0	2	15	2	413
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7</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>11</u>
39	12	114	59	23	137	39	22	11	39	5	861
39	10	105	51	23	128	37	22	11	37	5	808
0	2	9	8	0	9	2	0	0	2	0	53
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	10
<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	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	11
0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	8
0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	4
<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>2</u>
1	1	3	0	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	14

NR = Not Reported

*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: B-N, SR, U-C and Osh statistics from 7/2019-6/2020; RV statistics from 7/2017-6/2018. No additions/losses recorded for these.

ADDITIONS AND LOSSES BY NAME AND MEETING

ADDITIONS

By Request

To Downers Grove: Mark Masi (12/13/20)
To Evanston: James Reeves (10/18/20)
To Evanston: Elizabeth Kenney (5/16/21)
To Evanston: Mimi Holland (5/16/21)
To Evanston: Arcenia Hamon (4/4/21)
To St. Louis: Brandon Drazich (11/8/20)
To St. Louis: Quinn Parks (12/13/20)
To St. Louis: Green Parks (12/13/20)
To St. Louis: Xyla Parks (12/13/20)
To St. Louis: Pascal Youngblood-McAnally (2/14/21)
To Southern Illinois: Logan Plummer (11/22/20)

By Transfer

To Evanston: Julia Pantoga from Milwaukee Friends Meeting (1/17/21)

LOSSES

By Release or Withdrawal:

From Evanston: Harper Gordon (9/14/20)
From Evanston: March Elaine Saper (11/24/20)
From Oak Park: Marie and Johnny Gillespie (2021)

By Death

From Clear Creek: Georgine (Ruth) Hayward Anzlover (6/8/21)
From Fox Valley: Ellen Hackman (6/6/21)
From Columbia: Judith Mathis Richards (9/23/20)
From Columbia: Sylvia Kelsey Spotts (12/22/20)
From Duneland: Marjory Wood Crawford (5/2/21)
From Northside: Glenn Neumann (9/29/20)
From Oak Park: Burke Shipley (4/21)
From St. Louis: Trudy Wood (1/29/21)

By Transfer:

From Evanston: David Holloway to Quaker House Santa Fe (1/17/21)
From St. Louis: Nancy Jordan to Lincoln (NE) Friends (12/13/20)

MINUTES OF THE ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING

147th Annual Sessions

Sixth Month 16-20, 27, Virtual Gathering via Video Conference

MINUTES OF THE FIRST SESSION, Fourth Day, Sixth Month, 16 2021
(Wednesday, June 16, 2021)

Minute 1 The 147th Annual Sessions of Illinois Yearly Meeting (ILYM) opened with centering worship.

Minute 2 Presiding Clerk Marcia Nelson welcomed everyone present to the 147th Annual Sessions of Illinois Yearly Meeting, being held for the second year as a video conference because of continuing uncertainty around the COVID-19 pandemic.

Minute 3 Marcia Nelson introduced herself as Presiding Clerk, Kent Busse as Assistant Clerk, Sarah Pavlovic as Recording Clerk, and David Shiner as a nominee for Assistant Recording Clerk. She welcomed visitors and newcomers to ILYM, including Sally Weaver Sommer, Friends General Conference (FGC) visitor (Broadmead MM in Ohio) and Susan Nahvi, visitor from Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL).

Minute 4 Presiding Clerk Marcia Nelson introduced the theme of the Annual Sessions: “Equality in Action: Roots and Reality.” She read a passage about ILYM’s Annual Sessions from ILYM’s new book of Faith and Practice.

Minute 5 Marcia Nelson reminded those present where Zoom (videoconferencing) information is available on the ILYM website and briefly reviewed procedures and adaptations to our practices as we meet virtually.

Since the time allotted to business sessions is shorter than when we are in person, reports will not be read from the floor. Everyone is urged to read the advance documents in order to be prepared to ask questions or discuss concerns. This year we will again use what is called a “unity agenda” to consider as a group committee and representative reports which require no action other than acceptance.

Marcia reminded those present to speak once to a subject and to consider using a virtual or in-person “thumbs up” reaction to indicate when another has spoken one’s mind. Assistant Clerk Kent Busse will recognize those who signal their wish to speak.

Minute 6 Marcia Nelson acknowledged and deeply thanked Assistant Clerk Kent Busse and the Clerk’s Committee of Cathy Garra, David Shiner, and Gwen Weaver for their assistance, support, and advice over the past year and continuing through these annual sessions.

Minute 7 Marcia Nelson reminded those present that the Epistle Committee, described in the advance documents, will be asked to write not a report of what activities we engage in at our annual meeting, but rather, Illinois Yearly Meeting’s message to Quakers around the world about what we discern God is calling us to do. The meeting will look to the Nominating Committee later in the sessions for nominees to the Epistle Committee.

Minute 8 The Exercises Committee, described in the advance documents, is charged with reporting the spirit of the Meeting during annual sessions, including the activities that enlivened our virtual time together. Marcia Nelson called for volunteers to serve on the Exercises Committee and will do a second call tomorrow in the absence of volunteers today.

Minute 9 For the Ministry and Advancement (M&A) Committee, Phyllis Reynolds reminded those present of the Committee of Care whose members are available to respond to needs for care during annual sessions. Members of the committee are Janice Domanik, Heather Evert, Bruce Kanarek, Brad Laird, Mark McGinnis, Phyllis Reynolds, David Wixom, and Judy Wolicki. Phone numbers and emails for these committee members were included in the “Program Schedule with Links” sent to those who registered for annual sessions. Judy’s corrected contact information is available from the Committee.

Minute 10 Phyllis Reynolds also called attention to ILYM’s Harassment and Abuse Policy, found on page 52 of ILYM’s Handbook, which is available online. Harassment Review Committee members include the presiding clerk, Marcia Nelson; the M&A clerk Phyllis Reynolds; the Field Secretary Brad Laird; Heather Evert; and Allison Boyaris.

Minute 11 Marcia Nelson called our attention to the report of the Nominating Committee in the advance documents. The committee brought forward the following names for consideration:

David Shiner, for Assistant Recording Clerk. He will hold this position through the 2021 sessions, will be Recording Clerk in 2022 and 2023, and will again be Assistant Recording Clerk in 2024.

Stewards: Beth Carpenter and Chip Rorem as Stewards for terms through 2027

Children’s Religious Education Committee: Dale Gardner, for Clerk of Children’s Religious Education Committee, for a three-year term (2024)

Development Committee: Frank Young as Clerk, and Marcy Harman, for three year terms on Development Committee (2024)

Environmental Concerns Committee: Noel Pavlovic as Clerk, Sarah Pavlovic, Chris Goode, and Fariba Murray, for three-year terms on Environmental Concerns Committee (2024)

Finance Committee: Margaret Wanner for a one year term on Finance Committee (2022), and Judy Jager and Ashlee Miller-Berry for three year terms on Finance Committee (2024)

Handbook Committee: Pam Kuhn and Sue Styer for three year terms on Handbook Committee (2024)

Maintenance, Planning, and Envisioning Committee: Chris Goode as Clerk, and Dennis McQueen, for three year terms on Maintenance, Planning, and Envisioning Committee (2024)

Ministry and Advancement Committee: David Wixom for a three year term on Ministry and Advancement Committee (2024)

Youth Oversight Committee: Mike Dennis as Clerk, Daniel Lakemacher, and Allie Boyaris, for three year terms on Youth Oversight Committee (2024)

Kevin Brubaker for a three year term as representative to Friends Committee on National Legislation (2024)

David Wixom for a three year term as representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness (2024)

The committee is still looking for a Reading Clerk, a Co-Treasurer, several members for the Ministry and Advancement Committee, and representatives to the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Corporation, Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), and FGC Central Committee. Friends are urged to consider whether their gifts and their availability of time match any of these positions.

The nominees brought forward by the committee were approved. Report accepted.

Minute 12 Brad Laird reported on his first year as ILYM’s Field Secretary, a year greatly impacted by the restrictions on travel and in-person gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He looks forward to this changing as restrictions loosen. Brad will also be watching for how, during this time of transition, different meetings are balancing how to be both safe and welcoming.

His first in-person visit will be to an Evangelical Friends Meeting in Chicago. This visit dovetails with Brad’s interest in exploring how many people speak a different language in our meetings and how we handle those language differences.

Brad also expressed a desire to find ways to nurture representatives from monthly meetings to ILYM and to help build bridges with the yearly meeting.

In his written report, Brad highlighted several foci of his work during the past year, including encouraging and nurturing accompanying ministry, introducing a clerk’s meeting for ILYM monthly meeting clerks, exploring the many opportunities for worship, study, and learning across the Quaker world, being invited to speak at Leinster Quarterly Meeting in Ireland and participating in Ireland Yearly Meeting’s annual sessions over Zoom, attending Blue River Quarterly Meeting, participating in a monthly meeting group dealing with some difficult interpersonal issues, meeting with Superintendents and Secretaries from across North America and Britain, holding one-on-one conversations, and practicing accountability and self-care.

Brad shared his joy in serving in the Field Secretary position. He would love to have more one-on-one conversations with Friends to share spiritual journeys.

Report accepted.

Minute 13 Minutes from the first session were read back to the meeting and approved.

Minute 14 Requests were shared that we hold in the Light a number of dear Friends who are absent with health concerns. The first session closed with centering worship.

MINUTES OF THE SECOND SESSION, Fifth Day, Sixth Month 17, 2021 (Thursday, June 17, 2021)

Minute 15 The second session of Illinois Yearly Meeting’s (ILYM’s) 147th Annual Sessions opened with centering worship.

Minute 16 Presiding Clerk Marcia Nelson welcomed those in attendance and specifically welcomed visitors and newcomers, including Shelley Tanenbaum, visitor from Quaker Earthcare Witness.

Minute 17 Marcia Nelson brought to our attention that today is the 150th birthday of James Weldon Johnson, who wrote the words to the song “Lift Every Voice and Sing.” She invited everyone to explore more information about the song, its author, and the composer of the melody, who was J. Rosamond Johnson, brother of James Weldon Johnson. We were also reminded that Congress just passed a bill making Juneteenth a national holiday, cause for celebration.

Minute 18 Marcia Nelson reiterated information about the Committee of Care and ILYM’s Harassment and Abuse Policy (see Minutes 9 and 10). She reminded everyone that minutes and other documents that have come in recently can be found on the annual sessions page on the ILYM website under a tab titled “Virtual Front Table.”

Minute 19 Marcia Nelson announced that this year’s Epistle Committee will be Monica Tetzlaff and Samantha Crockett.

Minute 20 Friends were asked to volunteer for the Exercises Committee. As no volunteers were forthcoming, Marcia Nelson asked that we each, as led, contribute to the Exercises by offering one sentence about what struck or moved us during this year's annual sessions. Marcia offered a sentence to prompt us to participate: "We were really tired, but we carried on." Colleen Reardon offered to edit the contributions, and asked that she receive them by email by 5 p.m. (Central) on Saturday so that the Exercises could be considered for acceptance on Sunday morning.

Minute 21 Co-treasurers Valerie Lester and Dawn Crimson gave the treasurer's report. They reminded those in attendance that ILYM's fiscal year closes at the end of the Sixth month, and much of the income and expenses come in at the end of the fiscal year, so the reports given today will change. Final reports for 2020-21 will be available at the Fall 2021 Continuing Committee.

Valerie reported that our finances have not been typical in the past year. The good news is that as of June 13th, Total Net Income was a positive \$38,540.01. Revenue through June 13th was about \$6,000 below budget and below the same time frame last year, due to lower amounts in Gifts from Individuals and in income related to annual sessions; both of these amounts, however, are likely to change before the end of the fiscal year. Valerie observed that it seems too early to discern if our move to "pay as led" sessions contributions will cover our in-person sessions expenses, but they more than cover virtual sessions. Monthly meeting donations are comparable to prior year and already exceed our conservative budget projections. Expenses through June 13th are significantly lower than both budget and prior year.

The treasurers ask that donations and expense/reimbursement receipts be sent to Dawn Crimson before she closes the books at the end of this month. Friends were advised to use the new address as published in the registration documents when sending items to Dawn.

The treasurers emphasized that we made it through this year comfortably in spite of fears that this might not be possible. They conveyed the gratitude of Illinois Yearly Meeting for the generosity of Friends individually and through our monthly meetings. They thanked the Development Committee for its work. The yearly meeting has been able to grow our reserves through the support of individuals and monthly meetings, along with investment returns and sound fiscal stewardship.

The yearly meeting thanks Valerie Lester, in her last year as co-treasurer, for her faithful service in this capacity.

Report accepted.

Minute 22 Ted Kuhn, Clerk of Finance Committee, reported for the Finance Committee. The committee asked for approval to move a specific amount from the checking account into Friends Fiduciary Fund. It was suggested that rather than asking for approval to move specific dollar amounts, the yearly meeting approve that Finance Committee work with the treasurers to keep the checking account at a reasonable level, and to move additional funds into the Friends Fiduciary Fund where they will earn more income.

The meeting approved authorizing the Finance Committee to work with the treasurers on an ongoing basis to make sure we have sufficient funds in the checking account to meet anticipated expenses, and to invest the remainder of our funds in the Friends Fiduciary Fund.

Ted observed that many meetings are considering what technology might be needed to make possible meetings that are simultaneously in-person and virtual.

Report accepted.

Minute 23 Ted Kuhn presented the proposed budget for 2021-22 for its first reading. The budget was prepared with the assumption that yearly meeting activities would resume a pattern more similar to that before the COVID-19 pandemic. Personnel costs in the proposed budget reflect a 1.7% salary increase and the assumption that we hire a Children’s Religious Education Coordinator for the full year. Travel support will be needed again in the coming year. Committee expenses and support for outside organizations remain similar to prior years. The committee has made a few minor adjustments, but the proposed budget remains a balanced budget.

It was suggested that the Finance Committee take under consideration the contributions we make to outside organizations, for which the amounts have remained the same for a long time.

A question was raised about the income we assume will come from both the Gifts from Individuals and from gatherings and retreats. The treasurers commented that some larger individual contributions (especially bequests or memorial gifts) have been put directly into the Special Gifts fund and do not show up as operating income. In spite of income being unpredictable, we have been able to cover our expenses over the years.

Ted Kuhn will schedule a meeting of the Finance Committee in the next few days to allow Friends to provide input to the proposed budget.

The first presentation of the budget was accepted.

Minute 24 Phyllis Reynolds, clerk of the Ministry and Advancement (M&A) Committee, asked for approval of the revised job description of the Field Secretary, as appended to their written report. Approved.

Minute 25 Bruce Kanarek of the Ministry and Advancement (M&A) Committee brought to the meeting’s attention that monthly meetings have been offering a wide variety of opportunities to gather virtually—including book groups, children’s activities, knitting groups, and more. The committee asked how M&A might become a clearing house for activities offered by, and to, all monthly meetings and worship groups. How can meetings share what they have learned? The committee received feedback that there is interest in having M&A coordinate a way for meetings and individuals to share their experiences and to announce gatherings in a timely fashion.

Bruce also asked whether Friends would be interested in attending an M&A sponsored event. The committee received ideas for topics that would be of interest and will proceed to find ways to “bring Friends closer to the fire” of Illinois Yearly Meeting.

Report accepted.

Minute 26 Pam Kuhn reported for the Handbook Committee, which includes herself and Sue Styer. The committee brought forward changes to the Handbook for consideration. The wording for each of these is included in the written report of the Handbook Committee to this Annual Sessions.

Naming Committee description: A change to the description of the Naming Committee to clarify when and how it is formed, its term of service, and its duties, including the appointment of the Nominating Committee clerk, was approved. The Handbook Committee proposed removing from the Handbook the section on “Formation and Recognition of a Monthly Meeting” because that is covered more completely in Faith and Practice: Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. Approved.

The committee proposed revisions to the Handbook’s “Section One: Organization of Illinois Yearly Meeting” as presented in the committee’s report.

Handbook Section 1.1 concerns Illinois Yearly Meeting.

- The section on the establishment of Illinois Yearly Meeting was approved.
- The description of ILYM's affiliations was approved.
- The section of the Handbook on "Incorporation" of the yearly meeting was approved.
- The section about the meetinghouse near McNabb, and a listing of the constituent quarterly meeting, monthly meetings, and worship groups was approved.

Handbook Section 1.2 concerns the "Mutual Caring of the Yearly, Monthly, and Quarterly Meetings to each other." Approved.

Handbook Section 1.3 "The Faith and Practice of Illinois Yearly Meeting" offers an introduction to Faith and Practice: Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends" published in 2020. Approved, with amended section title as recorded in this minute.

The Handbook Committee Report was accepted.

Minute 27 Minutes from the second session were read back and approved.

Minute 28 Marcia Nelson reminded those present of afternoon worship sharing and workshops, and the evening address by Shelley Tanenbaum. The Finance Committee will meet at 8 a.m. tomorrow (Friday) morning. The meeting will be open to everyone for feedback on the proposed 2021-22 budget.

Minute 29 The second session of ILYM's 2021 Annual Sessions closed with worship.

MINUTES OF THE THIRD SESSION, Sixth Day, Sixth Month 18, 2021 (Friday, June 18, 2021)

Minute 30 The third session of Illinois Yearly Meeting's 2021 annual sessions opened with worship.

Minute 31 Marcia Nelson welcomed everyone to the third session and introduced herself as Presiding Clerk, Kent Busse as Assistant Clerk, Sarah Pavlovic as Recording Clerk, and David Shiner as Assistant Recording Clerk. Marcia reminded those present of Zoom procedures and reviewed the availability of various resources of the yearly meeting. She apologized for omitting on Wednesday the name of Wil Brant, ILYM Administrative Coordinator, as a very important member of the Clerk's Committee.

Minute 32 Jason Shenk and Charlotta Koppanyi were available to respond to questions about the report of the Children's Religious Education Committee.

The written report explained that Monica Tetzlaff has stepped down as clerk of the committee for health reasons. Jason Shenk and Bobbi Trist have served as acting Co-clerks through these Annual Sessions. Charlotta Koppanyi, continuing as a part-time temporary Children's Religious Education Coordinator, is coordinating the Children's Annual Sessions 2021, to be held Friday, June 25 and Saturday, June 26. The Children's Sessions will conclude with an epistle presentation and musical performance on Sunday, June 27 to which all are invited. The committee hopes to offer programs for young people later this year. More information about their plans for Annual Sessions and beyond can be found in the committee's written report. Report accepted, with thanks to those who are supporting the young people of the yearly meeting.

Minute 33 Janice Domanik reported for the Ad Hoc Committee on Anti-Racism. Over the past year the committee has promoted queries for worship sharing, shared information about what ILYM meetings are doing about racism, provided resources, and

organized a six-session online workshop on anti-racism. Janice commented on the difficulty of getting responses from monthly meetings, an issue which has been raised by other committees as well.

The committee asked that ILYM approve continuing it for an additional year as they feel very strongly that they have more work to do. Approved.

The report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Anti-Racism was accepted.

Minute 34 Clerk Marcia Nelson introduced the “Unity Agenda” for this year’s annual sessions. The reports on the unity agenda are informational only and require no corporate action beyond acceptance. This session’s unity agenda included reports from the Peace Resources Committee and the Publications and Distribution Committee. Also included were reports from ILYM representatives to Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), Friends General Conference (FGC), Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), and secondary schools reports. Those present were invited to make a joyful noise to recognize and give thanks for the work each of these reports signifies.

The reports on the unity agenda were accepted.

Minute 35 Clerk Marcia Nelson called our attention to the report of the Youth Oversight Committee. The report noted that Committee Clerk Mike Dennis and Youth Coordinator Liam Gardner helped to organize a nation-wide virtual Quake in February 2021, sponsored by FGC and other affiliated yearly meetings. Three high-school-aged and one middle-school-aged youth from ILYM attended. High School Friends are holding virtual annual sessions this week, with meetings for business, workshops, and fellowship planned. One item on their agenda is to consider a plan to paint a mural somewhere on the ILYM campus near McNabb, Illinois next year.

Members of the Youth Oversight Committee confirmed that Liam Gardner will be continuing as Youth Coordinator. Report accepted.

Minute 36 Colleen Reardon, Clerk of the Personnel Committee, was available to answer questions about the Personnel Committee report. Their written report communicated that since Spring Continuing Committee, all part-time employees have been evaluated with the exception of our caretaker, whose employment had been less than a year. The caretaker’s evaluation will take place this summer. The committee expressed appreciation for the service the employees provide to the yearly meeting. Report accepted.

Minute 37 Marcia Nelson referred those present to the report of the Stewards. Steward Chris Goode gave an update on the recent successful renovation of the septic system at Clear Creek House. The written report related that the Stewards continue to work with the Maintenance, Planning, and Envisioning Committee and with our new Caretaker. They will be seeking to hire help to remove and replace the refrigerators in the meetinghouse basement. They participated in a work day on May 1, the details of which are in the written report. Ongoing projects include sorting and organizing the contents of the east storage room at the meetinghouse, and making plans for stabilizing the foundation of the Junior Yearly Meetinghouse (also known as the High School Bunkhouse). Report accepted.

Minute 38 Chris Goode, Clerk of the Maintenance, Planning, and Envisioning (MP&E) Committee, gave highlights of the committee’s report.

Chris expressed gratitude for the work of our new caretaker Judy Reese. She has been learning from Steward Emeritus Dick Ashdown and keeping an eye on what needs attention on the campus. She is hopeful that the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions will allow her to do more with outreach and entry into the local community.

The Caretaker job description is not yet ready for consideration. The MP&E Committee asked that the yearly meeting allow them to bring a revised job description to Continuing Committee for consideration of approval. Approved.

Among the many projects under the care of MP&E are repairs and reinforcements related to raccoon problems at the meetinghouse. They plan to secure someone to complete painting the meetinghouse. They have been asking for quotes for painting the bathhouse, High School Bunkhouse, Penn House, and Fox Hole, and for staining the cabins. Other areas that need attention include the roof of the wooden barn; the meetinghouse porch steps, decking, and posts; the foundation of the Bunkhouse; various items at Clear Creek House; and the roofing on the south side of the meetinghouse. The committee plans to hold a work day in the fall.

The committee is holding workshops during Annual Sessions this week to gather input to update the Campus Plan from 2012 and to provide direction for future projects. Many ideas have been brought up over the years—accessible living space in the Clear Creek House garage, various uses for the wooden barn, a gazebo or pavilion near the old shed and many others—but what are our priorities? They ask that Friends familiarize themselves with the existing campus plan documents that are posted on the website and come to one of their workshop sessions. Otherwise, everyone is invited to contact any member of the committee with their ideas about how we use our campus. Report accepted.

Minute 39 Scheduling a fall work day at the ILYM campus has been complicated by considerations of the weather and by the scheduling of Fall Continuing Committee, Blue River Quarterly and other events. Those present agreed to consider these issues in planning the date and location for Fall Continuing Committee for 2022 and beyond.

Minute 40 Minutes from the third session were read and approved.

Minute 41 The third session closed with centering worship.

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH SESSION, Seventh Day, Sixth Month 19, 2021 (Saturday, June 19, 2021)

Minute 42 The fourth session of ILYM's 147th Annual Sessions opened with gathering worship.

Minute 43 Presiding Clerk Marcia Nelson welcomed those present to the fourth session of ILYM's Annual Sessions on Juneteenth. She introduced the clerks. She extended a special welcome to our ILYM Caretaker Judy Reese. Susan Nahvi from FCNL gave an introduction to her co-worker Bobby Trice, who will be presenting a workshop this afternoon.

Minute 44 Clerk Marcia Nelson reminded those in attendance of yearly meeting resources and of Zoom (videoconferencing) procedures. She reminded everyone that this year's Exercises will be group written. Each person is invited to send one to three sentences responding to the prompt "We were really tired, but we carried on" to Colleen Reardon by 5 p.m. (Central) today.

Minute 45 On behalf of Reading Clerk Chris Jocius, Gwen Weaver gave a moving presentation related to this year's theme of "Equality in Action: Roots and Reality." Her readings and reflections informed us of the origins of Juneteenth celebrations, celebrated today for the first time as a national holiday, and urged us to consider how the holiday can inspire us to act upon our Quaker testimony of equality.

Minute 46 Finance Committee Clerk Ted Kuhn reported for the Finance Committee. Finance Committee recommends that the guidance for Monthly Meeting contributions per resident adult member be increased from \$255 to \$260. This is consistent with general inflation and the increase in payroll. Approved.

