

Minutes of the Illinois Yearly Meeting (ILYM)
149th Annual Sessions
Sixth Month 21-25, 2022, Clear Creek Meetinghouse near McNabb, Illinois

MINUTES OF THE FIRST SESSION, Fourth Day, Sixth Month 21, 2023

Minute 1 The 2023 Annual Sessions opened with expectant waiting worship.

Minute 2 Presiding Clerk Kent Busse welcomed Friends to the ILYM annual sessions.

Minute 3 Reading Clerk Pam Kuhn read an epistle from the Yearly Meeting of Aotearoa New Zealand, held at Whangannari Quaker Settlement and online on Fifth Month 18-22, 2023.

Minute 4 The Clerk recognized and welcomed visitors from other Quaker organizations: Robin Mohr, Executive Secretary of the Friends World Committee on Consultation (FWCC) Section of the Americas; Candi Boyd from Project Lakota; and Marvin Barnes, visiting on behalf of Friends General Conference (FGC). Also visiting online from outside of ILYM was Steven Willett from Sheffield, England. The Clerk also welcomed first-time attenders Dreiske Arnold, “Michael” Cunningham, Lila Leiland, and Diane Pasco.

Minute 5 Kent announced that planning for the 150th anniversary of ILYM in 2025 has begun. Those interested in sharing ideas are invited to meet at the dining tent at lunch on Seventh Day, Sixth Month 24.

Minute 6 Kent described the role and composition of the Epistle and Exercises Committees. He asked Friends to consider whether they are led to serve on either committee during these annual sessions, and to inform him if they are.

Minute 7 Kent announced that a Committee of Care is available for anyone who feels moved to avail themselves of it. The members are Brad Laird, Sarah Pavlovic, Janice Domanik, and Mark McGinnis.

Minute 8 Kent reported that this year’s Harassment Review Committee consists of himself, Janice Domanik, Virginia Schelbert, Brad Laird, and Heather Evert. The committee will continue to function throughout these sessions.

Minute 9 Brad Laird delivered his final report as ILYM’s Field Secretary. He asked that we honor the spirit of the Peoria Nation and other Indigenous tribes who occupied this area in the past, and also the spirit of ILYM past and present. He expressed deep gratitude for the opportunity to serve as Field Secretary over the past three years. He recounted his recent activities in detail, noting the vibrancy of the many ILYM meetings he has visited. He discussed incipient worship groups, antiracism initiatives, and the project for translating the ILYM *Faith and Practice* into Spanish, and encouraged ILYM Friends to visit meetings other than their own. Report accepted.

Minute 10 Minutes 1-9 were approved.

Minute 11 Assistant Clerk Kevin Brubaker presided during the reports listed in Minutes 12-14.

Minute 12 Ted Kuhn gave the Treasurer's report. To reflect recent financial activity, Ted updated the written report that was given in the advance documents. According to the figures he gave, revenue currently exceeds expenses by approximately \$29,000. While some further expenses will be incurred before the end of the fiscal year on June 30, the balance sheet is very healthy. Report accepted.

Minute 13 Val Lester reported on behalf of the Finance Committee. The proposed budget for fiscal 2024 is 7% larger than for the current year due to several anticipated increased expenses, including a cost-of-living increase of 8.7% for ILYM staff members. For next year the committee recommends a 6% increase in suggested donations from monthly meetings, and an increase in individual giving beyond what we are likely to receive by the end of the current fiscal year. The committee also asks that the Yearly Meeting support two requests for funds for capital campaigns, one to Friends General Conference (FGC) for \$7,000 and the other to Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) for \$5,000, using the yearly meeting's Special Gifts Fund for a one-time donation to each organization. The Finance Committee asks that Friends with questions about the proposed budget meet with the committee on the East Porch at 3:45 p.m. this Thursday. Report accepted.

Minute 14 Frank Young reported for the Development Committee. The committee has maintained the Support section of the ILYM website and is in the process of making necessary improvements to that section. It is unlikely that the budgeted goal of \$42,000 in individual contributions for fiscal year 2023 will be achieved. The proposed budget for fiscal year 2024 includes a 5% decrease from the amount budgeted for this fiscal year, but that figure is still likely to be higher than the actual final amount in individual contributions for this year. Report accepted.

Minute 15 Minutes 11-14 were approved.

Minute 16 Marcia Nelson reported for the Naming Committee, which consists of her and Fariba Murray. The committee recommends Brad Laird to join the Nominating Committee and Meredith George to serve as convener. Approved. Report accepted.

Minute 17 Sharon Haworth presented the preliminary report from the Nominating Committee. As noted in the advance documents, several positions remain to be filled, including the editorship of *Among Friends*. The Nominating Committee expects to present additional nominations later this week. Report accepted.

Minute 18 Minutes 16-17 were approved.

Minute 19 The first session concluded with grateful waiting worship.

MINUTES OF THE SECOND SESSION, Fifth Day, Sixth Month 22, 2023

Minute 20 Presiding Clerk Kent Busse introduced those at the Clerk's table: himself as Presiding Clerk, Kevin Brubaker as Assistant Clerk, and David Shiner as Recording Clerk.

Minute 21 Reading Clerk Pam Kuhn read an epistle from Southeastern Yearly Meeting, whose annual sessions were held in Parrish, Florida on Fourth Month 5-9, 2023.

Minute 22 Kent announced that the members of the Committee of Care are Brad Laird, Sarah Pavlovic, Janice Domanik, and Mark McGinnis.

Minute 23 Kent reported that this year's Harassment Review Committee consists of himself, Janice Domanik, Virginia Schelbert, Brad Laird, and Heather Evert.

Minute 24 Kent announced that planning for the 150th anniversary of ILYM in 2025 has begun. Those interested in sharing ideas are invited to meet at the dining tent at lunch on Seventh Day, Sixth Month 24.

Minute 25 Kent described the role and composition of the Epistle and Exercises Committees. He asked Friends to consider whether they are led to serve on either committee during these annual sessions, and to inform him if they are.

Minute 26 Kevin Brubaker asked that anyone who is led to address the body during Meeting for Business stand and identify themselves, including their monthly meeting affiliation. He introduced Andrea Kintree, who is serving as temporary golf cart driver. Wil Brant added that there is a sign-up sheet for those wishing to be transported in the golf cart.

Minute 27 Kent recognized and welcomed Bobby Trice, who is representing FCNL again this year. Kevin referred to the Travelling Minute for last night's speaker, Sharon Goens-Bradley from AFSC, who was also welcomed.

Minute 28 Janice Domanik reported for the Ministry and Advancement Committee. The committee recommends that Mark McGinnis and Marcia Nelson be approved as joint Field Secretaries for the next three years, beginning at the rise of these sessions. Approved.

The committee has hosted a workshop offered by Jackie Stillwell of Right Sharing of World Resources, and has been offering online worship services for ILYM Friends on the 10th of each month. Committee members continue to visit monthly meetings other than their own, and encourage other Friends to do so as well. Report accepted.

Minute 29 Janice reported as representative to Friends General Conference (FGC). She thanked the yearly meeting for its longtime support for FGC. For the first time since before the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's annual Gathering of Friends will be held in person at Western Oregon University. Some of the events of the gathering will be available online. For the future, FGC is planning to experiment with different kinds of gatherings in order to make its offerings more affordable. Recent and current FGC offerings include various events for Friends of Color and Spiritual Deepening retreats, as well as visitation to support yearly and monthly meetings. FGC recently entered the public phase of its capital campaign, which will provide support for many of its programs. Report accepted.

Minute 30 Janice reported for the Racial Equity and Education Committee. The committee is helping ILYM Friends learn more about the societal impact of racism and what can be done to counteract it. It united with Northside Meeting in encourage participation in a Chicago Regional Organizing Against Racism (CROAR) workshop for individuals within ILYM, and has been hosting an online Anti-Racism Café on the 15th of every month. During these annual sessions, the committee is hosting a workshop on the film *Dakota 38*. Plans for future events, including those regarding Indigenous peoples, are in process. Report accepted.

Minute 31 Minutes 20-30 were approved.

Minute 32 Mark McGinnis reported for the Peace Resources Committee, which continues to meet online and is active with peace, justice, and social concerns issues. The committee has recently hosted a Pretrial Fairness Teach-In and a Prison Ministry Panel Discussion, and is offering a Junior ROTC and Recruitment Workshop for Young Friends on Friday morning during these sessions. It plans to present a revised committee description later this week. Report accepted.

Minute 33 Wil Brant reported for Publications and Distribution. Materials on the website are up to date. The committee has not received the information required to develop a list of Spanish language links or resources for the proposed Spanish language outreach resource webpage. This project will be dropped if there is a continued lack of interest in providing information for it. The Spanish translation of the ILYM Faith and Practice is now in process. In recognition of recent and anticipated changes of various types, the Publications and Distribution Committee proposes that it be renamed the Publications and Technology Committee, with the description rendered in the advance documents to be included in the ILYM Handbook. Following discussion, the description was amended to reflect that the committee will consist of 3-5 members. Approved.

Minute 34 Since the current Handbook description of *Among Friends* is not in accordance with current practice, the committee suggested the revision given in the advance documents. The description was approved for inclusion in the Handbook.

Minute 35 The question of additional responsibilities for the *Among Friends* editor beyond those listed in the Handbook will be referred to the Handbook Committee. The Publications and Distribution Committee report was accepted.

Minute 36 Pam Kuhn reported for the Handbook Committee. At 2022 Annual Sessions, the assembled body of ILYM discerned where to distribute the money that had been held in the Peace Tax Fund, but did not specify the status of the Peace Tax Fund. Based on the Peace Resources Committee report from Fall 2022 Continuing Committee, the Handbook Committee recommends that the handbook reflect that the Peace Tax Fund has been laid down. Approved.

Minute 37 The Handbook Committee recommended some minor changes to better reflect the makeup of the Harassment Review Committee. Under membership, add “or a designee” after Presiding Clerk. In the main body, change “a month before the Annual Sessions” to “prior to Annual Sessions.” Finally, it is recommended that members be announced “at the beginning of the yearly meeting sessions” rather than in the advance documents, as is currently stated. Approved.

Minute 38 The Handbook Committee report was accepted.

Minute 39 Minutes 32-38 were approved.

Minute 40 The Exercises Committee will consist of “Michael” Cunningham and Marcia Nelson. The Epistle Committee will be Pam Kuhn, Jason Shenk, and Judy Jager. Approved. The Clerk expressed gratitude to the Friends who volunteered to serve on these committees.

Minute 41 Mark McGinnis and Dawn Crimson passed on the thanks we have received from the organizations that were beneficiaries of the proceeds from the Peace Tax Fund.

Minute 42 Minutes 40-41 were approved.

Minute 43 The second session concluded with an extended period of waiting worship.

MINUTES OF THE THIRD SESSION, Sixth Day, Sixth Month 23, 2023

Minute 44 Presiding Clerk Kent Busse announced that planning for the 150th anniversary of ILYM in 2025 has begun. Those interested in sharing ideas will meet at the dining tent at lunch tomorrow.

Minute 45 Kent introduced Peter Lasersohn, Assistant Recording Clerk, who will serve as recorder for the first half of today's business session.

Minute 46 Kent reminded Friends of the Harassment Review Committee and the Committee of Care, and introduced their members.

Minute 47 Reading Clerk Pam Kuhn read an epistle from the 26th Central European Gathering (now Central European Yearly Meeting), which met in Gdansk, Poland on Fifth Month 25-28, 2023.

Minute 48 Mike Dennis gave the report for the Youth Oversight Committee. He lamented the loss of interaction and socialization which young Friends have experienced due to the COVID pandemic. Numerous Quakes and other activities have had to be canceled. Even as the pandemic has eased and gatherings have been scheduled, they have often not attracted sufficient participation to be held. Efforts are underway to rebuild a sense of community among young Friends, with several events planned. Mike asks us to hold our youth in the Light and make every effort to strengthen connections among them. Friends accepted the report.

Minute 49 Bobbi Trist gave the report for the Children's Religious Education Committee. The committee has been meeting frequently. Its current focus is just on the program at annual sessions. There is currently much higher participation among younger children, with sparser numbers among teens. Bobbi urged us to encourage families to attend annual sessions and bring their children; this is crucial to the long-term health of the yearly meeting and of Friends society in general. Friends accepted the report.

Minute 50 Minutes 44-49 was approved.

Minute 51 Chris Goode gave the joint report for the Maintenance Planning and Envisioning Committee and the Stewards. During the past year they held Fall and Spring workdays which accomplished quite a few tasks. Necessary repairs caused by natural damage last year cost only about \$1,725 more than our insurance settlement. A few additional repairs have also been completed. The combined group believes that hiring contractors to meet our limited needs is preferable to having a live-in caretaker, and has requested funds in accordance with this plan for the coming year. The creation of a maintenance plan and a maintenance manual for the ILYM campus is in its early stages. A workday is planned for Saturday, Oct. 7. Radios have been placed in buildings around the campus to deter animal intrusion; please do not turn these off or move them. The high school bunkhouse is in problematic condition and Friends are encouraged to consider carefully what we should do with this building over the long term. Accessibility is also an increasing concern which Friends should consider.

Chris also raised the issue of how our facilities might be used between annual sessions, and whether we should amend our policies to allow non-ILYM organizations to use them. He suggested allowing such use by a local writers group on a one-time experimental basis. After a free and full discussion, Friends refer the issue to a joint meeting of the Finance Committee; the Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Committee; and other interested Friends, to investigate tax and insurance issues and make a recommendation to our sessions tomorrow.

Friends accepted the report.

Minute 52 Minute 51 was approved.

Minute 53 Colleen Reardon gave the report from the Personnel Committee. Members of the Personnel Committee have met with members of other committees to discern the role of the Coordinator of Religious Education as an independent contractor, the development of a contract, and the relationship of the Coordinator with others who assist with the children's religious education program at Annual Sessions. The committee is currently investigating when background checks are valid, and under what circumstances. Report accepted.

Minute 54 The Clerk noted that reports from two Quaker secondary schools, Olney and Scattergood, are included in the advance documents.

Minute 55 Kevin Brubaker shared uniformly positive impressions of Earlham College based on his recent visit, during which he served as a lecturer in environmental studies.

Minute 56 Pam Kuhn reported for the Friends World Committee on Consultation (FWCC). She discussed several of FWCC's many programs. Representatives to the FWCC Section of the Americas recently met in person for the first time in four years, approving a new program of consultations and intervisitations. Its current capital campaign will provide support for many of its programs, as well as assisting with expenses for the next World Plenary Meeting, which will take place in South Africa in August 2024. The theme will be "Living the spirit of Ubuntu: Responding with hope to God's call to cherish creation – and one another." This will also be the theme of World Quaker Day 2023, which will take place on Sunday, October 1. Report accepted.

Minute 57 Kevin Brubaker reported for the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). The organization has recently gone through leadership transitions with the departure of beloved longtime staff Diane Randall and Jim Cason. In the wake of the Supreme Court's Dobbs decision, FCNL is considering taking a stand on abortion and has included Quaker monthly meetings and organizations in its discernment process. FCNL is currently discerning whether its 13 general categories of Legislative Priorities are too many, and/or which ones on that list may be prioritized over others. Report accepted.

Minute 58 Frank Young reported for the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). Two of the four ILYM reps to AFSC attended the 2023 annual meeting in April. Most representatives are major contributors to AFSC in various ways. Report accepted.

Minute 59 Minutes 53-58 were approved.

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH SESSION, Seventh Day, Sixth Month 24, 2023

Minute 60 Clerk Kent Busse welcomed first-time ILYM attender Lee Hodge from Northside Meeting.

Minute 61 Kent reminded Friends about the Harassment Review Committee and the Committee of Care.

Minute 62 Reading Clerk Pam Kuhn read an epistle from Ireland Yearly Meeting, which held its annual sessions in Tallaght, Dublin on Fourth Month 13-16, 2023.

Minute 63 Sharon Haworth stated that the Nominating Committee has made the following additional nominations to those given in the advance documents:

Among Friends editor: Ted Kuhn

Publications and Technology Committee: Dawn Crimson

Youth Oversight Committee: Choz Howard-McKinney and Brad Laird

AFSC Representative: Mike Dennis and Nora Vera-Godwin

FWCC Representative: Bobbi Trist

Mark McGinnis is no longer being proposed as a member of Ministry and Advancement, since he will be an ex officio member of the committee on the basis of his new position as co-Field Secretary. Fariba Murray has laid down her service as a representative to AFSC, and is therefore no longer being proposed as a continuing representative. The entire slate was approved, and the report was accepted.

Minute 64 On behalf of the Finance Committee, Val Lester re-introduced the proposed budget, repeating some of the basic information given on Wednesday [Minute 13]. The operating budget was approved.

Minute 65 The Finance Committee recommends formation of an ad hoc working group consisting of Kevin Brubaker as Clerk, Treasurer Ted Kuhn, and ILYM representatives to other Quaker organizations for the purpose of considering and proposing policies to the Finance Committee regarding donations from the yearly meeting to other organizations. An initial report is expected at Fall Continuing Committee and a proposal for donation policies for consideration at the 2024 Annual Sessions of ILYM. Approved.

Minute 66 The Finance Committee asked the assembled body for guidance concerning its earlier recommendation to make donations to the FGC capital campaign and the FWCC global campaign from the special gifts fund at this time. After discernment, the body approved donations of \$7,000 to FGC and \$5,000 to FWCC. Approved.

Minute 67 The Finance Committee asked that the ILYM fund that is currently entitled Special Gifts be renamed Unrestricted Reserves. Approved.

Minute 68 Minutes 60-67 were approved.

Minute 69 Mark McGinnis provided a supplement to the earlier report of the Peace Resources Committee [Minute 32]. The committee is not ready to present its revised committee description, and pledges to do so at Fall Continuing Committee. The committee's workshop for young Friends during the annual sessions was successful, and another such event is planned for next year. Report accepted.

Minute 70 Kent recommended that Continuing Committee be authorized to approve a revised description of the Peace Resources Committee for inclusion in the Handbook. Approved.

Minute 71 Val Lester spoke on behalf of the working group assembled to study any tax and insurance issues involved in the one-time site use proposal presented yesterday by Chris Goode [Minute 51]. The group learned that our insurance would cover the proposed use of the property at no incremental cost, and that a church, as a tax-exempt organization, may receive Unrelated Business Income. This might be taxable income, but rental income is normally excluded from reporting and taxation. As a result, the group sees no obstacle in moving forward with the experiment Chris has proposed.