Minute 47 Finance Committee Clerk Ted Kuhn presented a revised 2021-22 budget for consideration (First budget presentation Minute 23). The revised budget reflected increased contributions from monthly meetings based on the increase in per-member contributions approved in Minute 46 and included an increase of \$1,000 in “Support to Others” spread over a number of organizations that the yearly meeting supports. The overall budget remained balanced. Approved.

Minute 48 For the Nominating Committee, Sharon Haworth reported the following additional nominees for consideration.

Brent Eckert will continue as Records Librarian

Co-treasurer: Ted Kuhn for a three year term (2024)

Finance Committee: Val Lester as Clerk for a three year term (2024)

AFSC: Frank Young as representative to AFSC for a three year term (2024)

Those present approved these nominees, additions to the slate of nominees approved earlier (Minute 11).

Minute 49 Illinois Yearly Meeting authorizes Elizabeth M. Carpenter, Steward; Dawn Crimson, Co-Treasurer; Edward Kuhn, Co-Treasurer; and Grayce Mesner, Steward, to have access to our safe deposit box at First State Bank in McNabb, Illinois, effective June 19, 2021. Approved.

Minute 50 Illinois Yearly Meeting authorizes Elizabeth M. Carpenter, Steward; Dawn Crimson, Co-Treasurer; Edward Kuhn, Co-Treasurer; and Grayce Mesner, Steward to exercise all powers listed in the resolution with First State Bank in McNabb, Illinois, including signing checks on behalf of Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, effective Wednesday, June 19, 2021. Approved.

Minute 51 Frank Young reported for the Development Committee. They continue to work on ongoing projects. They are working with the Finance Committee to find ways to clearly report amounts raised. They continue to encourage and receive financial gifts to the yearly meeting from individuals. Report accepted.

Minute 52 Noel Pavlovic, Clerk of the Environmental Concerns Committee, was available to answer questions about the committee’s report. Members of the committee joined with Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning and the Stewards at the May 1 work day at the ILYM campus. The committee intends to further develop plans for a wildflower/ pollinator garden at the proposed location at the southwest corner of the prairie planting. Report accepted.

Minute 53 Peter Lasersohn reported for the Ad hoc Committee on ILYM Archives Agreement with the University of Illinois Library. The ad hoc committee was appointed in 2020 to work with representatives of the University of Illinois Library to develop a new agreement for the deposit of ILYM records. Peter explained the features of a new agreement, which the committee feels are appropriate for the yearly meeting to agree to. The Library has now provided a draft agreement. The committee still expects to receive an appendix with a list of documents covered under the agreement. The committee asked that the yearly meeting allow them to bring the document for final approval to the Continuing Committee.

Those present approved allowing Continuing Committee to take final action on an archive agreement document.

Since monthly and quarterly meetings will not be covered under the new agreement, a suggestion was made that some guidance be developed for monthly and quarterly meetings on how to discover the status of materials already deposited and to proceed with their own agreements. For now, concerns about archived documents can be referred to the clerk of the ad hoc committee, Peter Lasersohn. Report accepted.

Minute 54 Clerk Marcia Nelson asked that those present consider the question of how we will gather next year in 2022—virtual, in person, hybrid—and what framework or structure would serve us to make necessary decisions.

There was a sense among many present that we aspire to meet in person at McNabb for annual sessions next year, with serious consideration of how to bring in those who are not able to join us in person, also taking into consideration the time and finances it would take to develop the technology to effectively offer a hybrid format.

The yearly meeting approved the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee to consider how 2022 Annual Sessions will be held, to allow us to gather as a spiritual community. The committee will

- solicit input from monthly meetings,
- explore the spiritual implications of our format for our meeting community,
- develop a timeline for when specific decisions need to be made,
- and report to Continuing Committee.

Continuing Committee is authorized to take action on the format for Annual Sessions 2022. Approved.

Minute 55 The Ad Hoc Committee to consider how 2022 Annual Sessions will be held will consist of Pam Kuhn, Julia Pantoga, Bobbi Trist, Frank Young, Wil Brant, Katherine Young, Colleen Reardon, and (soon-to-be) Assistant Clerk Marcia Nelson. Finance Committee Clerk Valerie Lester and Field Secretary Brad Laird asked to receive minutes from the committee's meetings. Pam Kuhn and Administrative Coordinator Wil Brant will be the points of contact for the committee.

Minute 56 Marcia Nelson announced that the Fall Continuing Committee of ILYM will be held on October 2, 2021 at the ILYM Meetinghouse at McNabb, hosted by Clear Creek Meeting. The dates for Annual Sessions for 2022 will be June 15–19, 2022. These dates will not conflict with the schedule of the Chicago Public Schools or with the FGC gathering.

Minute 57 The minutes were read back and approved by those present.

Minute 58 The fourth session of ILYM's 2021 annual sessions closed with worship.

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SESSION, First Day, Sixth Month 20, 2021 (Sunday, June 20, 2021)

Minute 59 The fifth session of ILYM's 147th Annual Sessions opened with worship.

Minute 60 Presiding Clerk Marcia Nelson welcomed everyone to the fifth session.

Minute 61 Dale Gardner brought forward from ILYM's Nominating Committee additional nominees for consideration.

Handbook Committee: Julia Pantoga for a three year term (2024)

Representative to FWCC: Julia Pantoga for a three year term (2024)

Representative to AFSC: Coco Colin for a three year term (2024)

Approved.

Minute 62 On behalf of the Epistle Committee, Monica Tetzlaff read the 2021 Epistle, Illinois Yearly Meeting's message to yearly meetings around the world. Approved, with gratitude to the Epistle Committee of Monica Tetzlaff and Samantha Crockett.

Minute 63 Colleen Reardon read the 2021 Exercises, composed this year as a compilation of responses from attenders to various aspects of our virtual time together. Accepted.

Minute 64 Youth Coordinator Liam Gardner read the Epistle of the High School Friends. Accepted.

Those present were interested to learn of the High School group's intentions to hold three in-person events in the upcoming months, including a Labor Day retreat at McNabb to create a mural on the west side of the metal shed,

a Veterans Day Quake in St. Louis, and the "Quake that Rocked the Midwest" on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day weekend 2022 at the Evanston Meetinghouse.

Minute 65 Illinois Yearly Meeting thanks all those who helped to plan and carry out the virtual 2021 Annual Sessions for their willingness to propose and implement new ideas for fostering a sense of community in our virtual format and for their diligence in bringing together diverse opportunities to engage with the theme of equality. The meeting is grateful for the gifts of time, energy, and expertise of our planning groups, coordinators, and Planning Coordinators Committee, as well as those of our staff. Approved.

Minute 66 Illinois Yearly Meeting gives heartfelt thanks to our outgoing committee members for their devoted service to the yearly meeting. We give special thanks to outgoing committee clerks, and extra special thanks to our outgoing Recording Clerk, Sarah Pavlovic, and our outgoing longtime Reading Clerk, Chris Jocius. We are aware that the tasks of all of these Friends have been complicated by the pandemic. They have been stalwart in fulfilling their duties, and we offer them our deep thanks for that.

Minute 67 Illinois Yearly Meeting thanks outgoing Presiding Clerk Marcia Nelson for her years of diligent service. Her insightful and creative leadership superlatively met the challenges of these uncertain times, for which we are very grateful. Approved.

Minute 68 Marcia Nelson reminded those present that the Children's Sessions will be happening June 25 and 26, with a culminating presentation of epistles and musical program at 2 p.m. (Central) on June 27 to which all are invited. Fall 2021 Continuing Committee of ILYM will be held on October 2 at the ILYM Meetinghouse at McNabb, hosted by Clear Creek Meeting. The dates for the 2022 Annual Sessions will be June 15–19, 2022.

She reminded Friends of events proceeding after the close of the business session, including planning for next year's annual sessions. The 2021 Plummer Lecture will given by Phyllis Reynolds at 1 p.m. (Central) this afternoon.

Minute 69 The minutes of the fifth session were read and approved.

MINUTES OF THE SIXTH SESSION, First Day, Sixth Month 27, 2021 (Sunday, June 27, 2021)

Minute 70 Presiding Clerk Marcia Nelson welcomed everyone—children, adults, and guests—to the sixth and final session of ILYM’s 147th Annual Sessions. She explained the order of proceedings for the session which is the culmination of both the adult and children’s sessions for 2021.

Minute 71 Those present were invited to join Rachel Barton Pine on her YouTube channel as she introduced and performed on violin pieces specially selected to reflect on our Annual Sessions theme of Equality. Her moving and instructive selection of pieces by Black composers included the following: Deep River arr. Maud Powell, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912); Louisiana Blues Strut (A Cakewalk), Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson (1932-2004); Levee Dance, Clarence Cameron White (1880-1960); Dance I and Prayer III from Six Hip-Hop Dances and Prayers, Daniel Bernard Roumain (b. 1970).

Rachel is the daughter-in-law of Joan and Michael Pine and mother of Sylvia Pine. Michael, Joan, and Sylvia attend Evanston Monthly Meeting.

Minute 72 Children’s Religious Education Coordinator Charlotta Koppanyi introduced the groups that participated in the Children’s Sessions, held Sixth Month 25-26 (June 25 and 26).

Bobbi Trist read the Epistle from the preschool group. Sylvia Pine offered an improvisation on violin in response to the preschool epistle.

Camille Roberts presented the Epistle from the primary age group. Sylvia shared her musical response through violin and voice, inspired by the primary epistle. She shared that her unfinished ending reflected the fact that some of the problems of inequality explored in the Children’s Sessions are ongoing.

The intermediate group was represented by three young people. They presented their Epistle as impromptu comments about equality. They also shared a reading from the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights, in which they suggested a wording change from “brotherhood” to “humanhood” to make the statement more inclusive. Their teachers Michael Pine and Charlotta Koppanyi shared some of the insights on equality that rose during their time together. Sylvia offered a musical response on violin.

Rex Nyquist and Charlotta Koppanyi were the teachers for two middle school students, along with Marcia Nelson. A middle school participant shared that they explored the theme of equality. The group shared a cartoon illustrating the important differences among Inequality, Equality, Equity, and Justice. Sylvia gave a musical interpretation from reflections shared by the middle school group.

Charlotta Koppanyi explained that the Children’s Sessions this year also included a “Hangout Session.” Dale Gardner related that there was good sharing in the sessions and that participants enjoyed talking and sharing the animals important to them. Sylvia shared a “Hangout” improvisation with voice and violin.

The Epistles from the Children’s Session were accepted with gratitude and heartfelt appreciation to the participants and their teachers.

Minute 73 The minutes of the sixth and final session were read and approved.

Minute 74 Illinois Yearly Meeting’s 147th Annual Sessions closed with worship.

Marcia Nelson
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

2021 ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING

To Friends Around the World,

For the second year in a row, Illinois Yearly Meeting did not meet on the grounds we hold deeply in our hearts, but through computers, forming a patchwork quilt of faces on a screen. This year's sessions focused on the Testimony of Equality—How are the choices we make considering all of our Beloved Community, and not the few who speak loudest or the group that is most dominant? How are we finding that of God in those around us, not only to acknowledge our shared humanity but to celebrate it fully?

We so often think of differences as burdens, as things to be handled. But during a panel presentation on the Testimony of Equality, Adrian Nelson shared what a gift it is for something often considered a burden to instead be considered a gift. When we step away and see these differences as strengths, we gift each other with the love and knowledge and community that we are all so different, and yet at our core the same. And so, rather than seeing shifts away from traditions and long-held “norms” as a burden, we can instead see them as a gift. We can see this time as an opportunity to rebuild our practices and processes in ways that both keep the beauty and strength at the core of what it means to be a Friend and move away from that which “gatekeeps” our community.

In her presentation on environmental justice, Shelley Tanenbaum, of Quaker Earthcare Witness, shared a query from Potawatomi scientist Robin Wall Kimmerer. At its core this query asks, “What can we change that may be difficult for us, but make positive changes in the lives of so many others.” On this deep dive into the Testimony of Equality this week, many of us found that our idea of equality is rooted in our own experiences, rather than those of the people who have long been denied that equality. We recognized that to fully live into the Testimony of Equality is not to treat everyone exactly the same, but to treat people as they want to be treated, embracing the differences in culture, ability and norms that make us each special.

Dwight Wilson, Quaker author and minister, spoke Saturday night, fittingly on the first Juneteenth recognized as a federal holiday. Dwight shared from his heart, talking not about “white guilt,” but of a new way of love. Telling stories of his ancestors—not only their struggles, but their triumphs—he spoke of a promise he made himself years ago to be considered an ancestor one day; not just someone his family spoke of in passing, but someone who people would look to for guidance and strength. He left us with the wisdom that the work we do now is not about us in this moment, but about us in the future—we may not see the fruits of our labor with our own eyes, but our children, grandchildren and future generations will see them, and that will still be us. We must own our past, while moving forward in our present. Simply talking about things will not change anything; we must pair our internal work with external action.

We have spent the last year deeply searching for the ways to feel connected as we have needed to be physically apart. We have pivoted in ways we could not have dreamed a year and a half ago, when the COVID pandemic started raging. In that time, we have found intense joy, intense sorrow and everything in between. Some who have been kept away from their meetings for decades were able to return, while others found videoconferencing via Zoom overwhelming and needed to break away. As meetings start to meet in person, or with a hybrid option, we will not—and we cannot—see it as a return to “normal.” This year has taught us that “normal” was not working. Instead, we

will walk away stronger, holding tight to that which makes us Friends, shedding what serves only portions of our community.

As we find a new rhythm to our lives, it will be tempting to return to patterns that are so deeply engrained in our daily routines, from both dominant cultures and Quaker traditions. Seeking inclusive alternatives, we are called to hold each other in the Light, as we co-create a better future by working for a world where equality is not more equal for some, constantly asking ourselves what love requires, remembering the call to enlightened action “What canst thou say?”

High School Friends Epistle 2021

The high school program at ILYM tried to meet over Zoom videoconferencing every morning, afternoon and evening, but averaged no attendance. Our perception is that this was because our participants were suffering from Zoom burnout due to virtual school and other activities. We were able to meet with two of our participants (Nathan Lasersohn and Jasmine Dennis) and nominally cover our business. We canceled the workshop we had scheduled for Friday morning, after verifying that no one was going to attend. To reinvigorate, we are tentatively planning three in-person events: (1) A Labor Day Quake at McNabb to work on the property (09/3-6/2021); we plan to invite AYFers (Adult Young Friends) and the Junior High program to participate in creating the mural on the west side of the steel building on the property. We will submit the design plans to ILYM Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Committee, as well as Clear Creek Friends Meeting for approval; (2) A Veterans’ Day Weekend Quake at St. Louis (11/12-14/2021). We plan to go to the City Museum and permission to use the St. Louis Meetinghouse; (3) The Quake that Rocked the Midwest in Evanston, held over the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend (01/14-17/2022). We plan to contact other yearly meetings about joining us and ask permission to use Evanston Meetinghouse

In order to protect each other, all events will require proof of COVID-19 vaccination unless there is a medical reason. For those who cannot be vaccinated, they must quarantine for four days, and provide us with a negative COVID-19 test before being allowed to join us. We will be reaching out to current high school friends, AYFers, ILYM and monthly meeting clerks to identify other potential teens who may be interested in participating. If you want to refer us to someone directly, please contact Liam Gardner.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge and congratulate the members of our program who have graduated this Spring: Liam Brubaker (will attend Earlham College in Richmond, IN); Daniel Freire (will attend Moraine Valley Community College in Palos Hills, IL, and later transfer to Loyola University in Chicago, IL); Quinn Gardner (will attend the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, IL); Nathan Lasersohn (will attend Earlham College in Richmond, IN); Kiva Schobernd (will attend Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, IL); and Jad Tamari (will attend Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, IL). We wish all of them the best.

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION/BALANCE SHEET
FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2021

	6/30/2021		6/30/2020
Assets			
Cash & Cash Equivalents			
Checking Account	137,609.50		115,361.50
Friends Fiduciary-Temp. Restrct Proprty Imp	40,177.82		31,821.55
Friends Fiduciary-Unrestricted Designated	203,786.14		152,115.47
Paypal	<u>116.22</u>		<u>638.75</u>
Total Cash & Cash Equivalents	<u>381,689.73</u>		<u>299,937.27</u>
Total Assets	<u>381,689.73</u>		<u>299,937.27</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets			
Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	5,788.03		10,667.17
Payroll Taxes	<u>698.00</u>		<u>0.00</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>6,486.03</u>		<u>10,667.17</u>
Net Assets		Net Income	
1 Unrestricted Undesignated			
1 General Operating	<u>60,625.19</u>		<u>60,625.19</u>
Total 1 Unrestricted Undesignated	<u>60,625.19</u>		<u>60,625.19</u>
2 Unrestricted Designated			
2 Special Gifts	140,430.02	63,518.25	76,911.77
3 CCH Accessible Add.	1,300.00	300.00	1,000.00
4 Payroll Reserve	43,787.93		43,787.93
5 FWCC World Mtgs	6,000.00	1,000.00	5,000.00
6 Maint. Reserve	<u>80,495.03</u>	11,500.00	<u>68,995.03</u>
Total 2 Unrestricted Designated	<u>272,012.98</u>		<u>195,694.73</u>
8 Temporary Restrictcd			
Property Impr.	<u>42,565.53</u>	9,615.35	<u>32,950.18</u>
Total Temporary Restricted	<u>42,565.53</u>		<u>32,950.18</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>375,203.70</u>	<u>85,933.60</u>	<u>289,270.10</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>381,689.73</u>		<u>299,937.27</u>

Restricted (*Temporarily Restricted*) funds are received for a specific purpose and can only be used for that purpose. Endowments are permanently restricted funds for which the principle is invested and not spent, but the investment income is considered temporarily restricted and is used for a specific purpose.

Unrestricted (*Unrestricted Undesignated*) funds are received for general operating purposes and are made use of as determined by the business meeting, usually through the approved budget.

Designated (*Unrestricted Designated*) funds have been designated by the business meeting for a specific purpose. The business meeting can approve a change in the designation at any time, move the funds, or revert the funds to general operating purposes.

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.

ILYM Statement of Fund Activity 1 July 2020 to 30 Jun 2021

	1 General	2 Special	3 Next	5 FWCC	6 Maint.	8 Property	Total
Revenue							
Contributions-Meetings Unrestricted	\$90,531.25						\$90,531.25
Gifts-Indiv Designated			\$300.00				\$10,186.47
Gifts-Indiv Unrestricted	\$32,413.45						\$22,526.98
Misc Income	\$105.70						\$105.70
Interest & Investment Income	\$6,419.43					\$1,259.08	\$7,678.51
Gatherings-Retreats	<u>\$7,829.04</u>						<u>\$7,829.04</u>
Total Revenue	\$137,298.87		\$300.00			\$1,259.08	\$138,857.95
<hr/>							
Operating Expenses							
1 Personnel & Office	\$48,101.33	\$253.00					\$48,354.33
2 YM Travel Support	\$133.00						\$113.00
3 Site & Property Expenses							
Ann. Services-Property Taxes	\$1,077.92						\$1,077.92
Caretaker Expenses	\$500.00						\$500.00
Mowings, Tree Trimming	\$8,400.00						\$8,400.00
Repairs & Maintenance	\$2,816.12						\$2,816.12
Site Insurance Expense	\$10,564.00						\$10,564.00
Urgent Maintenance	\$5,194.00						\$5,194.00
Utilities	<u>\$2,567.98</u>						<u>\$2,567.98</u>
Total 3 Site & Property	\$31,120.02						\$31,120.02
4 Gatherings-Retreats	\$5,982.32						\$5,982.32
5 Committee Expenses							
Development	\$80.32						\$80.32
Publications & Distribution	\$1,656.20	\$4,045.00					\$5,701.20
Youth Oversight	<u>\$63.72</u>						<u>\$63.72</u>
Total 5 Committee Expenses	\$1,800.15	\$4,045.00					\$5,845.15

6 Support to Others	\$11,650.00			\$11,650.00
Total Operating Expenses	\$98,766.82	\$4,298.00		\$103,064.82
Operating Income/(Loss)	\$38,532.05	\$(4,298.00)	\$300.00	\$1,259.08
Other Income and Expense				
Transfers - Budgeted	\$(12,500.00)		\$1,000.00	\$11,500.00
Transfers - Net Operating	\$(26,023.05)	26,032.05		
Unrealized Gain/Loss		<u>\$41,784.20</u>		<u>\$8,356.27</u>
Total Other Income & Expense	\$(38,532.05)	\$67,816.25	\$1,000.00	\$50,140.47
Net Income/(Loss)	\$0.00	\$63,518.25	\$300.00	\$85,933.60

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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 Next 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	A reserve fund to provide travel assistance to ILYM's reps to FWCC World Gatherings
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 - MONTHLY MEETING CONTRIBUTIONS
JULY 1, 2020 - JUNE 30, 2021**

	Contribution
Blue River Quarterly	0.00
Bloomington-Normal MM	2,080.00
Burlington WG	0.00
Clear Creek MM	5,000.00
Columbia FM	2,040.00
Downers Grove FM	7,900.00
Duneland FM	1,530.00
Evanston MMoF	11,856.25
57th Street MoF	4,590.00
Fox Valley QM	500.00
Lake Forest FM	17,325.00
Northside FM	4,590.00
Oak Park FM	5,200.00
Oshkosh MM	100.00
Rock Valley FM	0.00
St. Louis MM	9,600.00
South Bend FM	5,760.00
Southern Illinois QM	1,440.00
Spoon River QM	720.00
Urbana-Champaign FM	10,000.00
Total	90,531.25

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>\$260.</u></p>
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ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING OPERATING BUDGET 2021-2022

	2021-2022 Budget	2020-2021 Budget	2020-2021 Actual
Revenue			
Contributions-Meetings	89,000	80,000	90,531
Gifts-Individuals	34,000	25,000	32,413
Bank & Investment Income	5,500	4,000	6,525
Gatherings-Retreats	<u>16,000</u>	<u>15,000</u>	<u>7,829</u>
<i>Total Income</i>	144,500	124,000	137,299
Operating Expenses			
1 Personnel & Office	63,550	62,500	48,101
2 YM Travel Support	4,000	4,000	113
3 Site & Property Expenses			
Annual Services-Property Taxes	1,500	2,000	1,078
Mowing, Tree Trimming	6,500	6,000	8,400
Routine Maintenance & Repairs	5,000	5,500	2,816
Urgent Repairs	2,000	2,000	5,194
Insurance	10,500	9,000	10,564
Caretaker Expenses	0	500	500
Utilities	<u>2,500</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>2,568</u>
<i>Total Site & Property</i>	28,000	27,500	31,120
4 Gatherings-Retreats			
AS Event Expenses (oversight: Admin Coord)	6,000	5,000	371
AS Cooking-Food (oversight: Planning Grp)	7,800	8,300	4,000
AS Aft/Eve Program (oversight: Planning Grp)	2,200	2,200	1,299
AS Children's Program (oversight: CRE Comm)	1,000	1,000	0
AS Site Preparation (oversight: Planning Grp)	1,000	1,000	0
Other Gatherings	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>312</u>
<i>Total Gatherings-Retreats</i>	18,000	17,500	5,982
5 Committees			
Ad hoc	0	25	0
Adult Young Friends	150	200	0
Children's Religious Education	200	600	0
Development	700	1,000	80
Environmental Concerns	50	100	0
Faith & Practice	0	25	0
Finance	25	50	0
Handbook	25	25	0
Maintenance, Planning & Envisioning	50	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	1,656
Youth Oversight	<u>2,400</u>	<u>2,400</u>	<u>64</u>
<i>Total Committee Expenses</i>	6,800	9,700	1,800

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING, OPERATING BUDGET 2021-2022
EXPENSE LINE ITEM DETAILS (CONT.)

	2021-2022	2020-2021	201202021
	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
Black Lives Matter Chicago	1,000	1,000	1,000
Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO)	50	50	50
<i>Total Committee Expenses</i>	11,650	11,650	11,650
Total Operating Expenses	132,000	132,850	98,767
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>26,032</u>
<i>Total Transfers</i>	12,500	12,500	38,532
Net Income (Deficit)	0	(21,3500)	0

TREASURERS (See Minute 21)

This past year has not been typical in any respect and that applies to the finances of ILYM. As you may recall, the Finance Committee predicted a decline in Monthly Meeting and individual contributions resulting in deficit spending. The good news is as of June 13 (looking at the ILYM Inc/Exp Statement FYTD report), Total Net Income is positive \$38,540.01.