Minute 72 The MP&E/Stewards proposal for one-time site use was approved.

Minute 73 The working group recommended the creation of an ad hoc committee to assess the approved site-use trial and to undertake further research, season, and, if so led, propose revisions to our site use policy. That committee will include Bruce Kanarek (clerk), Beth Carpenter (representing Clear Creek), Chris Goode (steward), Judy Jager (CPA/Finance Committee) and Val Lester (Finance Committee). The intent is to report progress to Continuing Committee and a revised policy at next year's Annual Sessions. Approved.

Minute 74 The Working Group report was accepted.

Minute 75 Noel Pavlovic reported for the Environmental Concerns Committee. A small contingent of committee members met at the pollinator garden at workday last month, noted how the campus plants were faring, and did some planting and other upkeep work. The committee has become aware during these annual sessions that Friends would appreciate more shade in the area between the meetinghouse and Clear Creek House, and will do what it can to honor this request in the near future. The committee is tentatively planning a retreat in September. Report accepted.

Minute 76 David Shiner read the following proposed minute of appreciation:

Illinois Yearly Meeting thanks Brad Laird for his three years of service as Field Secretary. He served during the COVID-19 pandemic, when meetings had to go virtual and then struggled with whether to gather with or without masks, whether to continue meeting virtually or to equip themselves for a hybrid of virtual and in person. He faithfully visited meetings virtually until he could safely visit in person. He was committed to helping us stay connected and maintain community through this challenging time. We also appreciated his ministry about classism, racism, and the need for Quaker materials in Spanish. Thank you, Brad.

Approved.

Minute 77 Minutes 69-76 were approved.

Minute 78 The fourth session concluded with grateful waiting worship.

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SESSION, First Day, Sixth Month 25, 2023

Minute 79 The session opened with expectant waiting worship.

Minute 80 Assistant Clerk Kevin Brubaker presided during this session.

Minute 81 Kevin proposed the following minute of appreciation:

The meeting thanks Kent Busse for his spirit-filled service as Clerk and Assistant Clerk these last three years. Kent has demonstrated steady and deep listening in his servant leadership, good organization of the tasks before the yearly meeting, utilizing his personal and fellow supporters well, and nurturing our meeting with his easily felt loving kindness. Thank you, Kent. Remember, as the top of your computer announces to us, “Cooperate to be Happy.”

Approved.

Minute 82 Kevin proposed the following minute of appreciation:

The meeting expresses gratitude for David Shiner’s service as Recording Secretary. He is our consummate wordsmith, a Spirit-guided and seasoned Friend, and, as he demonstrated in the Variety Show, and until now to our meeting, an unknown but very good singer.

Approved.

Minute 83 Friends heard epistles from the preschoolers, younger children, intermediate children, middle schoolers, high schoolers, and adult young Friends. The high schoolers expressed a desire for a new building in which they will be able to meet in the future. They graciously offered to gift their current bunkhouse to the Adult Young Friends, who expressed their gratitude for this magnanimous proposal.

Minute 84 On behalf of the Epistle Committee, Jason Schenk read this year’s ILYM epistle, which will be sent to other yearly meetings. Approved.

Minute 85 The members of the Exercises Committee, “Michael” Cunningham and Marcia Nelson, read this year’s exercises. Approved.

Minute 86 Kevin expressed his wonder and profound gratitude at the many gifts that Friends bring to ILYM, and that Friends have brought to these gatherings for almost 150 years.

Minute 87 Kevin announced that Fall Continuing Committee will be hosted by Northside Friends on Tenth Month 21, 2023, and that next year’s Annual Sessions will take place at the meetinghouse near McNabb, Illinois, on Sixth Month 19-23, 2024.

Minute 88 Minutes 79-87 were approved.

Minute 89 The 149th annual sessions of Illinois Yearly Meeting closed with grateful waiting worship.

Kent Busse
Presiding Clerk

David Shiner
Recording Clerk

Treasurers Report

Illinois Yearly Meeting - Statement of Financial Position/Balance Sheet Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022 (as of 5/16/2023)

	30 Jun 2023	30 Jun 2022
Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Checking Account	\$88,420.67	\$68,878.18
Friends Fiduciary-Temp. Restricted Property Impr. ILYM3	\$33,549.82	\$33,549.82
Friends Fiduciary-Unrestricted Designated ILYM5	\$227,389.94	\$227,389.94
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$349,360.43	\$329,817.94
Current Assets		
Accounts Receivable	\$11,977.02	\$180.00
Total Assets	\$361,337.45	\$329,997.94
Liabilities and Equity		
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$13,347.80	\$6,935.62
Payroll Taxes	\$0.00	\$698.00
Total Liabilities	\$13,347.80	\$7,633.62
Equity		
Current Year Earnings	\$25,625.33	-\$52,839.38
Net Assets	\$0.00	\$52,839.38
1 Unrestricted Undesignated		
1 General Operating	\$60,625.19	\$60,625.19
2 Unrestricted Designated		
2 Special Gifts/Unrestricted Reserves	\$78,625.29	\$78,625.29
3 CCH Accessible Add.	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00
4 Payroll Reserve	\$33,750.00	\$33,750.00
5 FWCC World Mtgs.	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00
6 Maint. Reserve	\$103,790.03	\$103,790.03
Total 2 Unrestricted Designated	\$224,465.32	\$224,465.32

	30 Jun 2023	30 Jun 2022
3 Temporarily Restricted		
8 Property Impr.	\$37,273.81	\$37,273.81
Total Equity	\$347,989.65	\$322,364.32
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$361,337.45	\$329,997.94

Illinois Yearly Meeting – Income Statement
1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 as of 16 May 2023

	1 General Operating	2 Special Gifts	5 FWCC World Mtgs	6 Maint. Reserve	8 Property Impr.	Total
Revenue						
Misc Income	\$393.06	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$393.06
Support from Meetings	\$81,092.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$81,192.50
Support from Individuals	\$28,630.05	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$28,630.05
Bank & Investment Income						
Interest & Investment Income	\$5,114.72	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$712.69	\$5,827.41
Gatherings-Retreats						
AS Registrations	\$4,151.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,151.00
Gifts-Sessions	\$330.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$330.00
Total Gatherings-Retreats	\$4,481.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,481.00
Total Revenue	\$119,711.33	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$812.69	\$120,524.02
Operating Expenses						
1 Personnel & Office						
1A Employee-Contractor Direct-Indirect Expenses	\$43,270.56	\$1,987.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$45,258.06
1B Staff Travel	\$652.88	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$652.88
1C Office Expenses	\$699.24	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$699.24
Total 1 Personnel & Office	\$44,622.68	\$1,987.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$46,610.18
2 YM Travel Support						
2A ILYM Reps	\$75.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$75.00

	1 General Operating	2 Special Gifts	5 FWCC World Mtgs	6 Maint. Reserve	8 Property Impr.	Total
3 Site & Property Expenses						
Annual services-Property Taxes	\$2,035.03	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,035.03
Mowing, Tree Trimming	\$3,740.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,740.00
Repairs & Maintenance	\$2,531.40	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$969.81	\$0.00	\$3,501.21
Site Insurance Expense	\$15,888.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,888.00
Utilities	\$2,268.60	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,268.60
Total 3 Site & Property Expenses	\$26,463.03	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$969.81	\$0.00	\$27,432.84
4 Gatherings-Retreats						
AS Admin Coordination	\$5,766.90	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,766.90
Transaction Fees on Registrations	\$74.27	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$74.27
Total 4 Gatherings-Retreats	\$5,841.17	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,841.17
5 Committee Expenses						
Development Committee	\$261.88	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$261.88
Publications & Distribution Committee	\$2,027.62	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,027.62
Total 5 Committee Expenses	\$2,289.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,289.50
6 Support to Others						
Support to Others	\$12,650.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,650.00
Total Operating Expenses	\$91,941.38	\$1,987.50	\$0.00	\$969.81	\$0.00	\$94,898.69
Operating Income / (Loss)	\$27,769.95	-\$1,987.50	\$0.00	-\$969.81	\$812.69	\$25,625.33
Other Income and Expense						
Transfers - Budgeted	-\$16,850.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$15,850.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Transfers - Other	-\$625.19	\$625.19	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Other Income and Expense	-\$17,475.19	\$625.19	\$1,000.00	\$15,850.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Net Income	\$10,294.76	-\$1,362.31	\$1,000.00	\$14,880.19	\$812.69	\$25,625.33

No cash flow in 3 CCH Accessible Add. or 4 Payroll Reserves

Illinois Yearly Meeting – Constituent Meeting Contributions
7/1/2021-6/30/2022

Contribution as of 5/16/2023

Bloomington-Normal	2,520.00	Saint Louis	8,800.00
Clear Creek		South Bend	
Columbia	1,925.00	Southern Illinois	550.00
Downers Grove	8,000.00	Spoon River	780.00
Duneland	1,925.00	Urbana-Champaign	7,500.00
Evanston	16,392.50		
57th Street	4,125.00	Monthly Meetings	81,092.50
Fox Valley			
Lake Forest	18,400.00		
Northside	4,675.00		
Oak Park	5,500.00		
Oshkosh			
Rock Valley			

Field Secretary Report

Let us center as we observe the seven directions.

Honor the ancestors, as we will the coming First Day, but also our own familial ancestors and our spiritual ancestors, and the indigenous peoples that lived here before the colonizers.

Honor the space, this building, this campus, this sky, these fireflies, these trees, these indigenous prairie spaces, the kitchen and dining room, the Clear Creek House, the lawns the children (and older folks) get to run on, cavort on, dance upon.

Honor the assembly of people here and now, both in person and online, the commitment to be present.

This is my final report to ILYM as your Field Secretary, the role I am laying down at the end of this month. I find myself in a complicated affective state, ready to lay the work down as my familial duties increase, grateful for these three years you all entrusted to me in this role. I have sadness also at this transition, creating a liminal time for me. It has been such a learning experience to connect with so many of us and our meetings. I am forever changed for the better. Thank you ILYM for this amazing opportunity.

Looking over these three years, I see the reinventing of this role as the COVID virus changed our personal and social lives. This reinvention of this role will continue with new servants, and I invite you to hold all of our roles in your prayer lives.

- We have learned that we can reinvent things like hybrid annual sessions, worship including business, and committees. I have deep respect for all our committees and those that develop the skill to clerk committees and meetings.
- Accompanying Elders have enriched our time together.
- 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 traveled more, splitting my time between online and in person visitations as COVID restrictions have eased.

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

- Encouraging and nurturing accompanying ministry.

- I attended the Blue River Quarterly Meeting.
- I have participated in a monthly meeting group dealing with some difficult interpersonal issues.
- I have had the pleasure of meeting with Superintendents and Secretaries from across North America, this year in person.
- I attended a retreat at Pendle Hill on Connection, Rupture, and Repair: The trauma informed monthly meeting.
- I have had a number of one-on-one conversations with members and attenders on the phone and by Zoom.
- I have read thousands of emails from the meeting listservs.
- I have practiced accountability and self-care via a Faithfulness group, in my engagement with the Ministry and Advancement Committee that formally oversees this position, psychotherapy, and devotional time with my family. 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.

Here are some numbers: Since the Spring Continuing Committee report last March,

- I have attended fourteen meetings online and twelve meetings in person.
- I have done all this traveling using a combination of public transportation and traveling with Friends.
- I completed the CROAR training.
- I have served and will continue to serve on FGC's antiracism committees for White Friends Confronting Racism, and The Racial Wounding Response Committee.
- And, of course, I will serve ILYM in new and old ways.

Here are some things to celebrate:

- We have three worship groups that are strong with Springfield, Burlington, and Elkhart River. These meetings, especially those that have been started in the last few years, have encouraged me to consider that starting new worship groups is something we can gain skill in accomplishing.
- There is a deep vibrancy and care for each other throughout our yearly meetings. The faithfulness to worship, deepening spirituality, caring for each other and engaging with needs in their communities has been clearly evident as I have traveled.
- While Rock Valley and Spoon River meetings have not met in the last three years, we have seventeen active monthly meetings, besides the three worship groups. These meetings are either stable or growing after some losses due to COVID.
- We are planning translation of some or all of our *Faith and Practice* into Spanish, and we are grateful to Nora Vera-Godwin for her professional translation services.
- Many have been working on anti-racism work, both personally and systemically. Some are beginning to look at how matters of socioeconomic class may hinder our engagement broadly with working class potential Friends.
- Several of our meetings have been meeting in person only, most have settled on hybrid meetings, and one is online only due to a problem with the building in which they had been meeting.

For the future, I plan to continue to visit other meetings less often than now, but likely sometimes as an accompanying elder.

I am delighted to hand off this role to others, and I will hold them in the light, and support them as I am able and as is needed. I am grateful to be a part of you.

Respectfully Submitted, Brad Laird

Development Committee Report

The Development Committee has undertaken two important matters during the current year. The first was the standard maintenance of the support section of the yearly meeting web pages. A few necessary improvements are expected to be made before the Annual Session. The second involved the annual appeal for individual contributions to the ILYM Annual Budget. The appeal letter was sent. The cost was low because email was used whenever feasible.

Pone other task of the committee is consultation with the Finance Committee regarding the amount of individual donations that would be appropriate for including in the annual budget. The “Individual Contributions” line has been part of the annual budget for more than six years and was initially required because a balanced budget would not have been possible without such contributions. Over the years, the amount specified for expected contributions has always been received.

This year looks as if this will not happen. The 2022-2023 budgeted income included expected income of \$42,000 in individual contributions. As of 5/9/2023 the amount received is only \$28,730. To be sure, there has already been about \$400 in larger than expected registration fees and there is one contribution of \$2,000 that is in the process of being completed. However, we have not yet met our goal.

Of course, the full story must include the fact that certain expenses have not been made because positions were not filled. Also, there are always significant contributions made during June—the last month of the ILYM fiscal year. The Finance Committee Report will further discuss these matters.

The Development Committee only considers the feasibility of receiving the necessary individual contributions. The Development Committee did express some concern about whether the next annual budget should ask for \$42,000 in individual contributions.

The Finance Committee will recommend that the Annual Session approve a budget for the next fiscal year. The Individual Contribution amount in that budget is expected to be \$39,750. The Development Committee intends to work to successfully raise the budgeted amount.

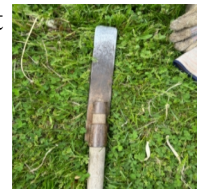
Environmental Concerns Committee Report

The ECC has not met on-line or in-person since Continuing Committee. A small contingent met at the pollinator garden at the May 13 Workday. Some of the outer fringe of prairie dropseed grasses had died but we brought five additional plants to replace them. Many more of the blazing stars and white indigo plants survived than we expected. None of the shooting stars survived which is not surprising as this is a difficult plant to grow. We weeded invading grass and abundant old field goldenrods to allow the more desirable plant species to grow. One of two willow survived and bloomed. The two roses behind the Leopold benches and the little bluestem grasses survived. We planted blue wild indigo, rattlesnake master, downy phlox, cylindrical blazing star, a few prairie sedges, butterfly weed, blue-eyed grass, and prairie violet. We were pleased with the garden in it's second year, but more planting needs to be done. Be sure to check out the garden by sitting on a Leopold bench during Annual Sessions.

The burr oak that we planted last year has been damaged by rabbits or something else. If still alive, we will plant a fence around it at Annual Sessions to protect it. Otherwise, we will buy another plant and protect it.

The fence row along the west edge of the campus is a mixed bag. At least three addition red cedars have died, but two still remain alive and perhaps will replace the one that fell at the northwest corner of Clear Creek House. Another Osage orange tree had also died. We trimmed the remaining Osage oranges to aid the mower and ensure they grow as single stem trees. Blood was drawn from encounters with the branch spines.

We also discovered poison hemlock plants behind the barn and one in the grass just northwest of the barn. Thankfully, Margie had brought Neil Mesner's hemlock eradicator tool which was used to sever the taproots of the plants (See the photograph of the tool). Thanks Neil for making such a useful tool—no herbicides needed. Neil had single handedly removed most of the poison hemlock from the campus in the 2000's.



The ECC will meet at annual sessions at 4 p.m. Friday afternoon in the dining tent near the prairie pollinator garden.

Report prepared by Noel Pavlovic

Finance Committee Report

ILYM Treasurers and Finance Committee has been adapting to our changing needs.

ILYM Insurance premium increased significantly due to cost increase in the construction industry. Representatives from Stewards and Finance, as well as the Treasurers met with the ILYM rep from Church Mutual to better understand our policy and the options we have. We feel they have accurately assessed the value of our site and our policy meets our needs. We agreed to increase the deductible to \$2,500 (and use our reserves to cover) and increase our liability insurance from \$1M to \$2M (as risks come with higher costs). This netted us a \$990 savings starting March 2023.

Finance did raise the suggested payment for attending sessions +\$5/day to cover the increased expenses Wil was seeing from vendors who supply us for Annual Sessions.

Since so much of the yearly meeting activity comes after Advance Documents, it is hard to predict how we will land the fiscal year.

It seems, as if Income although lower than Budget will be close to covering Expenses. We are grateful for the support of meetings & individuals and the work of the Development Committee (and the frugality of those who spend on behalf of the yearly meeting).

The cash held at First State Bank in McNabb and the income received has been sufficient to meet our needs, we have not needed to make any withdrawals from Friends Fiduciary.

We have received special requests from our reps to FGC & FWCC to support their campaigns (above our annual contribution). We understand that these two groups rely almost completely on contributions from Quakers as their mission is to support Quakers. After seasoning those requests, Finance recommends that we support both campaigns (FGC: \$7,000 & FWCC: \$5,000) using the yearly meeting's unrestricted reserves (Special Gifts Fund) as this is not an on-going expense.

The Finance Committee is grateful to the support that our Treasurers, Dawn Crimson & Ted Kuhn.

- Looking forward, we expect our needs to be greater in 2023/2024 and our Proposed Budget reflects that (our budgeted expenses are +7%).
- The Federal Cost of Living adjustment, that we use to guide us to increase our staff salaries, is +8.7%. Staff expenses are almost 1/2 our budget.
- We have added money to cover a retainer for a local "caretaker" at the request of MP&E.
- We will have a full year of higher insurance premiums.
- We expect suppliers to continue to raise prices to cover their increased costs (for site and sessions).