Revenue through June 13 is about \$6,000 below budget and the same time frame last year, due to Gifts from Individuals are \$8,702 below year ago (likely to change) and income related to sessions (which is likely to change). It seems too early to discern if our move to “pay as led” session contributions will cover our in person sessions expenses but they more than cover virtual sessions (even with the \$5,500 of known expenses Dawn has yet to pay). Monthly Meeting donations are comparable to prior year and already exceeding our conservative budget projections.

Expenses through June 13 are significantly lower than both budget and prior year to

date due to personnel committee and Sessions expenses (-\$43,875 vs Budget) and committee, sessions and site (-\$17,083 vs Prior year). Although I am aware of \$11,000 of expenses (urgent repairs and sessions expenses) that Dawn will pay in the next weeks.

Please send donations and expense/reimbursement requests to Dawn Crimson before she closes the books at the end of June. Final reports will be available at Fall Continuing Committee.

ILYM is grateful to the generosity of Friends individually and through our Monthly Meetings (and the Development Committee, whose job this year was made more challenging due to all the uncertainty). We have been able to grow all our reserves through your support, investment returns and sound fiscal stewardship.

I am sure you join me in thanking Dawn Crimson for her work as co-treasurer.

Val Lester

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE (See Minute 32)

Overview: Charlotta Koppanyi, who was hired as the Children's Religious Education (CRE) Coordinator for Annual Sessions 2020 as a part-time temporary employee, will continue to organize CRE and lead teaching for Annual Sessions 2021. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the Annual Sessions was offered and provided via Zoom as a virtual program in 2020. In 2020 we offered sessions for 4 age groups ranging from 2.5 years to 13 years; three days of classes, running parallel with the adult sessions, with 20 students registered and attending. All classes had 2 adult teachers, and a few high school students assisting. Charlotta Koppanyi also attended all classes/sessions in case assistance was needed. The virtual classes went well and provided time for learning, sharing and social time. Keeping the attention of some of the younger participants was at times challenging and for 2021 we will adjust our programs and how we interact.

Clerks: Due to personal health reasons, Monica Tetzlaff stepped down as Clerk. Jason Shenk and Bobbi Trist stepped up as acting Co-Clerks through Annual Sessions 2021, dividing the responsibilities of clerking. All committee meetings have been held virtually.

Special Programs: Due to COVID-19, no special programs or retreats were provided. The Our Whole Lives (OWL) Lifespan Sexuality Education program was not offered in 2020. However we are hoping to once again partner with others and offer OWL in 2021 at the Evanston Friends meetinghouse. A program/retreat/workshop is planned for late summer/beginning fall 2021 at Evanston Friends Meeting, developed by Charlotta Koppanyi, for 8–13-year-old students. More information to come.

Staying Virtual in 2021: Charlotta Koppanyi, continuing as the Children's Religious Education Coordinator, along with the CRE Committee, are coordinating the virtual children's sessions for 2021. Charlotta Koppanyi has been working to prepare volunteer teachers and will develop class notes in partnership with teachers for Intermediate and Middle School sessions; as well as all other aspects of logistics. Two adult teachers are planned for each class; no high school students are volunteering to assist this year; however, we are looking forward to 2022 and in-person opportunities. Charlotta will be present during all online sessions to troubleshoot if needed, in addition to co-teaching Intermediate and Middle School. Based on what we learned in 2020, we are adjusting the programming and offering a social time at the end of the day. For Annual Session 2021, with the theme of Equality in Action: Roots & Reality, we are providing classes on Friday, June 25, Saturday, June 26 afternoon.

Preschool: 25-minute sessions. Camille Roberts, Evanston Friends Meeting and Bobbi Trist, Urbana-Champaign Friends Meeting, Godly Play Stories: Margaret Fell and

Meeting for Worship

Primary: 25-minute sessions. Camille Roberts, Evanston Friends Meeting and Bobbi Trist, Urbana-Champaign Friends Meeting, Goodly Play Stories: Woolman and the Indians and Martin Luther King, Jr.

Intermediate: 55-minute sessions. Michael Pine & Charlotta Koppanyi, Evanston Friends Meeting. Theme: How and what did we, as a society, change from unequal to equal in our past?

Middle School: 55-minute sessions. Rex Nyqvist & Charlotta Koppanyi, Evanston Friends Meeting. Theme: Difference between Equality and Equity – what does that mean in reality?

A 45-minute “Hang Out” session for all students at the end of each day. Adult supervision.

Sunday, June 27 Epistle Presentation: Opening by internationally acclaimed concert violinist, Rachel Barton Pine; Epistle program by children from each class; Improvised musical performance by 9-year-old Sylvia Pine, inspired by the children’s epistles

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

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (See Minute 51)

The committee is still working on a total revision to the Support section of *ilym.org*. We have been much too slow to finalize this. Reasons include our desire for perfection, our desire for advice from experienced individuals, and the multiple goals that must be satisfied.

Individual gifts will meet the goal that was set in the annual budget for the current fiscal year. This is a good thing for the yearly meeting finances. However, there are some concerns. During the past few years the amount that has been set for individual contributions has been determined without needed discussion between the Finance and Development Committees. We are partly responsible for this and will be working to prevent this from happening in the future. An additional concern is that for the past few years the goal for individual contributions would not have been met without certain large contributions that were received. It is preferable to spread out very large gifts over several years in order to avoid temporary disruption of normal budgeting. This has not been done in recent years.

For quite some time the Development Committee was only given the total amount of individual donations. Some people were interpreting the Illinois Yearly Meeting Policy Regarding Access to and Use of Contribution and Donor Information as prohibiting any sharing of donor information with the Development Committee. The committee initiated conversations about such sharing because the ILYM Policy on Donor Privacy specifically permits reasonable sharing of such information with the Development Committee. There is now general agreement that the Development Committee Clerk will receive certain donor information. Specific donation amounts will remain confidential, but donor names will be grouped into broad categories according to historical donation amounts. Such limited information sharing is allowed by the ILYM Policy. Indeed, the Development Committee does not want specific information about every donation. We have not asked for such information and would not accept it if it were given to us. The information we receive will be carefully used to improve the ability of the yearly meeting to raise

necessary funds. This clarifies the sharing practices so that the Development Committee can do its work and the privacy of donors is respected.

We welcome volunteers to help us with our work. We welcome individuals who will help us bring our message to their Meetings. We welcome checks. We can suggest resources for designing planned gifts.

Frank Young, Clerk

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE (See Minute 52)

The ECC met at the ILYM campus at McNabb of May 1, 2021 to assist Maintenance and Planning Committee (M&P) in a work day. Friends discussed the possibilities of placing a wild flower pollinator garden in the foot print of the old shed, south of the facing bench in the nook of the Meeting House and at the south end of the prairie planting. Due to the fact that some structure, a gazebo, pergola or shelter, would be planned in the footprint of the old shed, it was decided not to put the initial native plant pollinator garden at that location. Future plans for the campus and possible structures in the footprint of the old shed will be explored at a joint M&P and ECC workshop at annual sessions. The initial wildflower garden will be placed at the south west corner of the prairie just north of the path between the Meeting House and Clear Creek House. The location at the south side of the Meeting House was rejected due to unknown location of the septic and gas lines. After yearly meeting annual sessions, ECC will reconvene to further develop the proposed garden and ensure Friends are comfortable with the selected location.

For the record, we took the interior dimensions of the concrete footprint of the old shed: length is 52 meters (~170 feet 7.25 inches) and width is 10.5 meters (34' 5"). From the west end of the footprint there is a 30 meter (98' 5") interior 'sidewalk' that is 2.1 meters (6' 10") from the south perimeter of the shed footprint. The 'sidewalk' is about 0.8 meters (2' 7.5") in width.

Noel B. Pavlovic, Clerk

HANDBOOK COMMITTEE (See Minute 26)

Recommended changes to Handbook Section One: Organization of Illinois Yearly Meeting follows:

1. Illinois Yearly Meeting

Establishment

Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (ILYM) is the group of Friends from constituent quarterly, monthly meetings, and worship groups. In the manner of Friends, these Quakers come together once a year at Annual Sessions to worship, conduct business, provide religious education, speakers, fellowship, etc. During the year, standing and ad hoc committees, named individuals, and representatives carry out the minuted intentions of the yearly meeting. Friends find that joining together nurtures a greater faithfulness to God and understanding of Quaker process. See *Faith and Practice: Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends* for more details.

Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends was established under minutes of approval in 1874 from Indiana Yearly Meeting (Hicksite, later known as Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting) and Baltimore Yearly Meeting. The opening sessions took place on the thirteenth day of ninth month, 1875, at the meetinghouse near McNabb, Illinois.

At first, ILYM consisted of two quarterly meetings: Blue River Quarterly Meeting,

which included meetings in Illinois and southern Indiana, and Prairie Grove Quarterly Meeting with monthly meetings in Iowa. At the time, Illinois Yearly Meeting was part of the 19th century branch of Quakers known as Hicksites. [See *Faith and Practice: Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends* for a detailed history of the meeting.]

Currently, ILYM is made up of one quarterly meeting, Blue River Quarterly Meeting, as well as other monthly meetings and worship groups not part of a quarterly meeting. Friends come from meetings in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, and Wisconsin. Two of the monthly meetings, Downers Grove Friends Meeting and 57th Street Meeting of Friends, maintain dual membership in Western Yearly Meeting.

Affiliations

ILYM is a member of Friends General Conference.

ILYM is a member of the Friends World Committee for Consultation.

ILYM also appoints representatives to:

- American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) corporation
- Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)
- Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW)
- Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns (FLGBTQ +)
- Friends Peace Teams
- Friends Secondary Schools (Olney Friends School and Scattergood Friends School)
- National Religious Campaign Against Torture

Incorporation

In the manner of Friends, the Participating Members of Illinois Yearly Meeting, make decisions and set the direction for the yearly meeting. The ILYM bylaws, approved in 2007, define Participating Members as “those members who attend yearly meeting business sessions, or are members of any Illinois Yearly Meeting Committee or Working Group.” Minutes of these decisions made at annual sessions and by the Continuing Committee are approved by the body and published annually in *The Minutes and Accompanying Documents*, more familiarly known as “the minute book.”

The officers of ILYM currently are the Presiding Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Recording Clerk, Assistant Recording Clerk, co-Treasurers, Reading Clerk, and the Stewards. The officers serve to facilitate the process of decision making and to carry out the work of the yearly meeting. This Handbook includes descriptions of the expectations of the officers.

Illinois Yearly Meeting was incorporated under the Illinois General Not For Profit Corporation Act as a regional church and recorded in Cook County on April 29, 2004. In order to be a non-profit corporation, there needs to be a board of directors that meets at least once per year. The ILYM Annual Sessions meets this requirement without having a separate meeting or separate responsibilities. At this time, ILYM does not meet in an Executive Session. Therefore, this Handbook does not have a description for “Board of Directors.”

ILYM names a registered agent to act as a liaison between the yearly meeting and the State of Illinois assigned by the Finance Committee. At this time, the Treasurer acts as the registered agent. The Registered Agent is required to submit an *Annual Report* filing by April 1 each year. If the Registered Agent address changes, a *Statement of Change of Registered Agent and/or Registered Office* must be submitted separately.

See Appendix D for Statement of Purpose for Incorporation and Appendix E for bylaws.

Meetinghouse near McNabb, Illinois

ILYM owns about 12 acres of property near McNabb, Illinois. On that property are the meetinghouse first used in 1875, the Clear Creek House, and other small outbuildings. Clear Creek Monthly Meeting of Friends is the resident monthly meeting on the campus. The yearly meeting is a group of Friends rather than a building. Although almost all annual sessions have taken place at the historic meetinghouse and campus, during the recent pandemic in 2020 and 2021, the annual sessions took place via video conferencing.

Constituent quarterly meeting, monthly meetings, and worship groups

Individual membership in the Religious Society of Friends is held through a monthly meeting. Any member of one of the monthly meetings in Illinois Yearly Meeting is a member of Illinois Yearly Meeting. A description of monthly meetings, worship groups, preparative meetings, and quarterly meetings including how they are set up, laid down, and reaffiliated is in *Faith and Practice: Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends* in the section on “Organization and Structure of Meetings.”

Some monthly meeting and worship groups are part of a quarterly meeting while others are not. Addresses, worship information, and contacts for the meetings are in the directory and The Minutes (published annually and often referred to as the minute book.)

Blue River Quarterly Meeting:

- Bloomington-Normal Monthly Meeting
- Clear Creek Monthly Meeting
- Burlington Worship Group (under the care of Clear Creek MM)
- Columbia Friends Meeting
- Macomb Worship Group (under the care of Clear Creek MM)
- Southern Illinois Quaker Meeting
- Spoon River Quaker Meeting
- Springfield Worship Group (under the care of Urbana-Champaign FM)
- St. Louis Religious Society of Friends
- Urbana-Champaign Friends Meeting

Not affiliated with a quarterly meeting but divided into two regions.

Chicago-North:

- Evanston Monthly Meeting of Friends
- Lake Forest Friends Meeting
- Northside Friends Meeting
- Oshkosh Monthly Meeting
- Rock Valley Friends Meeting
- Fox Valley Quaker Meeting

Chicago-South:

- Downers Grove Friends Meeting
- Duneland Friends Meeting
- Elkhart Worship-Group (under the care of South Bend FM)
- 57th Street Meeting of Friends
- Oak Park Friends Meeting
- South Bend Friends Meeting

2. Mutual Caring of the Yearly, Monthly and Quarterly Meetings to each other Yearly Meeting:

- a. Provides an annual meeting of Friends from ILYM quarterly, monthly, preparative, allowed, and worship groups to conduct business. Gathering together allows the pursuit of larger-scale projects; broadens the spiritual perspectives both of meetings and of individuals; and provides an important unifying influence among Friends. Smaller meetings find nurturing in larger groups for worship; children across various meetings are able to connect and strengthen their Quaker identity.
- b. Nurtures its constituent meetings through the work of the Ministry and Advancement Committee and the Field Secretary. M&A maintains contact with all meetings, encouraging spiritual development and unity. The Field Secretary may conduct retreats, workshops, meetings for reconciliation, etc. and may also encourage and facilitate visitation and shared worship among meetings.
- c. Provides copies of Faith and Practice: Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, a written document of the understanding of our faith and resource guide. This is provided in print and online.
- d. Provides copies of ILYM publications including the minute book (which includes minutes and accompanying documents,) the Plummer Lecture and Among Friends, in print and online. Maintains the ILYM website.
- e. Supports and encourages youth gatherings during the year for the development of friendship and religious education.
- f. Announces events such as workshops, special meetings for worship, social gatherings, etc. sponsored by the quarterly meeting or monthly meetings through an email list.
- g. Through some committees, such as the Peace Resources Committee, coordinates information for the benefit of monthly meetings and worship groups.
- h. Provides care for specific groups such as Women and Gender Minority Weekend, Adult Young Friends, and anti-racism groups.
- i. Publishes the annual statistics of Friends in the yearly meeting.
- j. Cares for the meetinghouse and property. Archives historic records.

Monthly Meetings:

- a. Appoint a representative from the monthly meeting to attend the annual sessions and continuing committee sessions in order to report on any relevant monthly meeting activities to the yearly meeting and to report back to the monthly meeting on all ILYM activities. Give the representative name and contact information to the administrative coordinator. Stay up to date on all Illinois Yearly Meeting minutes, concerns and issues. Report on ILYM happenings and address ILYM concerns as necessary in monthly business meetings.
- b. Distribute the publications Among Friends, the annual Minute book, the Plummer Lecture, and any relevant announcements to local members and attenders.
- c. Encourage and facilitate attendance and participation of all monthly meeting members/ attenders to the Annual Session of Yearly Meeting and to Continuing Committee.
- d. Prepare no more than a 700-word written annual State of the Society Report detailing the spiritual growth of the monthly meeting for the past year. Send a copy, preferably electronically, to the administrative coordinator usually by five weeks before the annual sessions.

- e. Complete a statistical report of the number of members: resident, non-resident, over 18 years old, and under 18 years old. Use the form provided by the administrative coordinator and return to the administrative coordinator usually by the first week in July.
- f. Decide on an appropriate financial donation to ILYM and send to the treasurer. ILYM suggests an amount which is published in the minute book (see Table of Contents for page number) or available from the Finance Committee. It is helpful to give the donation early in ILYM's fiscal year. Quarterly donations are also acceptable.
- g. Encourage members and attenders to serve on ILYM committees.
- h. Send, when appropriate, memorial minutes of members and attenders of monthly meetings to the administrative coordinator for inclusion in the minute book by five weeks before the annual sessions. These minutes are generally less than 700 words. A representative from the monthly meeting is to be assigned to read each memorial during meeting for worship preceding the Fourth Session (Saturday) of the Annual Sessions. [See Memorials in this Handbook]
- i. Participate in the assigned planning group for planning the Annual Sessions.

Quarterly Meeting

Blue River Quarterly Meeting, currently meets twice a year.

- a. review planning for yearly meeting annual sessions
- b. send names and addresses of clerks to the administrative coordinator each year or whenever there is a change
- c. provide a program for Friends
- d. care for constituent monthly meetings.

3. The Practice of Illinois Yearly Meeting

Faith and Practice: Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Illinois Yearly Meeting published Faith and Practice: Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends in 2020. It is available in hard copy and it is also on the ILYM website (<https://ilym.org/ilym/faith-and-practice/>).

Faith and Practice: Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends is a spiritual and practical document that records shared learnings. The book gives us a written understanding of our faith. It serves as a resource guide for how we practice our faith, by caring for ourselves and each other in basic ways. The practices described are tested ways of handling a wide variety of issues that individuals and meetings are likely to face. It is not intended to cover every detail of every practice. This book also includes perspectives on the spiritual meaning of our current practices to guide new circumstances as well as to clarify our current practices.

Friends will find the book useful in different ways. First chapters spell out meeting for worship along with an account of the spiritual nature of Friends' faith. The book covers specific practices of ILYM Friends. It also has a glossary that defines many terms used by Quakers and a history of ILYM. Included is a rich selection of queries and quotations to guide self-examination and spiritual discernment.

MAINTENANCE, PLANNING AND ENVISIONING COMMITTEE (See Minutes 38, 39)

Our committee, which includes Chip Rorem, Beth Carpenter, Grayce and Neil Mesner, Dick Ashdown, Carol Bartles, Noel Pavlovic, Bill Howenstine, Marie White, Judy Reese, and Chris Goode met online three times and likely will have another meeting prior to Annual Sessions.

Caretaker: We continue to grow into our relationship with Judy Reese who has been in residence at Clear Creek House (CCH) since October 1. Dick Ashdown has been helping her to learn the various tasks and she is pulling together and getting to know our list of local contractors and schedule of regular maintenance items, in addition to keeping a close eye on what needs attention. She is also thinking about outreach and thought it would be helpful to have one or more single page handouts that she could give visitors that would explain aspects of local Quaker and ILYM history. Peter Lasersohn agreed to work with Chris Goode to develop these handouts. COVID has not made Judy's outreach, or entry into the larger community easy. She hopes to investigate if we can get maintenance help from Community Service projects in the area and to establish good contacts with other churches and local institutions. We are grateful to have her onboard.

Raccoons: This winter during regular inspection rounds Judy noticed evidence of an infiltration of raccoons and rats at the meetinghouse (MH) tool room (but did not appear to get into the MH). After working with Grayce to block their hole, they broke in again, making a mess and spreading some lime kept there which Judy and Mike Murphy were able to clean up and Dick Ashdown made some additional rodent prevention repairs. Joe McCall, the hired trapper has caught three raccoons, a possum and a rat at that location, and has agreed to make repairs to secure the open joist floor from the underside with corrugated metal this spring/summer. Rodents are also getting into some of the campground buildings and these may also need some work to help secure them.

Workday: We held a workday on May 1 to do some much needed maintenance and grounds work at the campus and had the good work of 28 volunteers. More detail is in the Stewards report. The tool room interior was repainted, grounds work was done, and other tasks were accomplished. We might try to organize another for later this summer and certainly one for the fall. We have some ideas about different ways to make them more productive.

Painting and Maintenance: We contracted with Ray Shirley to scrape and repaint the MH in 2019 and he has done half of the work and received half of the money allocated. We are determining if he is able to complete the work this spring/summer. If not, we plan to find another painting contractor to complete the work and to provide bids to paint the Bathhouse, HS Bunkhouse, Penn House and Fox Hole, and to stain the Cabins. Some of them are in desperate need of painting. We are getting pricing from Dean Tieman, our Bath House contractor, to make some repairs needed to the wood barn roof in order to keep it dry and secure and to the deteriorating areas of the meetinghouse porch steps and decking and posts. An engineer has examined the foundation structure of the Bunkhouse and will let us know what options we have to help stabilize it before we can repair doors and possibly replace windows. Insulation at the attic of CCH is coming loose and there are some siding and roofing issues that may need addressing soon. And the roofing at the south side of the meetinghouse is curling in the sun and blowing away in the wind so the whole upper roof will also need to be redone very soon. We are working with the High School Friends, who would like to paint a mural on the west side of the Metal Shed where a local farmer has his equipment stored as part of a project to repaint this side of the building. It could help clarify and make our Quaker presence more visible (though perhaps they may choose to paint the Bunkhouse exterior instead). The Steward's report details an emergency repair made to replace the piping under the house slab for the septic system at Clear Creek House.

Campus Asset Management Plan: With all the upcoming maintenance work that the campus requires we plan to work in the coming year on an effort to make a clearer, more useful document to aid in future planning, budgeting and spending on our campus facilities.

Campus Plan Update: ECC has been planning a garden to attract pollinators and butterflies to the site and planting some shade trees along the south side of the path between the MH and CCH. There is also renewed interest in a gazebo/pavilion associated with a Memorial Grove and with the butterfly garden. It has been 9 years since the original Campus Plan was approved in 2012 and our committee has begun plans to revise it to bring it more up to date and reflective of current thinking and developments since then. MP&E and ECC are hosting a workshop at annual sessions on Thursday and Saturday to listen to your thoughts and ideas about the future of our Campus. What should be our next new project to benefit our campus? Is turning the CCH garage into accessible bedrooms and bathrooms still the sense of the Yearly Meeting? Should we think about accommodating folks differently? What should we do with the Barn? What about some of our other campus structures? What about nature paths, plantings, hedgerows and prairie? How do we make better year round use? Please familiarize yourselves with the existing campus plan documents that are posted on the website and come to one of the sessions or talk to us about your ideas.

Campus Sustainable Energy: We will investigate the possibility and costs of providing solar or wind energy at our campus, and will also try to find a sustainable energy company from whom we can purchase our energy. There are currently three separate meters, at the MH, Campground and CCH that complicates things.

Caretaker Job Description Action Item: The job description for the Caretaker is being submitted for review and approval by the Yearly Meeting for placing in the Handbook. The Caretaker Job Description is in the additional documents section.

Respectfully Submitted: Christopher Goode, Clerk

MINISTRY AND ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE (See Minutes 24, 25)

Ministry and Advancement (M&A) meets virtually, monthly, by zoom. As is our charge, we have been virtually visiting ILYM meetings and worship groups during their Meetings for Worship and Meetings for Business, offering a loving focused presence.

Other times, during one-on-ones or during an event, we listen attentively to hear of their pains and struggles, along with the unanticipated silver linings, made possible by the pandemic. We offer support as we can, ever the listening ear.

Support is a broad and deep category. All the way from ‘how to handle issues of sexual harassment’ to ‘interpreting the ILYM financials’ to ‘finding resources within the ILYM family that might be useful to AYF.’

We seek to connect our monthly meetings and our worship groups to the larger ILYM community. Some are completely independent of ILYM. Some are involved extensively. Some question the value ILYM provides. Some prefer to engage with their M&A liaison infrequently, others more frequently.

We have lifted, then seasoned the following opportunities.... How might M&A efficiently become a clearing house for activities offered by, and to, all monthly meetings and worship groups? How might M&A support those who are not adapting to virtual worship? How might M&A bring Friends closer in to the warmth of ILYM? How can M&A best support our Field Secretary? How might M&A host ILYM events throughout the year (e.g. a Panel Discussion: Meet Your ILYM Committees, an Introduction to ILYM Faith & Practice)? To that end, we commit to ask Friends for their areas of interest during Annual Sessions.