Our main sources of income are gifts from meetings and individuals. To cover our expected needs, we are once again asking for both meetings and individuals to give generously. Our ask from monthly meetings is +6% above our budget in 2022/2023 (and likely a higher %increase vs actual). For those meetings that use the guidance for making their gift to the yearly meeting, it translates to

\$290/adult resident member. Our ask of Individual Contributions is 11.5% above 21/22 actuals and below our 22/23 budget.

Respectfully Submitted, Valerie Lester, Clerk Finance Committee

Proposed Budget

	Budget FY2024	% Change	Budget FY2023	Actual 5/1/2023	Actual 6/30/2022	Actual 6/30/2021	Actual 6/30/2020
Income							
Contributions-Meetings	\$100,950	6%	\$95,500	\$79,743	\$97,341	\$90,531	\$88,890
Gifts-Individuals	\$39,750	-5%	\$42,000	\$26,610	\$35,644	\$32,413	\$21,747
Bank & Investment Income	\$8,000	45%	\$5,500	\$5,115	\$8,261	\$6,525	\$5,732
Misc. Income	\$0	0%	\$0	\$393	\$1,465	\$0	\$0
Gatherings-Retreats	\$23,500	31%	\$18,000	\$2,111	\$19,089	\$7,829	\$14,661
	\$172,200	7%	\$161,000	\$113,971	\$161,800	\$137,299	\$131,030
Expenses							
1 Personnel & Office	\$73,250	9%	\$67,500	\$44,538	\$50,910	\$48,101	\$53,360
2 YM Travel Support	\$2,000	-50%	\$4,000	\$75	\$0	\$133	\$3,729
3 Site & Property Expenses							
Annual services-Property Taxes	\$2,200	47%	\$1,500	\$1,742	\$2,226	\$1,078	\$1,217
Mowing, Tree Trimming	\$6,500	0%	\$6,500	\$3,740	\$3,900	\$8,400	\$5,370
Routine Repairs & Maintenance	\$4,500	-18%	\$5,500	\$2,531	\$4,220	\$2,816	\$5,500
Urgent Repairs	\$2,000	0%	\$2,000	\$0	\$0	\$5,194	\$ -
Insurance	\$15,500	19%	\$13,000	\$15,888	\$12,860	\$10,564	\$9,022
Caretaker Expenses	\$1,250					\$500	
Utilities	\$3,500	-30%	\$5,000	\$2,269	\$5,998	\$2,568	\$1,553
Total Site & Property	\$35,450	35%	\$33,500	\$26,170	\$29,204	\$31,120	\$22,662
4 Gatherings-Retreats							
Annual Sessions Event Expenses (oversight: Admin.Coord.)	\$9,500	46%	\$6,500	\$5,819	\$6,381		\$3,091
Annual Sessions Cooking-Food (oversight: Planning Group)	\$10,000	18%	\$8,500	\$0	\$8,199		\$4,200
Annual Sessions Program Aft/Eve (oversight: Planning Group)	\$3,000	20%	\$2,500	\$0	\$3,120		\$999
Annual Sessions Children's Program (oversight: CRE Cmte.)	\$1,250	0%	\$1,250	\$0	\$323		\$375
Annual Sessions Site Prep (oversight: Planning Group)	\$1,750	40%	\$1,250	\$0	\$2,346		\$ -

	Budget FY2024	% Change	Budget FY2023	Actual 5/1/2023	Actual 6/30/2022	Actual 6/30/2021	Actual 6/30/2020
Other Gatherings	\$0		\$0	\$2	\$599	\$5,982	\$425
Total Gatherings-Retreats	\$25,500	28%	\$20,000	\$5,820	\$20,968	\$5,982	9,090
5 Committee Expenses							
Ad hoc	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Adult Young Friends	\$150	0%	\$150	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ -
Children's Religious Education	\$200	0%	\$200	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$77
Development	\$400	0%	\$400	\$262	\$306	\$80	\$664
Environmental Concerns	\$50	0%	\$50	\$0	\$36	\$0	\$ -
Finance	\$25	0%	\$25	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$48
Handbook	\$25	0%	\$25	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ -
Maintenance, Planning & Envisioning	\$50	0%	\$50	\$0	\$88	\$0	\$ -
Ministry & Advancement	\$50	0%	\$50	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ -
Nominating	\$50	0%	\$50	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ -
Peace Resources	\$50	0%	\$50	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ -
Peace Tax Fund	\$25	0%	\$25	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ -
Personnel	\$25	0%	\$25	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ -
Publications & Distribution	\$3,000	0%	\$3,000	\$2,028	\$2,078	\$1,656	\$3,058
Youth Oversight	\$2,400	0%	\$2,400	\$0	\$58	\$64	\$1,524
Total Committee Expenses	\$6,500	0%	\$6,500	\$2,290	\$2,566	\$1,800	\$5,371
6 Support to Others							
Quaker organizations to which ILYM assigns representatives							
Friends General Conference (FGC)	\$4,400	0%	\$4,400	\$4,400	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)	\$3,850	0%	\$3,850	\$3,850	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)	\$500	0%	\$500	\$500	\$400	\$400	\$400
Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)	\$500	0%	\$500	\$500	\$400	\$400	\$400
Friends Peace Teams (FPT)	\$350	0%	\$350	\$350	\$300	\$300	\$300
Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW)	\$300	0%	\$300	\$300	\$250	\$250	\$250
Friends for Lesbian & Gay Concerns (FLGBTQC)	\$100	0%	\$100	\$100	\$50	\$50	\$50
Regional Quaker educational institutions							
Chicago Friends School (CFS)	\$350	0%	\$350	\$350	\$350	\$300	\$300
Scattergood Friends School and Farm	\$250	0%	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$200	\$200
Earlham College	\$250	0%	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$200	\$200

	Budget FY2024	% Change	Budget FY2023	Actual 5/1/2023	Actual 6/30/2022	Actual 6/30/2021	Actual 6/30/2020
Earlham School of Religion (ESR)	\$125	0%	\$125	\$125	\$125	\$100	\$100
Olney Friends School	\$125	0%	\$125	\$125	\$125	\$100	\$100
Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR)	\$350	0%	\$350	\$350	\$350	\$300	\$300
Project Lakota/Ville	\$250	0%	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$200	\$200
Friends Journal	\$250	0%	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$200	\$200
National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT)	\$100	0%	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
A Black led anti-racism organization	\$500	0%	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$1,000	
Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO)	\$100	0%	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$50	\$50
Total Support to Others	\$12,650	0%	\$12,650	\$12,650	\$11,550	\$11,650	\$10,650
Total Expenses	\$155,350	8%	\$144,150	\$91,542	\$115,197	\$98,787	\$104,862
Transfers							
To Maintenance Reserve	\$15,850	0%	\$15,850	\$15,850	\$11,500	\$11,500	\$11,500
To FWCC World Meetings	\$1,000	0%	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Operating Surplus/Deficit to Special Gifts				\$625	\$33,003	\$26,012	\$13,668
Total Budgeted Transfers	\$16,850	0%	\$16,850	\$17,475	\$45,503	\$38,512	\$26,168
Total Expenses + Total Transfers	\$172,200	7.0%	\$161,000	\$109,018			
Net	\$0		\$0	\$4,954	\$1,100	\$-	\$-

Handbook Committee Report

At Annual Sessions 2022, we discerned where to distribute the money that had been held in the Peace Tax Fund. The Peace Tax Fund was under the care of the Peace Resources Committee. [2022, Minute 24, 25.] At the Fall Continuing Committee, Mark McGinnis reported for the Peace Resources Committee. The sense of the meeting was that the Peace Tax Fund has been laid down. The Handbook Committee recommends removing reference to the Peace Tax Fund from the Handbook. [2022 Fall Continuing Committee, Minute 14]

Harassment Review Committee. The Handbook Committee recommends some minor changes to better reflect the make up of the Harassment Review Committee. Under membership add “or a designee” after Presiding Clerk. In the main body, change “a month before the annual sessions” to “prior to” annual sessions. Members ... will be announced “**at the beginning of the yearly meeting sessions**” rather than in the advance documents.

Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Committee & Stewards Report

Prepared 17 May 2023 for Annual Sessions on June 21-25, 2023. The committee members are Carol Bartles, Mark Robinson, Marie White, Dennis McQueen, Trevor Brandt, Casey Kashnig, Margie Haworth, Christina Schulz, Noel Pavlovic, Dick Ashdown, and the Stewards: Chip Rorem, Grayce Mesner, Beth Carpenter, and Chris Goode. Our committee met at last year's Annual Sessions and three times via zoom during the past year.

Workday: We held two campus workdays on October 1, 2022 and May 13, 2023. We had over twenty people at both and accomplished several tasks including repairs to the MH ramp and HS Bunkhouse floors, painting at the repaired meetinghouse (MH) rear doors and stair walls to the dining room, installation of new LED lighting and hand washing sink at the dining room, MH kitchen clean up, removal of lattice at the Clear Creek House (CCH), cutting up three recently downed trees, and removal of sticks and logs to the burn pile, and cleanup after a recent wind storm. Thank you to all who helped care for our property. Getting these kinds of tasks done on our own saves money and gives us a real sense of satisfaction while caring for our beloved property.