We are learning how to best apply our individual gifts in service of our Committee. We look to find our growing edge. We remain mindful of the primary task of our

committee; so, when we have ideas that stray outside our mission we trim them before they sprout. We are only so many, can only work on so many concerns and opportunities at any given time.

We appreciate the efforts of Nominating Committee to fill the roster of our Committee's membership. We have had three members join in one year, each at a different time. Continuity is a challenge. As each new member arrives, we regroup, recalibrate.

We are blessed to have Brad Laird as Field Secretary. In April we participated in his annual evaluation with the help of Personnel Committee. Though awkward, we learned a lot about how to transition from engaging an independent contractor to engaging an employee.

Submitted by Phyllis Reynolds, Clerk

FIELD SECRETARY (See Minute 12)

What an amazing experience it has been to work with the meetings and individuals of ILYM this, my first year, as your Field Secretary. Along with all of you, we have had to reinvent what it is to engage in this ministry and our practices as Friends in the time of COVID-19. As I write this, my twelve year old daughter has just received her first Pfizer vaccine, and soon the testing will be done that may extend the age range down to two year olds. For many of us this gives us a sense of relief and some security, of hope of being face to face in our meetings, potlucks, religious education, etc. We all look forward to our scientists determining whether we will need boosters to fend off variants, and, with confidence in the remarkable science of mRNA vaccines, hope for a new normal or, more likely, a set of new normals as different meetings formulate their experiments now and in the coming months. And what will this "new normal" be and mean for our individuals, families, meetings and our general social positioning. Let me offer some suggestions:

1. Because we are able to, because it is the right thing to do (love you neighbors as yourself), because this protects us too, I encourage ILYM and its meetings to support the USA joining with other nations in making COVID-19 vaccines available to everyone in the world. This not only will save millions of lives, but it protects us here in the Midwest too from the world-wide, fast spreading of COVID-19 variants that could put us in some form of social distancing (if not worse consequences) again. It is the loving thing to do.
2. We have learned that we can reinvent things like annual sessions, worship including business, and committees. We can see the benefits of online meetings, bringing in beloved Friends from distant places has been a blessing to many. At the same time some find the on-line experience deeply taxing and a format in which worship falls far short for them. We know that we can do both, i.e., we can meet both on-line and in person either simultaneously or at different times. We can do child and adult religious education, knitting, book clubs, worship with particular foci online and then meet in person at other times. We have many recipes in our spiritual practices cook book.
3. We have seen the gift of nurturing our ministers (and we are all ministers). I have felt great joy in seeing younger Friends take active roles in committees. Older Friends can learn much from the cultural insights the younger generations bring to Friends much as Friends brought new insights, even revelations, in each generation, from Geroge Fox at Sedbergh and nearby Firbank Fell (where Puritan Seekers in larger numbers began to hear and become convinced), to the civil rights movement and the reviving of anti-war sentiment and action in the 1960s and 70s that many of the older persons reading this engaged with deeply. Let us continue to nurture one

another's gifts and let us older persons be intentional about listening to the newer folk, those to whom we are passing the baton.

4. One way that this has been happening is through Friends accompanying the Field Secretary as an accompanying elder. Friends from a number of meetings have volunteered to hold my presence at a worship and the meeting with whom we are worshipping in the light. Being so held is a powerful, deeply loving parental action, and being held changes the ministry for the better. It is also powerful to be the holder, the divine love pouring through the holder, manifesting that infinite ocean of light and love, which flows over the ocean of darkness, to paraphrase Fox. Let me know if you have interest in doing this with me, or even just discussing it with me if you're not sure. Some Pendle Hill Pamphlets on accompanying and similar eldership functions are sold as a pack of three: (#347) Tall Poppies: Supporting Gifts of Ministry and Eldering in the Monthly Meeting by Martha Paxon Grundy; (#392) Spirit-Led Eldering: Integral to Our Faith and Practice by Margery Mears Larrabee; and (#428) Spiritual Accompaniment: An Experience of Two Friends Traveling in the Ministry by Cathy Walling & Elaine Emily.
5. We can all travel easily to other meetings with or without an accompanying elders from time to time with online worship and other meeting events. Some have found that our various meetings bring different insights to matters we may be working on in our own meetings.

This year I have physically traveled little, only once traveling to Clear Creek. As we open back up (COVID-19 variants permitting) I will spend more time on the road. One of the blessings of Zooming has been my ability to attend many meetings often. In the next year I will be at fewer meetings because I will be able to be given hospitality, be on long rides with others, and engage in that depth of human interaction that many of us miss with Zoom only interactions, despite the creativity that some meetings have shown in their many weekly Zoom opportunities. So, the work will shift in some ways but not in others.

One of the ways I hope the work does not shift is in my following the call to use my gifts for the benefit of the yearly meeting, its constituent meetings, and the individuals that both give and receive nurturing for ministry. A conservative Friend who has visited our annual sessions a number of times and some of our monthly meetings, one David Eley, wrote to me, counseling me thus: "As field secretary, you will probably pre-arrange your visits in a way that includes, in effect, an invitation, but you can incorporate being sent of the Lord by awaiting direction, as to the timing of visits, the extent of revisitation, and the nature of the visits, including the spiritual substance shared in various ways during a visit." I value David's input and, while meeting the expectations of the job description, making sure I listen to the call, the nudges, the direction that comes from, as Jim Pym says, listening to the Light. Please hold David Eley in the Light as he has suffered some strokes and is recovering.

Here is a brief list of what the foci have been in this nearly a year in the role:

1. Encouraging and nurturing accompanying ministry.
2. We set up a clerk's meeting so that persons in that role could nurture each other. What an amazing experience, I have been told, to become a clerk and then have the pandemic hit. Our clerks have done a lot, and I am sure you know to let them know that they have been awesome, have been faithful, have been at times tired and frustrated. Let us love them. Let us also build capacity for others to take on clerking roles.

3. I have tried to balance setting up yet another Zoom meeting while the opportunities within Quakerdom to do so from Pendle Hill to Beacon House and many other places compete for our time. There are opportunities for daily worship, meditation, bible study, FGC's and ILYM's Anti-racism meetings and worship. Many of you have engaged across ILYM, Turtle Island, and beyond.
4. I enjoyed being invited to speak to the Leinster Quarterly Meeting in Ireland (around Dublin) and later participating in the Ireland Yearly Meeting's annual sessions over Zoom.
5. I attended the Blue River Quarterly Meeting.
6. I have participated in a monthly meeting group dealing with some difficult interpersonal issues.
7. I have had the pleasure of meeting with Superintendents and Secretaries from across North America and Britain.
8. I have done a number of one-on-one conversations with members and attenders on the phone and by Zoom.
9. I have practiced accountability and self-care via a Faithfulness group set authorized by South Bend Friends, in my engagement with the Ministry and Advancement Committee that formally oversees this position, and by my partner and I attending Friendly Couples Enrichment. I exercise regularly (regular forest bathing is on that plan), listen to music, read spiritual literature, write poetry at times, and listen for what might feed my soul. I am fallible, and so I am grateful for the many Friends who help me stay the path.

Looking forward here are some of what the tasks look like:

1. I hope to continue to support monthly meeting clerks adding some event to nurture committee clerks and those who may want to or are likely to become committee clerks.
2. I intend to look at ways to support and nurture the ILYM representatives from our monthly meetings.
3. I remain available to support and/or look for the right support when problems come up.
4. I will do more one-on-one conversations.
5. I will travel to be present with the meetings that have face to face gatherings.
6. I will be asking meetings about how many members speak which languages other than English. I am looking at what bilingual or multilingual meetings look like and what are the strengths and problems that come with such meetings.
7. I will continue to practice self-care, including dancing with you at annual sessions this year over Zoom and, I hope, arm in arm in 2022!

I am grateful to be a part of you.

Respectfully Submitted, Brad Laird

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (See Minutes 13, 44)

The Nominating Committee submits for the approval of the Yearly Meeting the following Friends for various positions, committees, or as representatives to Quaker and other organizations.

David Shiner, for Assistant Recording Clerk. He will hold this position through the 2021 sessions, will be Recording Clerk in 2022 and 2023, and will again be Assistant Recording Clerk in 2024

Beth Carpenter and Chip Rorem, for Stewards, for terms through 2027

Dale Gardner, for Clerk of Children’s Religious Education Committee, for a three year term (2024)

Frank Young, as Clerk, and Marcy Harman, for three year terms on Development Committee (2024)

Noel Pavlovic, as Clerk, Sarah Pavlovic, Chris Goode, and Fariba Murray, for three-year terms on Environmental Concerns Committee (2024)

Maggie Wannerer, for a one year term on Finance Committee (2022), and Judy Jager and Ashlee Miller-Berry for three year terms on Finance Committee (2024)

Pam Kuhn and Sue Styer, for three year terms on Handbook Committee (2024)

Chris Goode, as Clerk, and Dennis McQueen, for three year terms on Maintenance, Planning, and Envisioning Committee (2024)

David Wixom for a three year term on Ministry and Advancement Committee (2024)

Mike Dennis, as Clerk, Daniel Rakemacher, and Allie Boyaris, for three year terms on Youth Oversight Committee (2024)

Kevin Brubaker, for a three year term as representative to Friends Committee on National Legislation (2024)

David Wixom, for a three year term as representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness (2024)

The Nominating Committee thanks all who have served or are serving the yearly meeting in some capacity. We are still looking for a Reading Clerk, a Co-Treasurer, several members of Ministry and Advancement Committee; and representatives to AFSC Corporation, FWCC, and FGC Central Committee. We have been asked to look for younger Friends to serve as representatives. If you are interested, or know of a qualified Friend in your meeting, please speak with someone on Nominating Committee. The committee consists of Sharon Haworth, Dale Gardner, Coco Colin, and Bridget Rorem.

PEACE RESOURCE COMMITTEE (See Minute 34)

We are back. The Peace Resources Committee has reached out to monthly meetings to inform them to consider us a resource for peace and social justice concerns. We hosted a Gathering, via Zoom, on April 17. While attendance was low, we got some good input from the attenders. We have also looked at what other Peace Committees in other yearly meetings are doing to consider new directions of the Committee.

We will be continue to be a resource for ILYM and for young people who have questions about conscientious objection, registering for the Selective Service System, and military recruitment.

PERSONNEL (See Minute 36)

Since the spring Continuing Committee, all part-time employees have been evaluated with the exception of our caretaker whose employment had been less than a year. The caretaker’s evaluation will take place this summer. We appreciate the service they provided to the yearly meeting.

We will work with finance committee to seek any salary adjustments that may be due.

As determined at spring Continuing Committee, the Field Secretary job description will be brought before business meeting at Annual Sessions for approval.

There have been a few revisions to the caretaker job description since Annual

Sessions 2020. This revised caretaker job description will be brought before business meeting at annual sessions for approval.

The Personnel Committee will convene later this summer to consider any unfinished business or any items that need to be considered in advance of Fall Continuing Committee meeting.

Colleen Reardon, Clerk, Personnel Committee

PUBLICATIONS AND DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE (See Minute 34)

Print: Printed copies have been distributed and can now be purchased on quakerbooks.org. An ebook version has been created which can be used as an audio book.

Minute Book, Plummer Lecture, and Directory: All three have been printed and distributed.

Web: Working to “Clean Up” our web server to remove older content management systems and databases that are no longer in use.

STEWARDS (See Minute 37)

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 coordinating the work of our new Caretaker. We refer you to the MP&E report for details on that topic.

We seek to hire the services of younger, stronger backs to remove and replace our basement refrigerators in the meetinghouse.

We participated in a Workday on May 1 organized by the Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Committee. Approximately 28 people attended that day, plus some of the Clear Creek people showed up on the previous Thursday to finish prepping the storage room to get it ready for painting. Most of the Clear Creek people were involved in storage room activities, the biggest of which was the actual painting, mostly done by one volunteer. A group of Clear Creek Friends were joined by others to sort through the items that were moved out of the storage room.

Now that the storage room has been painted, the job of putting things back in there is looming. It was surprising to see what all was taken out. Some items were moved to Clear Creek House, some to the east end of the chicken house and some to the east room of the meetinghouse. We do not want to just randomly put things back into the storage room. We need to edit the contents before returning the viable ones to the storage room. We hope to weed out what no longer needs to be there, such as items that no longer work, and to organize the contents that will go back in, so everything is put away so it may be easily found. The items in the meetinghouse should be removed as soon as possible; we never know when we might need it for a wedding or a funeral, or just to be viewed by people stopping in to see this historic meetinghouse. We seek some volunteers who will take on this project with enthusiasm and knowledge of tools (old and new) that should be kept, thrown away, or given to a museum if it has historic value. We hope to find people who would give this project a certain amount of priority and complete this task this summer.

We had 2 dead trees and a stump cut down and cut up in preparation for the workday’s activity of moving them to the burn pile. Flowers were planted in the 2 urns in front of the meetinghouse.

Chris Goode and Chip Rorem met with Bruce Miller to discuss stabilizing the foundation of the Junior Yearly Meetinghouse. Bruce is a structural engineer. He will come up with several ways to accomplish the stabilization.

We also detected problems with the septic system in Clear Creek House. The tank was pumped but we found that the flow from the house was still blocked. The line was jetted, but we found that some lengths of the clay tile were broken. This required that we break up the floor in the basement and repair the broken sections. The cost for this will be approximately \$3,000.00. This work is in progress during the writing of this report and a final number for the work will be delivered during annual sessions.

Dick Ashdown, our Steward Emeritus, continues to convey details of site care to our caretaker, Judy Reese.

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

YOUTH OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (See Minute 35)

Members: Diane Clarke-Dennis, Warwick Daw, Jasmine Dennis, Michael Dennis, Dale Gardner, Liam Gardner, Mars Harroun, Choz Howard-Mckinney, Fariba Murray.

HSF Youth Programming: Spring & Summer, 2021:

Virtual Quake: The virtual Quake in February was the second of two planned virtual events sponsored by FGC and other affiliated yearly meetings. Liam and Mike, along with youth leaders from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and FGC organized the second retreat, which was held the weekend of February 20, 2021. During this event, youth from across North America played Zoom-friendly icebreaker games to get to know each other better; they talked about the similarities and differences between each others' Quaker communities; they participated in affinity groups that corresponded to their racial identity; and they did a workshop that explored each others' gifts, and how they share them with their communities. ILYM had three high school aged youth, and one middle school aged youth attend this event.

The third virtual Quake, as mentioned in the previous Continuing Committee report, had unfortunately never come to fruition.

Annual Sessions: In February, March and May, 2021, we began making plans for Annual Sessions. At the time of writing this, the finer details still need to be worked out. We will definitely be discussing our previous plans to paint our mural, and are considering it being themed off of the Quaker testimonies (SPICES). Each teen would paint a section of the mural, based on the testimony they choose to represent. Alternatively, another theme for the mural is "How or what about Quakerism speaks to you," where the youth would paint what being part of our community and/or faith means to them. To be clear, the mural will not be painted this year due to continuing COVID-19 concerns, but we hope to do this by next year, if not earlier, once teens over 14 years of age are eligible and get their vaccinations. Instead our teens will discuss and design plans for the mural over Annual Sessions, so they will be prepared when they go to paint it in the future.

We are planning on hopefully having a social justice workshop, as we often do. Our youth remain very passionate about Black Lives Matter, so we will try to have an activity centered around that topic.

As per usual, the High School Friends (HSF) will also have a Meeting for Business to discuss plans for the future. They will need to nominate a new Co-Clerk and Recording Clerk this year.

ILYM HSF Annual Sessions Schedule: There will be 12 sessions total, each of them in two hour increments. Some sessions will be for hanging out, some will be for workshops, and at least one will be for Meeting for Business. There will be two sessions on Wednesday, one session on Sunday, and three sessions on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. (June 16: 3pm-5pm, 8pm-10pm; June 17, 18, 19: 10am-12pm, 3pm-5pm, 8pm-10pm; June 20: 10am-12pm)

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON ANTI-RACISM (See Minute 33)

The Ad-hoc Committee requests that ILYM continue the Ad-hoc Anti-Racism Committee for an additional year because we are not prepared to release this work. This is not a closed group and we welcome anyone for whom this work is a leading. Please email Janice Domanik to join us. This year we have provided:

1. Worship sharing opportunity for Friends to consider the queries from the Pre-Gathering Friends of Color Epistle.
2. Information about what meetings within ILYM are doing about racism.
3. Resources that may be of assistance to Friends and monthly meetings and worship groups.
4. Workshop on racism which will have its last session on 6/27/21.

At the spring Continuing Committee meeting we shared queries to which we asked meetings to respond by April 15 so we could plan our next steps. Responses included requests for the following:

1. Virtual programming about racism
 - (a) Historical overview of racism and Quakerism
 - (b) Overview of work or problems Quaker meetings are facing on racism
 - (c) Providing education and resources
 - (d) Providing an evening on a topic as a learning event for one or several meetings
2. Facilitation of collaboration among monthly meetings working to dismantle white supremacy
3. Coordinate Crossroads workshop for ILYM members
4. Create rapid response network to promote timely response to local actions
5. Create affinity groups for people who have been marginalized within Quaker Community
6. Opportunities for support and respite for Black, Indigenous, People Of Color (BIPOC)
7. Review anti-racism trainings and share information with ILYM
8. Prepare an annotated reading list
9. Have regular meetings via Zoom for monthly meeting individuals doing work to have check ins
10. Provide updates on monthly meeting and worship group work on anti-racism
11. Opportunities for healing and worship on racism

As an ad-hoc we will look at ILYM and how we are doing as a yearly meeting in respect to anti-racism work.

We have a request of the yearly meeting from our struggle to get information from monthly meetings. How do we setup a way for meetings to collaborate on anti-racism work both among meetings and also with our ad hoc committee?

Submitted by Ad-Hoc Committee on Anti-Racism

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON ILYM ARCHIVES AGREEMENT WITH UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS LIBRARY (See Minute 53)

The ad hoc committee was appointed in 2020 to work with representatives of the University of Illinois Library to develop a new agreement for the deposit of ILYM records.

The committee, consisting of Beth Carpenter, Brent Eckert (ex officio as Records Librarian), Peter Lasersohn, and Carol Neely has not met in person, but has engaged in regular email correspondence with Krista Gray, Archives Program Officer for the University of Illinois Library. From this correspondence, it appears that any new deposit agreement with the library will have the following features, which the committee feels are appropriate for the yearly meeting to agree to:

- Legal title to all materials deposited since 1977 would be assigned to the University of Illinois Foundation.
- The library would agree to return any materials it decides not to keep to ILYM. No material would be discarded.
- Copyright for deposited materials would also be assigned to the University of Illinois Foundation. The Foundation would grant ILYM the right to use the materials for any purpose, including publication, for as long as the copyright endures.
- The library would not be required to microfilm or otherwise reproduce deposited materials.
- The agreement would cover materials deposited by Illinois Yearly Meeting only. Monthly and quarterly meetings, etc., could make their own agreements with the library (most likely with similar terms).

For comparison, the agreement under which materials were deposited in 1977 had the following features:

- Legal title to the deposited materials was retained by Illinois Yearly Meeting.
- If ILYM were to remove any materials after they were deposited, it would be obliged to compensate the library for the costs of maintaining them.
- The agreement is silent on the issue of copyright, which presumably means that the copyright was retained by ILYM.
- The library agreed to microfilm all deposited materials, and to provide ILYM with a copy of the microfilms.
- The agreement was signed jointly by ILYM and Blue River Quarterly Meeting. Clear Creek Monthly Meeting had its own separate agreement, signed in 1978.

We expect the library to have a document ready for signature in the coming weeks. The committee asks the yearly meeting whether it would be appropriate to bring such a document to the Continuing Committee for final approval, or if it should come instead to a session of the full yearly meeting.

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

FCNL REPRESENTATIVES

I had the privilege to attend the FCNL annual general committee meeting and lobby visits in Washington DC for the fourth time this year. This year's format was difficult for some and although it would have been nice to see people in person, I have to admit I was

pretty comfortable meeting over Zoom as an introvert. As an unforeseen benefit, due to this year's format and therefore reduced cost, over 800 people were in attendance.

From the very first session I was reminded how much I enjoy and appreciate being a part of this group of people and this organization and throughout the four days I was in awe of the level of organization and the amount of work achieved by FCNL staff. FCNL has made the choice to lean into issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion and this was the focus of the annual sessions this year. This year I was pleasantly surprised by the addition of consultants from Freedom Fellowship to monitor and educate the group on race issues. Lisa Sharon Harper, the president and founder of Freedom Road kicked off the week with a talk called the Beloved Community where she talked about race, culture and ethnicity.

Due to this year's focus on diversity, equity and inclusion, every meeting was attended by a Freedom Road consultant, as an observer, to help us watch for acts or language that could cause pain for some. We were told to write "ouch" in the chat if something was said during the meeting that was offensive to us and that it would be discussed at a later point. Also to write "oops" in the chat if we said something that we realized was inappropriate and the issues would be processed later.

The focus of this year's lobby visits was Senate Bill 3912, the Justice in Policing act. Luckily both of our Illinois Senators, Senator Duckworth as well as Senator Durbin, are cosponsors of this bill. We spent some time on Monday with an FCNL staff member organizing and preparing the delegation with Illinois, twelve of us, for meetings with staff members from the senator's offices as well as our house representatives. One person agreed to be the leader of the group, starting the meeting and specifying the ask for this year. Each person got to introduce themselves, where they live and something about their occupation or other affiliation and a story about why the bill was important to them personally. One thing I find very powerful and interesting each time I participate in this process is how personal and touching the personal stories are.

I visited with a staff member of my Congressman, Darin LaHood, and this being my fourth time, I did not have any trepidation about it and was happy to do it. I had positive feedback regarding the Justice in Policing Act from that office as well.

Other than the office visits we had a few worship sharing sessions. The queries this year were around race. A highlight this year as in past years was meeting the young FCNL fellows. What an amazing group of young people. Their depth of understanding of the issues, their passion and commitment are so inspiring. There were also other talks and a few business meetings of the General Committee.

Diane Randall had made a goal to get 25 new monthly donors during the annual sessions and that goal was reached by the end of the session. Please consider making a monthly contribution to FCNL if you are not already.

Submitted by Fariba Murray

FGC REPRESENTATIVES

Friends General Conference (FGC) undertook an institutional assessment to uncover structural racism within our organization. The Institutional Assessment Task Force's report and recommendations are available at www.fgcquaker.org/report. Central Committee approved the creation of an Implementation Committee to guide the transformation of FGC into an anti-racist organization. FGC has committed to confront and heal white supremacy within our organization and among FGC Friends, and to model

anti-racism. FGC uses a query which asks whether any decision is supporting our work to be an anti-racist organization. This does not mean that we do not make mistakes as we do our work. The organization is on a path and we learn from our mistakes. Individuals wanted resources can go to fgcquaker.org/deepen/help-your-meeting-challenge-racism/becoming-anti-racist-faith-community.

Some of the services FGC provides to nurture the spiritual vitality of Friends and Friends meetings are:

1. An annual Gathering of Friends occurring virtually again this year. Individuals can register for as much or as little of the program as they wish and fees are on a pay as led basis. In 2022 the gathering of Friends will be in Radnor, Virginia and in 2023 it will be in Oregon.
2. Regular on-line worship opportunities have been provided since the COVID-19 pandemic began to facilitate worshipping communities for those without one.
3. Through the Spiritual Deepening program FGC provides a Spiritual Deepening Library and online opportunities including 4-week book discussions, worship sharing groups, or eRetreats on topics such as Silence and Light for Quaker Newcomers; Living into Wholeness; Aging, Death, and Dying; Weaving a Wider Welcome; and Understanding and Healing White Supremacy.
4. FGC is offering several year-round virtual programs for youth to stay in community, including gatherings for children and parents and online youth retreats for Friends across North America. Note a young person from ILYM has been involved in planning a retreat for youth of Color.
5. Quakerbooks continues to provide an on-line place to obtain books that are of interest to Quakers. There is a selection of children's books and books helpful to newcomers.
6. Quakerpress of FGC publishes books and pamphlets related to FGC's major goals and programs. These may be of interest to meetings for adult religious education.
7. The Christian and Interfaith Relations Committee, brings Quaker perspectives to ecumenical and interfaith events. It also connects us with faith-based conversations about truth, justice, and reconciliation.
8. The Committee for Nurturing Ministries has a working group to develop and support clerking formation programs for high school and adult young Friends.
9. Through the Ministry on Racism Program, FGC empowers individual Friends and Quaker meetings to confront and heal the wounds of white supremacy, challenge racism, and help Friends co-create communities that are more accessible and equitable. Specific projects include the Pre-Gathering Retreat for People of Color and their Families, organizing Friends to attend the annual White Privilege Conference (WPC), and regional gatherings for Friends of Color and their Families.

Janice Domanik and Haskell Swygert

SECONDARY SCHOOLS REPRESENTATIVES

Olney Friends School

As of November, 2020 Olney had in classroom learning through the coronavirus pandemic. They have continued to receive international students as they get their visas. These students were required to have a negative COVID-19 test prior to arrival in the U.S., and another one after they got to Barnesville, before being allowed into the general population. Their small, in-person classes, their spiritual practices that fan the inner light,

and plentiful opportunities to study, work, and play outdoors on their organic farm, all demonstrated their ability to attend to the needs of today's high schoolers.

Their normal Thanksgiving celebration, served by the freshman class took place as scheduled a week before the holiday. Instead of closing for the holiday people remained on campus, enjoyed a second, less formal feast, and had a weekend of relaxing activities.

They have sponsored weekly Zoom meetings: Ramona Buck "Conflict Resolution for Everyday Life" on April 30, 2020 and one with the Head of School – Christian Acemah, Development Director - Anne Marie Taber and other members of Faculty and Board of Trustees on May 2, 2021, being the latest two.

Other events, that normally happen on campus with alumni, etc. attending, were either not held or done virtually in one form or another.

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

The mission of Scattergood Friends School and Farm (SFS) is to challenge students with a college preparatory curriculum, farm experiences, a shared work program, and community living in the spirit of Quaker faith. As a middle to 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 and outside researchers utilize their school, farm, pond, and prairie as living laboratories for study and experimentation. The farm also provides humanely raised meat and eggs for the school and connects to the wider community.

In its 130th year, even during COVID-19 protocols, Scattergood remained rich and vibrant with 31 High School boarding students, and 12 students in a Middle School Day program. Adapted school modes and terms carried out academic changes in commitment to the Scattergood students and families, in a combined mission of hybrid and virtual classes, outside activities and shared crew work, and community living. Dedicated staff combined with new and returning students as lively and joyous stewards of Friends' testimonies, as follows:

- John Zimmerman was called to be new Head of School in 2020. A graduate of the Friends Council of Education Institute in Engaging Leadership, he initiated FCE academic accreditation through the year. He brings joy, grounding in the arts and many academic experiences to his new job.
- Internal School committees were created to examine efforts and policies for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.
- Just launched, the new Middle School day program achieved 100% retention of local students.
- Middle School students wrote novels for a contest with an 8th grade winner, put on a play as well as a debate, learned a lot of math, and deeply studied the science, history and politics of water and soil.
- Senior reflective treatises explored subjects such as feminism, world religions, contextual racism, and utilization of cyberspace.
- The seven graduating seniors were accepted into excellent four-year colleges in the Midwest, such as Macalester, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Carleton, and Grinnell.
- Ending the pandemic year, Middle and High School students planned off-campus trips and graduations.

- Special scholarships are available along with sliding scale tuition for youth affiliated with Quaker Meetings.
- This summer, Day Camp Scattergood reestablishes weekly thematic outdoor experiences for grades 1-6.

The pandemic year consisted of calendar rearrangements to provide Middle and High School students with separable classroom experiences. Campus testing, quarantine pods, masks and social distancing allowed safety protocols to vary. Relationships established this year have been critical to current successes, with no community spread from the few positive cases. Digital learning at home provided Scattergood learning, community, and spiritual life with Meeting for Worship, home and crew chores, evening and weekend activities, and weekly calls to parents for overall student and programmatic review. Persevering students and their parents have expressed appreciation for what was accomplished. Meanwhile SFS interactions continued to the local and regional communities through farm shares and food shelf donations.

Shared SFS commitments continue with the School Committee and Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) as well as the affiliations with Illinois and Northern Yearly Meetings. To search for an uncertain future, it is essential that programmatic planning involve students and parents in conversations and working together in community with the different and changing circumstances ahead.

Now is the time for ILYM families to consider educational leadership from Scattergood Friends School.

Alex Lippitt, with John Zimmerman, Head of School

FWCC REPRESENTATIVES

Here for Such a Time as This [from Esther 4:14] focused the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) biennial Section of the Americas (SoA) meeting from March 12 to March 21, 2021. And such a time it is. Forced onto video conferencing because of the pandemic, nevertheless, over 300 representatives and other interested Friends from North, Central, and South America registered for the meeting. Double the usual numbered gathered met to “encourage one another and build up each other...” [1Thessalonians 5:11]. It was especially heartening to experience energy from many Friends from South and Central America who often have trouble travelling in person to such events.

FWCC is a group of representatives from almost 100 different yearly meetings across different branches of Friends around the world. The Section of the Americas includes meetings from ten countries in North, Central and South America. ILYM’s David Shiner is currently the clerk of the Section of the Americas. FWCC SoA has an office in Philadelphia which has a staff of 4, led by Robin Mohr, the General Secretary. At this section meeting, we welcomed two more yearly meetings into FWCC: Sierra Cascades Yearly Meeting in the Pacific Northwest area of the US and Friends Church of North Carolina.

“Neither is new wine put into old wineskins...but new wine is put into fresh wineskins...” [Matthew 9:17]. Although we have all been through a challenging year, there was a sense of joy to be together and inspiration to face whatever is coming in the future. First-day worship, daily meditations, the home groups, and Bible study all focused on the theme. Spreading the section meeting over ten days gave time for personal reflection on the theme as well.

Overall, there was a feeling of energy and excitement in FWCC SoA. Friends made extra efforts to welcome each other virtually. The musical and story sharing in the

evening sessions was very rich. In various activities, we shared mutual experiences, struggles and joys.

Sarah Hernandez of Southeastern Yearly Meeting shared a message about healing divisions, especially those caused by racism, across the world. She observes the importance of this organization, “FWCC plays a unique and very important role. In my mind, it is a role that focuses on self-care. It is a space where our lonely existence in our communities stops being so lonely.”

FWCC worldwide has embraced the responsibility to try to meet the needs of Quakers during the pandemic, and is considering future changes as we move toward a post-pandemic world. More frequent meetings may be possible using video conferencing. However, the in-person meetings remain valuable for the kind of interactions between different branches that we will treasure going forward. The next world gathering is scheduled to take place in Durban, South Africa, in the summer of 2024.

OTHER DOCUMENTS FROM BUSINESS SESSIONS

Campus Caretaker Job Description

Title: Campus Caretaker

Committee-with-Oversight: Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Committee

Supervisor: Clerk of Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Committee

Last Revised: 10 May 2021

Purpose. The expanding campus and number of buildings has become too much work for the all-volunteer Stewards and Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Committee alone. To be a person on site to care for our campus

Qualifications.

- The care taker should be someone who can work with Dick Ashdown, Stewards and Clerk of Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Committee to learn what is required and as quickly as possible take over most of that work.
- The caretaker should have 2 or more years’ experience doing maintenance and range of activities describe below.
- The caretaker will live on site or very near the campus, and should be able to check on the property and be close at hand in the event of an emergency or special event.
- Being Quaker is not required, but should ideally be someone who might share our values and can work well with us.

Responsibilities.

I. Tasks done for many years by Dick Ashdown; including:

- Keeping an eye on things at the property and making lists of repair and maintenance items and reporting same to Stewards and MP&E.
- Making simple repairs as able. Some Painting. Some Cleaning.
- Working with Stewards and MP&E to help solicit bids and hire contractors for other repairs and maintenance.
- Keep lists and establish relationships of contractors/professionals to engage as needed with the direction of the Stewards and MP&E.
- Spring prep and fall winterizing: Water on/off at Bathhouse and Meetinghouse, hot water heaters started and shut down at same, Bathhouse shower prep and takedown. Misc. at Meetinghouse and HS Bunkhouse.

- Water and HVAC filter checks and changes. Prepare samples for all three well water quality tests annually.
 - LP gas checks and ordering fills at Bathhouse, Meetinghouse and Clear Creek House.
 - Septic system checks and arranging for maintenance.
 - HVAC equipment and thermostat checks.
 - Work with ILYM administrative coordinator and the termite prevention contractor to help arrange for and attend the quarterly termite inspection of the Meetinghouse.
 - Keep Clear Creek House tidy for Meeting for Worship. Periodic heavy cleaning and housekeeping is the responsibility of Clear Creek Meeting, and is not a Caretaker responsibility.
 - Assist Stewards and MP&E with Work Day planning 2-3 times per year.
 - Assist with site prep and clean-up for annual sessions, women's weekend and other events.
 - Coordinate as needed with Mowers and Snow Removers.
 - Coordination and preparation for events and groups using campus,
 - Remove tree deadfall to burn pile periodically.
 - Helps Administrative Coordinator maintain schedule for use of meetinghouse and grounds.
 - Helps Administrative Coordinator maintain and distribute Site Use Brochure and log.
2. Exercise a wider sense of Caretaking; including:
- Live on, or very near the property as worked out with Stewards and MP&E.
 - Work with committees and members of ILYM. Assist with existing programs and development of new ILYM and Quaker programs/retreats, etc. involving the campus.
 - Work with committees and members of Clear Creek Meeting in their connections to and work with ILYM. Assist with communications and outreach (website, links to other sites, etc.).
 - Become a part of the local community. Establish connections/consider ways of outreach and service.
 - Look into community service opportunities for our campus from local area programs (schools, scouts, 4H, courts, etc.).
 - Help MP&E look into ways to make better, fuller use of the property both within and outside ILYM (rental?, overnight stays?, land uses?, etc).
 - Assist with development of new ILYM and Quaker programs, retreats, etc. involving the site.
 - Make our historic meetinghouse and grounds more welcoming, visible and open to visitors. Help connect with local historical societies and Grange Hall (with Dick Ashdown).
 - Assist ILYM in other ways as led and as way opens.

Evaluation.

Reports to and is evaluated annually by Clerk of Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Committee in consultation with Stewards.

Pay and Budget.

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 and internet service. Does not include personal cell phone or cable TV, but does include land-line for the Meetings if she is expected to answer or make calls. One-time assistance with moving expenses for their belongings up to \$500. Storage space along the garage walls

for their shelves and boxes. A fenced area for their service dog at the east side of CCH accessed from the east recycle room door. We will provide Workers Comp. Insurance and other insurance as advised by Church Mutual.

The Caretaker will be regarded as a part-time employee of the yearly meeting, though they will not be receiving a monetary salary. Hours per week will vary at different times of the year and with different ongoing activities, but we estimate that it should amount to an average of about ten hours per week, or about 500 hours per year.

Field Secretary Job Description

Title: Field Secretary

Committee-with-Oversight: Ministry and Advancement

Committee Supervisor: Clerk of Ministry and Advancement

Revised: 09/08/2020 by Personnel Committee then February 11& May 25, 2021 by M&A

Purpose: The Field Secretary assists Illinois Yearly Meeting in ministering to a variety of spiritual needs, including nurture, pastoral care, adult education in Quaker faith and practice, and outreach. The work of the Field Secretary differs from that of an individual member of the Ministry and Advancement Committee not only in quantity but usually also in the greater expertise, broader knowledge of resources, and additional responsibility and accountability.

Qualifications

- Active membership in the Religious Society of Friends, preferably of a monthly meeting within Illinois Yearly Meeting, and residence in or near its geographic area.
- Commitment to the life of the Spirit.
- A working knowledge of Quaker heritage, Bible and Quaker writings, and resources in the wider Quaker world.
- Respect and appreciation for the variety of beliefs among Friends.
- Ability to travel and to adapt easily to changes in accommodations.

Responsibilities: The Field Secretary is an employee of ILYM. Specific services offered by the Field Secretary vary with the individual's skills and leadings, the expressed needs and requests of meetings and worship groups in a particular year, and Ministry and Advancement Committee's discernment of priorities.

General Responsibilities

- Visiting monthly meetings and worship groups, generally with a companion-elder, who may be a member of Ministry and Advancement. These visits offer an opportunity to learn of the meeting's needs and strengths and to further acquaintance with its members.
- Serving as a resource to monthly meetings and worship groups, suggesting opportunities for growth, nurture, or pastoral care that are related to their expressed needs, and helping them to connect with appropriate resources beyond the yearly meeting, if appropriate.
- Encouraging inter-visitation among meetings and worship groups.
- Conducting retreats, workshops, meetings for reconciliation, and other events for spiritual nurture and adult education, as requested.
- Serving as a model for good Quaker practice and appropriate Quaker process.
- Identifying and mentoring the development of individuals' spiritual gifts within the yearly meeting.

- Offering expertise and suggesting resources to increase Ministry and Advancement Committee members' effectiveness in serving their assigned meetings and worship groups.

Specific Expectations

- While traveling among monthly meetings and worship groups, the Field Secretary normally will stay in the homes of Friends.
- The Field Secretary may provide direct pastoral care to Meetings and individuals, while enabling and encouraging local meetings to address their own members' needs for pastoral care, drawing upon local resources insofar as possible.
- The role of the Field Secretary does not permit providing therapy or extended personal counseling, even if the Field Secretary is a trained therapist.
- The person serving as Field Secretary may be nominated and appointed to a committee of Illinois Yearly Meeting, but he or she should not serve as Field Secretary on any committee.
- The Field Secretary is an ex officio member of the Ministry and Advancement Committee and is expected to attend all of its meetings. The Field Secretary provides the Ministry and Advancement Committee with a written report of hours spent in his or her official activities during the past month and of time and expenses incurred in official travel. Careful accounting is essential.
- The Field Secretary provides a written summary of his or her work to Continuing Committee's fall and spring sessions, and to the annual session of Yearly Meeting.

Evaluation: The Field Secretary's work is evaluated by the clerk of Ministry and Advancement Committee in consultation with the committee.

Compensation and Support: The Field Secretary works under the general oversight of the Ministry and Advancement Committee. He or she may designate the clerk of the Committee or another of its members to serve as a liaison with the Committee if needed. It is appropriate also for the Field Secretary to seek insights from individual members of Ministry and Advancement who have experience that is relevant to a particular situation.

To support the Field Secretary's own spiritual deepening and professional development, Ministry and Advancement will approve registration and travel reimbursement for his or her attendance at one such conference, workshop, or retreat each year. The Field Secretary also is encouraged to form a small advisory or support group of Friends beyond Ministry and Advancement who can help him or her address any personal issues affected by the work.

Estimated Hours: The Field Secretary is compensated for up to 700 hours per year, plus reimbursement for travel expenses. Hours of work will vary from month to month to accommodate spontaneous needs and requests from within the yearly meeting in addition to scheduled events.

ILLINOIS HISTORY AND LINCOLN COLLECTIONS

University Library, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

DEED OF GIFT

The undersigned NAME of CITY AND STATE, as POSITION/TITLE of the MEETING NAME as donor hereby gives, grants, and conveys without consideration and as a gift in perpetuity to the University of Illinois Foundation at Urbana-Champaign

(hereinafter referred to as the Donee) for the benefit of the Illinois History and Lincoln Collections unit, a Division of the University Library at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign the papers, photographs, books and other historical material of the MEETING NAME of the Religious Society of Friends (hereafter described as the Materials) which are described in Appendix A, attached hereunto. [materials to be described before completion of final deed]

The Illinois History and Lincoln Collections unit in return undertakes to house, save, protect and otherwise administer according to accepted archival practice all the Materials in the best interests of impartial scholarship, subject to the conditions specified below.

- a. Title to the Materials shall pass to the Donee upon their delivery.
- b. At any time after delivery the Donor shall be permitted to examine any of the Materials during the regular working hours of the Illinois History and Lincoln Collections unit. Specific items needed by the Donor will be copied by the Donee or charged out to the Donor for administrative or legal purposes.
- c. It is the Donor's wish that the Materials be made available for research as soon as possible following their deposit in the Illinois History and Lincoln Collections unit. Researchers who follow rules established by the Illinois History and Lincoln Collections unit for handling and using archival material may have full access to these Materials, including the right to make single copies in lieu of note-taking unless limiting conditions are stated as follows: NONE
- d. The Illinois History and Lincoln Collections unit may dispose of any items that it determines to have insufficient enduring value. Such items will be (circle one):
DESTROYED RETURNED TO DONOR
- e. The Illinois History and Lincoln Collections unit may transfer items included in these Materials to a different physical form to facilitate their preservation and accessibility.
- f. To facilitate the research use of the Materials, the Donor hereby give and assign to the Donee those rights of copyright which the Donor have in the Materials as well as any rights of privacy and publicity in the materials which the Donor may hold. The Illinois History and Lincoln Collections unit is hereby authorized to administer any copyright permissions related to the Materials. In return, Donee hereby grants to the Donor for the duration of the copyright the right to use the Materials for any purpose, including publication. Donor and Donee shall, to the extent possible, inform each other of any major publications.
- g. In the event that the Donor or the Donor's estate may from time to time hereafter give, grant, and convey additional papers, and other historical Materials, title to such additional papers and other historical Materials shall pass to the Donee upon their delivery, and all of the provisions of this agreement shall be applicable to such additional items which shall become part of the Materials.
- h. The Donor affirms that they own said material and that to the best of their knowledge they have good and complete right and title (including the rights noted in paragraph 6) to give the materials to the University of Illinois.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Deed of gift has been signed and delivered this _____ day of _____, 2021.

Donor, NAME, POSITION, MEETING NAME

University Librarian, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

For the University of Illinois Foundation

Reading and Reflection on Juneteenth

The ILYM Web site proclaims the theme of our current meetings as "Equality in Action: Roots & Reality," and goes on to say, "This year's Annual Sessions focus on the Testimony of Equality, how it shaped our past, our current understanding and application, and how we can move forwards towards a more just future."

The statement of Friends' Testimony of Equality in ILYM's Faith and Practice (p 35) begins: "The testimony of equality is based on Friends' belief that there is that of God in everyone. We regard outward differences between people as less significant than the spiritual equality of all human beings."

We gather this morning on the first June 19th officially designated a national American holiday. Given our testimony, I wonder whether there is a spiritual message for us in the statement and history which inspired the holiday.

Though the Civil War formally ended in April 1865, fighting continued in Texas until the last Confederate army surrendered in June of that year. That same month, and more than two years after Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, Union General Gordon Granger issued an order freeing more than 250,000 enslaved people in Texas, thereby ending slavery in the United States. General Granger's General Order no. 3 begins:

"The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor...(<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/juneteenth>)

The language of equality in the order is essential in superseding previous Texas laws. Commemoration of General Granger's proclamation was the origin of "Juneteenth" celebrations which began in African-American communities in Texas and spread through much of the country in the years that followed.

To end where I began, let us consider whether the history of Juneteenth, and its culmination with the president's signature last Thursday of the "Juneteenth Federal Independence Day Act," may call and inspire us to give faithful witness to the world of our Testimony of Equality.

Gwen Weaver, Lake Forest Friends Meeting

MEMORIALS

PAT BERG

Patricia Berg, died early in the morning on June 19, 2020, after a long battle with the debilitating after-effects of the COVID-19 virus. She was unconscious on a ventilator when she died. She was receiving comfort care, and showed no signs of anxiety, pain, or suffering. Her daughter, Ella, wrote “My mom was a caring person, a former nurse, always involved in social justice, anti-war, fair elections, and environmental activism. In recent years, she had developed dementia, and that made her vulnerable to a more severe case of COVID-19.” Pat was a member of St. Louis Friends Meeting for over 30 years.

DANIEL A. DRESNER

(1942-2020)

Daniel August Dresner passed away on June 9, 2020 at his home in Beverly Shores, Indiana at the age of 78. He was born on December 30, 1941 to Miriam Stein Dresner (later Buhman) and Bernard Milton Dresner. He received his undergraduate degree from Roosevelt University in Chicago. Later he attended Stanford University in California where he received his master’s degree (1969-1973) and nearly completed a PhD in marine biology at the Hopkins Marine Station in Pacific Grove on the shore of Monterey Bay.

He found his passion teaching biology and chemistry to high school students at North Salinas High School, California, from 1983 to 2001. He had much to contribute in knowledge, and in love and passion for drawing out the best in young people as students, and for encouraging their inquiry into living life in its entirety. He often took his classes to San Francisco to attend concerts and other cultural events. He also took them on field trips, for example, to Point Reyes National Park to learn about earthquake geology and biology. When Dan was a high school teacher at North Salinas High, there were many students whose lives he touched, many of whom went on to have very successful careers and credited Dan for it.

Dan had many interests. He loved the ocean and nature in general and talked passionately about it. At various times in his life, he engaged in woodworking, stained glass making, and playing guitar and piano. He loved music, especially classical music, and was always involved with the music community wherever he lived. He had a sensitive nature and enjoyed engaging with those around him, including getting to know staff members of the restaurants where he was recognized as a regular customer. In the words of a former student who became a close friend, “He loved fine food, sweet getaways in unique places and making important occasions special.”

Dan moved to Beverly Shores, Indiana when his mother’s health was failing so that he could care for her. There he joined a group of men, “The Wise Guys,” who discussed all kinds of cultural, social and political issues. One member of the group remarked that “Dan was a voice of reason, and an advocate for understanding of differing points of view.” Soon after The Wise Guys disbanded, a member of Duneland Friends Meeting invited Dan to attend the meeting in Valparaiso Indiana. Not being a morning person, he rarely attended meeting for worship, but he found a home in Duneland’s bi-monthly Bible Study where he was able to discuss temporal and spiritual issues at the intersection of Quakerism, Christianity, and his Jewish heritage. He came to embrace the Quaker testimonies and held a vision of a compassionate world where people could love one another in spite of their differences.

Dan and his mother were supporters of Save The Dunes. Dan supported other community groups, including the Michigan City Chamber Music Festival. Dan is greatly missed by all whose lives were touched by his caring and inquisitive nature.

ICHIRO MATSUDA

(1931-2020)

Ichiro Matsuda, fondly known as "Ich" among his Friends at the Columbia MO Meeting and widely known and celebrated as a runner/used car ("the 1931 Model, Made in Japan, Still Runs") was born on January 20, 1931 in Kagoshima, Japan and died peacefully in Columbia, MO on April 29, 2020.

Though born into an eminent and comfortable samurai family, due to a series of family tragedies and the experiences of WWII, Ichiro was forced to quit school and go to work at the age of fourteen, first as a laborer and then as a translator for the U.S. Occupation Forces. Thus began an engagement with Americans and the Christian faith that would come to define his life's journey. After an educational journey that was both practical (chemistry, math, optometry) and deeply spiritual (theology) he embarked on a diverse group of occupations (working as a pastor, optometrist, doing mission work abroad and among under-served populations in the US, teaching Japanese in public schools, delivering flowers) all of which allowed Ich to express his core need to be of service to others. Ichiro's professional life was intertwined with getting married and starting and growing a family, including raising three very accomplished children and enjoying seven grandchildren and three great-grand-children.

A pivotal milestone in his faith journey was being introduced to Mennonite and Quaker faiths during the Vietnam War. He walked with the Buddhist monks as they traveled through St. Louis protesting the war. He had a monk like playfulness and gentleness as he taught children how to write their names in Japanese, use chopsticks, or fold a paper crane. He gave away thousands of peace cranes teaching anyone who had the time, how to make them. Besides teaching math and science, he taught Japanese arts to children at the MO Botanical gardens for many summers. They learned to arrange flowers, write haiku, make kites, do calligraphy, and sing folk songs.

Ichiro began attending the St. Louis Friend's Meeting in the early 70's and served as the live-in caretaker for 12 years while also being pastor to a small community of Japanese Christians living in St. Louis. At meeting he met Sandy Feitshans, whom he would marry in 1978. After the Matsuda's headed West to Columbia, a St. Louis Friend wrote, "we really appreciate the way you shared your Japanese heritage and sensibility with us. We are blooming as a meeting- in no small part because of the devoted tilling that you did when you were here." The couple's association with Columbia Friends Meeting began in 1994 when the Matsudas moved to Columbia so that Sandy could begin teaching occupational therapy at the University of Missouri.