Maintenance Update: Contractor Dean Tieman repaired the damaged MH window, and also the rear doors rather than installing new ones. Ducts were cleaned at CCH for about \$300. The MH roof was re-shingled in the fall at a cost of \$22,180 and the CCH roof was re-sheathed and re-shingled this spring at a cost of \$24,252 by contractor Art Hejka. Our insurance settlement was \$43,710, so the total roof work was about \$1,725 more than our settlement and deductible. The roofs at the Penn House and Foxhole were also near the end of their lives and had both replaced while they were on site for a total of \$2,500. He also replaced some missing metal trim at the CCH for \$850. While they were working at the CCH a tree fell scratching the siding knocking off metal corner trim pieces, and damaging a long piece of gutter on the west side of the house. He is trying to obtain a replacement gutter with guard and will install it when he does at an additional cost. In an inspection this spring we discovered that the CCH has cellulose insulation installed between the attic floor joists. We had removed the falling insulation at the attic rafters as part of the roof work. We were anticipating having to re-insulate the rafters this fall with closed cell foam insulation but that may not be necessary. We intend to investigate the existing condition of floor and wall insulation with infrared cameras to see if that should be improved in the future.

Caretaker: We discussed the hows, whats, and ifs of having a Campus Caretaker again. We believe that it might be better to hire a person, or property management business from our local community on a very part-time and as-needed basis to meet our limited needs rather than have a live-in caretaker in the CCH. Over the next year we anticipate those needs to be doing things like occasional property condition checks to make sure all is in good order, and to meet contractors and other similar types of tasks. We estimate that about 50 hours might be needed at a rate of \$25/hour for a total of about \$1,250 and have discussed adding this to our budget with the Finance Committee. Friends are invited to share their thoughts about future caretaking needs and possible solutions with the committee clerk, a Steward, or any other member, and also welcome suggestions for local people who might fill this role in the coming year.

Future Maintenance Plan: Val Lester's husband Geof Greer is a retired house inspector, and he and Chris Goode made a campus visit this spring to do a walk-around inspection that is a start to creating a usable maintenance plan so that we can better predict upcoming maintenance and associated expenses in order to be better prepared and less surprised moving forward. It was already helpful in identifying the CCH attic floor insulation and the poor roof conditions at the Foxhole and the Penn House. It also identified some serious rot in the perimeter beams at the HS Bunkhouse. This partly explains the sagging that prevents doors and windows from properly operating and closing. There have also been animal intrusions through the floor from above and below. A few years ago Chip Rorem and Chris Goode met with an engineer who prepared some sketches for how we might install some

additional steel work to better support the floor joists, but we haven't obtained an estimate to do that work, and it does not fully address these newer concerns. How and what to do with the high school bunkhouse will be an upcoming concern for our committee.

Maintenance Manual: We have several tasks that are regularly required monthly, seasonally, or annually. Christina Schulz will work with Chris Goode and other committee members to develop a calendar/manual to list and schedule these tasks with descriptions and any contractors.

Sustainable Electrical Service: We have researched purchasing green electricity for our three meters at the CCH, MH and campground and have found no good way to do this. We use a trivial amount of electricity and our recommendation is that we could purchase Renewable Energy Credits (REC's) in addition to paying our normal electrical bill. We will investigate the appropriate amount for our energy usage and make a recommendation for what type to purchase.

Insurance: Church Mutual has changed their insurance policy this spring to better reflect developing issues common to religious institutions and keep up with costs and claims. This has increased our annual insurance costs. A group of Friends met via Zoom with Jamie Witte from Church Mutual about these changes. In discussions with the Finance Committee we plan to increase our liability coverage from one to two million dollars and increase our deductible from \$1,000 to \$2,500 which will somewhat reduce that cost increase without much additional risk.

Respectfully Submitted: Christopher Goode, MP&E Clerk and Steward

Ministry and Advancement Committee Report

There were two individuals who applied to be the Field Secretary. A subcommittee which included the clerk of Personnel Committee interviewed the candidates. During the discernment around the candidates it became clear the yearly meeting would be best served by the two sharing the position. These individuals have complementary gifts, and we were being called to take a different approach. When each was called and asked to consider sharing the position they enthusiastically agreed to do it. The recommendation of the Interview Committee was taken to the full Ministry and Advancement Committee which was in unity with having Co-Field Secretaries. Ministry and Advancement Committee recommends after Brad Laird's term of service ends at the end of June following 2023 Annual Sessions, Mark McGinnis and Marcia Nelson be appointed the Field Secretaries for the next 3 years.

Mark and Marcia know each other well having been part of Fox Valley Monthly Meeting. Their service provides the unique opportunity to draw on their differing experiences and perspectives to benefit the yearly meeting. They have already met and made a plan to carry out the position during this year. They will be available for phone consultations, visits to meetings beginning in September, facilitate quarterly Zoom meetings with monthly meeting clerks. They will have a joint support committee in addition to the support they receive from the Ministry and Advancement committee. For this year, Marcia will serve on the Sexual Harassment Review Committee. They will divide the allotted hours equally and will both be employees of the yearly meeting.

During this year ministry and advancement hosted a workshop offered by Jackie Stillwell of Right Sharing of World Resources. We have each month held an all yearly meeting worship on the 10th. This seems to be well received and we plan to continue it. We are in discernment about other offerings and encourage friends to watch the regular announcements from the yearly meeting for new opportunities. The committee members continue to visit with monthly meetings and are looking forward to your State of Society Reports.

Naming Committee Report

Marcia Nelson and Fariba Murray formed the naming committee. We were tasked with naming a friend to replace Sharon Haworth who was rolling off of the nominating committee as well as naming one of the committee members to be the convener. Brad Laird has accepted to join the nominating committee and Meredith George will be the new convener.

Nominating Committee Report

(names in bold are new appointments)

Presiding Clerk: Kevin Brubaker (clerks 2024, 2025; assists 2026)

Assistant Clerk: Kent Busse (assists 2024)

Recording Clerk: Peter Lasersohn (records 2024, 2025; assists 2026)

Assistant Recording Clerk: David Shiner (assists 2024)

Reading Clerk: Pam Kuhn (2024)

Co-Treasurers: Ted Kuhn (2024), Dawn Crimson (2025)

Stewards: Chris Goode (2025), Grayce Mesner (2026), Beth Carpenter (2027), Chip Rorem (2027)

Among Friends Editor: **Ted Kuhn**

Records Librarian: Brent Eckert

2023 Epistle Committee: **Pam Kuhn, Judy Jager, Jason Shenk**

Standing Committees:

Children's Religious Education Clerk: Dale Gardner
2024: Dale Gardner, Coco Colin
2025: Anna Watson, Katherine Young, Quinn Parks
2026: **Bobbi Trist**

Development Clerk: Frank Young
2024: Frank Young, Marcy Herman
2025: Kay Drake
2026: Alex Lippitt

Environmental Concerns Clerk: Noel Pavlovic
2024: Sarah Pavlovic, Noel Pavlovic, Chris Goode, Fariba Murray
2026: David Wixom, Nancy Halliday, Adrian Fisher, Phyllis Reynolds

Finance Clerk: Val Lester
2024: Judy Jager, Ashlee Miller-Berry, Val Lester
2025: Cynthia Harris
Ex Officio: Treasurers, Clerk, and MP&E Clerk

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

Maintenance, Planning, & Envisioning Clerk:
Chris Goode
2024: Chris Goode, Dennis McQueen
2025: Christina Schultz, Trevor Brandt, Margie Haworth-Davis
2026: Dianne Clark-Dennis, Carol Bartles, Marie White, Noel Pavlovic

Ministry & Advancement Clerk: Janice Domanik
2024: David Wixom
2025: Sarah Pavlovic, Virginia Schelbert, Steve Tamari
2026: Janice Domanik, Erin Taylor
Ex Officio: Field Secretaries

Peace Resources Clerk: **Mark McGinnis**
2024: Mark McGinnis, Dan Stevens
2025: Jan Mullen, Dave Moorman
2026: Sarz Maxwell, Barry Feldman

Personnel Clerk: Colleen Reardon
2026: Kate Gunnell, Sharon Haworth, Colleen Reardon
Ex-officio: Mike Dennis (Youth Oversight), Val Lester (Finance), Dale Gardner (Children's RE),

Sean West (Publications), Chris Goode (M&P),
Janice Dominik (M&A)

Publications & Technology Clerk: Sean West

2024: Sean West

2023: Dawn Crimson

Ex-officio: Administrative Coordinator & *Among Friends* editor

Racial Equity and Education

2024: Janice Domanik, Meredith George

2025: Beth Burbank, Steven David Flowers

2026: Allison Boyaris, Daniel Lakemacher

Youth Oversight Clerk: Mike Dennis

2024: Allison Boyaris, Mike Dennis, Daniel
Lakemacher

2026: Charles Howard-McKinny, Brad Laird

Appointments to Wider Quaker & Other Organizations:

AFSC

2024: Frank Young

2025: Steve Tamari

2026: Mike Dennis, Nora Vera-Godwin

FCNL

2024: Kevin Brubaker

2025: Fariba Murray

2026: Garnet Fay, David Wixom, Dale Gardner

FGC Central Committee

2025: Janice Domanik, Lilith Swygart

2026: Trevor Brandt

FLGBTQC

2026: Jad Tamari

Friends Peace Teams

2026: Andrea Kintree

Friends Secondary School Liaisons:

Olney

2025: Grayce Mesner

Scattergood

2025: Alex Lippitt

FWCC

2025: Julia Pantoga

2026: David Shiner, Pam Kuhn, Bobbi Trist

QEW

2026: Sarah Pavlovic

Peace Resources Committee Report

The Peace Resources Committee meets via Zoom once a month. It has been a productive year for the PRC. The committee is active with peace, justice, and social concerns issues. Our current activities include:

- Reviewed Friends' activities supporting Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Lands
- Hosted a Pretrial Fairness Teach-In.
- Hosting a Prison Ministry Panel Discussion
- Redefined our Handbook Description
- Planned a Junior ROTC and Recruitment Workshop geared towards Young Friends, to take place during Annual Session.
- Laid down the mantle of the Peace Tax Fund

Personnel Committee Report

At the request of Ministry and Advancement, the clerk of the Personnel Committee joined the interview team for the new Field Secretary. The report from M & A will provide more information about the new Field Secretaries.