Ichiro's life's journey testifies to the beautiful qualities that Ichiro revealed to his friends in Columbia: kindness, humor, humility and a deep abiding faith in God – qualities that are also reflected in his signature motto from Micah 6:8: "What does the Lord require of you but to act justly, and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." When asked how he would encourage another person's faith journey, he said, "Be awake and follow where God leads you." Near the end of his life, he said his goal was to "be present." When dementia and illness took away his ability to speak, he wrote his last words: "love, love, love everyone." He ran a good race and finally traded in his body, the "1931 model," for the freedom to fly home as "those who hope in the Lord will renew

their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary” (Isaiah 55:5). Ichiro's life and person radiated the value of keeping it simple, and simply practicing what you believe in a selfless and whole-hearted way.

BARBARA MATT

(1927-2020)

Barbara Jipson Matt died May 9, 2020, in Bettendorf, Iowa, after a long illness. She was born in Oelwein, Iowa, on March 24, 1927. From a young age, Barbara developed an abiding commitment to peace and social justice, which she carried through her life.

In 1961 Barbara married Joseph Matt, a research chemist in Chicago. She was a questing spirit and willing to explore—explore cultures, faiths, herself—and to try new things. In Chicago, she embraced the excitement, diversity, and variety of the city and was an activist, marching for civil rights in the 1950s and 60s, in anti-nuclear protests in the 1980s, and in protests against both Iraq wars. She attended her last protest in her wheelchair, proudly holding a sign declaring "90-year-old for Science (It helped me reach this age)." She also volunteered for many political campaigns.

Barbara didn't like what she termed "pat" answers or "pat" endings to stories and poems. If something was tied up too neatly, it struck her as unrealistic, too easy. Her taste in bumper stickers reflected this sensibility. One of her favorites was "There is no answer. Seek it lovingly." Another was "I don't know and neither do you." She was willing to embrace ambiguity and to value it, as well.

Barbara was incredibly empathic and a wonderful listener. This attitude reflected her belief in one of Quakerism's core tenets—that there is that of God in every man and that there is a light within each of us. Everyone who knew Barbara was fortunate because she had a little light (actually more than a little) and she did let it shine.

Barbara is survived by her daughters and their husbands, Elizabeth "Betsy" Matt Turner (Jonathan) of Bettendorf, IA and Susan Jipson Matt (Luke Fernandez) of Ogden, UT, and grandsons Alexander and Joshua of Bettendorf.

GLENN NEUMANN

(1950-2020)

Glenn Neumann was born August 20, 1950 to Earl R. Neumann and Betty Jean Haworth Neumann, and grew up in West Chicago, Illinois. He was the middle of three siblings with older brother Bob and younger sister Becky. Glenn had recently turned 70 when he died on September 29, 2020 of a stroke in Louisville, Colorado. Becky and Mennonite Pastor Randy, Becky's pastor and Glenn's friend, were at his side playing classical music as he died.

While Glenn took several years in deciding on a career path, his explorations centered on service professions: ministry, social work, teaching and library science. In each instance, he prepared academically, earning a BA in Education, MSW in social work and MA in Library Science. Ultimately, library science captured his focus and in this he worked until retirement. Initially he served as reference librarian for a state prison located south of Chicago, later transferring to the City of Chicago library system, retiring from the Harold Washington Library.

Glenn was a researcher! He researched family history, opera, and any topic which might arise during a conversation. It was always fun to converse, hear his most recent findings, and see what topic would send him to his trusty computer for more information that day. Another aspect of his research led him to delve into his own psyche. He found

that writing his thoughts led him to greater self-understanding and clarity. Eventually, he wrote opinion pieces regarding current issues; one of these essays was published in Louisville area newspapers.

Glenn was quiet in groups, but he listened thoughtfully and non-judgmentally. He displayed empathy and would respond thoughtfully in more intimate settings. He enjoyed a laugh, and had an infectious, catching giggle. He was generous and caring; Glenn wrote to and conversed weekly with a man in a New Hampshire prison for over six years, helping the man obtain items to make his prison life more bearable. He donated funds to stranger because he heard of this man's financial difficulties during the pandemic. He gifted another friend with his new favorite tea, and provided a tea pot as well. These are small, personal indications of his generosity. On a larger scale, he championed environmental causes including the Audubon Society, American Friends Service Committee activities, and the Environmental Law and Policy Center.

We have Glenn's own words about his spiritual journey shared with Northside, "How would I characterize my spiritual life? I would say I've adopted an eclectic system of belief that incorporates my Protestant past; influences from Catholic traditions such as reading authors, being baptized by the Holy Spirit, and attending a Catholic pentecostal service in the '70s; following various New Age authors and ideas; practicing in the Quaker faith for 20 -25 years; and taking a strong interest in Buddhist beliefs and practices finding them a compliment to my Christian practice." Over his adult lifetime, Glenn attended mindfulness retreats sponsored by various branches of Buddhism, and for a time attended synagogue with a friend. However, the most consistent focus for his spiritual life was with the Quakers. We benefitted from his presence within Meeting!

Not only did he make an effort to refine his spiritual search internally, but he put his faith into action: During his years with Northside, he fulfilled many positions, including archivist, treasurer, and as a member of nominating and ministry and counsel committees. He faithfully responded to inquiries about Quakers via Northside's website, served on support committees, visited Friends who were hospitalized or in rehabilitation, and attended Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns (FLGBTQC) gatherings.

In his later years, Glenn developed cataracts and glaucoma which led to the loss of most of his eyesight. Northside Meeting formed a support committee to take him to doctor's appointments and help in other small ways. Ultimately, he moved to Louisville, Colorado to be near his sister. He worked at building a new community around himself to meet his spiritual needs, and found a path to further understanding and growth.

Glenn is greatly missed by his F/friends because of the quality of his life shared with us. His being was filled with kindness, spirituality and intellectual curiosity.

JUDY RICHARDS

(1940-2020)

Judith Mathis Richards, known affectionately to us as "Judy," was born in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1940. She died peacefully on Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2020, in her daughter's home.

Judy's family moved to Columbia, Missouri when she was young, and she graduated from Hickman High School in 1958. Two years later, she married her high school sweetheart, Lon Davis Richards. They had two daughters, Kirsten Richards and Regan Richards. Lon served as a Captain in the US Air Force, and died in 1968 in Vietnam. Judy never remarried, saying he was the love of her life.

Judy went on to raise her daughters by herself. She earned an MA in art from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1971, and she was a wonderful artist, crafter, and seamstress. She was also a lifelong Girl Scout and was active in the American Red Cross, Locust Grove Baptist Cemetery Association, and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, in addition to our Friends Meeting.

Judy shared so many talents with our meeting. Her own experience as a single parent inspired her to give young parents quiet meeting time by teaching at First Day School. She planned lovely lessons and outings using simple, natural materials. Teachers used her Friendly Play creations for telling stories of early Friends. Children learned about plants and natural remedies for things like poison Ivy on hikes through the woods with Judy. Judy often led Family Fun Night art activities, for instance using natural dyes to make traditional Polish Easter eggs called “pisanki.” Judy also played the piano by ear and accompanied us when singing Christmas carols.

Judy also served as Recording Clerk for many years. She was also a keen listener, observer and editor. She listened intently and labored to capture the sense of the meeting in her written minutes as recording clerk. She was steeped in Quaker process and history of our meeting. She also used her writing skills to help those outside the meeting. She worked with many international students helping them edit and complete manuscripts for their degrees in her professional work.

Judy used her artistic talent in our meeting. She noticed quiet beauty and painted it in lovely watercolor landscapes. Some of her original drawings were inspirational and informative in the vision of our future meeting house.

In Judy’s later years, illness made it difficult for her to stay active, but she continued to serve our meeting with determination and humor. Judy, we miss you dearly.

EILEEN ROONEY

(1946-2020)

Eileen Rooney was a great gift to her family, friends, community, and especially to the Quakers. She died May 11, 2020.

Born in 1946 she was a devoted Catholic through most of her life. Commitment to her faith led her to join the School Sisters of Notre Dame in 1964 where she remained for more than 30 years. Her roles included teaching high school math and sixth grade, serving as Director of Religious Education, and eventually working in the payroll division. In 1991 she began working at LMI Aerospace. After withdrawing from her religious community, she continued her spiritual search, and was led to Quakers. She became a member in 2017.

She found that the silence of Quaker meeting allowed the deep faith and spiritual depth she had developed as a Catholic to flourish. She was one of those people who brought spiritual blessings to meeting and helped deepen the worship. She was a woman of much love and compassion and touched many lives. She served on Ministry and Caring, worked with Friends Shelter, helped with First Day School, and participated in a spiritual direction group. One of her deepest ministries was to members who were sick and dying. She spent many days with them and sometimes stayed late in the night.

She accepted the position of rising clerk of the meeting, but shortly after assuming that role, she was diagnosed with a terminal illness. During the time of her illness, she continued her spiritual journey and often spoke of feeling called to “being rather than doing.” While many members of our Meeting ministered to her physical needs, she also ministered to our spiritual needs.

We are grateful for the gift of her presence, and she is missed.

BURKE SHIPLEY

(1923-2021)

We honor the life of Burke Shipley, born in 1923 and died April 7, 2021. He was a member of OPFM since the 1960s and our faithful Treasurer for many decades. He acted on his concerns, primarily around the Quaker Peace Testimony, He felt especially deeply about conscientious objection to war and the abolition of the death penalty in Illinois. His actions included steadfast personal and political witness and advocacy (including letter writing, letters to the editor, and repeated trips to lobby in Springfield), and we were always encouraged to add our voices. Quaker House in Fayetteville, NC (which counsels Fort Bragg military service members who are questioning their role in the military) was unknown to most of us when he suggested we support it; ever since then we have included it in our annual donations. We will miss his gentle humor, intelligence, and wisdom in helping us discern complex issues and in participating in all aspects of the life of the Meeting.

SYLVIA SPOTTS

(1936-2020)

Sylvia Kelsey Spotts, 84, died comfortably Dec. 22, 2020, in Columbia, Mo. from respiratory issues caused by COVID-19. Sylvia Kelsey was born in Hartford, Connecticut on April 14, 1936 and raised in North Canton, Connecticut. Her parents, Luman and Dorothea, were artists, and members of West Hartford Monthly Meeting. Her sister, Sally, still lives in Connecticut.

Sylvia attended Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's George High School, in Pennsylvania. She took a train there and back home two times a year for breaks. George School students volunteered for "week-end work camps" in the slum areas of Philadelphia. Sylvia was much inspired by the camp director, David Richie, a noted Quaker activist.

Sylvia graduated from Hartt College of Music in Hartford, Connecticut with a degree in music education. There she met Carleton Spotts, a cellist who played in the U.S. Air Force band. On a tour of duty in Connecticut, he bought a cello from a woman who then also introduced him to Sylvia. Sylvia's father "was elated [about Carle courting Sylvia] because he loved the cello." Sylvia also decided to play the cello. Sylvia and Carle married two years later on June the 7th of 1958 at West Hartford Friends Meeting.

A couple of years later the newlyweds moved to Columbia where Carle had accepted a job as professor of music at the University of Missouri. He taught cello and became part of MU's Esterhazy Quartet, which played locally and as far away as South America. Their children were born -- Peter in summer, 1961, and Dave in winter, 1964.

Sylvia taught orchestra classes at West and Jeff Junior High Schools, played in the MU Orchestra, and taught countless cello and piano lessons. Sylvia enjoyed writing about natural and philosophical topics and wrote poems. She and Carle maintained a garden, and Sylvia also worked in a commercial greenhouse.

Sylvia's simplicity, kindness, understanding and respect were well-matched by a wry and mischievous wit and a ready, sparkling laugh. She valued Quakers' "dedication, honesty, caring, and [practice of] searching the way." She helped other Quakers promote peace and social justice, and with community outreach. Sylvia and Carle, John Schuder, and others established the Columbia Friends Meeting. One of the Friends' first meeting places was the Spotts' home on Donnelly Avenue. Sylvia played the cello for Christmas caroling.

After 56 years of marriage, their time together ended when Carle's health concerns quickly worsened, and he died in the spring of 2014. Even though parted in the material sense, Sylvia felt she would always be with Carle, mentioning an early Quaker idea: "We are still married, for one of us is still living. It's good when you can let go of someone you love and celebrate the memories." Now that Sylvia has died, we, her Friends, strive to remember Sylvia the way she remembered Carle.

The Columbia Friends Meeting's newsletter has printed many of Sylvia's poems and essays. Her writing has been published in *Among Friends* and a few literary journals as well. The poem, "Portrait," from her book, *Quaker Cellist*, describes Sylvia's and Carle's marriage.

Sylvia is survived by her sister, Sally; numerous nieces and nephews; sons Peter (Dawn Warren) and Dave (Martha); three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

"Portrait" by Sylvia Spotts, 1987

The years were young, and he came to her when she wasn't looking, invading her life with a kind of desperate sincerity – as though he knew something she didn't.

They were young, back then when he came to her like that, from nowhere, climbing the sky; vigorous, fresh, and innocent – with an empty canvas spread before him.

And the years were good, with challenges, trials; fulfillments and longings; disappointments. A mix of elations, despairs – caught up together in the surging journey.

And the canvas filled with colors: reds and yellows; blues and greens; and the colors in-between, not one or another – spreading, liquid and fine, on the surface.

And the years were kind; they tumbled on softer now; suffused and brushed with a kind of deepened beauty – a fullness born of tranquil balance.

And the canvas breathes tender, with grace. They're old, now. Side by side slowly, hand in hand --they walk together down the sky.

Gertrude (Trudy) Wood

St. Louis Meeting was given sad news that Gertrude (Trudy) Wood had passed on January 29, 2021. Her daughter (Margaret) sent a card stating that Trudy suffered a stroke on October 25th and was hospitalized for five days. She returned home and tried to regain her health for 3 months. Trudy celebrated her 100th birthday with close family on October 4, 2020.

Both Trudy and Ed Wood were deeply committed to the Meeting for decades. Trudy's warmth and her love of children was expressed in the Meeting through teaching First Day School.

Trudy was truly conscientious and confirmed that the independent SLFM became affiliated with ILYM from her mother-in-laws (Verna Wood) note. Trudy served on many committees including membership clerk, kitchen, library, newsletter, Burundi Sunday snacks and First Day School. Also, she wrote a history of our Meeting which is in the library.

Trudy was the mother of the Meeting, never the boss, but always the mother or big sister, there for whatever needed to be done. She was the kind of Quaker that we all strive to be and her kind lovely Spirit will live on in our hearts forever.

STATES OF SOCIETY

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL MONTHLY MEETING

The COVID-19 pandemic over the past calendar year has brought Bloomington-Normal Friends Meeting both great difficulty and some surprise advantages. We have had to adjust, and adjust we have. Since March 2020, we have met weekly on Zoom. Members have met from their own homes. This has resulted in both negative and positive outcomes.

On the down side, we miss the physical presence of other Quakers and the informal interactions that occur before and after meeting. We have had to learn new technology and norms to make meeting happen. The comfort and ability to do that varies among members. Meeting on Zoom can be awkward and cumbersome in some ways—fumbling with the mute/unmute and a very different overall feel in our worship. For some, the discomfort with Zoom has prevented attendance altogether.

Our women's group, Meeting for Eating, has not met and has been sorely missed. The one exception was when Beth Schobernd Carpenter hosted an outdoor gathering for Barbara Burke who was moving to North Carolina. Everyone brought their own food, and seats were in a circle at least six feet apart.

One unexpected positive thing that has happened is that Quakers from meetings in other parts of the country have been able to join us. For example we were visited via Zoom by the new ILYM Field Secretary Brad Laird. Steve Tamari from St. Louis joined us several times. In addition, Barbara Burke, who left Illinois last summer to move to North Carolina, has been able to continue meeting with us. Weekly attendance has been higher than in-person, possibly because of the convenience being able to meet without having to leave home.

Children have joined us several times. Although we have not managed First Day School or connected with other meetings who offered help, there has been some meaningful intergenerational contact. We held some family events on Zoom that have included children. We had our usual August picnic where we all ate simultaneously with word games to follow. Later in the year, Fariba Murray led a lively on-line Bingo game that lasted well past our youngest participant's bedtime. At Christmastime, we had a Christmas music "talent show" where several members showed off their musical skills. Fun was had by all... but we discovered that singing along unmuted does not really work.

Chris Jocius of the Urbana Meeting generously donated his Quaker library and a bookcase to our meeting. As soon as we can meet in person, they will be stored at Normandy Village. We look forward to using them for enhancing spiritual quests and learning more about Quaker history. We are grateful for this gift and recognize the generosity and spiritual depth of the original owner.

Our times bring much concern about racial justice. Over the summer, many of us ventured out to attend rallies and protests in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement. During the fall and winter months, our members reflected deeply on the topic of racism and racial justice through on-line discussions of two books: *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo and *How to be an Antiracist* by Ibram Kendi. The discussion sessions were led by Heather Evert, Leader of Adult Education. Through these books, and thanks to Heather's guidance, we worked together to take an honest look at our own racial biases and how we can shift our thinking to move from racism to anti-racism.

For a second year in a row, B-N Friends Meeting wanted to focus on the needs of a family in need at Christmas time. We raised over \$600 dollars for a family we have become aware of. Since shopping was difficult during the pandemic, we gave \$300 in

cash to the family and bought clothing gift cards for the children. Because of ongoing hardship experienced by this family, some members have continued to assist this family.

Overall, we have gained strength and comfort from each other during this time of stress. Together, we adjusted to a new way of life in isolation. And in isolation, we have felt the loving presence of Friends from within our meeting and beyond.

BURLINGTON WORSHIP GROUP

The Burlington Worship Group is alive and well despite the challenges of COVID-19. From April 2020, we have met via the miracle of Zoom which allowed us to participate even when we were not at home. However, because of internet problems, two of our members decided to opt out of worship until we could meet in person again, which we hope will be very soon.

CLEAR CREEK MONTHLY MEETING

When Clear Creek met for meeting for worship with a concern for business on the third Sunday in March 2020, where we approved our last State of Society report, little did we know it would be over a year before many of us saw each other again. Our small but tightly knit community has suffered during this time, but persevered and in ways gotten stronger.

From mid-March until May, we did not meet. Given hardware limitations of many members, we could not meet via Zoom. Some of us participated in Zoom worship with other meetings, but most of us had no worship option. In May, we took advantage of the spacious meetinghouse and began holding in person worship there. While Putnam County at that point had very few cases of the virus, the surrounding counties fared much worse and those living elsewhere remained at home rather than risk carrying the virus to others. Our wonderful weekly potlucks morphed into brown bag lunches during which we were able to have our valued fellowship time. We found that with fewer people to share Dick Ashdown's ever-present contribution of Pringles, we gained weight. When the weather began to cool, we moved worship to Clear Creek House where social distancing is more difficult but we wore masks and sat as far apart as we are able.

We have attempted to have business meeting via Zoom, sometimes with more success than others. With only one computer for the five or six people on site, there have been issues with the remote attenders not being able to hear the discussion. The months we have been able to meet via Zoom, we are glad to see the faces of our otherwise absent members and we may continue to use Zoom for business meeting post-pandemic, thus allowing our snowbirds to attend in the winter months.

In October we were blessed with the arrival of the ILYM caretaker, Judy Reese, her dog Shakespeare, and her cat Angelou, who now reside in Clear Creek House. She has quickly become an integral part of our meeting, although given the pandemic restrictions is having difficulty getting as acquainted in the wider community as she had hoped. Her only real interaction is with Clear Creek Friends on Sundays.

The past year has been hard for the spiritual well-being of the meeting. With fewer people present, there has been less vocal ministry. Those who have not been able to be present, feel disconnected from Clear Creek and miss their meeting family. We have missed those celebrations and occasions which normally bring more people to the grounds—our annual Easter lunch, Women's Weekend, Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions, our fall Homecoming—and look forward to a time when we will be able to have others with us on the grounds.

On the positive side, those of us who have been able to gather together since May feel like we have gotten to know each other better, as we still enjoy fellowship before and after worship. We are grateful for the technology that allows us to see the faces of those who are typically regular attenders as well as not-so-regular attenders who are able to join us from afar.

In spite of the pandemic, we have continued our Clear Creek ministry of picking up sticks on the grounds after every storm, as well as our attempts to convert the local raccoon to a less destructive lifestyle. Most of us have now had our vaccinations so we hope that once we are all vaccinated and can move back to the more spacious meetinghouse, we can feel more comfortable meeting together in person.

COLUMBIA FRIENDS MEETING

2020 has been a momentous year, with challenges and joys that we never could have expected. Between January and March, we were meeting in a temporary space we rented at Rockbridge Christian Church, as we had sold our meetinghouse on Locust Grove Road in order to finance the building of our new meetinghouse across from Russell Elementary School. In March, we moved our meetings to Zoom due to COVID-19, and they remained virtual for the duration of the year. The lives of many people in meeting have been directly touched by the pandemic through the loss of loved ones. It has been hard to be physically separated from each other, but this new format has allowed several friends from Washington, Ohio, and farther-flung areas in Missouri to join us. About 15 people join each First Day, and we also have midweek meetings on Wednesdays.

First Day School was lively in the first few months of the year, as Mae and Louis Franzel and Magdalene and William Saunders explored the new space at Rockbridge Christian Church. Since we moved to Zoom, the children's role in the meeting has changed, as they are able to be present (on mute) with their parents during meeting. Ronnie Bradley and her children Penny and Allie also began attending meeting regularly, and we look forward to welcoming them in person someday. Seeing the patchwork quilt of faces, having the children present throughout the meeting, and hearing from everyone at the rise of meeting leads us to a wider and more equal sharing. This format gives us a chance to hear one another more clearly and to listen more deeply to each person's spiritual struggles and journeys.

Several beloved members of our meeting died in 2020: Ichiro Matsuda, Judy Richards, and Sylvia Spotts. Both Ichiro and Sylvia had been living in local rest homes but occasionally attended meetings. Judy Richards, who had been our recording clerk for many years, had been living at home and suffered from a chronic illness. It has been difficult not to be able to gather to celebrate their lives, but we did hold a virtual memorial for Ichiro and Judy, and plan to do so for Sylvia as well, in coordination with her family. Friends joined from as far away as Kenya, and we were grateful for the technologies that allowed us to unite as a spiritual community.

Our meeting has been moved this year by the ongoing reality of racial injustice and police brutality. We began a masked and socially distant monthly "Black Lives Matter" vigil on our new property, which is located on a busier road. We also found creative ways this year to continue our annual support of the Crop Walk and the First Day School's project of raising money for Heifer International.

Our plans for our new meetinghouse have progressed. We have chosen a building plan, and our own Adrienne Stolwyk is serving as architect. We had considered a larger building with an apartment for a refugee family or family in need, but we decided in

favor of a smaller building, with the possibility of building a small residence on our property in the future. It is our intention to make the construction as sustainable as possible, so we are choosing materials carefully.

Planning our meetinghouse, along with maintaining our connections via technology, has reinvigorated our relationships. We are hopeful for the meeting's growth and readiness to meet the challenges of the future, whether personal, community-wide, or beyond.

DOWNERS GROVE FRIENDS MEETING

In March of 2020, we began virtual Meeting for Worship. We overcame the logistics of online worship and business meeting, but many of us are still challenged by the format. Among the challenges has been the loss of Friends who previously met in worship but are not participating in Zoom. Worship and Ministry has reached out to those Friends to let them know they are missed. Even with these challenges, we have seen blessings come from this change, such as reconnecting with far-away Friends.

Earlier in 2020, we still had our usual in-person community-building and religious education activities, including our groups that met for sewing, Quaker discussion topics, and aging discussion. Once we moved to virtual meetings, we still held an outdoor MFW and gardened while the weather cooperated. Even now, we have Friends who go to the meetinghouse to maintain it, the plants inside, and our landscape. Besides the virtual change-over for our usual activities, we added several new ones: worship sharing, meeting for healing, several holiday gatherings, movies, and a talk by a former young Friend of our meeting, Milton Dixon, on permaculture gardening. Two Friends attended a workshop based on WYM's annual Session address by Colin Saxon; they are now prepared to conduct a workshop on this topic with anyone in the meeting who would like to attend.

We had several important events this year, including our 60th anniversary as a meeting. We welcomed Mark Masi as a member (Dec 13) and will have a cake and in-person fellowship when it is safe to do so. We also celebrated the life of long-time member, Barbara Matt, who passed away in May at age 93 in Bettendorf, Iowa, after a long illness. We wished dear Friend Laurie Rippe happiness as she moved to North Carolina to be near family and appreciate the wall hanging she gave to the meeting.