Many meetings were held among those on the Personnel Committee, those committees who supervise staff, those who approve contracts from independent contractors, and representatives from the Finance Committee. The focus of these meetings has been on the role of the Coordinator of Religious Education as an independent contractor, the development of a contract, and the relationship of others who assist with the children's religious education program at Annual Sessions.

Most recently questions have come up about background checks for those who are paid to work with children or who volunteer to do so. While these individuals do need a background check, questions have been raised about how recent the background check needs to be and whether one from another organization can be used. These issues will be delved into more deeply at the next Personnel Committee Meeting.

Submitted by Colleen Reardon, Clerk of Personnel Committee

Publications and Distribution Committee Report

Publications and website are up to day. Only one meeting who was on QuakerCloud has moved to the ILYM server.

Spanish Language Outreach Resources: There has been no information received to develop a list of Spanish language links or resources for the proposed Spanish language outreach resource web page. This project will be dropped if there is a continued lack of interest in providing information for it.

The Spanish translation of the ILYM Faith and Practice is somewhat stalled due to not finding an editor. The process that the Publications Committee developed, and had been reported at Fall 2022 Continuing Committee was to develop it much like the English ILYM F&P. It will be worked on chapter-by-chapter, being prioritized by chapters that standing alone would be most helpful for outreach/education purposes. The process for each chapter would be to have a translator translate a chapter, an editor review and edit the translated text, Wil will format the text for electronic (and eventual print) publication, either the translator or editor will proofread the formatted text, then it will be made available for public viewing on the website. Some chapters might be printed as self-standing pamphlets (a short run, low cost print job that would be within the annual Publications Committee budget). Once the entire F&P has gone through the translation process, discernment will be made on the physical printing of the Spanish edition of the ILYM Faith and Practice as well as funding for the printing. Currently it appears that there is a translator translating the entirety of the book. The proposed plan of doing it chapter by chapter would have allow for concerns between the translator and editor to be caught and corrected for later chapters. This current process might end up taking longer if there are specific concepts that need be retranslated—translating the Quaker sense of some words/concepts can sometimes be tricky and not always a direct translation.

Among Friends Handbook description: The current Handbook description of *Among Friends* is not in accordance to current practice. Following is the proposed revision:

Among Friends is the official publication of Illinois Yearly Meeting. It has been published electronically on the website and print versions mailed to all monthly meetings for distribution to members and attenders. Its purpose is to facilitate communication among all members and attenders of Illinois Yearly Meeting and to maintain our connections with one another throughout the year. Contents have included reports about monthly meeting programs and events, communications from yearly meeting committees and monthly meetings, information about Annual Sessions, and reflective pieces written by individuals. The editor serves ex-officio on the Publications and Distribution Committee.

Committee Revision: The nature of publications has been changing over the past few decade. The Publications and Distribution Committee was initiated when print was the sole medium for distributing yearly meeting items. More recently the committee description was expanded to include website oversight, since by default this oversight fell on the committee. In recent years there has been a difficulty in finding people to serve on the committee due to lack of identified things for potential committee members to do. Also in recent years there has been a growth in the yearly meeting for technological things, like Zoom meetings, A/V set up at business meetings, monthly meeting's websites being hosted on the ILYM server host, and interests in an ILYM social media presence. However there has not been a structure or a committee to oversee and facilitate these thing, which sometimes fell on the Publications and Distribution Committee.

To provide better oversight and facilitation of these new areas as well as to provide things for potential committee members to do, the Publications and Distribution Committee is proposing a revision to the committee to now be the Publications and Technology Committee. This revision reflects the movement of committee and gathers some things that are seeming to not be under any committee, though sometimes asked of the Publications and Distribution Committee.

Draft of new revised committee description:

Publications and Technology Committee

The Publications and Technology Committee consists of a clerk and other members who oversee the production and distribution of ILYM publications and the technology needs of the yearly meeting. Ex-officio members are *Among Friends* editor and the Administrative Coordinator.

The committee publishes and distributes to the member meetings the following documents:

- a. The Minute Book which includes the minutes of the Annual Session and related documents, all of the Monthly Meetings' State of Society Reports, the report of membership tabulation, a list of Illinois Yearly Meeting Meetings, and the appointments to Illinois Yearly Meeting committees.
- b. The Jonathan Plummer Lecture.
- c. *Among Friends*, the official yearly meeting publication
- d. Such other writings, lectures, publications or presentations that are of special value to the yearly meeting.

The committee also maintains and implements a publications style sheet.

The committee oversees and cares for the technology needs of the yearly meeting. This includes:

- a. The website and the host server, including other apps installed on the host server
- b. Virtual meetings, currently via Zoom
- c. Hybrid business meeting equipment and training to setup and use
- d. Social media presence, currently including the ILYM Facebook Group and ILYM Social Network.
- e. Working with other committees and staff with other electronic communications, such as the ILYM Announcements emails and website pages.
- f. Working with monthly meeting who desire to have their websites hosted on the ILYM host server.

Racial Equity and Education Committee Report

The committee believes working to expand and improve racial relationships by openly addressing and healing conflict in our monthly meetings and yearly meeting is essential. We are committed to helping meetings foster healthier racial relationships. As we do this work it is important to

remember that we will make mistakes. We need to apologize and learn from our mistakes. We are all works in progress.

This year the committee united with Northside Meeting in encouraging participation in a CROAR workshop for individuals in ILYM. Those who attended were enthusiastic about the experience and want to share learnings with the yearly meeting. The committee is working on ways to help ILYM friends move forward in learning the societal impact of racism encouraging examination and modification of behavior.

We have offered and continue to offer a monthly opportunity to gather and discuss issues around race during the Zoom Anti-racism Café. It is open to everyone and some have been devoted to answering questions brought by participants while others have focused on a specific topic, request for assistance or query. The format varies as the group gathering changes.

The committee continues to challenge itself by sharing materials found by members. We watched the film *Dakota 38* and as a result offer it as a workshop during these annual sessions. We understand it is important the workshop be open to all even those who cannot be present for all three days. As a result individuals may join the second or third day if they have previously watched the film. The film can be viewed free on the web at: www.smoothfeather.com/dakota38.

A member brought to the committee's attention the Dixon Mounds Museum in Illinois where there are many Indigenous individuals' remains or artifacts that have not been returned to their tribes. More complete information is available at: [www.propublica.org/article/repatriation-nagpra-museums-dickson-mounds-museum?utm_source=sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign= major investigations &utm_content=feature](http://www.propublica.org/article/repatriation-nagpra-museums-dickson-mounds-museum?utm_source=sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=major%20investigations%20&utm_content=feature)

There are plans for Paula Palmer to offer her Zoom workshop on Indian Boarding Schools during the fall. She wanted to share it with ILYM during Annual Sessions via Zoom. Unfortunately, it was not possible with the limited internet service.

We gather together each month on Zoom sharing and learning together. The committee members support each other doing work within our monthly meetings. We will share information about opportunities for participation in this work.

Janice Domanik

AFSC Representatives Report

Two of the four representatives to the AFSC Corporation attended (remotely) the Corporation Meeting in April. The ILYM representatives contribute to AFSC in several ways. One (with spouse) serves on the Capital Campaign Committee. Another has worked with various Service Committee projects in previous years. One previous representative retired this past year after service as Clerk of the Friends Relations Committee.

FCNL Representatives Report

FCNL has been weathering recent times well. Though the organization strives to be bipartisan, relief reigned at November Annual Meeting in the wake of marginal losses/gains in the midterm elections. But FCNL goal of avoiding divisive issues among Friends has been challenged with the Dobbs decision. For the first time, the group is considering taking a stand on abortion. An extraordinary discernment process has been sent out to Quaker Monthly Meetings and organizations to help direct our lobbying.

This year has had changes. FCNL has gone through leadership transitions with the departure of beloved staff Diane Randall and Jim Cassion. As the organization grows, diversity goals remain important as well as advocacy programs that draw in younger people. The recently merged William Penn House has become Friends Place and is open to hosting friends and groups. As everyone else, FCNL struggles with the challenge of hybrid meetings, including the November Annual Meeting. Yet the organization has also taken advantage of hybrid opportunities to be more geographically inclusive and use technology to bring more weekly and monthly activities for its activists.