This year made evident the inequities in our country and the world. We are hopeful that it ignited a movement to address these to make 2021 a year of change that will bring more light and peace to the world.

DUNELAND FRIENDS MEETING

The year 2020 has been one of challenges and opportunities in large part due to the COVID-19 pandemic that required us to be physically distant and for many to isolate ourselves in our homes. While we were unable to meet together physically in our meeting place for most of the year, technology allowed us to meet virtually. During 2020 we met more frequently than before, and our membership and attendance increased.

In March, after in-person meeting ended due to the pandemic, we started meeting by Zoom and, our First Day worship became a joint effort with South Bend Friends Meeting. For a time, we jointly met every First Day. By midsummer Duneland returned to meeting separately on second and fourth First Days. When we met in person, we so enjoyed singing hymns. After a few virtual meetings we decided to try to sing again. Noel and Sarah mailed hymnals to all attenders. The synchrony of the singing is a little off but we love singing together so much and the words are so meaningful that we think it is worth it.

In addition, we began to meet most every Wednesday evening for worship on Zoom. The Wednesday evening worship developed into a time of sharing our personal lives, joys, laughter, and concerns, that ultimately led to bringing us closer and to a stronger spiritual unity. Some of us realized that it sustained us in our newly required isolation and helped us with our virtual contact in the outside world. Our love, concern, and support for each other grew stronger as many of us had family members experiencing illnesses and even surgeries and death. For this love, concern, and support we were grateful.

One example is Tom and Roxy Jacobs, who had moved to Florida several years ago, were able to join us on Zoom. What a blessing it was to have Roxy's wisdom as a long time Quaker, join our worship. Also, we were happy to have Dan Dresner, a long time, faithful attender of Duneland's Bible Study, join us for a while at meeting for worship until his sudden passing on June 10.

In June, two new members, Maryalice Larson and Gary Crum, were heartily approved for membership with Duneland Friends. They had been attending for over a year while we had been meeting in person. This brings our group to a core of 13 members and regular attenders. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our regular Bible Study at Marlou Carlson's had to be suspended. Clerk Noel Pavlovic has maintained contact with her through her son so that she knows we are continuing to think of her and are "holding her in the Light."

We planned with South Bend Meeting our annual joint Friends retreat September 25-26, this year held virtually. The theme was "Spiritual Grounding for our Work in the World: Sharing our Stories." Dwight Wilson's keynote speech 'On Grounding' was inspiring and open to all ILYM Friends to attend. On Saturday we began the retreat sharing pancakes virtually, followed by five minutes of Chi Gong to attune to our bodies and 15 minutes of silent worship. Later, one new (Maryalice Larson) and one seasoned Friend shared their spiritual journeys followed by a worship sharing breakout where we shared our stories. The retreat ended with yoga and silent worship.

We continue to hold in our hearts the intersecting concerns of climate change, societal racism, and economic disparity. We have donated carbon tax funds to help a charity that builds carts for people in third world countries that are unable to walk. These carts are run by hand rather than electricity or gas so they contribute to reducing carbon emissions. We have also contributed to a local pet pantry.

With the many disturbing events in 2019 and 2020, involving the deaths of our brothers and sisters of color, Duneland Friends joined with Quakers in a national conversation. We have made a commitment to become more educated about our own internal feelings and to seek understanding of the issue by reading books and articles as well as holding waiting worship for guidance. Further, once a month our designated educational forum has focused on the queries published in an Epistle of 2020 from a Pre-Gathering Retreat of Friends of Color and their Families at the Friends General Conference. Maryalice has been attending ILYM's Anti-Racism committee meetings. She has been facilitating input from our meeting to the committee and sharing information and resources from the committee to our meeting.

With the future of how COVID-19 will affect our ability to meet in question, we plan to continue as we are. We look forward to the time we can meet in person again, but we are thankful for the serendipitous blessings we have received while we have been unable to meet as before.

EVANSTON MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

Evanston Friends Meeting spent this year of pandemic and upheaval growing together, “helping each other up with a tender hand.” We are grateful to have remained a seeking, growing spiritual community.

We have held meeting for worship every First Day, via Zoom. After close of meeting, we now practice a round-robin check in, when worshipers introduce themselves and give current news of their households. This practice keeps the congregation in closer touch with each other. During the warmer months, we also held First Day afternoon meetings for worship in the meetinghouse side yard, in a socially distanced circle. This in-person gathering brought out some who did not participate in worship via Zoom. Wednesday morning virtual worship sharing sessions provided opportunities to respond to thoughtful queries. Mid-week meeting for worship at The Admiral at the Lake, a Kendal retirement community in Chicago, also continued via Zoom.

Virtual meetings have brought together hearts ready for worship, and given us the opportunity to see each other’s faces; the ability to keep company with friends from far away; and the joy of welcoming new seekers and new members to our community. Truly, the Spirit has been “unmuted” among us: vocal ministry has been profound.

Our children’s sense of the life of the Spirit has been nurtured by First Day classes, though attendance at virtual classes has been lower than prior to the pandemic. Periodically, young Friends have joined in the round-robin greetings, so we have been able to admire their growth and development.

EFM members and attenders have continued to learn together in book study groups, in small spiritual direction groups, in lively inquirers groups, and in frequent Meeting for Learning Zoom gatherings, including notable presentations by a Quaker writer, a Muslim scholar and chaplain, and a Jewish rabbi.

We have carried a deep concern for one another as the pandemic and the trials of illness or aging have affected members and attenders and their families. What can we do? How can we help when we can’t visit each other in person? The round-robin sharing after meeting for worship has allowed Friends to communicate challenges being encountered, but we still carry concerns about the difficulties we may not hear about, or cannot address. Concerns included helping families trying to balance their youngsters’ education with the demands of working or the economic impact of unemployment; and addressing the needs of older members recovering from physical injuries. We also worried about friends who have become more isolated, more lonely, and less able to handle life’s challenges.

Meeting committees met by Zoom, in order to safely sustain the spiritual and operational needs of Evanston Meeting. Clearness committees for membership and for personal issues were undertaken with care and tenderness. Evanston Meeting welcomed four new members, and accepted the membership transfer of an EFM member.

Recently, members and attenders were invited to recall favorite memories of a life together as a spiritual community. A rich time of shared stories followed, including accounts of times when the Spirit was present among us in powerful testimonies, in stirrings of the air, in vibrant silence. Many remembered weighty Friends who once sat among us, and now sit only in our memories. We also remembered picnics in the yard, potlucks downstairs, hymn singing before silent worship, shared laughter over coffee. We look forward to a day when all these ways of being a community can return.

FOX VALLEY QUAKER MEETING

In recent years our small Monthly Meeting has held meeting for worship in the Howenstine home at Pioneer Farm, McHenry County. With the increasing presence of the COVID virus, and in order to reduce possible exposure to the virus for Friends in close proximity to one another, we stopped holding meetings in early March 2020. Additionally we canceled plans for our traditional “Old-Fashioned Corn Roast and Pot-Luck Picnic”.

However, with the advent of warmer summer weather we decided that we could still hold outdoor meetings for worship at the farm. We chose a location under some tall black walnut trees, with space for participants to sit far enough apart on folding chairs, while looking down a slight slope toward a rich variety of beautiful vegetation. (Pioneer Farm people now refer to this inspiring location as “Quaker Slope”.) On rainy days or when it became too cold in late autumn, we moved our Meetings for Worship into a building that is used as a Warming House at the farm for activities held in cold weather. With two wood-burning stoves and enough space for Friends to sit at a safe distance from one another, the Warming House got us through the winter. With the advent of spring we were able to meet outdoors again.

Throughout the challenges of COVID, the weather, and location, our meeting has maintained a constant small size, with participation being 10 or fewer. Successfully meeting these challenges has demonstrated that the “state of our meeting” is still vigorous, with deeply appreciated spiritual depth and fellowship. We look forward to the possibilities of having more participants (including children) and more contact with other Friends of Illinois Yearly Meeting.

NORTHSIDE FRIENDS MEETING

Throughout a year of global grief and despair, Northside Friends Meeting channeled our sorrow into innovation, grounded in community and fueled by hard work. We held our first virtual Meeting for Worship on March 22, 2020. Threshing sessions guided the newly-formed Technology Committee, bringing our community into virtual life on Zoom. Friends were surprised at the results: “I would have said video worship was impossible; miraculously, I was wrong”; “I was shocked at how effective Meeting for Business is on Zoom.” Although the transition may have appeared seamless, it happened only through solid community support for individual Friends’ dedication and hard work. The pandemic threatened to rob us of our community’s bounty, but NFM insisted “We WILL be fed.” Providing service to the meeting has been a lifeline for many Friends.

Our success is also based on the privilege of access to computers and internet. We have hosted visitors from France, Germany, Switzerland, the Philippines, New Zealand, and across the US, but we have also failed Friends without computers or for whom virtual worship does not feed the Spirit. We grieve the unknowable number we have lost.

Our bitterest loss is families with children, especially as we fear these families may not return after lockdown. We also mourn the absence of our Healing Circle, whose hands-on healing modalities do not translate into virtual format.

Blessedly, we did not lose any Northside Friends directly to COVID. We created a Fund for Sufferings to support Friends in financial hardship but received no requests. We recognize, again, this reflects our privilege in comparison to many of our neighbors.

We have sought spiritual direction for our sorrow. In May, NFM hosted a Meeting for Mourning for the global devastation of the pandemic. In October, we convened a Meeting for Lamentation, “holding up to the Divine our cries of anguish and

misfortune.” In December, Friends gathered for a Memorial Meeting for our beloved member Glenn Neumann, who had moved to Colorado in 2019; Zoom allowed Glenn’s far-flung family and friends to participate.

Although we miss post-meeting social hour, many find Joys and Sorrows more intimate online: “I share things I might never say during in-person Meeting.” Friends like seeing others’ lives in the background—sometimes it seems there are as many cats onscreen as people.

We are led to deep and sometimes painful discernment around ways we harm one another. White Friends are learning to recognize systemic white supremacy, and cisgender people their internalized transphobia. We approved minutes on misgendering, and a NFM Mission Statement authored by our Committee for Ministry on Racism. Both actions reflect the community’s continuing growth and enrichment. “It’s a gift to see our rough spots and still love each other.”

This year’s Nominating Committee tapped into the global paradigm shift and, using the Strawberry Creek MM (Pacific YM) nominating practices, revised our committees as containers for Friends’ ministries. The transition has not always been easy, and it may take years to fully appreciate the changes.

We have maintained involvement in social issues. Since 2019 we have opened Meetings for Business by reading Crossroads’ Values of a Transforming Institution—provoking a subtle but real effect on the community. The Japanese American Service Committee (our brick-and-mortar hosts) connected us with Tsuru for Solidarity, protesting immigrant detention. In September, NFM hosted an online event to fold origami tsuru (cranes) for a 2021 protest in Washington. In November, we moved our building fund to a low-interest time deposit at Seaway/Self-Help Federal Credit Union, supporting economic growth and stability on Chicago’s South and West sides.

We recognize our prodigious blessings. At an online Thanksgiving Gratitude Party we wrote messages like “My human and animal family,” “To those who do the work,” and “Small moments of connection” on wooden leaves, which were affixed to a quilted Gratitude Tree. We are particularly grateful for our newest member Arcenia Harmon.

The challenges of 2020 have drawn us closer spiritually, with Spirit moving closer to us. We can’t know what will happen as lockdown lifts—“it’s joyful but complex.” We remain strong, engaged, and even more loving, and are confident if we follow Spirit, way will open.

OAK PARK FRIENDS MEETING

Events outside the meeting’s control have continued to have deep impacts this past year. The COVID-19 pandemic meant the Oak Park Friends Meeting has met on Zoom all year. We continue to be grateful for those willing to host. We have become a close virtual group, sharing in the joys and concerns of our lives.

We have 6-7 members who decline to meet on Zoom. We have missed them, but have tried to continue to stay in touch with them and make sure they are doing all right. This has happened through the Ministry and Care Committee as well as individual members who have gone out of their way to be supportive, especially to some of our older members. We are sorry to report that one of those members, Burke Shipley, our oldest member, both in age and longevity, passed on this year. We have also had a number of visitors, some who have come and gone and others who have stayed. We joyfully welcome new attenders.

We have maintained spiritual practices. We have mid-week worship monthly. Once a month we have a written reflection which is shared in the weekly announcements,

disseminated faithfully by one of our members this year. Twice we have held worship sharing sessions around those written reflections. The Peace, Justice and Environment Committee sponsored two worship sharing sessions focused on racism and an adult RE given by Hayley Hathaway of Quaker Earth Care.

In the preelection environment, we wrote many postcards encouraging citizens to vote. We have greatly increased our regular donations to various charitable organizations, especially those focused on racial justice, as seasoned by the Peace, Justice and Environment Committee. Several of our members attended one or the other of the anti-racism workshops presented by ILYM. We created a Minute on George Floyd and racial injustice, which we posted on our website. We honored our commitment to Housing Forward, our local homeless organization in providing food on two Fridays. We have a liaison to both FCNL and AFSC. We have begun writing postcards around the topics suggested by FCNL.

Lastly, after years of searching, we found a lovely site where we can have Meeting for Worship on Sundays, sharing the space with a music education organization.

We will continue as a small, lively meeting that nourishes creative ministries and one another. We look forward to the future and to returning to a more normal way of functioning in the coming year.

SAINT LOUIS MONTHLY MEETING

Saint Louis Monthly Meeting is using technology to keep our meeting together in 2020. Though we grieve the loss of connection to Spirit we feel with gathering in person, we have been using technology to continue the types of activities that are meaningful to us like Sale for Service, The Retreat, Zoom coffee hour and adult education gatherings after worship, Talent and Sharing nights, etc. Friends have pulled together so much which has helped strengthen and deepen our worship.

Many Friends are refreshed and sustained by the Midweek Meeting. Those attending report it is smaller and feels more intimate. We plan to continue having the Midweek Meeting even after we are able to safely return to our meetinghouse.

Ministry means what we offer to each other from our Spirit to another person's spirit. That might be the words that we speak in Meeting for Worship or it might be the depth of our silence. Connecting with each other through cards, emails, phone calls and texts are nourishing our ministry. Many Friends feel that the teaching of the Bible to the older children has been a valuable ministry. We have story hour with our younger children before worship to stay connected. During the pandemic SLFM had three adults and three children joined as members.

Our meeting has always been open to a diversity of messages. We have used workshops and introductory messages by our clerk to help Friends understand what vocal ministry is. Because of these things, we believe Friends feel safe to speak as they are led.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS QUAKER MEETING

Southern Illinois Quaker Meeting ceased in-person worship in March 2020 when Illinois first went into shutdown for COVID-19. Soon after, we began weekly online worship, but only a handful attended, and those attenders did so partly as an act of faith to help keep the meeting from collapsing during the pandemic. Several of us connected socially through the autumn (outside, masked and physically distanced). We continued monthly meetings with attention to business online, considered questions related to our meeting space, and released financial support for our local Warming Center for homeless

individuals. We invited and accepted Logan Plummer into membership, who is now studying at Earlham remotely from Terre Haute, and supported his education from our Ministry Fund. A few of us struggled to assist Maurine Pyle as her health declined this winter, but we are all delighted she has found a safe and healing environment at a retirement community in Terre Haute.

In April 2021 we resumed in-person worship at the Dayemi Family Center, and recognized what a palpable energy we had been missing with online worship. For the time being, we have set up a "hybrid" meeting with the imaginative technical assistance of Dawn Crimson—a physical worship circle with a "Zoom station" allowing for remote participants to join us. While weekly attendance averaged 6-10 before the pandemic, we may see reduced participation going forward. In fact, four members of our community are in the process of relocating out of state: Maurine Pyle, Michael Batinski, Virginia Hoffman and Logan Plummer. These are major losses of eldership and embodiments of Spirit. With SIU having been in enrollment decline for two decades, more severely since 2015, we also have missed the periodic influx of young families who used to come to Carbondale for their degrees, or young academics starting their careers. On the other hand, we still enjoy having part-time attenders from the wider region, since the closest other Quaker meeting is 100 miles away in St. Louis. From the founding of Southern Illinois Friends in the late 1950's, the meeting size has cycled from just a handful, to the 20 range, and back again, across the decades. There are still at least five consistent participants who will be keeping our hearth warm in the coming year, and we look forward to recovering from the pandemic as the Way Opens.

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN FRIENDS MEETING

Urbana-Champaign Friends Meeting has faced major challenges this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Although we have not been able to hold Meeting for Worship in the meetinghouse for more than a year, we have found other ways to join together for worship and fellowship and to follow the leadings of the Spirit.

Since March 2020, our Meetings for Worship via Zoom have provided a reliable space for Friends to worship together and to feel a sense of connection. Friends have been able to join in worship without risking their health, including those who live in assisted living facilities and in other parts of the country. One Friend described the Zoom Meetings as a lifeline for her during the pandemic.

We have changed some of our usual practices during worship to accommodate the needs of Friends during this time when many have felt isolated. Silent worship is now thirty minutes instead of one hour. The period following worship, when we share announcements, joys, and concerns, is much longer than it was when we met in the meetinghouse. Our facilitator sets the tone with an unhurried pace, calling on one person at a time and inviting them to share as much or as little as they choose. Many Friends feel that they have grown closer to others in the meeting as a result of this extended sharing time.

Some Friends find that the thirty minutes given for silent worship does not provide enough time for them to center and attend to the Spirit Within. Spoken ministry seems to be less frequent. Others observe that the spirit of worship often continues into our sharing time when Friends reflect on their personal experiences and spiritual insights. At one meeting, a Friend spoke out of the silence to the query, "How do I practice patience?" Others continued to speak on this theme during the sharing of joys and concerns.

Clearly, the Zoom meetings do not meet the needs or desires of every Friend. Some are not comfortable with the technology, and others do not find the Zoom meetings

conducive to worship. In the summer and fall of 2020, we provided the option of Meeting for Worship outdoors. Several Friends enjoyed sitting in silence among the lovely trees on the well-tended grounds of the meetinghouse and attending to the Spirit that is present in nature. We cherished seeing each other in person.

Our First Day School has met regularly each Sunday via Zoom. The virtual platform has presented new challenges for engaging our group of children, who range in age from four to thirteen. We are grateful that the group meets consistently and continues to explore our Quaker values.

During the pandemic, Friends have cared for one another in many ways. Several Friends organized our Wednesday Check-ins via Zoom, providing spiritual and emotional support during this time when many have felt isolated. Friends have assisted each other with their physical needs and lifted each other's spirits through phone calls and safe in-person encounters.

During the past year, Urbana-Champaign Friends Meeting has responded to the needs of others in our community, nation, and world, chiefly spurred on by our very active Peace and Service Committee. Following the violent arrest of a local Black woman and the death of George Floyd, we approved a statement on police violence, which we sent to the mayors, police chiefs, and city council members of the twin cities. The statement was also published in the News-Gazette. We collected funds and twenty-four boxes of books for Books to Prisoners, a local organization which mails donated books to people who are incarcerated in our local jail and state prisons. We undertook a very successful fundraiser to support local immigrants and low-income residents. This year we are additionally supporting two small agencies in Central America with close, long-standing ties to our meeting, and we held a talent show via Zoom. Inspired by Northside Friends Meeting, we wrote a letter to our local newspaper, inviting all to join us in mourning the world's losses due to the pandemic by lighting a candle and holding a moment of silence at sundown on Memorial Day 2020.

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 3, 2020

Held virtually via Zoom videoconference

In Attendance: Wil Brant (Zoom host), Kent Busse (Assistant Clerk), Beth Carpenter, Samantha Crockett, Janice Domanik, Kay Drake, Heather Evert, David Finke, Dale Gardner, Cathy Garra, Chris Goode, Sharon Haworth, Bruce Kanarek, Caryn Kuhn, Pam Kuhn, Ted Kuhn, Brad Laird, Peter Lasersohn, Mark McGinnis, Grayce Mesner, Marcia Nelson (Presiding Clerk), Noel Pavlovic, Sarah Pavlovic (Recording Clerk), Phyllis Reynolds, Bridget Rorem, David Shiner, Diane Peterson Stehman, Haskell Swygert, Monica Tetzlaff, Gwen Weaver, David Wixom, Frank Young

The COVID-19 pandemic continues, with cases rising in some areas of the Midwest; the work for racial justice remains an urgent concern; the upcoming 2020 presidential election is on the minds of many.

Minute 01 Illinois Yearly Meeting's (ILYM) Fall 2020 Continuing Committee meeting opened with centering worship.

Minute 02 Presiding Clerk Marcia Nelson welcomed those in attendance. She introduced herself, Assistant Clerk Kent Busse, and Recording Clerk Sarah Pavlovic.

Minute 03 Marcia Nelson reminded those present of best practices for a videoconference gathering. Helpful information on videoconferencing can be found on the Annual Sessions page of the ILYM website. She outlined the schedule for the day and procedures for being recognized.

Minute 04 Marcia Nelson thanked everyone who made Annual Sessions donations during the summer of 2020, which greatly helped the yearly meeting budget.

Minute 05 Marcia Nelson announced changes to the agenda and received additional requests for amendments to the agenda.

Minute 06 Ted Kuhn gave the treasurer's report. He shared the Illinois Yearly Meeting - Statement of Financial Position/Balance Sheet for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020 and the Illinois Yearly Meeting - Income Statement - Fund Activity 7/1/2019 - 6/30/2020. These are the final reports for fiscal year 2020 that will be published in the 2020 Minute Book. The amounts received as individual gifts and as contributions toward the virtual annual sessions showed that Friends are generously supporting the yearly meeting. Expenses for Annual Sessions were lower than usual since the sessions were held virtually. The end result is that the yearly meeting had about \$21,000 net income. The budget approved for fiscal year 2020-21 is a deficit budget, so a cushion at this point is reassuring. It was pointed out that our budget appears not to have suffered from the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, but we don't yet know the implications of the pandemic for the coming year.

Finance Committee and Development Committee will need to work together to find a path forward to meet the budgeted amount of individual gifts for the coming year.

Report accepted.

Minute 07 Phyllis Reynolds answered questions about the report from the Ministry and Advancement (M&A) Committee (see Advance Documents). The written report expressed that the committee is happy to accompany ILYM's new Field Secretary Brad Laird on his journey into Illinois Yearly Meeting. The committee submitted an updated job description for the Field Secretary position that identifies that Brad Laird is an employee of the yearly meeting, not an independent contractor as was the previous Field

Secretary. Concern was raised that the new draft is different from the most recent job description in the Handbook. Those in attendance agreed that the Personnel Committee and M&A will confer on the position description and will bring an updated description for consideration at Annual Sessions 2021, after which an approved description will be documented in the Handbook.

Chris Goode, clerk of the Maintenance, Planning, and Envisioning Committee commented that MP&E is drafting a position description for the caretaker, a position that hasn't previously existed. They will follow the same process for getting the position description approved and documented.

Report accepted.

Minute 08 Field Secretary Brad Laird offered a poem by Jericho Brown on hope. In Spanish, the words for “to hope” and “to wait” are the same – “esperar”. He commented that we need to grieve as well as seek joy at this time. The clerk of M&A, Phyllis Reynolds, invited Friends to contact the Ministry and Advancement Committee with any gatherings or events to which other Friends are invited. M&A will work on how to announce opportunities to the Yearly Meeting. The ILYM Announcements events form could be a mechanism to submit events.

Brad's written Field Secretary report is in the Advance Documents. Report accepted.

Minute 09 Monica Tetzlaff reported for the Children's Religious Education (CRE) Committee. She expressed gratitude to Charlotta Koppanyi for coordinating children's programming during our virtual annual sessions in 2020. The committee offered an in-person OWL session in August, but no Quaker children attended.

The committee is grateful for meetings sharing access to Zoom children's programming. Monica was able to attend a meeting of the Quaker Religious Education Collaborative. Resources she gained in that setting will be shared through ILYM Announcements.

Monica announced that she will be laying down clerkship of the CRE committee. She hopes that Nominating Committee will find an assistant clerk who can work with Monica to make a smooth transition.

Report accepted.

Minute 10 Chris Goode represented the Stewards, whose report is included in the Advance Documents. An update to that report is that ILYM's new caretaker, Judy Reese, arrived at Clear Creek House late Tuesday night and has unloaded her U-Haul truck. The Stewards look forward to working with her. Her first work will be learning about the winterizing process for the yearly meeting campus.