FCNL finances suffered losses in the recent stock market downturns, but since the organization had been running some surpluses and had carefully planned for possible reverses, no program cuts have been necessary so far. Though donations overall remain encouraging, FCNL still needs more support for the non-deductible lobbying support of its 501(c)4 organization. The FCNL Education Fund, whose contributions are deductible and that supports education and Friends Place, gets the majority of FCNL donations.

Finally, FCNL has an evolving discussion about the Legislative Priorities. Currently there are 13 general categories and we wonder if that is too many, or which ones in that list may be prioritized over others. With any changes we seek to show greater clarity to our witness.

FGC Representatives Report

This year for the first time since 2019 the annual Gathering of Friends will be in person in Monmouth, Oregon at Western Oregon University. Individuals who cannot travel to Oregon can register to view the evening plenaries and the Bible half hour on Zoom. In 2024, the annual gathering will be at Haverford College near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. FGC spent a year having listening sessions about the gathering in order to determine if there were different ways to provide opportunities for people to come together for worship, workshops and fellowship. In the years to come FGC will be experimenting with different types of gatherings. Some may be small, focused on youth and young adults, located in specific geographic regions or at times other than during the summer. This is in an effort to find ways to make the offerings more affordable.

This year there has been the collection of stories of people's experience of FGC. Over and over we hear that people have developed deep friendships, learned clerking skills, been supported by FGC's quarterly calls for yearly meeting clerks, gained a community by being together with young adult Quakers or learned more by participating in an e-retreat. The stories tell the impact of the work that is being done by the committees of FGC.

While the gathering is usually considered the FGC program, it is actually one of many. The Ministry on Racism Program has times for Friends of Color for worship, worship sharing, or fellowship each week. There are fall and spring retreats as well as a pre-gathering retreat for Friends of Color. The latter is to provide an orientation to the gathering spaces and form a supportive community. The program provides a weekly evening or day worship sharing for white friends working on racism. It provides a reduced rate for registration at the White Privilege Conference. The spiritual Deepening Program provides several e-retreats each year. The program is also willing to arrange for an e-retreat to be offered for a meeting community. There is an e-retreat library available on the FGC website. Members of the governing board (Central Committee) attend other yearly meetings through the yearly meeting visitor program. Their work is to bring back to other yearly meeting representatives things which are creative and may be useful to other meetings. They try to learn how FGC can support yearly and monthly meetings. During the past several years Sparklers working group (religious education) assisted the Friends Peace Teams by identifying books to be used in Rwanda to teach peaceful solutions and to assist with literacy.

This year FGC moves into the public phase of a campaign. The money will be used to create an endowment for the Gathering in order to assist families wishing to participate. It will provide support for

Ministry on Racism Program, Religious Education and Spiritual Deepening, Young Adult and Youth Ministries. It will be to support our work to connect meetings and communicate with them. The stories we have heard from Friends show us how important the work provided has been. If you have stories to share about your experience with FGC programs, please be sure to share them with me. I want to hear the ways we can assist meetings.

Janice Domanik

Secondary Schools Representatives Report

Olney

Olney has been a Quaker high school for 184 years, in rural eastern Ohio near Barnesville with a 350 acre farm, which is used as a learning tool as well as supplying much of the food needed to feed students and faculty. 2022 marked the 8th year they have been USDA certified organic.

The Head of School, Christian Acemah, was a graduate of Olney and has many opportunities to hear what other alumni say about their time spent there. He says, “Their stories bring Olney’s value to life. From learning to live in a multicultural community to working with a group on complex calculus problem sets, alums say the same thing: Olney gave us a firm foundation for life.” “Our Spirit-infused academic, athletic, office work, farm-to-table, and communal activities provide unparalleled opportunities for students to discover and rediscover themselves, others, and the world.”

This year they have students from Afghanistan, China, Denmark, Ethiopia, Germany, South Africa, Spain, and Uganda, as well as from Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey.

Thanks to donors as well as grants and major gifts in early 2023 some much needed renovations will be taking place this year. There will be the renovation of the 2nd floor bathroom in the Guindon (boys) Dorm. New flooring will be put in the main building’s kitchen and storage room. Energy-conserving replacement windows are to be installed in the Towe Ranch faculty house. The failing retaining wall supporting the bicycle shed and parking lot will be replaced.

Increased funding from the Haverford-Measey Trust will result in more student financial aid. They have already increased their 9th grade class count by three, bringing the total up to five for this second semester.

Do you have a child or grandchild who would fit into this environment or know of some other family that does? Or can you help financially to enable this school with Quaker testimonies to continue? Contact olneyfriends.org, call 740-425-3655, or send mail to 61830 Sandy Ridge Rd, Barnesville, OH 43713.

Scattergood

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 utilize the school, farm, pond and prairie as living laboratories for study and experimentation.

In its 132nd year, SFS remained rich and vibrant with 28 high school students, mostly boarding, and 12 students in the Middle School Day program. Dedicated staff combine with new and returning students as lively and joyous stewards of Friends’ testimonies.

- Scattergood Friends School will graduate nine seniors accepted into respected colleges, some going on into enriching gap years before attending college.
- 5 international high school students are part of the student body.

- SFS integrates the middle school and high school for a 7-year education including shared projects and classes, and upper school mentors for all middle school students.
- Under the capable Directorship of Head of School John Zimmerman, the theater program had another great year with productions such as *Pippin* this spring.
- Students participated in several trips including Mexico and NYM (Northern Yearly Meeting)'s Camp Woodbrooke in Wisconsin.
- Students also volunteered at a local homeless shelter.
- Now in its third year the revitalized "Camp Scattergood" summer program continues with forty students in five week sessions. Counselors in training positions are offered for 7th and 8th graders.
- School finances were enriched by a large bequest, and by substantially increased funding from the Measey Foundation in Philadelphia. This permits the school to increase financial aid, optimally staff the school, and increase salaries and benefits.
- The State of Iowa has passed legislation to fund school vouchers to private schools. SFS is participating up to a point permitting significant savings for qualifying students who want to come to Scattergood, but doing so in a way that minimizes the damage to public schools. The program will be monitored carefully and may be restricted or dropped if the program compromises SFS integrity.
- SFS is preparing to launch a capital campaign to address facilities needs and bring dorms into compliance with modern regulations and standards.
- Regular recertification of the school by ISACS (the Independent Schools Association of the Central States) is underway.
- Scattergood will hold an arts reunion August 3–6, 2023.
- Mark Quee received public recognition for his work and leadership of the farm from the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture at Iowa State University.

Scattergood looks forward to future shared youth events with ILYM. Unfortunately, the 2023 event had to be canceled because of an outbreak of COVID on campus. The campus COVID protocols were activated with no further cases on campus.

Graduation will be held as scheduled on June 4th.

The school remains resilient, sustainable and looks forward to Camp Scattergood, the Arts Reunion, the 2023–2024 academic year, and a great harvest.

FWCC Representatives Report

Representatives: Pam Kuhn, Julia Pantoga, David Shiner

It has been an eventful year for the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), Section of the Americas. For the first time in four years, the Section of the Americas was able to do what FWCC does best: gathering Friends from different branches and different continents for worship and fellowship. On March 23-26, 2023 at beautiful Haw River State Park near Greensboro, North Carolina and over Zoom, more than two hundred Friends from Alaska to the Andes worshiped, shared their spiritual journeys, and conducted business together. It was a time of deep and rich fellowship.

The theme of the Section meeting, *Becoming the Quakers the World Needs*, evoked deep listening to each other and to the environment, as well as a commitment to increase the Section's activity and impact. We approved a new program of consultations and intervisitations, which will allow the Section of the Americas to serve Friends by addressing topics of interest, both in person and virtually. Several other exciting ideas for enriching current programs and introducing new ones have been developed, to be funded by a global campaign introduced at the Section meeting. The new programs

include development of an interactive map and directory of Quakers throughout the world, enhanced and much-needed training for interpreters, and an increase in funding for travel and technology to reflect the needs of the post-pandemic Quaker world, among others.

Some of the funds from the global campaign will be used to assist with expenses for the next World Plenary Meeting, which will take place in Johannesburg, South Africa in August 2024. It will be a hybrid event, with participants attending in person and online. The theme will be Living the spirit of Ubuntu: Responding with hope to God's call to cherish creation – and one another. Ubuntu refers to the belief that we as human beings are all interdependent, and that every person is worthy of being recognized, respected, and heard. It is a daily practice in several African societies, although terms and languages differ. Thanks to the generosity of ILYM, we will be able to send at least one FWCC representative from our yearly meeting to attend the plenary in person. We are also asking for an additional donation from ILYM to the global campaign, to support both the plenary and the programs mentioned earlier.

World Quaker Day 2023 will take place on Sunday, October 1, also with the theme Living the spirit of Ubuntu: Responding with hope to God's call to cherish creation – and one another. Information about Ubuntu, including an instructive video, can be found on the FWCC website at fwcc.world/living-the-spirit-of-ubuntu-in-2023/. ILYM Friends should start thinking now about ideas to get your meetings and First Day Schools involved in World Quaker Day on October 1.