Those present thanked the Stewards for all the work done to prepare for the arrival of Judy Reese. A virtual welcome celebration for Judy is being planned, and everyone will be informed through ILYM Announcements. Report accepted.

Minute 11 Chris Goode reported for the Maintenance, Planning, and Envisioning Committee (MP&E). The written report of the Committee's recent activities is available in the Advance Documents.

MP&E has found it difficult to accomplish much between Annual Sessions and Fall Continuing Committee. It has been difficult to have people gather in the summer due to vacations. The committee has traditionally organized a fall work day, but the early days of fall have recently been busy, with Blue River Quarterly and a Duneland/South Bend Retreat in September and Fall Continuing Committee in early October filling a lot of the

calendar when the weather is conducive for working outside. The committee asked whether Continuing Committee might be scheduled later in October or early November to free up more potentially good weather weekends for outdoor work days. There is some concern from Clear Creek members that an early November date might be too late for them to host Continuing Committee in the meetinghouse as it is sometimes necessary to have shut off water and winterized by then. Holding Spring Continuing Committee at McNabb in March could have the same issue. We need to be aware of meeting dates of wider Quaker organizations as well. We were reminded of the calendar on the ILYM website which is there to help us plan and keep track of events.

The MP&E committee asked the yearly meeting to take under consideration a change of date for Fall Continuing Committee. The Clerk's Committee agreed to take this under consideration ahead of the Spring 2021 Continuing Committee.

Report accepted.

Minute 12 Wil Brant was available to answer questions about the report of the Publications and Distribution Committee (in Advance Documents). Due to delays in receiving items, publications usually distributed at Fall Continuing Committee (Minute Book, Plummer Lecture, and directory) will not be distributed until late October or early November.

A question arose as to whether there is a way to allow for people to contact committee clerks through the website, without having a directory in hand with the clerk's name and personal email address. Wil confirmed that it is possible to set up emails for committee clerks through the ILYM website.

Report accepted.

Minute 13 Janice Domanik reported for the ILYM Ad hoc Committee on Anti-Racism. The committee has met five times since the Annual Sessions. They have placed on the ILYM website information about what each meeting is doing about racism, plus the committee's meeting minutes and a list of resources. The committee has held two of the four planned sessions of worship sharing using queries from the Pre-Gathering Epistle from the Friends of Color and their families. The next session will be October 25th. All are welcome to participate. The committee is preparing a workshop for the yearly meeting, to be offered virtually. Report accepted.

Minute 14 A report from the Youth Oversight Committee is included in the Advance Documents. The report was accepted as submitted.

Minute 15 Frank Young reported for the Development Committee. To the written report included in Advance Docs, Frank added a plea. If anyone knows of anyone who is concerned about the budget and is willing to make contributions to the yearly meeting, particularly gifts through end-of-life giving from trust funds and the like, please make those Friends known to the Development Committee so that they can follow up.

Minute 16 Marcia Nelson announced the following names for the Naming Committee: Beth Burbank (Northside) and David Wixom (St Louis) . Their charge is to bring forward names for the Nominating Committee. The names brought forward for Naming Committee were approved.

Minute 17 Personnel Committee had no written report. Ted Kuhn pointed out that Illinois law has changed with regard to requirements for sexual harassment training. He recommended that the Personnel Committee look into how that might impact our employees.

Minute 18 Marcia Nelson announced that the 2020 Plummer Lecture prepared by David Shiner and Nancy Wallace will be delivered on October 24th at 10 a.m. Central. David will deliver the lecture in person at Evanston Meetinghouse with attendees by invitation only; others are invited to join via Zoom.

Minute 19 Marcia Nelson announced that the dates for 2021 Annual Sessions will be June 16-20, 2021.

Minute 20 Samantha Crockett reported for the Chicago South planning group in charge of programming for Annual Sessions. She reported that Brad Laird is coordinating speakers. Brad announced that the 2021 Plummer Lecture will be delivered by Phyllis Reynolds from Evanston Meeting. Dwight Wilson is interested in being a speaker, but waiting to confirm when we are able to finalize the date. Noel and Sarah Pavlovic will coordinate workshops. Samantha is updating a workshop application form. Worship sharing and children's activities are being discussed as planning evolves. Report accepted.

Minute 21 Blue River Quarterly's planning group is in charge of Food for 2021. Zach and Kelly Schobernd have agreed to serve as cooks if there is a meeting at McNabb. The planning group has confirmed coordinators for almost all jobs. Report accepted.

Minute 22 Marcia Nelson opened discussion about a timeline and a decision-making process regarding how to hold our Annual Sessions in June of 2021. We have the time and experience to plan a more full virtual experience, with more workshop offerings and more opportunities for intergenerational activities. We also hold open the possibility for an in-person gathering, for hybrid sessions (in-person with some components available via Zoom), for a special session at a different time for children and families, or for other intergenerational experiences. For a hybrid format, we would need new technologies, in particular a new sound system. We also need to keep in mind that we need to take into account local health regulations.

Those in attendance agreed that the Planning Coordinators' Group (see Minute 40 Annual Sessions 2019) will oversee the decision-making process going forward with the expectation of making a final recommendation to Spring Continuing Committee 2021.

Minute 23 Marcia Nelson announced that Spring Continuing Committee will be held March 6, 2021.

Minute 24 The minutes were read back in the face of the meeting at the time they were written, and they were approved by those in attendance.

Minute 25 The Fall 2020 Continuing Committee meeting closed with a reminder to vote and with centering worship.

SPRING CONTINUING COMMITTEE

Third Month 6, 2021

Held Virtually via Zoom Videoconferencing

In Attendance: Wil Brant (Zoom host), Beth Burbank, Kent Busse (Assistant Clerk), Beth Carpenter, Dawn Crimson, Samantha Crockett, Janice Domanik, Kay Drake, David Finke, Dale Gardner, Liam Gardner, Cathy Garra, Chris Goode, Sharon Haworth, Bruce Kanarek, Pam Kuhn, Ted Kuhn, Brad Laird, Peter Lasersohn, Valerie Lester, Mark McGinnis, Grayce Mesner, Marcia Nelson (Presiding Clerk), Julia Pantoga, Noel Pavlovic, Sarah Pavlovic (Recording Clerk), Colleen Reardon, Judy Reese, Phyllis Reynolds, Bridget Rorem, Chip Rorem, Patrick Shelton, David Shiner, Monica Tetzlaff, Bobbi Trist, Gwen Weaver, Marie White, David Wixom, Judy Wolicki, Frank Young

Minute 01 Illinois Yearly Meeting's (ILYM) Spring 2021 Continuing Committee meeting opened with centering worship.

Minute 02 Presiding Clerk Marcia Nelson welcomed those in attendance and introduced herself, Assistant Clerk Kent Busse, and Recording Clerk Sarah Pavlovic. Judy Reese introduced herself as ILYM's caretaker at the yearly meeting campus near McNabb, Illinois.

Minute 03 Marcia Nelson outlined the proceedings for the Continuing Committee, which undertakes the work of the yearly meeting between annual sessions. She reminded those present that reports will not be read, but that there will be time for questions and comments to each committee. As we did at annual sessions, we will be using a "unity agenda" to further our business. A few Zoom logistics were reviewed, as well as the schedule for the day.

Minute 04 Clerk Marcia Nelson reviewed the agenda and advised everyone of changes.

Minute 05 Valerie Lester gave the Treasurer's Report. The report, which shows income and expenses for the fiscal year, as of February 6th 2021, is available in the Advance Documents, as is the ILYM approved budget for 2020-2021.

Val noted that year-to-date income is \$63,189. That is above what it was at the same point a year ago due to an increase in individual gifts. ILYM thanks Friends for their generosity, especially in these difficult times, as donations have increased in both amount and in the number of individual donors. Year-to-date operating expenses are \$59,239. As income is greater than expenses at this time, the yearly meeting has gone ahead and made contributions to outside organizations.

Those present were reminded to advise the treasurers and Finance Committee of anticipated monthly meeting contributions and of upcoming committee expenditures.

In their written report, the treasurers pointed out that the yearly meeting has been blessed this year by the generosity of Friends and the reserves we have accumulated to weather challenges.

Report accepted.

Minute 06 Phyllis Reynolds reported for the Ministry and Advancement Committee. Phyllis presented highlights of a revised description of the Field Secretary position that will be brought before annual sessions for consideration (see Advance Documents). One point of clarity noted was that the Field Secretary is an employee of the yearly meeting. Ministry and Advancement will take under consideration for clarification the wording about expectations for companionship and eldering, and about the role of the Field Secretary on yearly meeting committees with regard to whether they would be compensated for their time. Report accepted.

Minute 07 Brad Laird gave the Field Secretary's report. He reported that activities of Illinois Yearly Meeting Friends have been recognized recently through Northern Spirit Radio and through Brad's invitation to communicate with Ireland Yearly Meeting. In Brad's written report, he related that he has found himself using his gifts as a "connector" to connect those throughout the yearly meeting who have a similar interests or concerns or ministries. He reported on the importance of maintaining connections through letter writing and the guidance he had received through letter-writing on "awaiting direction" in his work. Brad affirmed the value of inter-visitation among meetings, a sentiment that is shared by the Ministry and Advancement Committee. He invited those present to consider accompanying him as an elder on his visits. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact our lives, Brad reminded us of the importance of being attentive to our own and others' mental states and of finding ways to care for one another. Brad also

reported the start of periodic virtual gatherings of ILYM monthly meeting clerks for support and training. He also envisions holding more general sessions to encourage and mentor committee clerks. He plans to communicate these opportunities through the ILYM Announcements and through direct communication with monthly meeting clerks. Report accepted.

Minute 08 The Spring 2021 Continuing Committee unity agenda included reports that were informational and did not have action items, to be considered together for acceptance. These reports are available in the Advance Documents, and everyone was encouraged to read them to learn of the committees' and representatives' important work on behalf of the yearly meeting.

On the unity agenda were reports from ILYM committees on Children's Religious Education, Development, Personnel, Publications & Distribution, and Youth Oversight, the report from the Stewards, and the report from ILYM's representatives to Friends General Conference.

The reports on the unity agenda were accepted, with thanks to the Stewards, representatives, and committee members who continue the work of the yearly meeting.

Frank Young reminded those present that the Development Committee has been working on the development portion of the ILYM website. He requested a few volunteers to look at the current website and report on how it looks to those who have not been involved in its updating. Please contact Frank to volunteer.

Colleen Reardon from the Personnel Committee asked that anyone who has feedback about our employees - the Administrative Coordinator, Field Secretary, and Youth Coordinator – send their comments to the appropriate committee of oversight to assist in their annual review of those employees.

Minute 09 Clerk Marcia Nelson opened the meeting for those present to respond out of the silence to the following queries about common experiences and common challenges faced by meeting communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- What has your monthly meeting lost and what blessings has your monthly meeting received in these changed circumstances?
- How has worship and fellowship been affected?
- How does your meeting envision gathering in a post-pandemic time?
- What is the general level of vitality in the meeting? Are Friends encouraged or discouraged about the state of the meeting?

Those present were eager to share their meetings' experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many Friends shared the joy of new opportunities afforded by virtual gatherings for worship, fellowship, study, handwork, and more. Virtual meetings occurring on different days and at different times have allowed for people to participate in new and flexible ways. One often-mentioned joy was that of welcoming attenders from afar, including well-loved Friends who had moved away. Meetings in which most Friends had access to and were comfortable with technology recognized how this made it easier for them to adapt to a virtual format. Small meetings found it easier to socialize than larger meetings, and some larger meetings adapted by offering fellowship in smaller break-out sessions. A virtual format was recognized as an advantage to those spread apart geographically, to those with physical limitations, and to those facing transportation challenges. Friends have appreciated opportunities to join gatherings in the wider Quaker world and offerings by Quaker organizations that became available through a virtual format.

Some of us find that virtual gatherings do not provide the quality of worship, the sense of Spirit, or the connection to beloved spaces that in-person worship offers. We miss potlucks and personal conversations. Some of our worshipping communities do not have the technology to reliably join together by video conferencing. Concern was expressed for those among us who may be most stressed – those who live alone, families with young children – and for those whose needs may not be met virtually because they do not have the necessary technology, or because they have too much virtual time in their lives or “Zoom burnout.” Meetings in which some attenders have met virtually while others have met in person have experienced a painful sense of separation within the meeting.

As meetings are considering how to move forward, they are reflecting on what things we have learned from this experience and what things we would like to keep. Some meetings already have committees working on how to move forward. The development of hybrid meetings has some barriers, including possible expense for technology, as well as questions about whether it would prove distracting, and whether a hybrid set-up could satisfy a meeting’s desire to keep more Friends included. We were urged to continue to be creative in our thinking, to give ourselves permission to try many ways of connecting, to come up with solutions that best fit our individual meetings, and to share our findings with others.

Minute 10 Pam Kuhn reported that the Handbook Committee proposes the following changes to ILYM’s handbook.

1. The print version of the ILYM Faith and Practice book is now complete and therefore the Faith and Practice Committee has been laid down. The description of the Faith and Practice Committee will be removed from the Handbook.

2. The Faith and Practice book description will be temporarily replaced with the following: “Illinois Yearly Meeting published Faith and Practice: Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends in 2020. It is available in hard copy and it is also on the ILYM website.” The Handbook Committee plans to later rewrite the description of the Faith and Practice book for the Handbook.

3. The Handbook Committee will add to the Stewards description, the following. “The Stewards are responsible for implementing and, if necessary, updating the Conflict of Interest Policy [2019, Minute 18, 56] and the Safe Congregation Policy [2019, Minute 28, 57.]”

The proposed Handbook wording was approved. The report of the Handbook Committee was accepted.

Minute 11 Janice Domanik was available to answer questions about the report of the Ad hoc Committee on Anti-Racism. In their written report, the committee recalled that last summer, they had reached out to meetings and worship groups within ILYM to find out what work meetings had been doing on anti-racism. They posted the many responses on the ILYM website. The committee is now inviting all meetings and worship groups to consider the following queries:

- How goes the work of anti-racism within your Meeting or Worship Group?
- What progress or new work has your Meeting or Worship Group done since last summer?
- What would you like to have achieved by this coming summer?
- What challenges is your Meeting or Worship Group facing in working on anti-racism?
- How can the Ad Hoc Committee on Anti-Racism support you in this work?
- What ideas do you have that you would like the Ad Hoc Committee on Anti-Racism to include in its work?

The committee asks that responses be emailed to Janice Domanik by April 15th to give the committee time to process them ahead of ILYM's annual sessions. The committee welcomes suggestions, questions, and new members.

Janice announced a series of workshops on racism and white supremacy for ILYM Friends, to be coordinated by Adrian Nelson, Caryn Kuhn, and Steven David Flowers. The workshops will run from April through June this year. Watch the ILYM Announcements for detailed information.

Report accepted, with thanks to those doing this vital work in the yearly meeting.

Minute 12 Chris Goode reported for the Maintenance, Planning, and Envisioning Committee (MP&E). The committee has been working with Judy Reese, who has been in residence at Clear Creek House (CCH) since October 1, 2020. Steward Emeritus Dick Ashdown has been helping her learn various tasks at the site. Chris Goode and Peter Lasersohn plan to develop one or more handouts with explanations of local Quaker and Illinois Yearly Meeting history that Judy could give to visitors. Judy hopes to investigate whether we might get maintenance help through local community service projects. Raccoons have been a problem on site, necessitating a hired trapper and repairs to several buildings.

Plans under consideration for the campus include a butterfly and pollinator garden, shade trees along the south side of the path between the meetinghouse and Clear Creek House, and a gazebo or pavilion possibly associated with a memorial grove and /or the pollinator garden. The committee has begun revising the Campus Plan approved in 2012 to bring it up to date. They are listening to see if turning the CCH garage into accessible bedrooms and bathrooms is still the sense of the yearly meeting. They also want to determine the future of the barn, and other campus structures. They hope to have a campus planning workshop during Annual Sessions to help process these ideas.

The committee is also working to update the Campus Asset Management Plan (CAMP), to complete painting and staining of campus buildings, to undertake a variety of repair projects, and to investigate possibilities for sustainable energy sources. The committee is exploring obtaining AED (automated external defibrillator) units to install at various locations on the campus. They will also be refining the description of the caretaker position for the Handbook. The updated position description will be brought to annual sessions for consideration.

The committee encouraged those present to join them for a work day on site in early May. The work may include the moving of old refrigerators out of the meetinghouse basement kitchen.

Report accepted.

Minute 13 Marcia Nelson reminded those present that Fall Continuing Committee had recommended that the decision about the format for 2021 Annual Sessions (on-site, virtual, or hybrid) be made at Spring Continuing Committee. Friends approved a virtual format for ILYM Annual Sessions 2021.

Minute 14 Samantha Crockett gave highlights of the planning for the 2021 Annual Sessions, to be held in a virtual format.

The theme for the 2021 Illinois Yearly Meeting annual sessions will be "Equality in Action: Roots and Reality". Annual Sessions dates will be June 16 to 20, 2021 for adult and all-ages programming. Children's Sessions are scheduled for June 25th to 27th, with a plan to have a short presentation for all on Sunday, June 27th. High School Friends are deciding on a format that will best suit their group.

The program planning group is anticipating a Wednesday speaker or panel to introduce the theme, a Thursday evening musical event for all ages, and Friday evening dancing, as in the past. Dwight Wilson will be the Saturday evening speaker. Phyllis Reynolds of Evanston Monthly Meeting will give the Plummer Lecture. Workshops will be held on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday afternoons.

Some new features proposed to enhance the virtual format are “Technical Tips” sessions, “Shared” meal times, and a series of “Open Lounge” opportunities for fellowship and socializing.

Report accepted, with gratitude to Samantha for coordinating much of the planning work.

Minute 15 Noel Pavlovic reported for the Environmental Concerns Committee. The committee has met twice in 2021 with caretaker Judy Reese to discuss the possibility of establishing pollinator gardens on the ILYM campus to provide habitat for native bees, butterflies, and birds. The committee is considering two locations: somewhere within the foundation foot print of the former chicken shed and at the south end of the existing prairie planting. Noel shared a graphic to point out the intended locations. The committee plans a site visit prior to deciding about location and beginning the work of preparing the ground for a first planting. The committee envisions this garden to be formal plantings of native species. They hope that in addition to benefiting monarch butterflies and other pollinators, this and any subsequent native plant gardens will serve as a place for respite, contemplation, and spiritual renewal. The committee agreed to share information about butterfly gardening with ILYM Friends. Report accepted.

Minute 16 Beth Burbank, reporting for the Naming Committee, brought forward the name of Amal Tamari to serve a three-year term on Nominating Committee beginning at the rise of Annual Sessions 2021 and continuing through 2024. Approved.

Minute 17 Bridget Rorem gave the Nominating Committee report. The Nominating Committee requested approval for the appointment of David Wixom to the Ministry & Advancement Committee to fill an open place due to an earlier resignation from the committee. This appointment is to begin immediately and end at rise of annual sessions 2021.

Those present approved the nomination of David Wixom to the Ministry and Advancement Committee.

Names of the many people who have agreed to serve the yearly meeting in various ways will be brought forward for consideration at annual sessions.

The committee is still looking for an Assistant Recording Clerk, a clerk for Children’s Religious Education, a member of Ministry and Advancement, several members of Youth Oversight, a Reading Clerk, and a Co-Treasurer, among others.

Bridget conveyed the gratitude of the committee to those who have taken under consideration service to the yearly meeting and to those who have agreed to serve.

Report accepted.

Minute 18 Clerk Marcia Nelson made concluding announcements about upcoming dates. She advised those in attendance to watch for information about FGC’s Consultation titled “Spirit and Community in Online Gatherings” scheduled for April 17th, which will address some of the concerns we considered earlier.

Minute 19 Minutes from Continuing Committee were read back in the face of the meeting and approved.

Minute 20 Spring 2021 Continuing Committee closed with waiting worship.

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING 2021-2022 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: Dale Gardner
2022: Michael Pine
2023: Jason Shenk, Bobbi Trist
2024: Dale Gardner

Development Committee
Clerk: Frank Young
2022: Kay Drake
2023: Coco Colin, Dale Gardner, Alex Lippitt
2024: Marcy Harman, Frank Young

Environmental Concerns Committee
Clerk: Noel Pavlovic
2022: Alice Howenstine, Bill Howenstine
2023: Adrian Fisher, Nancy Halliday, David Wixom
2024: Sarah Pavlovic, Noel Pavlovic, Chris Goode, Fariba Murray

Finance Committee
Clerk: Val Lester
2022: Maggie Wanner
2023: Kevin Brubaker
2024: Judy Jager, Ashlee Miller-Berry, Val Lester
ex-officio: Co-Treasurers, Dawn Crimson & Ted Kuhn

Handbook Committee
Clerk: Pam Kuhn
2024: Pam Kuhn, Julia Pantoga, Sue Styer

Maintenance, Planning & Envisioning Committee
Clerk: Chris Goode
2022: Neil Mesner, Bill Howenstine
2023: Carol Bartles, Casey Kashnig, Noel Pavlovic, Marie White
2024: Chris Goode, Dennis McQueen
ex-officio: all Stewards

Ministry and Advancement Committee
Clerk: Phyllis Reynolds
2022: Bruce Kanarek, Phyllis Reynolds
2023: Janic Domanik, Mark McGinnis, Heather Evert
2024: David Wixom

Nominating Committee
Clerk: Bridget Rorem
2022: Dale Gardner, Bridget Rorem, Judy Wolicki
2023: Sharon Haworth
2024: Amal Tamari

Peace Resources Committee
Clerk: Mark McGinnis
2024: Mark McGinnis

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

Youth Oversight Committee
Clerk: Mike Dennis
2023: Diane Dennis, Choz Howard-McKinney
2024: Allison Boyaris, Mike Dennis, Daniel Rakemacher

<h3>2022 ANNUAL SESSIONS RESPONSIBILITIES</h3>
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<p>Food: Chicago North Program: Blue River Quarterly Site Services: Chicago South</p>

APPOINTMENTS TO WIDER QUAKER & OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

American Friends Service Committee
Corporation
2023: Fariba Murray
2024: Coco Collin, Frank Young

Friends Committee on National Legislation
2022: Fariba Murray
2023: Garnet Fay, Dale Gardner, David
Wixom
2024: Kevin Brubaker

Friends General Conference Central Committee
2022: Janice Domanik, Haskell Swygert

Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender
& Queer Concerns
2023: Jad Tamari

Friends Peace Teams
2024:

Friends Secondary School Liaison
2022 Olney: Grayce Mesner, David
Wixom
2022 Scattergood: Alex Lippitt

Friends World Committee for Consultation
2023: David Shiner, Pam Kuhn
2024: Julia Pantoga

National Religious Campaign Against Torture
2024:

Quaker Earthcare Witness
2022: Noel Pavlovic
2024: David Wixom

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

2021 Clerk's Committee: Kent Busse, Wil
Brant, Cathy Garra, David Shiner,
Gwen Weaver
2021 Exercises Committee: Colleen
Reardon
2021 Epistle Committee: Monica Tetzlaff,
Samantha Crockett

MONTHLY MEETINGS AND WORSHIP GROUPS IN ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING with meeting locations and times

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

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL MONTHLY MEETING

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)
Burlington 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: 1st First Day, 11:30am

DOWNERS GROVE FRIENDS MEETING

5710 Lomond Ave, Downers Grove, IL 60516
 10:30 am 630-968-3861
www.dgquakers.org
 Business: 2nd First Day, 12:00 pm

DUNELAND FRIENDS MEETING

2nd & 4th First Days, 10:00 am
duneland.ilym.org
 Business: 3rd Fourth Day, 7:00 pm

ELKHART RIVER WORSHIP GROUP

(under the care of South Bend)
 413 South 7th St., Goshen, IN 46526
 1st & 3rd First Days, 3:00 pm

EVANSTON MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

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

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

1st Presbyterian Church Campus,
 333 W. Colfax Ave South Bend, IN 46601
 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

Gaia House Interfaith Center,
 913 S. Illinois Ave., Carbondale, IL 62901
 10:00 am 618-303-1040
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, 11:15 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	Anna Kintree
South Bend	Monica Tetzlaff
Southern Illinois	Dawn Crimson
Spoon River	Peg Kruger
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